



MICHAEL CURTIS
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

**STATE OF HAWAII
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

July 16, 2025, 10:00 AM

Pursuant to Section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Elections Commission met remotely using interactive conference technology. The video of the meeting may be viewed on our website at: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/about-us/boards-and-commissions/elections-commission/>.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Michael Curtis, Chair
Dylan Andrion
Ralph Cushnie
Lindsay Kamm
Clare McAdam
Jeffrey Osterkamp
Kahiolani Papalimu
Peter Young

Support Staff in Attendance:

Jordan Ching, Department of the Attorney General
Scott T. Nago, Chief Election Officer
Nicole Noel, Office of Elections
Aaron Schulaner, Office of Elections
Aulii Tenn, Office of Elections

PROCEEDINGS

I. Call to order [10:00 AM]

The meeting of the Elections Commission was called to order by Chair Curtis.

- II. Introduce new Commissioner; Lindsay Kamm, completing term of Anita Aquino [10:00 AM]

- III. Roll call and determination of a quorum [10:00 AM]

All members of the Elections Commission were present at the meeting with the exception of Commissioner Kuwada.

Commissioner Osterkamp entered the meeting at 10:03 AM.

- IV. Approval of the written minutes from the March 19, 2025 meeting [10:01 AM]

Shelby Billionaire provided testimony expressing frustration over the meeting minutes and unresolved public complaints since March.

Tara Rojas provided testimony strongly rejecting the meeting minutes as fraudulent and incomplete, accusing Chair Curtis and certain Commissioners of corruption, suppressing public input, and demanding accountability.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony expressing appreciation for the Commission's work and called for transparent and honest discussions to address discrepancies.

Karl Dicks provided testimony opposing the approval of meeting minutes, claiming they have been consistently inaccurate and misrepresentative since January 2024, despite his submission of full transcripts.

Leonard Nakoa provided testimony condemning the board for repeated failures and perceived corruption, additionally rejecting the meeting minutes, and called for Chair Curtis to step down if he cannot serve the public transparently and effectively.

Andrew Aker provided testimony rejecting the meeting minutes and accusing Chair Curtis of misconduct and censorship, referencing an ongoing investigation and echoing calls for Chair Curtis to step down.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony stating that she does not approve the meeting minutes, asserting they are inaccurate and fail to fully reflect her testimony and concerns.

Gary Cordery provided testimony strongly opposing the minutes, calling them inaccurate and lacking transparency, and arguing they function more as declarations than true records, undermining public trust.

Judy L. provided testimony rejecting the minutes, citing inaccuracy, distrust in election processes, and broader concerns about government corruption and accountability.

Jennifer Cabjuan provided testimony opposing the approval of the minutes, citing years of inaction and lack of follow-up from the Elections Commission since she began testifying in 2020.

Susan Strom provided testimony declining to support the approval of minutes, citing numerous anomalies and a broader lack of transparency that she believes must be addressed before moving forward.

Andy Crossland provided testimony acknowledging inconsistencies in the current and past meeting minutes and deferred to Commissioner Cushnie for specific corrections, indicating that revisions are necessary before approval.

Tara Rojas provided additional testimony, opposing the approval of the meeting minutes, accusing the Elections Commission of violating their duties, suppressing Commissioner Cushnie, and operating with a hidden agenda.

Blanca Larson provided testimony rejecting the meeting minutes, echoing earlier concerns raised by Tara Rojas, and called for the appointment of a new committee due to deep corruption within the Office of Elections.

Jaerick Medeiros provided testimony rejecting the meeting minutes, expressing disappointment over perceived corruption and leadership failures, and urging the Elections Commission to act with integrity for the sake of Hawaii's future generations.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony stating she disagreed with the submitted minutes and recommended that Commissioner Cushnie and like-minded Commissioners contribute to making the minutes more accurate and truthful.

Annie O'Neill provided testimony rejecting the meeting minutes, calling for leadership change, greater transparency, and the inclusion of voices like Commissioner Cushnie's to better reflect the will of the people and the needs of Hawaii's communities.

Andy Crossland provided additional testimony, suggesting streamlining the meeting process by allowing Commissioners to submit feedback on draft minutes in advance, so the Secretary can incorporate changes beforehand and reduce time spent on revisions during meetings.

Claire Yamashiro provided testimony concurring with previous speakers in rejecting the meeting minutes, specifically aligning with the points raised by Commissioner Andrion.

Keoni Payton provided testimony disapproving of the meeting minutes, expressing frustration over repeated inaction and questioning Chair Curtis' integrity and motives.

Commissioner Cushnie expressed concern that the meeting minutes were disingenuous. He indicated he would vote against their approval for that reason.

Commissioner Andrion stated he would be voting against the minutes due to multiple omissions. He stated that key motions and discussions, including those raised by Commissioners Cushnie and Aquino, were not documented. He testified that Chair Curtis' refusal to acknowledge certain motions and directives regarding communication with the Secretary should have been included.

