

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

MINUTES OF MEETING
June 24, 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/84353695769?pwd=uYPDM3KjBp5aHEMTB62ngjZMElydLf.1>

Recording Link:

<https://youtu.be/Ss11Hq2DJok>

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
Nancy Nguyen, Executive Officer
Jordan A.K. Ching, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Cortnie Tanaka, Secretary

Guests:

Jayne Tsuchiyama
Ruosi Lee
Nina Hamid
Tuesday Wasserman
Wai H. Low

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 1:03 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 Vice Chair Foreman, seconded by Dr. Mizumoto, and unanimously carried to approve the April 8, 2026 open and executive session meeting 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 attached ratification of issued license list.

New Business:

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

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

Dr. Jane Tsuchiyama raised concern on removal of Acupuncture Injection Therapy (AIT) from the rules, noting that Colorado and Florida have long included AIT, and that Maryland, Connecticut, Michigan, and Indiana are currently in the process of adding it. She emphasized that malpractice coverage is available, but only when the practice is explicitly defined within the scope of the rules. She also highlighted that national standards now exist, including standardized training and certification exams, ensuring safety for both practitioners and patients. This modality is intended for advanced/senior practitioners who undergo certification. She expressed concern that excluding AIT would cause Hawaii to miss an important opportunity to provide additional pain-relief options for patients and expand treatment modalities available to practitioners. Dr. Tsuchiyama requested reconsideration of adding AIT back into the rules.

Dr. Nina Hamid also voiced support for including AIT in the rules, agreeing with Dr. Tsuchiyama's points and emphasizing that it is essential for expanding access to diverse forms of care within the community.

Tuesday Wasserman, representing the National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, explained that AIT is a traditional Asian technique with evidence of being part of Chinese medicine since the 1950s and has been within the U.S. scope of practice since the 1980s. She compared AIT to other established modalities such as guasha and cupping. She noted that states including Colorado, Florida, and Maryland have determined that AIT falls under the scope of traditional oriental medicine practice. She emphasized that clearly incorporating this modality into the rules is important to ensure safe practice and protect the public.

Chair McMenemy stated that the previous DAG had advised the removal of AIT because of its absence in the statutes.

DAG Ching confirmed that the advice was given in 2024. Items not included in the statutes cannot be included in the rules. He noted that AIT was taken out of the definitions in 2024, and in the last meeting, was removed from Chapter 16-72-4 for consistency.

It was moved by Chair McMenemy, seconded by Ms. Rebella, and unanimously carried to enter into executive session at 1:17 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 1:40 p.m. All Board members present confirmed that they were present.

It was moved by Dr. Mizumoto, seconded by Vice Chair Foreman, and unanimously carried to have DAG Ching conduct more research on the historical removal of AIT from the statutes and rules.

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

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 enter into executive session at 1:43 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 Vice Chair Foreman, and unanimously carried to return to the open session meeting at 1:52 p.m. All Board members present confirmed that they were present.

Vice Chair Foreman moved that shockwave therapy does not require an acupuncture license. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mizumoto and unanimously carried.

Chair McMenemy announced that her term has ended, and this meeting will be her last. Ms. Rebella is also resigning from her public position. The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, if a quorum could be established.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Taken and Recorded by:

/s/ Nancy Nguyen
Nancy Nguyen
Executive Officer

Hawaii Board of Acupuncture
Minutes of the Meeting of June 24, 2026

07/06/2026

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

DRAFT

Ratification of Issued License(s)

	License: License Number	Licensee
ACU	ACU-1484-0	Mei Xue
	ACU-1485-0	Mehana Fisher
	ACU-1486-0	JOYCE LEUNG LILLY
	ACU-1487-0	CHRISTINE A LEONARD
ACUI	R-26519004	ELENA ANDRIE
	R-26601003	XINGYA AMY FU

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