Exhibit "29".

Electronically Filed FIRST CIRCUIT 1CCV-24-0000050 25-MAR-2025 10:27 AM Dkt. 126 EXH

Approved: 4/21/2023

## AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on August 8, 2023 In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96813

HRS section 92-4 allows the board to hold an executive meeting closed to the public. The board will be further discussing New Business Items 1 (Interview Two Top Executive Director Candidates), 2 (Discuss Executive Director Salary and Candidate Selection), and 3 (Method of Public Notification). This meeting was closed to the public pursuant to HRS section 92-5(a)(2) to allow discussion of a hiring decision where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved.

## Members Present, in person:

Warren Watenabe, Member-At-Large (Chair) Glenn Hong, Member-At-Large (Mr. Hong) Sharon Hurd, HBOA, Ex-Officio Member (Ms. Hurd) (arrived at 9:50 A.M.) Jason Okuhama, Member-At-Large (Mr. Okuhama) Lyle Tabata, Kauai County Member, Vice-Chair (Mr. Tabata) (left at 12:30 P.M.) Jayson Watts, Maui County Member (Mr. Watts) Dane Wicker, DBEDT Designated Representative for Ex-Officio Member James Tokioka (Mr. Wicker) (left at 12:30 P.M.)

### Members Excused:

Kaleo Manuel, DLNR Designated Representative for Ex-Officio Member Dawn Chang Karen Seddon, Member-At-Large (Ms. Seddon)

### Counsel Present, in person:

Delanie Prescott-Tate, Deputy Attorney General (Ms. Prescott-Tate)

Staff Present, in person: Ken Nakamoto, Project Manager, operated recording device (Mr. Nakamoto)

Guests Present, in person: None.

## A. Call to Order

Chair called the Executive Session to order at 9:20 a.m.

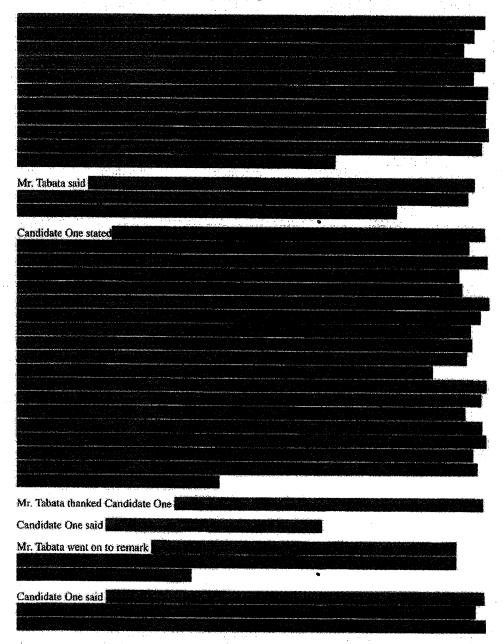
Chair announced that the interviewing process would proceed by going around the table with each board member asking questions unless anyone had other ideas how to proceed.

Hearing no other suggestions Chair asked that	(Candidate One) be called into the meeting.
Candidate One entered the room at approximately 9:30	a ni salah sal

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Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on August 8, 2023 In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96813



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Chair called on Mr. Okuhama for the next question.

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Candidate One exited the meeting at 10:30 A.M.

Chair called for a recess at 10:30 A.M.

