



# AMENDED MINUTES OF THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORP (HTDC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**June 23, 2023**

**Entrepreneurs Sandbox – Large Classroom  
643 Ilalo St., Honolulu, HI 96813**

## **Member(s) Present**

Craig Nakanishi, Chairperson (Mr. Nakanishi)  
Vassilis Syrmos, Vice Chair (Mr. Syrmos)  
Sandra Fujiyama, (Ms. Fujiyama)  
Gregory Kim, (Mr. Kim)  
Vincent Kimura, (Mr. Kimura) (arrived meeting  
at 3:06 pm)  
Rick Volner Jr., (Mr. Volner Jr.)  
Dane Wicker, (Mr. Wicker)

## **Member(s) Absent**

Edward Barnabas, (Mr. Barnabas)  
Bernice Kissinger, (Ms. Kissinger)

## **Guest(s) Present**

None

## **Members of the Public Present**

Stewart Yerton, Civil Beat (Mr. Yerton)

## **Staff Present**

Len Higashi, Executive Director (Mr. Higashi)  
Wayne Inouye, MEP Center Director  
(Mr. Inouye)  
Umma Berkelman, HTDC Economic  
Development Specialist (Ms. Berkelman)  
Ray Gomez, Controller (Mr. Gomez)  
Paul Hsi, HI-CAP Program Manager (Mr. Hsi)  
Sandi Kanemori, HTDC Contracts Manager  
(Ms. Kanemori)  
Dave Molinaro, HCATT Manager (Mr. Molinaro)  
Stephanie Yuu-Sato, Fiscal and Contracts  
Specialist (Ms. Yuu-Sato)

## **Counsel Present**

Elise Amemiya, Deputy Attorney General  
(Ms. Amemiya)

### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting started at 3:01 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**



Members Present: Chair, Vice Chair Syrmos, Ms. Fujiyama, Mr. Kim, Mr. Volner Jr., Mr. Wicker. Noted that Mr. Kimura arrived at 3:06pm.

### **3. Approval of the May 11, 2023 Minutes**

Motion to approve the May 11, 2023 minutes made by Mr. Volner Jr. / Second by Mr. Wicker

Amendments to the May 11, 2023 as follows.

Add Dane Wicker under Member(s) Absent

Under item 7 – Executive Director’s Search change description

From - The PIG will provide someone for Board review by July-August and put together a schedule

To – the PIG will provide names for the Board review by July-August and put together a schedule.

Motion to approve the May 11, 2023 with amendments made by Mr. Kim / Second by Mr. Wicker

Motion approved, 7 – 0

### **4. Approval to form and appoint members to a First Responders Technology and Cyber Security Data Center Advisory Committee**

Mr. Higashi advises that Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) is requesting to set up an advisory committee consisting of five (5) members for the First Responders Technology Campus (FRTC) project. Notating that the FRTC funding is on the Governor’s line-item veto list.

Mr. Wicker advises that while the appropriation in on the intent to veto the asset is still with HTDC and an advisory committee will assist with the plan forward. Have reached out to the following, Carl Kim, Executive Director National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, Luke Meyers, State Disaster Management Advisor, Office of Governor Josh Green, James Barros, Administrator Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Doug Murdock, CIO Enterprise Technology Officer. The focus and discussion for their consideration is that the campus is still technology and innovation focus. It includes ideas of systems of alert warning systems for natural and man-made threats and hazards, satellites, arial, drone remote sensing, mapping integrated with machine vision



and learning, classification algorithm for threat assessment and prioritization of response and recovery capabilities.

Chair requests a motion to establish a FRTC Advisory Committee

Mr. Kim questions who the FRTC Advisory Committee will report to, if the Committee will disclose information to the public and if the Committee can explore how HTDC extricate from the project, if the land can be re-purposed and if the Committee can look into various options for the property.

Mr. Wicker advises that it is an asset since the land is owned by HTDC and according to the statute it is an industrial park.

Ms. Amemiya advises that this will be an advisory committee that will not have authority to make any decisions.

Mr. Kim requests a follow-up discussion at the next board meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Wicker / Second by Mr. Kimura

Motion approved, 6 – 0 , Mr. Syrmos abstained from voting

## **5. Election of Officers for Hawaii Technology Development Corporation Board**

Chair advises the election of Officers is done annually. The nominations for Board Chair is now open.

