

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)  
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410  
Friday, October 4, 2024 | 11:30 a.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Appointed members present: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service (entered the meeting at 11:33 a.m. after the roll was called), Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, and Raelene Tenno.

Appointed members excused and absent: Poki'i Balaz, Stephen Lung, Suzie Schulberg, Charlene Taketa, and Leslie Tanoue.

(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: Dan Miyamoto, Department of Education (DOE); Debbie Kim Morikawa, Department of Health (DOH); Christy Nishita, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (COA); and Sharon Yee, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

EOA staff and AAA staff present: Aaron Arakaki, Zenaida Caraang, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Kristell Corpuz, Horace Farr, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Lynn Niitani, Lauryn Reich, Tani Salazar, Kealoha Takahashi, Cristina Valenzuela, and Jason Wong.

Guests present: Daintry Bartoldus, Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council); Paula Cerio, Department of Health (DOH); Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, AARP Hawaii Director of Advocacy; and Kathy Wyatt, Hale Hau'oli Hawaii.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The draft minutes of the September 6, 2024 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING (EOA) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Attached is Caroline's report.

Aaron provided highlights from Caroline's report:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Part 84 Final Rule: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued a final rule to advance equity and bolster protections for people with disabilities. The final rule, *Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Health and Human Service Programs or Activities*, updates, modernizes, clarifies, and strengthens the implementing regulation for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in

programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance. The rule provides robust civil rights protections for people with disabilities in federally funded health and human services programs. The rule advances the Rehabilitation Act and helps to ensure that people with disabilities are not subjected to discrimination in any program or activity receiving funding from HHS.

- EOA welcomed Jason Wong on September 16, 2024, as the statistician for EOA.
- EOA is in the process of hiring the CDC BOLD Coordinator (Debbie Shimizu's former position).
- EOA is in the process of reviewing its Interstate Funding Formula (IFF), which is used to distribute federal and state funds to the Area Agencies on Aging.
- EOA and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are implementing the Final Rule for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Code of Federal Regulations.
- Leslie Tanoue and Caroline presented at the national level with Puerto Rico on Disaster in Island and Coastal Communities on September 24, 2024. 186 individuals were in the audience.
- 2025 Legislature
  - EOA submitted a budget request to DOH to convert the SMP and the LTC Planner positions from temporary to permanent civil service positions. Approval is pending.
  - EOA is requesting 3 permanent positions for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
  - EOA is monitoring State funds for increases in programs and services. A budget request to increase state kupuna care services might be needed in a future legislative session.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly reported that she is in contact with Caroline Cadirao via phone. A PABEA Executive Committee meeting via Zoom will be scheduled for November 2024 before Thanksgiving.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Rick reported that the Committee met this morning. Senator Donna Mercado Kim provided a presentation on reintroducing legislation allowing the use of a candidate committee's campaign funds for adult dependent care expenses necessitated by the candidate's participation in campaign activities. The Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission has approved the use of a candidate committee's campaign funds for adult dependent care expenses necessitated by the candidate's participation in campaign activities. The Commission has requested the approval codified into law.

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

Congress took no action on reversing the CMS Minimum Staffing Standards for Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities Final Rule issued administratively by CMS. The Final 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 have attempted to reverse the Final Rule through a Congressional Review Act (CRA). A CRA would have prohibited CMS from issuing in the future any rules regarding staffing in LTC facilities. The CRA would have required any rules governing staffing to be issued by Congress. Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, AARP Hawaii Director of Advocacy, will keep PABEA informed of any developments for potential action by PABEA.

Proposals for the 2025 Kupuna Caucus bill package may be sent to the Kupuna Caucus.

#### 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. The Hawaii Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are planning their OAM celebrations.

#### PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that the Committee did not meet this morning.

#### STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE

A motion to appoint Raelene Tenno as Chair of the Standards of Operations Ad Hoc Committee and Stephen Lung and Rick Tabor as members of the Committee was approved. Beverly requests that the Committee complete its work by June 2025.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council).

