



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 4625, Honolulu HI 96812-4625

Telephone: (808) 586-8146 Fax: (808) 586-9099 Email: [HMOAB@Hawaii.gov](mailto:HMOAB@Hawaii.gov)

**Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board Minutes**

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

DLIR Conference Room, 321

**Present:** Members Tristan Aldeguer, Angela Chinen, Chairperson Joaquin Diaz, Rich Lenten and Jim Weander  
**Staff:** Executive Director Robert M. Armstrong  
**Guest:** Burt Ramos, HIC  
**Visitor:** Pane Meatoga

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chairperson Diaz.
2. **16 September 2015 Minutes:** Aldeguer moved and Weander seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. **DLIR Deputy Director's Report:** Leonard Hoshijo reports HIOSH Director Diantha Goo is leaving her post effective 30 October 2015. On behalf of the Board, Vice-Chair Aldeguer wished her the best and thanked her for her years of service and cooperation with the HMOAB Board. All members were in agreement with his sentiment and wishes.
4. **HIOSH Report:** Safety Branch Manager Soon Hye Edgerton had no formal report but answered several questions about HIOSH safety records and enforcement from the Board.
5. **Executive Director's Report:** a) Bob Armstrong announced a busy month in October taking in \$5800 in revenue against a touch over \$700 in expenses. b) During the period, 18 applications were processed, of which ten were new members.  
  
c) He also shared his invitation to represent HMOAB at a gender equity meeting organized by the Civil Rights Commission recently. Attracting more female workers into the hoisting and construction trades was the meeting's focus, as women entering the workforce appear to be declining. He'll inform the Board of future discussion /meetings.

A brief discussion about needed training experience and forklift operators ensued, especially in light of proposed OSHA rules regarding contractor certification of sub-contracted workers. The Board was in general agreement these proposed regulations are unlikely to survive the vetting process.

6. **Old Business:** a) Trustee Lentes reports Haag Engineering Principal Jim Whitehorn is willing to supply the HMOAB Board with whatever information and/or format is needed to assist is in compiling records about Crane Safety and Regulations. Lentes asked Board members to tell him what statistics they desire, especially in regards to general industry versus construction trade incident rates. It was proposed that a statistical review item be placed on the next agenda.

Action on the c) updated visual application form was delayed until next month in light of b) Technology Project Manager Burt Ramos's presentation from the Hawai'i Information Consortium, the State's technology division. Following brief remarks about last month's written proposal, he answered Board member questions and concerns raised during the past thirty days.

Like the online update to the elevator inspection process in HIOSH, he is confident HIC can assist HMOAB in getting its records online with a robust information-rich webpage, and online payment and membership information available 24/7 within six months. The constantly updatable information will also make it easier for the agency's future part-time administrator to spend less time with membership and more time on "bigger issues." Ramos confirmed the agreement is for one year from signing and it can be continued or cancelled at any time thereafter. HMOAB information will be secure and backed-up on a cloud-based system, the same other agencies and State departments use, and mail-in applications can be continued to be accepted during the length of the contract, if desired.

Lentes proposed, with Aldeguer seconding, to adopt the proposal to spend \$15K over two fiscal years on the upgrade. The vote was 4-1, with Chinen dissenting.

7. **New Business:** a) Armstrong reports a manual for drafting administrative rules has been received and that he recently met with HMOAB Attorney General's counsel Frances Lum on the matter.

b) Chinen discussed Rule 1926.1427(e) and if the intent was for the State to have its own licensing procedures with potential training and testing obligations for employers. Specifically, she cited the rules requiring "obtaining a license includes a (written and practical) assessment" which HMOAB does not do, as the basis for her question. The Board Chair reminded her that when the 2011 OSHA rules were adopted, they deleted this requirement. Upon further questioning by Chinen, the Chair and others agreed if the proposed 2017 rule changes go in effect, the role of HMOAB may become redundant and perhaps unnecessary. There was also discussion about whether the federal government is 'over-reaching' in terms of regulations in this area.

8. **Community Comments:** Mr. Meatoga expressed appreciation at learning more about HMOAB and its Board but expressed concern about worker costs for applying to be a crane operator and its renewal. He was also informed our agency's funding is not from State taxpayers but are self-generating from its users to his question regarding why our database isn't paid for in a similar way as elevator operators.
9. **Executive Session:** The Board recessed at 3:10 p.m. and returned at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the Executive Director's annual evaluation. Upon resumption, the Board expressed its appreciation and continued confidence in his work.
10. **Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 18** at 1:30 p.m. in room 321. The Chair suggested meeting informally for a pre-holiday lunch at noon at Café Julia. All were in agreement with this proposal.
11. **Adjournment:** Chinen moved and Aldeguer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved without comment or dissent.