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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, October 2, 2026

PABEA Board Members in Attendance: Stephen Lung (arrived 9:47am), Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Gary Simon (Chair),

AAA/Community Members/EOA Staff Attendance: Cristina Valenzuela (EOA)

Board Members Absent: Pokiʻi Balaz (arrived at 9:38am) Roy Katsuda, Suzie Schulberg, Rick Tabor (excused), and Kathy Wyatt

I. Call to Order
Chair Gary Simon called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

II. Roll Call
Cristina took roll call across board and community members and agency representatives. With 3 board members present at roll call quorum was established.

The committee took a recess to allow Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, AARP Policy Director, to join the meeting via phone, as she needed a phone number to call in. After the recess, the meeting was called to order again at 9:43 am with Chair Gary presiding.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes
The draft minutes for the September 4, 2026 meeting were completed by Cristina and distributed via email. There were no objections or discussion on the minutes. The September 4, 2026 meeting minutes were approved as is.

IV. Old Business
A. Criteria for Announcements
The group discussed business criteria for announcements. Chair Gary noted that Caroline (EOA Director) will provide guidance at the full PABEA board meeting, scheduled for later today at 12pm.

B. Sunshine Law Amendment for Advisory Board Meetings
Marilyn had no new updates and reported challenges in connecting with the Attorney General regarding Sunshine Law amendments to provide more latitude for advisory boards.

C. Review and Discuss Letter in Support of Social Security
Chair Gary touched on reviewing the letter that was drafted in support of Social Security. Committee member, Stephen Lung, had raised the issue regarding the uncertainty of the long-term solvency of Social Security trust funds and that more public pressure is needed to push Congress toward a solution. The Chair tabled the agenda item for the next meeting to allow members to review the letter for discussion.

D. Criteria for PABEA support for legislation (e.g., goals and strategies of State Plan on Aging)
The group discussed criteria for supporting legislation, with the Chair (Gary) suggesting the committee align their support with state plan initiatives rather than addressing bills on a subject-by-subject basis. He noted that meeting only once a month limits the committee's ability to provide timely support, opposition, or comments on legislation, as bills may progress quickly or stall before the group can respond. He suggested that the approach would allow the committee to offer consistent support or opposition to bills and ensure meaningful contribution to the legislative process. Gary will have one-on-one discussions with Caroline to ensure PABEA's positions on legislative bills are consistent with the Executive Office on Aging.

Upcoming legislative priorities, including potential bills on Healthy Aging Partnership funding and compassionate release for terminally ill incarcerated individuals, though specific details will be discussed at the Kapuna Caucus meeting later that day.

1. Administration for Community Living (ACL) Guidance (August 2021) for 2023-2027 State Plan Development Topic Areas:
    a. Older Americans Act (OAA) Core Programs (e.g., support services, nutrition, disease prevention/health promotion, Caregiver Services and Supports, Native American Programs, including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian, Elder Rights (e.g., elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation), Age and Dementia Friendly, and Employment)
    b. COVID-19 (e.g., emergency and disaster preparedness)
    c. Equity
    d. Expanding Access to Home and Community-Based Services
    e. Caregiving

2. Hawai'i State Plan on Aging (2023-2027) Goals
EOA, in collaboration with Hawaii's Aging Network, identified the following five goals in alignment with the ACL's topic areas:

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a. Hawai‘i’s older adults have opportunities to live well
b. Hawai‘i’s older adults are prepared for future health threats and disasters
c. Hawai‘i’s older adults in underserved groups have equitable access to programs and services
d. Hawai‘i’s older adults and persons with disabilities will age in place safely
e. Hawai‘i’s caregivers have a broad array of services and supports to effectively care for their loved ones

V. New Business – no new agenda items to discuss

Chair Gary reminded members to contact him at least two weeks before a meeting if they wish to add a discussion item, so it can be included in the agenda before the posting deadline. He noted that this requirement also applies to public testimony.

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

VII. Announcements

1. PABEA meeting scheduled for Friday, September 4, 2026 at 12 p.m. In person and remote meeting via Zoom.

2. Kupuna Caucus meeting scheduled for Friday, September 4, 2026 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. There will be a presentation on Case Management.

   Chair Gary noted that legislative proposals will be reviewed at today’s Kūpuna Caucus meeting. Members will then vote for five bills to be included in the legislative package. The five bills receiving the most votes will move forward as the Kūpuna Caucus legislative package. He added that if a legislative proposal does not make it into the Kupuna Caucus package these bills may still be introduced by a legislator.

   Comments:

   - Stephen asked Cristina whether she anticipated any changes or new priorities that the Kūpuna Caucus might adopt. Cristina replied that it would depend on the bills introduced, noting that organizations such as AARP and the Alzheimer’s Association will likely reintroduce bills that did not pass last session.
     Chair Gary added that the Hawai‘i Healthy Aging Partnership, with its Better Choices Better Health program, plans to propose a bill requesting additional funding to expand to more sites. Cristina also shared that she had been approached about a potential “Compassionate Release” bill, which would allow terminally ill or dying incarcerated individuals to be released to assisted living facilities for improved end-of-life care. She noted that the bill almost passed last session. Barbara noted that the Alzheimer’s Association will introduce several bills as well. Gary concluded by noting that members can learn more about these proposals at the Kūpuna Caucus meeting.

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VIII. Chair Gary announced that the next PABEA Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for **Friday, November 6, 2026 from 9:30-11am.**
Note: instead of the meeting, a joint training with the PABEA Legislative Committee and the Plans, Projects & Review Committee (PPRC) will be held. The Public Access Room will present the training on legislative engagement. The training will take place on Friday, November 6, from 9:30–11:00 a.m., both in person at the EOA Large Conference Room (250 S. Hotel St., Room 406) and via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Cristina Valenzuela

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