Commissioner McAdam moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Osterkamp and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada. [10:39 AM]

YES: McAdam, Osterkamp, Young, Curtis

NO: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu

V. Communications and correspondence, received for the record [10:47 AM]

Andy Crossland provided testimony stating that the Elections Commission has repeatedly ignored formal complaints and requests for investigation outlined in public correspondence, which he believes must be addressed transparently and in accordance with legal responsibilities.

Blanca Larson provided testimony opposing the motion, calling for accountability and expressing frustration over decades of perceived corruption and lack of transparency, stating that the public has had enough.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony criticizing the Elections Commission for glossing over formal complaints by categorizing them as general correspondence, arguing that this practice fails the public and violates the Election Commission's stated duties.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony urging the Elections Commission to investigate her formal complaint, citing regulatory obligations and her qualifications as a federal employee and elections observer.

Shelby Billionaire provided testimony criticizing the Elections Commission for ignoring public testimony and accused it of corruption, citing broken elections rules and lack of transparency.

Tara Rojas provided testimony accusing the Elections Commission of ignoring formal complaints, urged all members to resign, and demanded they uphold their duty to investigate violations and respect public input.

Jennifer Cabjuan provided testimony urging the Elections Commission to separate general correspondence from formal complaints, criticized the lack of an investigation process, and called for responses to public concerns.

Keoni Payton provided testimony accusing Chair Curtis of acting like a dictator, criticizing the Elections Commission for blocking progress.

Karl Dicks provided testimony claiming no complaints have ever been investigated, called Hawaii's elections corrupt and fake, and described the system as broken since 2020.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony expressing concern over the Elections Commission's inaction on complaints, cited legal duties to investigate, and supported forwarding complaints to the Office of Elections for proper review and hearings.

Susan Strom provided testimony criticizing the Elections Commission for lacking transparency and failing to investigate complaints, calling for either a complete overhaul or resignations if proper action isn't taken.

Commissioner Papalimu stated that Chief Election Officer (CEO) Scott Nago is responsible for sending written responses to complaints to the Commissioners for oversight. She expressed that she prefers written replies and supports following the administrative rules. She stressed the importance of adhering to these rules.

Commissioner Osterkamp highlighted that the administrative rules allow, but do not require, the Office of Elections to respond to the complaints and the Elections Commission to investigate. He emphasized that votes must accurately reflect these rules without mischaracterization.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to have the Elections Commission refer the complaints listed under Communications and Correspondence on today's agenda to the Office of Elections for a written response, as required by HAR §3-170-8, and to have the matter taken up at the next meeting. The motion was seconded

by Commissioner Papalimu and **failed** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada. [10:47 AM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu

NO: McAdam, Osterkamp, Young, Curtis

VI. Relating to chain of custody complaints and concerns; with the Commission's approval, establish a Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G. task force) for the purposes of investigating: [11:29 AM]

a) Complaints relating to the chain of custody of election ballots. Similar information was considered by the Hawaii Supreme Court in #SCEC-24-0000797; RALPH S. CUSHNIE and more than THIRTY VOTERS, Plaintiffs, vs. SCOTT NAGO, as Chief Elections Officer for the Office of Elections, State of Hawaii, and JADE FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk for the County of Kauai, Defendants, and by the 5th Circuit Court in #5CCV-25-0000041; RALPH S. CUSHNIE, Pro Se vs. SCOTT NAGO, in his official capacity as Chief Elections Officer for the Office of Elections, State of Hawaii; JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk for the County of Kauai, State of Hawaii.

b) Claims of intentional malfeasance by County and State Clerks and Elections Officers during the Kauai County Councilmember Race in the 2024 General Election.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony expressing that her formal complaints were wrongly treated as general correspondence and raised concerns about missing ballot transfer forms and lack of observers in Maui.

Adriel Lam provided testimony supporting creating a permanent group to investigate chain of custody issues and shared a case of a ballot tied to a non-existent voter.

Andy Crossland provided testimony supporting investigations into election complaints, emphasizing that approving an investigation doesn't imply wrongdoing but helps ensure transparency.

Linda Miyata provided testimony proposing returning to in-person voting with paper ballots and hand counting to improve election integrity, reduce costs, and rebuild public trust.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony detailing serious chain of custody issues she observed as an official election observer, including missing ballot counts and lack of tracking forms.

Wallyn Christian provided testimony supporting forming an investigative team, shared concerns about uncollected ballots and deceased individuals voting, and called for a return to in-person voting with citizen involvement.

Jennifer Cabjuan provided testimony advocating for creating a chain of custody task force, citing her unresolved 2020 complaint involving a ballot cast in her father's name after his brain injury.

Laura Nakanelua provided testimony urging the Elections Commission to fulfill its legal duty to investigate election complaints, not just hold public hearings.

Tara Rojas provided testimony strongly supporting a return to in-person voting, citing personal experiences of disorganization and delays at voting centers.

Arthur Hannemann provided testimony emphasizing that election integrity should be the Commission's top priority and expressed concern over its lack of response to complaints, particularly those raised by Ralph Cushnie.

Blanca Larson provided testimony expressing strong disapproval of CEO Nago's performance, criticizing the lack of public input on his role and compensation, and called for his replacement.

