

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

<http://oha.org>

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) was established in 1978 by amendment to the State Constitution, Article XII, section 5, and implemented by chapter 10, HRS, in 1979. As a government agency with a high degree of autonomy, OHA advocates for the overall well-being of Native Hawaiians. OHA brings new attention, needed resources, and a strong voice to issues important to Native Hawaiians.

OHA Strategic Plan

OHA takes a strategic approach to helping provide opportunities for a better life and future for all Hawaiians. OHA's Strategic Plan calls for creating broad, lasting change that will continue to benefit future generations of Native Hawaiians. The Plan focuses on six strategic priorities:

1. 'Āina (Land and Water): To maintain the connection to the past and a viable land base, Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from responsible stewardship of Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawaii.
2. Mo'omeheu (Culture): To strengthen identity, Native Hawaiians will preserve, practice and perpetuate their culture.
3. Ea (Governance): To restore pono and ea, Native Hawaiians will achieve self-governance, after which the assets of OHA will be transferred to the new governing entity.
4. Ho'okahua Waiwai (Economic Self-Sufficiency): To have choices and a sustainable future, Native Hawaiians will progress towards greater economic self-sufficiency.
5. Ho'ona'auao (Education): To maximize choices of life and work, Native Hawaiians will gain knowledge and excel in educational opportunities at all levels.
6. Maui Ola (Health): To improve the quality and longevity of life, Native Hawaiians will enjoy healthy lifestyles and experience reduced onset of chronic diseases.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Guiding OHA's efforts is an elected nine-member Board of Trustees, established by the State Constitution, Article XII, section 5, and governed by chapter 13D, HRS. Board members must be Hawaiians. Four of the nine positions on the Board are designated at-large seats representing the State as a whole, while the other five trustees each reside on one of the following islands: Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Kauai, or Oahu. While there are residency

requirements for candidates seeking district seats, all State of Hawaii voters may participate in their election. Board members are elected to four-year terms and may be reelected without restriction as to the number of terms. The Board selects a Chairperson from its members.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting OHA policy and managing the agency's trust. The Board meets regularly at OHA's headquarters in Honolulu and at least once annually on each of the major islands.

Each trustee sits on the Board's two standing committees: the Committee on Asset and Resource Management (ARM) and the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE). The ARM Committee recommends policies for managing the agency's investment portfolio and other OHA fiscal and budgetary matters. In addition, it recommends policies relating to land use, native rights, and natural and cultural resources. The BAE Committee focuses on the agency's legislative and advocacy efforts, as well as OHA programs that address issues relating to health, human services, education, housing, land use, environment, and natural resources. Both Committees convene regularly, and their actions and recommendations are considered by the full Board for final approval.

OHA Administration

Chief Executive Officer: Ka Pouhana

OHA's Chief Executive Officer, also referred to as Ka Pouhana, meaning the middle, main post of a house, is the administrative leader of the OHA structure.¹ Ka Pouhana manages the internal operations of OHA by providing leadership, guidance, direction, and oversight. Implementing the policies, rules, and directives adopted by the Board of Trustees, Ka Pouhana leads the organization's operations. Additionally, Ka Pouhana works with other agencies, both government and private, that also serve Hawaiians. Ka Pouhana reports to the Board on OHA's finances, initiatives, and programs. This includes developing and overseeing organizational structures and procedures; securing, supervising, and inspiring employees to deliver the best results they are capable of for OHA; and guiding the implementation of OHA's strategic vision.

OHA is organized across five lines of business: Executive Offices, Resource Management, Advocacy, Research, and Community Engagement.

Executive Offices

The day-to-day operations of the Executive Offices are overseen by the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Among the COO's main responsibilities is managing the Kakaako Makai property deeded to OHA by the State of Hawaii as settlement for past due revenues from ceded

¹ Among the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees is delegating to the Administrator, its officers and employees such powers and duties as may be proper for the performance of the powers and duties vested in the Board. See section 10-5(6), HRS. "Administrator" means the administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. See section 10-2, HRS.

lands. The COO also provides guidance and resources needed to directors and programs in four lines of business, described below, to effectively execute OHA strategies:

Resource Management

The Resource Management line of business manages and reports on the organization's finances and investments, as well as maintains the organization's information systems and records. Other key components of Resource Management are analyzing and maximizing opportunities as well as creating value for OHA beneficiaries. The six programs under Resource Management are:

