

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)  
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410  
Friday, December 6, 2024 | 11:30 a.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Beverly Gotelli called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Appointed members present: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung (joined the meeting in-person at 11:45 a.m.), Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Charlene Taketa, and Leslie Tanoue.

Appointed members excused and absent: Poki'i Balaz, Suzie Schulberg, and Raelene Tenno.

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

Ex-officio members present: Paula Cerio, Department of Health (DOH); Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS); Darrick Lam, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); and Christy Nishita, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (COA).

EOA staff and AAA staff present: Derrick Ariyoshi, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Nia Greer, Emily Ishida (Executive on Aging, Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs), Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Candace Nakamoto, Lynn Niitani, Lauryn Reich, Tani Salazar, Cristina Valenzuela, Jason Wong, and Jeffrey Woodland.

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The draft minutes of the November 1, 2024 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Beverly reported that she and Caroline have been in touch with each other via phone and email regarding updates and the agenda for PABEA meetings. Beverly received a letter from Kealoha Takahashi last month informing Beverly of Kealoha's retirement. Beverly read aloud a letter from Horace Farr announcing his retirement effective December 1, 2024. In the letter, Horace expressed gratitude for his time serving the people, especially the kupuna, of Hawaii County for almost 34 years. He also thanked his colleagues, including Kealoha, Derrick, Rowena, the EOA staff, and PABEA members, and expressed his appreciation for the support he received during his tenure. Beverly reminded all that the next PABEA meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2025, the second Friday in January.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara reported that the Committee met this morning with quorum. The guest speaker was Coby Chock, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Alzheimer's Association Hawaii. Coby provided a history of Alzheimer's and an update on the newer drugs to treat Alzheimer's and the insurance coverage for those drugs. Potential PABEA legislative priorities were discussed, including:

- Falls Prevention
- Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program
- Caregiver Tax Credit
- Paid Family Leave
- Disaster Preparedness
- Unemployment Benefits for Family Caregivers
- Compassion and Choices/Death with Dignity
- Standardized Alzheimer's assessment for physicians
- Hearing Aids

The Committee voted to not support legislation allowing the use of campaign funds for child and adult dependent care. Barbara will notify Senator Donna Mercado Kim, who attended a previous Legislative Committee meeting to discuss the issue.

Barbara will examine the issue of residence rights for people who live in independent living facilities which are not licensed by the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services.

## PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly provided a written report. PPRC is searching for a speaker on unlicensed care facilities for their January or February 2025 meeting.

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Beverly reported that the Committee will not meet in December. The next RAC meeting will be in January.

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

Caroline wished all happy holidays. She invited her staff to join PABEA for holiday lunch. Caroline introduced Paula Cerio of the Department of Health, Office of Health Care Assurance and Emily Ishida, the new County Executive on Aging for Kauai County. Paula and Emily provided brief introduction of themselves. The meeting attendees, both in-person and via Zoom, introduced themselves to Paula and Emily. Caroline introduced EOA staff attending via Zoom.

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

- The new Aging and Disability Resource Center landing page is in operation. The URL remains the same – [hawaiiadrc.org](http://hawaiiadrc.org). Caroline asks PABEA members to visit the website and send comments to Caroline and Josephine. They will share the comments with the website development team.

- EOA is transitioning to a new ADRC assessment format. The goal is to streamline assessments conducted by the ADRC, ensuring timely delivery of long-term services and supports.
- EOA is finalizing its Annual Report and the Long-Term Care status report to be submitted to the state legislature in December.

Kealoha announced her retirement at the last PABEA meeting. Horace Farr announced his retirement after the general election. Aaron Arakaki also retired after 36 years of service. A meeting was held at EOA on November 21, 2024 with the AAA executives, AAA accountants, and EOA staff. Kealoha, Horace, and Aaron received a final farewell at the meeting. The Mayor of Kauai designated November 25, 2024 as Kealoha Day. Caroline is pleased with the quick transition from Kealoha to Emily. Caroline shared photographs of the final farewell. Caroline thanked PABEA members for their support over the last year.

### APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Appointed members' reports were deferred to the January 2025 PABEA meeting.

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Ex officio members' reports were deferred to the January 2025 PABEA meeting.

### AGENCY REPORTS

Attached are Derrick's, Emily's, and Rowena's reports.

Agency oral reports were deferred to the January 2025 PABEA meeting.

Rowena reported that MCOA has identified a potential adult day care site in West Maui. Last Wednesday, Rowena, the Maui Adult Day Care Centers Executive Director, Kyle Sakamoto (Maui Adult Day Care Centers Board President), Fay Gordon (Regional Administrator, Administration for Community Living), and Casey Knopp (Management and Program Analyst, Administration for Community Living) visited the potential site, which is twice the size of the previous site with Hale Mahaolu. Maui County Office on Aging can assist Maui Adult Day Care Centers with funding from the Administration for Community Living. The Maui County Office of Recovery also is helping Maui Adult Day Care Centers and Kaunoa Senior Services identify potential locations.

### NEW BUSINESS

A motion to change the starting time of the PABEA meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon was made, seconded, and approved. The start time had been 12:00 noon but was changed to 11:30 a.m. to allow time for PABEA meeting attendees to walk from the EOA office to the State Capitol when the Kupuna Caucus meeting was held in-person. The Kupuna Caucus now meets via Zoom.

Beverly announced that the guest speaker for the January 2025 PABEA meeting will be Courtney-Paige DiMaggio. Courtney is a registered nurse and a public health nurse on the Island of Molokai. Courtney and her team of public health nurses created the Book of Life project, Na Palapala Ko'iko'i. Kupuna use the book to store their documents in one place to be ready for emergencies and for future care.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING: Beverly adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

NOTES: Darrick Lam of CMS provided information to those who remained after the meeting was adjourned. Medicare open enrollment continues but ends tomorrow, December 7, 2024. The campaign offers 67 million Medicare beneficiaries an opportunity to review their healthcare coverage and determine whether their coverage meets their needs. All Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to review their existing coverage, whether their coverage is original Medicare or Medicare Advantage, and determine whether they need to change their coverage effective January 1, 2025. This period also allows beneficiaries the option to renew or change their Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. The most reliable resource for beneficiaries to find Medicare information is Medicare.gov. Beneficiaries can also call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). All beneficiaries also are encouraged to compare drug and health options. Prescriptions can be compared side by side by plan, coverage, cost, and quality ratings. Medicare's toll-free number is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Free, personalized health insurance counseling in Hawaii is available from the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which is a Federally funded, volunteer-based program administered by EOA. SHIP provides free, local, one-on-one, unbiased Medicare counseling, free presentations on Medicare related topics, and free information on Medicare. In the upcoming transition from one Presidential administration to another, the overall mission of CMS continues, regardless of the change in the Presidential administration. CMS employees, including Darrick, will continue to serve all United States citizens by implementing CMS policy and ensuring compliance with laws. The CMS Office of Program Operation and Local Engagement will continue:

- To communicate CMS initiatives, policies, and public health messaging;
- To listen to stakeholders, gather feedback, and communicate feedback to CMS leadership to inform policy.
- To meet routinely and one on one with partners to explain the work of CMS.  
To provide free in-person and virtual education and outreach that includes presentations on CMS and related topics, trainings, and answers to CMS and Medicare related questions.
- To promote Medicare, open enrollment, and marketplace open enrollment.

Darrick announced that he and his coworkers have plans to return to Hawaii and to visit Samoa in May 2025. CMS has no plans to replace the CMS Pacific Area Representative, the position formerly held by Tom Duran. However, Sharon Yee and the CMS San Francisco Regional Office are available to work with EOA and PABEA.