

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, June 6, 2025 | 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Beverly Gotelli called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Beverly announced that the PABEA meeting is being recorded for posting on YouTube. She asked attendees to maintain decorum.

ROLL CALL

Appointed members present: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service (joined the meeting in-person at 12:05 p.m.), Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno.

Appointed members excused and absent: Poki'i Balaz, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Suzie Schulberg, Rick Tabor, and Charlene Taketa.

(A quorum was established as ten members were present at roll call. This board requires eight members to be present in order to establish quorum.)

Ex-officio members present: Paula Cerio, Department of Health (DOH).

Executive Office on Aging (EOA) staff and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) staff present: Derrick Ariyoshi, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Emily Ishida, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Jan Mori, Candace Nakamoto, Lauryn Reich, Naoki Roos, Lani Sakamoto, Erin Samura (Executive Assistant for Health, Equity, and Human Services, County of Hawai'i), Cristina Valenzuela, Jazlyn Wandasan, Jason Wong, and Jeffrey Woodland.

Guests present: Kimi Gabbard, student at USAging; Charlene Iboshi, community advocate and retired attorney; Percy Ihara, Executive Director, Akamai Seniors; Deborah Stone-Walls, Chief of Programs and Services, USAging; and Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Associate Director, AARP Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The draft of the minutes of the May 2, 2025 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting was corrected by deleting "*Erin Samura, Executive Assistant for Health, Equity, and Human Services, County of Hawai'i*" from Roll Call. The draft of the minutes of the May 2, 2025 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting was approved as corrected.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached is Caroline's report. Caroline provided highlights from her report:

- EOA received a copy of the Trump Administration's Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Brief. Funding for programs that might have been cut, such as the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Program, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and MIPA, have been restored in the Budget Brief. Uncertainties regarding Social Security, Medicaid, and other programs remain. EOA will continue to monitor developments.

- EOA has contracted with Spectrum to launch a statewide campaign aimed at promoting Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and highlighting their impact on Hawai'i's kupuna. Two public service announcements (PSAs) have been produced. The first features Keali'i Lopez promoting Older Americans Month and the second features Kenneth Fink, M.D., promoting the programs and services funded by the Older Americans Act. Jazlyn played the two PSAs for the attendees. More PSAs will be produced and aired over the following twelve months.

PRESENTATION: Deborah Stone-Walls, USAgeing Chief of Programs and Services, provided updates on the reorganization of the Administration for Community Living and other national changes that will impact the Aging Network in Hawaii. (Presentation attached.)

Deborah commented that personal stories on the value of Federally funded programs of services are effective in advocacy and education with Congressional members.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

Caroline continued to provide highlights from her report:

- The PSA initiative aligns with Goal 1, Objective 1-1 of the State Plan to enhance access to the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)/No Wrong Door (NWD) system.
- EOA is preparing and planning funding exercises to be prepared for any requests during a potential legislative session.
- Norma Kop, Director of Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Hawai'i, has been honored with the 2025 National Barbara McGinity SMP Leadership Award. The award recognizes an SMP director who exemplifies leadership qualities, including fostering collaboration, initiating outreach and education improvements, empowering team members, and supporting training processes. Norma's dedication has significantly advanced the mission of SMP Hawai'i.
- The signing ceremony for aging related bills is tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. EOA will send information as it becomes available.
- In April, the Healthy Aging Partnership Steering Committee convened to strategize the future of healthy aging initiatives. The committee shared successful practices from other states and discussed the development of a Request for Information (RFI) to explore Community Care Hubs as a potential reimbursement model for evidence-based interventions. The Hawai'i Healthy Aging Partnership, co-led by EOA and the Department of Health Community Health Division, offers programs such as EnhanceFitness and Ke Ola Pono (Living Well) to empower older adults in managing chronic conditions and promoting healthier lifestyles.
- EOA is finalizing the creative aspects of the campaign with the contractor which will launch in July 2025. Local subject matter experts have provided feedback on the campaign. The new dementia website has soft-launched and new resources are added weekly. The campaign will drive the community to the website to learn more about early detection of dementia, brain health, caregiving and other resources. EOA will give an update on the campaign in the fall of 2025.

