

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)  
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410  
Friday, January 10, 2025 | 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Beverly Gotelli called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Appointed members present: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, Stephen Lung (joined the meeting in-person at 12:03 p.m.), Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Suzie Schulberg (joined the meeting by Zoom at 12:07 p.m.), Marilyn Seely, Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Charlene Taketa, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno.

Appointed members excused and absent: Poki'i Balaz, Barbara Service, and William Kinaka.

(A quorum was established as eleven 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); Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS); Christy Nishita, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (COA); and Abey Qureshi, Department of Education (DOE).

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, Lauryn Reich, Lani Sakamoto, Tani Salazar, Erin Samura (Executive Assistant for Health, Equity, and Human Services, County of Hawai'i), Cristina Valenzuela, Joy Windham, Jason Wong, and Jeffrey Woodland.

Guests present: Courtney-Paige DiMaggio, Moloka'i Public Health Nursing, Hawai'i Department of Health; Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawaii State Director; Greg Misakian; Debbie Kim Morikawa, Deputy Director of Health Resources, Department of Health; and Kathy Wyatt, President, Hale Hau'oli Hawai'i.

The meeting attendees, both in-person and via Zoom, introduced themselves.

Caroline announced that the meeting might be adjourned if Zoom connectivity fails.

**PRESENTATION:** Courtney-Paige DiMaggio, RN, BSN, Moloka'i Public Health Nursing, Hawai'i Department of Health, provided a presentation on services provided by the Moloka'i Department of Public Health Nursing and on their project, Na Palapala Ko'iko'i (Book of Life), a book for Kupuna to store their documents in one place to be ready for emergencies and for future care. (Presentation attached.)

Courtney asks EOA to provide online access to Na Palapala Ko'iko'i. Caroline will contact Courtney.

Beverly will send the link to the 2025 AARP Community Challenge Grant application to Courtney for funding opportunities to provide statewide public access to Na Palapala Ko'iko'i. The AARP

Community Challenge's focus is on tangible projects and community engagement. The grant program is open to nonprofits and government entities. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands for larger projects.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The draft minutes of the December 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, which includes Administration for Community Living (ACL) Updates. Short term EOA goals for the next year include:

- continuing to build staff capacity;
- boosting staff morale;
- filling vacancies;
- completing EOA's reorganization;
- finalizing administrative rules for Kupuna Care, Aging and Disability Resource Center, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program;
- expanding the Aging and Disability Resource Center No Wrong Door efforts;
- advancing Medicaid administrative claims; and
- finalizing the Long-Term Care Report to the Legislature.

On January 7, 2025, Caroline participated in an informational briefing before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and its Chair, Senator Joy San Buenaventura. The purpose of the informational briefing was to identify where Kupuna Care funding is being spent, address the regulations that govern the allocation and management of these funds. The regulations are crucial for maximizing the impact of Kupuna Care and ensuring its fair distribution statewide.

On January 8, 2025, EOA participated in an informational briefing on the Department of Health before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. EOA presented its three line items in the Department of Health administrative budget:

1. Program Specialist V for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
2. Converting the Long-Term Care Planner position from temporary to permanent.
3. Converting the temporary Program Specialist positions approved in the 2023 Legislative session to permanent positions.

DOH Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) is proposing changing the statutes for inspections of care facilities from "*The Department of Health shall conduct unannounced visits and inspections...*" to "*The Department of Health shall conduct unannounced or announced visits or inspections.*"

Paula Cerio commented that OHCA has found that conducting only unannounced inspections have been unsuccessful in helping to improve the care provided to care facility residents and in reducing deficiencies for which operators are cited. To ensure that operators have the capacity to comply with regulatory requirements and to promote the best quality of care to residents, DOH would like the flexibility to perform both announced and unannounced inspections and visits to allow operators an opportunity to review and to comply with all regulatory requirements, instead of focusing only on deficiencies cited in an unannounced inspection. OHCA would continue to perform unannounced inspections, but with a greater emphasis of unannounced inspections with underperforming operators and facilities. Announced inspections provide the

operator an opportunity to be present at the inspection to receive education from DOH during the inspection and provide an opportunity for residents to be present and interviewed.

Keali'i commented that DOH's proposal is a balanced approach to promote partnership between DOH and care facilities, help care facilities achieve success, improve, and meet the needs of residents.

