

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, May 1, 2026 | 12:00 noon

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Beverly Gotelli called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

ROLL CALL

Appointed members present: Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung (joined the meeting at 12:07 p.m. after the roll was called), Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Shelly Ogata, Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service (joined the meeting at 12:14 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.

(A quorum was established as twelve 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 Jienelle Herndon, San Francisco Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

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, James Marchant, Lani Sakamoto, Tani Kalei Salazar, Cristina Valenzuela, and Jason Wong.

Guests present: Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Director of Advocacy, AARP Hawaii.

REVIEW PABEA MEETING PROTOCOLS

Beverly provided a presentation of professional rules of decorum (attached) for PABEA members, ex-officio members, EOA staff, and invited guests to understand and to observe during PABEA meetings and PABEA committee meetings.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The draft minutes of April 22, 2026 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached is Caroline's March 2026 report. Caroline provided highlights from her report:

- The Star-Advertiser published an article by Caroline in Section E of its March 15, 2026 issue titled “Building a dementia-friendly Hawaii.” The article advocates for public awareness of brain health and early detection of dementia.
- DOH activated the Department Operations Center (DOC) in response to the Kona Low that occurred on March 13, 2026 affecting residents in Waialua, Haleiwa, and other parts of the North Shore. Maui County and Hawaii County were also impacted. Through the City and County of Honolulu, the Community Assistance Center (CAC) was established at the Waialua Recreation Center. An Aging and Disabilities Resource table was part of the CAC. Caroline thanked EOA staff and volunteers who assisted at the CAC. EOA was to provide support to the community and to DOH agencies that had been staffing the resource table, including the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Disability Communication Access Board, and the Office of Language Access. The CAC has been relocated to the old post office in Haleiwa.
- EOA successfully launched its new data platform. More than 209,000 records from the last 5 years have been transferred successfully into the new data platform. Files from earlier years (2014 – 2019) have been archived.

Caroline also reported that EOA has been busy with the legislative session and has been preparing for Older Americans Month and the OAM celebration.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Before Governor Green announced the closure of State offices for April 10, 2026, Beverly reported that she and Caroline were preparing for the severe weather and discussing whether the April 10, 2026 PABEA meeting would need to be rescheduled to ensure the safety of PABEA members and other PABEA meeting attendees. Beverly has been in contact with Caroline regarding planning for various PABEA activities, PABEA meetings, and decorum of PABEA meetings. Beverly reiterated that PABEA is an advisory board to EOA.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Rick reported that the PABEA priority bills are being heard in conference committees today. HB 1642 HD 1 SD 1 CD 1, which prohibits the ownership, operation, or management of crypto kiosks that accept deposits, passed its conference committee. HB 1800, the State budget bill, passed its conference committee yesterday. Adjournment sine die is on May 8, 2026. Bills which pass their conference committees are sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. If the Governor does not sign or veto a bill, the bill automatically becomes law. The Kupuna Caucus meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2026. Live viewing of the conference committee hearings will be available today in the EOA conference room.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

On behalf of PPRC, Lisa thanked the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) for providing the AAA reports to PPRC each month. PPRC commends the AAAs for their work, especially their outreach in meeting the needs of our communities. In the coming year, PPRC would like to participate actively in the EOA State Plan process. Lisa requests that EOA include PPRC in any meetings or in any review of documents related to developing the State Plan. PPRC will be happy to provide its input and feedback. Lisa thanked the PPRC members for working with her this year as their Chair.

Beverly announced that Lisa will not be present at the PABEA meeting next month. Lisa also will not be present at the OAM celebration. Beverly thanked Lisa for her service on PABEA and as PPRC Chair. Lisa did not reapply for PABEA as the PABEA meetings conflict with her work schedule. Lisa's term ends June 30, 2026.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick reported on the planning for the Older Americans Month (OAM) celebration:

