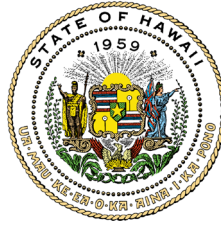


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**Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)**  
**Legislative Committee Meeting**  
**EOA Large Conference Room (250 S. Hotel St., Suite 406)**  
**And via Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, May 1, 2026**

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

**AAA/Community Members/EOA Staff Attendance:** Charlene Iboshi, Joanne Kealoha, Roberta Murray, Cristina Valenzuela (EOA), and Sara Yuan

**Board Members Absent:** Poki'i Balaz and Suzie Schulberg

- I. Call to Order  
Chair Rick Tabor called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.
- II. Roll Call  
Cristina took roll call, and with 6 board members present there was quorum.
- III. Review PABEA Meeting Protocols: Professional Rules of Decorum will be discussed so that expectations of all PABEA members are understood.  
Chair Rick reminded the committee that PABEA Legislative Committee meetings are recorded and emphasized the importance of maintaining professionalism and proper decorum. He asked members to refrain from sharing political views or outside opinions during the meeting and to stay focused on legislative matters. He noted that Caroline will further address expectations for professionalism and decorum at the upcoming PABEA meeting.
- IV. Review and Approval of Minutes  
The draft minutes for the March 6, 2026 meeting were distributed. Sara motioned to approve the minutes, Shelly seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. With no objections, the minutes were approved as is.
- V. Old Business – Legislative Discussion
  1. Bills Tabled at the February Meeting  
KupunAloha (HB1973 HD1, SD1/SB2864) (More Info Needed) Establishes within

the Department of Health a one-year KupunAloha pilot program to provide in-home health care and support services to eligible participants who do not otherwise qualify for government assistance for these services. Appropriates funds for the program. Pilot program sunsets 6/30/27. Effective 7/1/3000.

Current Status: Cristina reported that the measure was reconvened for conference committee meeting today, 5/1 at 3:45pm in Room 329. She noted that the committees do have agreement on the bill, but they're waiting for clearance from for the \$2 million appropriation. The committees received clearance from Finance Committee (FIN) but not from Ways and Means Committee (WAM).

2. Legislative Deadlines and Conference Committee:  
Chair Rick reviewed the remaining legislative deadlines for bills and conference committee procedures and rules.
  1. Key 2026 Legislative Deadlines include:
    - i. Final Decking (Non-Fiscal): April 29, 2026
    - ii. Final Decking (Fiscal): May 1, 2026
    - iii. Adjournment Sine Die: May 8, 2026
    - iv. Governor's Action: Following adjournment, the Governor must sign or veto bills, usually by early-to-mid July.
  2. Conference Committee Meetings: Testimonies are not accepted during state conference committee sessions, as these meetings are typically focused on legislators negotiating compromises, rather than hearing new evidence. While public testimony is a key feature of earlier standing committee hearings, conference committee meetings are often limited to discussions between the appointed conferees.
  3. Conference Committee Rules: While conference committee meetings are generally open to the public to watch, it is intended for lawmakers to work out compromises on the final language of bills.
  4. Exceptions: In some cases, such as when a conference committee is tasked with reviewing specific matters (e.g., judicial committees), they may hold hearings to take sworn testimony from topic experts.

Discussion/Comments:

- Chair Rick noted that Final Decking for fiscal bills is May 1. He asked whether this deadline was firm and whether the legislative session might be extended. Cristina shared that Senator Donovan Dela Cruz reported yesterday that the State budget is complete and currently being proofed. The conference committee will reconvene today, May 1, at 7 p.m. to report out budget line items.

With the budget finalized, Cristina confirmed that the May 1st Final Decking deadline is set and the session is unlikely to be extended. Any bills that do not pass conference committee today are dead. Because this is the second year of the biennium, deferred bills will not carry over. New legislative proposals will need to be reintroduced next year in the new biennium. Chair Rick suggested discussing next steps for 2026 legislative bills at the next meeting.

- Sara asked whether she should forward emails sent to legislators during conference committee. Cristina responded that members who serve as

the lead on a bill and email legislators on behalf of PABEA may forward those messages to her.

- Chair Rick encouraged members to attend the bill signings if they are available.

3. Kupuna Caucus and PABEA Priority Bills:

The committee reviewed the status of the following bills:

1. Caregiver Tax Credit (HB1972 HD2, SD1) was returned from the Senate in amended form (SD1) on April 10, 2026. The bill proposes \$3,000 non-refundable credit for family caregivers starting in the 2026 tax year, with a \$3.1 million appropriation. It is in the final stages of negotiation.

