

POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)  
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
No. 1 Capitol District | 250 South Hotel Street | Conference Room 410  
Friday, April 14, 2023 | 11:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberta Murray called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Appointed Members: Poki'i Balaz (joined the meeting at 12:31 p.m.), Beverly Gotelli, William Kinaka, Stephen Lung, Roberta Murray, Suzie Schulberg (joined the meeting at 11:37 a.m.), Marilyn Seely, Barbara Service, Rick Tabor, Raelene Tenno, Kathy Wyatt, and Barbara Yamashita.

(A quorum was established as ten members were present at roll call. This board requires eight members to be present in order to establish quorum.)

Ex-officio Members: Kathy Ishihara, DHS, and Keith Ridley, DOH.

EOA Staff and AAA Staff Present: Philip Ana, Wanda Anae-Onishi, Caroline Cadirao, Sasha Dimon, Jomel Duldulao, Horace Farr, Tani Kalei Kagesa, Donna Lynn Loo, Josephine Lum, John McDermott, Jan Mori, Candace Nakamoto, Lani Sakamoto, Kealoha Takahashi, Cristina Valenzuela, and Jeffrey Woodland.

Guests: Gary Simon, PABEA Past Chair; Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, AARP Hawaii; and Charlene Taketa.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March 3, 2023 in-person and Zoom PABEA meeting were approved as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Roberta reported that Olelo had time for three 60-second PSAs, but the slots quickly were reserved by others. One spot subsequently became available. Kathy Wyatt recorded a PSA that covered three topics: who PABEA is, what we do to recognize older Americans, and our area agency network that provides services and programs to the elderly.

Kathy reported that Olelo has a one-hour slot for PABEA for a one time, a monthly, or a quarterly program. Kathy suggested assembling a panel. She has spoken to AARP Hawaii and the Alzheimer's Association to discuss the resources that they have, City and County resources, and caregiver resources.

The Olelo PSA featuring Kathy was viewed at the meeting. Its script is:

*“Aloha: I’m Kathy Wyatt, a volunteer appointed board member of the Policy Advisory Board on Elder affairs. Every year PABEA recognizes kupuna volunteers who serve others in their communities across the State. They give their time and talents to help others in need, and they do it with aloha. We honor and thank them for their service in ceremonies during Older Americans Month, which is May. As advisors to the State Executive Office on Aging, PABEA weighs in on programs and services that enable Hawaii’s kupuna to live healthier and to age with dignity. The EOA network of area agencies on aging located in every county in the State provide services such as caregiving, Kupuna Care, housing assistance, meals, transportation, and wellness programs. You can call EOA at 808 586 0100 or visit [health.Hawaii.gov/EOA](http://health.Hawaii.gov/EOA) to find out more. Hawaii is the best place to grow older. I can attest to that. May life be long. Mahalo.”*

Rick and Marilyn volunteered to assist Kathy with planning and developing the one-hour Olelo programs.

Roberta announced that Suzie Schulberg, Barbara Service, and Rick Tabor are the members of the nominating committee which will provide a slate of nominees for Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair and which will clarify who is eligible to be nominated.

Roberta announced that Colette Brown’s and Kathy Wyatt’s terms will be extended. Marilyn and Barbara Service have applied for their second terms, but likely will not be confirmed until the next legislative session. Caroline will seek extensions of their terms until they are confirmed. Roberta will not be seeking a second term. She has two grandchildren. One lives on the Big Island. Roberta has been asked to increase her caregiving for her grandchild on the Big Island to include Fridays. Her other grandchild is in California. Thus, she might be traveling more, too.

Caroline will clarify with Boards and Commissions whether extended members can vote and be Committee chairs.

Roberta requests to be a community member of the Legislative Committee after her PABEA term ends.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara Service reported that many of the PABEA priority bills are alive and are proceeding to their respective conference committees. SB 889 (adult day care categorization and reimbursement) died.

Kathy Wyatt reported that HB222, which adjusts the method by which the Department of Human Services shall calculate payments to providers of medical care and long-term supports and services, is still alive.

The hearing aids bills died. Roberta suggested including hearing aids in PABEA legislative strategy planning beginning in July.

HB 652/SB 902, which establishes a caregiver workforce development and support center, died.

Bills proceeding to conference committees include:

- SB 900 Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program - Program Specialist Positions;
- SB 1592 Senior Medicare Patrol Hawaii Program - Program Specialist Positions;

- HB 872 Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership Appropriation;
- HB 278 Alzheimer's Disease; Related Dementias; Public Health Campaign;
- SB 898 State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna;
- HB 650 Our Care, Our Choice;
- SB 1373 EOA Administrative Claiming Special Fund; and,
- HB 1486 Appropriates funds for Kupuna Care.