John commented that residents of foster homes have RN case managers who visit their residents at least once a month unannounced. If deficiencies are found when surveyors inspect or visit, then the services of the case manager is a concern. John commented that the proposal includes:

- changing "*The Department of Health shall conduct unannounced visits and inspections...*" to "*The Department of Health shall conduct unannounced or announced visits or inspections...*"
- changing "*Annual inspections for relicensing or recertification shall be conducted without notice.*" to "*Annual inspections for relicensing or recertification may be conducted without notice.*"
- changing "*...for the following state-licensed or state-certified care facilities on an annual basis and at such intervals as determined by the Department...*" to "*...for the following state-licensed or state-certified care facilities on an annual basis or at such intervals as determined by the Department...*"

John remarked that the proposed changes weaken the regulations.

Paula commented that "...or at such intervals as determined by the Department..." allows DOH to reward a care facility that has only one or two citations at the time of its inspection by extending its next inspection up to 18 months later. Paula commented that delaying the next inspection is a customary practice in other states. Paula stated that capacity of the surveyors is not a reason for the proposed changes. Paula also stated that current regulations do not allow DOH to cite RN case managers.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Attached is Beverly's report. Beverly announced that the 2025 AARP Community Challenge Grant now is accepting applications (flyer attached). The AARP Community Challenge's focus is on tangible projects and community engagement. The grant program is open to nonprofits and to government entities. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand dollars or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. Kealii commented that this year's focus is on disaster preparedness and digital equity and that awards have averaged approximately \$12,000 and have ranged from \$1,000 to \$50,000 in the past.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Rick reported that the Committee met this morning and is considering the following issues for recommendation for approval of support by PABEA:

1. Falls Prevention.
2. Hawai'i Saves Retirement Program.
3. Caregiver Tax Credit.
4. Paid Family Leave.
5. Disaster Preparedness.
6. Unemployment Benefits for Caregivers.
7. Increase Funding for Medicaid In-Home Services to allow kupuna to age in place.

8. Enhancing Senior-Specific Housing Programs such as the state rent supplement program that specifically targets qualified individuals who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
9. Addressing the need for more food security for all kūpuna by adjusting the eligibility to provide for a wider range of households to qualify for SNAP benefits and arrange for food pantries to better accommodate the elderly.
10. Medi-Medi Project: Expand outreach to older adults, Medicare beneficiaries, persons with disabilities and other underserved populations statewide who may qualify for Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program (MSP), Extra Help and other low-income subsidy programs available to increase access to enrollment assistance for programs that can offset medical and prescription drug costs such as premiums, deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or lifetime late enrollment penalties.
11. Hearing Aids.
12. Compassion & Choices.
13. Increasing and Improving Dementia Screening: Establish program that mandates cognitive screening for dementia for adults age 65+.
14. Requesting the University of Hawaii at Manoa to investigate the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's disease research center (resolution).
15. Resident rights for private independent living facilities.

#### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick reported that the Committee is awaiting the theme for Older Americans Month (OAM). Hawaii County Office of Aging and Maui County Office on Aging have scheduled their celebrations for May 9, 2025. Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs has scheduled its celebration for May 15, 2025. Rick thanked Suzie for committing to sponsoring the OAM celebration at 15 Craigside on June 13, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center will provide entertainment. Bentos will be provided to entertainers. John is ordering the awardee medallions. Caroline is overseeing the printing of the program booklets. Caroline will reach out to the Governor for a meeting to reintroduce PABEA and to invite the Governor to the OAM celebration. When the OAM theme is announced, Rick and Sara will prepare an invitation. At next month's RAC meeting, the Committee will discuss whether attendees will be asked to pay and the amount of payment.

Beverly announced that the Opening Day of the Legislature is January 15, 2025. The last day to introduce bills at the Legislature is January 23, 2025.

Keali'i announced that Governor Josh Green's Hawai'i's Climate Advisory Team (CAT) has issued its community-informed policy recommendations to drive the state's climate-related disaster policies for the 2025 legislative session. She recommends that PABEA members read and review the recommendations. She will forward the link to the recommendations to Cristina.

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

Shelly reported that the Committee did not meet in December 2024. At the February 2025 PABEA meeting, Shelly will provide a report on today's PPRC meeting.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was brought before the Board.

