

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

**TO BE
APPROVED**

Board/Commission:		LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION	Meeting Date	August 26, 2026
Location	Lihue Civic Center Pi`ikoi Building, Suite 300 4444 Rice Street, Lihue, HI 96766		Start of Meeting: 1:30 p.m.	End of Meeting: 2:44 p.m.
Present	Members: Chair Leland Kahawai, Gerald Bahouth, Paul Endo, Gerald Matsunaga, Lorna Nishimitsu and Tess Shimabukuro, Liquor Control Staff: Interim Director Gerald Rapozo, Assistant Chief LCI: Stacy Iwasaki, Private Secretary: Malialani T.M. Kelekoma, Boards and Commission Administrator: Ellen Ching, Deputy County Attorney: Todd Dickenson Human Resources: Jill Niitani, HR Manager III and Reina Kurisu, HR Specialist IV			
Excused	Vice-Chair Chad Pacheco			
Absent				
SUBJECT	DISCUSSION			ACTION
Call to Order	Chair Leland Kahawai called the Open Session Meeting of the Liquor Control Commission on August 26, 2026, to order at 1:30 p.m.			
Roll Call	A roll call ensued to ascertain a quorum; Vice-Chair Chad Pacheco, was excused, and six (6) Commissioners were present to conduct business.			The Quorum was established with six (6) Commissioners present.
Approval of Agenda				<u>Motion:</u> Commissioner Matsunaga moved that the agenda as circulated be approved. Commissioner Endo seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
Announcements	Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – 1:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter.			

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Approval of Minutes	1. Special Session Minutes of August 10, 2026 <u>Summary:</u> Commissioner Nishimitsu: Page 6 (Check to see if the word is Public), Page 21 (Tired), Page 23 (bunk). Ms. Ching commented the minutes are verbatim, for references of the Commission; the term “servant leader” was populized in the 1970’s as a descriptive for ambition.	<u>Motion # 1:</u> Commissioner Bahouth moved to defer the Special Session Minutes of August 10, 2026. Commissioner Shimabukuro seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
	2. Special Session Minutes of August 11, 2026	<u>Motion# 2:</u> Commissioner Bahouth moved to approve Special Session Minutes of August 11, 2026. Commissioner Endo seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 4:0. Commissioner Shimabukuro and Commissioner Matsunaga abstained.

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	3. Open Session Minutes of August 12, 2026 <u>Summary:</u> Correction on page 11, it should read Commissioner Bahouth moved to approve and seconded by Commissioner Matsunaga.	<u>Motion# 3:</u> Commissioner Nishimitsu moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of August 12, 2026, as amended. Commissioner Endo seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 5:0. Commissioner Shimabukuro abstained.
Public Testimony	Interim Director Gerald Rapozo asked if anyone would like to give testimony on any agenda item.	NONE
Consent Agenda	Interim Director Rapozo stated, under the Kauai County Code Section 20.04 (b), any member of a board or commission who possesses or acquires such interest as might reasonably tend to create a conflict with such person’s duties or authority, shall make full disclosure of the conflict or interest and shall not participate in said matter. a. <u>ACTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR:</u> a. <u>Request for a Free One-Day Special Non-Profit Dispenser License:</u> 1. <u>Leadership Kauai:</u> Approval of a Free One-Day Special Dispenser General License issued to Leadership Kauai Free 2027-29 on August 22, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 2250 Ainako St., Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii.	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	2. <u>Gather Federal Credit Union</u>: Approval of a Free One-Day Special Dispenser General License issued to Gather Federal Credit Union, Free 2027-30 on September 12, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 4150 Nuhou St., Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. b. <u>Temporary Reduction of Premises</u>: 1. <u>Kawailoa Development dba Poipu Bay Clubhouse (5G-028)</u>: Approval of Temporary Reduction of Licensed Premises at Poipu Bay Clubhouse on August 22, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 2250 Ainako St., Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii. 2. <u>KCY Restaurant LLC dba Puakea Grill (2G-099)</u>: Approval of Temporary Reduction of Licensed Premises at Puakea Grill held on September 12, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 4150 Nuhou St., Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. c. <u>Application for Product Tasting</u>: 1. <u>Sheraton Kauai Coconut Beach Resort (12G-006)</u>: Approval of Product Tasting Permit at Sheraton Kauai Coconut Beach Resort on August 13, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., 650 Aleka Loop, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii. 2. <u>The Wine Shop (4G-055)</u>: Approval of Product Tasting Permit at The Wine Shop on August 15, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., 5470 Koloa Road, Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii. 3. <u>Sheraton Kauai Coconut Beach Resort (12G-006)</u>: Approval of Product Tasting Permit at Sheraton Kauai Coconut Beach Resort on August 30, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., 650 Aleka Loop, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii. 4. <u>Princeville Wine & Spirits (4G-071)</u>: Approval of Product Tasting Permit at Princeville Wine & Spirits on September 16, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., 5-4280 Kuhio	<u>Motion:</u> Commissioner Endo moved to accept the consent agenda for items a. through c. Commissioner Nishimitsu seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 5:0.

