



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

**June 18, 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

Chair Laemoa called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. in Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room located at 11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, Hawaii.

Commissioners present included: Faraz Azizsoltani, Kevin Souza, Mikey Tomita, Vivian Lindsey, Gabriel Johnson and David Courson, Andrew Valentine and Sheila "Mililani" Villanueva.

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

Guests present included Denise Green (sign interpreter); Victor Lesa, Jr.; Joe Gabel and Brian Hauser of Aloha Independent Living Hawaii.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 14, 2015

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed. None offered. Commissioner Azizsoltani introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Villanueva. Chair Laemoa opened discussion, none. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition, **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

Victor Lesa testified that sidewalk and building accessibility remains an issue. Mr. Lesa noted that the sidewalk fronting Kahului Fire Station is still blocked off and this is not the case at all for other fire stations; no ramp access at Keopuolani dog park where he almost fell previously; no wheelchair ramp access at parking lot on corner near State Building in Wailuku.

Commissioner Tomita asked if Mr. Lesa had seen the improvements made at the top parking lot at Hookipa Park and requested his opinion. Mr. Lesa advised that he has not seen it but will. Commissioner Tomita suggested that Mr. Lesa take photos and send it to Nalani if possible.

[Commissioner Lindsey arrived at 12:38 pm]

[Commissioner Souza arrived at 12:42 pm]

[Darren Konno, Transportation Specialist arrived at 12:44 pm]

Chair Laemoa closed public testimony.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on Paratransit Transportation ridership, reservations and process:

Commissioner Lindsey shared a handout with commissioners from the Maui Disabilities Alliance; the handout is a thank you letter to councilmembers for temporarily not raising the bus fare.

Chair Laemoa shared that the commission's letter that was discussed at last meeting was signed and sent to the mayor.

Commissioner Tomita asked for clarification on the temporary fare. Commissioner Lindsey responded that the fare is until July of next year and the situation is being analyzed by a consultant.

Commissioner Tomita reported that Honolulu bus system offers an annual pass, whereas Maui offers only a monthly pass. He questioned how Honolulu is able to offer this. Commissioner Valentine responded that this is part of the budget process that the council does two years in advance. He suggested that perhaps someone should be in contact with the Chair of Finance Committee. Commissioner Tomita asked if he should research the annual pass on Oahu. Commissioner Valentine agreed that he should.

Commissioners Valentine and Lindsey added that scheduling is still an issue and it is not working well for riders.

- b. Public Works input re curb cuts and lack of sidewalks fronting the Kahului Fire Stations:

Chair Laemoa advised that no representative was present.

Commissioner Tomita questioned if a letter was sent to Public Works to invite them to attend. Commissioner Azizsoltani responded that a letter was sent several months ago. Chair Laemoa recalled that the Fire Chief attended a meeting and later the commission was advised by letter from A&B that the landowner is responsible for the sidewalk improvement. Ms. Joesting added that it is the responsibility of the landowner to improve the sidewalk and it would probably fall back to Public Works, so a letter inviting a representative needs to be done.

Commissioner Azizsoltani volunteered to write a letter to Public Works inviting them to come and educate the commission on the sidewalks fronting the fire station. Chair Laemoa asked Commissioner Azizsoltani to send the draft letter to Nalani, who will forward to her for signature.

[County staff DJ Schwind, ADA Coordinator arrived at 12:52 pm]

- c. Lack of access fronting Lanai Post Office:

Commissioner Johnson shared that he met with a disabled Lanai resident who walks to the post office because it is

difficult to access; he explained that the accessible parking stall is painted white and not blue. He has spoken with the postmaster about the handicap parking stall and she was not receptive to the situation. He questioned if he should contact a higher level of authority.

Mr. Schwind shared that the access aisle needs to be 8 feet wide and signage is needed; there is no requirement on paint color, though white has a better visibility at night. Commissioner Johnson requested a copy of the access parking space regulations. Mr. Schwind agreed to provide him with a copy.

Chair Laemoa suggested that Commissioner Johnson follow protocol and discuss with the postmaster first. Commissioner Johnson stated that before the next meeting he would talk with the postmaster or the manager and will take photos to send to Nalani. Ms. Joesting added that if Commissioner Johnson finds enough information that he should prepare a letter for the board or chair's approval.

Commissioner Tomita suggested that a letter be sent to the Federal Commission on Persons with Disabilities or its equivalent if one exists. Chair Laemoa stated that she would prefer that Commissioner Johnson gather information first and get back to commission with his findings before contacting another agency.

d. Emergency Communication: 911 system

Commissioner Tomita reported that he requested sign interpreter services so that he could follow up with MPD staff about text status. He shared that a copy of an email conversation between himself and Nalani was distributed; it provides a brief update in which MPD is targeting mid-September to rollout the text to 911 feature. He added that based on this updated information, it postpones his purpose for a meeting with MPD.