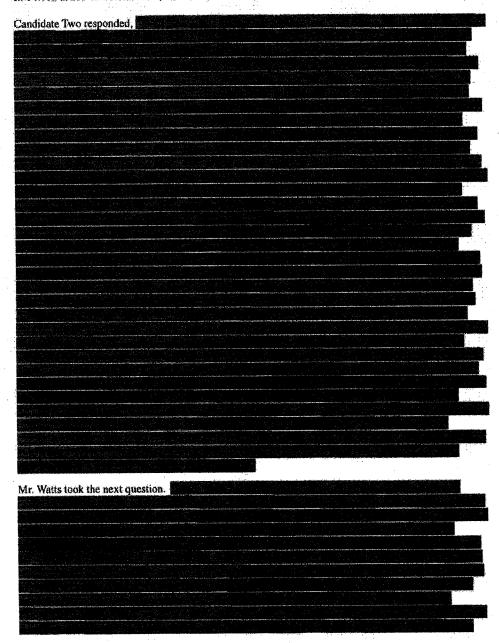
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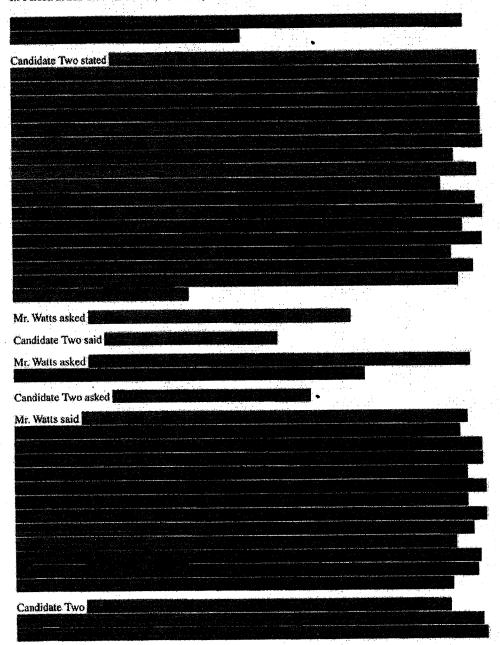
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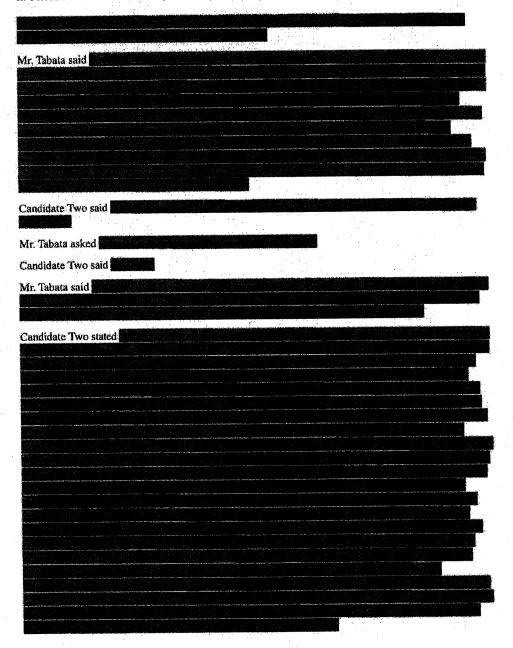


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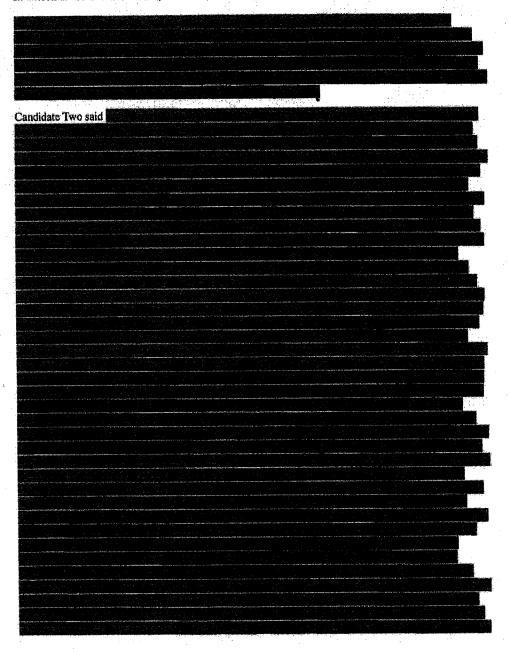
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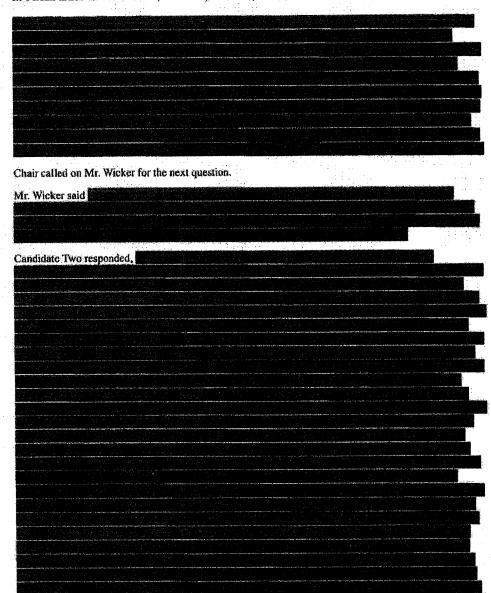
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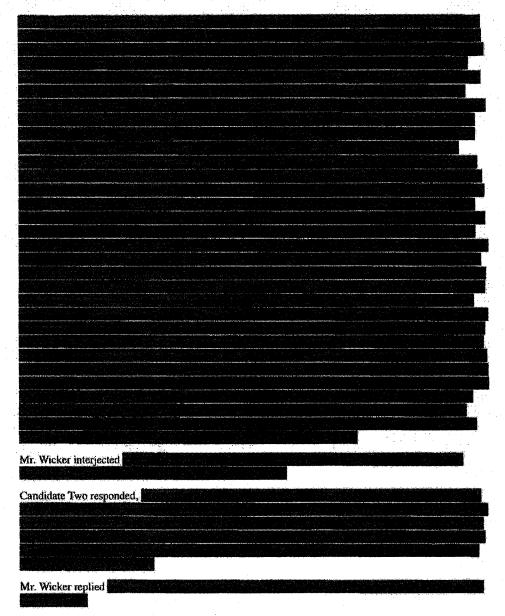


