

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m.

In-Person Meeting Location: King Kalakaua Conference Room
King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Present: Phillip Lucero, Industry Member, Chairperson
Charles Tanabe, Industry Member
David Kamakea III, Industry Member
Robert Barrett, Public Member
Jason Takara, Public Member
Christopher Leong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG Leong”)
Lei Ana Green, Executive Officer
Candace Ito, Executive Officer
Kellie Teraoka, Secretary

Excused: Sheung Wong, Industry Member, Vice Chairperson

Guests: Ryan Takahashi, Hawaii Electricians Market Enhancement Program

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted on the State electronic calendar as required by HRS section 92-7(b).

Call to Order: There being a quorum present, Chair Lucero called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Chair Lucero, Mr. Tanabe, Mr. Kamakea, Mr. Takara, and Mr. Barrett confirmed that they were present. Vice Chair Wong was excused from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Lucero asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

It was moved by Mr. Kamakea, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to approve the open session and executive

session minutes of the March 29, 2022, Board meeting as distributed.

Executive Officer's Report:

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

a) Exam Results for Electricians and Plumbers

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

Plumbers' Exam (administered March 2022)

	PJ	PM
Exams Administered	33	1
Successful	16	1
Unsuccessful	17	0

Electricians' Exam (administered March 2022)

	EJ	ES	EM	EJI	EJS	ESS	ESI
Exams Administered	26	0	1	0	2	0	0
Successful	16	0	1	0	0	0	0
Unsuccessful	10	0	0	0	2	0	0

2022 Financial Disclosures:

Ms. Green reminded the Board members to submit their 2022 financial disclosures by today, May 31, 2022.

Ms. Green stated that it was Chair Lucero's and Mr. Takara's last meeting. She thanked them for their invaluable service to the Board. Nathan Olanda, electrician industry member, will join the Board effective July 1, 2022.

Applications:

a) Plumber applicant experience with work performed under the North Carolina Plumbing Code

Ms. Green stated that this applicant may be discussed in generality in the open session meeting. If the Board would like to discuss anything in the application that is confidential, it would be required to enter into executive session. She explained that the applicant is applying as a journey worker plumber. He has experience in the North Carolina Plumbing Code ("NCPC"), which is the International Plumbing Code ("IPC") with North Carolina amendments.

Mr. Kamakea noted that typically the IPC is less stringent than Uniform Plumbing Code (“UPC”), however the North Carolina amendments make the code more stringent than the IPC, which brings it closer to the UPC standards than the IPC alone. Additionally, the applicant has 27 years of experience, with 13 years of experience as a plumbing contractor, which he believes qualifies him to take the examination if he completes an additional 6 months (1 year total) of plumbing work performed under the UPC.

Mr. Kamakea proposed that the Board allow for 8,000 hours (4 years of experience) under the NCPC, which the applicant has already completed to qualify, and require that he completes 2,000 hours (1 year of experience) of plumbing work performed under the UPC before qualifying for the examination. DAG Leong confirmed that the Board can defer the application until the required experience verification is received.

Mr. Barrett asked if the motion is too general.

Ms. Green responded that the Board is considering the individual’s complete application and plumbing experience, and not basing its decision only on the content of the NCPC, therefore the motion would be specific to this applicant.

Mr. Kamakea added that he also wants to ensure the Board is basing their decision on the specific individual’s complete application and plumbing experience, as he does not want to set a precedent going forward.

It was moved by Mr. Kamakea, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried, for this applicant in question, to accept up to 8,000 hours (4 years) of plumbing work performed under the NCPC, provided the applicant also complete at least 2,000 hours (1 year) of plumbing work performed under the UPC.

Ms. Ito entered the meeting at 10:43 am.

Executive
Session:

At 10:44 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Kamakea, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to move 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).

At 10:49 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Kamakea, seconded by Mr. Tanabe, and unanimously carried to return to the Board's order of business.

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

Ms. Green noted the following corrections to the agenda.

- EJ Applications, Page 2 – Correction to the name:
 - SIANIA-UNUTQA, MAALONA
- PJ Applications, Page 3 – Correction to the names:
 - BUTLER, ROYCE
 - SPLATTER, JORDEN

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

b) Electricians

Journey Worker Electrician (EJ)

AIWOHI, SHANNON – DEFERRED
AUGUSTIRO, ZARIN – APPROVED
BARUT, TROY – APPROVED
BAZARIO, ISAGANI – APPROVED
BIHAG, KEITH – DEFERRED
BUTLER, JOSEPH – APPROVED
CONEY, TYLER – APPROVED
CORPUZ, ALADIN – APPROVED
CRISTIE, TYLER – APPROVED
DAY JR., KERMIT – DEFERRED
DELIZ, ALAN – DEFERRED
DELOS SANTOS, MITCHELL – APPROVED
ESTABILLO, CHRISTIAN – APPROVED
FIGUEROA, JOSIAH – APPROVED
FLAHERTY, BRIAN – APPROVED
FUENTES, SHANE – APPROVED
FUNAI, DAVID – APPROVED
GANIGAN, AARON – APPROVED
GONZALEZ, JOSE – APPROVED
HARLEY, PATRICK – APPROVED
HAUGEN, WHITNEY – APPROVED
KAM, HOWARD – DEFERRED
KANE, HALA – APPROVED

