

# COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room  
11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732

### I. COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Ramoda Anand, Cesar Gaxiola, Karen Hue Sing, Linda Liddell, Yolanda Mau, Paulo Sabado, Charlotte Smith, Mikey Tomita

### STAFF PRESENT

DJ Schwind, ADA Coordinator; Jan Roberson, MCOA ADRC; Darren Konno, DOT; Kate Eifler, ASL Interpreter; George Reieux, MEO.

### GUESTS PRESENT

Lisa Darcy, Tiffany James, Barbara Johnson, Thelma Shimaoka, Kevin Souza, Andrew Valentine

### II. WELCOME

a. A quorum was established and meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 12, 2012

a. Two corrections were made on Page 5, item k, numeral i: add the letter k to correct the spelling of the word *like*. Page 5, item k, numeral ii: Add the letter e to correct the spelling of the word *one*. One correction was made to Guests Present: Remove Raje Anand. Commissioner Mau MOVED to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Tomita SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

### IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

a. No public testimony was received

### V. CORRESPONDENCE

a. No correspondence was received

### VI. REPORTS

- a. Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator
  - i. New ADA Accessible Guidelines will take effect March 15, 2012, replacing 2010 guidelines.
  - ii. Some previous guidelines are relaxing from national standards to allowing jurisdictions to adjust to fit their needs.
  - iii. Pertaining to effective communication, public broadcasts must be available equally to all people, which means changes will be made at county level to include assistive listening devices in all public meetings, such as portable devices, note takers, screen readers, as well as modifications to public address systems at stadiums,
  - iv. Non profits, such as AKAKU will be exempt from providing closed captioning if its annual budget is under \$3 million.
  - v. ADA Coordinator Schwind will check on AKAKU's budget
  - vi. Commissioner Anand asked ADA Coordinator Schwind if he knew what was going on with Makawao sidewalks.

- vii. ADA Coordinator Schwind stated in the case of privately owned sidewalks, the county has no authority. If the sidewalks were on county owned property, then they would be required to follow ADA guidelines.
- viii. Commissioner Anand stated there is a meeting of the Makawao Community Association on February 22 at 6:30 and the sidewalks are an agenda item.
- ix. Commissioner Tomita stated the county should offer to help the private landowners to make the sidewalks of private businesses more accessible.
- x. ADA Coordinator Schwind stated that would be an idea that could be floated at the MCA meeting.
- xi. Commissioner Mau asked if the new ADA Accessible Guidelines will affect state facilities such as the airport. ADA Coordinator Schwind responded affirmatively.
- xii. Chair Hue Sing announced there will be a public hearing at the county building on the county code at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 13.
- b. County Department of Transportation – no report
- c. County Executive on Aging – no report
- d. Disabilities Communication Access Board – no report. Staff to request to be placed on DCAB mailing list.
- e. Hawaii Centers for Independent Living – no report
- f. Parks and Recreation Inclusion
  - I. Adaptive Canoe Practice was successful in January 2012 dates. Program to resume monthly starting in March 2012 with continued partnership with Kihei canoe club, Access Sport America and Parks Dept Inclusion Services. Handout attached.
- i. Beach Access Mat program at Kamaole I in progress, partnership with Kalima O Maui being discussed.
- ii. Will report on the Aquatics Division emergency notification for life guard towers at next meeting.
- iii. Will have resource table at the Big Mac Transition event from 3-5pm on February 9<sup>th</sup> on Parks Inclusive activities.
- iv. Creating guidelines for our audio system at the War Memorial Stadium for the public access to the personal listening devices which assist our hard or hearing and vision impaired persons. They will soon be available at every County and State event with adequate posting at the ticket counters.
  - a. Parks and Recreation Planning
- v. April Shiotani provided a handout showing commissioners where to find capital improvement bid and proposal listings online at [www.mauicounty.gov/index.aspx?nid=509](http://www.mauicounty.gov/index.aspx?nid=509).
- vi. State Developmental Disability Council – Big MAC event is set for today at Wailuku Community Center.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Subcommittee report on Emergency Preparedness Annex N
  - i. Commissioner Mau stated the subcommittee had not met since December so there was no report
  - ii. Ramoda Anand announced he was stepping down from the subcommittee.