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Candidate Two replied				

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Candidate Two exited the session at 11:45 A.M.

Ms. Hurd addressed Mr. Wicker stating that HDOA cannot purchase or own land, so it's been a real challenge. ADC is the only one that can do that.

Mr. Wicker acknowledged that fact and said HDOA can only get land [by Executive Order] EO'ed to you.

Ms. Hurd remarked well you can, but it's still not a purchase right. HDOA still doesn't own the land, it's still state land. DLNR keeps saying this is state land, this is state land. We do have a parcel on Hamakua that came to us because of a bankruptcy on an ag loan but that's small. Your point is really important. ADC can buy land.

Mr. Wicker responded I have an appointment at 12:30. We got to walk there. Are we doing action today?

Mr. Nakamoto asked we're still in Executive Session, right?

Chair stated he was moving on to Agenda Item 2 for the Board executive session discussion of salary. The former executive director salary was \$147,000.

Mr. Hong: 147?

Chair responded 147. ADC's budget allows us to offer up to \$150,000.

Mr. Wicker asked does that match the budget general table?

Mr. Watts said we're in the middle of the biennium, right? So if you gave the person the 147 at least you can give them \$3,000 on the pay raise next year.

Mr. Wicker clarified that would be after their annual eval, right for ED?

Mr. Wicker asked at the end of the fiscal year?

Mr. Hong asked so that's a function of the budget, right? And not a function of anything else because the board has full authority in terms of hiring of the executive director.

Mr. Wicker said thank you. On a side note,

What the legislature authorized

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per the budget journal table because at the end of the day, it's the DBEDT director that has to go in front of the Leg to justify the budget; not the chair. I'm going to start asking Chairs and boards that if you're going to go above and beyond what the legislature authorized, you defend it. There's some fiscal restraint here because some of these boards I tell you don't know whose money they think they're spending and to Ms. Prescott-Tate's point it's the tax payer's money. I know we want to hire and retain good people but at the same time we have to be fiscally responsible and the legislature is going come down on the boards and the director for spending above and beyond.

Mr. Hong said my sense is the salary is not that much of an issue so whether it's 147, or 148, or 149, or 150 it doesn't really matter.

Mr. Okuhama agreed.

Mr. Wicker asked did they disclose the salary range during the PIG process?

Mr. Hong said no, but if they do their homework they can get in to the budget and find the appropriation.

Mr. Wicker said true. It's public information. Chair, what is our next action?

Ms. Hurd asked wasn't it 147 and change?

Mr. Hong said I remember the change because it was a percentage of the base before. We can give them a round number.

Ms. Hurd said I would round up 148.

Mr. Hong said I'm good with that.

There was a unanimous response of yes and nodding heads.

Chair said now we discuss the candidates?

Mr. Hong said I think we should discuss it.

Mr. Wicker asked remind me who was on the PIG again, please?

Mr. Hong responded, us three (pointing to Mr. Hong, Mr. Okuhama and Mr. Watts).

Mr. Wicker replied I think that you folks did a very good job and I mean going through fourteen candidates this is not an easy decision right now quite frankly.

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Mr. Watts said I think, Mr. Wicker, the one thing we did agree on was it was hard, it was really hard. I think all candidates were good. The ones we whittled down were...it was tough. If we could have all seven of them working with staff that would be ideal.

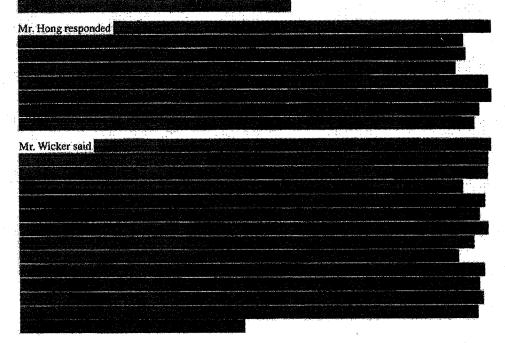
Mr. Wicker agreed that ADC needs help.

