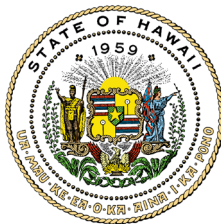


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH FINK, M.D., MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

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, August 7, 2026

PABEA Board Members in Attendance: Roy Katsuda, Stephen Lung (arrived 9:55am), Suzie Schulberg (arrived 9:33am), Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service (arrived 9:40am), Gary Simon (Chair), Rick Tabor, and Kathy Wyatt

AAA/Community Members/EOA Staff Attendance: Rowena Dagdag-Andaya (MCOA), Charlene Iboshi (arrived 9:50am), Joanne Kealoha, and Cristina Valenzuela (EOA)

Board Members Absent: Poki'i Balaz

- I. Reminder from the PABEA Chair, Beverly Gotelli: "All members must select a committee to join. The three committees are the Legislative Committee, the Recognition Awards Committee (RAC), and the Plans, Programs, Research Committee (PPRC). More members are needed for RAC and PPRC. If you haven't signed up yet, please choose a committee and notify Beverly.
- II. Call to Order
Chair Gary Simon called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M.
- III. Roll Call
Cristina Valenzuela took roll call across board and community members and agency representatives. With 6 board members present at roll call Cristina confirmed quorum was established.
- IV. Review and Approval of Minutes
The draft minutes for the June 5, 2026 meeting were distributed via email. There were no objections or discussion on the minutes. The minutes were approved as is.
- V. Old Business –
 - A. Updated 2026 EOA Legislative Recap
The 2026 EOA Legislative Recap was updated and emailed to committee members. Cristina reported that a total of 5,799 items were introduced during the 2026 legislative session, including 2,840 carryover bills from 2025, 2,459 new bills in 2026, and 823 resolutions. Of these, 268 bills passed the Legislature; 266

were signed into law by the Governor and 2 were vetoed. She also reviewed several key bills included in the legislative recap. ***Correction- there were 5,299 total bills in the 2026 legislative session.**

- Executive Branch Budget Bill (HB1800 HD1, SD1, CD1) – Act 175, signed on June 26, 2026, funds agencies and programs within the State Executive Branch. EOA's budget is included in this act.
- Long-Term Care Financing bill (HB1804 HD1, SD1, CD1) – Act 249, signed on July 14, 2026, directs the EOA to conduct a feasibility study on public and private long-term care financing options and provide recommendations. The act appropriates \$100,000, and EOA will partner with the UH Center on Aging to complete the study.
- Hearing Loss State Plan (HB1974 HD1 SD1 CD1) – Act 223, signed on July 9, 2026, establishes a statewide plan to address hearing loss across all age groups. The act provides \$100,000 to the State Health Planning Development Agency (SHPDA) to develop the plan.
- Kupuna Rent Supplement Program (SB2866 SD1 HD1 CD1) – Act 250, signed on July 14, 2026, removes the program's June 2028 sunset date, making it permanent. The program provides rental assistance to older adults with low income, who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing.
- KupunAloha (HB1973 HD1 SD1 CD1) – Act 246, signed on July 14, 2026, establishes a one-year pilot program to provide in-home health care and support services to older adults not currently receiving government assistance. The pilot targets older residents in urban Honolulu and complements the Rural Health Transformation Grant. EOA will work with SHPDA to contract for services
- Cryptocurrency ATM Kiosk (HB1642 HD1 SD1 CD1) – Act 224, signed on July 9, 2026, incorporates AARP's intent to reduce fraud involving cryptocurrency ATM kiosks. Beginning October 1, 2026, Act 246 prohibits owning or operating cryptocurrency ATMs that accept cash deposits for cryptocurrency.
- HANAI Memory Network Program (HB1853 HD1, SD1, CD1) – Act 245, signed on July 14, 2026, establishes the Hanai Memory Network within EOA. The program will create a dementia care support network, including a dementia care clinic and dementia care specialists to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Tani Salazar, EOA's ADRD Coordinator, is preparing the Request for Information to begin contracting. This one-year program received a \$3 million appropriation.
- Dementia Business Recognition Program (SB2259 SD1, HD1, CD1) – Act 251, signed on July 14, 2026, creates the Hawai'i Dementia Initiative Business Recognition Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). Businesses may receive dementia-friendly training and be recognized with an official logo. EOA will collaborate with DBEDT to provide training materials, curriculum, and logos.

