



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board
Princess Ruth Keelikolani Building, 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 337, Honolulu HI 96813
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Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board Minutes
Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
DLIR Conference Room, 321

Present: Trustees: Chairperson Joaquin Diaz, Angela Chinen, and Rich Lentes
Absent: Vice-Chairperson Tristan Aldeguer and Jim Weander
Staff: Executive Director Robert M. Armstrong
Visitors: None

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Chairperson Diaz.
- 2. 15 April 2015 Minutes:** Lentes moved and Chinen seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 3. DLIR Deputy Director's Report:** Mr. Hoshijo notes he has been on the job for three months and the new Director, Linda Chu Takayama, two months. They have concluded meeting with all personnel, including Bob, and visiting DLIR work sites here and all neighbor Islands.

Their principle effort now is in re-staffing the Department, particularly at HIOSH and Disability Compensation, with an eye toward not only attracting talent but retaining them. Conversely, the Unemployment Insurance Division is losing federal funding as the economy improves.

The Governor's Office informed DLIR (and other Departments) this fiscal year's projected revenue and spending is running a deficit. As a result, preparations are being made for a ten percent reduction in spending similar to last year.

Finally, Mr. Hoshijo talked about IT and their effort to facilitate paperless and electronic business where possible. Some areas are progressing faster than others in this process.

- 4. HIOSH Report:** Clayton Chun representing Soon Hye Edgerton reports no State crane accidents since the start of the calendar year but there have been some construction accidents. In responding to a Trustee question, he was not aware of any crane related enforcement action either.

- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Armstrong notes the fiscal year closes at the end of this month. During the last two months, he certified a record 35 applications: 19 new, twelve renewals and four replacements. During the year, that averages to about one per day.

Against \$909 of expenditures, the office took in \$10,750 in revenue during the period. This leaves the agency with a near even income-to-revenue total for the year when his part-time salary is included. He anticipates the Fiscal Office will have more permanent numbers next month.

In all, HMOAB serviced a record 131 certifications this year, compared to 82 last year, possibly indicating an improvement in the State's economy. Of that number, new certifications were 61 and 53 were renewal, also a record for the agency. Armstrong included a "growth" page and chart showing annual revenues up and spending down.

His office was contacted by several individuals this month. He notes a positive letter sent from Senator Breene Harimoto (Pearl City/Aiea/Pearl Harbor) regarding our current Annual Report. We were contacted by Common Cause, an independent non-profit that monitors government, and reminded to post our unapproved minutes after thirty days. They also expressed dismay with our office's inaccessibility to the public after being moved from the Director's Office in December. Finally, Armstrong was visited by an agent of the Federal Inspector General's office regarding possible fraud that may have been committed by a crane operator during the past year.

Armstrong was very complimentary for the efforts of the IT Department recently, especially Glenn Yokoyama for help with the office update of its CJIS computer functions and Sami Alamran, who helped get our webpage accurate and re-added our agency's missing annual reports since 2002 on the DLIR website. The only outstanding IT issue is bringing the current membership roster up-to-date, which is a bit more complicated due to the information and technical challenges found with it.

Deputy Director Hoshijo reminded HMOAB about the DLIR push to accommodate other language options and physical needs in our correspondence. While we do note this opportunity in our public agenda and meeting notices on the State website, our webpage should also include this disclaimer.

Armstrong concluded with a proposal to add visible representations of both approved ID's and medical certifications on our application form, as this may help visual learners. The idea was met with approval and will be implemented immediately.

A discussion developed about HMOAB's need and concern to further communicate with members in the future and what is permitted by our founding legislation. Approved outreach campaigns, neighbor Island activities, and educational efforts still need to be formally addressed for the benefit and betterment of all State residents.

- 6. Old Business:** It was noted there was a very strong negative push against the proposed nationwide OSHA changes in Washington by operators in Guam.

Lentes reports his recent crane safety and accident report should be done either in July or August for Trustees. When those statistics are compiled and presented, our group will be better able to identify how to proceed with future issues, legislation and questions. It was noted crane accidents are the second highest area of death and injury in the United States behind general construction accidents, with riggers being the chief area of concern. Last year, there was one such fatality in Hawai'i, according to reports.

It was agreed HMOAB's booth (as well as HIOSH's) at the OSHA Workshop in May was successful and a good first step in outreach. Armstrong notes a sizable amount of materials were handed out and displayed our new banner for trustees who did not attend. Diaz notes it was a great place to interact with small businesses, in particular.

A discussion developed about certification reminder letters sent to businesses concerning lapsed employees. After being unable to determine a proper number of infractions to send such correspondence, the practice will be temporarily suspended as this is primarily a responsibility for the individual operator in the first place.

Chinen reports her follow-up with the simulator proposal. While no effort will involve our office, there is interest in locating a crane simulator at Honolulu Community College.

It was noted no further changes with our office correspondence is needed but Armstrong invites edits and changes to the recently published "FAQ" sheet.

- 7. New Business:** The rest of the meeting dates for 2015 were set for the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the DLIR Conference Room #321. Those upcoming dates are: July 15, August 19 (tentative), September 16, October 21, and November 18.

A long discussion centered on the precise medical forms accepted by the HMOAB office. While applications come from many states and hundreds of doctor offices, it was believed our visual representation of them on our application form will help both the public and the Executive Director in the future.

Finally, a brief discussion started about a rededication to attendance by all members of HMOAB in the upcoming months. The agency is at a point where great strides can be made if everyone contributes equally.

- 8. Community Comments:** None.
- 9. Next HMOAB Meeting:** As noted, **Wednesday, July 15, 2015 @ 1:30 p.m.** in DLIR Room #321.
- 10. Adjournment:** Chinen moved and Lentes seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m. The motion was unanimously agreed to without discussion.