

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**  
KALANA O MAUI, MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014  
MINUTES

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

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Vice-Chair Maria Ornellas, Molly Murawski, Jennifer "Mino" McLean, Susan "Netra" Halperin

Excused: Carol Reimann, Cynthia Santiago

Ex-Officio Excused: Leslie Wilkins

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

**II. No Public Testimony**

**III. Correspondence received from Pat Hunter-Williams, Kauai County Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) (April Meeting)**

**IV. Discussion/Review/Action**

**A. Women's Safety in Maui County with Stacey Moniz, Executive Director from Women Helping Women Maui, Captain Clarence Kenui, Acting Sergeant Marjorie-Ann Kahookele-Pea and Officer Jan Pontanilla from the Maui Police Department (MPD) and Kristin Cocco, formally from the Prosecutor's Office**

Chair Potopowitz introduced the guests and the importance of Women's Safety in general.

Commissioner McLean asked what the Committee on the Status of Women could do and encourage non-profits to get more involved. She asked how could the Committee support the MPD? Captain Kenui explained that the two cases of the two missing women are both difficult, because of the lack of evidence and no witnesses which make the investigations more difficult, but they continue to look at all the leads they have. He said there is a lot that can be done to inform women about their safety such as protecting self by being aware of their surroundings, how to protect themselves, not to put themselves in a situation on being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Captain Kenui suggested working with MPD who gives classes of how to be safe.

Ms. Kristin Cocco explained TRO- Temporary Restraining Orders.

Ms. Coccaro shared that it was upsetting how the media and social media attacked the police. She said that Maui is still the safest place to live even with two missing people compared to other places. She further said that because Maui is one of the safest places, MPD have no business putting resources into a homicide unit or a cold case unit.

Commissioner McLean asked how private investigators work with the police. Captain Kenui explained that private investigators on Maui do not work with the police that they come up with their own independent investigation.

Chair asked about people's questions about the FBI. Captain Kenui explained that the FBI does not typically take over missing persons investigations. Ms. Coccaro explained that there are federal agencies, mostly through the Attorney General, like the ICACT (Internet Crimes Against Children Team) who work a lot with non profits such as Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Chair shared how CSW could help educate women about safety. Ms. Coccaro added to educate women about safety and knowing the signs when dating should start in the schools. Acting Sergeant Kahookele-Pea suggested Teen Dating Violence program, a training that she attended. Ms. Caccaro agreed, but it is through a grant, so she suggested grant writing for non profits. She suggested that Women Helping Women should get a grant writer, but they don't have the funds to support one.

Ms. Stacey Moniz joins us (12:58 PM). She shared the rally that happened on March 3 for the missing women. She added that Maui County lacks resources, because there are not enough funds. She suggested involving men supporting men against domestic violence.

**B. Mayor's Salary Disparity Subcommittee update by Maria Ornellas (April Meeting)**

**C. Meeting with Council Chair Gladys Baisa regarding proposed Pay Equity Day regarding resolution**

Commissioner McLean moved and Commissioner Murawski seconded the motion to send Chair Potopowitz to testify in favor of the Resolution for Pay Equity Day on March 25 in front of Council. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. Report/Discussion/Action of Women's History Month Subcommittee- Chair reminded everyone.**

**V. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda  
March 27, 2014 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**VI. Adjournment**

Committee on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes March 4, 2014

Page 3

Commissioner Murawski moved and Commissioner McLean seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. 1:20PM