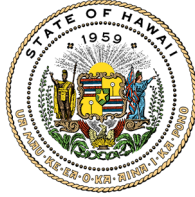


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

## ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE (ESRC) PUBLIC MEETING

**DATE:** August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**TIME:** 9:00 AM HST

**LOCATION:** DLNR – DOFAW Main Conference, Kalanimoku Building 1151  
Punchbowl St, Room #325., Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Online via Zoom; and Livestream via YouTube recorded at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDskFzm6ULY>

### MEMBERS

Jason Omick  
Michelle Bogardus  
Melissa Price

Kawika Winter  
Karen Courtot

### STAFF

Jesse Adams—DOFAW

Kelli Yamaguchi—DOFAW

### OTHERS

Dawn Huff—Joule Group

**08.08.2025 09:04/00:00:48**

### ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason Omick called the meeting to order and asked all participants not to use the Zoom chat feature, but rather to send written comments to the DOFAW HCP e-mail address. Also all meeting materials are available on the ESRC website. He then asked the HCP staff to introduce themselves followed by the Committee members. Mr. Omick then announced the agenda for the meeting and noted that ITEM 4 was pulled from this meeting at the request of the licensee.

**08.08.2025 09:10/00:06:42**

**ITEM 2. Approval Of Draft Meeting Minutes for the Following ESRC Public Meeting:**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- Kawika noted that the minutes were sparse, but did not have an issue with them if the meeting recordings were available to the public.
- Jesse stated that the meeting recordings are available on the ESRC YouTube channel, and that a link to it is provided on the ESRC Meetings archives website.
- There were no comments from the public.

**08.08.2025 09:11/00:07:32**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

Kawika made a motion to approve the minutes as is.

- Michelle: Second.
- Motion passes unanimously.

**08.08.2025 09:12/00:08:44**

**ITEM 3. VOTE ON WHETHER TO HOLD A LIMITED MEETING, AS DEFINED IN HRS § 92-3.1, AT WHICH PUBLIC ATTENDANCE IS NOT PRACTICABLE, TO CONDUCT AN ON-SITE INSPECTION OF PROPOSED MITIGATION SITES FOR KAUA'I ISLAND UTILITY COOPERATIVE'S (KIUC) DRAFT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP)**

Jesse Adams presented, on behalf of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife HCP Section, background on the KIUC Second Draft Habitat Conservation Plan.

**08.08.2025 09:16/00:12:11**

**Questions and Comments from the ESRC Members**

Kawika asked clarifying questions about projected numbers of streetlights and miles of transmission lines and if these have always been included in the HCP. Michelle explained that these numbers are estimates of new infrastructure that is reasonable to project over the requested ITP/ITL term, and that these estimates have always been included in the HCP.

Melissa asked for more information about the logistics for the site visit, and what purpose it serves. Karen wanted to know what the goals of the site visit are. Kawika and Karen commented that they will not go on a trip if helicopter operations are involved. It was then determined that Honopū would be the best site to visit. Dawn spoke to the benefits of visiting the Honopū site where conservation actions like predator control and colony monitoring are taking place. She reminded the Committee that contractors would be available to answer questions.

**08.08.2025 09:23/00:19:01**

Melissa asked how the site visit will move the HCP forward. Michelle asked about the requirements for a site visit under HRS § 195D. Jesse then read HRS §195D 25(b)-1 which requires the Committee to make a site visit. Danica asked when the HCP had been last

reviewed. ESRC review of the first draft took place in 2023 and a site visit was conducted on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This involved an in-person visit to powerlines to look at minimization measures. Melissa noted it has been two years since the Committee last saw a draft.

Kawika reminded the Committee that the applicant had sent updated drafts incorporating their concerns after the Committee's review in 2023. However, Danica reminded everyone that the Committee has never officially reviewed this second draft because it has never been an agenda item. Melissa expressed concern about conducting the site visit before the second draft HCP has been officially reviewed. Jesse provided an updated timeline of the next steps in this HCP approval process. Kawika and Karen shared that they would like to review the HCP before the site visit.

**08.08.2025 09:35/00:31:38**

Michelle asked how long the public comment period is. Jesse stated that it was 60 days. He then asked if the ESRC wanted public comments before they reviewed the HCP. Kawika and Melissa commented that they did. Danica asked when the second draft is formally reviewed that all committee members go on record and state if they: **1)** individually met with KIUC, **2)** what was said during those meetings, **3)** and what comments were provided.

Melissa asked if there were any important aspects of this project that have taken place in the past two years. Kawika stated that in the last draft Site 10 was identified but not promised. Danica reminded everyone of the agenda item and that conversation needs to be limited to this topic. Melissa rephrased her question to reflect this and asked why the Committee has not seen the new draft in the past two years. Michelle commented that there has been significant revision of the HCP document done by KIUC.

**08.08.2025 09:46/00:42:27**

Dawn shares the project's annual schedule and estimated annual contractor availability. She said their contractors would have limited availability this Fall. Melissa asked if contractors would have more availability in January. Dawn confirmed that contractors would have more availability during this month. She also stated site access is more challenging during this month.

Danica mentioned that this site visit was not essential to the progress of the second draft HCP. Kawika commented he was more interested in public comments. Melissa asked Karen for her opinion on the site visit. Karen mentioned she has not been to these areas, but has a general understanding of the proposed conservation actions (e.g. predator proof fences, seabird monitoring, etc.).

**08.08.2025 09:57/00:53:50**

## **MOTION**

Kawika makes a motion to forego the site visit.

**08.08.2025 09:59/[00:55:53](#)**

**MOTION**

Melissa makes a motion to do the site visit on the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>, and if it cannot occur then, the Committee will forego the site visit.

Karen asked a clarifying question about helicopter access. Kawika wants to have the second draft HCP published before the site visit. Karen agrees.

**08.08.2025 10:02/[00:58:19](#)**

**MOTION**

Jason makes a motion to conduct the site visit if the HCP has been published for 30 days.

- Melissa: Second
- Committee members and Danica ask for the motion to be rewritten to include additional clarifying information.

**08.08.2025 10:14/[01:05:03](#)**

Kawika asked for more specific guidance for who can and cannot attend a limited meeting.

- Danica read the statute associated with a limited meeting, [HRS § 92-3.1](#).
- Melissa reminded the group that DOFAW also cited the sensitive ecology of the area as justification for a limited meeting.
- Danica suggested that an interested member of the public could petition DOFAW for approval and would need to sign a liability waiver.

**08.08.2025 10:14/[01:10:49](#)**

**MOTION**

Jason: I make a motion to propose a site visit to the Honopū enclosure/predator proof fence in a Limited Meeting format. If the HCP is not published 30 days prior, we will not go on the site visit.

- There were no comments from the public.
- Melissa: Second
- Motion passes unanimously.

**08.08.2025 10:15/[01:11:57](#)**

**ITEM 4. UPDATE ON KAWAILOA WIND LLC TIMELINE AND PLAN FOR A WATERBIRD TAKE REDUCTION REQUEST AND POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE MITIGATION SITES**

Removed at the request of the licensee.

**08.08.2025 10:16/[01:12:31](#)**

**ITEM 5. ADJOURNMENT**

Jason made a motion to adjourn.

- Melissa: Second
- The motion passes unanimously.