

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)  
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410  
Friday, February 6, 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: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Marilyn Seely (joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m. after the roll was called), Barbara Service (joined the meeting at 12:08 p.m. after the roll was called), Gary Simon, Lisa Spencer, Rick Tabor, Leslie Tanoue, and Raelene Tenno.

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

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

Ex-officio members present: Jienelle Herndon, San Francisco Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services San Francisco; and Jordan Lewis, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (COA).

Executive Office on Aging (EOA) staff and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) staff present: Derrick Ariyoshi, Candice Bryant, Caroline Cadirao, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Ka'u'ionalani Fukuda, Emily Ishida, Norma Kop, Josephine Lum, Jame Marchant, John McDermott, Deborah Niyongabo, Lani Sakamoto, Tani Salazar, Cristina Valenzuela, Jazlyn Wandasan, and Jason Wong.

Guests present: Nathan Hokama, Principal of Strategic Communication Solutions; Rona Fukumoto, President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific; and Lacey Shimabukuro, Development Project Manager, Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation.

**PRESENTATION:** Nathan Hokama, Principal of Strategic Communication Solutions; Rona Fukumoto, President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific; and Lacey Shimabukuro, Development Project Manager, Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation provided a presentation on the *130 South Beretania Project*, an inclusive, affordable rental housing for people with disabilities and Hawaii's workforce, where people can age in place safely. (Presentation attached.) For further information, Nathan Hokama can be reached by phone at (808) 226-7470 and by email at [nhokama@scsolutions-hi.com](mailto:nhokama@scsolutions-hi.com). Lacey Shimabukuro can be reached at [lshimabukuro@pacific-housing.org](mailto:lshimabukuro@pacific-housing.org).

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The draft minutes of the January 9, 2026 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

### EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Federal landscape: The National Council on Aging reported bi-partisan support of the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization. A final vote by Congress is pending. The OAA includes support for additional supportive services and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- EOA is busy with the Legislative session.
- Caroline distributed to PABEA members attending in-person Kokua Mau's information on HB 2257/SB 3077 on adopting the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act (2023), as modified. She will ensure that PABEA members attending via Zoom also receive the information. Kokua Mau is concerned with the modifications. If you have questions about the bills, please contact Jeannette Kojane or Marilyn Seely.
- Caroline has been meeting with individuals interested in becoming PABEA members. She thanked everyone for reaching out to possible candidates. At least six candidates have been identified. Please inform Caroline if you know of any potential candidates.

Beverly announced that Raylene and Rick have reapplied to serve on PABEA. They received their congratulation letters from Boards and Commissions. Boards and Commissions informed them that they will have nomination hearings. Beverly encourages PABEA members to submit testimony in support of the nominees. Scott Spallina has also applied to serve on PABEA.

Caroline announced that Lisa will not be reapplying for PABEA as the PABEA meetings conflict with her work schedule. Lisa's term ends June 30, 2026.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly has been in touch with Caroline regarding PABEA concerns and today's PABEA agenda. They examine the agenda to ensure a full agenda with appropriate speakers at the PABEA meeting. Beverly announced that next month's meeting will include a presentation. She asks PABEA members to contact her or Caroline if they become aware of any speakers with presentations that might be relevant to PABEA.

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Beverly explained that a deferred bill is postponed (set aside) for future consideration or action. The bill can be revisited at a future meeting of the committee in which the bill is deferred.

Rick reported that HB2003 relating to digital financial asset (cryptocurrency) transaction kiosks was deferred in its hearing with the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce. Its companion bill, SB2387, was heard this morning by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology.

Rick reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed which bills the Committee would recommend to PABEA for support. Rick presented the following slate of the proposed 2026 PABEA legislative priorities (listed by subject matter, measure numbers, and assigned lead PABEA member) for approval by PABEA:

1. Caregiver Tax Credit (HB1972/SB2863) (Gary) The Legislative Committee recommends supporting the intent of the measures but might not be in favor of the agency which would verify the qualified expenses and credit amount submitted by taxpayers.
  2. Hearing Loss State Plan (HB1974/SB2865) (Rick)
  3. Kupuna Rent Supplement Program (HB1975/SB2866) (Sara)
  4. First Responder Dementia Training (HB1976/SB2867) (Rick and Barbara)
  5. Cryptocurrency ATM Transactions (AARP – HB2003/SB2387) (Gary)
  6. Long-Term Care Financing (HB1804/SB2554) (Marilyn)
- 2025 Kupuna Caucus bills:*
7. Family Caregiver Tax Credit (HB701 HD3 SD2/SB879) (Gary) The Legislative Committee recommends supporting the intent of the measures but might not be in favor of the agency which would verify the qualified expenses and credit amount submitted by taxpayers.
  8. Medicaid In-Home Services Funding (HB702 HD1/ SB877) (Stephen)

The Legislative Committee deferred KupunAloha (HB1973/SB2864) and SNAP/Hawai'i Food Security Special Fund (HB704/SB881) as the Committee needs more information on the KupunAloha bills and the SNAP/Hawai'i Food Security Special Fund bills before deciding whether to recommend the bills to PABEA for approval as legislative priorities.

Rick announced that the next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The agenda will include HB1965 relating to primary care.

Raelene will send to Rick and Cristina the bill numbers for legislation relating to condominiums and maintenance fees for inclusion in next month's Legislative Committee agenda.

A motion to approve the aforementioned slate of eight 2026 PABEA legislative priorities and any other subsequent bills that benefit kupuna during the 2026 Legislative Session was moved and adopted unanimously by PABEA members present in-person and attending via Zoom.

