

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, July 10, 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: Poki'i Balaz (joined the meeting at 12:12 p.m. after the roll was called), Beverly Gotelli, Stephen Lung, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Barbara Service (joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m. after the roll was called), Gary Simon, Rick Tabor, and Raelene Tenno.

Appointed members excused and absent: Louise Johnson, Roy Katsuda, Suzie Schulberg, Marilyn Seely, and Scott Spallina.

(A quorum was not established as only six members were present at roll call. This board requires eight members to be present in order to establish a quorum.)

Ex-officio members present: Alan Burdick, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Office of Community Services (DLIR OCS); Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS); Jienelle Herndon, San Francisco Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); Jordan Lewis, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (COA); and Ryan Mandado, Department of Education (DOE).

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, John McDermott, Jan Mori, Lani Sakamoto, Tani Salazar, and Cristina Valenzuela.

Guests present: Charlene Iboshi and Leelyn Brady.

Those attending in-person and via Zoom introduced themselves.

(Appointed member Barbara Service joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m. A quorum was not established as only seven members were present at 12:05 p.m.)

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). EOA has the opportunity to utilize RHTP funds to support the neighbor islands to increase access to in-home services and health promotion activities.
- Needs Assessment for the State and Area Plans 2027-2031. The EOA and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are working on the dissemination of surveys to older adults,

caregivers, and service providers. AAAs are busy conducting focus groups and telephone surveys. A contract with Omniworks will help to synthesize the data at the state and local levels.

- Implementing Legislative Priorities.
 - Hanai Memory Network – ADRD coordinator Tani Salazar has developed a game plan with benchmarks to ensure that HB 1853 is executed.
 - LTC Financing -- With little time to spare, EOA has been working with the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to develop the Memorandum of Agreement so that the work on the study can proceed.
- Streamlining Assessments. EOA will be implementing an evidenced based assessment tool called interRai. The tools are new versions that are utilized by social service programs that will help to streamline the assessment process of older adults and families exploring the need for long term services and support. Training on the tool is scheduled for the latter part of September with a roll out in October.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly reported that she and Caroline have been in contact with each other often to plan the PABEA orientation and determine whether PABEA has a sufficient number of members. Beverly and Caroline met with the two Vice Chairs to plan the year.

(Appointed member Poki'i Balaz joined the meeting at 12:12 p.m. A quorum was established as eight members were present at 12:12 p.m. This board requires eight members to be present to establish a quorum.)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The draft minutes of the June 5, 2026 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were adopted as circulated.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Beverly reported that the Legislative Committee did not meet this morning as it was preempted by the PABEA orientation.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Beverly reported that the PPRC did not meet this morning as it was preempted by the PABEA orientation.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Rick reported that the RAC met yesterday and debriefed the Older Americans Month celebration. All of the feedback was positive. A couple of suggestions arose and will be placed on next month's PABEA agenda for discussion. Rick thanked all who contributed to making the event a success, including the AAA Executives. Rick thanked Suzie Schulberg and the staff of 15 Craigside. The food was remarkable. The awardee presentations and speeches were exceptional.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: Approval of Gary Simon as Legislative Chair; Sara Lenzer Medeiros as Plans and Projects Review Committee (PPRC) Chair; and Rick Tabor as Recognition and Awards Committee (RAC) Chair.

A motion to nominate Gary Simon as Legislative Chair, Sara Lenzer Medeiros as Plans and Projects Review Committee (PPRC) Chair, and Rick Tabor as Recognition and Awards Committee (RAC) Chair was made, seconded, and adopted.

The Committee Chair nominees were elected by PABEA members present without opposition.

Beverly congratulated and thanked the new Committee Chairs.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

No appointed members' reports were offered.

EX-OFFICIOS MEMBERS' REPORTS

Attached is Paula Cerio's DOH report. Regarding Maui Health's operations at Kula Hospital, a team from DOH visited Maui this past Wednesday to examine the facilities to where residents were transferred from the hospital's long-term care facility and its ICF/IID facility. Maui Health and Kula Hospital are doing a fantastic job, considering the situation they had when they had to evacuate. The DOH team toured the area to where residents will be returned in the coming weeks. DOH's purpose is to ensure compliance with State licensure requirements. Kula Hospital is on a State and Federal waiver for operating outside of their normal facility.