KUKAHIKO, KEKOA – DEFERRED
MARIANO, PAUL – APPROVED
MINDO, RONIE – DEFERRED
MITCHELL, WESLEY – APPROVED
MULLER, JORGE – APPROVED
NAJERA, RYANARD – DEFERRED
NAKOA, DYLAN – APPROVED
NASCIMENTO, ROGER – APPROVED
ORTOGERO, JOHNATHAN – APPROVED
PACO, EDWARD – DEFERRED
RAPOZA, RYAN – APPROVED
SALUD, MARK – APPROVED
SAVELLA, JORDAN – APPROVED
SIANIA, CREIGHTON – APPROVED
SIANIA-UNUTOA, MAALONA – APPROVED
SIMENTAL, LEVI – APPROVED
SIMEONA, IKAIKA – APPROVED
SLOVAK, TRAVIS – APPROVED
SONOMURA, TRAVIS – APPROVED
TANDA, TONY – APPROVED
UEHARA, CHEYNE – DEFERRED
VE'E, JONATHAN – APPROVED
VENTURA, SEAN – APPROVED
ZWICKERT, PETER – APPROVED

Journey Worker Industrial Electrician (EJI)
NONE

Journey Worker Specialty Electrician (EJS)
ESMERALDA, JOEL – APPROVED
TANJI, DAVID – APPROVED

Supervising Electrician (ES)
DANNER, KEOLAALAKAI – APPROVED
FIELDSONE, DEREK – APPROVED
PLANTE, ROGER – APPROVED
WILLIAMS, BARRY – APPROVED

Supervising Industrial Electrician (ESI)
NONE

Supervising Specialty Electrician (ESS)
NONE

Maintenance Electrician (EM)

LEE, ALEX – APPROVED

c) Plumbers

Journey Worker Plumber (PJ)

BOCOBO, GEORGE – APPROVED
BUTLER, ROYCE – APPROVED
DELAURA, JOSHUA – APPROVED
JAVINAR, JAMES – APPROVED
JOHN, ROLAND – APPROVED
MONIZ, MATTHEW – APPROVED
NASCIMENTO, COLTON – APPROVED
PACHECO, SIMAMAO – APPROVED
PESTANO, KEONE – DEFERRED
RACADIO, PAUL – DEFERRED
ROMERO, ALEJANDRO – APPROVED
SALVIDA, TERRENCE – APPROVED
SATO, CAL – APPROVED
SPLATER, JORDEN – APPROVED
TANAKA, NOLAN – APPROVED
WEBB, JONATHAN – DEFERRED

Master Plumber (PM)

NONE

D) Ratifications

CHRISTIAN BALIGAD (EJ)

Act 35, SLH 2010
Update Regarding
Electrical Academic
Coursework:

- a) Chair Lucero asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

University of Hawaii Honolulu Community College
Approved Curricula

- Peterson School
- Laney College

2022 Legislation:

Chair Lucero asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. Ryan Takahashi, Hawaii Electricians Market Enhancement Program (“HEMEP”), requested to provide oral testimony.

- a) S.B. 2644, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1, Relating to Electrical Contractors

Extends until 6/30/2027 Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which provides a limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals in situations when an electric utility must retain qualified individuals to work with high voltage (six hundred volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility, provided that the public utility certifies to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers that, after solicitation of a request for proposal, no electrician responded to the request who was sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State and was available and able to perform or timely complete the high voltage electrical work or task before the public utility recruited outside the State.

The Conference Committee amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that, before a duly licensed contractor hired by the public utility may recruit qualified electricians who are not licensed in Hawaii, the public utility shall:
 - (A) Solicit a request for proposals to licensed contractors specifying the high voltage work requested, which shall also be made available through its website in an electronic format to C-62 pole and line and C-63 high voltage electrical contractors; and
 - (B) Certify to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers that no electricians (including electricians employed by C-62 pole and line or C-63 high voltage electrical contractors) responded to the request for proposal who were sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State and available and able to perform or timely complete the high voltage electrical work or task;
- (2) Requiring the public utility to submit an annual report to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers covering the preceding calendar year that identifies, at a minimum:

