

DRAFT

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, March 7, 2025 | 12:00 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, William Kinaka, Louise Johnson, Stephen Lung, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Charlene Taketa, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno.

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

(A quorum was established as fourteen 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) Office of Community Services (OCS); Paula Cerio, Department of Health (DOH); and Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS).

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

Guests present: Percy Ihara, Executive Director, Akamai Seniors; Debbie Kim Morikawa, Department of Health; Ed Motosue, Vice President, Financial Benefits Insurance; and Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Associate Director, AARP Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The draft minutes of the February 7, 2025 and the February 18, 2025 in-person and Zoom PABEA meetings were approved as circulated.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING (EOA) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- During the halt in communication from the Federal Government, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and Advancing States (the association for State Units on Aging) have been facilitating weekly conversations to address the most recent federal updates and offering the opportunity to share information on congressional actions, Federal rule changes, executive actions, administrative updates, state challenges, and other relevant topics in this environment. During the meeting on

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, EOA was informed that probationary staff of the Administration for Community Living were terminated as of February 14, 2025.

- The Older Americans Act of 2020, which expired in 2024, has not been reauthorized, and there is not a bill for reauthorization. However, even without reauthorization, funding appropriations can be made available.
- Caroline distributed a Medicaid fact sheet, “A Cut to Medicaid is a Cut to Medicare” (attached).
- EOA is working with the Department of Health to review EOA’s expenditures.
- EOA has not made any programmatic or shift changes to its business practices or to any current state plans until clearer guidance is provided from the national level. EOA has reviewed its State Plan on Aging and the ADRD Strategic Plan to identify objectives and strategies that might not comply with the Executive Order requiring ceasing of all activities that promote gender ideology. EOA will be prepared to address this once communication with ACL resumes, and EOA understands how to comply with the Executive Order.
- EOA’s final elder abuse public service announcement (PSA) with KHON2 and in collaboration with APS aired on February 18, 2025. The focus is on financial abuse by caregivers. Caroline thanked Jeffrey Woodland for the use of his home for filming the PSA.
- EOA welcomes Candace Nakamoto back to work following her maternity leave.
- EOA thanks the PABEA members who joined the special PABEA meeting on February 18, 2025 to approve the slate of bills for the legislative session. The approval allows PABEA members to testify on behalf of PABEA in support of the approved bills. Cristina Valenzuela is available for PABEA members who need assistance with submitting testimony.

Caroline commented that EOA receives \$7 million to \$8 million in funding from the Federal Government and \$19 million to \$20 million in funding from the State Government. The Federal and State funds are distributed to the State’s AAAs. Some funds are utilized for EOA’s overhead expenses.

The State is developing contingencies in the event Federal funding is reduced. The Legislature might enter into special session to address the budget in light of potential cuts from the Federal Government.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

CHAIR’S REPORT

Beverly thanked Vice Chair Suzie Schulberg for conducting the February PABEA meeting. Beverly has been in communication with the EOA Director regarding PABEA meetings and issues related to EOA. Beverly reported that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee recommended to advise and consent to the PABEA Gubernatorial nominations of Louise Johnson, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, and Gary Simon. Beverly submitted testimonies in support of each nominee. The PABEA Gubernatorial nomination of Charlene Taketa was not heard by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Charlene was unable to complete and submit the Committee’s questionnaire on time.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara reported that the Committee achieved quorum and met this morning. The Committee discussed aging related bills:

- HB 300 Governor's State Budget. EOA's Administrative budget is included in the Governor's State budget. HB 300 passed the House Finance Committee and will be transmitted to the Senate.
- HB 705 HD 1 Medi-Medi Project will be heard by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee March 10, 2025.
- HB 701 HD 3 Family Caregiver Tax Credit has been transmitted to the Senate.
- HB 702 HD 1 Medicaid In-Home Services was transmitted to the Senate. Barbara is the PABEA lead for the bill.
- HB 703 HD 1 State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna has been transmitted to the Senate. Sara is the PABEA lead for the bill.
- HB 704/SB 881 Hawai'i Food Security Special Fund. Both bills are dead for this year.
- HB 474 HD 1 Falls Prevention was transmitted to the Senate.
- SB 855 SD 1 Hawai'i Retirement Savings Program has been transmitted to the House and will be heard by the House Committee on Labor on March 11, 2025.
- HB 755 HD 2/SB 852 and HB 695/SB 1054 Paid Family Leave. The bills are dead for this year. Representative Jackson Sayama and Senator Henry Aquino will co-introduce a concurrent resolution to convene a working group that will work further on paid family leave legislation.
- SB 1494 SD 2 Hearing Aids Health Insurance Coverage has been transmitted to the House.
- SB1495 SD1 exempts the sale of hearing aids from the general excise tax. The bill is dead for this year.
- HB 700 HD 1 Cognitive Assessments for Early Detection of Dementia has been transmitted to the Senate and will be heard by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on March 10, 2025. EOA is having preliminary discussions with stakeholders on the collection of data, easy access to the data, and supporting individuals who have been identified with dementia.
- A resolution will be introduced requesting the University of Hawaii at Manoa to investigate the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Shelly reported that the February PPRC meeting minutes will be submitted. The major discussion was about the new ADRC website.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick reported that the Committee met yesterday. He provided a status report of the planning for the Older Americans Month Celebration at 15 Craigside on June 13, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The audience will face the stained glass in the solarium. The maximum number of attendees is 80. The attendees will be seated at 10 tables. Representative Cory Chun will be the emcee. Representative Greg Takayama will be the alternate emcee if Representative Chun is unavailable. Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke will attend the celebration. Governor Josh Green has been invited. The color theme is royal blue. Lunch will be provided at no charge to attendees compliments of 15 Craigside. Lunch fare offered will be regular, vegetarian, or diabetic. Seats will be reserved with name tents. A photographer will be hired. Rick requests that PABEA members arrive early to assist with the celebration. Volunteers at Lanakila Multi-

