

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, January 9, 2026 | 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: Poki'i Balaz (joined the meeting at 12:45 p.m. after the roll was called), Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno (joined the meeting at 12:10 p.m. after the roll was called).

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

Ex-officio members present: Paula Cerio, Department of Health (DOH); Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS); and Ryan Mandado, Lead for Adult Education, Department of Education (DOE).

Executive Office on Aging (EOA) staff and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) staff present: Derrick Ariyoshi, Candice Bryant, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Kauionalani Fukuda, Emily Ishida, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, Deborah Niyongabo, Tani Salazar, and Jason Wong.

Guests present: Dan Haire, President and CEO, Navian Hawaii, Percy Ihara, Executive Director, Akamai Seniors; Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii; Richmond Luzar, Principal, Aura Strategies, LLC.

PRESENTATION: Dan Haire, President and CEO of Navian Hawaii and Richmond Luzar, Principal of Aura Strategies, LLC provided a presentation, *Preparing Our Healthcare System for an Aging Population*. (Presentation attached.)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The draft minutes of the December 5, 2025 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Caroline wished everyone a Happy New Year. Attached is Caroline's report. Caroline provided highlights from her report:

- At the Federal level, prevention initiatives include funding awards in the areas of:
 - Falls Prevention Awards;
 - Chronic Disease Self Management Education (CDSME); and
 - Innovations in Nutrition Programs and Services.
- EOA finalized its Annual Report to the Hawaii State Legislature (attached). Printed versions are available upon request. The EOA and the Aging Network achieved the following between July 2024 through June 2025:
 - Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center managed 38,586 contacts for information and assistance and assessed 2,441 participants for long-term services and supports.
 - Kupuna Care Program delivered home and community-based services to 5,217 participants and provided 56,836 hours of respite care statewide.
 - Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program conducted 1,081 facility visits and investigated 241 complaints.
 - Hawaii SHIP assisted 13,434 residents with Medicare counseling, outreach, and application support — a 17% increase from 2024.
 - Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) educated 12,000 residents on Medicare-related fraud, errors, abuse, and non-health scams.
 - Healthy Aging Partnership offered 3,015 hours of evidence-based education and expanded EnhanceFitness to 508 participants.
 - Veterans Directed Choice increased the number of veterans served by 43%.
 - Hawaii Dementia Initiative launched the Healthy Brain Tracker, implemented a public awareness campaign, fostered collaboration, and leveraged data to improve the lives of individuals with dementia and their families.

Caroline reported that EOA is required to update the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Strategic Plan every two years. The updated ADRD Strategic Plan is attached to the Annual Report after the first twelve pages of the report.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly has been in touch with Caroline via phone and email on how to streamline PABEA meetings, potential speakers who can provide aging-related presentations at PABEA meetings, and fraud and scam awareness and prevention. Beverly commented that victims of fraud and scams are often reluctant to report their experience due to shame and embarrassment.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Rick reported that the Committee met this morning. The Committee is awaiting the finalization of the Kupuna Caucus' five priority bills. Representative Lisa Marten, Chair of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness, provided a presentation on homelessness issues and bills that she is sponsoring. Coby Chock, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association in Hawaii, provided a presentation on the legislative priorities of the Alzheimer's Association including HANAI Memory Network, University of Hawai'i Alzheimer's disease research, and dementia training for first responders.

The Committee approved focusing legislatively on three main issues: food, shelter, and safety.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Lisa reported that she was unavailable to participate in the PPRC meeting scheduled for today due to a scheduling conflict. Thus, the meeting was canceled. PPRC will meet next month on February 6, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Next month's meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026. The Older Americans Act (OAM) celebration tentatively is scheduled as a brunch on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 15 Craigside. Confirmation from 15 Craigside is pending.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Possible changes to the Hawaii Revised Statutes 349-4 regarding the composition and number of meetings per year of the PABEA.

Caroline reported that, after reviewing and discussing the issue with the Office of Information Practices (OIP), she is recommending no change to the existing statute. A motion to remove from the PABEA meeting agenda the discussion of possible changes to the Hawaii Revised Statutes 349-4 regarding the composition and number of meetings per year of the PABEA was moved, seconded, and adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Beverly commented that, according to the PABEA By-laws, if a State or Federal holiday is observed on the first Friday of the month, the meeting shall automatically move to the following Friday, known as the second Friday of the month. The April PABEA meeting date is moved from April 3, 2026 to April 10, 2026 due to the Good Friday State holiday on April 3, 2026. The Independence Day State and Federal holiday will be observed on Friday, July 3, 2026. The July PABEA meeting date is moved from July 3, 2026 to July 10, 2026.
2. Discussion of current membership and new members for 2026-2027

Caroline reported that the first PABEA terms for Poki'i, Stephen, Rick, Leslie, and Raelene ended on June 30, 2025. They have been held over for 2025 – 2026. They will need to apply with Boards and Commissions to continue serving on PABEA. William's second term ends June 30, 2026. PABEA will need a member from Maui County. Shelly's second term also ends June 30, 2026. Lisa's first term ends June 30, 2026. She will need to apply for a second term.

