

From: [Kondo, Wendy L](#)
To: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Boards and Commissions Application [#13561]
Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 7:33:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Wendy L. Kondo | Boards & Commissions
[Office of the Governor | Ke Ke'ena O Ke Kia'aina](#)
State of Hawai'i
Direct Line: (808) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
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From: Boards and Commissions Application <noreply@ehawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:26 PM
To: Gov.Boards.Commissions <Boards.Commissions@hawaii.gov>; Deptula, Cameron S [REDACTED]; Kondo, Wendy L [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boards and Commissions Application [#13561]

Legal Name	Nicole Mehanaokala Hind
Maiden or other names, including dates of use:	Mehanaokala Hind
Please check preferred title:	Miss
U.S. Citizen	Yes
Residential Address	[REDACTED] Honolulu, HI 96818 United States
Mailing Address (if other than your residence)	United States
Island of Residence	O'ahu
Residency in Hawai'i (Years)	52
Have You Lived in Hawaii For the Past 12 Months?	Yes
Name of Spouse	n/a
Daytime Phone:	(808) [REDACTED]
Primary Email Address	[REDACTED]

Current Profession/Occupation	Non-Profit Executive
Name	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	(808) [REDACTED]
Name	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	(808) [REDACTED]
Name	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	(808) [REDACTED]
If so, please state the name of the body and the date when your term expires.	no
Are you a member of a union?	No
Have you been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?	No
Have you ever been convicted of any act, attempt or conspiracy to overthrow the state or the federal government by force or violence?	No
If you answered "yes" to either question, indicate the date(s) and explain below: Date(s):	n/a
Please attach Letter of Interest:	[REDACTED]
Please attach Resume:	[REDACTED]
First choice board name	Commission on Water Resource Management
For Applications Completed With Assistance	
The following individual read the foregoing Application Form, and the Acknowledgment and the Authorization, to me, and assisted me in completing this application.	Nicole Hind

Acknowledgement of the State Ethics Commission Annual Disclosure of Financial Interests Under the State Ethics Law, Hawaii Revised Statutes Ch. 84, members of state boards and commissions who are appointed to terms of more than one year and whose functions are not "solely advisory" must file a financial disclosure statement with the State Ethics Commission. Statements, other than those of members of boards that head a state department as well as 15 boards and commissions affected by [Act 230, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 \(Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Board of Agriculture, State Ethics Commission, Hawaii](#)

Community Development Authority, Hawaiian Homes Commission, Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Land Use Commission, Legacy Land Conservation Commission, Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Public Utilities Commission and Commission on Water Resource Management), will be maintained confidential and neither published nor disclosed by the Ethics Commission without the member's permission, during the member's term, and for six years thereafter whereupon they will all be destroyed. Questions as to whether the members of a particular board must file a disclosure statement, or whether statements filed by the members of a particular board are subject to disclosure should be posed directly to the State Ethics Commission.

- I have read and understand the above statement

Authorization To Release/Disclose

Information To Whom It May Concern:
In conjunction with the background check being conducted by the Office of the Governor for my possible appointment to a state board or commission, I hereby authorize the representative of the Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii, bearing this release, or copy thereof, to obtain information about me that you may have pertaining to my employment, military service, or education, including but not limited to academic, achievement, attendance, personal history, disciplinary actions, awards, and request of the bearer. This authorization to release is executed with my full knowledge and understanding that the information will be used in connection with my application for possible appointment to a state board or commission. **Name**

Nicole Mehanaokala Hind

Signature (Type Your Name in Below)

Nicole Mehanaokala Hind

Date

Mar 31, 2025

N. Mehanaokala Hind

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: 808-[REDACTED]

“Leadership used to be about muscle, today it’s about brains, but moving forward it will be about heart. What we know is what you will not replace, no matter how great the algorithm is, you won’t replace what makes us uniquely human, which is courage, connection and empathy.” - Brene Brown

Professional Summary

Dynamic and results-driven executive leader with 20 years of expertise in operations leadership, community organizing, strategic planning, and public relations. Recognized for driving organizational growth and operational excellence while fostering collaboration with diverse stakeholders in community, non-profit, private, and government sectors. Known for strategic vision, optimizing processes, and delivering data-informed outcomes aligned with organizational goals. Adept at overseeing operational functions, implementing efficient systems, and developing programs that enhance organizational performance and cultural integration.

