

**BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS AND PLUMBERS**  
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division  
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: King Kalakaua Conference Room  
King Kalakaua Building  
335 Merchant Street, 1st Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Present: Phillip Lucero, Industry Member, Chairperson  
Randal Hiraki, Industry Member, Vice Chairperson  
Charles Tanabe, Industry Member  
Robert Barrett, Public Member  
Christopher Leong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)  
Charlene Tamanaha, Executive Officer  
Lei Ana Green, Executive Officer  
Kellie Teraoka, Secretary  
Jenny Yam, Secretary

Excused: Sheung Wong, Industry Member

Guests: Lei Fukumura, DCCA-PVL Special Deputy Attorney General  
 (“SDAG”)  
Candace Ito, Executive Officer  
Brian Munier, North Shore Fire Protection  
Karrie Munier, North Shore Fire Protection  
Kika Bukoski, Local Union 675  
Leyton Torda, IBEW 1186, Examining Board  
Ryan Takahashi, Hawaii Electricians Market Enhancement  
Program (“HEMEP”)

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was filed with the Office of the  
Lieutenant Governor, as required by section 92-7(b), Hawaii  
Revised Statutes (“HRS”).

Call to Order: There being a quorum present, Chair Lucero called the meeting to  
order at 10:33 a.m.

The Board moved out of order to agenda item 6. Chapter 91, Adjudicatory Matters.

Chapter 91, HRS  
Adjudicatory  
Matters:

Chair Lucero called for a recess from the meeting at 10:34 a.m. to discuss and deliberate on the following adjudicatory matter pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS:

- a. In the Matter of the Electrician License of Christian E. Wells; ENP 2019-5-L

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Hiraki, seconded by Mr. Barrett and unanimously carried to approve the Settlement Prior to Filing a Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order.

**SDAG Fukumura was excused from the meeting room at 10:37 a.m.**

**Guests entered the meeting room at 10:40 a.m.**

The Board moved out of order to agenda item 11 a. Scope.

Scope:

- a) Email correspondence from Mr. Munier, North Shore Fire Protection, requesting clarification on whether a plumber's license is required for the installation of fire sprinklers.

The Board members and staff introduced themselves.

The Board reviewed Mr. Munier's email inquiry dated November 4, 2019. Mr. Munier stated that he has a C-20 fire protection contractor's license but based on the Board's prior determination at its October 8, 2019 meeting, he was informed that a C-37 plumber's license is required to perform the installation of fire lines. Ms. Tamanaha clarified that the Board's prior determination was not that he needed a C-37 plumbing contractor's license but that the worker who performs the installation of the fire lines is required to be a licensed plumber. The Board can only make a determination regarding the actual person performing the plumbing work. If it is determined plumbing work according to the Board's definition, then the person performing that work requires a plumber's license. Mr. Munier stated that he understood, however, he expressed concerns that a C-37 plumbing contractor would need additional years of training to install fire sprinkler systems.

Ms. Tamanaha asked for further clarification on which type of fire sprinkler systems are installed. Mr. Munier replied that he installs

non-potable water fire sprinklers for residences, apartments, condos, warehouses, etc. Mr. Munier stated that the Fire Prevention Bureau inspects his work upon completion. Chair Lucero asked for clarification on the certificate of fitness, to which Mr. Munier stated that he has not heard the term “certificate of fitness” but he thinks that is referring to the annual inspection report to ensure that the fire sprinkler system is in working order. Mr. Munier added that annual inspections are conducted by a licensed fire prevention company.

Ms. Tamanaha referred to the email from Ms. Au, which the Board discussed at its October 8, 2019 meeting. Mr. Munier explained that the licensed plumber runs the fire lines from the street to within 5 feet of the building. Then, Mr. Munier installs the fire sprinkler system within 5 feet of the building. Mr. Hiraki clarified if Mr. Munier takes over after the licensed plumber installs the back flow line preventers, which Mr. Munier affirmed. Ms. Ito asked what is required to obtain an inspector’s license, to which Mr. Munier responded that he was required to pass a test however no prior experience was required. Mr. Munier added that the test is held by the Fire Prevention Bureau and upon licensure, the license is valid for the entire State of Hawaii. Discussion ensued regarding whether the inspector’s license would be valid statewide, since the Fire Department has separate county jurisdictions.

