



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room
11 Mahaolu St., Kahului, HI 96732

I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, ROLL CALL

Chair Laemoa called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room located at 11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, Hawaii.

Commissioners present introduced themselves: Chair Kealoha Laemoa, Kevin Souza, Harold (Hal) Davis, Gabriel Johnson, Faraz Azizoltani, Andrew Valentine and Mikey Tomita.

Commissioners Paulo Sabado and Vivian Lindsey were absent.

Staff present included Linden Joesting, Deputy Corp. Counsel and Nalani Podlewski.

Guests present included DJ Schwind, ADA Coordinator, County of Maui; Ralph Thomas EEO Specialist, County of Maui; Harry Johnson, MEO; Tara Sabado, Recreation Specialist, County of Maui, Eliza Goodhue (sign interpreter) and Lisa Darcy.

Chair Laemoa acknowledged that at last meeting she did not recognize Commissioner Tomita to contribute. Chair requested assistance of commissioners and sign interpreter to raise their hands to contribute to maintain order of the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 11, 2014

Chair Laemoa entertained a MOTION by Commissioner Valentine to approve the minutes, SECONDED by Commissioner Tomita. Chair Laemoa asked for any discussion or comments, none made. Chair Laemoa called for vote, all in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS AS THEY PERTAIN TO ISSUES AFFECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation by Ice-Buddy Systems, Inc. – none, no presenter
- b. Introduction of Ralph Thomas, EEO Specialist, County of Maui
Discussion of Maui County EEO policies and Practices and outreach to persons with disabilities -
Mr. Thomas introduced himself as the Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist with the County of Maui since October 2014. Since then he has been working on building partnerships with various organizations and coalitions, including Workforce Solutions and Maui Disability Alliance. He has been conducting outreach by distributing materials including job announcements and extending invitation for presentations. He shared that in regards to persons with disabilities, the policy of the County of Maui is to provide reasonable accommodations under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, pursuant to knowledge. It is a self-identification process in which the County cannot make accommodations unless it is made aware of the disability.

Commissioner Azizsoltani asked if there are any departments that drive around to look at streets and sidewalks. Mr. Thomas replied that he deals with employment side. DJ Schwind responded to the question. He explained that new construction of sidewalks have to be compliant with ADA. In regards to existing sidewalks unless there is a complaint from someone or obvious tree roots damage, there is no county employee that inspects sidewalks. Commissioner Azizsoltani stated that if there was a grading system for Maui, Maui would get an F in this department. Mr. Schwind acknowledged that that has been an ongoing issue but majority of sidewalks are private sidewalks which the county and state cannot enforce.

Commissioner Azizoltani expressed disagreement that majority of sidewalks are private, he suggested that if so then eminent domain should be used to fix that scenario. Chair Laemoa asked Commissioner Azizoltani to submit photos to commission.

Commissioner Tomita asked how many disabled persons are employed by Maui County. Mr. Thomas responded that there are currently three disabled persons who have asked for reasonable accommodation. He is working on gathering this information.

Chair Laemoa first extended her thanks to Mr. Thomas for his presentation. Chair requested that the discussion remain on the agenda item of employment.

c. Discussion on Paratransit Transportation -

Commissioner Valentine reported the next meeting of the Paratransit Transportation Advisory Council is not until the 20th. There is still concern about reservation times, window and late buses. Chair Laemoa requested that Commissioner Valentine forward minutes to staff so that it can include in the minutes.

Commissioner Valentine clarified his previous comment at previous meeting that disabled persons can ride for up to 21 days per year without registering with other venue/cities. If frequenting other areas, he suggested riders complete an application for that locale. Mr. Schwind added clarification that disabled persons can ride up to 21 days without re-registering, but would need to be previously registered.

d. Dept. of Public Works response to inquiry on photos of missing sidewalks fronting the Kahului & Kihei Fire Stations -
Chair Laemoa asked if anyone from Public Works was present. Staff Nalani Podlewski responded that no representative was present. Ms. Podlewski shared that she had a conversation with Public Works Director on December 17th regarding the Kahului Fire Station. Director Goode reiterated that it is not in his jurisdiction; it falls under State Department of Transportation (DOT) or landowner, A&B and

suggests concerns should be address to either party. Chair Laemoa suggested that Commission send letter to State DOT.

Commissioner Tomita shared that he doesn't understand why some businesses along Dairy Road have sidewalks and other don't making it unsafe for people with limited mobility issues. He shared that he heard that Maui County Fire Department was planning to build another facility.

Mr. Schwind added that when this issue was discussed years ago, Dairy Road ownership remained with A&B. Commissioner Valentine shared that this issue was discussed years ago.

Chair Laemoa requested that staff Podlewski draw up a letter to the State DOT and A&B. Commission Azizoltani suggested that it would have been easier for Public Works to draft letter for commission since they know all the information.

Tara Sabado suggested commission do a tax map key (TMK) search on parcel using Department of Finance Real Property Tax online.

Commissioner Davis stated that is he is concerned with the lack of response and representation from Public Works to commission directly. He suggested that the commission contact the department to respond rather than send a message or the Fire Chief. Chair Laemoa agreed with Commissioner Davis' comments that a representative should have been sent. Commissioner Azizoltani shared that his original draft of letter was stern and staff added more polite revision.

Commissioners agreed to do TMK search as well as send letter to owner, with copy to State DOT and Public Works.

Commissioner Tomita asked if anyone knew about Lanai and Molokai Fire Stations accessibility. Commissioner Johnson shared that Lanai Fire Station is accessible and Chair Laemoa also added that Molokai Fire Station is also accessible.

Commissioner Johnson expressed concern with accessibility at Lanai Post Office.

Chair Laemoa entertained a MOTION to send a letter to landowner, copied to all parties involved, asking why property is not ADA compliant and also request all parties if they have information, please come to next meeting to discuss concerns. MOVED by Commissioner Valentine, SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition, MOTION CARRIED.

V. AGENDA SETTING - Topics suggested include

- a. Presentation by ICE Buddy Systems, Inc.
- b. Lack of access fronting Lanai Post Office
- c. Makawao Town Merchants Association letter of invitation
- d. Discussion on Paratransit Transportation ridership, reservations and process
- e. Enforcement process for Americans with Disabilities Act
- f. Funding sources for accessible improvements
- g. Presentation by Rob Tarver, DD Council and Workforce Development representative
- h. Introduction of new commissioner, Vivian Lindsey

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next meeting on February 12, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 pm at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair Laemoa entertained a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. MOVED by Commissioner Valentine, SECONDED by Commissioner Tomita. ALL IN FAVOR, meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.