

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

MINUTES

Date: September 30, 2022

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: King Kalakaua Conference Room  
HRH King Kalakaua Building  
335 Merchant Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Present: Gary Y. Miyashiro, CPA, Chairperson (“Chair”)  
Jon Arbles, CPA, Vice-Chairperson (“Vice Chair”)  
Christopher K. Lee, CPA, Member  
Zachary Johnson, CPA, Member  
Alexander Smith, CPA, Member  
Terrence H. Aratani, Public Member  
Brian Uemori, Public Member  
Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer (“EO”)  
Christopher J.I. Leong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)  
Leanne Abe, Secretary

Excused: John W. Roberts, CPA, Member

Guest(s): Emi Y. Lee  
Marissa N. Matsusaka

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).

Call to Order: The Chair excused Mr. Roberts and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. after quorum was established.

At this time, the Chair wished to take the agenda out-of-order stating that there were applicants attending the meeting who wished to address the Board.

The Chair called on Ms. Lee and asked her if she wanted to address the Board in a closed meeting (executive session).

Ms. Lee declined.

Ms. Lee stated that the Board should have her August 18, 2022 written statement responding to the Board's deferral of her application for a Hawaii CPA.

She stated that she understands the Board's position but explained that since receiving the deferral letter, she has vetted all options and it doesn't seem possible for her to obtain experience under a CPA that has a permit to practice (PTP) since she works for a private entity for which no CPA holds a current PTP.

She further stated that in order to meet the experience requirement, it appears she would have to quit her job, that she loves, and does not consider that an option. She stated that she understands the Board's intent but not having reasonable knowledge of rule change should be something the Board can consider.

The Vice Chair responded that he understands and sympathizes with Ms. Lee's situation and explained that the administrative rules were discussed for several years before going through a process that includes numerous steps including a public hearing. He stated that the Board of Accountancy not only is responsible for establishing laws and rules to protect the public in the profession of public accountancy but also to enforce the laws and rules.

He stated that as a CPA, that person can sign audit reports so the laws and rules are established to ensure that licensed CPAs have the education and experience to perform their fiduciary responsibilities. He also stated that he understands that the application may not have been updated timely and that applicants should have the most current information and that information regarding the amended administrative rules are now posted on the Board's website as well as attached to the application.

Ms. Lee stated that she does not intend to work in public accountancy.

The Vice Chair stated that whether or not her intent is to not work in public accountancy is not something we can control or monitor after the CPA license is issued. He provided information on the PTP and firm PTP requirements.

Ms. Lee thanked the Vice Chair for the information and clarification and stated that she did not believe that her supervisor would be inclined to obtain a PTP and firm PTP.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Chair thanked Ms. Lee for attending the meeting.

The Chair called on Ms. Matsukawa who submitted a request for the CPA firm name, "Cannabis CPA Limited".

The Chair asked if Ms. Matsukawa wanted to address the Board in a closed meeting.

Ms. Matsukawa declined.

The EO informed Ms. Matsukawa that there was concern regarding the use of the word "cannabis" in her proposed CPA firm name and that the Board deferred making a decision until the DAG and EO was able to check other state and federal laws/rules/regulations to ensure that this was not prohibited since cannabis is a schedule 1 controlled substance. She also asked "why" she wanted to use the word "cannabis" in her CPA firm name.

Ms. Matsukawa responded that she is trying to plan ahead in anticipation that legislation will be introduced in Hawaii to allow recreational cannabis. Her intent is to serve legal cannabis business operating in the workforce.

The Chair asked if there were any further questions or discussion.

There being none, the Chair thanked Ms. Matsukawa for attending today's meeting.

The Chair called for a motion to move into executive session.

At 8:51 a.m., upon a motion by Mr. Aratani, seconded by the Chair, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move into executive session in accordance with HRS §92-4 and §92-5(a)(1) and (4) "To consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for CPA licensure;" and "To consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities;".

At 9:46 a.m. the Chair resumed the meeting after coming out of executive session.

Chair's Report:

**Announcements**

The Chair announced that he would be attending the NASBA annual meeting, at the end of October in San Diego, California

**Approval of the Minutes of the August 26, 2022 Meeting**

The Chair called for a motion in regard to the minutes of the August 26, 2022 meeting.

There being no amendments to the minutes, upon a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was voted on an unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2022 meeting as circulated.

### **2022/2023 Board Meetings**

The Board discussed the meetings dates for the remainder of 2022 as well as 2023 and determined that meeting quarterly was insufficient to timely perform their duties as a Board. While the Board understands the limited resources of the DCCA and the service to multiple boards by its staff, we could consider a reduced schedule to meeting schedule.

