

**HAWAII STATE BOXING COMMISSION**

Professional & Vocational Licensing Division  
 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
 State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar (use link below)  
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/87611466425>

Present: Mike Freitas, Chairperson  
 Robyn Jumawan, Commission Member  
 Joel Kim, Commission Member  
 Andrew Kim, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)  
 James Skizewski, Executive Officer (“EO”)  
 Lori Beth Van Cantfort, EO  
 Lorna Eugenio, Secretary

Excused: Mark Ozaki, Commission Member

Guests: Coach Eiichi Jumawan  
 Andrew Verdi

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was filed with the State electronic calendar as required by Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 92-7(b).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m., at which time quorum was established.

Chair’s Report: **Announcements**  
 No announcements were provided.

**Approval of the July 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes**  
 Chair Freitas deferred approval of the July 17, 2023, meeting minutes, to the next meeting of the Hawaii State Boxing Commission (“Commission”).

Executive Session: At 1:10 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Jumawan, seconded by Mr. Kim, and unanimously carried to enter into executive session, pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(1), to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional licenses cited in HRS §26-9 and, pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(4), to

consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities.

At 1:14 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Jumawan, seconded Mr. Kim, and unanimously carried to exit executive session and return back to the open session meeting.

Applications:

**Ratification List**

No ratification list was provided or approved.

**Applications**

Hearing no objections, the following application was approved by unanimous consent.

- 1) Boxers
  - i. PEBENITO, Jaybrio

Board Business:

**USA Boxing, Hawaii Association Report on Amateur Events**

*Eiichi Jumawan was promoted to panelist.*

Mr. Jumawan highlighted recent USA amateur boxing events.

Mr. Jumawan noted a recent coaching clinic put on for local coaches by USA Boxing. This program is meant to standardize boxing strategies across the country. All attendees passed.

Mr. Jumawan noted that Michael Pruitt has been appointed president of the local boxing chapter of USA Boxing.

Mr. Jumawan stated that amateur boxing events will be held on April 27, 2024, and May 4, 2024.

Ms. Jumawan noted an additional amateur event will take place on March 22, 2024, in Kailua Kona. Ms. Jumawan highlighted additional potential upcoming events.

Chair Freitas thanked Mr. Jumawan for his service to amateur boxing in Hawaii.

EO Skizewski asked, and Mr. Jumawan noted that he will continue to help USA Boxing by holding clinics for boxers and officials.

*Eiichi Jumawan was returned to attendee.*

### **Senate Bill (“SB”) 2170 Senate Draft (“SD”) 1 Relating to Combat Sports**

EO Skizewski highlighted SB 2170 SD1 which establishes a new regulatory framework for combat sports contests in Hawaii by renaming the existing Boxing Commission of Hawaii as the Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii, expanding the Commission's jurisdiction to include all combat sports, and repealing existing law governing mixed martial arts contests in Hawaii.

EO Skizewski briefed the Commission on the creation and history of the State of Hawaii's Mixed Martial Arts Contests (“MMA”) Program and MMA events in Hawaii.

EO Skizewski noted that the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) has supported the combining of the State Boxing Commission and the Combat Sports Commission as the most cost-effective way to regulate combat sports in this state.

EO Skizewski noted SB 2170 SD1 has recently been amended by State of Hawaii, House of Representative, Committee on Consumer Protection, to create two separate regulatory entities, one for boxing and one for mixed martial arts.

EO Skizewski concluded that it would be prudent for this Commission to provide comment on the bill in the case that the bill is amended further to combine the two combat sports areas under one commission.

*Mr. Verdi was promoted to panelist.*

Mr. Verdi noted that California works closely with the national association to regulate all of boxing under national standards.

*Mr. Verdi was promoted to attendee.*

#### Executive Session:

At 1:34 p.m. it was moved by Chair Freitas, seconded by Ms. Jumawan, and unanimously carried to enter into executive session, pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(4), to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities.

At 2:05 p.m. hearing no objections, it was unanimously carried to move out of executive session.

### **Senate Bill (“SB”) 2170 Senate Draft (“SD”) 1 Relating to Combat Sports**

Hearing no objections, it was unanimously carried, to support the intent of SB 2170 SD1 but acknowledge that the bill as currently written may have unintended consequences which will negatively impact boxing in Hawaii.

Open Forum: No discussion followed

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Reviewed and approved by:

/s/ James Skizewski

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Skizewski  
Executive Officer

Taken and recorded by:

/s/ Marc Yoshimura

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Yoshimura  
Secretary

JS:my  
4/3/24

- [ ] Minutes approved as is.
- [ ] Minutes approved with changes; see minutes of \_\_\_\_\_