Core Strengths

- Operational Leadership and Efficiency
 - Strategic Planning and Implementation
 - Hawaiian Cultural Practices and Indigenous Policy Development
 - Data-Driven Program Development and Evaluation
 - Budget and Resource Management
 - Cross-Sector Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Compliance Management
 - Effective Communication and Public Relations
-

Professional Experience

Senior Advisor to the CEO

Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)

January 2023 – Present

- **Operational Leadership:** Provide strategic oversight for executive-level projects, streamlining processes and aligning cross-functional operations with organizational goals.
- Served as Cultural Advisor for Phase I Cultural Survey with the Army Corps of Engineers after the 2023 Maui Wildfires, ensuring operational compliance with cultural protocols.
- Lead CNHA's representation on key initiatives, including Hawai'i Executive Council and Native Hawaiian Military Hui, integrating operational strategies with long-term programmatic goals.
- Oversee community engagement for strategic projects like the Sea Glider initiative, enhancing operational coordination and resource management for growth initiatives.

Senior Vice President of Community Programs

Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)

January 2021 – January 2023

- **Operational Leadership:** Directed the operational execution of core programs, including Hawaiian Trades Academy, HUD Housing Counseling, Kūhāna Business Program, and Solarize 808, ensuring processes were efficient, scalable, and aligned with CNHA's mission.
- Led the strategic development, implementation, and evaluation of high-impact programs for Native Hawaiian youth through 'Aha 'Ōpio, utilizing data-driven methods to improve operational outcomes and program effectiveness.
- Managed multi-million-dollar budgets, overseeing resource allocation and forecasting to optimize program performance and financial health.
- Conducted compliance efforts for over \$100 million in federal funding, ensuring adherence to all regulatory requirements and guidelines. Successfully navigated complex compliance frameworks to maintain program eligibility and accountability, while overseeing the effective allocation and utilization of federal resources for key CNHA initiatives.
- Developed and maintained operational partnerships with key stakeholders, including funders, investors, and regulatory agencies, to drive program success.

Community Engagement Director

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

February 2016 – December 2020

- **Operational Leadership:** Managed all operational aspects of OHA's Community Engagement division, streamlining processes across media relations, outreach, and communications to align with strategic goals.
- Served as a respected thought leader at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, providing direct counsel to the CEO and Executive Team on key decisions related to budgeting, programmatic strategies, procurement, and operational efficiencies. Played an integral role in shaping high-level strategies and ensuring alignment with organizational goals, fostering a collaborative and results-driven executive environment.
- Conducted thorough risk analysis on various programmatic approaches to ensure alignment with organizational goals and compliance with regulatory standards. This involved evaluating potential risks and benefits, advising leadership on strategic adjustments, and implementing mitigations to ensure successful outcomes across OHA's initiatives.
- Spearheaded operational initiatives to elevate the public profile of Native Hawaiians, optimizing outreach and engagement processes to ensure consistency in messaging and program impact.
- Developed communication channels that improved internal and external operational efficiency, enabling better dialogue between Native Hawaiian communities and OHA.
- Played a key role in strategic and operational planning for international collaborations through the Pacific Leaders Forum and Polynesian Leaders Forum.

Knowledge-Based Strategies Specialist

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

October 2012 – February 2016

- **Operational Leadership:** Executive team member. Facilitated internal operational improvements, optimizing collaboration and process flows between OHA and other Native Hawaiian trusts.
- Provided strategic consultation on key operational initiatives, ensuring alignment with OHA's organizational goals and regulatory requirements.
- Led operational contributions to international Indigenous forums, enhancing OHA's presence at global venues like the United Nations.

Instructor, Humanities Department

Windward Community College

July 2008 – October 2012 (taught courses as an overload from 2008 – 2011)

- Taught Hawaiian Studies courses, including hula, history, and contemporary issues.
- Developed and coordinated programs focused on empowering Native Hawaiian women, integrating cultural practices into leadership development.
- Led grant activities for Kumu A'o Title III USDOE grant, supporting the expansion of educational programs for Native Hawaiian students.