Marilyn commented that she found a website on how to contact members of Congress to express concerns about the effects of the budget bill that the President has submitted. She will send the website address to the PABEA members.

Derrick commented that the Kūpuna Collective is collecting stories of impact from its program participants to show why aging services and other health and social services are important, especially those related to the Older Americans Act (OAA) and other federally funded programs at risk. The stories will be shared with Hawaii's Congressional delegation, legislators, program administrators, and the media. Derrick will share the link with the PABEA members. They are developing impact reports that demonstrate the collective impact by EOA and the AAAs of Title III and who the AAAs are serving and how the AAA are serving them. The draft report demonstrates that the AAAs are fulfilling the mandate of serving those with greatest social and economic vulnerabilities.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly has been in communication with the EOA Director and the Chair of the Nominations Committee to ensure that the PABEA elections comply with Hawaii State information practices and the PABEA bylaws. Beverly reported that SCR143 SD 1 urges all boards and commissions to conduct annual performance reviews of their executive directors or persons holding equivalent positions, exempt from civil service law. Beverly will have the resolution sent to the PABEA members. Beverly suggests that the Plans and Projects Review Committee (PPRC) examine the resolution and report their findings to PABEA.

Caroline commented that the resolution applies to exempt appointed employees and does not apply to civil service employees. Boards and Commissions will use the information provided to them for their annual report to the State Legislature.

Shelly suggests that the Attorney General review the resolution and provide PABEA with an interpretation before PPRC reviews the resolution.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara reported that the Committee did not meet today. She commented that the Pacific Law Institute hosted its Legislative Advocacy 2025 end of session update moderated by Bob Toyofuku. Next legislative session, the Committee will focus on paid family leave legislation and caregiver tax credit legislation.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that, at PPRC's May 2, 2025 meeting, the Committee discussed and reviewed three sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and the general provisions for EOA. At the next Committee meeting, the Committee will examine the data collected from the EOA surveys. The Committee also is developing a suggested template for reporting.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Barbara reported that the Committee met yesterday to review the planning and preparations of the Older Americans Month (OAM) Celebration at 15 Craigsides. Beverly has compiled a spreadsheet of assignments (attached) for those PABEA members who will be attending the event. The spreadsheet was emailed to all PABEA members. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. A PABEA member will be at each table.

Beverly requested that those who will be late or will be absent to call Caroline at 808 892-9302.

Phone numbers on the assignment spreadsheet are confidential. PABEA members are instructed to shred the spreadsheet at the conclusion of the event.

Caroline commented that she does not believe that the bill signing ceremony for aging related bills will be on the morning of June 13, 2025. Please text Caroline if you receive a notice that bill signing ceremony will occur on June 13, 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review proposal on Homelessness and determine PABEA's role in this proposal. Consideration for an ad hoc committee or PPRC to explore this initiative further.

EOA will continue to pursue a presentation by the State's Homeless Czar or his/her designee at either the July or August 2025 PABEA meeting.

Charlene announced that the annual International Street Medicine Symposium will take place in Hilo from September 9 to September 12, 2025. The symposium addresses providing care for those experiencing homelessness. Charlene volunteers to join the potential PABEA ad hoc committee that will explore homelessness.

Election for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026

Leslie reported that PABEA members received the election procedures (attached) in the June 2025 PABEA meeting packet. Elections will be conducted in accordance with the procedures and in compliance with Sunshine laws and the PABEA bylaws. Only PABEA members who are part of today's quorum will be voting. PABEA members attending today's meeting via Zoom must have their cameras on. Before voting occurs, Josephine will announce those PABEA members who are part of today's quorum. PABEA members attending today's meeting in-person will receive a paper ballot. PABEA members attending via Zoom will email their vote to Josephine at josephin.lum@doh.hawaii.gov. PABEA members are voting in favor or in opposition to the slate established by the Nominations Committee. The slate of officers is:

- Nominee for Chairperson: Beverly Gotelli
- Nominee for First Vice Chairperson: Raelene Tenno
- Nominee for Second Vice Chairperson: Rick Tabor

Beverly commented that nominations were solicited from the floor at the May 2025 PABEA meeting in accordance with the PABEA bylaws. No nominations were offered from the floor.

