

Keauhou Canoe Club

March 9 2026 Board Minutes - Approved



Date: 3/9/2026

Time: 10:06 to 12:44

Location: Sandy and Andy Branch's Lanai.

CALL TO ORDER—Bill Armer

10:06

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcoming Tom Forrest as latest Board Member.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Armer, President; Andy Branch, Vice President; Stacey Wood; Sandy Branch; Cat Mikkelsen; Vern Bieraugel; Dave Yamagata; Tom Forrest; Ingrid Malone

NOT PRESENT

Connie Sizemore; Kelly Logigian; Ramona Crivello

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING—Cat Mikkelsen

Minutes were presented and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Sandy Branch

Treasurer's Report included a Profit and Loss Statement and Restricted Funds Balance Sheet, which were presented and approved.

Bill Armer reported that funds generated through the club's recycling program are used to offset specific expenses. The club has completed paying expenses from the prior year's Paddle Against Cancer event. Beginning next month, recycling funds will be applied toward expenses for the current year's event, allowing all funds raised to be donated to the American Cancer Society.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT—Stacey Wood

Stacey Wood reported that membership has increased to 554 members, up from 493 the previous year.

She emphasized the need for members to look to contactkeauhoucanooclub.com, rather than her personal email, for support, because requests are ending up in her junk mail.

Stacey reported ongoing issues with registration. Most of those stem from people not reading directions and not filling out the complete form. Stacey emphasized that users must complete all required fields. Also, members should not put today's date as their birthdate.

Stacey reported on membership signups at the Keiki Registration event on Sunday, March 8. She said

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that there were 15 new signups and additional people said that they would work on it from home. She also reported that Meredith was very well organized, with schedules and QR codes. As of right now there are 37 paid youth and Keiki members

Stacey also requested that she report on New Member Orientation as part of the Membership Secretary.

A recent New Member Orientation had 14 attendees, including both adults and keiki. Stacey mentioned that she is pointing pre-members to this event, because it helps to inform them before they sign up.

Stacey also reported a positive interaction with a member. She was talking with him when Bill walked by, collecting trash, and the member said “do you see that? This is a good club.”

New member orientation report

Had 14 people at the last meeting. Kids and adults.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT—Cat Mikkelsen

Cat Mikkelsen reported on ongoing communication initiatives, including integration of events, news, and calendar postings. Newsletter development continues, with support from the communications team. Working with some of the club’s millennials on a media/products effort for the communications team.

If you have t-shirt input or requests, please tell Cat in the next weeks or so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Racing —Vern Bieraugel

Athletic Director Vern Bieraugel reported that the racing season will begin on March 24. Participation is increasing across divisions, and coaching assignments are being finalized.

Coaching

Miri Sumida will be coaching Novice B women, and Nelson Estioko will coach novice B men. We are still looking for coaches.

Upcoming events and logistics include:

- MOH canoe weighing on April 11
- World Sprints qualifiers on March 7–8
- Fitness Paddle on Fridays continues through April 10
- Upcoming Kauikeaouli club race

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Races

The Ku'upio Race had approximately 108 participants, with 5 racers in the youth race. Other youth racers paddled as adults.

Special thanks to Terry Trinidad for stepping in as chief cook. Terry, Juelan, Kehau, and Brandi volunteered and stayed through. Not many people volunteered to help serve food. Food costs were approximately \$400–\$500, and excess food was donated to The Friendly Place. Dave mentioned that we need to make sure to have cutoffs and estimate food costs tighter.

Vern reported that the club will get a check for the race. Minus our expenses (there were no boat expenses.)(It was later confirmed that the club received a check for \$1911 from HIPA for this race on 3/21, and our expenses totaled \$502.65.)

The Board approved a blind draw format for the upcoming Kauikeaouli club race (7 in favor, 2 opposed). The race will include same-day registration at 8 AM, a 9 AM start, and breakfast.

Ongoing discussion of price and where money will go. The race can be paid for from the Collins fund, which has \$8K in it. The race cost is \$20. There was discussion about where money from the race would go. General consensus was that money would be split three ways (for wahine, men, and youth paddling), and pay race bills. No motion was made.

Vern reported that additional van drivers for this year's youth racing are needed.

There was a discussion for transportation to regattas. Bus rental is very expensive, and the driver is paid for the entire day.

A question was raised about limiting Unlimited canoe use for recreational paddles. Vern pointed out that this is not a board issue. It is an issue to bring up with the Athletic Director.

To clarify: If there is a qualified steersman, paddlers should speak to the beach coordinator and there shouldn't be a problem. Also, the steersman needs to make sure that the crew is qualified. However, it's important to remember that the goal of Unlimiteds isn't to take the best recreational paddlers out of the mix every time. Unlimiteds are for all club members. Please refer to Vern with questions.

Operational needs include additional van drivers, race staffing, and qualified steerspersons. Vern reported that club boat and trailer storage has been moved to a private, secure location.

Delivery of new canoe delayed until April.

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February 21 Moku O Hawaii Meeting highlights--Bill and Vern

- Approved 2026 MOKU O Hawaii Race Schedule with designation changes from LD to Regatta for Kailua Bay Finish Line Races on 5/16 Kai Ehitu/Papa Kimitete, 5/23 Keauhou, and 5/23 Kai Opua/King Kamehameha Day
- Consideration will be given to scheduling 2027 Auntie Maile County Championship at the Kailua course.
- Approved Race Rule Q1 - Split Girl/Boy10 into two separate events and added to schedule
- Approved Race Rule Q2 - Maintain Sophomore Women and Men Events; keep Mixed 55 Event vs Mixed Novice A
- No to HCRA Race Rule Q5 Paddle Restrictions: Maintain MOKU version of rule
- No to HCRA Race Rule Q6 Koa Canoe HCRA Specifications recommended allowing slab construction

Halau and Grounds—Vern and Dave

Security remains a primary concern due to recent vandalism.

