

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

1:30-3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room

11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732

Commissioners Present: Karen Hue Sing, Linda Liddell, Ramoda Anand, Paulo Sabado, Charlotte Smith, Mikey Tomita

Commissioners Excused: Cesar Gaxiola, Yolanda Mau

Staff Present: Gary Murai, Jan Roberson, Tara Sabado

Guests Present: Jay April, Kate Eifler, Kevin John Souza, Helena Bloomfield, Mary Matsukawa, Andrew Valentine, Tiffany James.

I. QUORUM, ROLL CALL, WELCOME

Chair Hue Sing called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 26, 2012 – deferred

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2/9/2012 – Chair Hue Sing asked that the word UHMC be deleted from page 3, item G. Commissioner Smith **MOVED** to accept the minutes as amended. Commission Vice Chair Liddell **SECONDED**. **MOTION CARRIED**

IV. Discussion with Jay April of AKAKU regarding video taping, broadcasting and closed captioning of the Commission meetings.

Mr. April stated Closed Captioning has been a struggle for years at AKAKU. The equipment was installed at the county's request but the cost is \$150 per hour for a stenographer. AKAKU has the equipment but not the funds. He said that technology is improving at a rapid rate and soon the barriers will be gone. He mentioned an I-Phone App called Dragon that is available and can translate spoken word to text. He mentioned documentary filmmaker Scott Cooper who may be able to assist in the best way to go to provide

this essential service. He mentioned Gordon Fuller of the Institute for Disabilities as a resource person who may offer advice to facilitate the service. He said AKAKU was remodeling its upstairs into a media lab and an ADA compliant restroom. He said that the biggest restriction is funding. He said some state lawmakers are trying to reduce existing funding levels and that AKAKU struggles to maintain the levels. He invited the commission to inform AKAKU when it will have substantial agenda items and he pledged to send a film crew. He also invited any interested commissioner or other individual to take the media production classes and video tape the meetings ourselves. It would work if we had two cameras – one for the room and one fixed on the sign language interpreter – but the cameras would have to be synchronized. He invited the commission to video 20-30 second PSA announcements any time from 1-3 p.m. on any weekday. It helps to have an appointment.

V. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- a. Ramoda Anan stated he had a meeting with the Mayor three weeks ago about Makawao. He stated the mayor is willing to talk to business owners.
- b. Mr. Valentine encouraged the commission to urge the county to implement the Project Civic Access to inform disabled community of accessible shelters in cases of emergency.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Building inspections for ADA compliance – no report
- b. Discussion to set commission priorities to transmit in a letter to Mayor Arakawa and Council Chair Mateo that also cites new ADA Accessibility Guidelines. – deferred.
- c. Kepaniwai Park accessible parking – County Parks Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado stated that the parking stalls are ADA compliant, but if community has concerns

they can be expressed to the Parks CIP Coordinator April Shiotani.

- d. Strategic planning priorities - deferred
- e. Report on research from Hearing Impaired Association – Commissioner Tomita stated he met with the deaf community and the consensus is that deaf people need to be vigilant about using their side and rear view mirrors. But he still feels that the fire stations should implement safety procedures, such as a gate, flashing lights, a person to halt foot traffic, etc, in cases where the fire trucks are exiting the fire houses.
- f. Parks policies on beach closures and request to equip all lifeguard towers with dry erase boards. – County Parks Inclusion Specialist Tara Sabado read a letter from Parks Aquatics Division Chief Marion Feenstra. Attached

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **New Commission on Persons with Disabilities appointees** – no word yet from the mayor’s office

IX. REPORTS

- a. Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator – no report
- b. County Department of Transportation – no report
- c. County Executive on Aging – - no report
- d. Discussion on the following excerpt from the Cost of Government Commission annual report:

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. - No discussion

- e. Disability and Communication Access Board – report attached
- f. Hawaii Centers for Independent Living – no report
- g. Parks and Recreation Inclusion – reported above
- h. Parks and Recreation Planning – no report
- i. State Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - i. Mary Matsukawa distributed the DCAB report on legislative items pertinent to persons with disabilities. See attached.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The nomination period for Outstanding Older American Awards is open through April 5.
- b. Next meeting is set for 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2012 at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room at 11 Mahaolu St., Kahului.

XI. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.