Beverly introduced Daintry. Daintry provided a presentation on how DD Council is partnering with EOA and other aging stakeholders. (Presentation attached.) Daintry has an infographic brochure on Smart911, a free national service which allows residents to create a safety profile to assist first responders in the event of an emergency. Outreach education on Smart911 by DD Council began October 1, 2024. Daintry will contact Hawaiian Electric to promote Smart911 in conjunction with Hawaiian Electric's outreach education on Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

#### NEW BUSINESS

A motion to reschedule the January 2024 PABEA meeting from Friday, January 3, 2024 to Friday, January 10, 2024 was approved.

#### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

#### APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Beverly reported that Hui Pohala, the Department of Human Services contractor to expand palliative care services, will provide a presentation to PABEA at the November 2024 PABEA meeting on Medicaid's community based palliative care services. Deanna Espinas, producer of "The Super Executive Aunties of the Malama Caregivers," will also provide a presentation.

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Christy reported that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (COA) hired an assistant professor from the University of Michigan. He has a background in social work and is interested in age-friendly communities and technology for aging. His students are enjoying the class that he is teaching this year. COA is expanding its capacity with the new assistant professor. COA has been focusing on workforce development. Over the last year, COA has been working with EOA on developing a strategic plan to strengthen the direct care workforce. The plan includes best practices as well as policy recommendations. An advisory group, which included Daintry, ensured that COA wasn't duplicating any work by any organizations in the community and that COA's efforts were aligned with the work by these organizations. COA is examining ways to partner with EOA and other stakeholders in the future. COA will have a table at an upcoming public health event for social work students searching for an internship or employment. The event will be on October 16, 2024. COA will be at the event, along with other organizations, to promote opportunities both at COA and within the aging network. Those who would like to promote any job opportunities or internship opportunities are encouraged to contact Christy to have the opportunities included at the COA table.

Debbie introduced Paula Cerio, the new Chief for the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA). Debbie reported that DOH is recruiting 4 new nurses to perform Medicare surveys. Debbie will continue to attend PABEA meetings but has a standing meeting at 12:30 p.m. with the DOH Director on the first Friday of each month. Paula will attend PABEA meetings and remain throughout each meeting. Debbie asks Beverly and Caroline to let Debbie know if DOH Director Kenny Fink needs to formally appoint Paula as the ex officio from DOH to PABEA.

Dan reported that he will be retiring in December. His PABEA ex officio duties will be transitioned to another representative from the DOE. Approximately, 35 percent of the school bus routes are yet to be restored. Hiring qualified school bus drivers is a challenge. Many of the former bus drivers retired during the pandemic or secured other employment during the pandemic. The Governor signed an emergency proclamation relaxing school bus driver requirements.

Sharon reported that Josephine has distributed to PABEA the information that Sharon sent to Josephine. Medicare open enrollment is underway. Plans can be compared under the Medicare Plan Finder. Plans can continue to modify their benefits for 2025. Thus, costs under the Medicare Plan Finder might be incomplete. Plans, websites, and materials can be found under the Medicare Plan Finder. CMS encourages Medicare beneficiaries to enroll in MyMedicare to access electronic information, including Medicare summary notices. The *Medicare & You* handbooks have been mailed to Medicare beneficiaries. Electronic versions of the handbook are available at Medicare.gov. In 2025, under the Inflation Reduction Act, all people with Medicare Part D will benefit from a \$2,000 cap on annual out-of-pocket prescription drug costs. Medicare beneficiaries who have high drug costs should contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Those Medicare beneficiaries who have high drug costs at the beginning of the year could meet their out-of-pocket maximum early in the year and, consequently, not need to pay for any drugs for the remainder of the year.

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Zenaida "Zen" Caraang provided the EAD report for EAD Director Derrick Ariyoshi.

