

Keauhou Canoe Club

Board Minutes June 10, 2026



Date: 6/10/2026

Time: 2:00 to 3:30

Location: Sandy and Andy Branch's Lanai.

CALL TO ORDER—Bill Armer

President Bill Armer called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bill's will be on mainland 7/16-23 for birthday.
- Kelly June 24 to July 12 world cup soccer in SF. Mets game.
- Vern and Ramona will be off-island from August 16th through the 31st

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MAY BOARD MEETING—Cat Mikkelsen

The minutes of the May Board Meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Sandy Branch

Sandy distributed the Regatta Income Report, Regatta Expense Report, and May Profit and Loss Report.

The regatta generated approximately \$600 in net income. Medals were purchased during the prior year and therefore were not reflected as an expense in this year's regatta accounting. T-shirt sales were not separated in the regatta financial reports. Sandy reported that approximately 30% of merchandise sales represented profit, resulting in approximately \$648 in profit.

The club is due additional regatta income from MOKU that has not yet been reflected in the reports. MOKU also assessed a penalty. The Board noted that under MOKU rules, race tents must remain in place until completion of the final race.

The Huli Chicken vendor needs an accurate count of meal sales before each event.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT—Stacey Wood

Membership currently stands at 654 members.

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Monthly New Member Orientation meetings continue. The most recent meeting had two attendees and was hosted by Vitaly.

The club continues to receive requests for guest paddles and ash-scattering ceremonies.

Lawrence has begun assisting with Membership operations and is learning the membership management system.

Membership and Communications continue to work together to ensure waivers are completed before paddlers enter canoes.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT—Cat Mikkelsen

The Keiki Book has completed review and sample copies will be printed this month.

Recent social media activity included a regatta decorating reel that received more than 100 views.

The next newsletter will combine two months of content.

Work continues on website videos and member interviews. Members of the 2012 Na Wahine O Ke Kai crew are expected to participate in upcoming interviews.

T-shirt sales generated approximately \$1,620 during the regatta and an additional \$110 afterward.-thank you to Janene and Pat.

Venmo Business Account

The Board discussed requests for an online payment option for T-shirt and merchandise sales. Venmo Business was presented as one possible solution. Vern suggested forming a committee to evaluate the option, and a committee consisting of Lawrence Goff, Connie Sizemore, and Cat Mikkelsen was appointed to report back with a recommendation.

Lawrence suggested charging for additional copies of the keiki book.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Racing and Athletic Director—Vern Bieraugel

Thirty of the club's forty-four possible crews have participated in racing this season.

The Novice B programs continue to improve and have helped invigorate the racing program. Youth crews, particularly the 10-year-old girls, have achieved notable success. The boys' crews continue to

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show improvement, and the women's programs remain competitive. The Open 4 Men recently placed second in competition. The 70-year-old women's crew continues to perform well.

Upcoming regattas will continue to use the established race area in front of Kailana and parking arrangements near Aloha's.

Vern discussed transporting canoes to Maui and the possibility of coordinating shipments with other clubs to reduce costs. Shipping two canoes to Maui cost approximately \$8,000 last year. Vern would like to begin planning now to coordinate shipment of three canoes.

The club will need a canoe sock for transport. Members discussed construction and replacement options.

Kelly reported she will miss two Hilo regattas and coordination plans are in place to cover her responsibilities. Additional support is needed for Specials crews and 10-person crews.

Specials crews continue to be an important part of the racing program. The Board discussed ways to recognize and support their participation.

The Board reviewed procedures for use of Keauhou canoes during the Queen Lili'uokalani Race.

Priority for canoe use will be:

- Keauhou racing crews working through their coaches
- Non-coached Keauhou crews
- Part-Keauhou crews
- Non-Keauhou crews

Current fee structure:

- 100% Keauhou crews: No charge
- Part-Keauhou crews: \$120
- Non-Keauhou crews: \$300

Current deadlines under consideration are:

- July 18 for Keauhou crews
- July 25 for part-Keauhou crews
- August for non-Keauhou crews

The Board discussed whether the deadlines should be moved earlier to provide more planning time.

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Vern will provide a racing-season update for publication to the membership.

State Races

Discuss possibilities of participation in State races

There should be only one route to renting Makani Kai at states. In the past, people have rented our canoe and not paid, claiming a special deal with another member of the club.