Purpose Senior Center are making eye lash lei for honorees and attendees who will be recognized.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Caroline and Beverly thanked Sara for her presentation on homeless women. John Mizuno has left the position of Director of the State Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions. He and is no longer available to provide a presentation on homelessness to PABEA. Caroline will contact John Mizuno's successor and invite him to provide a presentation to PABEA at the April PABEA Meeting.

Sara reported that Kauai has the highest rate of women becoming homeless in the State.

Beverly thanked the ex-officio members for their reports. The reports help to establish an agenda that complies with the Sunshine Law. Next month's agenda will be based upon submitted reports. Discussion items must be reflected in the agenda. Only the Chair or Vice Chair can call a meeting to order. In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair, a Chair pro team can be elected.

PREAMBLE FOR PABEA TESTIMONY

Below is the recommended preamble for committee members to use when submitting testimony on behalf of PABEA:

"I am first and last name [Chair, Vice Chair, member] of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA."

Beverly suggests that a PABEA member who submits testimony as an individual consider aligning his/her testimony with the testimony of the PABEA lead for the bill.

NEW BUSINESS

Beverly announced that she will appoint members of the nomination committee at the April PABEA meeting. The nomination committee will announce a slate of nominees for officers at the May PABEA meeting, at which time additional nominations will be accepted from the floor during the Board meeting. Officers shall be elected at the June PABEA meeting and will assume their respective offices on July 1, 2025.

Caroline commented that PABEA members can serve for two consecutive terms limited to eight consecutive years. A PABEA members who has served two consecutive terms may return to PABEA as an appointed member after one year has elapsed from the last day of the member's second term. Caroline asks those PABEA members whose first term is expiring on June 30, 2025 and who wish to serve a second term to apply at the Hawaii Boards and Commissions website. Caroline also contact Boards and Commissions to verify the terms and term dates of current PABEA members.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

No appointed members' reports were offered.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Kathy Ishihara thanked everyone for their overwhelming support of the Medicaid Program.

Attached is the Department of Health report.

Attached is the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services email from Sharon Yee, Local Engagement & Administration, Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement.

Attached is the Department of Labor report from Alan Burdick.

Alan reported that OCS receives \$9 million per year in Federal funds. OCS has been awarded a first grant of \$400,000 for the Seniors Farmers Market Program (SFMP), which begins April 1, 2025. The State has not yet received the \$400,000. If funding is eliminated, the (SFMP) food coupons will not be recognized.

Caroline reported that EOA received a partial allocation from a grant award. She is hoping that the first grant monies for OCS is in the process of delivery to OCS.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION

Attached is Derrick's report.

Derrick reported that the analytics for EAD's Senior Help Line revealed that the average call was 15 minutes in duration. Calls were multi-topic. For example, calls included discussing service options (e.g. counseling, information and referral, service connection) and immediate requests for help. Derrick recounted the story of an existing Kupuna Care client who called EAD and stated that his wife had cognitive challenges and suicidal ideation. When the EAD staff member asked the caller where the wife is right now and if the wife was threatening harm to herself and having suicidal ideation right now, the caller said his wife had a knife in her hand. The EAD staff member kept the caller on the phone and had another EAD staff member call HPD. HPD responded, entered the caller's home, and safely managed the situation. Derrick commented that the AAAs are often "the end of the road." Hospitals are often understaffed and under-resourced. Hospital discharge planners are often overloaded. They often perform an "easy handoff" to the AAAs by instructing patients to call the AAAs for assistance when the patients are discharged. The health plans also perform an easy handoff to the AAAs. The discharge planners and the health plans are disconnected from what the AAAs can realistically achieve to support the discharged patient. Such is the burden, the responsibility, and the honor of the work of the AAAs. The work is challenging, but if no others take responsibility, the AAAs will do their best.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

Attached is Emily's February 2025 Executive Report for KAEA.

