

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**  
KALANA O MAUI, MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2013  
MINUTES

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

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

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

Ex-Officio Excused: Leslie Wilkins

Staff: Mercedes Neri, Executive Assistant  
Bill Medeiros, Executive Assistant  
Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Michelle Esteban, Administrative Assistant

**II. No Public Testimony**

**III. Review and Approve Minutes From The December 04, 2012 Meeting**

Commissioner Hobbs moved and Commissioner Cabebe seconded the motion to accept the amended December 04, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. No Correspondence Received.**

**V. Items For Review/Discussion/Action of Committee**

**1. Budget request of \$10,000 to Mayor**

Ms. Esteban shared the request is being reviewed and the Committee will receive their request accepted or denied by March 25, 2013.

**2. Request regarding State/County Salary Discrepancy**

Chair Potopowitz called Ms. Phaneuf and waiting for a call back, and would like to speak with her before speaking with the Mayor as was discussed in the last meeting. Deputy Thomson added she asked First Deputy Edward Kushi about inviting Ms. Phaneuf to explain further the letter and her concerns, and to invite the Director of the Department of Personnel Services and he could answer any questions Ms. Phaneuf or Committee Members might be having. Chair agreed.

Chair Potopowitz assigned Ms. Esteban to draft a letter to Ms. Phaneuf to present in the next meeting.

**3. Women's History Month Subcommittee**

Vice Chair Ornellas reported collaborating with National Women's History Month: Women Inspire, Innovation through Imagination,

Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). She said a letter and nomination form has been drafted. Commissioner Grace explained the National Women's History Month has chosen STEM to recognize women in those fields and encourage younger women to succeed in this field. Commissioner Reimann added to put in Maui County Women as nominees.

Vice Chair Ornellas specified February 8 as the deadline for close nominations and March 27 would be the recognition reception. Commissioner Grace mentioned five women to be recognized. Commissioner Hobbs explained the set up on the day of the recognition. Commissioner Reimann suggested the Mayor's Conference Room, and Commissioner Cabebe also volunteered to check The Maui Economic Opportunity classroom as a venue that will be held for Wednesday, March 27, 2013, from 3:00-5:00 PM.

Commissioner Grace asked if the Commission could accept donations. Deputy Thomson clarified the CSW cannot accept donations, and if under \$750 is donated it will have to go through the Mayor, through Budget; if it is over \$750 it will have to be received Council. She further continued, that the person donating would write a letter to the Mayor stating they would like to donate for the purpose of the event.

Chair Potopowitz clarified that the Nomination Form and Letter will go to the Commissioners, Maui News, Radios, etc., all nominations will be in by February 8 to Vice Chair Ornellas, and the Sub-committee will stream line the nominations, and bring in the nomination forms for the February meeting.

Chair Potopowitz asked if the Sub-committee will be meeting with the women who were nominated before making a decision. Deputy Thomson suggested everyone distributing to everyone without conversation among the committee, make your own selection when collected and sending Ms. Esteban all the selections and meet on February 12.

Chair Potopowitz scheduled January 31 as the deadline to send in their nomination and said the Sub-committee will meet and process all the applications, rank personal nominations, send to Ms. Esteban by February 5 and she will send it out to the Committee members, and to meet on February 12 prepared to make the decisions.

Deputy Thomson clarified that the Sub-committee will be looking at all the nominations and asked how short the list is. Commissioner Hobbs said it depends on how many is received. Commissioner Grace said the short list would be between seven and ten, depending how

many is received. Deputy Thomson asked if the Sub-committee will be shortening the list for those who are not eligible or for other reasons and not ranking the list.

Commissioner Cabebe asked if there was a criterion to follow and to back up why certain women were not chosen. Commissioner Reimann asked if the National Women's History Nomination Form had a criterion that CSW could follow.

Deputy Thomson read criterion for the National Women's History Nomination.

Commissioner Halperin moved and Commissioner Reimann seconded the motion to approve the plan of the Women's History Month Sub-committee as presented including the criterion for selection for women to be honored during Women's History Month. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Women's Issue Survey**

Chair Potopowitz passed out copies of the summary written by each Commissioner.