Current Status: Cristina reported that the conference committee reconvened yesterday and that the committees have agreed on a proposed CD1. The CD1 changes the effective date from December 31, 2026, to December 31, 2029. Committee Chair Senator McKelvey stated that he hopes this approach will support the release of funds. The conference committee will reconvene today at 2:00 p.m. in Room 329

2. Hearing Loss State Plan (HB1974 HD1, SD1)

Conference committees disagree. The House disagreed with Senate amendments (SD1) on April 16, 2026, and it was sent to conference. The bill requires the State Health Planning and Development Agency to create a state plan for hearing loss.

Current Status: Chair Rick reported that the bill is still alive. Cristina added that the conference committee has reached an agreement on the bill and is awaiting clearance for the \$100,000 appropriation. The committee has received clearance from FIN but not yet from WAM. The conference committee will reconvene today at 3:45 p.m. in Room 329.

3. Kupuna Rent Supplement Program (SB2866 HD1, SD1)

Conference committees disagree. The Senate received a notice of disagreement from the House on April 16, 2026. The bill aims to make the Kupuna Rent Supplement Program permanent and provide funding.

Current Status: Cristina reported that the conference committee has agreed on a proposed CD1 version of the bill. The committee is awaiting final approval and will reconvene today at 9:45am.

4. First Responder Dementia Training (HB1976 HD1, SD1)

Conference committees disagree. The House disagreed with Senate amendments (SD1) on April 14, 2026, and it moved to conference. The bill mandates at least one hour of dementia training for first responders by Jan 1, 2027.

Current Status: Cristina reported that conference committees have agreement on the bill and are awaiting clearance from Ways and Means.

5. Cryptocurrency ATM Transactions (AARP – HB2003/SB2387 SD1, HD1).

Establishes limits on transactions through digital financial asset transaction kiosks. Requires operators of digital financial asset transaction kiosks to use analytics and software to prevent fraud; make certain disclosures; provide receipts to customers; provide full refunds

under certain circumstances; provide live customer service and a dedicated communications line for the Attorney General, Office of Consumer Protection, Department of Law Enforcement, and county police departments.

Current Status: Gary reported that Senator Matayoshi's proposed bill (HB1642), which would ban cryptocurrency deposits, is expected to pass. The committee will need to wait for the posted CD1 to review the final language. He also noted that SB2387 may still be revived, as committees can bring measures back before the final day of conference. He believes HB1642 will likely serve as the vehicle for the cryptocurrency ATM transaction legislation.

Discussion/Comments:

Cristina added that during the conference committee meeting on Thursday, April 30, Senator Matayoshi stated that the committee has agreed to the HD1 version of the bill, which bans the ownership, operation, and management of cryptocurrency ATM kiosks used for depositing funds. The bill's effective date would be October 2026.

6. Long-Term Care Financing (HB1804 HD1, SD2)  
Requires the Executive Office on Aging to develop the framework and scope of work for a study that examines the feasibility, impacts, and costs of different public and private financing options for long-term care services and supports. Authorizes the Executive Office on Aging to contract with the University of Hawai'i and appropriates funds.

Current Status: Marilyn reported that the bill is currently in conference and has undergone significant changes. She explained that the Senate removed the Long-Term Care Commission and the best practice guidelines, shifting the responsibilities to the Executive Office on Aging. The House and Senate disagree on these changes. She noted that there was no opposition to the bill or the \$100,000 appropriation. However, at the end of session, the chambers could not agree on how the work should be carried out or who should be responsible, and she is unsure how they will resolve these differences. Cristina added that the conference committee meeting will be reconvened today at 3:20pm in Room 329.

7. Family Caregiver Tax Credit (HB701 HD3 SD2/SB879) This is a carryover bill from the 2025 legislative session.

Current Status: Gary reported that this is not the vehicle for the Caregiver Tax Credit legislation.

8. Medicaid In-Home Services Funding (HB702 HD1/ SB877) This is a carryover bill from the 2025 legislative session.

Current Status: Cristina is not sure about the status of this bill. They are likely dead and not the vehicle for this year's legislation

## VI. Public Testimony on Agenda Items

## VII. Announcements

1. PABEA Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 1 at 12pm. Hybrid meeting will be held in person in the EOA Large Conference Room 406 and remotely via Zoom.

2. Kupuna Caucus meeting – there is no meeting scheduled today.
3. May is Older Americans Month and Mental Health Awareness Month.

The next PABEA Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for **Friday, June 5th from 9:30-11am**. Meetings are held in person in the EOA Large Conference Room 406 and remotely via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 A.M.

*Respectfully submitted by Cristina Valenzuela*