

MICHAEL CURTIS ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

STATE OF HAWAII ELECTIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION

October 8, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Pursuant to Section 92-.37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Elections Commission (EC) will be meeting remotely using interactive conference technology.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Michael Curtis, Chair Anita Aquino Ralph Cushnie Jeffrey Osterkamp Kahiolani Papalimu Peter Young

Support Staff in Attendance:

Bryan Yee, Department of the Attorney General (AG) Jazelle Aolahiko, Elections Commission Secretary, Office of Elections

PROCEEDINGS

I. Call to Order [9:00 a.m.]

The meeting of the Elections Commission was called to order by the Elections Commission Chair Michael Curtis at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll call and Determination of a Quorum [9:00 a.m.]

Chair Curtis conducted roll call. All members of the Elections Commission were present at the meeting with the excused absences of Commissioner Andrion, Commissioner Kuwada, and Commissioner McAdam.

III. Discussion and Decision Making on Response to Sunshine Law Complaint (S Appeal 25-02) [9:02 a.m.]

Deputy Attorney General Bryan Yee did a presentation on the Sunshine Law Complaint.

Commissioner Osterkamp made a motion to void the last meeting due to violation of the Sunshine Law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young. [9:09 a.m.]

Andy Crossland provided testimony, calling for a vote of no confidence against Chair Michael Curtis, accusing him of violating sunshine laws and mismanaging the commission's authority.

Commissioner Cushnie made a motion to have the chat enabled. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu. No vote was taken.

Kellyna Campbell provided testimony expressing concern over sunshine law violations, lack of transparency in election processes, and called for answers to several critical issues regarding voting and election integrity.

Doug Pasnik provided testimony accusing Chair Michael Curtis of lying about his knowledge of a court case during the meeting, insisting he submitted relevant testimony on the matter.

Nolan Chang provided testimony acknowledging the sunshine law violation but argues that the August meeting should not be deemed null and void, emphasizing the need for accountability.

Wallyn Christian provided testimony criticizing Chair Michael Curtis for overstepping authority and failing to address sunshine law violations, calling for his removal and better representation of the people's concerns.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony expressing concern about sunshine law compliance during the last meeting and emphasized the importance of transparency in post-election audits.

Karl Dicks provided testimony criticizing repeated violations of the sunshine law and the lack of accountability, urging an end to secretive actions within the election process.

Phil Izon provided testimony criticizing the election commission's conduct, urging Chair Curtis to step down due to unprofessional behavior and a lack of respect for public concerns. Kathleen Stanley provided testimony urging the Commission to vote to redo the August 27 meeting based on OIP's advice.

Gary Cordery provided testimony urging the Commission to take responsibility for upholding the sunshine law, criticizing Chair Curtis for fostering exclusion. He called for honest feedback and possible resignation.

Tamara McKay provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for violating the sunshine law and Robert's rules of order, demanding accountability and resignations due to a lack of transparency in the election process.

Tara Malia provided testimony calling for accountability and suggests that Chair Curtis should resign due to his violations of the sunshine law and poor conduct in meetings.

Kai Lorinc provided testimony expressing concern about election interference by a foreign national and seeks help from the Commission to present evidence for an investigation.

Belinda Jacobs provided testimony expressing concerns about the integrity of the Election Commission and calls for accountability regarding potential election irregularities in Hawaii.

Chrisneff provided testimony highlighting concerns about unequal access to information for Commissioners and alleges that Chair Curtis denied receiving a violation notice, despite evidence to the contrary.

Keikilani Ho provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for delays in addressing 32 pending motions and suggests he reconsider his position due to inefficiency and wasted time in meetings.

Secretary informed Chair Curtis that Commissioner Cushnie called to say that he lost connection and would like the meeting to be recessed for 30 minutes until it can be resolved.

Andy Crossland provided additional testimony calling for accountability regarding repeated violations of the sunshine law by Chair Curtis and urged immediate action, including a vote of no confidence.

