

BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES

Date: August 27, 2021

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar
(use link below)
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/99409455731>

Present: Gary Y. Miyashiro, CPA, Chairperson
Christopher K. Lee, CPA, Member
Edward L. Punua, CPA, Member
Jon Arbles, CPA, Member
Terrence H. Aratani, Public Member
Christopher Leong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Kedin C. Kleinhans, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Leanne Abe, Secretary
James Skizewski, Technical Support
Susan Reyes, Technical Support

Excused: John W. Roberts, CPA, Member
Brian Uemori, Public Member

Guest(s): Scott Scarborough
Spencer Scarborough

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

A brief video was played to explain procedures for this virtual meeting and how members of the public can participate and interact with the Board during the meeting.

Call to Order: Chairperson Miyashiro welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded with a roll call of the Board members. All Board members confirmed they were present with the exception of Mr. Roberts and Mr. Uemori who were excused.

There being a quorum present, Chairperson Miyashiro called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Chairperson Miyashiro provided verbal instructions to attendees on how to connect to the meeting via Internet or through phone

access. He reminded attendees that all microphones will be muted. If anyone would like to speak, they may select the raise hand button, and when called upon they will be limited to five minutes of testimony per agenda item.

Election of
Officers (Vice-
Chairperson):

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

EO Kleinhans stated that Mr. Hunsaker resigned from the Board and the prior motion to nominate him as Vice-Chairperson is not applicable. Chairperson Miyashiro suggested to defer this agenda item until Mr. Roberts and Mr. Uemori are in attendance to either indicate their interest in, or nominate member(s) for the position of Board Vice-Chairperson.

Approval of the
Minutes of the
July 30, 2021
Board Meeting:

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Punua, and unanimously carried to approve the July 30, 2021 meeting minutes as circulated.

Chapter 91, HRS,
Adjudicatory Matters:

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

A. In the Matter of the Certified Public Accountant's License of MICHAEL H. HIGA; ACC 2019-11-L

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Arbles, and unanimously carried to approve the Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order relating to the Matter of the Certified Public Accountant's License of MICHAEL H. HIGA; ACC 2019-11-L.

Applications:

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

At 8:44 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Punua, seconded by Mr. Arbles, and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for licensure in accordance with 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). (Note: Board and staff moved to Teams.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:05 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Arbles, and unanimously carried for the Board to move out of Executive Session.

Applications:

A. CPA Certification

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Punua, and unanimously carried to defer decision-making on applicant 1) Tania Agnihotri and approve the following applications for certification:

- 2) David W. Haslip
- 3) Jason S. Kim
- 4) Momi K.Y. Morgan
- 5) Miriam F. Mueller
- 6) Michelle Ngo
- 7) Brendan P. O'Connor
- 8) Joyce Pang
- 9) Bryanna S. Storey
- 10) Derek K. Yang

B. Ratification of Individual CPA Permit to Practice

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Punua, seconded by Mr. Aratani, and unanimously carried to ratify the approval of the following issued CPA Permits to Practice:

- 1) Britney C.R. Delima
- 2) Zachary C. Johnson
- 3) Sizhe Liu
- 4) Donald G. Mehling
- 5) Kian Moshirzadeh
- 6) Brian P. Sullivan
- 7) Juan Urrutia

C. Ratification of Firm Permit to Practice

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Punua, and unanimously carried to ratify the approval of the following issued Firm Permits to Practice:

- 1) 10-Key Consulting LLC
(FFTP-1313)

- 2) Jan F Hashizume
(FPTP-1315)
- 3) Mueller & Co, LLP
(FPTP-1317)
- 4) Tuner, Warner, Hwang & Conrad Accountancy
Corporation
(FPTP-1314)
- 5) Zachary C Johnson
(FPTP-1316)

D. Ratification of Firm Trade Name

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Arbles, and unanimously carried to ratify the approval of the following firm trade name:

- 1) Benilda G. Mercado, CPA, LLC
- 2) Alicia L. Absher, CPA, LLC

Correspondence:

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

A. Email from Spencer Scarborough Requesting Extension to Examination Credit

The Board reviewed and discussed Spencer Scarborough's request for an extension of exam credits until August 31, 2021.