Mr. Volner Jr. nominates Mr. Nakanishi as Chair.

Chair asks for any other nominations. No other nominations received.

Chair asks for nominations for Vice Chair.

Chair nominates Ms. Fujiyama as Vice Chair.

Chair asks for any other nominations. No other nominations received.



Posted on 07/21 @ 2:45 PM

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Chair asks for a motion to approve Mr. Nakanishi as Chair and Ms. Fujiyama as Vice Chair.

Motion made by Mr. Volner Jr. / Second by Mr. Wicker

Motion approved, 7 – 0

**6. Request a volunteer from the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) Board to serve on the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) Board.**

Chair requests a volunteer from the HTDC Board to volunteer to be on the NELHA Board. NELHA Board meetings on hybrid and only six times a year.

Mr. Kim agrees to volunteer to be the HTDC representative.

**7. Executive Director (ED) Search**

**A. ED Search Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) members and scope-**

Ms. Amemiya advises that on May 11, 2023 a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) consisting of Ms. Fujiyama, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Kim and Mr. Volner Jr. was formed. The PIG decided that it would be best to include a member of HTDC staff.

Mr. Syrmos advises that he does not believe in having a PIG and should have a search committee together and the search committee should recommend the applicants and bring them to interview in front of the board and the public.

Ms. Fujiyama reports that the PIG has reviewed the Executive Director position and worked with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) Human Resource department to finalize and post the position. The position was posted on May 30, 2023 and closed on June 13, 2023 and 15 applications were received.

Chair requests a motion to dissolve the May 11, 2023 Executive Director Search PIG

Motion made by Mr. Wicker / Second by Mr. Volner Jr.

Motion approved by, 7 – 0



Chair requests a motion to form an Executive Director Search PIG consisting of Ms. Fujiyama, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Kim, Mr. Volner Jr. and Mr. Inouye.

Motion made by Mr. Wicker / Second by Mr. Kimura

Motion approved 7 - 0

Chair requests to amend the motion to establish a PIG comprised of Ms. Fujiyama as Chair, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Kim, Mr. Volner Jr. and HTDC employee Mr. Inouye with the following scopes and duties: the committee shall develop criteria for ranking the applicants, the committee shall conduct an initial review and rank the applicants, the committee shall determine the number of applicants to interview and develop a criteria for the interview, the committee shall conduct the interviews and determine the number of top applicants to report to the board, the committee shall narrow the selection to top applicants and report in writing their findings to the board.

Motion made by Mr. Kim / Second by Mr. Wicker.

Motion approved, 7-0

## **B. Appointment of Acting Executive Director**

Mr. Higashi announces that his final day as Executive Director is June 30, 2023 but his last day in office is July 7, 2023.

Chair requests a motion to appoint Wayne Inouye as Acting Executive Director until the Board can fill the position of Executive Director. Term to begin as of July 1, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Kimura / Second by Mr. Wicker

Motion approved, 7 – 0

## **8. Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Spending Plan**

Mr. Gomez briefs the fiscal year 2024 budget and advises that he and Ms. Fujiyama have reviewed and recommends the amounts listed. Advising we are still awaiting bills that may have the possibility of line-item veto from the Governor and the notification earlier in the week of a 10% hold back.



Chair requests a motion to approve the Fiscal 2024 spending plan

Motion made by Mr. Volner Jr. / Second by Mr. Wicker

Motion approved, 7 – 0

## **9. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Higashi provides a status of the legislative bills.

Mr. Hsi provides an update on the Hatch Accelerator program.

Mr. Inouye briefs on his recent trip to Washington, DC to attend the Hawaii on the Hill event.

Mr. Molinaro briefs on the Microgrid project.

Mr. Wicker asks for future reference to provide info-graphics to include data, return on investments, inspected return on investments, success and failures, who the beneficiaries are, if you invested in a company did they or did they not meet a benchmark/goal. Purpose is to help to articulate the information to the legislature when the time comes to ask for funding or support.

## **10. Announcements**

A. Chair thanks Mr. Syrmos, Ms. Kissinger and Mr. Higashi

## **11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kim / Second by Mr. Kimura

