

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**  
KALANA O MAUI, BUDGET CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012  
MINUTES

**I. Call To Order And Establishment Of Quorum**

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Vice-Chair Maria Ornellas, Dennyse Grace, Debra Cabebe

Excused: Carol Reimann, Suzanne Hobbs, Susan "Netra" Halperin

Ex-Officio Excused: Leslie Wilkins

Staff: BillJohn Medeiros, Mayor's Executive Assistant  
Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Michelle Esteban, Administrative Assistant

Commissioner Cabebe asked Deputy Counsel Thomson if there is a member who does not attend regular meetings, is there an attendance policy. Deputy Thomson said there is not an attendance policy, but if members are not able to keep their obligations, the chair could ask them to consider resigning, otherwise would go through the Mayor's Office and may take a charter amendment.

Mr. Mederios said that when applying to Boards and Commission, there is a question asking for their commitment to attending meetings. Deputy Thomson shared that if the individual doesn't resign, they are to be removed by Council.

**II. No Public Testimony**

There is no public testimony.

**III. Review And Approve Minutes From The September 18, 2012**

Commissioner Grace moved and Commissioner Cabebe seconded the motion to accept the amended September 18, 2012 meeting minutes. Three yeses and one abstained.

It has been noted Mrs. Neri has joined us.

**IV. No Correspondence**

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

Chair Potopowitz and Commissioner Grace attended the County Council Meeting. Chair Potopowitz testified on behalf of the Committee on the Status of Women at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting regarding the \$3,000 grants from the State Commission and had a copy of her testimony for the Commission.

Mr. Medeiros shared that he followed up on the grant and said the grant was passed out of Corporation Counsel and some ordinance and the grant is available through the Mayor's Office.

Chair Potopowitz said she will get in contact with Leslie Wilkins, so that she may submit a report.

#### **VI. Election of Officers**

Chair Potopowitz congratulated Vice-Chair Ornellas for accepting the role as Vice-Chair.

#### **VIII. Items for Review/Discussion/Action of Committee**

##### **1. Report from Election Day 2012**

- October 18, 2012 Forum
  - ❖ Commissioner Cabebe reported there are 28 people who signed up and she will accommodate walk-ins.
  - ❖ Commissioner Cabebe also shared members of the Charter Commission Members also spoke to the AARP group.
  - ❖ Chair Potopowitz asked what the format of the forum will be. Commissioner Cabebe said Council Member Hokama will go over the amendments and open it up for discussion. Chair asked if it was going to be a narrative of the amendments or will someone be explaining the pros and cons of each charter. Commissioner Cabebe said Council Member Hokama will explain the way a person would vote. She continued that she would have a paper and pen for the forum and people can write their questions to have time to answer, and if there's more time the forum will be opened up to more questions from the audience.
  - ❖ Commissioner Grace asked if AKAKU was going to be recording the forum. Commissioner Cabebe said no, because they will have their own recording.
  - ❖ Commissioner Cabebe shared the schedule for the forum, which is 40 minutes for Council Member Hokama to go over the charter amendments and the remainder of the time would be for questions and answers. She also shared that Council Member Hokama will be around after the forum for more questions to answer.

2. Discussing and announcing the report on the Status of Women's Issues Survey

Chair Potopowitz asked everyone to read for discussion. Commissioner Grace mentioned that it was too small to read. Vice Chair Ornellas agreed and mentioned to have more time to go over the survey. Commissioner Cabebe asked Chair Potopowitz for more direction. Chair Potopowitz asked for the top three or four issues that CSW could address. Vice Chair Ornellas mentioned one of the issues was childcare for single mothers. Commissioner Grace added grandparents becoming guardians or parents to the grandchildren. She also suggested putting the issues in "loose" categories. Chair Potopowitz reminded the group that the Commission tries to be more advisory than doers. Commissioner Cabebe added that some of the issues with childcare and senior services are that there is a greater need than services available. Chair Potopowitz suggested as a committee they will not be able to solve those issues, but write a report to be given to the Mayor and the County Council.

Vice Chair Ornellas suggested inviting care providers for childcare, to know what they are going through as far as enrollment. Commissioner Grace added having the director of Department of Housing and Human Concerns to do a presentation. Chair Potopowitz found the last speakers helpful, especially on Affirmative Action.

Vice Chair Ornellas clarified keeping the next speaker separate and to come to the next meeting with priorities and the agencies that applies to the priorities.

3. Chair Potopowitz suggested to table the State of Hawaii Women's Commission \$3,000 grant budget issue until everyone had a chance to look over the survey.

4. Upcoming Fall Events regarding Women's Issues

- Women's History Month in March

Chair Potopowitz suggested putting a subcommittee together to come up with ideas for Women's History Month. Commissioner Grace and Vice Chair Ornellas volunteered to be in the subcommittee.

Mrs. Neri shared that during Mayor Lingle's administration that the CSW would recognize three outstanding leaders in the community.

Deputy Thomson suggested partnering with Mayor's Small Businesses Awards.

Chair Potopowitz suggested establishing a subcommittee and appoint two members to the subcommittee.

Commissioner Cabebe moved and Vice Chair Ornellas seconded the motion to establish a subcommittee for Women's History Month with Vice Chair Ornellas and Commissioner Grace. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Ornellas moved and Commissioner Grace seconded the motion to add Commissioner Hobbs to the subcommittee for Women's History Month. Motion passed unanimously.

- **State Women's Leadership Conference**

Commissioner Grace contacted the Conference and found out nothing has been established, but thinks they're looking at about the same time in September. She said she'd like to partner up with other organization, or have organizations partnering up with the MACC to help with the cost. She continued that she would like a conference like this be available for young women who have or have not had a support system in their life.

**IX. Determine next Meeting Date and Agenda**

**November 20, 2012**

**Mrs. Neri passed out some brochure and made some announcements.**

**X. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Cabebe moved and Vice-Chair Ornellas seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Adjourned at 1:23 PM**