Ryan Mandado reported that the State Adult Education Schools are combining into one entity, the Hawaii State Community School for Adults, with 10 campuses statewide that provide high school equivalency as well as workforce readiness training. Ryan's purpose on PABEA is to serve as a resource. If you know of any partners who are interested in providing opportunities for workforce development, whether it's geriatric development or workforce to help the elderly population, please contact Ryan to begin building those programs at the Hawaii State Community School for Adults.

Kathy Ishihara reported that DHS is working on the Medicaid work requirements. The comment period ends this month. Kathy is attempting to schedule a presentation for PABEA by Meredith Nichols, Medicaid Director and Administrator for Med-QUEST, on the Medicaid work requirements section addressing medical frailty.

Jordan Lewis reported that the University is preparing for the new semester which begins in a few weeks. COA is working with EOA and University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) on a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the study and report for HB 1804 Long Term Care Financing. COA is preparing for a new semester of new projects and activities.

Attached is Alan Burdick's DLIR OCS report. Alan reported that the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) will be serving fewer people this year than in previous years. A maximum of approximately 7,500 participants will be served this year. SFMNP will have difficulty filling the participant quotas for the Island of Hawaii and for Kauai. Honolulu and Maui are oversubscribed and waitlisted. Coupons for locally grown fruits and vegetables may be redeemed from participating vendors from April 1st – October 31st. Each participant receives \$50 worth of coupons per year. For the next 2 years, the same agencies that have expressed interest in submitting proposals are the same agencies that have provided services in the last three to four 2-year cycles, i.e. Hawaii Food Bank for Honolulu and Kauai, Maui Economic Opportunity as the Community Action Agency for Maui, and Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC) as the Community Action Agency for the Island of Hawaii. SFMNP is a money loser for all participating agencies and farmers but it is important for participants and local farmers. Regarding overdue payments to vendors on the Island of Hawaii, Alan has discussed the issue with HCEOC. He has made it clear to HCEOC that payments cannot be delayed. Federal regulations require agencies to promptly reimburse farmers. Please contact Alan if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback. Alan received a call from a Deputy Attorney General. As a result of the settlement of an antitrust lawsuit, Hawaii might receive approximately one million eggs. DLIR OCS is unable to manage distribution of the eggs. He will ask whether The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TFAP) can manage the distribution. TFAP manages the distribution of enormous amounts of USDA mainland sourced foods, which are mostly canned goods but are also frozen foods.

Jienelle Herndon reported that she asked the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response about predictive AI modeling for disaster and emergency preparedness. Currently, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response does not use predictive AI models for disaster preparedness, but they will take using AI modeling into consideration. The CMS Emergency Preparedness and Response Operations (EPRO) team will be visiting Hawaii and the Pacific Territories at the end of the month and/or early August. If you are interested in meeting with the team, please contact Jienelle.

Hawaii County Office of Aging (HCOA)

Ka'u'ionalani reported that HCOA recently partnered with Hawaii Police Department to enhance their Kupuna Watch Program by bringing different topics of concern to kupuna or issues of which kupuna should be aware and by hosting events that bring awareness to those topics. HCOA is planning to have a monthly event. HCOA has been meeting with the Hawaii County Office of Housing to develop creative ways to help homeless kupuna, whose numbers have been increasing. The Planning Division within HCOA is now fully staffed. HCOA can begin increasing community partnerships and events and programs. HCOA currently has no falls prevention awareness events scheduled. Regarding the Hawaii County Committee on Aging, the Committee has an insufficient number of members, with only eight current members. The Committee requires 15 members with at least one member from each district.

Emily commented that Kauai has a multi-agency falls prevention awareness coalition between the Kauai Fire Department, Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs (KAEA), and AMR to perform weekly visits with consumers 60-years of age and older. KAEA schedules the appointments with consumers. The Fire Department installs equipment for which KAEA pays.