John reported that HB 916, which was introduced by Representative John Mizuno and which increases the monthly needs allowance for residents in LTC facilities from \$50 to \$75, died. John requests that PABEA strongly support the bill next year. Marilyn is appalled that this issue has not been remedied as it has been a problem for many years.

Barbara announced that:

- Kupuna Caucus meets virtually at 2:00 p.m. today;
- AARP Hawaii will be hosting a presentation by FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) on investing, saving, and frauds and scams on May 6, 2023; and
- 180 registrants attended AARP Hawaii's April 4, 2023 event, Finance Your Future.

Roberta announced that AARP Hawaii hosted a caregiver-to-caregiver breakfast in Kona on April 12, 2023. The featured speaker was AARP Hawaii State Director Kealii Lopez. While introducing Kealii at the Conference, Roberta remarked that nearly 145,000 AARP members live in Hawaii. Roberta then remarked to Kealii and the attendees that, according to EOA, 360,000 kupuna are in the state, and that almost half of them are AARP members.

#### PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Committee met on April 6, 2023 and provided feedback to Caroline regarding the State Plan on Aging.

Raelene is concerned with seniors living in condos who will be levied special assessments arising from the life safety evaluation requirements, e.g. fire sprinkler retrofitting, which can cost in the millions of dollars. One Archer Lane has a \$21,000 special assessment (per unit). Some seniors will lose their condo homes due to the special assessments. Honolulu City Council Chair Tommy Waters and Senator Carol Fukunaga are examining tax credits to mitigate the expense of these special assessments. Raelene recommends that PABEA support these efforts to provide condo owners relief.

Barbara Yamashita and Caroline reported that the State Plan goals, objectives, and strategies were reviewed at the Committee meeting. Feedback was provided to Caroline during the review. EOA is modifying the Plan accordingly.

#### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Kathy reported that the Committee met on April 6, 2023. The Older Americans Month celebration will be on June 2, 2023 at 15 Craigsides from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The celebration begins at 10:30 a.m. with a meet and greet and coffee service. Lunch is from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with virtual entertainment by students from Kaimuki Christian School. From 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor, and City Council Chair Tommy Waters will speak briefly. From 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., the honorees from each county will be recognized. The Governor has a conflict and will not attend. The DOH Director, Kenneth Fink,

MD. has placed the event on his calendar and might attend. The food count is set for 45 attendees. Kathy is considering a printed program with the honorees' photos and biographies. The County of Hawaii will have their celebration on May 5, 2023. The City and County of Honolulu will have their celebration on May 18, 2023. The County of Maui will have their celebration in mid-May. More women than men were nominated. Gary suggests that a formal announcement be sent to request RSVPs to achieve a firm headcount.

Roberta announced that a PABEA meeting will follow the celebration. Suzie remarked that 15 Craigsides will be prepared for the meeting, e.g. Zoom capability, etc.

John will send the list of assignments (lei, medallions, assisting people to their seats, etc.) to Kathy on Monday, April 17, 2023.

### LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Cristina announced that next month's Legislative Committee agenda will include an opportunity for attendees to present legislative proposals that align with EOA and the State Plan on Aging. The meeting will be held in-person and virtually on May 5, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in room 111 of the Kamamalu Building. Cristina will forward the meeting notice and agenda to all PABEA members.

### APPOINTED MEMBERS' REPORTS

No reports were offered.

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORTS

Keith reported that DOH continues to work at the legislature on bills, including bills addressing unlicensed care homes, unlicensed care home penalties, and medical cannabis.

Kathy Ishihara reported that she attended two presentations on redetermination of Medicaid eligibility. DHS has done well with a mass media campaign. Attached are the press release from DHS and the information sheet from DHS on the redetermination of Medicaid eligibility. DHS is reaching out to all Medicaid beneficiaries, including the houseless population. Community partners are helping with the houseless population. The intent is to ensure that all have coverage, either via Medicaid or otherwise. 465,000 are currently covered on Medicaid. Additional redetermination mailings will be sent next month.

### EOA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attached is Caroline's report.

Caroline provided highlights from her report:

- State Plan on Aging: Caroline will send a draft of the Plan to PABEA members by Friday, April 28, 2023.
- Scheduled Presentations of the State Plan on Aging:
  - Kauai: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Piikoi Building, 4444 Rice Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766.
  - Zoom: Wednesday, April 19, 2023, via Zoom 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Maui: Thursday, April 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani Street, Room 2, Wailuku 96793 and by <https://bluejeans.com/392866249>.