- *Investment Transactions* – responsible for developing financial plans aligned with OHA's policy statements regarding spending and investment to safeguard assets and maximizing return on OHA's financial assets.
- *Transitional Assistance* – responsible for ensuring OHA's grants and loans programs address OHA strategic plan priorities.
- *Information Systems and Records Management* – responsible for managing and maintaining OHA's local and statewide computer information network.
- *Administrative Services* – responsible for day-to-day processing and auditing of accounting transactions, as well as maintaining the general ledger and producing accurate financial reports.
- *Land and Property Management* – responsible for managing OHA's land holdings, as well as helping OHA demonstrate effective control and management of lands by optimizing cultural, environmental, and economic returns.
- *Halawa Luluku Interpretive Development Project* – created as a result of the H-3 Memorandum of Agreement. The Agreement requires development with community consultation to address the mitigation of land areas affected by the construction of the H-3 Freeway, and preserves, interprets, and perpetuates Native Hawaiian history, traditions, and culture.

Advocacy

The Advocacy line of business plays a leading role in OHA's efforts to address important issues facing the Native Hawaiian community. This Division is responsible for pursuing laws, policies, and practices that have broad implications for OHA priorities and for monitoring legislation to identify harmful policies and laws. The three programs that make up this Division are:

- *Public Policy* – responsible for shaping, anticipating, and influencing state or federal legislation, rules, regulations, guidelines and court decisions that are important to Native Hawaiians.
- *Compliance* – responsible for reviewing and assessing laws or policies that may undermine Hawaiian values and recommending ways to remedy culturally-sensitive matters.
- *Washington, D.C., Office* – responsible for educating Congress and the Executive Branch on issues important to Native Hawaiians and securing passage of favorable legislation at the national level.

Research

The Research line of business is essential to OHA’s ability to gather evidence needed to help make sound decisions that allow the organization to engage policy makers in its work, create public awareness, and build community support. Research is largely about gathering data and ensuring that OHA’s initiatives are based on hard facts. The four programs under Research are:

- *Demography* – responsible for informing public-policy decisions with up-to-date, accurate demographic information about Native Hawaiians.
- *Land, Culture and History* – responsible for informing public-policy decisions with accurate, relevant historical analyses about the Native Hawaiian people, their relationship to the land and environment, and their cultural traditions and practices.
- *Program Improvement* – responsible for evaluating service contracts that have been awarded by OHA and making recommendations about performance.
- *Special Projects* – responsible for researching trends and issues that would allow the CEO, COO, and OHA managers to make informed decisions about initiatives, policies, or programs.

Community Engagement

The Community Engagement line of business is critical to OHA’s ability to initiate and maintain two-way communications with OHA staff, beneficiaries, collaborative partners, the media, and policy makers. The three programs under Community Engagement are:

- *Community Outreach* – responsible for helping OHA establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with beneficiaries and other valued stakeholders. Duties include sharing with beneficiaries how to access OHA’s programs and services,

raising public awareness of OHA's efforts, and building collaborative relationships with a wide array of partners to achieve OHA's strategic goals.

- *Communications* – responsible for providing timely and relevant information to employees, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the media. Communication pieces focus on forwarding OHA's strategic priorities.
- *Digital Media* – responsible for digital communications, including the internal OHA staff intranet site, OHA's general website (<http://oha.org>), and OHA's issues-based website (<http://kamakakoi.com>).

ATTACHED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

Native Hawaiian Roll Commission

The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission, established under section 10H-3, HRS, consists of five members and is responsible for:

- (1) Preparing and maintaining a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians;
- (2) Certifying that the individuals on the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians meet the definition of qualified Native Hawaiians. A "qualified Native Hawaiian" is an individual who the Commission determines has satisfied the following criteria and who makes a written statement certifying that the individual:
 - (A) is:
 - (i) an individual who is a descendant of the aboriginal peoples who, prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the Hawaiian islands, the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii; or
 - (ii) an individual who is one of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii and who was eligible in 1921 for the programs authorized by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, or a direct lineal descendant of that individual;
 - (B) has maintained a significant cultural, social, or civic connection to the Native Hawaiian community and wishes to participate in the organization of the Native Hawaiian governing entity; and
 - (C) is eighteen years of age or older; and
- (3) Receiving and maintaining documents from individuals seeking to be included in the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians that verify ancestry; cultural, social, or civic connection to the Native Hawaiian community; and age. These verification documents are deemed confidential by law.

The Governor appoints the members of the Commission from nominations submitted by qualified Native Hawaiians and qualified Native Hawaiian organizations. One member each resides in the City and County of Honolulu and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and one member serves at large.

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