## NEW BUSINESS

Beverly announced that the 2025 PABEA meeting calendar (attached) was sent to PABEA members. PABEA meetings are scheduled for the first Friday of the month in 2025, except for the month of July 2025. The first Friday in July 2025 is July 4, a holiday. The July 2025 PABEA meeting is Friday, July 11, 2025. The OAM celebration scheduled for June 13, 2025 has been placed on the meeting calendar. (The June 2025 PABEA meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2025.)

Caroline reported that Act 12 of 2024 related to Sunshine Law requires public meeting notices to inform members of the public how to provide remote oral testimony in a manner that allows the testifier, upon request, to be visible to board members and other meeting participants. Act 12 also recognizes a board's authority to remove and block individuals who disrupt meetings.

Caroline commented that the PABEA agenda have become more descriptive. Agenda are required to have sufficient information for those that attend the meeting and for the public to read and understand the content of and the issues presented and discussed at PABEA meetings. Any reports that are provided at PABEA meetings need to be included in the PABEA agenda. Caroline asks ex-officio members and county executives to provide a summary of their reports or their complete reports two weeks before the PABEA meeting for the agenda to align with reports to be presented. No more than two members of a board can discuss between themselves outside of an official board meeting on matters relating to official board business.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Kathy Ishihara reported that Meredith Nichols, Assistant Administrator of Hawaii's DHS Med-QUEST Division, will attend the February PABEA meeting to report on the status of the Medicaid renewal effort (Medicaid eligibility redetermination). Kathy wished everyone a Happy New Year and a safe and prosperous 2025.

Christy announced in the Zoom chat an upcoming Hui Pohala training presented by the Kūpuna Collective in February 2025, "*Palliative Care Primer for Allied Healthcare Workers*". Information is at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H8xHewyi7TKkmX-dYEWKp1Wz9wNtTWbc/view?usp=drivesdk>. (Flyer attached.)

Paula reported that flu A activity is increasing. DOH encourages all, especially kūpuna, to obtain flu vaccinations.

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

Derrick reported that EAD's reorganization plan includes upgrading approximately 75 percent of EAD's total positions to higher level classifications. An example is changing minimum qualifications from customer service minimum requirements to social service requirements. The plan has been submitted to the union, HGEA. HGEA is seeking feedback from EAD staff. If HGEA has any questions or concerns, EAD will respond to HGEA. Once the plan is approved by HGEA, the plan will be submitted to the Managing Director for EAD for approval. EAD subsequently will implement the plan. EAD has hired Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga, who was a former vice president with St. Francis Healthcare System. She will assist with implementing the plan.

## KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

Attached is Emily's December 2024 Executive Report for KAEA.

Emily reported that KAEA is focusing on hiring for its vacant position, including Emily's former position, Program Specialist. KAEA is seeking to promote from within KAEA as well as recruiting externally. KAEA is continuing community outreach. Budget reports are due to the Mayor's administration. KAEA also is focusing on OAM activities and events.

## HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (HCOA)

Attached is the January 10, 2025 Executive Report for HCOA.

Erin reported that Horace Farr retired. C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D. was sworn in as the 12th Hawaii County Mayor. His Managing Director William V. Brilhante, Jr. is the current Interim County Executive on Aging. Open recruitment for the County Executive on Aging will be underway beginning January 12, 2025.

## MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena remarked that her report is forthcoming via email from Josephine. Her email includes an update on MCOA's Four-Year Plan and progress achieved thus far. Rowena highlighted that MCOA has hired a Program Specialist I and a Program Specialist II. The Program Specialist II, David Nakama, began on January 2, 2025. David was formerly the Housing Program Coordinator with the County of Maui. His additional experience in grants management with the Department of Agriculture and in social work will benefit MCOA greatly. The Program Specialist I is from Napa Valley, where she was a quality assurance manager for a developmental disabilities organization.

Marilyn asks that the counties provide the status of seniors in their communities, e.g. their needs, their requests, their personal problems, their situations, their real-life stories, AAA solutions to their problems, and direct quotes from seniors.

## APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Shelly reported that, in her prior position, she received many calls from kūpuna with fixed incomes on the soaring premiums for homeowner and condominium insurance policies.

Beverly commented that the issue of rapidly increasing premiums for homeowner insurance policies is a national problem and that AARP is examining the issue.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kupuna Caucus, Friday, February 7, 2025, 2:00 p. m. via Zoom
- PABEA Monthly Meeting, Friday, February 7, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.