

**2024 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Draft Minutes, Meeting 85  
State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry & Wildlife**

**DATE:** July 1, 2024  
**PLACE:** Kalanimoku Building Room 132  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

And remote by interactive conference technology (online via ZOOM and by telephone)

**PARTICIPANTS**

**COMMISSIONERS:**

**In Person**

Ms. Christiane "Kauai" Lucas

**Via Zoom**

Mr. John Sinton  
Ms. Beryl Blaich  
Mr. Patrick Hart  
Ms. Elizabeth Robinson  
Ms. Alexandra Kelepolo

**STAFF:**

**In Person**

David Penn Program Specialist, Legacy Land Conservation Program, Division of Forestry & Wildlife  
Van Matsushige Project Development Specialist, Land Division

**PUBLIC:**

**Via Zoom**

William "Butch" Haase  
Kamuela Kaapana  
Aulani Freitas  
Rose Schilt  
Lou Putzel  
Kalai Castro

**ITEM A: CALL TO ORDER  
COMMISSION ROLL CALL  
REVIEW MEETING PROCEDURES**

Staff (David Penn) called Meeting 85 to order at 1:35 PM. Due to the timing of some of the vacancies and appointments for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, there's no chair or a vice chair.

Staff will be conducting the meeting until we get to the point of electing a chairperson, which is one of the agenda items. Staff requested a commission roll call vote to allow the staff to continue to conduct the meeting until the chairperson is elected. Should that happen, then the chair can conduct the remainder of the meeting with staff's assistance.

Five commissioners were present via Zoom and one commissioner was in attendance in person. Commissioners Wilson and Falinski were excused. New commissioner appointments were recognized: Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Kelepolo. Commissioner Kelepolo is on the commission on an interim basis until confirmation by the Senate during the 2025 legislative session. She will not be able to vote on any matters until she takes the oath of office. There's a quorum of six commissioners with five voting commissioners.

Commissioner Sinton made a motion to allow staff to conduct the meeting temporarily until the election and selection of the officers Commissioner Blaich seconded the motion. Five commissioners voted in support of this motion.

Staff continued with meeting procedures that included in-person, remote meeting and the process should the connectivity go down. Scheduling of the next meeting if connectivity cannot be re-established will be made public. All five commissioners need to be visually on the screen during the meeting.

Staff opened testimony on Item A. There was no public testimony received for Item A but commissioners offered comments that included welcoming the two new commissioners and acknowledging the contributions of the two outgoing commissioners – Commissioner Butch Haase and Jacob Tavares. With no further testimony either in-person or remotely, staff moved on to Item B.

#### **ITEM B: NOMINATE AND VOTE ON COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The election and selection of the officers is based on the statute and rules which states that the commission will elect the chairperson from among its membership and the rules state that the commission may select a vice-chairperson, so that is not mandatory. Staff opened the floor to nominations of the chairperson that includes self-nominations. Commissioner Lucas nominated Commissioner Sinton for chairperson. Commissioner Hart seconded the nomination. Staff asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none, Commissioner Sinton was asked if he would accept the nomination. Commissioner Sinton noted his willingness to do it. Staff called for a vote on this nomination. All five voting commissioners agreed by saying "aye" and raising their hand.

Chair Sinton proceeded with the selection of the vice-chairperson and nominated Commissioner Blaich. Commissioner Hart seconded the nomination. Commissioner Blaich commented her willingness to assist Chair Sinton but noted that her term is next year June so it would only be for one year. Staff added that records indicate the Commissioner Blaich's term started in 2019 so her service could extend till 2027. Chair Sinton called for a vote on the nomination of Commissioner Blaich as vice-chairperson. Five voting commissioners approved the nomination.

With no further discussion on Item B, Chair Sinton asked staff to continue with Item C.

**ITEM C: FISCAL YEAR 2025 LAND GRANT APPLICATIONS FORM  
REVIEW AND DISCUSS REVISED APPLICATION FORM  
REVIEW APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS (WIZEHIVE, ONEDRIVE,  
OTHER)**

Staff provided funding information. There's spending authority of \$9 million dollars for the FY2025 fiscal year. \$1.5 million dollars is allocated to the Turtle Bay debt service. Payroll is about \$250,000 and \$255,000 is the maximum amount for the Operations, Maintenance and Management grants. Other administrative costs cannot exceed \$255,000. This results in approximately \$6.7 million dollars available for land acquisition grants.

Regarding the land acquisition grant application form staff revised the form to be more user-friendly while providing sufficient information about the proposed acquisition. Staff is opening up feedback on the application form over the next couple of weeks.

Staff reviewed the land acquisition grant timeline referencing the spreadsheet in the board packet. Key dates include the application open date on July 22 and the form 5a/b/c agency consultation forms due on August 16. The application due date is October 11. There's a new law as part of the Sunshine Law that requires a 6-day period between meetings so previously scheduled meetings that went consecutive days can no longer be held. Back-to-back days of the same meeting can continue but the time between commissioner's PIG report and applicant presentations must be 6 days.

Chair Sinton opened up the floor for discussion. Vice-Chair Blaich commented that this schedule is more favorable especially since it doesn't conflict with the legislative session. Commissioner Lucas concurred with Vice-Chair Blaich.

**ITEM D: PROGRAM UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Staff provided an update a program update that included projects that have closed, awards that have executed contracts

**ITEM E: ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sinton asked for a motion to adjourn Meeting 85. Commissioner Lucas moved to adjourn Meeting 85. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hart. Seeing no further discussion, Chair Sinton adjourned Meeting 85 at 3:07 PM.