

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
KALANA O MAUI, 9TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
MINUTES

I. Call to order and establishment of quorum

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Debra Cabebe, Dennyse Grace,
Maria Ornellas, Suzanne Hobbs, Susan "Netra" Halperin,
and Carol Reimann.

Ex-Officio: Leslie Wilkins, excused

Staff: Mercedes Neri, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Colleen Chang, Administrative Assistant

II. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

III. New Business

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

IV. Approve Minutes from the July 19, 2011 Meeting

Commissioner Cabebe made the motion to approve the minutes and
Commissioner Ornellas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by
the Committee.

V. Review and Discuss Correspondence Received

The Committee did not receive any written correspondence.

VI. Report from State Commission on the Status of Women Representative Leslie Wilkins

Commissioner Leslie Wilkins was unable to attend.

Chair Potopowitz informed the Committee that she spoke to Sharon Ferguson-Quick, Executive Director for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and was informed that the State Commission has asked for her resignation and to re-apply for the position.

Not knowing what the outcome will be, Ms. Ferguson-Quick asked if we needed funds for projects, to send in our request as soon as possible so she can process it before she resigns.

The Committee agreed to request for \$1,000 funding for a “survey” on women’s issues. More detailed discussion on the matter will be discussed at the end of the agenda. Commissioner Grace made a motion and was seconded by Commissioner Hobbs.

The Committee agreed to have Chair Potopowitz write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Ferguson-Quick. Commissioner Halperin made the motion and Commissioner Grace seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

(Note: not sure if this is correct?)

VII. Discussion Items:

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

Commissioner Cabebe informed the committee that we received applications from nine (9) individuals. Out of the nine applicants, four (4) were chosen; Kyra Vila and Donna Paz, Maui High School; Michelle Rabara, St. Anthony High School; and Cheyenne Pico, Hana High School. There were no applicants from Baldwin, King Kekaulike and Lahainaluna High Schools.

Commissioner Cabebe expressed her gratitude to Jenny Daniels and Gary Murai for their help and Mrs. Neri for suggesting the Committee ask to see the Mayor for funding. She also thanked Commissioners Grace and Halperin for their assistance and Commissioner Grace for suggesting to refine the process for next year so that we might attract more applicants to apply. Also Chair Potopowitz thanked Commissioner Cabebe and her sub-committee members for an efficient and expeditious job they did due to the short time frame they were working with.

B. Review and Discussion of Committee mission and yearly plan

State Commission Mandate:

There was no discussion under this item.

CSW Mission:

The “Informational” Sub-Committee did not have time to meet since the last meeting so they did not have anything to report. Members of this Sub-Committee are Commissioners Grace, Reimann and Halperin. Since this did not materialize, Chair Potopowitz opened the discussion to the entire committee at the meeting.

Commissioner Grace suggested that the Committee look into preparing a **survey** for all women with a few questions pertaining to “what can the County of Maui do to help them”.

Commissioner Ornellas asked what venues are available, a few was mentioned: Commissioner Halperin’s Akaku show, County’s website, County’s newsletter.

Commissioner Grace asked for clarification regarding the previous Informational Sub-Committee that was formed at our last meeting and their original assignment of compiling the Committee’s future goals.

The original "Informational Sub-Committee" will carry forth to the new sub-committees' findings. The Committee decided to form two (2) Sub-Committees; 1) Survey Questions Sub-Committee, members are Commissioners Grace, Halperin and Ornellas; 2) Survey Distribution Sub-Committee, members are Commissioners Reimann, Cabebe and Hobbs. Committee members will communicate with each other through email or telephone. Everyone will email their comments to the committee secretary by 10/4/11. The committee secretary will compile all the information received and will forward to the Commissioners for their review so they can prepare themselves before the next committee meeting on 10/18/11.

Chair Potopowitz asked Mrs. Neri to inquire with the County's MIS Department if we could use Face book, County's web-page and any options that the Committee can use to publicize our survey.

Commissioner Grace made a commitment to look into voter education and do some research on it. She wants to increase the actual voter count and look into the possibility of bringing back the "Deputy Registrar" position that was eliminated last year due to the lack of funding. Commissioner Cabebe made a comment that there are a large number of registered voters but people do not get out to vote.

VIII. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, October 18, 2011.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Cabebe made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Ornellas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.