Emily commented that KAEA staff report that the main concerns from active consumers who are receiving Kupuna Care services are medication management and financial management. They

can receive home delivered meals, transportation services, and in-home services, but struggle with medication management and financial management. For non-active consumers, such as those who walk in or call in, who are not necessarily utilizing Kupuna Care services, their main concerns are mental health support and lack of housing. Emily reported that Dr. Dennis Pezzato, who has been an Older Americans Month honoree, donates his time to Caregivers' Corner, which helps caregivers who are 60 years old and over. Caregivers' Corner is an in-person program that offers one-on-one guidance on all aspects of caregiving and self-care. At the Mayor's direction KAEA had a contract, underwritten by COVID funds, with WorkLife Hawaii, to provide counseling services to anyone 60 years old and over, especially for counseling needed due to COVID. The contract ended and the County and KAEA have no money to continue the contract. Dr. Pezzato continues Caregivers Corner on his own. He began Caregivers Corner on December 5, 2023 and now seeing 86 active consumers on his own. Dr. Pezzato is a valuable asset to KAEA.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is the February 27, 2025 Executive Report for HCOA.

Erin reported that HCOA receives the same type of calls as EAD. Erin related a situation in which a patient was discharged from the hospital to home with no family on Hawaii Island. HCOA responded quickly to provide as much assistance as possible. Hawaii County has 7 candidates for the HCOA Executive on Aging. Hawaii County and HCOA are examining island wide transportation and the bus stops without shelters for kupuna. Shelters will be installed at 30 bus stops.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING

Attached is Rowena's Maui County Executive's report for the period ending February 28, 2025.

Rowena reported that MCOA provided emergency preparedness recommendations to its Director of Human Concerns to present to the Maui County Council. MCOA has been developing community outreach partnerships with local community organizations and has had recent engagements with the Maui County Commission on Persons with Disabilities. The Commission received presentations from Hawaiian Electric and FEMA. MCOA is recommending voluntary disaster registries, such as Smart911. FEMA indicated that disaster registries might present a false sense security, data accuracy issues, and resource allocation concerns. FEMA suggests researching different jurisdictions. MCOA also recommended that the Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) establish a Disabilities Integration Program Specialist position, modeled after similar roles at FEMA and other emergency management agencies. The specialist position would ensure that emergency planning, response, and recovery efforts are inclusive and effectively meet the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities. The specialist would:

- incorporate disability-inclusive practices into emergency response plans, ensuring equitable access to evacuation procedures, shelters, and disaster relief resources;
- assist in reviewing and updating Annex N – Assistance to Persons with Special Needs in the County's Emergency Operations Plan, which was last updated in 2021. The update would ensure that current best practices, community needs, and available resources are accurately reflected in emergency planning;
- serve as a Liaison between MEMA, disability service providers, health agencies and community-based organizations to coordinate resources and support for individuals with disabilities before, during, and after disasters; and

- develop and conduct training for first responders, shelter staff, and emergency personnel on assisting individuals with mobility, cognitive, and sensory impairments during emergencies.

MCOA also provided recommendations related to communication, exercising evacuation procedures, and analyzing the evacuation of a person with a mobility issue. MCOA suggests that PABEA might consider advocating that the State Legislature fund the planning and development of island wide evacuation routes and the identification of emergency access routes. Sometimes, bottlenecks are an issue, especially in areas with only one egress/ingress. The Commission provided recommendations to the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization on the long-range transportation plan related to plans for persons with disabilities and for older adults. MCOA received a call from a member of the public who has been caring for his brother, who is a veteran with dementia. The caller stated that he also recently was diagnosed with dementia. The caller asked for accessible housing. MCOA is advocating for accessible house with the County Council. The American Association on Aging will be presenting a webinar on inclusive housing. Rowena will reach out to Derek on age-friendly communities.

Marilyn suggested that MCOA provide a presentation on the Maui wildfires, lessons learned, and emergency management at the USAging conference and at other conferences.

Derrick commented that nonprofits which apply for grants from the City and County of Honolulu Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program receive bonus points for projects which are age friendly. Derrick will provide a presentation on Age-Friendly Honolulu at the May PABEA meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kupuna Caucus, Friday, March 7, 2025, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- PABEA Monthly Meeting, Friday, April 4, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Caroline distributed copies of the Medicaid fact sheet.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.