

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY
State of Hawai'i

Monday, September 8, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room #436 and Video Conference

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: James Kunane Tokioka, Richard Wallsgrove, Mark Glick, Dennis Wong

Staff Present: Gwen Yamamoto Lau, Chris Anjo, Timothy Wong, Valerie Kubota, Jenna Seagle, Latrisha Nakasone

Others Present: John Cole (Deputy Attorney General)

Members of the Public: Ashley Mizuo – Hawaii Public Radio, Jaymie Nakama – FIN, V Chang

I. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Wallsgrove called the meeting of the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority to order at 1:01 p.m. Vice Chair Wallsgrove called a proper roll call of all members.

Chairperson Tokioka	Present	Joined at 1:10 p.m.
Vice Chair Wallsgrove	Present	
Secretary Glick	Present	
Member Wong	Present	
Member Salaveria	Excused	

All members confirmed that no other adults were present in the room with them.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1. Agenda for the September 8, 2025 Meeting.
2. Minutes from the August 8, 2025 Regular Meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Wallsgrove stated that the first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the August 8, 2025 regular meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Glick moved and Member Wong seconded the motion to approve the August 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there was any discussion on the meeting minutes. Hearing none, Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there were any questions from the general public. Hearing none, Vice Chair Wallsgrove called for a vote via roll call.

Ayes: Wallsgrove, Glick, Wong
Nays: None.

The motion carried unanimously, 3 to 0.

III. PROGRAM UPDATES

Vice Chair Wallsgrove stated that the next items on the agenda are program updates, starting with an update on the Solar for All grant termination letter received. He asked Gwen Yamamoto Lau to present.

1. **Solar for All Grant.** Yamamoto Lau reported that on August 7, 2025, HGIA received an assistant amendment reporting to terminate the \$62.45 million Solar for All grant. On August 8, 2025, HGIA received a stop work order. Under the guidance of the Attorney General's Office, she submitted a notice of disagreement to the EPA on August 27, 2025, and on September 5, 2025, she submitted a dispute letter to the EPA.

The specific remedy or relief being sought is the rescission of determination, reinstatement of the grant agreement for the originally awarded amount, scope of work, and performance period, restoration of the funds into the ASAP account, and reissuance of a notice to proceed. She also requested that the EPA contact her to discuss resolution.

No response has been received to date. She further reported that the Attorney General's Office is working with a coalition of other states and HGIA awaits further guidance.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there were any questions from the members.

Secretary Glick stated that he had no questions but expressed support for the Executive Director's efforts to work with the Attorney General's Office and encouraged that the Authority take the strongest action possible to protect what is a legitimate program that should have remained.

Member Wong stated that he shared the same sentiment and was in full agreement with Secretary Glick.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove added that he was glad to hear of the attempts being made to join the coalition to get this sensible and previously approved program through. He noted that while it is probably too early to raise the issue, if the funds are ultimately clawed back, it is important that the public be made aware that Congress approved a program intended to help the most vulnerable transition away from fossil fuels, and

that the administration is seeking to retract it. He emphasized the importance of communicating both positive developments and disappointing setbacks.

Chair Tokioka joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there were any questions from the general public. Hearing none, Vice Chair Wallsgrove stated that the next program update is an update on the opinions received regarding CIP fund deployment. He asked Yamamoto Lau to provide an update.

2. **CIP Fund Deployment.** Yamamoto Lau reported that on August 13, 2025, HGIA received a memo from the Director of Finance indicating that the Authority may not be operating in compliance with its authorizing statute. Items in question included an appropriation to lend CIP funds, where funds are held, administrative rules, and the requirement of prevailing wages for construction projects financed by HGIA using state general obligation bond proceeds exceeding \$2,000.

Yamamoto Lau provided background on Act 107, SLH 2021 which established the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (CEEERLF) as a sub-fund under HGIA's special fund and noted that HGIA annually allocates ceiling appropriations to its sub or "child" funds. She also noted that instead of the Administrative Rules process, HGIA's existing Green Energy Money Saver Financing Program went through a more rigorous Hawaii Public Utilities Commission public docket process for approval.