The Chair recommended meeting eight (8) instead of twelve (12) times in 2023. This recommendation is being made under the assumption that this change will be temporary until such time that the DCCA would be able to provide resources to the Board.

After further discussion, the Board determined that they may not have quorum for the October meeting so the next Board meeting would be on November 18, 2022 and for the 2023 calendar year, they will maintain the monthly meeting schedule since the Board will not be able to anticipate the workload or volume of applications that will come through and therefore should maintain the monthly meeting schedule. Each month the board will assess the need to meet and cancel meetings accordingly.

### **Applications Review Committee and Legislative Committee – Discussion/Appointments**

The Chair stated that in lieu of the staffing shortages for PVL and the possibility of intermittent meetings, the Board should consider forming two (2) committees, an application review and legislative committee. The applications review committee would review applications for CPA, PTP, FFTP, etc. and make recommendations to the Board. The legislative committee would monitor/track legislative bills for the 2023 session relating to accountancy and report to the Board. The Chair asked for volunteers for these committees.

Mr. Lee, the Vice Chair, the Chair and Mr. Smith volunteered to be on the applications review committee.

Mr. Aratani and Mr. Johnson volunteered to be on the legislative committee.

The DAG recommended the Board vote on the appointments to these committees.

Upon a motion by the Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Smith, it was voted on an unanimously carried to appoint the members who volunteered for the applications review and legislative committees.

Executive Officer's Report: **2023 Legislative Session**

The EO asked the Board if they were aware of any possible legislation for the 2023 legislative session.

The Chair stated that almost every year, a "mobility" bill is introduced that would allow a CPA to practice in a state without holding a valid license in that state.

Mr. Aratani stated that Hawaii is the only state that do not have language in their laws or rules to allow for mobility and that as a public member, he would have concerns should Hawaii change the laws/rules to allow an out-of-state CPA to practice in Hawaii or service clients in Hawaii without meeting the license requirements.

Standing Committee Report:

**Examination Committee**

There was no report.

Applications:

**CPA License Applications**

The Chair called for a motion in regard to the applications for CPA license.

Upon a motion by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Smith, it was voted on and unanimously carried to grant the request for reconsideration and to approve the following application for a Hawaii CPA license:

Emi Lee

Upon a motion by Mr. Aratani, seconded by Mr. Lee, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the following individuals for a Hawaii CPA license and/or with the PTP:

Chloe M. Y. Honbo (w/ PTP)  
Kelly C. Sano  
Christine M. Carmazzi (w/ PTP)  
Pauline J. Staab  
Karissa D. Brock  
Rebecca K. Davis

Christian L. Hara

**Ratification of CPA Permits to Practice**

There were none.

**Ratification of Firm Permits to Practice**

Upon a motion by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the following Firm PTP:

JST CPA LLC  
RJJ Accounting Services LLC

**Ratification/Approval of Firm and Trade Names**

Mr. Lee questioned how the Board could approve a firm name without verifying if the members, managers, partners, officers or directors are currently licensed as a CPA with a PTP.

The DAG referred to §16-71-24(b)(3) that states:

**§16-71-24 Permit to practice.**

- (b) Firm permit to practice.
  - (3) All principals of a firm physically located in the State or that has a permanent office in the State shall be licensed as certified public accountants or public accountants with individual permits to practice under section 466-7, HRS.

EO Teshima stated that if the Board doesn't approve the firm name, the firm will not be able to apply or register the LLC or entity name with the Business Registration Division. She recommended that moving forward, should the Board receive a request for a firm name, the request should also include the principals of the firm if the firm is located in this State so she can check for a Hawaii CPA and PTP for the principals.

The Vice Chair also recommended that firm names ratified by the Board since January of this year also be checked and confirmed to ensure that the principals of those firms hold a Hawaii CPA license and PTP.

Being no further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to defer the following requests for additional information as indicated:

Cannabis CPA Limited – Check AICPA/NASBA Code of Professional Conduct  
LTS CPA LLC – Names of all principals of the proposed LLC  
TaxWise CPA Services, LLC – Names of all principals of the proposed LLC

The Chair announced the next meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Friday, November 18, 2022  
8:30 a.m.

In-Person: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room  
HRH King Kalakaua Building  
335 Merchant Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting  
Zoom Webinar

Adjournment: There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Taken by:

/s/ Lee Ann Teshima

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Lee Ann Teshima  
Executive Officer

LT:la

10/15/22

[ X ] Minutes approved as is.  
[ ] Minutes approved with changes. See minutes of.