Mr. Watts asked if there was a scenario where we could have the second work really well. But that's up to the board.

Mr. Hong said I think Secondly, they also bring different So should we have this discussion in-camera, or what?

Mr. Wicker said no worries. This is all executive session.

Mr. Hong asked this will all be in the dialog?



Mr. Hong said I think the organization needs to demonstrate and to be able to communicate real positive on the results of a number of issues that have been festering, maybe that's the wrong word, that have been rolling around on the table for a number of years. We need to deliver something,

Mr. Hong agreed saying yeah

Mr. Wicker said			
			I really
like that ADC came to DBEDT. In our grave. We have the foreign trade zone development support division. All withe long run. It's a really good fit. Or my major focuses.	e, the Hawaii technology If reap and go in line wit	development corporate h what ADC's projects	e, and the business are going to do in
Mr. Watts said you know I agree and			
		ou wiene stiern per er eine oan aan de stag gebeure en de steel de steel de steel de steel de steel de steel d	
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		Contract to the contract to th	
Mr. Wicker interjected, I wanted to as	k that question		
aranananan kantakan kanan ya uga maja maja maja maja maja maja maja ma			
[Unidentified] responded,			
A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR			

mportant that ADC show results in the no	ext year.	But it's
Ms. Hurd asked because I came in late do	I recuse myself from the discussion?	
inimamaninin — mga sali ingirilihiga ga marananan marananan maranan maranan maranan maranan maranan maranan ma	anagan mana ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang	
Ms. Hurd replied, State	I would like to say thank you	to the committee for
hese candidates are very, very good,		
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annica ny ara-manana kaominina amin'ny avoina amin'ny avoina na haisa dia amin'ny faritr'o ao		
	Name of the Control o	
Is. Hurd replied		
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Mr. Hong said					
Mr. Watts said					
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Mr. Wicker stated there	's still an onening	on the hoard			
Mr. Watts stated they're			d I think this b	oard is differen	from past boards.
Mr. Wicker responded y what you want us to do diversity. I mean, I wis	There's a diver				
	The state of the s				
Mr. Hong said that's an	interesting way	to look at it.			
Mr. Watts said I'll be he	- ALIAN SANGAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A	esamonno mario esamon de la compania			
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Mr. Hong said					
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ivir. Okunama said yean I agree it s a tough one. I	m just concerned		
Mr. Hong remarked but			
Mr. Okuhama responded right that's the problem			
Mr. Hong said I think			
Mr. Watts said that's definitely a valid thing. But I with Ms. Evans folks to present a vision.	think that buys u	s time for the boar	d to really work
Mr. Wicker said Ms. Evans is working on the strate	gic plan.		. :
Mr. Watts said			
Mr. Hong asked			11.17 11.17
Mr. Tabata said for me			
	angadanasis, ana iso iso ang ang ang		
Mr. Wicker replied twenty minutes. I just got to go	back to my office	<b>.</b>	
Mr. Watts continued			

Mr. Nakamoto offered,						
Mr. Wicker added,	<b>.</b>					
Mr. Nakamoto said						
Mr. Watts said, no understood.						
Mr. Nakamoto said						
		<b>.</b>	•			
Mr. Nakamoto continued,						
Mr. Watts asked				*,1		
Mr. Nakamoto replied						
Mr. Watts continued						
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Mr. Nakamoto continued						
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Mr. Nakamoto said						a to a man discount delication
Mr. Hong said						
Mr. Watts said						• •
Mr. Wicker stated						

Mr. Watts said		•				
Mr. Hong added,						
Mr. Wicker responded						**
Ms. Hurd asked						
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Ms. Hurd said						
Mr. Wicker added						
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Mr. Walts asked			. ,			• :
Ms. Hurd said						
Mr. Hong said						
Ms. Hurd said				•		
Mr. Watts asked			,	a		
Mr. Hong asked so do we the	n Itave a unani	mous decisio	m?			
Mr. Hong asked do we have	a consensus of	a unanimous	board?	•		
mentional minimum substitution and the substitution of the substit						
The board nodded and Mr. H	ong replied ye	s.				
Mr. Wicker, for consistency,				I'm ok w	ith unanimo	us.
Ms. Hurd said						
Mr. Hong said it's a good dec	cision.					

Mr. Okuhama asked this is the recommendation? Not approval?

# AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on August 8, 2023 In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96813 Mr. Hong asked do we go out of executive session now? Mr. Wicker said do we do a press release? We have Becker Communications. Mr. Hong said I think, after acceptance though, Mr. Tabata asked Mr. Watts said my preference would be we go through the process again? My position is to go with Mr. Watts said well you know I'll go with it because I think it's important to get somebody going as a wijekly as we go. And I think that Scott Ishik awa and Becker Communication should be evaluated and

Mr. Watts said well you know I'll go with it because I think it's important to get somebody going as quickly as we can. And I think that Scott Ishikawa and Becker Communication should be evaluated and that there be a more aggressive media push, to be as broad as possible. I didn't even see this ED selection thing on the news at all. So when somebody tells me that they went put out a press release I don't believe it because on Maui, Mauinow.com they just print press releases. They don't even do any reporting at all. So if it's not even there. I just think a wider net would've been better.

Ms. Hurd said to your point when it was announced at the board meeting that the application was on the HDOA website I texted our [Public Information Officer] (PIO), and it wasn't. So, it was immediately put it, but it wasn't there.

Mr. Hong said speaking for the committee I think we had a great list of candidates. We had fourteen and we had a whole day meeting getting it down to seven and we interviewed seven and so I think we had a really good representation of the people out there. I mean could we have gotten more candidates? Maybe, but I think we got some great candidates.

Ms. Hard said you did. I'm good with

Mr. Wicker said I agree with Mr. Watts on Becker Communications. My experience with them 'cause they have contracts with other attached agencies as clients and they're not aggressive enough. I've asked them to get ahead of stuff so we can revisit that approach. However, I think ADC doesn't need its own PIO, it should continue to contract out because we have a communications officer in DBEDT that's something ADC was able to benefit from. On the timetable,

I think the longer we wait, we're going to lose funds. We're not going to encumber in

### AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on August 8, 2023 In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96813

time. That's just the way the legislature did it. And the second thing, the names of the people that applied, I was familiar with some of them, and I thought there was such diverse backgrounds of those who applied, it would have been interesting to see if there was an even bigger push. ADC got fourteen applicants. The HTDC is also doing its executive director search and they got fifteen.

Ms. Hurd commented "wow."

Mr. Wicker said he was impressed, and kind of shocked at the same time that there was that much turn out for both of these positions. I think there was enough time and HTDC got only one additional and they're in the same ballpark as a salary range.

Mr. Okuhama said he went through the [Hawaii Community Development Authority] (HCDA) executive director search and the quality of candidates was a bit disappointing actually. We had a lot of candidates but not the quality of candidates. I think this time, the ones that we interviewed there was not one person that didn't encompass everything. They were pretty good quality and they had strengths, each of their own in different things. Speed is important so I agree that

because we need to move on this pretty quick

Mr. Hong asked so who's doing the letter?

Mr. Wicker asked Becker Communications?

Mr. Hong asked so how fast could

Mr. Hong asked so by tomorrow we're going to have a press release?

Mr. Watts asked will we be able to review the press release before it goes out? I only ask because I think ... is it going to just be the board saying we're announcing this person or is it going to be the board saying we announce this person and kind of talk a little bit about the vision going forward?

Mr. Hong said so the full board has to approve this action, this offer?

Mr. Wicker noted we are the full board.

Mr. Hong said no I understand that but we're in executive session, does it have to be in an open forum?

Mr. Hong repeated with no names. Ok, that's good but before we do a press release,

# **AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on August 8, 2023 In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96813 Mr. Okuhama asked so the press release would be pretty immediate then. Mr. Okuhama said if we wait to the 17th, which is the next meeting, the word will get out. That's how I feel; it's going to get out. Mr. Tabata suggested the letter goes out, , then we notify then we can do a press release. The board members nodded in agreement. Mr. Hong said we can actually just record it in open session saying that the board has made a decision, no names yet, and put it to a vote and it can be unanimous at that point. Mr. Watts confirmed postal mail? Mr. Hong asked so it's going to be a couple days? Mr. Okuhama asked can't we e-mail ?? Mr. Hong said unless willing to come in and pick up a letter Mr. Hong said that'll save two, three days. That's what it comes down to really.

Mr. Wicker said I think just for awareness we should look at it before it goes out, just to make sure.

Mr. Hong acknowledged right. That'll give you a day or two to get the press release done with Becker.

## AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting field on August 8, 2023 In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96813

Mr. Watts noted that seems to be appropriate. I'd like to review it first.

Chair asked just press release?

Mr. Okuhama said it will be good to see what goes out before it goes out.

Mr. Wicker asked can I excuse myself?

Mr. Wicker said thank you, Chair, thank you, Board. Sorry I got to head out.