- (A) The number of qualified contractors the public utility employed to perform high voltage electrical work; and
- (B) The number of requests for proposals solicited for high voltage work;
- (3) Clarifying the licensure exemption is limited to the use by a public utility for high voltage electrical workers who perform electric transmission and distribution line construction, maintenance, and connection to substation work;
- (4) Deleting language that would have permanently required the Board of the Electricians and Plumbers to submit annual reports to the Legislature containing certain information;
- (5) Extending the repeal date of Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, to 2027 and further amending Act 60 to require the Board of Electricians and Plumbers to submit annual reports to the Legislature prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2023 through 2027;
- (6) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (7) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2022; and
- (8) Making technical, non-substantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Chair Lucero noted that the Board is responsible for electrician applicants and licensees and ensuring the safety of the public. A licensed EJ is qualified to perform electrical work with voltages included in the National Electric Code (“NEC”), which includes high voltage electrical work, however, some high voltage work requires additional certification, which is not under the Board’s purview to monitor.

Mr. Takahashi stated that he is somewhat satisfied with how the bill ended up. They tried to remove the Board’s reporting requirement in the bill but were unsuccessful.

Ms. Ito asked the Board if there are more meaningful questions the Board can ask, and hopefully get answers, to help to determine if the continued exemption is necessary, as the Board is required to continue providing annual reports to the Legislature.

Ms. Green explained that, for example, the report requires the public utilities to report to the Board the number of requests for proposals (“RFPs”) solicited for high voltage work, and the number of qualified contractors that the public utilities employ to perform high voltage work. The Board could consider including this information in their report. She asked if there were any other information the Board would like to include in the report to help determine if the exemption is necessary and, if so, for how long.

Ms. Ito added that the reporting requirement necessitates that the public utilities work with the Board and the industry partners to determine if it is necessary to have the broad exemption. She asked Mr. Takahashi for assistance with providing the number of licensed electricians who are certified to perform high voltage work.

Mr. Takahashi responded that it is complicated because the certifications are not for broad-based high voltage work. There are specific certifications for certain materials or products and varying factors, however, there is no limitation for an EJ, by definition, to do high voltage work.

Ms. Ito clarified that, for example, this is specific to HECO, which has its own certifications required to perform their high voltage work.

Mr. Takahashi reiterated that it depends on the specific type of work for which the EJ must be certified in order to determine if the EJ is qualified, which would make it difficult to provide a list or number. Part of their concern is with PV farm work, as there is a big difference that distribution line work and high voltage work would come out of PV farms. HECO has already indicated that they want to build their own PV farms.

Ms. Ito stated that the current exemption is for transmission and distribution work, and asked if the type of high voltage work included in the bill was narrowed, are there licensed

electricians in the State who are capable of performing that type of work. She also added that after the bill passes, the public utilities will make the RFPs more visible on their websites.

Mr. Takara asked if man-hours and scope of work should be included.

Ms. Ito responded that could indicate if there are enough licensed workers to provide what the public utility needs.

Ms. Green stated that this is an industry issue. The Board is responsible for licensing and for the safety of the public. The industry partners need to work together to figure out how to get licensed electricians in the State trained and certified to perform the work that public utilities require, and to work with the public utilities to ensure they're aware of the resources in the State. The heavy lifting needs to be done by the industry, and the Board will need more information from industry partners to include in the Board's report to the Legislature.

Ms. Ito added that, as this reporting requirement progresses, the Board may find more things to add to the report. She also noted that not all high-voltage training and certification courses or programs are listed in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' ("DLIR") report to the Board, so it is not a true reflection of all the courses or programs that are being offered. There are also private companies with their own certification courses.

Mr. Takahashi agreed and mentioned that manufacturer's such as 3M and TYCO do their own certification training and are willing to train anyone who is willing to pay.

Chair Lucero stated that the difficult part is knowing which contractors and licensed EJs are being used by public utilities. For example, if he took an online certification course to become certified, then performed electrical worked for a public utility, the Board would never know.

Ms. Green stated it may be helpful for the Legislature to know the names of the contractors that the public utilities employ to perform the high voltage work, and the certifications their EJs hold.

Ms. Green stated that the Board can also request the public utilities report the number of workers they employ to perform the high voltage electrical work that is specified in the bill, which could show growth in their workforce. Eventually, for example, if HECO can show growth in their workforce, then an exemption may not be needed.

Mr. Takahashi explained that the RFPs come from HECO's management side, and they may not be aware of all upcoming plans, however everything HECO does is required to be run through the Public Utilities Commission, which he has been following and tracking.

Ms. Green stated that she will compile a list of questions for the report and the Board can submit further input at a later time.

Announcements: a) Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2022
10:30 a.m.
King Kalakaua Conference Room
King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Reviewed and approved by:

/s/ Lei Ana Green

Lei Ana Green
Executive Officer

Taken by:

/s/ Kellie Teraoka

Kellie Teraoka
Secretary

LG:kt
6/6/22

[X] Minutes approved as is.
[] Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of _____