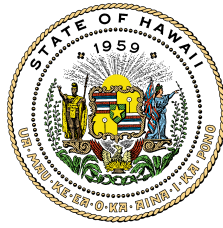


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Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)
Legislative Committee Meeting
EOA Large Conference Room (250 S. Hotel St., Suite 406)
And via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

PABEA Board Members in Attendance: William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Sara Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon, and Rick Tabor (Chair)

AAA/Community Members/EOA Staff Attendance: Anthony (no last name), Derrick Ariyoshi, Tommy Blacksion, Kau'ionalani Fukuda (HCOA), Emily Ishida (KAEA), Joanne Kealoha, Norma Kop (EOA), Kathy Wyatt, Sara Yuan, and Cristina Valenzuela (EOA).

Absent: Poki'i Balaz, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Charlene Iboshi, Roberta Murray, and John Hau'oli Tomoso

About 10 minutes into the meeting, just after introductions, the session was disrupted by a Zoom bombing. Unknown attendees, Anthony and Tommy Blacksion, displayed an inappropriate, lewd video when he/they turned their camera on. The meeting was immediately shut down, the individuals were removed, and the session restarted a few minutes later.

- I. Call to Order
Chair Rick Tabor called the meeting to order at 9:34am and then introduced the guest speakers.
- II. Guest Speakers
Senator Sharon Moriwaki (in person) and Representative Cory Chun (via Zoom) discussed the following:
 - Kupuna Caucus (KC) Overview: Discussed its purpose, legislative involvement, membership makeup, and meeting schedule.
 - KC Legislative Package: Reviewed the package and the selection process.

- Rep. Cory Chun shared his involvement with the Long-Term Care Master Plan and bills to expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for older adults. He is now the Chair of the Agriculture and Food Systems Committee.
- 2025 Bill Summary and Outcomes: Sen. Moriwaki summarized the 2025 legislative session, including the KC bill successes and failures. She shared the “2025 Legislative Outcomes and Future Opportunities” document covering:
 - Bills of Interest: related to fireworks, traffic safety, homelessness, and condo insurance,
 - Bills for Consideration: related to caregiver tax credit, increased SNAP funding, family and medical leave, hearing aid coverage and mandatory hearing tests for Medicare annual wellness visits, and streamlining laws for “supportive and care-based community living”,
 - Bills of Concern, related legalization of marijuana and gambling.

Discussion/Q&A Highlights:

- Fall Prevention Program: Bill asked about the timeline. Sen. Moriwaki referred him to the Department of Health. She noted that they oversee the program, and the program was appropriated \$100,000 last year.
- Senior Homelessness: Sara pointed out that 40% of Hawaii’s homeless are seniors (60% of those are women who are seniors) and that they struggle to ask for and navigate services.
 - Sen. Moriwaki asked for her contact to connect her with the Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions.
 - Senator agreed with Sara and noted the legislature is pressuring relevant agencies, such as Office of Homeless and Housing Solutions, the Hawai’i Public Housing Authority, and the Hawaii Housing and Development Corporation, Hawai’i Housing Finance Development Corporation, to develop a continuum of housing.
 - Sara suggested championing a study to identify state and county resources and service gaps.
- Special Legislative Session: Derrick asked if there would be a special legislative session scheduled. Sen. Moriwaki confirmed that dates were set aside, but that a special session is uncertain because proposed federal funding cuts don’t take effect till 2027.
 - Federal Cuts Impact: Derrick and Shelly suggested identifying the populations impacted by federal Medicaid and SNAP cuts to determine strategies and resources needed. Derrick added concern for both ineligible individuals and the bureaucracy of the recertification process. Rick added eligibility for SNAP changed from 55 to 64.
 - Sara asked if the state could waive SNAP eligibility during a state of emergency and asked, “How we (PABEA) can be that voice”? Sen. Moriwaki recommended doing research on the issues using personal stories in testimony. Rep. Cory Chun noted food insecurity is Hawaii’s second biggest need after housing.
- “2025 Legislative Outcomes and Future Opportunities”: Shelly asked for clarification about bills listed on page 2. Sen. Moriwaki confirmed these are bills or issues for 2026 legislative consideration. She explained that item (6) relates to the Office of Health Care Assurance (under Debbie Morikawa) reviewing cost

effective models of residential community-based care living. She also recommended asking Caroline (EOA Director) about the LTC Master Plan, which the legislature funded a position last year.

- Homelessness Services: Shelly suggested also focusing on those “at-risk of homelessness”. Sen. Moriwaki confirmed the law funds services for both homeless and at-risk individuals, but noted the problem is the administration of the programs. Derrick stressed the need to also invest in mental health services.

III. Roll Call was taken at 10:20am, and quorum was reached with seven board members present.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

The draft August 1, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as is. There were no comments or objections to the meeting minutes.

