

HAWAII BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 8, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting Location:

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

Virtual Participation:

Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting

<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/85176095021?pwd=fmgWnDQMg93UPtBFDxdzdZaY1krE4e.1>

Recording Link:

https://youtu.be/gf_mNHwu2rA

Present:

Deborah McMenemy, L.Ac., D.A.O.M., Chair
Brooke Foreman, L.Ac., D.A.C.M., Vice Chair
Sherry Mizumoto, L.Ac., D.A.O.M.
Marta Rebella, Public Member
Young-Im Wilson, Supervising Executive Officer (“EO”)
Nancy Nguyen, Executive Officer
Jordan A.K. Ching, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Cortnie Tanaka, Secretary
Breyanah Panzardi, Tech Support

Guests:

Jayne Tsuchiyama
Olga Cox
Ruoci Lee
Kacey Smith
Mina Larson
Mel Pulicicchio

Agenda:

The agenda for this meeting was posted to 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 McMenemy welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded with a roll call of the Board members. All Board members present confirmed that they were present.

Approval of Minutes:

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

It was moved by Ms. Rebella, seconded by Vice Chair Foreman, and unanimously carried to approve the November 7, 2025 open and executive minutes.

Applications:

A. Ratification List (See attached)

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

It was moved by Vice Chair Foreman, seconded by Dr. Mizumoto and unanimously carried to approve the April 8, 2026 ratification list.

New Business:

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

It was moved by Chair McMenemy, seconded by Ms. Rebella, and unanimously carried to enter into executive session at 1:12 p.m., 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.

It was moved by Ms. Rebella, seconded by Dr. Mizumoto, and unanimously carried to return to the open session meeting at 1:58 p.m. All Board members present confirmed that they were present.

A. Discussion on Proposed Revisions to HAR Chapter §16-72

It was moved by Ms. Rebella, seconded by Vice Chair Foreman, and unanimously carried to approve the following revisions to HAR Chapter §16-72:

- The Board restored the definition of "traditional oriental medicine" in section 16-72-3.
- The Board removed "acupuncture injection therapy" from section 16-72-4, which governs the authorized practice of acupuncture.
- In section 16-72-12(6), the Board added a specific reference to HRS 436E-3.6.
- The Board removed the proposed requirement for CPR certification for license renewal in section 16-72-46.

Chair McMenemy asked if any members from the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item.

A licensed acupuncturist, Jane Tsuchiyama, raised questions on two primary issues:

- Removal of CPR Requirement for Renewals: The Board explained that this requirement appeared inconsistent in the renewal section, as it is not required for initial licensure and is not currently reflected in statute or rule. The Board noted that this issue may be revisited in the future following further review.

- Removal of Acupuncture Injection Therapy (AIT): The Board clarified that AIT is not currently supported by state statutes, and that inclusion within the authorized scope of practice would require prior statutory changes through the legislative process.

B. Scope of Practice Question: Inquiry Regarding the Scope of Practice for Acupuncturists and Shockwave Therapy

The board noted that certain electrostimulation techniques used in acupuncture and acupressure may overlap with shockwave therapy. However, additional research is needed to determine whether these methods fall within the scope of acupuncture practice.

Licensed acupuncturist Jane Tsuchiyama asked whether shockwave therapy is included in formal training programs, noting that other electrostimulation therapies are typically part of the curriculum.

A member of the public, Mel Pulicicchio, commented that shockwave therapy is considered a Class I medical device and is permitted for use by acupuncturists. The device is generally not taught in formal coursework, as manufacturers provide training upon their introduction into practice.

It was moved by Ms. Rebella, seconded by Vice Chair Foreman, and unanimously carried to defer the matter to allow the DAG and EOs to conduct further legal and practitioner-level research on whether the therapy qualifies as "point stimulation" under the current law.

C. Report from Dr. Jayne Tsuchiyama

- i. Name change for National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) to National Certification Board for Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine (NCBAHM).
- ii. Update on national climate for acupuncture and licensing boards, national database, and Medicare coverage for acupuncture.

The NCBAHM made a presentation covering the following areas:

1. Administrative and Regulatory Support

- CEU and Audit Management: NCBAHM offers a centralized, auditable system for tracking continuing education (PDA points), documenting 60 credits over a four-year cycle. This system is intended to reduce the administrative burden on state board staff during license renewals and audits.
- Verification Tools: NCBAHM provides tools such as "CE Banking," which allows providers to deposit credits directly into a practitioner's transcript for streamlined verification of compliance by the Board.

2. Public Safety and Ethics

- The Four Pillars: The organization's mission is based on four pillars: national examinations, ongoing competence (recertification), professional ethics, and disciplinary oversight.

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- National Disciplinary Database: NCBAHM maintains a national database of final, due process-based disciplinary actions. This resource is intended to prevent misconduct from going unreported when practitioners move between states. NCBAHM offered to establish a formal information-sharing agreement (MOU) with the Hawaii board.

3. Professional Standards and Growth

- Minimum Competence: Certification reflects a nationally recognized standard of education, clinical training, and successful completion of psychometrically valid examinations.
- Federal Advocacy: NCBAHM highlighted its advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., including obtaining a unique Bureau of Labor Statistics classification for acupuncturists and advocating for Medicare provider recognition.
- VA and DoD Integration: NCBAHM reported collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to improve veterans' access to acupuncture services, noting strong participation in Hawaii

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Taken and Recorded by:

/s/ Nancy Nguyen
Nancy Nguyen
Executive Officer

06/09/2026

(X) Minutes approved as is.

() Minutes approved with changes, see minutes of _____.

Ratification of Issued License(s)

ACU	ACU-1457-0	Vanessa Leilani Tucker
	ACU-1458-0	RUKMINI ROSE W VALDEZ
	ACU-1459-0	Emily M Lundin
	ACU-1460-0	ELISHA SIRENA ZEITLER
	ACU-1461-0	RENATA MAE LLOYD
	ACU-1462-0	MEGHANE AYA HERNANDEZ
	ACU-1463-0	Kristine K Ichigotora
	ACU-1464-0	Corey Elizabeth Pile
	ACU-1465-0	Corrine A Sharp
	ACU-1466-0	POMAIKAIKEALOHA T NAKOA
	ACU-1467-0	Selena Waara
	ACU-1468-0	YEKATERINA D KAN
	ACU-1469-0	Celeste Xanadu Blake
	ACU-1470-0	ANTHONY M GIOVANNIELLO
	ACU-1471-0	BO M CAMPOT
	ACU-1472-0	DAVID M CHAN
ACUI	R-25522007	MICHELLE LEA RUSSO
	R-25807001	Ella Drury
	R-25807002	Lauren Kapule
	R-25807003	Rachelle Haunani Wehrsig
	R-25807004	Michelle Wilson Chan
	R-25814004	Ayaka Sato
	R-25818001	SHIRLEY CHEN
	R-25820001	Nicholas Shaw
	R-25827001	CHRISTINE TUAZON
	R-25828003	ANGEL PARK
	R-25910001	LEESA L HUDMAN
	R-25925009	NICOLE L SCARBOROUGH