DRAFT

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410
Friday, October 2, 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: Pokiʻi Balaz, Beverly Gotelli, Louise Johnson, Stephen Lung, Sara Lenzer Medeiros, Marilyn Seely (joined the meeting at 12:09 p.m. after the roll was called), Barbara Service (joined the meeting at 12:07 p.m. after the roll was called), Leimomi Shearer, Gary Simon, Scott Spallina, and Raelene Tenno.

Appointed members excused and absent: Roy Katsuda, Suzie Schulberg, Rick Tabor, and Kathy Wyatt.

(A quorum was established as nine 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), and Kathy Ishihara, Department of Human Services (DHS).

Executive Office on Aging (EOA) staff and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) staff present: Candice Bryant, Caroline Cadirao, Josephine Lum, Lani Sakamoto, Tani Salazar, Cristina Valenzuela, Bocar Wane, and Jason Wong.

ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

The draft minutes of the September 4, 2026 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were adopted as circulated.

EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- EOA met with the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) to discuss ACT 251 (SLH 2026), requiring DBEDT to provide statewide dementia training for businesses. A memorandum of understanding outlining roles and responsibilities has been drafted. Businesses will be able to advertise as "dementia friendly."
- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) reached out to EOA about potential funding assistance for kupuna affected by Hurricane Lowell. EOA submitted a proposal focused on addressing food insecurity for Kauai kupuna.

- EOA entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning to develop two intrastate funding formula scenarios for the 2027 – 2031 State Plan on Aging.
- EOA has secured a contractor to assist with policy and procedure development related to the ACL Final Rule 1321.
- Medicare updates:
    - Changes to Ohana Health Plan and impact to the community: Centene through 'Ohana Health Plans' will no longer provide Medicaid managed care or Medicare Advantage (Wellcare) plans effective December 2026.
      27,000 Ohana QUEST members.
      2,000 Ohana D-SNP members.
      Ohana notice to members (Sept 2026)
      Actions to take:
        - October – Member can switch to a new QUEST plan, effective 1/1/27.
        - November – If no change is made, Med-QUEST Division will move member to another QUEST plan.
        - November – Aloha Care will take over as new Community Care Service (CCS) contractor coordinating mental health services for ~1,000 current CCS members.
    - The "Medicare and You" handbook is available online.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Beverly reported that she was in communication with Caroline to format the agenda before Beverly went on vacation for two weeks. PABEA and its committees will have a joint meeting on Friday, November 6, 2026 with the Public Access Room (PAR) to learn of existing legislative procedures and any procedures which have changed. The presentation by PAR will help PABEA with its advocacy during the next legislative session. Modifications which have been made to the Legislature's website will be discussed in the presentation.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Gary reported that the Committee met this morning. The Committee discussed criteria for including announcements in the Committee agenda. The issue will be discussed at this PABEA meeting under agenda item V. New Business 2. Agenda Changes. The Committee discussed presenting PABEA approval of aligning favorable PABEA testimony with the State Plan and its goals and strategies in lieu of requesting approval of each individual bill. The proposal allows PABEA to be nimbler and efficient when offering testimony.

PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PPRC)

Sara reported that the Committee met this morning. All PABEA members will receive the PPRC agenda and minutes to be informed of PPRC's work. PPRC is developing a PABEA handbook for new and existing PABEA members. A draft of the handbook has been completed. The handbook includes important phone number, the goal of PABEA and its Committees, procedures for conducting meetings, the integration of Hawaiian values, including the aloha spirit, into the work of PABEA and EOA in alignment with the Law of 1986. The Committee discussed emergency plans for buildings, including condominiums and office buildings, and the need to address safety, including fire safety and electric power outage procedures. Cost was discussed, including the prohibitive cost of generators for every condominium building. Generators can power elevators during an electrical outage. The Committee is seeking support from EOA and the Legislative Committee to collaborate with public and private agencies on

emergency preparedness and on supporting small communities (i.e. kuleana) with examining and developing emergency preparedness procedures. The Committee would like to discuss emergency preparedness at a PABEA meeting. The issue will be included as an agenda item for a future PABEA meeting. Leimomi reported at the PPRC meeting that she discussed Hawaiian values with her network. Kupuna feel excluded and are often not heard. Care for kupuna does not meet expectations. Community is lacking. The children of kupuna are working. Physical and cultural connections are weak. Some communities and hubs, such as schools and cultural groups, have the aloha spirit, but the aloha spirit is not widespread. PPRC would like to provide EOA and PABEA with a presentation on cultural awareness, interconnections, and visibility. The Committee is drafting a letter and seeking PABEA's support regarding the incorporation of Hawaiian values and the aloha spirit into EOA's operations and programs. The issue will be included in a future PABEA agenda.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAC)

Beverly announced that the RAC will resume meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2026. The meeting announcement will be emailed to all PABEA members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposing changes to the number of meetings in HRS 349-4. The HRS currently states, "There shall be not less than twelve meetings of the board each year."

