

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**  
KALANA O MAUI, PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, Suzanne Hobbs, Debra Cabebe, Carol Reimann, Susan “Netra” Halperin

Ex-Officio Present: Leslie Wilkins and Catherine Betts

Staff: Mercedes Neri, Mayor’s Executive Assistant  
Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Michelle Esteban, Administrative Assistant

**II. Welcomed Jennifer Oana, Lead Corporation Counsel To CSW**

Deputy Oana shared her background working with the State of Hawaii and with Child and Parent Services.

**III. No Public Testimony**

**IV. Review And Approve Minutes From the October 16, 2012 Meeting**

Commissioner Cabebe moved and Commissioner Grace seconded the motion to accept the amended October 16, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Correspondence**

• **From Karin Phaneuf regarding the State/County Salary Discrepancy**

Chair Potopowitz would like to invite Ms. Phaneuf to make a short presentation on what she has in writing. Commissioner Cabebe reminded the Commission that this is not just a county issue, but it is an issue throughout the nation. Deputy Thomson said the Commission is an advisory to the Mayor, that they should let the Mayor know and ask him to follow up and report the procedure on this issue. Chair Potopowitz added that recommendations are also okay. She will invite Ms. Phaneuf to the next meeting to present her memo, and the Personnel Director.

Commissioner Cabebe shared her concerns on procedure inviting Ms. Phaneuf and the Personnel Director. Deputy Thomson agreed and suggested contacting the Mayor or the Managing Director on their concerns with Ms. Phaneuf’s issue and how they would like to proceed. She further explained that it would be making the Mayor or the Managing Director aware of the issue and there may be information that can be shared.

Chair Potopowitz said she will contact Ms. Phaneuf, Mayor, and Managing Director.

The Commission is joined by Commissioner Halperin.

**VI. Report/ Presentation From State Commission On the Status Of Women  
State Executive Director Catherine Betts**

Chair Potopowitz introduced Executive Director Catherine A. Betts and Maui Representative Leslie Wilkins. Ms. Betts shared her background.

Ms. Betts shared her Hawaii Women Coalition Legislative Package that is still in draft form, an informal organization of many different government agencies, non-profit, non-governmental organization who come together and put together a Legislative Package that is pushed forward as a block, through the Legislative Session, issues that affect women and girls, it started in 1990 by four state representatives. Commissioner Grace asked if it was from the Democratic Party Women Caucus or with Legislative Women's Caucus. Ms. Betts answered that it was a separate community coalition.

Ms. Betts explained the different policies that the coalition is pushing for this year. She also shared a pamphlet from the Maui Access Room, an informative session in how to become a legislative advocate. She gave a brief history on the Commission.

Ms. Betts shared they are working in getting more women into Boards and Commissions, by looking at different vacancies throughout the state and finding qualified women candidates to those positions. Commissioner Grace asked if vacancies would be posted so women can submit an application. Ms. Betts said that they are still building up the program because it has not been done before. She shared that another program that they are working on is a program to help women get interested and motivated to run for political office. Chair Potopowitz suggested having workshops on the neighbor islands. Commissioner Grace added that it would be a base where bringing the conference or meeting to the people, and the money is used to generate money is used for their county. Ms. Betts shared her experience with Skype sitting in a meeting at UH Hawaii's Commission on the Status of Women with neighbor islands.

Ms. Betts continued to share other events and services the State Commission on the Status of Women participates, such as Women's History Month, Women's Health, Title IX, etc. She addresses back to the Hawaii Health Coalition Legislative Package amongst young women and teenagers as far as sexual assault, pregnancy, etc.

Commissioner Grace asked how the bill is supported by the House of Representatives. Ms. Betts shared that it goes through a committee, then Judiciary, then met with a leader for a hearing. Ms. Betts gave an example of a male medical student, who testified before the coalition regarding pelvic exams on women under anesthesia as unethical that was still being practiced. She explained this is one of the success bills last session, but unsuccessful bills such as breast feeding in public, according to federal law requirement any employers with 50+ employees provide a reasonable space to express breast feed and the Coalition would like to have brought it down to 20 employees, because Hawaii has a smaller amount of employees than any other state.

Ms. Betts clarified her position as Executive Director and Co-chair with the Women's Coalition. Chair Potopowitz offered Ms. Betts CSW of Maui County's assistance or support for bills or issues before the Legislative. Ms. Betts gave examples of testimonies that can be submitted. Commissioner Grace asked if it is brought before committee, will they be going in as a commission or as private citizen. Deputy Thomson said as a private citizen bringing in your own viewpoints. Chair Potopowitz asked if they advise the Mayor, could he prepare testimony and help him. Deputy Thomson said yes and those they could take information from the state and filter it through the group and provide the synopsis to the Mayor and ask him to support.

Chair Potopowitz shared what the CSW has been doing throughout the year and that CSW is trying to be more advisory policy project.

Commissioner Grace share that we are putting our energy in Women's History Month to bring attention to successful women throughout Maui County History to encourage young girls and women. Chair Potopowitz added that the Cost of Government Commission also looked at the Boards and Commission and looked at the duplicate of services.

Ms. Betts shared that every year the Hawaii County has \$13, 000.00 in their budget. The Commission discussed writing a letter to the Mayor in order to add to his budget for Fiscal Year 2014 with a list of events CSW is planning.

Vice Chair Ornellas moved and Commissioner Grace seconded the motion to have the Commission address a letter to the Mayor requesting that he include in his fiscal 2014 budget to support the programs and interests of the Committee on the Status of Women in the sum of \$10,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Election Day Subcommittee Conclusion- Commissioner Cabebe thanked those who participated and added that there were 28

people in attendance. She added that the feedback was positive and that they were very fortunate to have Council Member Riki Hokama was available, as well as some of the Charter Commissioners.

2. Women's History Month Subcommittee- Vice Chair Ornellas thanked Deputy Thomson for contacting Teena Rasmussen from OED. She shared Ms. Rasmussen said it is a partnership between the Mayor's Office and the Maui Chamber of Commerce, but she encouraged us to nominate a business woman at the category and if we wanted to volunteer, and she will keep us in the loop.
3. State Women's Leadership Conference- Tabled until next meeting.
4. Preliminary Review of Women's Issues Survey- Chair Potopowitz distributed a summary of the survey. She suggested the Commission take the comments and make recommendations and submitted one week prior to the next meeting to Ms. Esteban.
5. State of Hawaii Women's Commission \$3,000 Grant Budget- Tabled until next meeting.

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

**January 8, 2013**

- **Reading of Preliminary Review of Women's Issues Survey**
- **State of Hawaii Women's Commission \$3,000 Grant Budget**

#### **X. Adjournment**

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

**Adjourned at 2:15 PM**