- In lieu of medallions, honorees will be presented with monkey pod bowls with an engraved plate with their name and "Older Americans Month 2026."
- The size of the photo posters of the honorees will be decreased to 11 inches by 14 inches for easier transport by the honorees, especially honorees from the neighbor islands. The photo posters will be framed and on display at the celebration.
- The Governor will not be attending as he vacations with his family the second week of June every year when his children are on summer vacation. PABEA can consider another date next year to accommodate the Governor's schedule.
- Beverly visited the offices of the Senate President and the Speaker of the House today to invite the Senate President and the Speaker to the celebration.
- Caroline and Tia Ho, an intern with EOA, are preparing the program booklet. All materials for the booklet must be submitted to EOA by May 14, 2026. High-definition headshot photos are preferred. The photos will also be used for the photo posters.
- Currently, flower leis cost \$65 to \$100 each. In lieu of flower leis, Kimberly Itagaki will secure thick eyelash leis for the honorees (total of ten lei). Barbara Service and Stephen Lung are invited to manage lei duty again.
- EOA will be sending invitations, including invitations to PABEA members, next week on Monday or Tuesday. Invitees are asked to RSVP with Tia Ho by May 20, 2026 for an accurate headcount for 15 Craigside to plan accordingly. Attendees are asked to indicate their choice of meal – either vegetarian or beef. Tia will be assisting EOA with the seating assignments.
- Volunteers will be performing the same tasks as they were assigned last year.
- The 15 Craigside Solarium will be available at 8:30 a.m. for set-up. Rick will be there at 8:30 a.m.
- Ceiling speakers will be used for musical entertainment.
- Leslie Tanoue and Kimberly Itagaki will staff the registration table.
- The Happy Senior Serenaders from Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center will be performing three songs.
- Representative Cory Chun will be the master of ceremonies.
- Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.
- The celebration concludes at 1:30 p.m.
- Honorees will have an opportunity to speak for two minutes each.

Beverly circulated a sheet for PABEA members and county executives to indicate their meal choice (vegetarian or beef) for the celebration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: ADOPTION OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2026 - 2027

Rick moved to present and adopt the slate of officers for 2026 – 2027. Stephen seconded the motion.

Shelly Ogata, the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee, presented the slate of nominees:

Chair: Beverly Gotelli.
1st Vice Chair: Gary Simon.
2nd Vice Chair: Suzie Schulberg.

Beverly invited nominations from the floor. No nominations were offered from the floor.

The motion to adopt the slate of nominees for 2026 – 2027 was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

Sara encourages PABEA members to read SCR 41 SD 1 which requests the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to collaborate with state and county agencies and community-based organizations to develop a comprehensive statewide food security strategy.

EX-OFFICIOS MEMBERS' REPORTS

Kathy Ishihara reported that Department of Human Services Director Ryan Yamane has announced the appointment of Meredith Nichols as the Med-QUEST Division Administrator effective April 17, 2026. Meredith previously served as the Med-QUEST Division Assistant Administrator from February 2017 and recently served as the Med-QUEST Acting Administrator when Judy Moore Peterson retired. Meredith has more than thirty years of managerial experience in various leadership roles, is very personable, and has presented Med-QUEST updates to PABEA in the past.

Beverly asked Kathy to relay PABEA's congratulations to Meredith.

Attached is Paula Cerio's DOH report.

Jienelle Herndon reported that she is available on behalf of CMS to assist EOA and PABEA with addressing the impacts caused by the recent severe storms.

Hawaii County Office of Aging

Attached is Ka'u'ionalani's April 2026 Hawaii County AAA Executive Report.

Ka'u'ionalani reported that HCOA has been a participant in social and food service events and committees and has been working with Civil Defense, the County of Hawaii Office of Housing and Community Development, and the Mayor's Office on recovery efforts post-storm. HCOA is preparing its area plan and is planning for focus groups for this summer. HCOA hosted another successful intergenerational event last week. HCOA partnered with KTA, Food Basket, and the County of Hawaii Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience. HCOA asked the participants in the intergenerational event to bring a handwritten recipe to the event. HCOA assembled copies of the recipes into cookbooks for the participants to take home. Participants

also took home donated plants. The theme of the event was sustainability, farm to table, and food independence. HCOA plans to continue this intergenerational series with different ideas at each event. HCOA's OAM celebration will be on May 8, 2026 in Hilo. Tickets are sold out at 240 attendees, which surpasses the attendance of many previous years. HCOA plans to host future OAM celebrations around Hawaii Island to reach residents in different areas.

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Attached is Derrick's report.