Mr. Bukoski added clarification regarding the qualifications of fire sprinkler installer. He stated that licensed plumbers are trained pursuant to HRS chapter 448E and according to the uniform plumbing code, to install fire sprinklers. Mr. Bukoski asked if the Board was making a determination solely on residential construction, whether the fire sprinklers were tied to any fixtures, to which the Board replied “no.” He also requested copies of the additional information Mr. Munier provided for their review. Mr. Bukoski added that he would defer to the Board’s recommendation and decision but has the right to appeal the decision.

Mr. Hiraki questioned whether the fire sprinkler systems are connected to the potable water system? Mr. Munier stated that he connects the fire sprinkler system to a 450-gallon tank, which provides a 10-minute water supply which is designed as life safety system to get people out and save lives. Mr. Munier added that he fills the tank with a gardening hose and the tank does not tie into the plumbing system. He further explained that for multi-story or commercial buildings, he attaches the fire sprinkler system to the fire line after the back flow line preventer is installed. Ms.

Tamanaha responded that the Board needs to know the specific types of systems that he is installing before they are able to provide a determination.

**Guests left the meeting room at 11:00 a.m.**

Executive  
Session:

At 11:01 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Hiraki, and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities in accordance with HRS §92-5(a)(4).

At 11:22 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to return to the Board's order of business.

**Guests entered the meeting room at 11:22 a.m.**

Mr. Hiraki asked for further clarification whether there is a separate back flow line dedicated for fire sprinkler systems or if the back flow line comes off of the domestic back flow line for multi-story or commercial buildings. Mr. Munier responded that he only performs work on new multi-story or commercial buildings with a dedicated back flow line for fire sprinkler systems and that residential units always have a separate connection. He added that he informs the fire department to replace any outdated single detector checks to double detector checks if he comes across them. Ms. Tamanaha asked Mr. Munier if he agrees to share the his 11/26/19 letter to the Board with Mr. Bukoski, to which he affirmed.

At the meeting, Mr. Munier stated that he installs fire sprinklers on the following types of systems:

- Residential systems with separate tanks (filled by a gardening hose or those on a catchment system) with no solid connection to the domestic water or plumbing system; or
- Multi-story or commercial buildings (new or retrofit) which are serviced with a separate or dedicated fire back flow line for the fire system.

Based solely on the information provided in Mr. Munier's email, and oral testimony provided by Mr. Munier and other interested parties, it was moved by Mr. Hiraki, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and unanimously carried that a plumber's license is not required to

install fire sprinklers on the systems described above. However, for any fire sprinkler installation which is connected in any way to the domestic plumbing system, a plumber's license is required.

It was noted that, in accordance with HAR §16-201-90, the above interpretation is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision, and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the Board of Electricians and Plumbers or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

**Guests were excused from the meeting room at 11:33 a.m.**

Approval of  
Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Hiraki, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the executive session and the minutes of the open session of the October 8, 2019, Board meeting as circulated.

Discrimination/  
Harassment-Free  
Policy:

Ms. Tamanaha explained that Board members are an extended member of the Department. Board members deal with staff and members of the public so they need to be informed of DCCA's plan of action, while in our facilities, to properly handle disruptive guests. Ms. Tamanaha added that it is important to review and abide by these guidelines, which will be placed in Board member's folders and operational manuals for future reference.

Executive  
Officer's Report:

Ms. Tamanaha asked for the Board's approval to add a topic to the agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Hiraki, seconded by Mr. Barrett, and unanimously approved to add the aforementioned topic to the agenda.

She stated that the Board member orientation which was held on October 11, 2019 at the State Capitol auditorium was filmed by Olelo. Board members will be provided with the link to watch the film by Olelo. Ms. Tamanaha explained that it is recommended review the video, especially for the Board members who were unable to attend the orientation.

