

Bylaw Committee Report February 2016 General Membership Meeting

Bylaw Committee gave out handouts to the membership to show what format the BLC is using showing the before and after of proposed amendments.

Tom Jennings gave an oral report. A short history for those of you catching up to current HPP news: A membership meeting in 2014 set up a By Laws committee to review and propose changes to our existing by-laws (last updated in 2010). Our first meeting occurred on 11/6/14. The committee began the review process with a request for each committee member to review current by-laws and submit recommendations for changes on specific issues. This review method was followed for several months. In January 2015 then secretary, Janice Ashford made a motion to switch the secretary position from her to Mayelin Stillwell citing that she was getting behind due to missed meetings. Motion was approved.

In April 2015, due to some fairly large differences between some of our members on how to approach some issues and some personality conflicts as well as other commitments, we lost two of our original members (Rod Thompson, our chairperson and Janice Ashford). These members were quickly replaced by Randi Larzalare (past and current member of the board) and Milton Pavao (long time HPP resident and retired head of Hawaii County Water Supply dept.). The committee also voted in Craig Crelly as chairperson. In July 2015, Craig stepped down as chairperson after becoming the new HPPOA board president. The committee didn't feel that there was technically any conflict of interest but agreed that we should avoid any potential perception. Milton Pavao was unanimously voted in as BLC chairperson.

The BLC opted to "take a break" from the work from mid November to January. We have most recently completed work on Article VII and continue to press forward on Article VIII. After the changes to the BLC membership, we discussed changing the review process and to increase consistency and thoroughness, opted to change the approach to what we called "a holistic" approach. The idea was that we cannot propose a change to an individual item in the by-laws without carefully reviewing the effects that change might have on other areas of the bylaws. While this has slowed the review process down, we feel that the quality of the proposals to the membership will be greatly enhanced. The entire committee accepts that we WILL NOT create a perfect set of by-laws. What we strive for is to improve them to the best of our abilities.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the by-laws in order of the Articles. When we agree on a proposal, we then research the remaining by-laws to confirm if any additional change proposals are warranted due to the initial proposal. Due to this process, we have not submitted proposals "piecemeal" as it could lead to confusion when compared to the final result. Several of our earlier approved proposals have already undergone additional changes as the committee has become increasingly familiar with the by-laws and the interactions between many of the articles.

We look forward to submitting proposals to the membership when we are confident we have done our best to fully integrate any proposed changes throughout the bylaws. We ask that any members who wish to contribute suggestions, use the member input form that the committee has provided to the HPP office. Also, any members wishing to attend BLC meetings are welcome. We provide time at each meeting for member input. One of the subjects discussed by the BLC is the method we will eventually submit our proposals to the membership. A format has been approved and we have made an example of the approved change proposal of Article II so you can review our intended format. We welcome any suggestions for improvements.

BLC proposed changes will be submitted side by side with the current by-law wording and any changes will be highlighted with colored fonts. In addition, a short synopsis of the committee's reasoning is added in a "comments" section before the comparison. When the BLC has completed its' task, the proposed by-law changes will be submitted to legal counsel for review. Once legality is established, they will then be submitted to the membership for review. Any additional changes

that occur during the membership review will necessitate an additional abbreviated legal review and then the final version will be presented at a membership meeting for a vote to proceed with a mailed voting ballot to the full membership. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month 5 to 7pm.