

MINUTES
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

Smith's Family Luau
3-5971 Kuhio Highway
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

Thursday, June 22, 2017

A. Call to Order

HSBA President Nadine Ando called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. with a quorum present. She thanked the Kauai Bar Association for hosting the HSBA Board meeting. The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

Nadine Ando
Howard Luke
Derek Kobayashi
Russ Awakuni

Directors Present

Cecelia Chang
Steven Chow
Rebecca Copeland
Vladimir Devens
Geraldine Hasegawa
Kristin Izumi-Nitao
Carol Kitaoka
Mei-Fei Kuo
Kai Lawrence
Mark K. Murakami
Zale Okazaki
Alika Piper
Shannon Sheldon
Trejur Bordenave

Board Members Absent

Karin Holma
Rhonda Griswold
Lisa Munger

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu
Iris Ito

Others Present

Judge Edmond Acoba
Mayor Bernard Carvalho
Per Diem Judge Jonathan Chun
Mauna Kea Higuera-Trask
Per Diem Judge Walton Hong
Judge Alfred Laureta (ret.)
Per Diem Judge Laurel Loo
Judge Clifford Nakea (ret.)
Judge Michael Soong
Judge Randal Valenciano
Judge Kathleen Watanabe
Council Member JoAnn Yukimura
Other Members of Kauai Bar
Association and the Community

B. Introduction of HSBA Board Members

Kauai Director Kai Lawrence acknowledged Mayor Bernard Carvalho, former Mayor and current Kauai County Councilmember JoAnn Yukimura, Judge Alfred Laureta (ret.), members of the Kauai Bar Association, and others for their presence at HSBA Board meeting. He also thanked everyone involved in presenting the Legislative Update CLE earlier that morning. The HSBA Board and staff then introduced themselves.

C. Remarks from Kauai Bar Association President

KBA President Mauna Kea Higuera-Trask explained that the word for lawyer in the English-Hawaiian dictionary translated as “loio,” however, the word “kokua” also appeared in the definition. He expressed that it was fitting that “kokua” (to help) was also found to describe “lawyer” because that is what lawyers do: help others.

D. Remarks from Kauai Mayor

Mayor Bernard Carvalho welcomed everyone to Kauai. He talked of the recently held Tropic Care Kauai, a military program which provided free medical service to the people in the community with various needs, from eyeglasses to dental fillings to physical therapy. He also spoke of the significance of the homecoming of the Hokule’a.

E. Remarks from Kauai Administrative Judge

Judge Randal Valenciano encouraged Kauai attorneys interested in attending the Bench-Bar Conference at the Bar Convention in October to contact Steve Chow for civil law issues or Bill Harrison for criminal law issues. He also shared with the group that Kauai will be expanding to include a Veteran’s Treatment Court to assist veteran defendants with their special needs. Finally, Judge Valenciano noted that Mayor Carvalho is allowing Kauai County attorneys to participate (volunteer for) in the Self Help Center at the Kauai Courthouse.

F. Recognition of Judge Alfred Laureta

HSBA President-elect Howard Luke, Mayor Carvalho, and Councilmember Yukimura recognized and honored Judge Alfred Laureta for his numerous contributions and accomplishments in the Kauai community. He also served as the first Filipino judge in the United States District Court presiding in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Comments of Judge Laureta echoed by all included that he was an inspiration and mentor to many who came after him and continues to motivate others through example. Words of appreciation were also sent by Chief Judge Michael Seabright of the United States District Court, District of Hawaii, and Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

G. HSBA Role in Judicial Appointments and Member Surveys for Judicial Retention Purposes

Director Steve Chow outlined the judicial selection process and HSBA’s involvement in that process. He explained the importance of members submitting comments on judicial nominees to the HSBA. Director Chow also described the Judicial Selection Commission’s judicial retention process and HSBA’s role in it. He further noted that the JSC has asked the HSBA for greater involvement by taking positions on the retention of judges.

H. **Pro Bono Aspirations and Volunteer Activities**

Vice President Derek Kobayashi talked of the need for more Self-Help Center volunteers. He said that the users appreciate the Center, but have said that the Center should be open for longer hours. The Centers have served over 14,000 people with 300+ attorneys volunteering their time, as of 1½ years ago. VP Kobayashi also described the *pro bono* appellate project and Hawaii Online *Pro Bono*.

I. **Question & Answer**

In answer to a few written questions, President Ando briefly explained the purpose of the Hawaii State Bar Foundation, noted observations on the tension between the Legislature and the Judiciary, and encouraged Kauai bar members to respond to HSBA surveys or whenever they are asked for input/comments.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

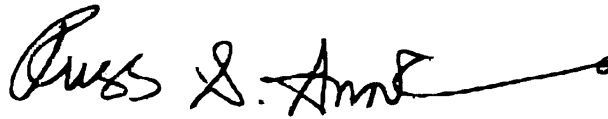
The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Russ S. Awakuni
HSBA Secretary