Mr. Tabata added can we tell whoever made my flight that I'm not going to make it? My flight is 1:20

p.m. I've got to return a car and everything. Can I leave already?

Mr. Okuhama asked Chair if he was going to do the press release?

Mr. Watts said we're supposed to go back to Maui today too.

Mr. Hong said excuse me ...

Mr. Okuhama said don't we need to stop executive session? We need six, yeah?

Chair called for a motion to exit executive session.

Motion by Mr. Tabata; Second: Mr. Watts.

Chair called for the vote. Hearing no objection the motion was approved: 6-0.

Executive session adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Mr. Tabata and Mr. Wicker exited the meeting.

# Exhibit "30"

ANNE E. LOPEZ

7609

Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i

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7496

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9640

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Attorneys for Defendants

DEFENDER COUNCIL, JON N. IKENAGA, AND

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

## STATE OF HAWAI'I

PUBLIC FIRST LAW CENTER,

CIVIL NO.: 1CCV-24-0000050 (Other Civil Action)

Plaintiff,

**DEFENDANT AGRIBUSINESS** 

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD

OF DIRECTOR'S WRITTEN ANSWERS TO

PLAINTIFF'S FIRST SET OF

INTERROGATORIES TO DEFENDANT

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2024

VS.

DEFENDER COUNCIL; JON N. IKENAGA; and AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Defendants.

Judge: Honorable Jordon J. Kimura

Trial: June 23, 2025

DEFENDANT AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PLAINTIFF'S FIRST SET OF INTEROGATORIES TO DEFENDANT AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2024

Defendant AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF

DIRECTORS ("Defendant ADC"), by and through Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i, and its attorneys Amanda J. Weston and David N. Matsumiya, Deputy



Attorneys General, hereby answers *Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories to Defendant Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors*, dated November 29, 2024 ("**Plaintiff's ROGS**") as follows:

# GENERAL OBJECTIONS AND STATEMENTS

- 1. Defendant ADC objects to all of the interrogatories in Plaintiff's ROGS to the extent that they seek the disclosure of privileged communications, information that is protected work product, and information concerning documents and tangible things prepared in anticipation of litigation or trial.
- 2. Defendant ADC objects to each interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is immaterial and irrelevant to the subject matter of this action.
- 3. Defendant ADC objects to each interrogatory to the extent that it is unreasonably burdensome, oppressive or vexatious, in that the information so acquired would be of little or no relevance to the issues in this case, and/or would place an unreasonable and oppressive burden on Defendant ADC in the expenditure of time, costs, and money.
- 4. Defendant ADC objects to those interrogatories that are so broad, uncertain, and unintelligible that Defendant ADC cannot determine the nature of the answer sought, and Defendant ADC therefore is unable to answer.
- 5. Defendant ADC objects to each interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is as easily available to Plaintiff PUBLIC FIRST LAW CENTER as it is to Defendant ADC.
- 6. Defendant ADC objects to each interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information for which the required good cause or substantial need, as dictated by applicable statutes, court rules and case laws, has not been shown.
- 7. Defendant ADC does not concede that any of its answers will be admissible evidence at trial. Further, Defendant ADC does not waive any objections, whether or not stated herein, to use such answers at trial.
- 8. Defendant ADC states that its discovery, investigation, and trial preparation are ongoing and have not been completed. Any and all answers to Plaintiff's ROGs are based only on the information available to Defendant ADC at the time that its answers and objections were prepared. Defendant ADC reserves its right to supplement its answers as necessary and appropriate.

- 9. All specific answers and objections are made without waiving any of these general objections and statements.
- 10. Without waiving any of the foregoing objections, which Defendant ADC incorporates by reference, in its answers and/or objection to each of the following individual interrogatories as if fully set forth therein, Defendant ADC further answers and objects to the individual requests as follows.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, February 13, 2025.

ANNE E. LOPEZ

Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i

AMANDA J. WESTON

DAVID N. MATSUMIYA

Deputy Attorneys General

Attorneys for Defendants

DEFENDER COUNCIL, JON N. IKENAGA, AND

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

# **INTERROGATORIES**

1. Identify the individual(s) answering these interrogatories.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ("**Defendant ADC**") objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "identify," as defined, seeks personal and private information from the individual answering these interrogatories.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer</u>: Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Lyle Tabata, Chairman of Defendant ADC. As the Chairman of Defendant ADC, Mr. Tabata may be contacted via the undersigned Counsel.

2. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's August 17, 2022 meeting.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that are personal and private to Executive Director James Nakatani ("E.D. Nakatani") and/or an officers and/or an employee of Defendant ADC.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer:</u> Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's August 17, 2022 Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business," that the "Annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director" would be conducted. The Agenda also stated, in italics, that "[t]he Board may go into executive session, pursuant to §92-5(a)(2) HRS, to consider the evaluation of an officer or employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved, and §92-5(a)(4), to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities."

On August 17, 2022, Defendant ADC considered the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani in Executive Session because of concerns that E.D. Nakatani's health/medical information could be brought up and/or disclosed during the discussion of his Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's health/medical situation was known by a few of Defendant ADC's members.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation included discussions regarding staffing issues, which included but were not limited to the hiring, evaluation, dismissal, and/or discipline of officers and employees of Defendant ADC. Defendant ADC deferred the acceptance of the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani until the next meeting.

The Executive Session covered additional confidential matters that are not relevant to this action.

Defendant ADC's discovery into this issue is ongoing. As a result, Defendant ADC reserves the right to amend its answers to this interrogatory if its discovery into this matter indicates that its answer is incorrect or incomplete.

3. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's September 21, 2022 meeting.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is personal and private to E.D. Nakatani and/or an officers and/or an employee of Defendant ADC.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer:</u> Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's September 21, 2022, Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business," that the "Annual Performance Review of the Executive Director (continued from August 17, 2022, Item E-1)" would be conducted. The Agenda also stated, in italics, that "[t]he Board may go into executive session, pursuant to §92-5(a)(2) Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the evaluation of an officer or employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved."

On September 21, 2022, Defendant ADC considered the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani in Executive Session because of concerns that E.D.

Nakatani's health/medical information could be brought up and/or disclosed during the discussion of his Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's health/medical situation was known by a few of Defendant ADC's members.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation included discussions regarding employees' salaries, which included information regarding the hiring, evaluation, dismissal, and/or discipline of officers and employees of Defendant ADC. Defendant ADC deferred the acceptance of the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani until the next meeting.

Defendant ADC's discovery into this issue is ongoing. As a result, Defendant ADC reserves the right to amend its answers to this interrogatory if its discovery into this matter indicates that its answer is incorrect or incomplete.

4. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's November 2, 2022 meeting.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is personal and private to E.D. Nakatani and/or an officers and/or an employee of <u>Defendant ADC</u>.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer</u>: Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's November 2, 2022, Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business," that the "Annual Performance Review of the Executive Director (continued from September 21, 2022, Item E-3)" would be conducted. The Agenda also stated, in italics, that "[t]he Board may go into executive session pursuant to §92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the evaluation of an employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved."

On November 2, 2022, Defendant ADC considered the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani in Executive Session because of concerns that E.D. Nakatani's health/medical information could be brought up and/or disclosed during the discussion of his Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's health/medical situation was known by a few of Defendant ADC's members.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation included discussions regarding employees' salaries, which included information regarding the hiring, evaluation, dismissal, and/or discipline of officers and employees of Defendant ADC. Defendant ADC deferred the acceptance of the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani until the next meeting.

Defendant ADC's discovery into this issue is ongoing. As a result, Defendant ADC reserves the right to amend its answers to this interrogatory if its discovery into this matter indicates that its answer is incorrect or incomplete.

5. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's March 16, 2023 meeting.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is personal and private to E.D. Nakatani and/or an officers and/or an employee of Defendant ADC.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

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<u>Answer</u>: Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's March 16, 2023, Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business," that a "Presentation of the Draft Annual Performance Review of the Executive Director (continued from January 25, 2023, Item D-8)" would be conducted. The Agenda also stated, in italics, that "[t]he Board may go into executive session pursuant to §92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the evaluation of an employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved."

On March 16, 2023, Defendant ADC considered the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani in Executive Session because of concerns that E.D. Nakatani's health/medical information could be brought up and/or disclosed during the discussion of his Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's health/medical situation was known by a few of Defendant ADC's members.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation included discussions regarding a future replacement for E.D. Nakatani, which included discussions regarding the hiring, evaluation, dismissal, and/or discipline of officers and employees of Defendant ADC. Defendant ADC deferred the

acceptance of the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani until the next meeting.

Defendant ADC's discovery into this issue is ongoing. As a result, Defendant ADC reserves the right to amend its answers to this interrogatory if its discovery into this matter indicates that its answer is incorrect or incomplete.

6. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's April 20, 2023 meeting.

Objection: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that are personal and private to E.D. Nakatani.