Examinations:

a) November 2019 Exam Results for Electricians and Plumbers:

Ms. Tamanaha reviewed the following results of the Electricians' and Plumbers' examinations:

Electricians' Exam (administered November 2019)

	EJ	ES	EM	EJI	EJS	ESS	ESI
Exams Administered	25	5	1	0	5	1	0
Successful	16	1	0	0	3	0	0
Unsuccessful	9	4	1	0	2	1	0

Plumbers' Exam (administered November 2019)

	PJ	PM
Exams Administered	29	8
Successful	17	1
Unsuccessful	12	7

Applications:

It was moved by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to approve the following applications as noted.

a. ELECTRICIANS

Journey Worker Electrician ("EJ") - APPROVED

BONILLA, GENER  
DELANEY, DANIEL  
FUKUDA, GALEN  
HOBGOOD, BRIAN  
KANESHIRO, JAMES  
LEE, ERROL  
LESA, MICHAEL  
MCCORMICK, BRYAN  
MIRANDA, MELVIN  
NOZOE, JOSEPH  
OKAMOTO, KYLE  
PFOST, RYAN  
PUODZIUNAS, MATTHEW  
RIVERA, ALDEN  
ROBERTS, BRUCE  
ROBINSON, DELAN  
RODRIGUES, FRANCIS  
UEOKA, HAPAKI  
WEIS, DEREK  
WOOLSEY, CLEVE

Journey Worker Industrial Electrician ("EJI")

NONE

Journey Worker Specialty Electrician (EJS)

NONE

Supervising Electrician ("ES") – APPROVED  
SEGAWA, ELMER

Supervising Industrial Electrician (ESI)  
NONE

Supervising Specialty Electrician (ESS)  
NONE

Maintenance Electrician (EM) - APPROVED  
TAKAHASHI, SHAUN

b. PLUMBERS

Journey Worker Plumber (PJ) - APPROVED  
DEREIS, RONALD, JR.  
WATSON, LEWIS  
YAMAMOTO, TYLER

Master Plumber (PM)  
NONE

c. RATIFICATIONS  
NONE

Act 35, SLH 2010  
Update Regarding  
Electrical Academic

a) University of Hawaii Honolulu Community College  
Approved Curricula

Fox Valley Technical College (EJ)  
IBEW Local Union 191 (EJ)  
ABC Nevada Chapter (EJ)  
St. Louis Community College (EJS)

Ms. Tamanaha explained that she is currently confirming the coursework classifications with Honolulu Community College and asking them to review our list to ensure that what we have online is appropriate. She will update the approved coursework on our website once the list is confirmed.

Unfinished  
Business:

a) Legislative Report Pursuant to Act 60 SLH 2018

Ms. Tamanaha explained that the current draft was included in Board's packets for their review. She has not received the final version but will provide a copy to the Board at a later time.

Scope:

b) Email correspondence from Susan & Ryan Ishizu, Picturesque Laser Décor, inquiring as to whether an electrician's license is required to install neon signs.

No further updates were provided so this topic will be removed from the next meeting's agenda.

c) Email inquiry from Anthony Sterling, Baker, asking whether an electrician's license is required to install new plug-and-play card readers into ATMs. (update from 8/13/19 meeting)

The Board reviewed Mr. Sterling's email dated October 24, 2019 clarifying if the freestanding ATM's that they are providing work on are powered by electricity flowing from a built-in plug and cord and specifically how the ATM is connected to the power source.

Chair Lucero felt that based on Mr. Sterling's response, the ATM systems described are plug and play, like an electrical appliance, so an electrician's license is not required.

Based solely on the information provided in Mr. Sterling's emails, it was moved by Mr. Hiraki, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to accept the Board's determination to reaffirm its prior determinations made at the April 12, August 9, and October 14, 2011 meetings that systems requiring no hard wiring to connect any wire on a terminal, transformer control panel, or key board do not require a licensed electrician to perform. In addition, the Board determined that the ATM is an electrical appliance and therefore the employees maintaining and repairing such appliances are exempt from licensure. This is pursuant to HAR §16-80-2(b)(3), which states: "The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons who: . . . 3) Maintain and repair electrical appliances[.]"

It was noted that, in accordance with HAR §16-201-90, the above interpretation is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision, and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the Board of Electricians and Plumbers or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.



d) Request from Mr. Rob O'Dell of Constant Technologies, Inc. to determine whether an electrician's license is required to perform work on his project. (update from 6/12/19 meeting)

The Board reviewed Mr. O'Dell's response to their inquiry dated May 16, 2019 asking for clarification regarding the details and scope of the project and specific project requirements such as the equipment for running cables and whether it is new cable installation. Mr. O'Dell responded that his technicians will not be running cables and that the low voltage cables will already be installed by a licensed contractor. His technicians will only be terminating lines for audio/visual equipment. Chair Lucero stated that the terminations and testing minimally require an EJS license. Ms. Tamanaha added that any termination that involves hard wiring, requires a license.