The Board is trying to avoid aggression and confrontations. (When the club previously locked the bbq grill down, vandalism to furniture was reported.)

The Board is exploring options including improved gating, coordination with neighboring organizations, and possible relocation of equipment to secured storage. The Board is also considering installing a new gate and locking entrance in the evenings.

Canoes & Equipment—Vern Bieraugel and Dave Yamagata

Vern reported vandalism with our coaching boat, our trailer, and canoes. The long canoe trailer was maliciously vandalized with all 5 tires slashed. There was also damage to the canoe trailer and the club boat.

The coaching boat has been repaired at a cost of approximately \$2,000. Someone put a hose into a canoe and turned the water on, leaving it. The canoe was at least partially full when it was found. Dick Roberts has completed the repair on the sternum of makanai kai. Vern will start doing work times to get it ready for the season. Also Lele Wa'a. Last year we removed epoxy from the sides. That will be undertaken.

Suggestion to purchase a portable water heater and connect it to propane for \$200 to heat water for cleaning.

Vern will put together a list of things that need to get done. Ongoing maintenance projects include canoe repairs, gate improvements, and site upgrades

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Events—Ingrid

Joe Chambers and Dean did a wonderful job of cleaning and redoing storage room 4. Chickenwired it, not small enough to keep out the rats. Bleached it, reorganized it.

Some food was left in there one night after the men practiced. Events would like to put up a big sign that says “No food” in Storage room 4.

Paddle Against Cancer Report from March 1

Current report is that the event made between \$8900 and \$13,000

- Shell did an awesome job organizing the auction and many people helped with the rest of the event. Many people had cash. Initially had 53 and then we ended up with over 100.
- Cost for food was \$585.96, excluding Kumu Ching. His \$200 fee was paid for with Cultural Committee money.
- Thanks to all volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Communication is showcasing Kumu Keala Ching’s speech to the club on March 17, and will also publicize the earlier ceremony from the Daughters of Hawai’i. The club is working to good levels of member participation.

- King Kamehameha Day (March 17)
- World Water Day race (March 22)
- American Cancer Society speaker at the March potluck (March 27)
- Race-free weekend on July 4

It was suggested that the Board support Events to start planning for Paddle Against Cancer in December, because the team needs more of a runway.

Recreational

There is currently no Head Beach Coordinator. The Athletic Director will oversee Beach Coordinator functions.

Canoe Rack

The Board discussed ongoing issues with rack assignments, including eligibility and outstanding obligations affecting member status.

The canoe rack team mentioned that some canoe racks need repair. Joe Chambers has said that he might be able to help with that.

Safety and Steering

The committee reported two recent incidents that were handled appropriately.

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Additional safety equipment has been acquired, including a pulse oximeter and blood pressure cuff. Communication challenges between canoes were identified.

A motion was approved to add an air horn to the safety equipment package.

Andy has purchased small reflective flags to use in an emergency.

Steering and safety documents created or updated this month:

- New Steering Signoff Form
- New Steersman Training and Qualifying Guidelines
- New Huli Drill Procedure
- Medical Emergency Protocol Draft

A motion was approved to adopt new and modified safety and steering documents.

There is an ongoing concern that our OC6 canoes aren't staying within visibility like they're supposed to. If there is an emergency, this leaves no way to communicate with other boats if nobody can see. There is a whistle in the bags, but it might not be effective. Every steersman is expected to have a cellphone but it doesn't work in Parrot Cove, for example.

Andy mentioned that he'd like to see safety and steering information translated out to steersmen and club members as a priority and asked people to think of it. Cat suggested a presentation.

Also there was a discussion of having Moke come and talk with the club about safety. And there was discussion about talking with Joe Chambers about organizing CPR or safety training in the same way as we did several years ago. In that case, members paid and it was formal training.

OLD BUSINESS

Fundraising Project for Kailua Bay Regatta Course- Bill and Vern

The Board received an update on the regatta course project. Approximately \$27,000 has been raised, with additional funding still required.

The three clubs are working well together and are working towards creating a "west side" coalition of clubs that collaborate and support efforts together. MOKU is also involved more than they have been in the past. Very positive. There is discussion of clubs partnering to host events, and of hosting the championship in Kona this year.

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KCC Guest Paddling- Stacey, Ramona, Andy

The Board reviewed and clarified the Guest Paddling Program.

Members may sponsor up to three guests per year, and each guest may paddle up to three times per year. Waivers must be completed fully and legibly for each visit.

The program is intended for 'ohana, friends, and known paddlers, not for tourists. Members must remain with their guests throughout the paddling session. Non-compliance may result in loss of guest privileges.

Special emphasis: do NOT ask beach coordinators for "favors"

NEW BUSINESS

Weekly Workday—Vern Bieraugel

The Athletic Director will establish a regular weekly workday for club maintenance and improvements.

Scholarship Program 2026—Bill Armer

Bill emailed a report for distribution. The Board needs to discuss the use of unused scholarship funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 11:10 to 11:24

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:10 AM to discuss safety matters.

The Board returned to regular session at 11:24 AM.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44