

## OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

<https://www.oha.org>

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) was established in 1978 by amendment to the State Constitution, Article XII, section 5, and implemented by chapter 10, HRS, in 1979. OHA is a semi-autonomous state agency mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management, and the funding of community programs.

### OHA Strategic Plan

OHA takes a strategic approach to helping provide opportunities for a better life and future for all Hawaiians. OHA's Strategic Plan calls for creating broad, lasting change that will continue to benefit future generations of Native Hawaiians. The Plan focuses on six strategic priorities:

1. 'Āina (Land and Water): To maintain the connection to the past and a viable land base, Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from responsible stewardship of Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawaii.
2. Mo'omeheu (Culture): To strengthen identity, Native Hawaiians will preserve, practice, and perpetuate their culture.
3. Ea (Governance): To restore pono and ea, Native Hawaiians will achieve self-governance, after which the assets of OHA will be transferred to the new governing entity.
4. Ho'okahua Waiwai (Economic Self-Sufficiency): To have choices and a sustainable future, Native Hawaiians will progress towards greater economic self-sufficiency.
5. Ho'ona'auao (Education): To maximize choices of life and work, Native Hawaiians will gain knowledge and excel in educational opportunities at all levels.
6. Maui Ola (Health): To improve the quality and longevity of life, Native Hawaiians will enjoy healthy lifestyles and experience reduced onset of chronic diseases.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Guiding OHA's efforts is an elected nine-member Board of Trustees, established by the State Constitution, Article XII, section 5, and governed by chapter 10, HRS. The election of Trustees is subject to chapter 13D, HRS. Four (4) of the nine (9) seats on the Board are at-large Trustees representing the State as a whole, while the remaining five (5) seats are island resident Trustees with one (1) Trustee from each of the following islands: Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Kauai, and Oahu. The election of members to the OHA Board of Trustees is open to all State of Hawaii voters. Board members are elected to four-year terms and may be re-elected without restriction as to the number of terms. The Board selects a Chairperson from its members.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting OHA policy and managing the agency's trust. The Board meets regularly at OHA's headquarters in Honolulu and at least once annually on each of the major islands.

Each trustee sits on the Board's two standing committees: the Committee on Resource Management (RM) and the Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE). The RM Committee recommends policies for managing the agency's investment portfolio and real estate assets, and addresses OHA fiscal and budgetary matters. In addition, it recommends policies relating to land use, native rights, and natural and cultural resources. The BAE Committee focuses on the agency's legislative and advocacy efforts, as well as OHA programs that address issues relating to health, human services, education, housing, land use, environment, natural resources, and Hawaiian rights and entitlements. Both Committees convene regularly, and their actions and recommendations are considered by the full Board for final approval.

## **OHA Administration**

### **Chief Executive Officer: Ka Pouhana**

OHA's Chief Executive Officer, also referred to as Ka Pouhana, meaning the middle, main post of a house, is the administrative leader of the OHA structure.<sup>1</sup> Ka Pouhana manages the internal operations of OHA by providing leadership, guidance, direction, and oversight. Implementing the policies, rules, and directives adopted by the Board of Trustees, Ka Pouhana leads the organization's operations. Additionally, Ka Pouhana works with other agencies, both government and private, that also serve Hawaiians. Ka Pouhana reports to the Board on OHA's finances, initiatives, and programs. This includes developing and overseeing organizational structures and procedures; securing, supervising, and inspiring employees to deliver the best results they are capable of for OHA; and guiding the implementation of OHA's strategic vision.

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<sup>1</sup> Among the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees is delegating to the Administrator, its officers and employees such powers and duties as may be proper for the performance of the powers and duties vested in the Board. See section 10-5(6), HRS. "Administrator" means the administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. See section 10-2, HRS.

OHA is organized across six divisions: Executive Offices, Resource Management–Financial Assets, Advocacy, Research, Community Engagement, and Resource Management–Land Assets.

## **Executive Offices**

The day-to-day operations of the Executive Offices are overseen by the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Among the COO's main responsibilities is to provide guidance and resources needed to directors and programs in five divisions, described below, to effectively execute OHA strategies:

## **Resource Management–Financial Assets**

The Resource Management–Financial Assets (RMFA) division manages and reports on the organization's finances and investments, as well as OHA's grants and loans programs. Other key components of RMFA are analyzing and maximizing opportunities as well as creating value for OHA beneficiaries. The six programs under RMFA are:

- *Financial Services* – responsible for day-to-day processing and auditing of accounting transactions, as well as maintaining the general ledger and producing accurate financial reports.
- *Grants* – responsible for ensuring OHA's grants programs support projects and initiatives that address OHA's six strategic priorities and accompanying strategic results.
- *Information Technology* – responsible for managing and maintaining OHA's local and statewide computer information network.
- *Investments* – responsible for developing financial plans aligned with OHA's policy statements regarding spending and investment to safeguard assets and maximize return on OHA's financial assets.
- *Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund* – working in collaboration with the Administration for Native Americans, OHA's loan program provides low-interest loans and a lending alternative to Native Hawaiian consumers and businesses.
- *Procurement* – responsible for performing OHA's procurement and contract administration in an effective, timely, and compliant manner.