Based solely on the information Mr. O'Dell submitted in his emails, his attestation that while the technicians will not be running any cables, they will be terminating lines for audio visual equipment, specifically content PCs on one end and on the other monitors for viewing that are mounted to the wall, and the above definition of a journey worker specialty electrician, it was moved by Mr. Hiraki, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to accept the Board's determination that at minimum a journey worker specialty electrician's license is required to complete any terminations which require hard wiring of any audio visual equipment.

It was noted that, in accordance with HAR §16-201-90, the above interpretation is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision, and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the Board of Electricians and Plumbers or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

e) Request from Qing Fang, EDF Renewables, to determine whether an electrician's license is required for a technician to perform day-to-day operation and maintenance activities on large (utility scale) solar or wind generation facilities located within the state of Hawaii.

The Board reviewed and discussed the letter November 13, 2019, inquiring whether technicians require an electrician's license to perform maintenance work on utility grade equipment and if they qualify for the exemption.

Ms. Tamanaha noted that the exemption in HRS §448E-13 was initially created for the employees of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) for high-voltage work above 600 volts. Chair Lucero expressed concerns that there is a potential high-voltage hazard.

Mr. Takahashi stated that his organization is strongly opposed to this exemption specifically for reasons where it may be applied to something other than what was intended. He advised the Board to use caution when applying this exemption to this case. Mr. Takahashi further stated that he agrees with the Board that any replacement of modules in the combiners or circuits, would require an electrician’s license.

Mr. Takahashi informed the Board that PV maintenance companies are becoming a popular business. Animals on the farms chew wires and PV maintenance companies are hired to replace the wires and panels, so the Board should use caution with this exemption.

The Board deferred this agenda item pending the following information from EDF Renewables:

1. Is EDF Renewables an electrical contractor duly licensed under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 444?
2. Have they been retained by a public utility within the State under a franchise or charter granted by the state which is regulated by the public utilities commission to perform high voltage (six hundred volts or higher) electrical work for the public utility?
3. That EDF Renewables provide a description of the electrical work involved in the day-to-day operation and maintenance activities on large utility scale solar or wind generation facilities. Describe the voltages of the equipment or systems they intend to maintain.

Public Forum: None

The Board moved back to item 7. Applications.

Executive Session:

At 12:18 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Chair Lucero, and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for licensure in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 92-5(a)(1), and to consult with the Board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board’s

powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities in accordance with HRS section 92-5(a)(4).

At 12:29 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Tanabe, seconded by Mr. Hiraki, and unanimously carried to return to the Board's order of business.

Applications:

It was moved by Mr. Hiraki, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to approve/defer the following applications as noted:

A. Electricians

Journey Worker Electrician ("EJ")

COLLINS, JASON – DEFERRED

REMIGO, DANILO - DEFERRED

THRONE, ALEXANDER - DEFERRED

VENTURA, RODELL - DEFERRED

Supervising Specialty Electrician (ESS)

DUNHAM, JOSEPH - APPROVED

B. Plumbers

Journey Worker Plumber (PJ)

DILWITH, SEAN – DEFERRED

FUKUDA, RICHARD – DEFERRED

The Board moved back to agenda item 3. Review of additional members for the RICO Electricians & Plumbers Advisory Committee List for the 2020 term.

Review/Approval  
RICO Advisory  
Committee:

It was moved by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Chair Lucero, and unanimously carried to approve 1 member on the RICO Advisory Committee list and to recommend additional Committee members to RICO.

Announcement:

a. Next Applications Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

9:30 a.m.

King Kalakaua Conference Room

335 Merchant Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Honolulu, HI 96813

b. Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
10:30 a.m.  
King Kalakaua Conference Room  
335 Merchant Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Reviewed and approved by:

/s/ Charlene Tamanaha

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Charlene Tamanaha  
Executive Officer

Taken by:

/s/ Kellie Teraoka

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Kellie Teraoka  
Secretary

CT: kt  
1/23/20

Minutes approved as is.

Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of \_\_\_\_\_