

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA) MEETING
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, August 2, 2024 | 11:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Beverly Gotelli called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Appointed members present: Poki'i Balaz, Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung (joined the meeting at 11:48 a.m. after the roll was called), Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Charlene Taketa, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno (joined the meeting at 11:48 a.m. after the roll was called).

Appointed members excused and absent: Suzie Schulberg.

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

Ex-officio members present: Alan Burdick, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR); Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS); Dan Miyamoto, Department of Education (DOE); Debbie Kim Morikawa, Department of Health (DOH); and Sharon Yee, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

EOA staff and AAA staff present: Caroline Cadirao, Kristell Corpuz, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Horace Farr, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, Jan Mori, Lynn Niitani, Lauryn Reich, Tani Kalei Salazar, Kealoha Takahashi, Wesley Tanigawa, Cristina Valenzuela, Jeffrey Woodland, and Rachel Yeager.

Guests present: Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy, AARP Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 5, 2024 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Beverly reported that Caroline, Kathy Wyatt, Kealii Lopez, and Brooks Baehr discussed kupuna care, including long-term services and supports, with host Darryl Huff on PBS Insights on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (<https://www.pbs.org/video/8124-kupuna-care-2l8yho/>). Outreach and education on resources for kupuna is imperative.

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

- Long-Term Care Plan: Governor Green signed Act 159 (HB 2224) requiring EOA, in coordination with the State Health Planning and Development Agency, to create a comprehensive long-term care plan to accomplish long-term care policy goals that ensure the availability of a full continuum of institutional and community-based services for Hawai'i's

growing elderly population in Hawai'i with disabilities and chronic conditions. The bill emphasizes the preference for home-based care and aims to develop a comprehensive long-term care plan to ensure a continuum of care services. The bill also appropriates \$79,872 for FY 2024-2025 to establish a long-term care planner position. The work on the Long -Term Care plan has begun. EOA is overseeing the systems and supports sub-committee and the Executive Steering Committee and is co-chairing (with Dr. Jack Lewin) the finance sub-committee. Bennette Misalucha is overseeing the workforce sub-committee. The Steering Committee is seeking a chair for the policy sub-committee. Marilyn suggests Mel Sakurai as chair for the policy sub-committee. The report due to the 2025 State Legislature needs to include strategies and recommendations to move forward the objectives of the plan. The sub-committees are tasked with framing any key legislation that will move the LTC draft plan forward. Those who are interested in joining any of the sub-committees are asked to contact Caroline.

- Hawaii Dementia Initiative: Caroline recognized Tani for completing a \$900,000 procurement for EOA's contract with Anthology FINN to develop the public awareness campaign for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Anthology Finn has begun to do market research. Measuring the impact of the campaign is part of the contract. EOA, AARP Hawaii, and the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition developed a public service announcement (PSA) on brain health featuring Gary Simon and Kealii Lopez. The thirty second PSA promotes sleeping 7 to 8 hours daily, exercising, eating a healthy diet, and socializing. (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n7_azzT_nNsOw305Jr_Wm702TI3-lvoV/view?usp=sharing)

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed and planned for the orientation meeting that was held earlier this morning and discussed the presentation by Dr. Puette, the speaker for the September PABEA meeting. Beverly clarified that quorum for PABEA committees is two PABEA members in attendance.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara reported that the Committee would like to invite Senator Sharon Moriwaki to its next meeting on September 6, 2024 to discuss potential kupuna related legislation for the next legislative session.

Poki'i announced that Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities will be the guest speaker at the October PABEA meeting. Poki'i and Daintry just returned from The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities annual conference. Daintry will present what she learned at the conference and how we can merge our services to care for the intellectually and developmentally disabled who have dementia.

Beverly announced that the September 6, 2024 PABEA meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that the Committee did not meet today.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick announced that the Committee met yesterday. He commented that the Committee meets at 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday before the Friday PABEA meeting. The Committee selected 15 Craigsides as the venue for the 2025 Older Americans Month (OAM) celebration. Rick will ask Suzie Schulberg for her preferred dates for the celebration. Date selection will be placed on the September PABEA agenda for discussion and decision making. The Committee is suggesting that PABEA meet with the Governor to invite him to be the guest speaker at the OAM celebration. Lieutenant Governor Luke intends to attend the celebration whether or not the Governor attends. The issue of meeting with the Governor to invite him to speak at the OAM celebration will be added to the September PABEA agenda for discussion and decision making. The Committee would like to return to formal invitations with the State seal and requiring an RSVP for the OAM celebration. The Committee is seeking clarification on the criteria for nominating seniors.