Caroline and Beverly welcomed Ryan Mondado, the new ex-officio member from the Department of Education.

Beverly encouraged PABEA members to recruit interested persons for PABEA and to ask them to apply with Boards and Commissions.

3. Proposed Focus for 2026 and related to the State Plan on Aging
 - a. Vulnerable seniors who are experiencing increased costs in rent and Insurance (Goal 1, Obj 1-2)
 - b. Families that wish to remodel their housing to be more accommodating to seniors' health situation. (Goal 4, Obj 4-1)
 - c. Food (Goal 1, Obj 1-5)
 - i. SNAP
 - ii. CSA boxes at reduced costs
 - iii. Community Gardens
 - d. Safety (Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4)
 - i. coordination of services for seriously vulnerable seniors (Obj 2-2, Obj 3-1, Obj 4-1)
 - ii. Medical/Medicaid/Medicare cost increase (Obj 1-1)
 - iii. Senior Services for mental health (Obj 1-1, Obj 2-3)
 - iv. Falls prevention (Obj 1-4)
 - v. Hearing (Obj 1-1)
 - vi. Emergency Response for vulnerable seniors (Obj 2-1, Obj 2-2)
 - vii. transportation (Goal 1, Obj 1-6)

Beverly commented that PABEA members need to bear in mind first the State Plan on Aging in our work, including our legislative work. The State Plan is available on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) website. The State budget bill is one of our top priorities. Funding for EOA and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and their programs is in the State budget bill. We need to align our legislative priorities with the goals and objectives of the State Plan on Aging.

Caroline commented that she has printed copies of the State Plan on Aging for those who prefer a printed copy. The AAAs also follow the same topic areas in the State Plan. The AAAs have specific goals and objectives specific to their County. The 4 Year Area Plans on Aging for the AAAs are available on the ADRC website.

Beverly commented that the AAAs' reports to PABEA are aligned with their goals and objectives.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Sara reported that she is a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union, a statewide organization of family farmers. The Hawaii Farmers Union are examining their legislative priorities. The Hawaii Farmers Union top priority is establishing a food hub, which is an anti-hunger initiative. The Hawaii Farmers Union is drafting bills in support of the food hub, which will provide greater access to food and lower the cost of the community sustained agricultural boxes.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Ryan Mandado, the new ex-officio member from the Department of Education introduced himself. Ryan remarked that he was born and raised in Kalihi. He attended public schools his entire life. He now serves in the Department of Education (DOE) supporting adult education. The DOE has ten Adult Education campuses across the State that provide a variety of educational services to adults. The campuses have services for adults who are interested in earning general education development (GED) diplomas or who are interested in other training opportunities. Adult Education also has a program in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Ryan's role with PABEA is to build partnerships with PABEA and other organizations that need more support with adult education. Ryan will facilitate these partnerships.

Attached is Paula's DOH report.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Kauionalani wished everyone a Happy New Year. HCOA is planning its Older Americans Month celebration. HCOA has initiated intergenerational activities. Last month, HCOA collaborated with Hilo Intermediate School's Hawaiian club and robotics club. The students taught kupuna about robotics. Activities including chant and mele. Feedback was positive. HCOA is planning another intergenerational activity for spring. HCOA is considering sustainable planting and gardening activities mixing youth and kupuna.

KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (KAEA)

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

KAEA is determining a date for its Older Americans Month celebration that is best for attendees, invitees, and participants. KAEA is planning its next Elder Justice Conference to be held in June, which is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The conference will focus on fraud, including cryptocurrency fraud and scams.

MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Rowena reported that she submitted the report for MCOA. Included in the report is MCOA's definition of underserved populations and how MCOA provides long-term care services and supports to underserved populations and strategies used to serve and support underserved populations, including information on how MCOA contracts with providers on Molokai and Lanai. The focus for MCOA this year is engaging with underserved populations and rural areas, where healthcare is a great concern among the senior population. Also included in MCOA's report is an item on MCOA's partnership with Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and how MEMA helped MCOA distribute approximately 10,000 ready-to-eat meals to seniors in Maui County, including Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, in December. The Maui County Outstanding Older Americans Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2026 and will be held at the Cameron Center.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Attached is Derrick's report. Beverly reported that EAD has moved into its new location.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PABEA Monthly Meeting: Friday, February 6, 2026, 12:00 p.m.
- Kupuna Caucus Meeting: Friday, January 9, 2026, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Contact Ryan Mandado via email at ryan.mandado@k12.hi.us to discuss potential partnerships and/or adult education related matters.
- PABEA members are encouraged to complete the online Hawaii Falls Prevention Landscape Survey at <https://www.research.net/r/FallsPrevLandscape>. PABEA members are encouraged to share the survey with their networks for completion by their networks' members.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.