City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division (EAD)

Attached is Derrick's City and County of Honolulu AAA Executive Report dated June 23, 2026. Derrick invites PABEA Members to the City and County of Honolulu Community Services open house for EAD's new offices at 222 North School Street on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The official name of the building is Lihau Hale. Lihau refers to cool, misty rain. Lihau Hale is a place of revitalization and refuge. The City and County of Honolulu Council finalized the City and County budget for Fiscal Year 2027. For the first time, \$1 million was appropriated to EAD to support kupuna. RSVP Coordinator Kimberly Itagaki is finalizing a program in which older adult volunteers will be trained by Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency and the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management. Kupuna volunteers will perform community outreach providing presentations and teaching other older adults on disaster preparedness. Disaster kits will be provided to attendees at the presentations.

Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs (KAEA)

Attached is Emily's May 2026 KAEA Executive Report. Emily reported that KAEA has returned to its office from its temporary office in the conference room across from the permanent office after the permanent office was renovated with the installation of a new carpet and with new interior painting. The office flow and workflow in the renovated office are more efficient for staff. KAEA has hired two new intake and referral staff members. One begins work on July 16, 2026 and the other begins work at the end of July 2026. KAEA is almost fully staffed. KAEA has been performing focus groups with the community for KAEA's four-year area plan. A focus group for Kauai County Department Heads is scheduled to occur in two weeks to receive feedback. A focus group will be scheduled for the County Council members. KAEA is designing a new logo for KAEA. KAEA will be providing hurricane preparedness outreach. Hurricane preparedness items will be provided to Kauai's vulnerable residents. KAEA has provided mini-fairs with different stations for County Employees. The Mayor allowed administrative time off for County employees to encourage them to attend the mini-fairs and learn about KAEA's resources. A KAEA staff member applied for an AARP Community Challenge Grant and was awarded \$15,000 to establish a community garden with raised beds for kupuna. She learned of the concept at the last HPGS conference.

Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA)

Rowena reported that the Maui County Fiscal Year 2027 began on July 1, 2026. MCOA transferred four of its grant-funded positions to general funds to make grant monies in Aging and Disability Resource Center and Title III available for position vacancies. MCOA has seven vacancies due to stagnant funding. MCOA has submitted recruitment requests for three positions. MCOA has six vacant service specialist positions, reducing its capacity to conduct in-home assessments and new core assessments in a timely manner and resulting in a backlog. When the vacancies are filled, the new employees need a six-month orientation and training period to ensure that they are completely on board before they can visit homes and begin a caseload. MCOA has placed those who were previously on waitlists onto new services, such as adult daycare, personal care, and homemaker services, beginning July 1, 2026 with the new funding from Maui County. MCOA has a partnership with Pacific Cancer Foundation to conduct the Cancer Thriving and Surviving Program, which will be part of the Healthy Aging Program for Maui County. Their next cohort begins on August 4, 2026. The Pacific Cancer Foundation also was awarded an AARP Community Challenge to conduct workshops in Maui County on home safety and falls prevention. MCOA will partner with the Foundation on providing workshops at the Molokai Senior Fair and the Maui Senior Fair at Queen Kaahumanu Shopping Center on November 14, 2026. MCOA recently received a phone call from a senior who experienced contractor fraud. She had called MCOA two years ago. MCOA connected her with Prosecutor's

Office and the Police Department. Some action was taken. However, that action did not resolve the caller's predicament. She has received notices of violation from the Maui County Public Works and the Planning Department for unpermitted work. MCOA is learning of other cases of contractor fraud against seniors and individuals contracting for renovations and rebuilding in Lahaina. They are approached by contractors who say that the contractor can do the work. The work performed is unpermitted. Consequently, the renovations and rebuilding cannot pass inspection and/or the owner begins receiving notices of violation. MCOA will be working in a multidisciplinary fashion with the Mayor's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, permitting offices to develop a system to address the issues that individuals are facing with respect to renovations and rebuilds. Contractor fraud might be occurring statewide. A coordinated, continuous statewide public relations campaign on contractor fraud awareness would be helpful. Rowena is learning that a gap exists in coordinated efforts within the Maui County Government.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kupuna Caucus Meeting: Friday, July 10, 2026, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- PABEA monthly meeting: Friday, August 7, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.