Inasfar as the purported prevailing wage requirement, HGIA does not procure contracts with any solar contractors. Individual solar system owners negotiate contracts with their contractor of choice. She further noted a few other state-funded loan programs that do not have prevailing wage requirements for their borrowers.

HGIA's Deputy Attorney General is working with Budget & Finance's Deputy Attorney General to resolve these differences in opinions. As may be necessary, a meeting will be scheduled in the future.

Yamamoto Lau addressed questions from the members.

Yamamoto Lau also stated that she wanted to assure everyone that this matter only impacts a specific source of funds and does not affect HGIA's financing programs in general. She noted that GEM\$ and the other financing programs will continue and emphasized that while the source of funds in question is important, it does not affect the overall program.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove thanked Yamamoto Lau for the clarification and asked if there were any questions from the general public. Hearing none, he proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION MAKING

Vice Chair Wallsgrove stated that the last item on the agenda is a request for the Board to make a determination on the necessity of conducting a limited meeting for the purpose of on-site visits to businesses and organizations obtaining HGIA financing on Oahu for purposes related to the Board's business at which public attendance is not practicable; and for approval to submit a limited meeting schedule to the director of the Office of Information Practices for limited meeting concurrence. He asked Yamamoto Lau to provide details.

Yamamoto Lau stated that HRS Section 92-3.1 allows the Board to hold a limited meeting not open to the public where the Board determines it is necessary to conduct an on-site inspection of locations related to Board business, where public attendance is not practicable, and no decisions are being made. To allow a limited meeting, the Board must, after sufficient public deliberation, determine that it is necessary, specify that the location is dangerous to safety or that public attendance is impracticable, and that two-thirds of all members entitled to vote must adopt the determination, with notice provided in accordance with HRS Section 92-7.

Yamamoto Lau further stated that HRS Section 92-3.1(c)(1) requires the Board to videotape the meeting unless the requirement is waived by the Director of the Office of Information Practices, and that the Board must comply with all requirements of HRS Section 92-9. She reported that HGIA intends to request that the videotaping requirement be waived for privacy purposes and due to lack of resources, and that a description of the limited meeting will be made part of the Board record as required by statute.

Yamamoto Lau stated that it is often difficult to understand the real impact HGIA's financing has on our underserved ratepayers and small businesses by reading a report or hearing program updates from staff. As such, the Board intends to conduct site visits to businesses/organizations that received HGIA financing on Oahu, in order to learn first-hand about the solar systems installed and its direct and immediate impact on electric utility bills for low-income renters and small businesses, as well as how HGIA's HI-CAP programs help bridge the access to capital gap for small businesses. Staff request that the Board find it is not practicable for the public to attend the site visits because the locations are private businesses during normal operating hours and private housing projects. Public attendance would cause significant disruption to ongoing operations, create safety hazards due to overcrowding, and raise liability concerns for private property owners. She further noted that privacy interests for tenants must be protected, including confidential information and personal possessions. Based on these considerations, Yamamoto Lau stated that it would not be practicable to have the public present at the privately-owned sites. The Board is considering visiting three businesses and two housing projects.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there were any questions from the members. Secretary Glick asked whether the site visits would be scheduled for a date to be determined in the future. Yamamoto Lau responded that the visits would likely be in October, but the date is still to be determined.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there were any questions from the general public. Hearing none, Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked for a motion to approve the limited meeting for the purpose of on-site visits to businesses/organizations receiving HGIA financing on Oahu for purposes related to the Board's business at which public attendance is not practicable; and for approval to submit a limited meeting schedule to the director of the Office of Information Practices for limited meeting concurrence.

Secretary Glick moved, and Chair Tokioka seconded the motion to approve the limited meeting for the purpose of on-site visits for purposes related to the Board's business at which public attendance is not practicable; and for approval to submit a limited meeting schedule to the director of the Office of Information Practices for limited meeting concurrence.

Vice Chair Wallsgrove called for a vote via roll call.

Ayes: Tokioka, Wallsgrove, Glick, Wong.
Nays: None.

The motion carried unanimously, 4 to 0.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Wallsgrove asked if there were any other matters that should be discussed. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Chair Tokioka moved, and Member Wong seconded the motion. Chair Tokioka adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

By: _____
Mark Glick
Its: Secretary