Derrick reported that EAD mobilized food relief during the Kona Low to ensure that the shelters had food. Shortly thereafter, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management asked EAD to establish a Community Assistance Center (CAC) in Waialua. EAD had a three-day window to establish the CAC. EAD assembled more than thirty organizations at the Waialua Community Gymnasium. EAD operated the CAC seven days a week for almost three and a half weeks. The CAC served more than 1,500 households. Services which were particularly beneficial were document replacement, SNAP enrollment, and interpreter services. EAD mobilized its language access partners. The Waialua area has many Southeast Asian (e.g. Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese) farmers. The Southeast Asians did not visit the CAC the first week. In the second and third weeks, the Southeast Asians flocked to the CAC, which might indicate the EAD and the CAC built trust with the Southeast Asians. Many of these farmers are undocumented individuals. EAD hosted two events at the BYUH campus in Laie. Last week, EAD hosted an event in Waianae. EAD supported almost 3,000 households across Oahu. The State efforts and work are now in the recovery phase. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that the President has approved a Major Disaster Declaration to provide individual assistance and public assistance for the State. EAD is coordinating and mobilizing with its community partners to provide support with FEMA applications for assistance. The Small Business Administration also is accepting applications for assistance from businesses that were impacted by the severe weather. Data can be extracted to determine the number of seniors served by the AAAs in response to the Kona Low and severe weather storms.

Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs (KAEA)

Attached is Emily's April 2026 KAEA Executive Report.

Emily reported that KAEA is planning for its OAM event, which is on Friday, May 29, 2026. A good turnout is anticipated. The panel will be composed of KAEA staff. KAEA is preparing its area plan. The first focus group was live within KAEA. KAEA is finalizing its survey. Yesterday, KAEA had a successful quarterly Elder Justice Task Force meeting with much input and good ideas from the community. KAEA is planning its Second Annual Elder Abuse Conference and will be collaborating with Kauai Police Department's new Chief of Police. KAEA has strong partnership with the Kauai Fire Department. KAEA will be seeking greater involvement from the Kauai Prosecuting Attorney.

Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA)

Rowena reported that the County of Maui is at the end of its budget planning cycle. The budget includes an increase in MCOA's general funds, including an increase in funding for contracted services for kupuna. In recent years, the County of Maui allocated approximately \$1.15 million per year to MCOA. This year, the County Council increased funding to MCOA. The increase

resulted from advocacy and analysis of MCOA's data, including monthly expenditures for kupuna services, the number of kupuna on waiting lists, and data from community surveys demonstrating that adult daycare and caregiver services are the most needed kupuna services in Maui County. The County Council was receptive and granted MCOA's request for an increase in funding. The budget also includes funding for grants to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity for home renovation and retrofits for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. MCOA has a new grant for Na Hoaloha in the amount of \$150,000 for on-demand transportation for seniors. Na Hoaloha is a volunteer organization that provides rides and on-demand transportation through Lyft. The transportation is not assisted, but the program allows seniors to be independent in the community. Another new service is a meals on wheels program through Hale Mahaolu for seniors and people with disabilities who are not eligible for Title III home delivered meals. Eligibility criteria for Title III home delivered meals are aged 60 years and older and homebound. Many others in the community who are ineligible, such as people with disabilities under the age of 60 years, need home delivered meals. Another grant that was approved in the budget is the establishment of a home health program on Molokai. Na Puuwai discontinued its home health program on Molokai. Community members invited Hale Makua to Molokai. They applied for a grant and were awarded \$200,000. MCOA will be working with the community members and Hale Makua to launch the home health program. Justin Lam from the DOH Office of Health Care Assurance was the featured speaker at the April Maui County Council on Aging meeting. The Council was interested in learning the reasons for the extremely limited number of care homes in Maui County. Justin shared that one of the major reasons is the Maui County building code requirement for all care homes to have a fire suppression system. The requirement inhibits care home applicants from obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy, which is required to be granted a care home license. The Council is interested at examining this barrier to licensure and developing recommendations for the Mayor to consider. Maui County is the only county in the State that requires care homes to have a fire suppression system. The island of Maui has five to seven care homes. Lanai and Molokai have no care homes. The City and County of Honolulu has approximately 1,000 care homes. The MCOA OAM Awards Luncheon is on May 15, 2026 at the Cameron Center, where MCOA is located. Maui County has thirteen honorees this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kupuna Caucus Meeting, Friday, May 8, 2026, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- PABEA Monthly Meeting, Friday, June 5, 2026, 12:00 p.m., in-person and via Zoom.
- Older Americans Month Celebration, Friday, June 12, 2026, 15 Craigsid Retirement Residence Solarium.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.