V. Guest Speaker/s

Rick recommended having a 15-minute guest speaker at each meeting with a basic Q&A to follow. Suggested speakers included:

- Tori Caraphelo (Hearing for Hope): Discussing mandate for hearing tests and data collection. Working with Sen. Moriwaki and Rep. Chun to introduce a bill.
- Alzheimer’s Association (tentative for December).
- AARP (tentative Gary or Barbara could share info about legislative priorities).
- Senator Khari Rhoads: Human rights resolution.
- Connie Mitchell (HIS): Homelessness
- Mental health and its effect on older adults
- Public Access Room (PAR) - Cristina noted a training by PAR will be held in place of next month’s committee meetings (Friday, October 3 at 9:30am).

Members recommended AARP as speaker for November meeting. Gary will ask Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, AARP Director of Policy, to discuss AARP’s legislative priorities on Friday, November 7 at 9:30am.

Other suggestions: Shelly suggested a representative from the Department of Health Climate Change and Health Working Group (focused on mental health issues).

Comments: Sara raised a concern that speakers shouldn’t assume PABEA will automatically support their proposals. Rick reported that several D.C. speakers at the National Meals on Wheels Conference were unclear about the implementation of proposed Medicaid changes in the HR1 bill.

VI. Legislative Committee Bill/Topic Issues and Assignments

- Process: Chair confirmed the Legislative Committee will collectively decide which issues/bills to support and present them to PABEA for final approval.
- Lead Assignments for Potential 2026 Legislative Priorities:
 - Houselessness (including SB1218): Lead = Sara

- o Long-Term Care Insurance Notices (certified mail): Lead = Barbara (volunteered)
- o Hearing Aids (Task Force/mandated hearing tests): Lead = Rick (Working with Tori Caraphelo, Sen. Moriwaki, and Rep. Chun)
- o Human Rights Resolution – Tabled (Ric to follow up with Senator Rhoads).
- o Uniform Healthcare Directive – Tabled (Marilyn, who previously expressed interest, was absent. Cristina explained why the bill failed last year.)
- o Alzheimer’s and/or Dementia bills: Leads = Rick & Barbara (Alzheimer’s Association may introduce 4 bills.)
- o Disaster/Emergency Preparedness: Lead = Stephen (volunteered). Sara noted the resolution on disaster preparedness from last year.
- o Needs of the Non-Medicaid Senior Population- Tabled (Marilyn, who suggested the issue was absent).
- o 2025 Legislative bills that didn’t pass:
 1. Kupuna Caucus Bills:
 - a. Caregiver Tax Credit (HB701 HD3 SD1): Lead = Gary
 - b. Medicaid Funding (HB702 HD1): No lead assigned.
 - c. SNAP funding (HB704): Leads = Barbara and Sara (Barbara confirmed lead)
 - d. Paid Family Leave: Lead = Gary
 2. Other Legislative Bills and Resolutions That Didn’t Pass (not PABEA priorities): Hearing Aid Coverage (SB1494 SD2) and GE Tax Hearing Aids (SB1495 SD1)

Discussion/Comments:

- Process Methodology Discussion
 - o Shelly asked to clarify the process of identifying the special interest areas for PABEA and suggested deciding on the top 5 categories for committee focus.
 - o Derrick suggested establishing a methodology to identify top-priority issue areas before determining policies or strategies. He recommended to first map out the major issue areas and then track existing bills correlated to those issues and help support the adoption or implementation of new ones.
 - o Cristina recommended adding this process discussion to the next agenda.
- EOA Legislative Priorities: Cristina reported EOA has one potential bill, related to PABEA meetings. Additionally, EOA is waiting to see the outcome of the HR1 bill to assess the impact on older adults and caregivers.
- Medicaid Funding Clarification: Stephen asked about the intent of HB702, related to Medicaid funding. Cristina explained that bill was intended to increase funding for in-home services to expand the number of beneficiaries but is unlikely to move forward due to proposed funding cuts to Medicaid.

8. Preamble for PABEA Testimony

Rick read the recommended preamble to be used 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.”

VII. Suggested Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- Determine the process for identifying legislative areas of interest
- Identify and determine specific areas of legislative interest

VIII. Announcements

1. Legislative Committee meeting in October is cancelled for an all PABEA training by Public Access Room (PAR). PAR training is scheduled on Friday, October 3 from 9:30am-11am.
2. PABEA Meeting scheduled today, Wednesday, September 10 at 12p.m. and Friday, October 3 at 12pm. Hybrid meeting held in person in the EOA Large Conference Room 406 and remotely via Zoom.
3. Kupuna Caucus meeting tentatively scheduled on Friday, October 3 at 2pm via Zoom.
4. Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society scheduled on Thursday & Friday, September 11-12, 2025 at Ala Moana Hotel. For more information see <https://hpgs.org/conference/>

The next PABEA Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled on **Friday, November 7 from 9:30-11am**. Meetings are held in-person in the EOA Large Conference Room 406 and remotely via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Cristina Valenzuela