Chairperson Miyashiro noted that extension requests are approved on a case-by-case basis with most extensions approved due to COVID-19; however, the request may deviate from prior extensions.

Mr. Punua commented that everyone's situation is different, and Mr. Scarborough cited several reasons including COVID-19.

Chairperson Miyashiro expressed his concern whether extension requests may create a precedent.

EO Kleinhans responded that extension requests are approved on a case-by-case basis. DAG Leong added that each official action the Board takes becomes record and precedent, but each situation depends on its facts and circumstances.

Mr. Arbles noted that this is an unusual time and the extension date of June 30, 2021 was approved by the Board at its September 25, 2020 meeting with the expectation COVID-19 circumstances would be better.

Mr. Punua commented that the NASBA website lists states that have extended their deadlines to September 30, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Punua, seconded by Mr. Arbles, and unanimously carried to approve Mr. Scarborough's request for an extension of exam credits until August 31, 2021.

New Business:

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

A. Regulated Industries Complaints Office Advisory Committee Addendum and List

The Board reviewed the RICO Public Accountancy Advisory Committee list and Addendum document. Discussion ensued, and it was moved by Mr. Arbles, seconded by Mr. Aratani, and unanimously carried to accept the RICO Public Accountancy Advisory Committee list and Addendum.

B. National Association of State Boards of Accountancy Annual Meeting

The NASBA 114th Annual Meeting tentative agenda was disseminated to the Board for review.

C. American Institute of CPAs Peer Review Board Meeting and Draft Standards

The proposed changes to AICPA standards for performing and reporting on peer review will be presented at the AICPA Peer Review Board meeting.

Chairperson Miyashiro and EO Kleinhans will be attending the meeting. EO Kleinhans will report back to the Board.

D. Discussion to Revise Application Forms, Instructions, and/or Requirements

EO Kleinhans stated that he is looking into revising the application forms, instructions, and/or requirements, due to Licensing Branch receiving common application deficiencies,

and the Board's participation with the NASBA Accountancy Licensee Database ("ALD"). The ALD is a central repository of current licensee and firm information conceptualized to assist state boards with their regulatory mission. Hawaii was the remaining jurisdiction, and participation requires the date of birth of licensees. EO Kleinhans inquired with DAG Leong if there would be any concerns adding a date of birth requirement.

DAG Leong replied that he does not see an issue as the data required for the ALD is not accessible to the public. DCCA currently requires an applicant to provide a social security number on an application for licensure. Current application forms would need to be amended to require the date of birth. He suggested that EO Kleinhans put out a notice of the new requirement and provide reasoning for the Board's participation in the ALD.

EO Kleinhans will bring the revised application forms to the Board for review at a future meeting.

Executive Officer's Report:

Chairperson Miyashiro asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

A. Uniform CPA Examination Quarter 2 Statistics

The CPA Examination 2021 Q2 Statistics were provided to the Board for review.

EO Kleinhans briefly reported the CPA Exam Performance Summary Overall for all jurisdictions and CPA Exam Performance Summary Overall for Hawaii. The overall pass rate was 44.72%. He stated that he will follow up on the Hawaii candidate examination scores for the Board to ratify at a future meeting.

B. Status Update on Amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 71

EO Kleinhans indicated that he received the proposed final draft and summary page from the DCCA Administrative Services Office. He will carefully review the draft for accuracy and upon completion, the Administrative Services Office will route the package for signatures required for promulgation.

Next Board Meeting:

Friday, September 24, 2021

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8:30 a.m.
Virtual Zoom Webinar

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Reviewed and approved by:

Taken and recorded by:

/s/ Kedin C. Kleinhans

/s/ Leanne Abe

Kedin C. Kleinhans
Executive Officer

Leanne Abe
Secretary

KCK:la

09/15/21

- Minutes approved as is.
 Minutes approved with changes. See minutes of.