Comments:

- HANAI Memory Network Program (Act 245) - Rick noted that advocates were promoting the program to also serve rural areas and the neighbor

islands to ensure it is not Honolulu-centric.

- Long-Term Care Financing - Marilyn explained that Act 249 requires EOA to do a study and prepare a detailed report for Senator Sharon Moriwaki and the legislature by December. The report will inform legislation to be introduced in January 2027. She emphasized the tight timeline and critical importance of this initiative for funding long-term care, especially given the current Governor's support and the potential loss of Medicare and Medicaid funding.
- Building Permit Applications (SCR 8/HR7/SR10) – The resolution urges counties to expedite building permit applications for home modifications that are essential to the safety or health of an older adult or person with a disability. Kathy shared about her friend who it took a year to get a permit to widen the doors in her home for her mother's wheelchair. She noted that the resolution “urges” counties but does not make it mandatory or include any oversight. She asked if the committee could advocate for the resolution to be mandatory? Several members, including Gary, Rowena, Rick, and Charlene, noted that the issue must be taken up through the counties.
- Gary suggested bringing it to the County Councils on Aging. Charlene also suggested adding an element about how it would be monitored. Because the issue requires county action, Rowena suggested sending a letter to each county's Council on Aging or Committee on Aging. The letter would inform them of the resolution passed in the last legislative session regarding building permits, encourage them to place the item on a future agenda for discussion, and include a template for a possible county ordinance that they could recommend to the mayor, Department of Public Works, or other departments. Gary said that he would put it on the next agenda.
- Hearing Loss State Plan- Rick noted that the Hearing Aid Task Force is also a one-year initiative with a tight timeline to develop a report with findings and recommendations.

Act 223 requires SHPDA to submit an initial plan on hearing loss to the legislature before the start of the 2027 legislative session (December 2026). Thereafter, SHPDA shall submit an updated report on the state plan on hearing loss before the 2029 legislative session (December 2028).

VI. New Business

A. Vice Chair Appointment

Chair Gary announced the appointment of Rick Tabor as Vice-Chair of the PABEA Legislative Committee.

B. Upcoming Training, “Using the Interim”

Chair Gary announced the upcoming training, “Using the Interim,” scheduled for Friday, September 4 at 9:30 a.m. Andy Langhurst from the Public Access Room (PAR) will present on how to effectively use the interim period between legislative sessions to maintain momentum, develop ideas, and support advocacy and legislative work.

Comments:

- Rick asked whether the training is intended only for the Legislative Committee or for PABEA as a whole. Cristina clarified that this training is for the PABEA Legislative Committee, with a separate legislative training planned for PABEA in November.

C. Discussion: Events Appropriate for the “Announcements” Section?

Chair Gary facilitated a discussion on what types of events should be included in the “Announcements” section of the agenda. He noted that, as an advisory board to the Executive Office on Aging, announcements must be relevant to EOA and support members in assisting the Director and staff. Examples included events such as the HPGS Conference, Hawai’i Caregiver Coalition events, and Aging in Place activities—opportunities for members to build expertise that enhances their advisory role. He also emphasized the importance of following proper agenda procedures and compliance with public meeting requirements (e.g. Sunshine Law). To ensure compliance, announcements must be submitted via email to Gary at least two weeks in advance for review.

Comments:

- Rick noted that public comments last year raised concerns about how agendas were posted and meetings conducted. Because meetings are public and recorded, he reminded members to be mindful of their comments.
- Kathy asked whether it was appropriate to announce a public educational event for caregivers about dementia. Gary confirmed it was appropriate as long as it appears on the agenda.
- Marilyn shared that the strictness of current agenda rules, designed for policy-making bodies rather than advisory boards, has limited PABEA’s ability to discuss certain issues. She suggested advocating more flexible Sunshine Law requirements for advisory agencies. Gary encouraged Marilyn to consider which entity (e.g. PABEA, the Legislative Committee, or EOA) should address the issue. Marilyn noted that several legislators share similar concerns and suggested starting discussions with them.
- Charlene recommended seeking guidance from the Attorney General or another appropriate agency on agenda posting requirements and doing so before the next legislative session to avoid violations. Cristina added that the Office of Information Practices provides guidance on Sunshine Law compliance and issues notices of violation.

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

VIII. Announcements

1. PABEA meeting scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2026 at 12 p.m. In person and remote meeting via Zoom.
2. Kupuna Caucus meeting scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2026 at 2 p.m. via Zoom.

The next PABEA Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 4, 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 10:09 A.M.