## Advocacy

The Advocacy division plays a leading role in one of OHA's core functions: fulfilling the agency's statutory duties related to assessing policies and practices, developing policy, and advocating for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians. This division works to advance the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians through county, state, and federal policy systems, and to elevate the Native Hawaiian voice in management of Hawaiian resources. The four programs that make up this division are:

- *Public Policy* – responsible for shaping, analyzing, and influencing proposed state or federal legislation, rules, regulations, guidelines, and court decisions that are important to Native Hawaiians.
- *Compliance Enforcement* – responsible for reviewing and assessing laws or policies that may undermine Native Hawaiian values, serving as the lead technical program regarding OHA's consultation authority under federal law.
- *Washington, D.C., Office* – responsible for monitoring federal policymaking processes as they affect Native Hawaiians, working with national and indigenous partners, and serving as the lead OHA program on federal or national issues.
- *Papahānaumokuākea Management* – responsible for OHA's role as a co-manager of Papahānaumokuākea, a marine national monument of deep cultural and historic significance to OHA's beneficiaries. This includes shaping monument management policy, elevating the Native Hawaiian voice in monument matters, and effectuating OHA's role as one of four co-trustees of the area.

## Research

The Research division gathers, compiles, analyzes, and reports data in order to identify and explore strengths, needs, and disparities of Native Hawaiian communities to inform OHA's decision-making and support beneficiaries. The four programs under Research are:

- *Demography* – responsible for informing public-policy decisions with up-to-date, accurate demographic information about Native Hawaiians, as well as developing materials that present demographic information for a broad audience.
- *Land, Culture, and History* – responsible for informing public-policy decisions with accurate, relevant historical analyses about the Native Hawaiian people, their relationship to the land and environment, and their cultural traditions and practices.
- *Program Improvement* – responsible for evaluating service contracts that have been awarded by OHA and making recommendations about performance, as well as evaluating organizational initiatives and making recommendations for improvement.

- *Special Projects* – responsible for researching trends and issues that would allow the CEO, COO, and OHA managers to make informed decisions about initiatives, policies, or programs regarding, but not limited to, education, economic self-sufficiency, and health.

## Community Engagement

The Community Engagement division is critical to OHA's ability to initiate and maintain two-way communications with OHA staff, beneficiaries, collaborative partners, the media, and policy makers. The three programs under Community Engagement are:

- *Community Outreach* – responsible for helping OHA establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with beneficiaries and other valued stakeholders. Duties include sharing with beneficiaries how to access OHA's programs and services, raising public awareness of OHA's efforts, and building collaborative relationships with a wide array of partners to achieve OHA's strategic goals.
- *Digital and Print Media* – responsible for digital communications, including the internal OHA staff intranet site, OHA's general website (<https://www.oha.org>), and OHA's issues-based website (<https://www.kamakakoi.com>). These tools provide timely and relevant information to employees, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the media. Communication pieces focus on forwarding OHA's strategic priorities and the monthly Ka Wai Ola o OHA publication.
- *Hawaiian Registry Program* – responsible for providing registered Hawaiians, worldwide, with a card verifying their Hawaiian ancestry. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs issues the card *after* verifying indigenous Hawaiian ancestry through biological parentage. No blood quantum is required.

## Resource Management–Land Assets

The Resource Management–Land Assets division is responsible for managing OHA's land holdings, as well as demonstrating effective control and management of lands by optimizing cultural, environmental, and economic returns.

- *Commercial Properties* – responsible for managing the Kakaako Makai properties deeded to OHA by the State of Hawaii in 2012 as settlement for past due revenues from ceded lands. Also responsible for the management of the Na Lama Kukui office building that was also acquired in 2012, and the management of OHA's corporate offices.
- *Legacy Lands* – responsible for managing the 511 acres of agriculture-zoned land surrounding Kukaniloko in Wahiawa, Oahu, the 25,856-acre Wao Kele o Puna rainforest on Hawaii island, the 20.7-acre Palauea Cultural Reserve in Maui, the 1.15-

acre Pahua Heiau in Maunaloa, Oahu, and various other properties that are in programmatic uses.

- *Halawa-Lulukū Interpretive Development Project* – created as a result of the H-3 Memorandum of Agreement. The Agreement requires development with community consultation to address the mitigation of land areas affected by the construction of the H-3 Freeway, and preserves, interprets, and perpetuates Native Hawaiian history, traditions, and culture.

## ATTACHED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

### **Native Hawaiian Roll Commission**

Section 10H-3, HRS, established a five-member Native Hawaiian Roll Commission within the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for administrative purposes only. The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission is responsible for:

- (1) Preparing and maintaining a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians;
- (2) Certifying that the individuals on the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians meet the definition of qualified Native Hawaiians. A "qualified Native Hawaiian" is an individual whom the Commission determines has satisfied the following criteria and who makes a written statement certifying that the individual:
  - (A) Is:
    - (i) An individual who is a descendant of the aboriginal peoples who, prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the Hawaiian Islands, the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii; or
    - (ii) An individual who is one of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii and who was eligible in 1921 for the programs authorized by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, or a direct lineal descendant of that individual; or
    - (iii) An individual who meets the ancestry requirements of Kamehameha Schools or of any Hawaiian registry program of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
  - (B) Has maintained a significant cultural, social, or civic connection to the Native Hawaiian community and wishes to participate in the organization of the Native Hawaiian governing entity; and
  - (C) Is eighteen years of age or older;

- (3) Receiving and maintaining documents that verify ancestry; cultural, social or civic connection to the Native Hawaiian community; and age from individuals seeking to be included in the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, these verification documents shall be confidential; and
- (4) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, including in the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians all individuals already registered with the State as verified Hawaiians or Native Hawaiians through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as demonstrated by the production of relevant Office of Hawaiian Affairs records, and extending to those individuals all rights and recognitions conferred upon other members of the roll.

The Governor appoints the members of the Commission from nominations submitted by qualified Native Hawaiians and qualified Native Hawaiian organizations. One member each resides in the City and County of Honolulu and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and one member serves at large.

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