Caroline commented that PABEA is in violation of the statute due to the cancellation of the April 2026 PABEA meeting due to severe weather. Caroline presented three options:

1. Leave the language of the statute as is.
2. Remove "There shall be not less than twelve meetings of the board each year." (The recommendation of the Attorney General.)
3. Amend the number of meetings per year.

Raelene presented a fourth option allowing the cancellation of a PABEA meeting due to unforeseen circumstances or an emergency declared by a government authority. Raelene will send Caroline related languages from condominium statutes.

This issue will be discussed further at the November 2026 PABEA meeting.

Agenda changes – Announcements will be removed starting in November 2026.

Caroline stated that "Announcements" will be removed beginning with the November 2026 agendas for PABEA and its Committees at the recommendation of the Attorney General.

The date and time of PABEA meetings, PABEA Committee meetings, and the Kupuna Caucus meeting will continue to be included in the agenda as their own agenda items. Appointed and ex-officio PABEA members who have information can provide the information under the agenda item "PABEA Reports" by first asking Josephine at least two weeks before the monthly PABEA meeting to include their reports as an agenda item under "PABEA Reports."

The removal of announcements from the PABEA agenda will eliminate any misunderstanding and uncertainty on the type of announcements which can be included on the PABEA agendas.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

CONDOMINIUM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Raelene remarked that the severe weather and the number of power outages this year are unprecedented. Some organizations and individuals are proposing legislation to require condominium buildings to install electrical power generators. Raelene anticipates that opposition to the legislation will be strong. She commented that a condominium building received an estimate of $2 million to purchase a generator. The purchase price does not include the price for installing the generator. Most generators are diesel fueled. Many condominium buildings have no capacity to house a generator. Also, the size of a generator required to power large condominium buildings, such as a thirty-story condominium building, is huge. Safe airflow to eliminate exhaust also is required to operate a generator. The purchase price, installation price, and operation expenses for a generator will increase maintenance fees for condominium owners. Raelene recommends a human relay system in the event of a power outage or in the event of an emergency. In the event of a power outage, condominium staff and residents can implement a relay system using the stairs to deliver food, water, and necessities during designated times for each floor. Staff and residents will need to receive education on the emergency plan which includes the procedures for the relay system. Relay members can also go door to door to inquire about the welfare of residents. Raelene commented that Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) is encouraging all residents to be community resilient (a kuleana plan) and self-reliant if possible. The fire code requires evacuation plans, but enforcement is minimal and often might not be a priority for fire department leadership.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Beverly reminded PABEA members to prepare for natural disasters and to educate themselves about preparing for natural disasters. Ensure that you have canned food, water, medicine, and batteries. Check on your neighbors before and after a disaster. Learn who in the neighborhood has an electrical generator.

EX-OFFICIOS MEMBERS' REPORTS

Attached is Paula Cerio's DOH report. Paula reported that the hospice workgroup has convened. The workgroup has a representative from EOA. The workgroup might recommend including hospice and palliative care in the State Plan on Aging. The last meeting of the workgroup will be in November 2026. The workgroup might propose legislation for next year's session.

HAWAII AREA AGENCIES ON AGING (AAAs)

Beverly reported that the AAA executives are in Honolulu today.

Caroline reported that a new evidence-based assessment tool was launched on October 1, 2026. During the transition from the prior tool, EOA and the AAAs learned that policies and

procedures addressing how clients are reassessed need to be examined and modified. The executives are examining and discussing those issues today.

Attached is Ka‘u’ionalani’s October 2026 Hawaii County AAA Executive Report.

Attached is Melody Lopez’s September 2026 Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs report, submitted on behalf of Emily Ishida.

Beverly commended the AAAs and their executives for their disaster preparedness, response, and recovery work during this year’s severe weather.

NOVEMBER 2026 PABEA MEETING

The November PABEA meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2026 KUPUNA CAUCUS MEETING

The October Kupuna Caucus meeting is scheduled for today, Friday, November 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

NOVEMBER 2026 PABEA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No PABEA Committee meetings are scheduled for November 6, 2026. A joint Committee meeting will be held on November 6, 2026 for a Public Access Room presentation.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING

Beverly adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.