



League of Women Voters of Honolulu Education Fund, Inc.

49 S. Hotel St. #314 • Honolulu, HI 96813
808-531-7448 • 808-599-5669 (fax)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Honolulu Education Fund was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, in the League office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Aoki, Arlene Ellis, Helen Griffin, Robin Loomis, and Suzanne Meisenzahl.

REPORT OF KAUAI LEAGUE VOTER GUIDE EFFORT FOR 2006

President Arlene Ellis said that the Kauai League has collected in excess of \$4000 to fund their Voter Guide 2006 project, but that Kauai President, Carol Bain, estimates the costs to be in excess of \$6000. As she receives the bills she forwards them to Ellis for payment. Helen Griffin said that for Ed Fund's records, we should have a complete report of the project including all costs and a sample of the Voter's Guide. We had no prior knowledge of this project. In the future, we should have a proposal first before we agree to fund it, even if we are acting as a pass through agent. We have been pretty casual in the past, but with a large increase of available funds, we must be ready to be audited.

There are old forms that the State Ed Fund used; we must come up with new ones.

Secretary Loomis agreed to e-mail Bain and ask her to submit a report of the project.

ASTRID & DONALD MONSON BEQUEST

Ellis reported that 30% of the net proceeds of the Monson's estate will be coming to the Ed Fund (approximately \$500,000). In addition, 25% of the 40% that goes to the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) will be available to League to be used for specific projects designated by Astrid Monson (e.g., Planning, Land Use, Transportation). In her will Monson said that the money going to HCF would be an endowment and only the interest would be used. However, up to 5% of the principle might be available for use, if the project can justify it.

Any League entity with an idea to fund a project can use the Ed Fund as a pass through agent. The entity would provide the money and Ed Fund would disburse it. Ed Fund won't charge a fee, because the initial money deposited with Ed Fund would be earning interest.

Can Ed Fund be used as an advocacy group as opposed to educational only?
(Check on that)

It was suggested that we rent a safety deposit box at the bank to keep our valuable papers.

CONSIDERATION OF LEAGUE OFFICE SET-UP

Computer upgrades and copier purchase

Suzanne Meisenzahl said that at Honolulu League's October board meeting Ellis had suggested that the Ed Fund might be able to pay for upgrading the copier and computer facilities in the office. She submitted a proposal at the November Honolulu board meeting and also at this meeting whereby new computers, a new scanner/printer/fax/copy machine might be purchased, internet access and cable service installed for less than \$2500. Included would be members Steve Trussel and Jona Sing to set everything up and

train members on use. Trussel is League's webmaster and he will attend Honolulu's December 9 planning meeting to walk everyone through our new website, how to access it, and explain the possibilities. Further discussion on this project was tabled until the next meeting.

Ed Fund percentage of office space

Ellis said that we are currently paying 10% of the rent for our use of the office. She proposes that we pay 25% of the rental and have State that now pays 25% reduce its share to 10%. The board agreed unanimously.

Additional signature on Merrill-Lynch account

It was agreed that either the President or Treasurer be authorized to sign checks on the Merrill Lynch account.

Other? Additional/replacement of directors?

Ellis asked the board to consider adding up to two more members to the board to make a total of seven, or to think about replacing any of the current directors. The board will think about this, but for the present, five members will do.

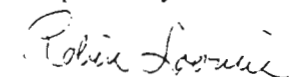
PROJECT CONSIDERATION

Les Ihara – Open government

Senator Les Ihara joined the meeting at this point to present his ideas on open government and his efforts to promote it. He had embarked on a 40-year project 20 years ago and if reelected to the Senate is poised to begin a three-year program. He believes that Hawaii has hit rock bottom with people discouraged with government and legislators held in low repute. He believes that "truth telling" is the watchword nationally. When everyone knows the truth about what goes on, change can occur. Truth can be told not in a negative, but in a positive way. To this end, he has envisioned a three-year program: 1) set up infrastructure; 2) establish speaking tours to explain idea; 3) attract consumer organizations, environmental groups, etc. At the end of three years, the goal is to have signed up 5000 activists who will advocate for open government and truth telling. Many good government issues die in the Legislature each year for lack of citizen support. For example, every year a bill to webcast all House and Senate hearings never passes. An education program is key to getting people involved. A training program to teach people to speak is also important. League membership also needs to increase. Ihara envisions a time when paid staff will be needed to handle the new people who get involved. He also wants to hook up with the funding community to get foundations to give money for pro-democracy and other civic issues. The media can be a key ally. Testimony needs to be put on line. With our website up and running, the current day's testimony can be input, and the Legislature is required to provide copies of testimony because of the open records law. Meisenzahl suggested a two-year plan initially to aim for the 2008 election and work on same day voter registration.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Loomis
Secretary

Edfund4:11/9/06