- iii. Commissioner Mau stated the subcommittee should meet quarterly
- iv. Staff announced that a meeting of the Kula Community Association was scheduled for 7 p.m., February 22 at the Kula Community Association on preparing to face potential disasters.
- g. Letter to mayor recommending ADA inspections prior to building occupancy
  - i. Chair Hue Sing stated Councilmember Mike White was meeting with Josh Stone from UHMC, Jean Tessmer, and Public Works Director David Goode on this matter and **she will follow up and report back to commission at the March meeting.**
- h. Video taping commission meetings and providing closed captioning
  - i. Commissioner Tomita stated he was still waiting to hear back from AKAKU and KHON
  - ii. ADA Coordinator Schwind suggested Commissioner Tomita get a consensus from the Hearing Impaired community to identify their preferred solution.
  - iii. Commissioner Sabado suggested AKAKU can purchase speech detection equipment.
  - iv. Staff suggested inviting AKAKU Director Jay April to a meeting to go over the issues.
  - v. ADA Coordinator Schwind suggested writing a letter to the Mayor to site the new ADA Accessibility Guidelines, and state the commission's priorities, but leave out recommending specific technologies.
  - vi. **Commissioner Tomita will draft the letter**
  - vii. ADA Coordinator Schwind recommended the letter be addressed to the Mayor and Council Chair Mateo.
- i. Kepaniwai Park new accessible stall
  - i. Chair Hue Sing will take photos and draft a letter to the Parks department to let them know what is wrong with the accessible parking there.
  - ii. **She will report back at the March meeting.**
- j. Strategic planning session (2/9/12)
  - i. The priorities were defined as follows:
    1. Emergency preparation and Communications with disabled persons during emergencies – 10 votes
    2. Handicap parking enforcement and Updating state drivers manual to include more information and test questions on accessible parking regulations – 7 votes
    3. Accessibility in county code and training of staff to inspect buildings for ADA compliance – 8 votes
  - ii. **It was suggested that the priorities be redefined at a subsequent meeting.**
- k. How can hearing impaired drivers know when emergency vehicles are behind them on the road?
  - i. Commissioner Tomita asked for the matter to be placed on hold until he gains a consensus from the hearing impaired community to see what they recommend or if they have the same issue.

- I. Warning Signs for Emergencies: Beach closures for hearing impaired persons utilizing beaches.
  - i. According to the minutes from the January 12 meeting, Tara Sabado was to ask Aquatics if all lifeguard towers could be equipped with dry erase boards to help communicate with hearing impaired individuals.
  - ii. Ms. Sabado was also to obtain a copy of parks policies on park closures
  - iii. Staff will follow up with Ms. Sabado.
- m. Fitting fire stations with more flashing lights
  - i. Commissioner Sabado suggested the Fire Department could place a cone on the walkway to stop foot traffic when emergency vehicles pull out of the fire stations.
  - ii. Commissioner Liddell suggested using more silver reflectors to make flashing lights more visible during the day
  - iii. Commissioner Tomita stated that trains have gates and these hold back traffic until after a train passes.
  - iv. Chair Hue Sing asked how the hearing impaired association has addressed this matter. She suggested looking at its website.
  - v. **Commissioner Tomita will check on this**
- n. Pedestrian access in Lahaina
  - i. Commissioner Anand suggested dropping the issue for now since Councilmember Cochran stated there are no funds available to conduct a feasibility study to improve sidewalk access in Lahaina for the near future.
  - ii. Chair Hue Sing stated that the Lahaina and Makawao sidewalk situations are similar.
  - iii. Commissioner Tomita asked who was responsible for the improvements to a portion of the sidewalks on Front Street along the seawall.
  - iv. Commissioner Tomita asked why improvements similar to those done in Waikiki can't be done here.
- o. Cost of Government Commission's recommendation to combine commissions
  - i. Staff noted that the report from the Charter Commission does not contain a recommendation to combine commissions, while the Cost of Government Commission states:  
**Commission on Persons With Disabilities and Council on Aging**  
 The Subcommittee recommends that the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and the Council on Aging be combined based on models provided by federal departments, commissions in other states, and non-profit organizations. These models reflect a growing awareness of the similar issues faced by seniors and persons with disabilities that warrant new approaches to policy development and service delivery.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- i. Invite Lt. Greg Holokai from Maui Police to talk about handicap parking
  - a. Commissioner Liddell will draft a letter
- ii. Invite Mayor Arakawa to a commission meeting

- a. This was deferred until the commission can determine what questions it would like to ask the mayor
- iii. Invite Mike Molina to next meeting
  - a. Commissioner Anand stated that Mike Molina would like to attend a meeting, but prefers an invitation rather than coming unannounced.
- iv. Civic Access Agreement, next steps
  - a. ADA Coordinator Schwind stated that the document has expired, but several brick and mortar steps are still in construction.
  - b. Some items will be ongoing, such as training.

**IX. AGENDA SETTING**

- a. Building inspections for ADA compliance – report (Hue Sing)
- b. Strategic Planning priorities
- c. Kepaniwai Park report (HueSing)
- d. Letter inviting Lt. Holokai to a meeting (Liddell)
- e. Civic Access update (Schwind)
- f. Parks report on policies for beach closure and request to have dry erase boards at lifeguard towers to communicate with hearing impaired persons (T. Sabado)
- g. Hearing Impaired Association policies report on emergency vehicles and fire stations. (Tomita)
- h. New Commission on Persons with Disabilities appointees (Staff)

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. The nomination period for Outstanding Older American Awards is open through April 5.
- b. Medicare Fraud Prevention meeting is 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 3 at Maui Waena Intermediate School Dining Hall at 795 Onehee Ave, Kahului. The meeting will be conducted in English and Ilokano.
- c. Next meeting is set for 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012 at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room at 11 Mahaolu St., Kahului.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**