Zen reported that EAD has completed its Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and disaster preparedness education outreach on the leeward coast. EAD visited approximately 300 households with the Board of Water Supply, Hawaiian Electric Company, the Department of Health, and the Foodbank and informed residents on disaster preparedness, including PSPS. Language translation was provided by EAD. Zen presented a slide show on the PSPS outreach performed in the Waianae area and provided data on the outreach:

- 12 low-income housing properties were visited.
- 370 face to face contacts were performed.
  - 191 face to face contacts were with individuals of less than 60 years old.
  - 179 face to face contacts were with individuals of age 60 years or older.
  - 289 of the face-to-face contacts were interested in receiving notification prior to shut-off.
  - 38 households are with medical concerns and/or limited physical capabilities.
  - 36 households are with limited English proficiency (LEP).
    - Languages in households with LEP include:
      - Marshallese – 4 households
      - Chuukese – 23 households
      - Samoan – 4 households
      - Tongan – 1 household
      - Ilocano – 4 households
- 231 emergency kits were left at front doors or with property management.

Zen reported that EAD logged a total of 1,364 encounters in September 2024.

Marilyn commented that PSPS and disaster preparedness outreach education needs to be performed throughout the state in every community.

Zen reported that the residents were grateful and found the information valuable. Relationships with residents were established. EAD will continue to provide emergency and disaster information as part of its Area Plan on Aging.

#### HAWAI'I COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Horace's report.

Horace provided highlights from his report. The Administrative Assistant I position remains vacant. HCOA is awaiting a new list of applicants from Human Resources. The County FY 2026 Budget Kickoff was held on September 18, 2024. Today is the fourth and final day of the Better Choices Better Health (BCBH), Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) Lay Leader workshop. The workshop has 9 new Lay Leader participants. The workshop also provides Master Trainers an opportunity to fulfill their annual recertification requirements. The Master Trainer is Leslie Tanoue. Horace thanked EOA for funding BCBH workshop. HCOA has completed and executed its Federal Title III contracts for Federal Fiscal Year 2025.

Sarah shared HCOA's OAM program.

#### KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

Kealoha provided highlights from her report:

- A candidate has been selected for the Assistant County Executive on Aging position. KAEA is awaiting notification of hiring.
- Interviews for the RSVP position continue on October 4, 2024.
- Johnny Yago and Kealoha received their Master Trainer training certificates for Better Choices Better Health.

#### MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena reported that MCOA has a new employee on Molokai. She started this past Tuesday and is a former community health worker. MCOA recently hired a secretary, who begins on October 16, 2024. A few positions remain vacant and are in recruitment. MCOA is revising its job descriptions to ensure that MCOA has the proper staff to operate its office. The staffing shortage is leading to workload and capacity challenges, delaying activities planned by MCOA. MCOA logged 1,217 calls and served 1,430 participants in September 2024. The Moloka'i Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) is coordinating a "Book of Life" workshop to be held on October 14, 2024. 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. MCOA hosted an Abilities Awareness Fair on September 14, 2024. 40 vendors from both State and local agencies participated in the fair. Entertainment included a fashion show by Ka Lima O Maui, an organization that provides vocational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. The fair included many prizes for attendees and great emcees. MCOA also performed an outreach event at a Kahalui senior housing community. Approximately 20 residents attended. The Maui County Senior Fair will be on November 2, 2024 at Maui Mall Village. So far, 76 vendors have registered. More than 35% of the MCOA positions are vacant. Hiring is negatively affected by the housing shortage.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kupuna Caucus, Friday, October 4, 2024, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- PABEA Monthly Meeting, Friday, November 1, 2024, 11:30 a.m. Presenters will be Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services, and Deanna Espinas, producer of "The Super Executive Aunties of the Malama Caregivers."

Barbara announced that the *Young at Heart* Expo is today and tomorrow, October 4 and 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Neal Blaisdell Center. Flu shots are available at the Expo.

Raelene announced that Caroline Cadirao will open the Hawaii Council of Community Associations seminar on aging resources. Agencies that will be present include AARP Hawaii, Catholic Charities, EAD, and others.

Rick announced that:

- The National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Hawaii Oahu walk is Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Frank F. Fasi Civic Grounds.
  - The 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's – Oahu, is Saturday, November 2, 2024.
- Rick will email his announcements and information about other events to PABEA members.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.