Jamie Detwiler provided additional testimony criticizing Commissioner Osterkamp for interrupting her testimony, calling it unprofessional and a form of censorship.

Wallyn Christian provided additional testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for violating the sunshine law and treating Commissioner Cushnie disrespectfully, urging him to step down.

Doug Pasnik provided additional testimony arguing that Chair Curtis violated sunshine law guidance and lied about being served a court notice. Doug also questioned the legitimacy of the state's election certification process.

Kai Lorinc provided additional testimony claiming there are serious issues within the Republican party, including foreign influence and violations of the sunshine law, preventing progress on the 2024 agenda.

Tamara McKay provided additional testimony urging the Chair to adhere to Robert's Rules of Order and the Sunshine Law, warning that violations could lead to serious consequences.

Gary Cordery provided additional testimony emphasizing the importance of evaluating the Commission's effectiveness in promoting public participation and urged commissioners to reflect on their roles and virtues.

Jaerick provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for his handling of his position, calling it a total failure and blamed him for corruption in Hawaii's elections.

Mary Healy provided testimony expressing dissatisfaction with the Elections Commission, urging for action to address various issues and called for the removal of the Chair to improve governance in Hawaii.

Commissioner Papalimu addressed some of the testifiers that called on her. She expressed frustration over being uninformed about a court case involving the commission, believes there was a violation of the Sunshine Law, and called for the Chair's resignation.

Commissioner Aquino expressed agreement with the comments made by Commissioners Papalimu and Cushnie.

Nicolette Vonwiegandt provided testimony expressing strong dissatisfaction with the current voting system and urged the commission members to resign for ignoring the community's concerns.

Adrean provided testimony sharing frustration over party conflicts and emphasized the need for unity to achieve success in Hawaii.

Keahou provided testimony calling for a change in leadership, urging Chair Curtis to step down due to dissatisfaction with how meetings are conducted.

Kim Cordery provided testimony criticizing the meeting's conduct and leadership, expressing frustration over the treatment of participants and lack of genuine public engagement.

Karl Dicks provided additional testimony claiming the Election Commission ignored his objections and coordinated with the courts to dismiss his appeal regarding a reappointment issue.

Kathleen Stanley provided additional testimony expressing her support for the motion and praised the professionalism of the elections office.

Belinda Jacobs provided additional testimony questioning the legal role of the Deputy Attorney General in the Commission, raised concerns about potential misconduct, and expressed skepticism about election outcomes.

Sheryl Bieler provided testimony criticizing the Chair for abusing power, failing to adhere to rules, and fostering corruption. She urged him to step down.

Wendy Balidoy provided testimony demanding a vote to remove the Chair and Scott Nago, criticizing their authority and approach to governance.

Commissioner Papalimu proposed to amend the motion that the Commission does not void the meeting but acknowledge violation of the Sunshine Law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and carried noting the excused absences of Commissioners Andrion, Kuwada, and McAdam. [10:54 a.m.]

YES: Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu, Young, Curtis

NO: Osterkamp

The original motion as amended was to admit to Sunshine Law violation at the last meeting. Commissioner Cushnie moved to have an amendment to say that the Chair was in violation of the Sunshine Law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aquino and failed noting the excused absences of Commissioners Andrion, Kuwada, and McAdam. [10:59 a.m.]

YES: Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu

NO: Osterkamp, Young, Curtis

The motion on the floor went back to admitting to Sunshine Law violation at the last meeting. The motion failed noting the excused absences of Commissioners Andrion, Kuwada, and McAdam. [11:03 a.m.]

YES: Osterkamp, Young, Curtis

NO: Aquino, Cushnie, Papalimu

Commissioner Papalimu left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Commissioner Cushnie made a motion to vote on whether the Commission followed HRS 92-7(d) at the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aquino and failed noting the excused absences of Commissioners Andrion, Kuwada, McAdam, and Papalimu. [11:07 a.m.]

- YES: Osterkamp, Curtis
- NO: Aquino, Cushnie, Young
- IV. Adjournment [11:23 a.m.]

Elections Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jazelle Aolahiko Elections Commission Secretary