- Zoom: Monday, April 24, 2023, via zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
- Hawaii County: Monday, May 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hawaii ADRC in Hilo.
- City and County of Honolulu: Date, time, and place to be determined.
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP): After much negotiation to ensure that the Medicare course would be offered this Fall, it was decided that the course with the UH Center on Aging will be delayed until possibly the Fall semester of 2024.
- DD Council Day at the Capitol: EOA participated with DD Council and the Alzheimer's Association during the Day at the Capitol on March 3, 2023.

Hiring for the LTC Ombudsmen is approximately a month behind schedule. The Department of Health has EOA's request to fill the Oahu position. The required forms to post and fill the neighbor island positions will be sent to the Department of Health next week. Simultaneously, EOA is securing office space for the neighbor island positions. EOA will be examining its budget to ensure that funding exists for the supplies and equipment (e.g. cell phones, laptops) needed for those positions. EOA anticipates having a list of candidates by early May to mid-May to begin interviews to fill the positions in the summer. EOA also submitted the forms to post the statistician and grants manager positions.

Marilyn asked Keith to assist EOA with processing the posting and hiring forms within DOH. Marilyn also volunteered to help with facilitating the hiring process.

John remarked that the contracted LTC ombudsman have agreed to stay on month to month and to help with training to ensure that an Ombudsman is available to respond to complaints and concerns. Caroline will explore six-month extensions for the contracted ombudsman if needed.

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU ELDERLY AFFAIRS DIVISION (EAD)

Sasha reported that Derrick Ariyoshi is visiting the YMCA congregate dining in Waianae with Anton Krucky, Director of the Honolulu Department of Community Services. EAD I & A is transitioning to home visits and home assessments, but motor pool access has been difficult. Meeting in-person with the kupuna, the caregiver, the power of attorney, or whoever is assisting in the assessment process is valuable. EAD sent two staff members to the American Society on Aging Conference held in the last week of March. They attended various breakout sessions and connected with various vendors on the mainland, including a transportation vendor with which EAD is exploring contracting. Their model is similar to a call center. They are open 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. PST, which would work well for the Hawaii time zone. They would assist seniors, especially seniors living in rural areas, with scheduling transportation services via Uber or Lyft, which can be difficult for seniors as Uber and Lyft are app-based services. EAD is exploring opportunities to send staff members to conferences, including USAging and HCBS conferences. An EAD staff member is dedicated to creating a disability resource guide. He has been connecting with various service providers, both in the state and nationally. EAD anticipates publishing the guide soon. A case manager in the assessment team has been hired to alleviate the two to three month wait in reassessments. EAD is prioritizing initial assessments. EAD hired a new staff member who will complete initial assessments almost a month ago. EAD is examining expanding volunteer opportunities or internship opportunities with UH and HPU to build opportunities for volunteers and interns to develop in their fields.

PRESENTATION: Tia Hartsock, Executive Director, Office of Wellness and Resilience. Office of the Governor. (Presentation attached.) The ensuing discussion on trauma informed care

and resilience efforts was robust. The Office of Wellness and Resilience will transition to an advisory board in 2023 or 2024.

#### HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING (HCOA)

Horace had exited the meeting. No report was presented.

#### KAUAI AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS (AEA)

Attached is Kealoha's report.

Kealoha reported that the Kauai OAM celebration is on May 18, 2023. Honorees were selected from ten nominees. Kealoha will send the biographical information for the honorees to Kathy Wyatt. Five from Kauai will attend the OAM event at 15 Craigside. KAEA has waitlists for homemaker and personal care services. Donna Lynn Loo has helped with submitting and receiving approval for exempt procurement. Two new providers have applied, but their unit costs are high. At a budget hearing, the County Council asked how much more money is needed. For homemaker, personal care services, and home delivered meals, KAEA asked for an additional \$538,000 from the County. KAEA has filled its vacancy. The new employee will be starting next week Monday.

#### MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (MCOA)

Attached is Rowena Dagdag-Andaya's report.

#### KUPUNA CAUCUS

Roberta announced that the Kupuna Caucus will meet virtually at 2:00 p.m. today.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Roberta announced that DOH Director Kenneth Fink, M.D. will provide a presentation to PABEA at next month's PABEA meeting.

#### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was offered.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rick announced that:

- Kokua Council will host a virtual physical and mental disabilities awareness forum on April 24, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- HPGS will be hosting Caroline, Derrick, Representative Troy Hashimoto, and Senator Sharon Moriwaki for a forum on strategic planning, including legislative strategic planning. Rick will send the notice to the PABEA members when it is available.

Kathy Wyatt requested from Suzie seating for 60 attendees at the OAM celebration. Kathy Wyatt announced that Barbara Yamashita has volunteered to help at the OAM celebration. Kathy Wyatt welcomes other EOA staff members and PABEA members to volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT OF PABEA MEETING:

Roberta adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.