Susan Strom provided testimony recommending the establishment of a task force to ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust in the election process.

Gary Cordery provided testimony criticizing the current election process, citing public distrust and low voter turnout, and strongly advocated for a return to paper ballots, one-day voting with ID, and greater accountability to restore public confidence in elections.

Tara Rojas provided additional testimony, voicing strong disapproval of the Commission's actions, accusing members of consistently ignoring public input and voting against the people's will.

Karl Dicks provided testimony urging the Elections Commission to act on behalf of the people, citing growing public concern and his personal sacrifices since 2020.

Keoni Payton provided testimony accusing officials of corruption, called for federal investigations into discrepancies involving the USPS and election staff, and demanded accountability, including a federal indictment of Chair Curtis.

Representative Garner Shimizu provided testimony urging the Elections Commission to investigate public concerns and uphold its legal duty to ensure transparency and accountability.

Jaerick Medeiros questioned the integrity of the chain of custody, alleging the state improperly added over 19,000 votes and called for ballots to remain within their counties to ensure transparency and accountability.

Steve Yoder provided testimony criticizing the Elections Commission for failing to investigate public concerns, stating it has lost public trust, and argued that petitions are ineffective, asserting that only a class action lawsuit against the State of Hawaii will bring accountability, citing past legal settlements as precedent.

Andy Crossland provided additional testimony, urging the Elections Commission to investigate ballot discrepancies between counties and the state, arguing that while courts often dismiss such cases on technicalities, the Commission has the authority to uncover the truth and ensure transparency.

Kellyna Campbell provided testimony calling for full transparency in the chain of custody for ballots, emphasizing that integrity begins with personal courage and must extend to public systems.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to form a Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) pursuant to agenda item VI. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada. [12:43 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, McAdam, Papalimu, Young, Curtis

NO: Osterkamp

VII. List of previous motions considered by the Elections Commission [12:52 PM]

Andy Crossland provided testimony emphasizing that the Elections Commission has misrepresented the status of motions by listing only their voting outcomes, rather than providing update on their progress, responsible parties, and completion.

Tara Rojas provided testimony criticizing Chair Curtis for allegedly displaying controlling and dismissive behavior during meetings, particularly toward Commissioner Ralph Cushnie, and called for greater transparency.

Ralph Cushnie provided testimony criticizing the Elections Commission for failing to implement or track several 2024 motions, especially those on chain of custody

and signature verification, and urged Chair Curtis to ensure proper procedures and status updates.

Susan Strom provided testimony criticizing Commissioner Osterkamp for allegedly using procedural loopholes to avoid transparency, and accused Chair Curtis of bias for muting Commissioner Cushnie and questioning his conflict of interest without evidence, calling the Commission's actions a display of partiality.

Victoria Thompson provided testimony proposing a motion to allow community volunteers to assist the Elections Commission, suggesting it would enhance transparency and ease the Commission's workload.

Noela Von Wiegandt provided testimony calling out the Elections Commission for unprofessional behavior during meetings, calling out specific members for appearing disengaged and inattentive.

Steve Yoder provided testimony suggesting that the Elections Commission bring in a Parliamentarian to help manage meetings more effectively, noting confusion and conflict among members and referencing Robert's Rules of Order.

Tara Rojas provided additional testimony, voicing her agreement with previous speakers and urged the Chair to vote in alignment with the public, emphasizing the decisions should be made for the people they represent.

Jennifer Hunt provided testimony emphasizing the importance of understanding signature sensitivity settings in electronic voter systems, noting that overly lenient settings could allow mismatches or easily forged signatures to be accepted without human oversight.

Jennifer Cabjuan provided testimony expressing concern about the accuracy of signature verification settings, citing her father's questionable 2020 ballot and recent claims of fraudulent ballots and non-citizen voting, emphasizing that low sensitivity settings could allow invalid signatures to be accepted.

April 15-4 provided testimony suggesting that hand counting and in-person voting could resolve many concerns, but if not adopted, voters should at least be allowed access to their own voting history, which she was denied despite believing it should be her right.

Jamie Detwiler provided testimony reporting she was denied meaningful access to observe the signature verification process during the 2024 Election cycle and was dismissed when asking about signature sensitivity settings, which she believes warrants further investigation.

Commissioner Cushnie moved to discuss the status of motions that have been previously made and adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Papalimu and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada. [12:53 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, McAdam, Osterkamp, Papalimu, Young

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Curtis

Commissioner Cushnie moved to include the signature sensitivity settings and signature verification as an agenda item at the next available meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrion and **carried** noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada and McAdam. [1:47 PM]

YES: Andrion, Cushnie, Kamm, Papalimu, Young, Curtis

NO: Osterkamp

VIII. Receipt of P.I.G. report from Commissioner Young [1:28 PM]

Commissioner Papalimu moved to receive the Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) report from Commissioner Young. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cushnie and **carried** unanimously noting the excused absence of Commissioner Kuwada and McAdam. [1:28 PM]

IX. Adjournment [2:42 PM]

Chair Curtis adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Noel
Elections Commission Secretary