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Hwy., Princeville, Kauai, Hawaii.	Commissioner Shimabukuro abstained.
Public Hearing	1. <u>Application No. 2026-080</u>: Bangkok Happy Bowl Kauai Inc. dba Kiahuna Sunrise Café/Plantation Gardens Ocean Grill was filed on April 28, 2026, for a New Restaurant General license, located at 2253 Poipu Road., Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii. <u>Summary</u>: Chair Leland Kahawai opened the Public Hearing for Application No. 2026-080, all legal requirements have been met, per affidavit, the applicant has stated that they have sent out 18 mailings to property owners or lessees of record. Up until the time of the Public Hearing the department has not received any letters of support or opposition to this application. Kirk Coult, President and Paula Coult, Director of Operations, was present to represent Bangkok Happy Bowl Kauai Inc. dba Kiahuna Sunrise Café/Plantation Gardens Ocean Grill. He received a copy of the Investigator's report and had no changes to the investigators report. No one was in objection or in favor of the application. They will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Outside entertainment will be for weddings and special occasions. Music till 9:00 p.m. Should alcohol be served outside, licensee will apply for a temporary increase of premise. Chair Leland Kahawai closed the Public Hearing for Application No. 2026-080 and called for a motion.	<u>Motion</u>: Commissioner Matsunaga moved that Application No.2026-080 be approved. Commissioner Endo seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
New Liquor License	1. <u>Application No.2027-003</u>: Kauai Island Brewing-Kapaa, LLC dba Kauai Island Brewing Company was filed on August 3, 2026, for a New Restaurant General (b) (Live Entertainment and Dancing), located at 440 Aleka Loop, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii. <u>Summary</u>: Commissioner Shimabukuro correction of the Investigator's report hours of operation 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.	<u>Motion</u>: Commissioner Nishimitsu move to accept Application No.2027-003 for Publication and scheduling a Public Hearing. Commissioner Matsunaga seconded the motion. Hearing no

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		objections, the motion passed 5:0. Commissioner Bahouth recused.
Violation Report	1. <u>Case#2026-026/Citation#0156:</u> Tiki Iniki, LLC. dba Tiki Iniki, Violation of Rule 4.7, Gross Liquor Sales Report. 2. <u>Case#2026-028/Citation#0158:</u> Aqua-Aston Hospitality, LLC dba Islander on The Beach, Violation of Rule 7.8, Manager on Duty.	<u>Motion# 1:</u> Commissioner Bahouth moved to forward with a Violation Hearing for Tiki Iniki. Commissioner Matsunaga seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0. <u>Motion# 2:</u> Commissioner Nishimitsu moved that we calendar Case#2026-028 for a Violation Hearing. Commissioner Matsunaga seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	3. <u>Case#2026-030/Citation#0160</u>: Aqua-Aston Hospitality, LLC dba Islander on The Beach, Violation of Rule 4.7, Gross Liquor Sales Report.	<u>Motion# 3:</u> Commissioner Nishimitsu moved that we calendar Case#2026-030 for a Violation Hearing. Commissioner Matsunaga seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
Request for Off Premises Warehousing	1. <u>Jungle Cats LLC., dba The Flying Saucer (2G-126)</u>: Request for Off-Premises Warehousing, 4-1378 Kuhio Hwy., Suite #201, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii. <u>Summary:</u> The current licensee is renting a separate space to store alcohol.	<u>Motion:</u> Commissioner Bahouth moved to approve Jungle Cats LLC., dba The Flying Saucer (2G-126) request for Off-Premises Warehousing. Commissioner Endo seconded the motion.