Each Commissioner reported on their summary that was assigned to them:

Commissioner Grace reported the recurring themes in five areas and comments that are outside the purview of this Committee. She said there were more than one comment about the Maui Police Department and their response time, their compassion and responsiveness to women and children who were victims of domestic violence. She continued that rape and assault victims felt they didn't have the information that was needed or the compassion from the officers when they arrived. She said there were comments about the different trainings from relationships to job training opportunities for women, reproductive rights, birth control and education. She continued that there were several suggestions that there be "town hall" style meetings.

Vice Chair Ornellas reported women's status change and out of 267 responses, 168 stated that women's status has improved, while 14 people stated women's status has worsen, overall most thought women's status has improved, although many still think it is still a "man's world" where women are still looked down at. She concluded that basically the women's status has improved, but there is still that barrier with respect, that we need to remove that mentality that exists in our communities. She recommended doing more public relations regarding the community and women's issues, recognizing the women

of the county will bring light into existence, the women we recognize will be required to do a motivational speech. This will transpire more women to be involved.

Commissioner Hobbs reported that she categorized the survey comments into seven matters that seemed to repeat it. She said it is similar with Commissioner Grace's report. She added one of the issues is child care and not being able to afford child care. She said it was a vicious cycle and one of the biggest concerns was cost of living.

Commissioner Cabebe reported women's issues or needs are considered in Maui County. She said there are more women with leadership positions and that they have become more vocal and protected by law. She added there are a lot of people who still see a lot of disparity. She said a lot of county workers have responded to this issue. She added a lot of comments that focused on domestic violence and believes that the county does not take actions but a lot of "lip service" on women's issues. She suggested sharing the survey results with the Mayor and/or his administration, forming a taskforce to delve into some of the issues surrounding wages and leave a, and addressing the perception that men are given preference in cabinet positions. She also said that the Mayor could also assign a county representative to reach out to community groups who work with domestic violence issues.

Commissioner Halperin reported that most of her responses were similar to the other Commissioners. She said one comment that was made is more sex education and domestic violence education in the schools- taught by local teachers in format relevant to local Hawaiian kids, like Neighborhood Place's parenting classes that teaches parents through Hawaiian values. She continued that there're should be more public information about CSW and what they do and include them in the Maui News, pregnancy and sick child leave benefits, discussion and solutions for poverty of senior women, teach advocacy skills to women, prioritizing media for women's achievements and women issues, advocate for family planning resources, survey translated for non-English speaking women, explain why women need special assistance, and support for women in business. She said she would like to see an organization that did teen dating, violence prevention in every single school, working with young men and women.

Commissioner Reimann said there is a task force with in the Department of Education. Chair Potopowitz said that there is a possibility inviting those who work with or prevent domestic violence and tell them what we discovered in our survey.

Commissioner Reimann reported the evaluation on types of technical training in a graph. She said the most respond is in the Dental/Health field. She consolidated the list. She continued that the graph shows her that there are well trained people who responded to the survey. There are adult educations such as VITEC. She suggested in making a recommendation in connecting this information to women groups like Women Helping Women, or to various network, and maybe offer scholarships to women to improve their lives.

Chair Potopowitz reported how to find CSW and what they do. She said through the evaluation, a lot of people did not know they existed until the survey. She suggested putting in a column in the County Newsletter quarterly about women's issues, the paycheck stuffers with some other offers, CSW website to have it active, quarterly article to the Maui News, one on one with the Mayor about women's issues, partner with other women group on issues or event, etc.

Chair Potopowitz would like to take all summaries and incorporate them into the survey for a final draft and presenting the finding to the Mayor and the staff and domestic violence prevention coordination. Commissioner Grace said she would like to publish it on the website to present the survey and findings to the survey.

Mr. Medeiros suggested childcare in Hana. He said the early childhood program is important for women in rural communities such as Molokai and Lanai as well as Hana. He continued the funding has been difficult.

**5. State Of Hawaii Women's Commission \$3,000 Grant Budget**  
Vice Chair Ornellas was looking at using \$1,500 of the Grant Budget to put on the event for Wednesday, March 27.

Commissioner Cabebe moved and Commissioner Reimann seconded the motion to use \$1,500 from the \$3,000 grant given by the state. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda**

Tuesday, February 12, 2013  
Karin Phaneuf's Presentation

**VII. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Ornellas moved and Commissioner Cabebe seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously  
Adjourned at 1:40 PM