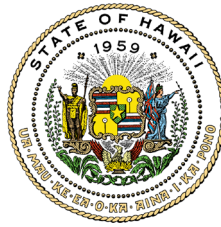


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Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)
Legislative Committee Meeting
EOA Large Conference Room (250 S. Hotel St., Suite 406)
And via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 5, 2026

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

AAA/Community Members/EOA Staff Attendance: Rowena Dagdag-Andaya (MCOA), Emily Ishida (KAEA), Audrey Suga-Nakagawa (AARP), Caroline Cadirao (EOA Director), Norma Kop (EOA), and Jason Wong (EOA)

Board Members Absent: Poki'i Balaz and William Kinaka

- I. Call to Order
Chair Rick Tabor called the meeting to order at 9:42 am.
- II. Roll Call
Caroline took roll call, and with 5 board members present at roll call there was quorum.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes
The draft minutes for the May 1, 2026 meeting were distributed via email. There were no objections or discussion on the minutes. The minutes were approved as is.
- IV. Old Business – Legislative Discussion
 - A. 2026 Governor Deadlines for Legislative Bills
Chair Rick noted the end of the 2026 legislative session on May 8th and informed the group about the Governor's deadlines for legislative bills.
 - i. 2026 Legislative Session Adjournment Sine Die: May 8, 2026
 - ii. Governor's Action: Following adjournment, bills that passed during the legislative session move on to the Governor's Desk, where he will either sign them into law, not sign them and let them pass into law by July 15, or veto them. If the Governor intends to veto the bill, the Governor must inform the Legislature by June 30, 2026 and deliver the veto by July 15.
 - B. Status of Legislative Bills: 2026 EOA Legislative Recap document (distributed via email and hard copies provided at meeting)

Chair Rick reviewed the status of the bills and resolutions listed on the agenda and on the 2026 EOA Legislative Recap.

1. Caregiver Tax Credit (HB1972) - Died in conference.
2. KupunAloha (HB1973 HD1, SD1, CD1) - Passed on to Governor to sign, veto, or do nothing.
3. Hearing Loss State Plan (HB1974 HD1, SD1, CD1) - Passed on to Governor to sign, veto, or do nothing.
4. First Responder Dementia Training (HB1976 HD1, SD1) - Died in conference.
5. Long-Term Care Financing (HB1804 HD1, SD2, CD1) - Passed on to Governor to sign, veto, or do nothing.
6. Cryptocurrency ATM Transactions (HB2003/SB2387) (HB1642) - HB2003 and SB2387 died. HB1642, another related cryptocurrency atm kiosk bill, passed and has been enrolled to the Governor to sign, veto, or do nothing.
7. Kupuna Rent Supplement Program (SB2866 SD1, HD1, CD1) - Status: Passed on to Governor to sign, veto, or do nothing.
8. State Budget Bill (HB1800 HD1, SD1, CD1) - Passed on to Governor to sign, veto, or do nothing

Discussion/Comments:

- Sara asked why the discussion was limited to the bills listed on the agenda. She noted that the bills included in the EOA Legislative Recap were those that PABEA had voted to support and felt it would be more productive for the group to focus on reviewing the bills in the recap. Chair Rick responded that he is following Sunshine Law requirements by discussing only items listed on the agenda. Caroline pointed out that the EOA Legislative Recap document is included on the agenda and can therefore be discussed. Chair Rick stated that he will first review the bills listed on the agenda and then move to the bills in the 2026 EOA Legislative Recap.
- Long-Term Care Financing bill (HB1804 HD1, SD1, CD1) – Caroline shared that EOA will be working with the University of Hawai'i and that discussions have already begun, as EOA is required to report back to the Legislature in December. She also noted that a request has been made to the Governor's Office to sign the bill earlier to expedite contracting and begin the work.
- Vice-Chair Gary confirmed that HB2003 and SB2387, the vehicles for the cryptocurrency ATM kiosk bills, did not pass. He noted that HB1642 did pass out of conference and was forwarded to the Governor. The bill would ban cryptocurrency kiosks from accepting deposits. AARP is strongly advocating for the Governor to sign the bill. Audrey added that people would still be able to withdraw from the kiosks, but they would not be able to make deposits.
- State Budget Bill (HB1800 HD1, SD1, CD1) – Caroline reported that this was a difficult legislative session due to many competing priorities and a review of departmental vacancies for cost-saving measures. She noted that EOA experienced a small budget cut but did not lose any staff positions. She believed the bill had already been signed into law.

Barbara asked for clarification on whether the Governor had signed the bill.

She mentioned hearing that the Governor might issue line-item vetoes. Caroline apologized and said she may have been mistaken about its status. Barbara also was unsure of the current status.

- HANAI Memory Network Program (HB1853 HD1, SD1, CD1) - Chair Rick reported that the bill passed and includes a \$3 million appropriation. Sara noted that an earlier version of the bill proposed establishing an office in Hilo, pointing out that Hilo is 100 miles from Kona. Caroline clarified that one version did propose a Hilo office, which was dependent on available funding. She explained that the CD1 version appropriates \$3 million for FY2026–2027 and that the plan is to establish clinics on all islands. She emphasized that the funding is for one year only, highlighting the importance of moving quickly on procurement and contracting. Chair Rick added that, according to the Alzheimer’s Association, clinics could be set up in existing office spaces.

Sara commented that when “statewide” is referred, it often results in only one location on Hawai’i Island, typically in Hilo. Caroline added that there have been discussions about whether clinics could be mobile, and those details will be addressed in the forthcoming RFP (Request for Procurement).