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
Application for Solicitor's Permit	1. <u>Brandon Thompson</u>: Application No.2027-048 was filed on August 11, 2026, by Brandon Thompson for a Solicitors Permit in the County of Kauai to represent Chambers & Chambers Inc., a Wholesale Dealers Licensee in the City & County of Honolulu. Deposited \$180.00.	<u>Motion:</u> Commissioner Nishimitsu moved to approve the application for Brandon Thompson. Commissioner Matsunaga seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
	DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OFFER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL DIRECTOR. <u>Summary:</u> Jill Niitani, HR Manager III and Reina Kurisu HR Specialist IV update on status of the applicants: • Scoring ranges from 72.5% to 48.3% • Three scored in the 70's two scored in the 60's • Recommend top five to Phase III, which is the in-person interviews with the Commission. • Scores for the top five: 1. 72.5% 2. 71.3% 3. 70% 4. 62.9% 5. 62.1% out of 100% • HR to discuss interview questions with the Commission.	<u>Motion# 1:</u> Commissioner Bahouth moved to take the top five as presented and a

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	• Specific question you have not heard them talk about yet, from previous interview. • Additional questions to pull up more of their experience. • Applicant specific questions concern about job hopping, and someone that has a job for over twenty years. • Having all five interviews at the same time is not a great idea. • Is there a way there to have separate interviews? (Five Meetings). • Interview one at a time, we would have to do two commissioners at a time, to comply with Sunshine Laws. Commissioners will have to ask the same questions. You don't have quorum it does not violate Sunshine. It's a Public Meeting anyone can attend including the other applicants. • Special Meeting right before the regular meeting for the finalists. • Each Commissioner comes from a different perspective, if there are only two, might not be how balance the commission might have felt if they have been doing the interviews. There might be some taint in assigning just two commissioners. • Virtual interview with five candidates. • Final in-person interviews have four or five core questions, two to three specific questions base on something they said or more explanation on. • Five will be all day with breaks in between, it will be a regular meeting so Tuesday, Wednesday or Wednesday, Thursday. • HR to move forward with an in-person interview with the top five. • Minimum three, grab from the highest remaining scores.	minimum of three candidates, come forth if any of the five drop out Commissioner Shimabukuro seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0. <u>Motion# 2:</u> Commissioner Bahouth moved to have a panel interview with a quorum, the questions answered by the panelist will rotate from applicant to applicant. Commissioner Nishimitsu seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0. <u>Motion# 3:</u> Commissioner Shimabukuro moved that HR will be forwarding the Commissioners their questions for the panel, the Commissioners can supplemental questions to Ms. Ching and she will

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		forward them to HR. Commissioner Bahouth seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed 6:0.
Executive Session	Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 92-4, 92-5 (a) (2), and (4), the purpose of this executive session is for the Commission to consult with its attorney on questions and issues related to the Commission's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities as they may pertain to the following items below. Pursuant to HRS §92-7(a), the Commission may, when deemed necessary, hold an executive session on any agenda item without written public notice if the executive session was not anticipated in advance. Any such executive session shall be held pursuant to H.R.S. §92-4 and shall be limited to those items described in HRS §92-5(a).	NONE
Adjournment		Commissioner Matsunaga moved to adjourn the Commission Meeting of August 26, 2026. Commissioner Nishimitsu seconded the motion. Hearing no objections the motion passed 6:0. At 2:44 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION

Submitted by: _____ Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Malialani TM Kelekoma, Private Secretary

- () Approved as circulated.
- () Approved with amendments. See minutes of _____ meeting.