

WATER BOARD

1/2/2025

Purpose:	To manage, control and operate the County waterworks; adopt rules and procedures relative to the operation, preservation and protection of the waterworks; to adopt annual operating and capital budgets for the Department of Water Supply; make decisions relating to the acquisition of property and issuance of revenue bonds.																				
Authority:	Hawai'i County Charter, Article VIII, Section 8-1 and 8-2.																				
Appointment:	Mayor with Council approval. Normal five-year staggered terms.																				
Full Membership:	Nine members. Manager-Chief Engineer of DWS, Planning Director, and Director of DPW are ex-officio members.																				
Specific Representation:	One member from each Council district.																				
Requirements:	No more than five members may belong officially to the same political party.																				
Meetings:	Normally, fourth Tuesday of each month for 1-2 hours, beginning at 10 a.m. in Hilo, or occasionally in outlying area.																				
Financial Disclosure:	Members must file Financial Disclosure within 20 working days of taking the oath of office. Thereafter, annual disclosures must be filed on or before January 31. The disclosures are confidential and will be kept on file by the Board of Ethics. County Code, Chapter 2, Section 2-91.1.																				
Reappointment:	Following the expiration of a term, no member may be reappointed for at least two years unless originally appointed for a term of two years or less.																				
Qualities:	Respected by the community as being community-minded and oriented. Able to focus on the community needs as a whole without catering to special or self-interest.																				
Current Members:	<table><thead><tr><th></th><th style="text-align: right;"><u>CD</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>VACANT</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr><tr><td>James Lee, 12/31/2028</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr><tr><td>Thomas Brown, 12/31/2027</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr><tr><td>Michael Pono Kekela, 12/31/2026</td><td style="text-align: right;">4</td></tr><tr><td>Emily Taaroa, 12/31/2028</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr><tr><td>Keith F. Unger, 12/31/2027</td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr><tr><td>Michael Bell, 12/31/2025</td><td style="text-align: right;">7</td></tr><tr><td>Stephen Lopez, 12/31/2026</td><td style="text-align: right;">8</td></tr><tr><td>Benjamin Ney, 12/31/2024*</td><td style="text-align: right;">9</td></tr></tbody></table>		<u>CD</u>	VACANT	1	James Lee, 12/31/2028	2	Thomas Brown, 12/31/2027	3	Michael Pono Kekela, 12/31/2026	4	Emily Taaroa, 12/31/2028	5	Keith F. Unger, 12/31/2027	6	Michael Bell, 12/31/2025	7	Stephen Lopez, 12/31/2026	8	Benjamin Ney, 12/31/2024*	9
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	*Holdover until replaced																				
Secretary/Contact Person:	Nora Avenue 808-961-8050																				
Attorney Assigned:	To Be Determined																				

****The information on this sheet is condensed. For full information see appropriate Sections of the County Charter, County Code and/or Hawai'i Revised Statutes.***