

BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: January 14, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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

Virtual: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/89480379752?pwd=0qtNVUMzoEdQHgMY7aGFUn7fag2UNq.1>

Recording Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81ZYIDwQJUc>

Members Present: Olivia Nagashima, Massage Therapist, Chair
Darci Frankel, Massage Therapist
Shanon Skoog, Public Member

Members Excused: Jayce Arakaki, Public Member, Vice Chair
Sean St. Louis, Massage Therapist

Staff Present: Sheena Choy, Executive Officer (“EO Choy”)
Christopher Leong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Marc Yoshimura, Secretary
Lei Fukumura, Special Deputy Attorney General (“SDAG”)

Guest(s): Sterling Coria
Gwen DeLuze-Coria
Sheilla Villena
Dannie Villena Jr.

Virtual Meeting Instructions: A short video regarding virtual meetings was played to explain procedures for the virtual meeting and how members of the public can participate and interact with the Board during the meeting.

The Chair provided information on internet and phone access for today’s virtual meeting and announced that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording will be posted on the Board’s web page.

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

Call to Order:

Chair Nagashima took roll call of the Board members. Those members attending virtually confirmed that they were present and alone.

Chair Nagashima excused Vice Chair Arakaki and Mr. St. Louis.

There being a quorum, Chair Nagashima called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the Minutes of the November 13, 2024 Board Meeting

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any public testimony. There was none.

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any Board discussion.

There was none.

Upon a motion by Ms. Skoog, seconded by Chair Nagashima, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve the open session and executive session minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting.

Chapter 91, HRS

Adjudicatory Matters:

The Chair called for a recess from the meeting at 9:13 a.m. to discuss and deliberate on the following adjudicatory matters pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS. (Note: Board members and staff entered a Zoom Breakout Room to discuss Adjudicatory Matters.)

- a. In the Matter of the Massage Therapist's License of Jin Ji Wang, and the Massage Establishment's License of Sakura Spa, LLC, doing business as Sakura Spa; Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order; MAS 2024-84-L

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Skoog, and unanimously carried to approve the aforementioned Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order.

- b. In the Matter of the Massage Therapist's License of Pathama Hennek, also known as Jaymie Path Waeonam, and the Massage Establishment's License of Thai Aroma Massage Therapy, LLC; Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order; MAS 2023-0047-L

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, and unanimously

carried, to approve the aforementioned Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order.

Following the Board's review, deliberation, and decision on these matters pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS, Chair Nagashima announced that the Board reconvened to Open Session at 9:42 a.m.

Applications:

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 9:44 a.m., in accordance with HRS §92-5(a)(1), "To consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional licenses cited in section 26-9 or both" 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." Board will vote in Open Session.

At 11:31 a.m., upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to move out of Executive Session.

Ratifications

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any public testimony. There was none.

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Skoog, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve the attached ratifications list.

Massage Therapist Applications

Susan Lori Beal

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Skoog, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to defer Susan Lori Beal's application for more information.

Eva Doland

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve Eva Doland's application to sit for the exam.

James Fuoco

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve James Fuoco's application to sit for the exam.

Joanna Iris

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to defer Joanna Iris' application for more information.

Jessica Plante

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve Jessica Plante's application to sit for the exam.

Robert Stanciu

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Frankel, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve Robert Stanciu's application to sit for the exam.

Executive Officer's
Report:

Hawaii Massage Therapy – State Examination Statistics

Executive Officer Choy shared the massage therapy examination statistics for November and December 2024.

Massage Exam (administered November 2024)

Exams Administered: 53
Successful: 15
Unsuccessful: 38

Massage Exam (administered December 2024)

Exams Administered: 51
Successful: 22
Unsuccessful: 29

Continuing Education Audit - Update

EO Choy stated that all licensees who were randomly selected for audit were notified via their mailing address on file with instructions on how to comply. Response was required by December 31, 2024. Board staff are currently in the process of following up with the licensees who are deficient or have not yet responded.

Ms. Skoog recommended that the Board consider utilizing a system like CE Broker for future audits, which allows licensees to upload their CE certificates in one place online and would streamline the review process.

She stated that at the recent Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (“FSMTB”) meeting, it seemed that many other state boards were utilizing this free resource to make their CE auditing processes more efficient.

Chair Nagashima stated that the American Massage Therapy Association (“AMTA”) provides an option for members to track their CE hours in an AMTA database. AMTA requires its licensed professional members to have 48 hours of CEs over a period of four years. She estimates that about 15% of the licensed massage therapists in Hawaii are AMTA members.

EO Choy stated that she can do more research into CE Broker and similar platforms to see if this would be a viable option for future Board use.

2025 Legislative Session – Session Calendar

EO Choy stated that the Legislative Session begins on January 15, 2025. Bills can be introduced up to the introduction cutoff on January 23, 2025.

If there are any bills introduced that are related to Board matters, EO Choy will provide a report to the Board for its consideration and position. If bill hearings are scheduled between Board meetings, EO Choy stated she will contact the legislative liaisons who were appointed at the November 13, 2024 meeting to provide positions, input, and/or testify on the Board’s behalf.

Ongoing Business:

Discussion of proposals for future new administrative rules revisions – Title 16, Chapter 84, Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”)

Ms. Skoog stated that the Board might consider amending the total required hours of training and education for licensure. She stated that 24 states now require, or are in the process of amending their laws and rules to require, 625 hours or more, including: Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Tennessee.

Regarding consideration of the massage compact, currently only two (2) states, Nevada and Ohio, have enacted legislation. The following states may be joining the compact this year: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. A minimum of seven (7) states are required to officially enact the compact.

Ms. Skoog indicated that FSMTB has been a good resource for tracking the progress of the massage compact.

Chair Nagashima added that she receives updates from AMTA's legal department.

Ms. Skoog stated that she would like the Board to continue to consider the ongoing national conversation around combating illicit practice and its connection with human trafficking. She stated that FSMTB has established a "toolkit" of digital information for Board licensing and law enforcement staff to use as a resource in this work. Ms. Skoog stated that one of the resources FSMTB provides is an informational letter to landlords on illicit practices. FSMTB member boards who sent this letter out saw a positive impact on closing illicit massage establishments. She asked if the Board could send out the letter to landlords in Hawaii.

EO Choy expressed thanks to Ms. Skoog for sharing this important information. However, she stated that the Board/Department would not be able to send out this type of mail. However, once she has access to the FSMTB toolkit, she will see what information is available for public distribution, and if any of the resources can be distributed via the Board's website for reference by local associations and other relevant stakeholders.

Chair Nagashima reminded the Board that they are continuing to research and discuss future rules revisions, with the HAR divided into assignments as follows:

- Subchapter 1 – Chair Nagashima
- Subchapter 2 – Vice Chair Arakaki
- Subchapter 3 – Ms. Frankel
- Subchapter 4 – Ms. Frankel
- Subchapter 5 – Not assigned
- Subchapter 6 – Chair Nagashima
- Subchapter 7 – Ms. Skoog
- Subchapter 8 – None
- Subchapter 9 – None
- Subchapter 10 – None
- Subchapter 11 – Mr. St. Louis
- Subchapter 12 – Chair Nagashima
- Subchapter 13 – Ms. Skoog

Ms. Skoog stated that she previously provided amendments regarding examination, testing conduct relating to subchapter 7, which she can resend. She requested that the Board discuss proposed amendments each meeting.

Ms. Skoog asked if there is a deadline on submitting a fully amended rules package.

There was no further discussion.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chair Nagashima adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Sheena Choy
Executive Officer

[] Minutes approved with changes; see minutes