- HI-EMA (Hawai’i Emergency Management Agency) Disability Integration Specialist (HB2443 HD1, SD1, CD1) – Caroline reported that the bill passed and requires HI-EMA to establish a Disability Integration Specialist position. This role is intended to support the disability community during natural disasters by ensuring that their needs are understood and addressed. The bill was introduced by the Council on Developmental Disabilities and is considered an important measure for the community.

Rowena shared that the Maui County Office of Aging advocated for a similar position at the county level. As a result, Councilmember Kama added a budget proviso to create a comparable, dedicated role. However, a position has not yet been formally established. Rowena recommended monitoring implementation, noting that the Maui Commission on Persons with Disabilities will continue to track whether the position is created at both the county and state levels. She emphasized the value of having a dedicated disability integration or vulnerable-populations specialist in every county.

- Dementia Business Recognition Program (SB2259 SD1, HD1, CD1) – Caroline reported that the bill requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to establish dementia-friendly businesses. Businesses and their staff can participate in one-hour dementia-friendly training. EOA will coordinate with DBEDT to support the rollout of the dementia-friendly businesses initiative, including providing training materials, curriculum, and logos. DBEDT’s connections with businesses will help to widely disseminate the resources.
- Universal Changing Accommodations (SB2268 SD1, HD1, CD1) – Caroline reported that the bill requires future public accommodations and public-entity construction projects to include at least one universal changing place. She noted that this will benefit older adults and adults with special needs by improving accessibility and supporting community engagement. Sara added that this requirement helps normalize universal changing accommodations and recognizes that adults also need appropriate changing areas.
- SNAP Elderly Simplified Application Project (SB3245 SD1, HD1, CD1) –

Caroline explained that the bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adjust minimum certification periods for SNAP benefits. She noted that federal partners have identified areas where the state needs to step in, and simplifying the application process is one of those areas. She also shared that legislators were also looking at increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates to ensure they remain comparable over time.

Sara asked about a newspaper article reporting that the federal government planned to withhold Medicaid funds from Hawai'i due to fraud concerns. Caroline said she would gather more information. Marilyn added that because the state did not prosecute certain cases over a period of time, the federal government plans to reduce Hawai'i's Medicaid funding by \$1 million, hurting those who would most need the assistance.

- Building Permit Applications (HR7/SR10) – Sara reported that the intent of the resolutions is to streamline building permit applications, particularly for homeowners needing to modify their homes to accommodate their parent/s. This may help fast-track such permits. She appreciates the resolutions but noted they only “urge” the counties rather than mandate action. Caroline added that if the measures were concurrent resolutions, counties would be required to implement them.
- Kūpuna-Friendly Building Requirements (SR85) – Sara reported that this resolution is like the building permit application measures. It requests counties to establish kūpuna-friendly building requirements related to parking accessibility and the operating hours of private businesses. Chair Rick emphasized that handicapped parking standards need improvement and should be universal. He shared an example of assisting someone who received a ticket for parking on the wrong side of a designated stall, noting that businesses determine the stall layout.

Shelly commented that “age-friendly” or “ability-friendly” may be more appropriate terminology. Rowena suggested that PABEA share these resolutions with the Council on Aging or each county's Advisory Council, as they are interested in providing recommendations to their respective mayors.

- Chair Rick noted bills that did not pass this session and included:
 - Caregiver Tax Credit (HB1972 HD2, SD1)
 - First Responders Dementia Training (HB1976 HD1, SD1)
 - Primary Care Providers Working Group (HB1965 HD1, SD1)
 - Homelessness Report (HB2557 HD1, SD1)
 - Homelessness Sanctuary Pilot Program (HB2563 HD1) – Chair Rick noted that the Partners in Care Point in Time Count report reflects an increase in the number of older adults that are houseless and the number of folks that are houseless.

V. New Business

- A. Discussion: Next Steps on bills that didn't pass the 2026 Legislative Session
For the sake of time, Chair Rick suggested postponing the discussion to the next meeting. He proposed that the committee focus specifically on the bills that did not pass and determine what actions PABEA may want to take for the next legislative session. Shelly suggested inviting legislators to speak to PABEA about why certain bills did not pass and what the committee could do to support future efforts.

- B. July Legislative Committee Meeting Date: no meeting in July or July 10th
July 3rd is a State Observed Holiday (July 4th holiday). The group decided not to meet in July due to scheduling conflicts and will reconvene on August 7th at 9:30 AM for their next legislative meeting.

Discussion/Comments:

- Because July 3 is a state-observed holiday, Chair Rick noted the committee would typically meet on Friday, July 10. He asked whether the committee preferred to meet in July or wait until August. PABEA Chair Beverly Gotelli clarified that PABEA Orientation will take place on Friday, July 10 in place of the regular committee meetings. Chair Rick recommended that the committee not meet in July and called for a motion. Barbara moved that the committee not meet in July; Stephen seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, with no objections. Chair Rick announced the next meeting will be held on Friday, August 7 at 9:30 a.m.

VI. Public Testimony on Agenda Items – no public testimony available

VII. Announcements

1. PABEA meeting scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2026 at 12 p.m. In person and remote meeting via Zoom.
2. Kupuna Caucus meeting scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2026 at 2 p.m. via Zoom.
3. Partners in Care Point in Time Report is now available:
<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/pitc> The report provides a comprehensive snapshot of today's unhoused population on O'ahu.
4. Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council (HONSAC) is participating in the planning for the Rural Health Transformation Grant Initiative. Council is looking for individuals who would be interested in participating in the council. If you're interested in joining one of the committees, see link for more info:
<https://hsrha.org/membership/>

The next PABEA Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for **Friday, August 7, 2026 from 9:30-11am**. Meetings are held in person in the EOA Large Conference (250 S. Hotel St., Room 406) and remotely via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Cristina Valenzuela