



**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

**Hawaii Convention Center, Board Room A
1801 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815**

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Sala (Chair), Fred Atkins, Jack Corteway, Sean Dee, Gerald De Mello, Donna Domingo, Rick Fried, George Kam, Craig Nakamura, David Rae, Lorrie Stone, Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi

HTA STAFF PRESENT: Ron Williams

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL: Gregg Kinkley

1. Call to Order

Mr. Sala convened the special meeting at 11:20 a.m. He recognized the presence of Mr. George Kam and Mr. Gerald De Mello as newly appointed Board members. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Barry Taniguchi and Ms. Linda Wong, who were the two public members serving on the CEO Search Investigative Committee. The presence of Ms. Wong was recognized.

There was no objection to agenda item 3 to be considered out of order.

3. Discussion and/or Action on the Recommendation of the CEO Search Committee, Reported to the Board at its April 30, 2015 Meeting, on the Selection of a New CEO for the Authority

Mr. Corteway made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the hire of personnel where matters of privacy will be considered. Ms. Stone seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by all the Board members present.

The meeting was recessed to go into executive session at 11:23 a.m.

(The minutes of the executive session were recorded by Deputy Attorney General Gregg Kinkley.)

The meeting was reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

2. Kipaipai

Mr. Salā stated that in the past, the Board would begin its meeting with a pule to spiritually ground the Board and to also socially and culturally inspire the Board. He changed the pule to a Kipaipai because it means an “inspirational moment.” He looked forward to HTA beginning another chapter with the appointment of a new CEO. He challenged the Board to go forward and not turn back. Mr. Salā recognized the great work done by Mr. Williams to “step up as a volunteer” to serve as the interim executive director during the transition period.

3. Discussion and/or Action on the Recommendation of the CEO Search Committee, Reported to the Board at its April 30, 2015 Meeting, on the Selection of a New CEO for the Authority

Ms. Stone made a motion to accept the CEO Search Committee’s recommendation that George Szigeti be the next CEO and President of the Hawai’i Tourism Authority, subject to successful negotiation of an administrative package with Mr. Szigetti, including employment agreement, salary, and benefits in conformance with applicable law. Mr. Fried seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by all the Board members present.

Mr. Szigeti expressed appreciation to the Search Committee and the Board for the confidence and support in selecting him as the President and CEO. He intends to work closely with the Legislature and get to know the HTA staff. Wherever he worked, he always made sure the staff worked as a team with open collaboration and partnership. We will leave our “egos” out the door. He looks forward to working with the Board and hopes to meet everyone’s expectation.

4. Adjournment.

Ms. Stone made motion to adjourn the special meeting. Ms. Domingo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The special meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Winfred Pong
Recorder