

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Kalana O Maui, 9th Floor, Conference Room

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Minutes

I. Call to order and establishment of quorum

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Vice-Chair Margaret Bruck, Debra Cabebe, Suzanne Hobbs and Maria Ornellas.

Ex-Officio: Anna Mayeda

Excused: Dennyse Grace

Staff: Mercedes Neri (Mayor's Executive Assistant)
Gary Murai (Deputy Corporation Counsel)
Michelle Esteban (Administrative Assistant)

II. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

Guests: Audrey Inaba, Child Health Coordinator for the State Department of Health, Jeny Bissell, Family Health Services Division Supervisor for the State Department of Health.

III. Approve Minutes from January 18, 2011 and February 15, 2011 Meetings

January 18, 2011 meeting minutes:

Commissioner Cabebe requested a correction in the minutes under Section VII. She was excused at the January 18, 2011 meeting but in the first paragraph it contradicts her attendance. It was agreed to change the second sentence in the first paragraph by removing "Commissioner Cabebe's" name and replacing it with "It was".

Commissioner Bruck moved to approve the January 18, 2011 meeting minutes with modification changes and Commissioner Ornellas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Committee.

February 15, 2011 meeting minutes:

Commissioner Ornellas stated that requesting \$500 to be used for Women's Health Week was redundant under Section III. She requested that one be removed.

Commissioner Cabebe moved to approve the February 15, 2011 meeting minutes with modification changes and Commissioner Ornellas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Committee.

IV. Review and Discuss Correspondence Received

Outgoing Committee Member Memorandum from Mayor Alan Arakawa dated 2/10/11:

Chair Potopowitz presented Vice-Chair Bruck with an appreciation letter from Mayor Arakawa for her efforts and contributions. Vice-Chair Bruck was not able to continue as member due to her heavy work load but enjoyed the experience and accomplishments. Chair Potopowitz thanked Vice-Chair Bruck for all her support and contributions to the committee.

V. Report from State Commission on the Status of Women Representative Anna Mayeda

Ms. Mayeda emailed Ms. Sharon Ferguson-Quick with the concerns that were brought up at the last committee meeting. She was advised of the following:

Unfortunately, the State budget will not pay for a Maui representative or student to attend State Women's Leadership Conference. Therefore the committee would have to find ways to finance their attendees.

Ms. Ferguson-Quick wants the committee to clearly understand that the State budget is solely for the State. Other county's budget would have to come from their Mayor's budget.

The \$50,000 is allocated for any island that has program initiatives. Allowed programs are clearly defined. Ms. Mayeda encouraged the committee to request for funds.

Ms. Ferguson-Quick will be able to follow up on “specific/important” women’s legislature issues for the committee but unable to monitor issues on a daily bases due to staff shortage. Any request needs must be requested by Chair Potopowitz.

In regards to the \$500 for the Women’s Health Week in May 2011, it has been approved. We need to submit to Ms. Ferguson-Quick an itemized list of expenditures and/or invoices. She also asked if funds were going to be spent by June 30th, end of this fiscal year.

Ms. Mayeda informed the commissioners that the Women’s History Month event at Washington Place has been moved to March 30th. This year’s theme is “Writing Women Back in History” and encouraged the commissioners to attend the event. Ms. Mayeda encouraged the committee to nominate Maui county women for future state recognition.

Chair Potopowitz mentioned “Ready to Run”, a national program, might be a good program to look into. Vice-Chair Bruck mentioned that Elle Cochran, Maui County Council Member, was in this program and successfully ran for office.

VI. Report from Women’s History Month 2011 Subcommittee

Commissioner Grace was not present at the meeting and did not submit any report.

Chair Potopowitz reported that she is still working on the viewpoint and contacted some women from our booklet and have been receiving a few positive responses. She is positive that she can gather all the information by the end of the month.

Chair Potopowitz passed out a quiz on Women’s History Month for the commissioners to complete. She also handed out a packet with 50 questions with the answers and a copy of the brochure of the National Women’s History project for their information and use.

VII. Discussion Items:

A. Governor's International Women's Leadership Conference 2011

Commissioner Cabebe modified her handout she passed out at the last meeting using some information from a flyer that Vice-Chair Bruck shared with her that was used last year.

Vice-Chair Bruck asked if this will be limited to only females. She suggested that we keep the gender neutral. Commissioner Hobbs was hoping to keep it geared to females. After a discussion, Commissioner Cabebe suggested that she would not reference gender and was agreed among the committee.

In reference to the section "*Preference will be given to students with the greatest financial need*": Vice-Chair Bruck suggested we should not ask for parents' income. She feels that it was hard for the students to divulge that kind of personal information. Commissioner Cabebe stated that she included that in the application because we will be asking for donations to sponsor students. She feels that we should not ask for donations for students that parents are financial able to pay for their child's expenses. Vice-Chair Bruck suggested we use a "personal statement" that she used in the past to include personal family information.

Commissioner Cabebe felt that "preference" was too harsh verbiage. Mr. Murai suggested we change "preference" to "consideration" and the commissioners agreed that it had a softer touch. Commissioner Cabebe will re-phrase this section to "*Consideration will be given to the students with the greatest financial need. Please address this in your personal statement*".

Commissioner Ornellas will be meeting with OHA representative, Thelma Shimaoka, to request for \$1,000 to cover three (3) Hawaiian ancestry students in reference to our scholarship program.

Commissioner Hobbs wants to make sure that we take into consideration and not overlook the "wallflower" type characteristic students.

Commissioner Cabebe requested to clarify the age groups that the committee will be considering. The Committee decided not to limit by age but to high school and college students.

Ms. Neri suggested that she can refer the Committee to Bin At Ani for donation consideration. She also suggested we submit funding from the Administration's budget but was informed by Chair Potopowitz that there are no funds available.

Chair Potopowitz requested that Commissioner Cabebe incorporate all the changes and discuss it at the next meeting.

B. Continue discussions of the following:

. ***Potential Projects and Funding***

Chair Potopowitz requested that the commissioners bring their ideas for funding sources to the next meeting and submit it to Commissioner Cabebe.

. ***Volunteer Recruitment for Projects***

There was no discussion under this item.

. ***Inviting Representatives of Women's Groups to Future CSW Meetings***

There was no discussion under this item.

. ***2011 Women's Health Week Event***

Guest Audrey Inaba distributed a flyer for 2011 Women's Health Week Event to be held in May 2011 for the committee to review. She asked if she could get some information about the committee to incorporate into the Health Week literature.

Mayor Arakawa is also having a wellness activity in April in collaboration with the State Department of Health. Ms. Inaba also asked for assistance from the committee members to help with the event.

Ms. Maeda wanted to clarify that Women's Health Week should be for all women and not targeted only to certain entity. She also suggested to better use of the media, collaboration and use a broader base.

Guest Jeny Bissell gave a brief overview on Family Health Services priorities. Continuously working on improving their division ie. *domestic violence issues, Hawaiian schools, suicides, etc.*

Ms. Bissell wanted to acknowledge the committee for a great job. Her long time goal and main reason for attending this meeting is wanting for their department and this committee to work together collaboratively.

Mr. Murai suggested we also share this event with the County's employees through the County's Intranet and County's Website.

Commissioner Ornellas made a motion to support the 2011 Women's Health Week on May 14. Commissioner Hobbs seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to pass the motion.

- . *Appointment to Boards and Commissions Project*
There was no discussion under this item.

VIII. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting date is Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Ornellas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Chair Bruck seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.