Beverly encouraged PABEA members who are not the PABEA lead for a bill to submit testimony as individuals.

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

Lisa reported that the PPRC has been reviewing the monthly reports from Hawaii's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and has been providing feedback and requests for more information. On behalf of the PPRC, Lisa thanked the AAAs for the amount of work the AAAs are doing for our aging populations throughout the State and commended the AAAs for their reports and their work related to the State Plan on Aging Goal 2. PPRC commends:

- The Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs (KAEA) for its home safety and fall prevention program.
  - The City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) for its PABEA reporting structure and the information that is provided related to the work performed by EAD.
  - The Hawaii County Office on Aging (HCOA) for its emergency planning website.
  - The Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) for its focus on health threats and immunizations.
- PPRC will share these practices with the AAAs for the AAAs to adapt.

PPRC requests that reported activities align with the stated objectives or goals. When the alignment is not apparent or immediately known, PPRC requests a brief explanation describing how the activity supports or relates to the objective. For objectives or goals that represent

progression over time, PPRC requests a graph or a table demonstrating the progression to eliminate the need to review previous reports.

#### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick reported that RAC met yesterday morning. The Older Americans Month (OAM) celebration will be similar to last year with check-in at 10:30 a.m., lunch at approximately 11:30 a.m., and closing at 1:30 p.m. Awardees will provide their presentations. Oli will be provided. Rick will ask Suzie Chun Oakland for her musical volunteers to sing again. 15 Craigside will be providing Rick with a menu from which to select entrees. Rick asked PABEA members to volunteer at the event again and to let him know if they have a particular volunteer role in mind. Rick asks PABEA members to remain flexible with the planning process and at the event. Rick is awaiting the theme of OAM from the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Proposed Focus for 2026

- a. Vulnerable seniors who are experiencing increased costs in rent and insurance
- b. Families that wish to remodel their housing to be more accommodating to seniors' health situation, etc.
- c. Food
  - i. SNAP
  - ii. CSA boxes at reduced costs
  - iii. Community gardens
- d. Safety
  - i. Coordination of services for seriously vulnerable seniors
  - ii. Medical/Medicaid/Medicare cost increase
  - iii. Senior services for mental health
  - iv. Falls prevention
  - v. Hearing
  - vi. Emergency response for vulnerable seniors
  - vii. Transportation

A motion to approve the proposed focus for PABEA for 2026 was made, seconded, and adopted.

#### NEW BUSINESS

No new business was introduced.

#### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

#### APPOINTED MEMBERS REPORTS:

No appointed members' reports were offered.

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Jordan reported that he is monitoring SB1804 relating to long-term care financing.

Jienelle announced that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Region 9 has begun a new monthly webinar series, *CMS Current*, directed to beneficiaries and consumers. The goal of the series is to provide brief, useful information. The webinar is also recommended for new staff and volunteers in aging and disability services to familiarize them with CMS and its programs. The length of the webinar is thirty minutes. For the next four months, the webinar is an introduction to Medicare, *Medicare 101*, e.g. enrollment, etc.:

CMS Current: a monthly webinar series for Region 9 partners and stakeholders.

Topic: Medicare 101 – Part 1

Date: Friday, February 20, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m. HST

Duration: 30 minutes

Format: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/34cf7r34>

Who Should Attend: Anyone who wants to learn about what Medicare is, how to enroll, when to enroll, and special enrollment periods.

Contact CMS Region 9:

Email: [ROSFOORA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ROSFOORA@cms.hhs.gov)

Phone: 415-744-3501

CMS Region 9 is also soliciting topics for future webinars. If you have a suggestion, please contact Jienelle.

#### HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Attached is Ka'u'ionalani's report.

Ka'u'ionalani reported that HCOA met with Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency in anticipation for the storm forecast for this weekend. HCOA case managers are calling HCOA's clients, consumers, and participants to ensure that they and their homes are prepared for the approaching storm.

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

Attached is Derrick's report.

Derrick announced that EAD formally acquired the property at 171 North Pauahi Street from the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Parks and Recreation. The acquisition provides EAD with an opportunity to partner with the 130 South Beretania Street Project.

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

Emily announced that Beverly is the new chairperson for the County of Kauai Elderly Affairs Advisory Council.

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

Rowena announced that the County of Maui Council on Aging sends its greetings to EOA and PABEA. At a Council meeting last month, Rowena provided the Council a presentation on the top five Kupuna Caucus legislative proposals. The Council is interested in aligning with PABEA

on legislation. The Council would like to partner with PABEA to strengthen the Council's influence in the State. The Council outlined the needs of the County of Maui:

- Increasing the involvement of kupuna in cultural education with the youth.
- Improving telehealth access on Molokai.
- Providing technology resources to Kupuna.
- Increasing workforce capacity in home and community-based services, including training and recruiting CNAs to perform homemaker and personal care services.

Two vendors submitted proposals in response to the Food for Kupuna Project Request for Proposals (RFP). The review team is examining the proposals. The project is a partnership between MCOA, the Maui County Department of Agriculture, and Kaunoa Senior Services to provide locally sourced fruits and vegetables to seniors and to provide education to seniors on how to prepare and eat the locally sourced fruits and vegetables. The project is funded by the County of Maui. No OAA Title III funding will be used for the project.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PABEA Monthly Meeting: Friday, March 6, 2026, 12:00 p.m.
- Kupuna Caucus Meeting: Friday, February 6, 2026, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. AARP Hawaii State President Gary Simon and AARP Hawaii Community Outreach Director Jackie Boland will provide an in-depth presentation on AARP Hawaii, *AARP in Action*.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.