Marilyn would like to have guest speakers who received services from the AAAs tell their personal stories at the OAM celebration, e.g. speak about the services they received, the difference it made in their lives, and the importance of the senior services.

Beverly commented that the counties develop their own processes for nominating seniors and selecting awardees. Nominees are often recognized for their work in the community as an elder and sometimes have no or little association with the AAAs.

Marilyn clarified that she is only suggesting adding to the OAM celebration a guest speaker with personal experience with services from the AAAs.

Beverly asks RAC to have the discussion regarding guest speakers who have received services from the AAAs at its next RAC meeting with the AAAs present. Recommendations can be offered to PABEA for discussion and approval.

Rick reported that the Committee will discuss its Vice Chair at the next RAC meeting.

STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE

The chairs of the standing PABEA committees need to submit to Beverly the names of those who will serve on the ad hoc committee. If a committee chair does not submit names, Beverly will select PABEA members for the ad hoc committee. Raelene will be the Chair of the ad hoc committee.

PRESENTATION BY KEALII LOPEZ, STATE DIRECTOR, AARP HAWAII

Kealii discussed ways that AARP Hawaii and PABEA could work together in advocating for and advancing legislation. She provided an overview of legislation and issues that AARP Hawaii prioritizes. She commented that Beverly is a member of the AARP Hawaii Executive Council. In October, AARP Hawaii will begin its state planning process, examining the upcoming year and setting priorities for AARP Hawaii. AARP Hawaii has a broad range of issues in which it engages. If an issue arises that is not addressed or aligned with AARP's national policy, state offices do not engage in that issue. An example of non-engagement by AARP Hawaii is the vacant homes tax issue in Honolulu. However, housing is an AARP priority. AARP Hawaii has wide latitude to address areas that are national AARP issues, e.g. adult safety, age discrimination, housing, and caregiving. After AARP Hawaii decides which issues to engage, the issues are prioritized into tiers of engagement. For example, the recent Hawaii Retirement Savings Program legislation that AARP Hawaii advocated for seven years was a top tier

engagement, i.e. robust resources were dedicated to advancing and passing the legislation. Resources funded meeting with small businesses at pau hana hours to educate them on the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program, meeting stakeholders on neighbor islands, advertising in newspapers and on radio, researching the issue, and funding the task force that authored the bill. The next tier is for bills that are priorities, but other partners are the primary advocates for those bills. Kealii and Audrey will meet with those partners and legislators to determine strategies for passing legislation. An example of a bill in this tier is the legislation that allowed counties to enable property owners to build two or more ADUs on their property. Another example in this second level tier is paid family leave. AARP Hawaii partnered with Nicole Woo and her team at Hawaii Children's Action Network to advance paid family leave legislation. The third tier of engagement is for issues which are important to AARP Hawaii, but AARP Hawaii's efforts are primarily submitting testimony. Data and information which are available from the AARP national office might be assimilated into the testimony. Issues might be included in AARP's vital voices survey, which is performed every three years. Guardianship was included in the most recent survey to find ways to ensure that family members and others who are appointed as guardians have a range of guardianship powers based upon the needs of the individuals who require guardians. AARP Hawaii also monitors legislation to ensure that legislation has no adverse effect on kupuna and their families. An example is the recent legislation that would have required those 72 years of age and older who are renewing their drivers' licenses to obtain a physician's approval. The requirement was removed from the final bill. Also, drivers between the ages of 72 and 79 years can renew their licenses every four years (instead of every two years – the previous requirement). Kealii and AARP Hawaii are open to partnering with PABEA on mutually supported legislation. AARP Hawaii supports the Kupuna Caucus and its priorities. An example is AARP Hawaii's support of the silver alert bill, which was one of the five Kupuna Caucus priorities. The family caregiver tax credit and paid family leave were also Kupuna Caucus priorities that AARP Hawaii supported. AARP Hawaii's current top priority is affordable housing. AARP Hawaii is examining where it can be effective in the affordable housing inventory. AARP Hawaii also advocates at the county level.

Marilyn recognized Kealii, Audrey, and AARP Hawaii for their terrific work and the wide range of issues that they address.

An issue that AARP National questioned, but AARP Hawaii was able to defend, was AARP Hawaii's support of the exemption of physicians and providers from the State's general excise tax (GET) on healthcare for patients with Medicare, Medicaid, or Tricare. AARP Hawaii reasoned that the GET is an obstacle to recruiting and retaining physicians and providers in Hawaii.

Gary commented that AARP Hawaii also performs administrative advocacy, such as removing age as a criteria for care in the Hawaii Crisis Standards of Care Triage Allocation Framework. The Attorney General has approved the document, but it has not yet been posted for access by the public. Kealii stated that the Hawaii Emergency Management Administration might post it on its website, where it was initially posted.

Another example of administrative advocacy was the development and publication of a COVID protocols manual for Hawaii care homes by Audrey and her team of community healthcare professionals. The care homes had little guidance from the Department of Health (DOH) on COVID procedures and protocols. DOH referred the care homes to the CDC. The DOH approved the manual authored by Audrey et. al. AARP is working with senior housing properties to develop evacuation plans for its residents.

With an AARP staff of only five employees, work capacity can be challenging but partnerships help to distribute the work.

Carolyn thanked Kealii, Audrey, and AARP Hawaii for their work in support of kupuna and their families.

Shelly asked Kealii whether AARP could assist with addressing unlicensed care homes.

Kealii responded that AARP Hawaii works closely with licensed care homes and prefers licensed care homes because of the regulatory oversight provided to these licensed care homes.

Audrey commented that Justin Lam, Acting Chief, Office of Health Care Assurance, Department of Health, will be providing a presentation on unlicensed care homes at today's Kupuna Caucus meeting. Audrey also commented that care homes which are unlicensed and therefore not provided quality of care and regulatory oversight raise concerns about the safety of the residents in unlicensed care homes.

Marilyn commented that John McDermott encourages unlicensed care homes to obtain licensure to receive the benefits of licensure, i.e. quality of care oversight and regulatory compliance.

Debbie Kim Morikawa commented that she and her colleagues are attempting to identify and address systemic issues. Over the years, since the first care home rules were established, the care homes have begun accepting residents at much higher levels of care and with less mobility. Emergency preparedness is now an acute issue, i.e. evacuation of multiple residents requiring assistance, the bedbound, and those with dementia. Care homes do not necessarily have two employees on duty at the same time. The rules need to be examined to determine whether they are appropriate for the care and services needed in the homes. Care homes also prefer private pay residents. All homes must be licensed to meet a minimum standard. But quality of life is just as important as safe care and services. Debbie and her colleagues are also examining the relationship and roles between case managers and placement facilities. Discussion have also begun with adult protective services to address inappropriate discharges from hospitals, i.e. returning patients to their original setting where they were unable to obtain proper care. Many issues need to be discussed and addressed. Systemic changes need to be made. We need to ensure that care homes provide quality of life for all seniors no matter their circumstance.

Kealii volunteers AARP Hawaii to work with Debbie and her team in improving the quality of life in care homes. Kealii commented that John McDermott related to her that the working relationship between the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the Office of Health Care Assurance is highly effective. CMS has finalized its minimum staffing standards for long term care facilities. The nursing facility industry is lobbying in Congress to overturn the standards. Congress can overturn the rules. AARP Hawaii is working with Hawaii's congressional delegation to preserve the standards. The number of RNs and CNAs in a facility has a direct effect on the quality of care and services on the facility's residents. If AARP Hawaii is aware of an issue, it might be able to advocate appropriately given its limited capacity. An example is AARP Hawaii's advocacy for the increase in rates for home and community-based services.

Caroline commented that the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) performs all state licensing activities on healthcare facilities (including care homes), agencies, and organizations in Hawaii. Ombudsmen visiting unlicensed care homes would be considered trespassing.

Debbie commented that several years ago, legislation passed enabling OHCA to approach an unlicensed care home if a complaint about the home was received. However, if OHCA was refused entry, then OHCA's recourse is quite limited. DOH is examining legislation to increase the penalties for operating an unlicensed care home. Enforcement actions are also increasing.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: No public testimony was offered.

APPOINTED MEMBERS REPORTS: No reports were offered by appointed members.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Kathy Ishihara reported that DHS oversees the community care foster family homes and that DHS has Medicaid slots within the adult residential care homes. If DHS can collaborate on any initiatives, please let Kathy know. She will find available resources.

Debbie Kim Morikawa provided an update from the DOH Immunization Branch: Flu vaccine manufacturers have begun shipping the new batch of flu vaccines. The vaccines are available at some pharmacies. An article in the Star Advertiser addressed whether now is too early to be vaccinated. Unless your health is compromised, September and October are the best months to be vaccinated for flu according to the CDC. Older adults and pregnant women should avoid receiving the flu vaccination in July and August unless they cannot obtain the vaccination in September or October. September and October are closer to the peak of the winter flu season. Protection wanes over time. If you receive the vaccination in July or August, you will not have the needed protection required during the peak of the flu season. The new COVID vaccine is anticipated to be available in August or September, but a tentative timeframe has not been provided to DOH.

Debbie reported that the Public Health Nursing Branch is identifying that social isolation for seniors is becoming a problem issue. Their recommendation is to establish more senior companion programs, like Project Dana, where companions can visit seniors in the community. Currently, the waiting list for senior companions is long. Transportation issues also are a concern. Seniors might want to go into the community, such as a senior center, for their activities. TheHandi-Van sometimes is not desirable. TheBus often is not near enough for seniors. Other transportation alternatives exist, but they have waiting lists.

Debbie commented that the Adult Protective Services (APS) self-neglect standard is quite high. The high standard is frustrating for agencies. Many vulnerable adults are in the community. The standard is that the vulnerable adult must be in a situation or condition that poses an immediate risk of death or serious physical harm. Often, the standard is difficult to meet. Systemic issues are a problem. Resources are inadequate. Vulnerable adults are discharged from hospitals prematurely. The aging network need to examine the systemic issues and develop long-term solutions.

Dan Miyamoto reported that public school students will be returning to school this Monday, August 5, 2024. The adult education program is offering digital equity classes. Dan will contact Caroline to examine partnering on Hawaii State Plan on Aging goal 3, "*Hawaii's underserved populations have equitable access to programs and services.*" Dan commented that the bus

transportation services for the DOE are contracted through procurement. The shortage of bus drivers has resulted in reducing school bus routes across the State, i.e. the State has been unable to restore full school bus services since the pandemic. Dan will contact the DOE Facilities Branch to learn more. Neighbor island school bus services are especially affected because of the limited human resources on the neighbor islands.

Attached is Alan Burdick's report. Alan reported that the current season of the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) ends on October 31, 2024. Oahu is overbooked with nearly 1,600 people on its waitlist. The Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council transferred 141 caseload units (\$50 per unit) to Oahu. Hawaii Foodbank is transferring 50 units from Kauai to Oahu. Neither Hawaii County nor Kauai have been able to recruit enough participants. The Program is deeply enveloped in regulations adopted 30 to 40 years ago, when \$50 bought much more on the mainland than it does today in Hawaii. Alan suggests that those who are interested in advocating for greater funding for SFMNP to call the Hawaii Congressional delegation. The Program currently serves 10,000 to 11,000 participants with the second year of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The use of ARPA funds might be extended into next year but cannot be used to increase the \$50 unit amount. Please contact Alan if you have any questions related to kupuna nutrition.

Rick commented that the FY 2024 funding for Older Americans Act nutrition programs includes an \$8 million cut to the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program, the primary legislation that funds Meals on Wheels.

Sharon Yee entered in the Zoom chat, *"...I want to share the August health observances - National Immunization Awareness Month for All Ages and National Health Center Week start Sunday, August 4. I will share resources. Thank you and apologies."*

Sharon also entered in the Zoom chat, *"If any unit held 59th Medicare/Medicaid anniversary activities, I'd love to see photos if you would care to share. Thank you."*

Stephen inquired with Kathy Ishihara about the status of the Medicaid renewal effort (Medicaid eligibility redetermination). Kathy will contact Meredith Nichols, Assistant Administrator of Hawaii's DHS Med-QUEST Division to learn more.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Rachel Yeager reported that Derek Ariyoshi and EAD staff have been participating in Hawaiian Electric's Public Safety Power Shutoff program (PSPS) outreach on the Leeward Coast. This week, EAD staff visited two senior housing properties in Maili. Multiple outreach events are scheduled for 12 to 15 properties. Based on the first outreach event, the majority of residents are Marshallese and Chuukese. Addressing language needs is a priority. EAD has staff who speak Marshallese, Tongan, and Ilocano. EAD is securing the services of Chuukese and Samoan interpreters. EAD is partnering with the Office of Language Access, Hawaiian Electric (HECO), the Board of Water Supply, and the Public Health Nurses. HECO is registering individuals on its communication broadcast list to provide notifications and updates to these individuals before power is shut off. Derek is emphasizing quality over quantity. EAD is serving underrepresented, underserved, and marginalized populations. EAD needs to take all the time necessary to address fully any concerns that these populations might have. EAD is awaiting the posting of its request for bids (RFB) for senior services. The RFB will be posted within the next two weeks. EAD's On-Demand Rideshare Transportation for Older Adults pilot program had 21 completed rides in June and 32 completed rides in July. The oldest rider is 93 years old. The

program has experienced cancellations. Ride cancellations increased in July. In August, the program is offering only on-demand rides. EAD is performing rideshare education with each client, including educating the client to the on-demand service. The riders appreciate the service. One senior mentioned that the service has really helped as the senior's caregiver does not need time off from work to drive the senior to multiple physician appointments throughout the week.

HAWAI'I COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report. Horace provided highlights from his report:

- Hawai'i County Office of Aging (HCOA) interviewed three applicants for the Data Analyst position on June 25, 2024. One applicant was invited for a second interview on Wednesday, July 3, 2024. HCOA is happy to announce that all reference checks were completed. The Data Analyst position has been filled by Louis de Virgilio, who started work on Thursday, August 1, 2024.
- Horace thanked Caroline for the privilege of attending the 49th annual US Aging Conference and Tradeshow from July 8 to July 11, 2024 in Tampa, Florida. This year's conference was the largest held with 1,400 attendees. Many of the workshops focused on Alzheimer's disease and the Re-Authorization of the Older Americans Act.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena Dagdag Andaya reported that remembrance events are scheduled for next week in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the fires in Lahaina and upcountry Maui. One of the events involves an Aloha for Kupuna gathering on August 9, 2024 at the Lahaina Civic Center. MCOA is working with Kaunoa Senior Center in resuming activities and finding locations for MCOA's congregate meal programs and other leisure programs. Finding locations is a challenge as many places are not appropriate for large gatherings and do not have facilities such as bathrooms and running water required to operate as adult day care, congregate meal services, and leisure programs. Transportation for seniors also is a challenge. MCOA is performing outreach education on the HECO PSPS program. Education on the PSPS program has been built into MCOA's home assessments to inform seniors that the PSPS program might affect them for an extended period (multiple hours) and that they need to be prepared for food storage and with alternative power sources, especially if they have electrical medical equipment. MCOA participated in the Maui County Disaster Preparedness Expo on July 13, 2024. MCOA highlighted the issue of potentially not having electrical power for an extended period and to be prepared for a power shut off. MCOA is one of 50 organizations selected for the National Council on Aging's funding opportunity to support digital literacy. MCOA will receive a stipend of \$7,500 to provide in-person digital literacy workshops for older adults. The National Council on Aging has a digital literacy curriculum that provides workshop topics addressing online safety, cybersecurity, telehealth, and accessing virtual platforms. Seniors will be able to connect with others and access streaming content to enhance health and social wellbeing. MCOA staff have been educating senior clubs at the independent living facilities on online safety and cybersecurity. Many seniors on Maui have called MCOA to inform MCOA that they have been notified by their banks that they have been victims of check washing. Thieves steal checks in the mail, erase the original payee and amount, and enter fraudulent information. One of the victims is a member of the Maui County Council on Aging. MCOA is working on a presentation for the senior clubs to educate them that alternatives to paying bills exist other than mailing a check.

Rowena commented that congregate dining requires bathrooms, running water, hot water, and an area for serving food. Rental rates have increased. For a vacant space, MCOA would need to obtain a building permit and have the space renovated and improved to install the required facilities. Finding a location with the required facilities that can serve a large number of seniors is a challenge. Congregate meals are offered five days a week.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday, August 2, 2024, Kupuna Caucus, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, September 6, 2024, PABEA Monthly Meeting, 11:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Pruette.

Rick announced two events:

- Saturday, September 14, 2024, Skygate Park, Out of the Darkness O'ahu Walk. The walk aims to raise awareness on suicide prevention, honor loved ones lost to suicide, and support survivors of suicide loss. Walk participants from the public are welcome.
- The 19th Annual Joint Memorial Service, honoring the men who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, who died in World War II or have since passed on, will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. The hour-long service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and is open to the public. The graves will be decorated with donated flowers and leis on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. The graves will be cleared from flowers and lei on Monday, September 30, 2024. Volunteers are welcome to help on all three days.

Barbara announced that Generations Magazine is hosting Aging in Place Workshops on Saturday, August 3, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., at the Ala Moana Hotel.

Raelene recognized Tani Kalei Salazar for the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias presentation that she provided for the Hawaii Council of Community Associations condominium board of director training. Raelene will feature the presentation on a future Condo Insider episode.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.