Beverly recessed the meeting at 1:12 p.m. for 10 minutes for PABEA members to vote.

Beverly recalled the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.

Leslie reported the results of the election. For the election of PABEA officers for the term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, 11 ballots were cast. The votes were counted twice by EOA staff members Jason Wong and Christina Valenzuela. Caroline verified the vote. The slate was approved: Beverly Gotelli will be Chairperson, Raelene Tenno will be First Vice Chairperson, and Rick Table will be Second Vice Chairperson. A motion for PABEA to accept the election results was moved, seconded, and approved by the PABEA members in attendance in-person and via Zoom.

Beverly read aloud an excerpt from the resolution: *“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the heads of each State Department, who in turn are requested to transmit copies of this resolution to the chairs of their respective boards and commission that appoint or otherwise employ, an Executive Director or person having an equivalent position except from civil service law.”*

Because PABEA does not appoint or employ the Director of EOA, the resolution does not apply to PABEA.

Special Committee

Beverly reported that she has no updates, but suggests that PABEA retain the agenda item for next year in order to establish written guidelines, procedures, roles, and responsibilities for PABEA, its officers, members, and Committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunshine Law Compliancy:

Caroline reported that EOA received a complaint 3 to 4 weeks ago that EOA had not been posting both the PABEA agenda and minutes in accordance with Sunshine law at a place for all to view. The non-compliance might have arisen when EOA was changing its website. EOA had been posting both the PABEA agenda and minutes on the EOAADRC website. EOA changed its vendor for the website, and neglecting to post the agenda and minutes on the website might have been an oversight. The complaint was received via the Office of Information Practices. EOA received a citation. The agenda and minutes have been uploaded to the website. EOA will upload the previous agendas and minutes and future agendas and minutes to the website. A schedule has been established with the contractor, Brave New Media. Josephine has a schedule of when agenda and minutes need to be sent to the contractor for timely posting. A link to the agenda and minutes also will be posted on the Boards and Commission's website. EOA will be compliant henceforth. Recordings of the PABEA meetings will be livestreamed via YouTube. Attendees are reminded to maintain decorum. The public can join the meeting via Zoom, view a livestream of the meeting via YouTube, or view a recording of the meeting via YouTube. Board members must attend in-person or via Zoom.

Responsibility of All Members

Beverly commented that one responsibility of Board members is spreading the word on how EOA and the AAAs support and service older adults. More detail on the responsibilities of Board members will be provided at the Board orientation.

Board Orientation for 2025-2026: Beverly announced that the Board orientation is scheduled for Friday, July 11, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., in-person and in lieu of committee meetings. Participation via Zoom will be available for those unable to attend the orientation in-person.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

No appointed members' reports were offered.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

No updates or reports were offered.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Attached is Derrick's report.

Derrick reported that the EAD Senior Helpline received a call yesterday from a 62 year old female. The caller shared statements of wanting to give up. The caller's sister, who was still in the workforce, was retiring. The sister was providing financial support to the caller. The caller's sister told the caller she can no longer provide the type of financial support that she was providing the caller. The caller realized that she could not maintain the same lifestyle and became depressed. EAD staff directed her to Hawaii CARES 988 for mental health support and counseling. Derrick reported that such situations are not uncommon wherein the financial support of older adults is diminished. Many times, older adults are in denial and will ignore the situation until problems become acute, such as an older adult receiving an eviction notice. For an older adult, sometimes being in denial is easier than acting.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is the HCOA report.

