



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

May 11, 2023

Foreign Trade Zone – Homer Maxey Conference Center  
521 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813

## Member(s) Present

Craig Nakanishi, Chairperson (Mr. Nakanishi)  
Edward Barnabas, (Mr. Barnabas)  
Sandra Fujiyama, (Ms. Fujiyama)  
Gregory Kim, (Mr. Kim)  
Vincent Kimura, (Mr. Kimura)  
Bernice Kissinger, (Ms. Kissinger)  
Scott Murakami, (Mr. Murakami)  
Rick Volner Jr. (Mr. Volner Jr.) (arrived meeting  
@ 4:12 pm)

## Member(s) Absent

Vassilis Syrmos, Vice Chair (Mr. Syrmos)

## Guest(s) Present

None

## Staff Present

Len Higashi, Executive Director (Mr. Higashi)  
Ray Gomez, HTDC Controller (Mr. Gomez)  
Paul Hsi, HI-CAP Program Manager (Mr. Hsi)  
Sandi Kanemori, HTDC Contracts Manager  
(Ms. Kanemori)  
Wayne Layugan, MEP Program Manager (Mr. Layugan)  
Cynthia Matsuki, MEP Project Engineer (Ms. Matsuki)  
Stephanie Yuu-Sato, HTDC Fiscal & Contract Specialist  
(Ms. Yuu-Sato)

## Counsel Present

Elise Amemiya, Deputy Attorney General

## Members of the Public Present

None

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting started at 3:05 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair, Mr. Barnabas, Ms. Fujiyama, Mr. Kim, Mr. Kimura, Mr. Kimura, Ms. Kissinger, and Mr. Murakami. Noted that Mr. Volner Jr. arrived at 4:12 pm.

Mr. Higashi introduces Mr. Murakami who is the designee for the new DBEDT Director, James Tokioka who was unable to attend today.

### 3. Approval of the April 11, 2023 Minutes



No comments or changes to the minutes.  
 No testimony received.

Chair calls for a motion.

Motion to approve the April 11, 2023 minutes made by Mr. Kimura / Second by Ms. Kissinger.

Motion approved, 7 – 0

**4. Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP)**

Mr. Layugan briefs the board on the Manufacturing Assistance Program which provides grants to manufacturers in the state for manufacturing activities that result in economic and employment growth. The amount funded allocated to the MAP is dependent every year on the legislative appropriation. Each year there are more qualified applicants than there are funds available. This year there were 85 applications, only 68 were eligible for review (17 applications were either incomplete or did not meet eligibility requirements). 26 applicants will be awarded and of those seven are first time applicants.

Hawaiian King Candies LLC *	\$18,930.00
Hilo Fish Company, Inc *	\$1,520.00
Ba-Le Inc (dba La Tour Bakehouse	\$80,000.00
Koloa Run Company	\$10,050.00
Meadow Gold Dairies Hawaii LLC *	\$54,430.00
Hawaiian Sun Products, Inc *	\$70,000.00
Hawaii Sea Spirits LLC *	\$23,540.00
Island Grown Foods, Inc (dba Hawaii Food Products) *	\$3,630.00
Advanced Silicon Carbide Materials, LLC	\$45,540.00
La'I LLC (dba Punalu'u Bake Shop)	\$5,570.00
The Patisseries Inc.	\$48,250.00
Oceanit Laboratories, Inc	\$17,290.00
KYD Inc.	\$27,560.00
Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC	\$48,100.00
Aumakua Holdings Inc (dba Maui Brewing Company)	\$70,000.00
Maui Wine. Ltd	\$7,480.00
Diamond Bakery Company, Limited	\$70,000.00



Hawaiian Ola Brewing Corporation	\$39,220.00
Pacific Shipyards International, LLC	\$70,000.00
Kauai Kookie, LLC	\$7,860.00
Okuhara Foods, Inc	\$52,960.00
Euram Inc (dba Hawaiian Paradise Coffee) *	40,780.00
Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc	\$51,770.00
Grass Shack Industries LLC (dba Manoa Chocolate Hawaii)	\$60,000.00
Honblue	\$60,000.00
Kauai Juice Co LL	\$15,520.00

Mr. Kimura questions the scoring method and fairness towards the smaller businesses.

Mr. Higashi and Mr. Layugan reiterates that this has been addressed by the federal government and that awards are based on economic and employment growth.

Chair requests a motion to approve the Manufacturing Assistance Program grants.

Motion to approve the MAP grants made by Mr. Murakami / Second by Ms. Kissinger.

Motion approved, 7 – 0

## 5. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Higashi briefs the board on the status of the HTDC strategic plan. Notating between June to August there will be research and data gathering, site visits and community input meetings, stakeholder interview and expected outcomes. Goal is to have 10 x \$1 billion companies in 10 years.

## 6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Higashi reviews the Executive Director's report. Advising that the legislative session is closing but we are still waiting for the final reports. There are three bills that impact HTDC, adding four positions and \$65 million. Another change located in Bill HB999 will be replacing the University of Hawaii representative, Vassilis Syrmos with a University of Hawaii Board Regent member. Accelerator awards have been awarded for early-stage companies and this is part of our strategic plan. The Entrepreneurs Sandbox RFP was finalized and has been awarded to Impact Hub. MEP awarded an additional \$400,000 toward their program.



## 7. Executive Director's Search

Chair requests a motion to move into executive session

Motion to convene into Executive Session made by Ms. Kissinger / Second by Mr. Barnabas

Motion approved: 7 – 0

Executive Session Convened at 4:15 pm

Executive Session adjourned at 5:06 pm

Chair requests a motion to form a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) of four members to investigate the hiring of an Executive Director.

Motion to approve the PIG made by Ms. Kissinger / Second by Mr. Barnabas

Motion approved, 7 – 0

Chair advises the Board members on the PIG will be Ms. Fujiyama who will be chair, Mr. Volner Jr., Mr. Barnabas and Mr. Kim. The PIG will provide names for Board review by July-August and put together a schedule. The current job description will be circulated to the Board and any comments on input to be sent to Ms. Fujiyama directly, do not include any other member on the email, by Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

## 8. Adjournment

Chair calls for a motion to adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kimura / Seconded by Mr. Barnabas

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Yuu-Sato  
Board Secretary