Michael Kekela Jr.
Chairperson
Dist. 4

Keith Unger
Vice Chairperson
Dist. 6

Colin Miura, Dist. 1, Board Member
James Lee, Dist. 2, Board Member
Guy Alameda, Dist. 3, Board Member
Emily Taaroa, Dist. 5, Board Member
Nicholas Riznyk, Dist. 7, Board Member
Stephen Lopez, Dist. 8, Board Member
Philip Aiona, Dist. 9, Board Member

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF HAWAIʻI
WATER BOARD MEETING
AGENDA

MEETING DATE: November 24, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

IN-PERSON LOCATION: West Hawaiʻi Civic Center
Building G, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Kailua-Kona, Hawaiʻi

REMOTE MEETING LINK:
https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiDWS/live_videos/

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:
Public testimony may be done in person or in writing by email (dws@hawaiidws.org), fax (808-961-8657), or by mail: 345 Kekūanaōʻa Street, Suite 20, Hilo, HI 96720. Please indicate agenda item submitting for. All testimony, regardless of time of receipt, will be part of the permanent record.

Remote Oral Testimony:
Telephone testimony may be presented by calling 1(669) 254-5252 and entering meeting ID 161 142 8331. Please wait for the Chair to ask for testimony on the item you are interested in. The Chair will unmute testifiers who call in, one phone number at a time.

Optional Alternative to Present Remote Oral Testimony:
If you would like to testify via an online video link, please email dws@hawaiidws.org at least 24 hours before the meeting to request the link. You may also email to pre-register to present telephone testimony if you wish to be called on by name or before those who have not pre-registered. Testifiers who wish to remain anonymous or have not pre-registered may still call the testimony phone number and follow the instructions listed above.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Information about all the board's meetings is available here. General information about the board is available at About the Water Board.

In the event the online remote connection is interrupted during the Water Board meeting, the Board shall recess for up to 30 minutes to allow for reestablishing the online remote connections. If the online remote connection cannot be reestablished after 30 minutes, the meeting shall be adjourned and then reconvene per the following contingency plans:

Board shall reconvene on:	November 25, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Board shall reconvene at:	DWS, Hilo Operations, 889 Leilani Street, Hilo, Hawaiʻi

If you would like to testify via an online video link, please email dws@hawaiidws.org before the meeting to request the weblink or phone number to testify.

1) CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m. (please turn cell phones off or set to silent)

2) STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Pursuant to HRS §92-3, oral testimony may be provided entirely at the beginning of the meeting or immediately preceding the agenda item.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Minutes of October 27, 2026, Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Rules and Regulations
- Minutes of October 27, 2026, Water Board Meeting

4) APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA (if necessary)
(Note: Roll Call Required)

5) STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE BY BROWN AND CALDWELL:

Chair: Is there any testimony for this item?

6) MISCELLANEOUS:

A. DEDICATION OF WATER SYSTEM:

Chair: Is there any testimony for this item?

The Department received the following document for action by the Water Board. The water systems have been constructed in accordance with the Department's standards and are in acceptable condition for dedication:

1. Grant of Easement and Bill of Sale
Lamaola Homestead Road – Waterline Extension
SUB. No. 2021-002035
Grantors: Richard D. Sutton and Stephanie A. Sutton
Tax Map Key (3) 7-2-006:027
Kaʻūpūlehu, North Kona, Island of Hawaiʻi, Hawaiʻi
Facilities Charge: $7,114.00 Date Paid: 11/12'2026
Final Inspection Date: 10/30/2026
Water System cost: $325,000.00

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Water Board accept this dedication subject to the approval of the Corporation Counsel and that either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman be authorized to sign the document.

B. ESTABLISHING AN INVESTIGATORY PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP RELATIVE TO PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES FOR HIRING A MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER:

Chair: Is there any testimony for this item?

Discussion and action to establish a Permitted Interaction Group pursuant to Section 92-2.5(b)(1) of the Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes, to investigate procedures and practices for hiring a Manager-Chief Engineer, including the assignment of Board members to the Permitted Interaction Group and defining the scope of the investigation and each member's authority.

C. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT:

Chair: Is there any testimony for this item?

Submission of Progress Report of Projects by the Department. Department personnel will be available to respond to questions by the Board regarding the status/progress of any project.

D. REVIEW OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Chair: Is there any testimony for this item?

Submission of financial statements and information relating to the financial status of the Department. Department personnel will be available to respond to questions by the Board relating to the financial status of the Department.

E. MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT:

The Manager-Chief Engineer to provide an update on the following:

1. North Kona Wells
2. Department of Water Quarterly Energy Report
3. Pacific Water Conference, Honolulu – February 10-12, 2026
4. Retiree: Keith Okamoto – Manager-Chief Engineer

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION: MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER AND DEPUTY EVALUATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026:

The Board anticipates convening an executive meeting to consider the evaluations of the Manager-Chief Engineer and Deputy for its annual performance review, as authorized by Hawai'i County Charter Sections 8-2 and 8-3 and Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS"), Sections 92-4 and 92-5(a)(2). The Board wishes to have its attorney present, in order to consult with the Board's attorney on its questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities pursuant to HRS Section 92-5(a)(4). A two-thirds vote of the members present, pursuant to HRS Section 92-4, is necessary to hold an executive meeting, provided that the affirmative vote constitutes a majority of the board.

G. MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER AND DEPUTY EVALUATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026:

Chair: Is there any testimony for this item?

Discussion/action on Manager-Chief Engineer and Deputy evaluation and compensation.

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

1. Chairperson to report on matters of interest to the Board

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Next Meeting** – December 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Department of Water Supply, Hilo Operations, 889 Leilani Street, Hilo, Hawai'i.

8) ADJOURNMENT:

Anyone requiring an accommodation or auxiliary aid and/or services to participate in this meeting (i.e., sign language, interpreter, large print), please contact the Board Secretary at 808-961-8050 as soon as possible, but no later than five days before the scheduled meeting.

Notice to Lobbyists: If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawai‘i County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist. {Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawai‘i County Code} A lobbyist means “any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or $275 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials.” {Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a)(6), Hawai‘i County Code} Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk-Council, Hilo, Hawai‘i.

Board Packet: Pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, Section 92-7.5, the board packet provided to members of the board for this meeting is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Department of Water Supply office, 345 Kekūanaō‘a Street, Suite 20, Hilo, Hawai‘i.

“The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.”