Erin reported that HCOA was able to videotape interviews with kupuna at the Hawaii County OAM Celebration. The raw edit of the video is 7 minutes long and features 5 interviewees discussing the value of HCOA's supports and services to older adults in Hawaii County. The video will be edited further.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena reported that the Maui County Department of Human Concerns performed a community needs survey. MCOA received the draft report of the survey results. Approximately 44% of the respondents were aged 65 years and over. The survey results indicate that caregiver support and training, adult day care, caregiver respite services, and transportation for medical, shopping, and social needs are at the top of the list. These needs are especially acute in central Maui and in Lahaina. Transportation is the greatest issue for many seniors in Lahaina according to the results of the survey. MCOA will focus on these issues in the next fiscal year. Rowena has informed Caroline that adult day care services are the biggest expenditures that MCOA currently has. The need for adult day care services will increase in the years ahead. Transportation is a close second. With respect to the meal delivery programs, Older Americans Act funding is intact and the program might not incur any changes. One of the concerns that Maui County's Council on Aging discussed at their last set of meetings was the quality of food and the ability to provide culturally appropriate foods. MCOA is examining partnering with the Maui County Department of Agriculture to consider establishing a pilot program with a vendor which can create culturally appropriate foods with locally sourced produce and food products and which can educate kupuna on incorporating diverse types of fruits and vegetables into their diet. Some seniors who receive food boxes are unsure what to do with the food or how to even cook the food in the box. Some seniors are accustomed to canned goods and fast foods but we need to improve our diet.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

Attached is Emily's May 2025 Executive Report for KAEA.

Emily reported that the Kauai County OAM Celebration was a success. Emily shared two success stories. She reported that the KAEA Fall Prevention Program is a unique partnership between KAEA, the Kauai Fire Department, and AMR. The partnership provides devices to seniors to prevent them from falling, including smoke alarms. Follow up visits are performed after three months. Staff ask participants whether they fell. One lady who has a fire alarm installed shared that she was in the shower and had forgotten about her teapot on the stove. The smoke alarm alerted her. She was extremely grateful. The lady is sharing information about the Fall Prevention Program with others. Emily also shared that a man was brought to the KAEA office from the DMV. KAEA has a volunteer at the DMV. Emily and DMV worked together to obtain a duplicate ID for the man. The man had limited English skills but knew his birthdate and his name. KAEA did not have a record of him in its WellSky system. Emily walked with him to the DMV. With DMV's help, they discovered that he had a record in the DMV system. One of the DMV workers had helped him the week before. Emily helped him complete the application and he received a new duplicate ID. The man had cognitive issues. The success was the fact that KAEA had a volunteer working at the DMV. The volunteer knew to walk the consumer to KAEA. KAEA added a new consumer to its WellSky database. Emily had a sense of satisfaction in working with other agencies to help solve the man's problem. Sometimes, programs are siloed, i.e. "Go there! Go there! Go there!" KAEA is the one stop shop. The joke on Kauai is that KAEA is the only door. The DMV personnel were compassionate.

Shelly commented that an issue in Hawaii County is food security versus food sovereignty. Also, the food boxes that are distributed in Hawaii County often include a recipe card.

Rowena commented that she has been seeing an older couple at McDonald's at the same time every afternoon having their dinner there. She believes that they have the means to buy food, but preparing their own meals might be difficult for them. MCOA will examine the issue of food preparation for older adults who are unable to do so.

HCOA OAM Celebration Video

Caroline played the HCOA video on testimonials by older adults and by Caroline on the value of programs and services for older adults and people with disabilities provided by HCOA and the AAAs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kupuna Caucus: Friday, June 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m., via Zoom.
- Board Orientation for 2025 – 2026: Friday, July 11, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in lieu of committee meetings.
- PABEA Monthly Meeting: Friday, July 11, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Raelene announced that, in September, she will be on a panel at the Hawaii Economic Association annual conference. The panel's topic is insurance and the panel would like to hear from people that have issues with their insurance. Raelene shared a story from a 70-year-old man who had been with State Farm since before the year 2000. His insurance was recently canceled. Insurances must list the reasons for cancellation. The man had 3 claims. State Farm paid nothing for 2 of the claims. The third claim was paid in the amount of \$1,600. Raelene attempted to connect the man with other insurance agents but the premiums were well

over \$1,000. The home is in the Mililani-Wahiawa area. The insurance might have been cancelled as the home is in difficult terrain for firefighting purposes.

Raelene reported that dispute resolution with banks is performed by telephone. Bank branches do not resolve disputes in-person at the branch. PABEA might consider examining the issue.

Raelene also reported that the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) would like to educate kupuna on emergency preparedness and wildfire preparedness. The contact person at HWMO is Elizabeth Pickett.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.