

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON KULEANA MEETING**

**AUGUST 3, 2023**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Diane Paloma called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Information Technology Building, 1st Floor Conference Room 105A/B, 2520 Correa Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, with regents participating from various locations.

Committee members in attendance: Chair Diane Paloma; Vice-Chair Abigail Mawae; Regent Neil Abercrombie; Regent Lauren Akitake; and Regent Laurie Tochiki.

Others in attendance: Board Chair Alapaki Nahale-a; Regent William Haning; Regent Wayne Higaki; Regent Gabriel Lee; Regent Laurel Loo; Regent Ernest Wilson (ex officio committee members); President David Lassner; Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno; UH-Hilo Chancellor Bonnie Irwin; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

#### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive any written testimony, and no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

#### **III. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **A. Discussion of New Committee Structure, Duties, and Functions**

##### **1. Annual Review of Table of Duties for the 2023-2024 Academic Year (Annual Review Table)**

Chair Paloma began by explaining how the term kuleana, which means duty, responsibility, and privilege, was linked to regents' service to the university. She referenced the Annual Review Table which was contained within the materials packet noting that it lists the committee's duties and functions as stated in the recently amended Bylaws of the Board of Regents (Bylaws) and would be used as a tool to guide the committee's work during the coming academic year; stated that much of the committee work already included in the Annual Review Table is being driven by the university's strategic plan; announced her intentions to keep the committee focused on kuleana matters as they relate to the university system; put forth the concept of creating a working inventory of existing schools, organizations, departments, and programs within the university that are associated with fulfilling the university's kuleana to Native

Hawaiians and Hawaii to improve regents' awareness of their existence; suggested that representatives from these entities be invited to speak to the committee so that regents could gain a deeper understanding of their mission and work; reviewed an initial inventory list of kuleana-associated organizations affiliate with the university such as the Pūko'a Council, Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and the Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity; and asked committee members if they had any questions or comments about the new committee structure, duties, or functions, or the Annual Review Table.

Committee members engaged in discussions about the breadth of topics that could be covered under the committee's roles, duties, and responsibilities; possible issues that might be addressed by the committee over the coming year, such as indigenous healthcare, academic success of indigenous student populations, and economic diversification; and the need to be mindful of, and remain focused on, the university's strategic plan when contemplating kuleana-related matters and committee objectives. They also expressed support for creating an inventory of kuleana-associated entities as described by Chair Paloma stating that this will help the committee engage with these stakeholders, suggested that the list be organized by campus so that organizational distribution throughout the system can be determined, and offered additional organizations that may possibly be included on the inventory list.

Regent Abercrombie asked about the number of programs currently in existence at the university that addressed the needs of underserved student populations. President Lassner replied that at least 20 or so such organizations existed within the university system.

#### **B. Discussion and Potential Action on Possible Revisions of Bylaws for New Committee Structure**

In light of previous conversations about existing kuleana entities at the university and noting that the section of the Bylaws governing the committee only referenced the Pūko'a Council, Chair Paloma proposed adding the phrase, "and other agencies as determined" to the list of organizations with which the committee will liaise.

Committee members shared their thoughts on Chair Paloma's suggestion with some expressing their preference to retain the current Bylaw language.

Board Secretary Lau clarified that the specific entities referenced in the Board Bylaws as being under the auspices of a particular committee only included affiliate groups on which there was regent representation. President Lassner added that a specific request had been made for a board liaison to be assigned to the Pūko'a Council since it was one of the four systemwide university governance groups currently in existence.

Given this understanding and referencing changes to the Bylaws that were already made by the Committee on Governance with respect to the Maunakea Management Board, Chair Paloma remarked that it did not appear necessary to make any additional bylaw amendments. She asked if committee members had any proposed changes.

None were raised, but in light of ongoing discussions about the responsibilities of all committees, no action was taken.

**C. Discussion of Committee Goals for the 2023-2024 Academic Year**

Chair Paloma noted that earlier deliberations regarding the Annual Review Table touched upon a number of goals for the committee and asked if committee members felt a need to include any additional objectives for the committee to achieve over the coming year.

Board Chair Nahale-a opined that the concept of kuleana is better understood once one becomes a practitioner of this ideal. He conveyed his appreciation for recent efforts to include campus protocols in board meetings held at individual campuses across the system stating that deepening the board's commitment to this kind of practitionership could be a future goal for the committee.

Chair Paloma stressed the importance of being aware of where we came from in order for us to better understand where we are going and asked everyone to briefly speak about their place of origin. Regents, several officers, and board staff shared information about where they came from and the aina on which they currently reside.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Paloma adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Yvonne Lau  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents