

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, September 6, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Beverly Gotelli called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Appointed members present: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Charlene Taketa (joined the meeting at 11:12 a.m. after the roll was called), Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno.

Appointed members excused and absent: Poki'i Balaz, Suzie Schulberg, and Barbara Service.

(A quorum was established as twelve 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: Derrick Ariyoshi, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Horace Farr, Nia Greer, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, Candace Nakamoto, Lynn Niitani, Lauryn Reich, Tani Salazar, Kealoha Takahashi, Cristina Valenzuela, and Jazlyn Wandasan.

Guests present: Justin Lam, Department of Health (DOH); Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii; William Puette, Ph.D., Hawaii State Association of Parliamentarians; and Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy, AARP Hawaii.

PRESENTATION: Overview of Parliamentary Procedures by William Puette, Ph.D., Hawaii State Association of Parliamentarians. (Presentation attached.)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The draft minutes of the August 2, 2024 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were amended as follows:

Page 9, **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** "Friday, September 6, 2024, PABEA Monthly Meeting, 11:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Puette-Puette."

The draft minutes of the August 2, 2024 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were adopted as amended.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Alison Barkoff, the senior official performing the duties of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging, announced that she will be leaving the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in early October. She will be joining George Washington University.
- The Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities (ICC) is leading the charge to develop a National Plan on Aging. The first step in developing the National Plan on Aging is creating a strategic framework:
<https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/ICC-Aging/StrategicFramework-NationalPlanOnAging-2024.pdf>
- EOA is co-leading efforts with SHPDA in the development of the LTC report due to the legislature in December 2024. EOA has received an approval to establish, allot, and fill the LTC planner position. The position is not permanent. A request has been made to change the position to a permanent position through the budget process.

EOA has received PABEA appointment letters for Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, and Barbara Service for four-year terms ending June 30, 2028. EOA also has received PABEA appointment letters for new members Louise Johnson, Sara Medeiros, Gary Simon, and Charlene Taketa. Caroline thanked all for their service.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly requested that those attending the meeting by Zoom use their first name, last name, and title or capacity (e.g. PABEA Member, DOH) for clarity. Beverly received an email from Keali'i Lopez of AARP Hawaii regarding a matter to be discussed at today's meeting.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Rick reported that the Committee met this morning. Audrey provided a presentation on the CMS Minimum Staffing Standards for Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities Final Rule issued administratively by CMS in April 2024. The rule mandates new comprehensive minimum nurse staffing requirements which aim to significantly reduce the risk of residents receiving unsafe and low-quality care within LTC facilities. Congress might attempt to undo the CMS rules through a Congressional Review Act (CRA) which may be heard as soon as September 17, 2024 when Congress returns to session. The CRA would prohibit CMS from issuing in the future any rules regarding staffing in LTC facilities. The CRA would require any rules governing staffing to be issued by Congress. Audrey requests individual PABEA members to send a letter to Senators Schatz and Hirono in support of the minimum staffing standards and in opposition of the CRA. Audrey will draft a sample letter to the Senators.

The Committee is considering six issues for recommendation to PABEA for approval as PABEA legislative priorities:

1. Falls Prevention
2. Hawai'i Saves
3. Caregiver Tax Credit
4. Paid Family Leave
5. Condos (Disaster Preparedness)
6. Unemployment Benefits for Caregivers

The Committee suggests that PABEA meet with the Governor to introduce PABEA and its members and to present and discuss its issues and activities, including the Older Americans Month Celebration.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that the Committee did not meet last month. At today's meeting, the Committee decided to invite Justin Lam to its next meeting.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

The Committee met yesterday. Rick reported that Older Americans Month (OAM) celebration will be held on Friday, June 13, 2025 at 15 Craigside. Rick will confirm the date with Suzie Schulberg. The selection of a Committee vice chair was deferred to next month's meeting. The timeline for preparing for the OAM celebration was reviewed. The budget for the OAM celebration will be developed next month. The Committee will contact Representative Cory Chun after the general election to ask him to be the emcee for the celebration. Lanakila Senior Multi-Purpose Center will provide entertainment by a singing group and a ukulele group. The official theme for Older Americans Month has not been announced yet. A proclamation from the Governor will be requested. Formal invitations with the State seal and RSVP for the OAM celebration will be mailed to invitees. Rick thanked new members who have joined the Committee.

STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE

Shelly selected Raelene from PPRC to serve on the ad hoc committee. Rick selected Barbara Service from the RAC to serve on the ad hoc committee. Beverly will contact Barbara Service for the representative from the Legislative Committee to serve on the ad hoc committee.

PABEA EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

Beverly requests PABEA members who have not yet completed and submitted the PABEA emergency contact form to complete the form and submit to Josephine.

OLDER AMERICAN MONTHS (OAM) CELEBRATION

Beverly reiterated that the OAM celebration will be on Friday, June 13, 2025 at 15 Craigside. The June PABEA meeting will be on June 6, 2025

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Audrey reported that the CMS Minimum Staffing Standards for Long Term Care Facilities Final Rule is a federal issue that impacts Hawaii. She reiterated that the call to action is for individuals to send a letter to Senators Schatz and Hirono in support of the minimum staffing rules and in opposition of a Congressional Review Act (CRA) that would overturn the final rule. A CRA would prohibit CMS from issuing in the future any rules regarding staffing in LTC facilities. The CRA would require any rules governing staffing to be issued by Congress. Congress might hear a CRA in the next two weeks. Audrey will provide an update at the October meeting. Audrey will prepare a draft letter for individuals to use. She will send it to Cristina for distribution to PABEA members.

Keali'i remarked that Hawaii's Congressional delegation is interested in firsthand stories.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Marilyn would like to have Congresswoman Jill Tokuda or her designee invited to be the guest speaker at a future PABEA meeting. Jill is a former PABEA member and is well versed in elder issues.

Caroline commented that appointed members' written reports might include issues of interest to PABEA and the rationale for raising the issue.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Kathy Ishihara commented that Hui Pohala, the Department of Human Services contractor to expand palliative care services, is available to provide a presentation to PABEA in October, November, or December on Medicaid's community based palliative care services. Beverly and Caroline are considering having the presentation at the November PABEA meeting. Kathy commented that Hui Pohala has been providing presentations in the community. Kathy will inquire whether the Medicaid palliative care services are available on the neighbor islands.

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.

Dan Miyamoto reported that some suspended school bus routes have been restored on the neighbor islands and on leeward Oahu.

Sara reported that she received a survey from Ward Research regarding adult education in the high schools asking seniors (elders) what classes seniors (elders) would be interested in attending at adult night schools.

Dan responded that the Department of Education (DOE) has a contract with Ward Research to determine the public perception of adult schools. The survey is part of the evaluation of the adult schools to determine whether the services provided by the adult schools are aligned with the needs of the community.

Sara commented that completing the survey was useful as an opportunity to provide suggestions. Sara provided suggestions on subjects that seniors might be interested in.

Dan commented that Ward Research will prepare a final report to be provided to the DOE before December. The results of the survey will be used to improve and provide relevant services to the community.

Alan Burdick reported that the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) ends on October 31, 2024. The waitlist on Oahu is huge despite the transfer of many caseloads from Hawaii County and Kauai County to Oahu. Approximately 1,000 applicants are on the waitlist. Alan is preparing the State Plan for next year. Congress is unlikely to increase either the dollar value per person or the dollar amount appropriated for the program. Approximately 10,000 beneficiaries will be served next year. Although Maui has met their full quota for USDA and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), Maui has received a grant from another organization to fund cases beyond the USDA and ARPA quotas. Hawaii County has approximately 50 slots

available. Alan commented that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Office of Community Services also administers The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program that helps supplement the diets of people with low income by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods and administrative funds to states to operate TEFAP. TEFAP has fewer limitations than SFMNP.

Sharon reported that she sent to Josephine for distribution to PABEA members on-demand training resources and training resources for the Medicare open enrollment beginning October 15, 2024. Sharon will send to Josephine the registration link to the National Medicare Education Program (NMEP) meeting on September 18, 2024 and the link to solicitation for proposals for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Innovator Challenge Award. Desired outcomes of the award include the development of community-driven strategies and application of data-driven tools to combat bullying, hate, and bias to promote healthier communities.

On behalf of the Department of Health (DOH), Justin Lam reminds everyone to obtain their fall vaccinations. DOH recommends the COVID vaccine, the 2024 – 2025 flu vaccine, and the RSV vaccine for individuals over the age of 75 years and those over 60 years of age with chronic medical conditions.

Keali'i asked whether DOH has data related to nursing home complaints or concerns regarding quality of care. Justin responded that the information could be provided with a request for information for each facility. The number of complaints is tracked, but not the nature of the complaint. Gathering data on the nature of complaints would be performed manually.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Derrick reported that EAD has completed its Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and disaster preparedness education outreach on the leeward coast. EAD visited 12 low-income housing properties on the leeward coast. EAD visited approximately 300 households with the Board of Water Supply, Hawaiian Electric Company, the Department of Health, and public health nurses and informed residents on disaster preparedness, including PSPS. Language translation, especially for the Marshallese, was provided by EAD.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report.

HCOA has filled its Kona clerical position. The new clerk begins on September 9, 2024. HCOA will be losing its Administrative Assistant. Her last day is September 18, 2024. The Administrative Assistant also handles accounting and human resource functions. On September 18, 2024, Hawaii County begins its FY 2026 budget cycle kickoff. HCOA completed interviews for the Administrative Assistant position on August 30, 2024. The candidate to whom the position was offered declined the offer. Horace has added a clause to the human resource documents for the position that he can hire a candidate above the minimum rate for the position. The Administrative Assistant also supervises the administrative staff. Horace aims to fill the position by the end of September. The County of Hawaii five-year 2025 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is due on July 1, 2025.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

KAEA's Assistant Executive on Aging resigned. The RSVP Program Manager position and the Grants Manager position are also vacant. Current funding for KAEA is insufficient to support the demand for senior services on Kauai.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena reported that MCOA has 8 vacancies. 3 of the 8 vacancies are from retirements at the end of July – 2 of the retirees were with MCOA for over 30 years and one was a program specialist who was with MCOA for over 12 years. The job market on Maui is extremely competitive. MCOA is revising its job descriptions to ensure that MCOA has the proper staff to operate its office. MCOA is hosting an Abilities Awareness Fair on September 14, 2024. 30 vendors from both State and local agencies will be participating in the fair. Entertainment includes a comedy routine from the Maui Deaf Friends; a fashion show by Ka Lima O Maui, an organization that provides vocational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities; and a chair exercise exhibit. Vaccinations also will be available. The Maui Senior Fair will be on November 2, 2024. MCOA is recruiting vendors. So far, 12 vendors have registered. The Moloka'i Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) is coordinating a "Book of Life" workshop to be held in mid-October. MCOA will assist in hosting the workshop and providing materials that workshop participants will use to create their Nā Palapala Ko'iko'i binder, which will contain important documents for emergency preparedness and end-of-life planning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday, September 6, 2024, Kupuna Caucus 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Friday, October 4, PABEA Monthly Meeting 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator, Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council).

Rick announced three events:

- Hale Hau'oli Hawai'i Kupuna and Caregiver Resource Fair, September 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.
- Out of the Darkness Walk 2024 hosted by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Saturday, September 14, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Skygate.
- 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Annual Grave Decoration, Saturday, September 28, 2024, 8:30 a.m., National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Rick will email his announcements, including information about other events, to PABEA members.

Caroline commented that workforce (development) is one of the subcommittees of EOA's LTC Steering Committee.

Beverly announced that Poki'i has been selected for the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.