Academic Advisor

Kamakakūokalani – Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai'i Mānoa

July 2001 – July 2011

- **Operational Leadership:** Led system-wide budget development and allocation for Hawaiian Studies programs across all 10 campuses of the University of Hawai'i system. These efforts contributed to a significant growth in Native Hawaiian faculty, increasing representation from 2% to 10% over a 10-year period. By strategically aligning resources and fostering institutional support, I helped expand program offerings and faculty recruitment, directly impacting the university's commitment to Native Hawaiian education and cultural preservation.
- Played a key role in the creation of the Pūko'a Council, the first-ever UH system-wide council representing Native Hawaiian faculty, staff, and students. This initiative fostered collaboration across all 10 campuses, ensuring that Native Hawaiian perspectives were integrated into institutional policies and decision-making processes, and strengthened the university's commitment to supporting Native Hawaiian communities within the UH system.
- Represented Kamakakūokalani at national and international conferences, elevating the profile of the program and supporting Native Hawaiian initiatives.

Kupulau Coordinator, Education Specialist

Nā Pua No'eau – Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children, University of Hawaii Mānoa

March 1999 – August 2001

- **Operational Leadership:** Designed and implemented culturally enriched programs, overseeing all operational logistics and ensuring effective collaboration between the University of Hawai'i system and community partners.

Cultural Leadership

Kumu Hula

Hālau Nā Pua Mae'ole o Ka Wai Ola

2024 – Present

- Trained under Kumu Hula Leina'ala Kalama Heine Hālau Nā Pualei o Likolehua, 'ūniki (graduated) in 2009 as Kumu Hula.
- Lead hula instruction for haumāna (students), perpetuating Hawaiian traditions through hula, oli (chant), and cultural ceremonies.
- Represented the hālau locally, nationally, and internationally in cultural performances, fostering a deep connection to Hawaiian culture.

Ho'oponopono Practitioner

Trained by Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe

2018 – Present

- Facilitated ho'oponopono sessions for conflict resolution, restoring harmony and balance in families, communities, and organizations.
- Integrated traditional Hawaiian healing practices into leadership development, fostering better communication and conflict management.

Education

Master of Arts, Hawaiian Studies

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Summer 2010

Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies – Conflict Resolution

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Fall 1997

To: Members of the Nominating Committee for the Commission on Water Resource Management

From: Kumu Hula Mehanaokalā Hind, Senior Advisor to the CEO, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

Date: March 31, 2025

Re: Letter of Interest to Serve in an At-Large Seat on the Water Commission

Please accept my application for a vacancy on the Commission for Water Resource Management. I feel a kuleana to submit my name for consideration on this important decision-making body because of my background in conflict resolution and community healing. The strife and struggle in our community is preventing us from moving forward where we can to meet the pressing needs of our community as whole, but especially our most vulnerable residents.

I am formally trained in many forms for conflict resolution. I have a bachelor's degree in conflict resolution and a masters in Hawaiian Studies. I am a practitioner of ho'oponopono, the Native Hawaiian cultural practice of reconciliation. I am also well-versed in many other forms of peacemaking. I know that with compassion and education, people can learn to work together through immense difficulty to develop the trust and collaboration necessary to overcome our society's largest challenges.

Throughout my career I have employed this training to encourage healing for those struggling with hardship, trauma, and loss. <consider adding a story or reference here about notable reconciliation you have experienced>

I am also a hula practitioner. I studied hula from a young age with Hālau Na Pualei 'O Likolehua, under the direction of my aunty, Kumu Hula Leina'ala Kalama Heine. She taught me the profound science held in our 'oli, mele, and mo'olelo. We celebrated my uniki to become a kumu hula in 2009. Through hula I study the sacred and essential role of freshwater for all living things. Hula, in its most primal function, is the continual observance of and protection of the water cycle. Hula practitioners could be considered our traditional hydrologists.

I believe that with my background in Hawaiian studies and conflict resolution I can help the Water Commission find pono paths towards just resolution to longstanding contentious issues. Balance is essential to all decisions we make about the future of our freshwater resources.