Right after the championship races in Hilo, all clubs get together to choose lanes. Vern will keep the club posted.

Coaching

Meredith has requests for equipment (see below in Canoes and Equipment.)

Moku O Hawaii Meeting highlights--Bill and Vern

Vern reviewed MOKU rules and reminded members that all clubs have opportunities to propose rule changes through the annual MOKU process.

Halau and Grounds—Vern and Dave

The Board discussed ongoing lease concerns, legal challenges involving development in the area, and the possibility of future rent increases.

Recent court activity may affect future development plans. Board members discussed attending an upcoming court hearing and monitoring developments.

Security improvements remain a priority.

Locking the gate has significantly reduced overnight vehicle activity in the lot. Additional volunteers are needed to lock the gate on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. Ingrid and Joe Chambers were mentioned as possible volunteers.

The Board reviewed drawings prepared by Shaun Roth for securing the halau area and discussed next steps, including pricing, volunteer coordination, contractor support, and timelines.

The Board discussed obtaining contractor estimates and continuing conversations with security providers.

Canoes & Equipment—Vern Bieraugel and Dave Yamagata

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The board reviewed a proposal to commission a new ama and iako set for Makani Kai from Tiger, with an estimated cost of approximately \$10,000 and a proposed \$4,000 deposit. Given Tiger's lead time, an order placed this year would likely allow delivery in time for the 2027 season.

The Board discussed the proposal and reviewed the club's prior purchase of a Tiger ama in 2017. The existing Tiger ama is currently used on Lele Va'a. Board members noted that the 2017 purchase was funded in part through a \$10 assessment on racing members. Steve Blythe's hand-built hau wood ama was also discussed.

Board members asked what problem the proposed purchase would solve. Vern stated that the purpose would be to keep Makani Kai competitive.

No motion was made and no action was taken.

The Board also discussed purchasing paddles for the youth program. The proposal was to purchase three to five paddles from Wilkinson Hardwood in Waimea at approximately \$250 each.

Current youth paddles include many odd-sized paddles and shorter paddles that do not meet regatta specifications. The question was raised of what to do with odd-shaped paddles. Vern will conduct an inventory before purchases are made.

Events

The Board thanked the Events Committee for the regatta decorations and event support.

The June 26 Birthday Potluck will include presentation of a scholarship award and a media photo opportunity.

Potluck meetings will take a summer break following the June event and resume September 25.

Recreational

No Report

Canoe Rack

No Report.

Safety and Steering

Steering- Tom Forrest

Monthly huli training continues.

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A steering clinic was recently held but had limited attendance. A revised clinic format focused on Keauhou Bay and the immediate area will be developed.

The club currently has two active steering candidates: Cat Mikkelsen and Charley.

The Board discussed the need for improved recordkeeping regarding steersman qualifications and approvals. Joe Chambers currently maintains a list of 100 people, but additional work is needed to establish a clear process and maintain accurate records.

Members discussed the possibility of creating a database containing steersman approvals and qualifications.

Safety—Andy Branch

Updated medical procedures have been placed in all safety bags, the Beach Coordinator Manual, and with the AED.

Additional vinegar has been stocked for vana injuries.

A “how to sell tshirts” document has been added to the Beach Coordinator Manual.

The Board reviewed safety procedures and discussed CPR coverage during paddling sessions. Members emphasized the importance of having communication devices available and ensuring steersmen understand safety protocols.

The Board also discussed safety and CPR training as possible activities.

OLD BUSINESS

Kailua Bay Regatta Course

Bill reported that Ironman donated \$10,000 toward completion of the Kailua Bay Regatta Course project.

Approximately \$8,000 remains to be raised to complete the project. Survey costs totaled approximately \$18,000.

Board Reflections on KCC Regatta- Bill Armer

The Board conducted a post-event review of the regatta and discussed ideas for future improvements.

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Topics included banners, logistics, and lessons learned from this year's event.

NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raising Ideas- Bill Armer

A brief discussion was held regarding potential fundraising ideas to complete funding for the Kailua Bay Regatta Course.

Cat Mikkelsen suggested holding a benefit dinner. Dave Yamagata immediately asked who would do the cooking and was told that he would. The idea generated discussion, but no decision was made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 3:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned time: 4:05