Amanda J. Weston

David N. Matsumiya

Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer</u>: Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's April 20, 2023, Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business," that a "Request for Approval of the Draft Annual Performance Review of the Executive Director (continued from March 16, 2023, Item E-1)" would be conducted. The Agenda also stated, in italics, that "[t]he Board may go into executive session pursuant to §92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the evaluation of an employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved."

On April 20, 2023, Defendant ADC considered the Annual Performance Evaluation of E.D. Nakatani in Executive Session because of concerns that E.D. Nakatani's health/medical information could be brought up and/or disclosed during the discussion of his Annual Performance Evaluation. E.D. Nakatani's health/medical situation was known by a few of Defendant ADC's members.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed the finalization of E.D. Nakatani's Annual Performance Evaluation.

7. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's July 20, 2023 meeting.

Objection: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is personal and private to E.D. Nakatani and/or an officers and/or an employee of Defendant ADC.,

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer:</u> Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's July 20, 2023, Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business," that a "Presentation by the Executive Director Search Committee regarding their findings and recommendations" would be conducted. The Agenda also stated, in italics, that "[t]he Board may go into executive session pursuant to \$92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes."

On July 20, 2023, Defendant ADC considered the Presentation by the Executive Director Search Committee regarding their findings and recommendations in Executive Session because: 1) the applicants specifically requested that their names be kept private so that their current employers would not find out that they were actively seeking other employment; and 2) Defendant ADC's concerns that the applicant's, who were not employees of the State of Hawai'i, personal and private information (e.g. financial information, contact information, etc.) could be revealed/disclosed during the discussion of the Executive Director Search Committee regarding their findings and recommendations.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed the Presentation by the Executive Director Search Committee regarding their findings and recommendations. The Presentation by the Executive Director Search Committee regarding their findings and recommendations included discussions regarding the seven applicants for the Executive Director position and their interviews.

8. Describe in detail the executive session at the ADC Board's August 8, 2023 meeting.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks Defendant ADC's legal analysis, legal impressions, and legal conclusions regarding Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information that is personal and private to E.D. Nakatani and/or an officers and/or an employee of Defendant ADC.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer:</u> Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

Prior to Defendant ADC's August 8, 2023, Board of Director's meeting, Defendant ADC published its Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda, stated, under the heading "Old Business (to be taken out of order as first agenda item)," that a "Deliberation and decision making on the recommendation(s) of the Executive Director Search Committee permitted interaction group submitted to the Board at the July 20, 2023 regular meeting" would be conducted.

On August 8, 2023, Defendant ADC discussed the deliberation and decision making on the recommendation(s) of the Executive Director Search Committee permitted interaction group in Executive Session because: 1) the applicants specifically requested that their names be kept private so that their current employers would not find out that they were actively seeking other employment; and 2) Defendant ADC's concerns that the applicant's, who were not employees of the State of Hawai'i, personal and private information (e.g. financial information, contact information, etc.) could be revealed/disclosed during the discussion of the Executive Director Search Committee regarding their findings and recommendations.

During the Executive Session, Defendant ADC discussed the deliberation and decision making on the recommendation(s) of the Executive Director Search Committee permitted interaction group. The deliberation and decision making on the recommendation(s) of the Executive Director Search Committee permitted interaction group included the interviews of the top two candidates for the Executive Director position, which included information that was personal and private to applicants.

9. For any request for admission that the ADC Board denied, in whole or in part, describe in detail the factual and legal basis for the denial.

<u>Objection</u>: Defendant ADC objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the term "describe," as defined, seeks a legal analysis of Defendant ADC's actions. Defendant ADC further objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that the phrase "in detail" is not defined and is vague, ambiguous, and overly broad as to its meaning and scope. Defendant ADC objects to this request for production of documents to the extent that it seeks information that is personal and private to Executive Director James Nakatani and/or officers and employees of Defendant ADC.

Amanda J. Weston
David N. Matsumiya
Davity Attornaya Ganar

Deputy Attorneys General

<u>Answer</u>: Without waiving the objections raised above and subject to them, Defendant ADC hereby answers as follows:

See Defendant ADC's answers to request for admissions, which provides the answers to this interrogatory.

# **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF HAWAI'I	)	
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU	) ss )	
Lyle Tabata, being first duly sworn on oa	ath, deposes and says that she/he has read the	
foregoing answers to interrogatories and that	at the same are true to the best of his/her knowledge	
and belief.	By: BONDS CHALEMAN	
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14 day of Fobruary, 2025.  Notary Public, State of Hawaii  Print Name: Rhiannon Morales  My commission expires: April 12, 20	09-126  OP-126  OF HAWAIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII	
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	OF HAWAIIIIII Notary Signature Date	