Ms. Joesting requested clarification on paragraph one in the email regarding Honolulu conducting training in mid-July to

August, and questioned if this training is for EMS responders. Commissioner Tomita responded that it was for the 911 text training for dispatch. Nalani added that Commissioner Tomita was correct and that further training will need to be scheduled for other public safety agency access points including EMS.

e. Sub-Committee Report on Emergency Preparedness: Shelters

Commissioner Valentine reported that a meeting has not been scheduled yet as Civil Defense is contacting agencies who provide caregivers. He also shared that shelters have been identified but have not been labeled correctly as to equipment available (i.e. portable generators, electricity).

Ms. Joesting reminded commissioners that this is not a standing committee so a report or recommendation should be prepared. She indicated that under the Sunshine Law provisions, the committee needs to notice its meeting by filing an agenda with the clerk at least 6 days prior to the meeting date. Discussion occurred that meetings will be hosted by Civil Defense and subcommittee members may not be able to notice meeting. Ms. Joesting provided information about interaction group and recommended a change of the subcommittee to an interaction group. Commissioner Valentine responded that the interaction group might be a better option and proposed a change.

Commissioner Valentine presented a MOTION that the subcommittee be changed to interaction group. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Courson. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition. **MOTION CARRIED.**

f. Lack of sidewalks in Lahaina

Chair Laemoa deferred to next meeting. Chair Laemoa requested that Commissioner Azizsoltani include this item in the draft letter to Public Works. Commissioner Azizsoltani requested to add repainting crosswalks in the letter; no opposition shared.

Mr. Schwind reminded the commission that lack of sidewalks is not an ADA requirement under the federal law, though if a sidewalk exist, it must follow the regulations.

g. Lack of ramp access to dog park at Keopuolani Park

Chair Laemoa deferred to next meeting. Chair Laemoa requested that Commissioner Azizoltani include this item in the draft letter to Public Works. Mr. Schwind added that Ms. Sabado was going to submit a report on this item, perhaps a reminder should be sent to her.

h. Review of Emergency Prep Checklist

Ms. Podlewski advised commissioners that a copy of the checklist was distributed at the June 18th meeting. Ms. Joesting shared that the checklist was prepared by Ralph Thomas and he was hoping to get the commission's feedback. Commissioner Valentine advised that any additions to the checklist will make the form cumbersome; he will share this checklist with Ms. Carroll at Civil Defense.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH)

Brian Hauser presented information about the agency that was formed by the 1973 Rehabilitation Act which set aside funding for people with disabilities to service the disabled. The guidelines require that over 51% of staff and board is disabled; there are currently 18 staff with 2 vacancies in Maui County. The agency was started in 2009 and is funded by state and federal funds. All of its services are free; the only eligibility requirement is a having a disability, no other requirement such as age, income or type of disability. Specifics about its services can be reviewed on website at www.alohailhawaii.org

b. Kalaupapa General Plan

Chair Laemoa reported that she attended two meetings and ADA accessibility has not been discussed. She shared that currently there is no wheelchair accessibility, ramp or lift to airplanes. She indicated that at the next meeting which has not been announced, she will bring attention to this issue.

Commissioner Courson shared that he just returned from Nepal and knows of volunteers that could help install ramps to provide access to airplanes.

c. Training for all commission members

Chair Laemoa deferred to next meeting. All commissioners agreed that this should be first item under New Business.

d. American Sign Language pamphlets

Ms. Podlewski explained that Commissioner Tomita has requested that the county purchase copies of emergency sign language pamphlet for Police, Fire and EMT staff that show basic survival signs. The department has funds available to purchase but the Director of Housing and Human Concerns advised that it would require action and approval by this commission.

Commissioner Courson introduced a MOTION to purchase the American Sign Language emergency sign pamphlets. SECONDED by Commissioner Valentine. Mr. Schwind asked for clarification as to the quantity. Ms. Podlewski advised that the department has \$250 available.

Commissioner Courson presented an AMENDED MOTION to authorize purchase up to \$250.

Chair Laemoa called for vote, all in favor, no opposition. MOTION CARRIED.

VI. AGENDA SETTING – No topics suggested.

Commissioner Tomita advised that he not be able to attend next meeting.

Commissioner Johnson asked for confirmation that he was including repainting of crosswalks in the letter. Commissioner Tomita responded that Public Works is one letter and Post Office is a separate issue. Commissioner Johnson responded that Commissioner Tomita is correct. Chair Laemoa advised that Commissioner Azizoltani will be drafting letter to Public Works and Commissioner Johnson will be drafting letter to Post Office.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next meeting on July 9, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conference Room 1
- b. Commissioner Valentine shared that Paratransit Advisory Forum will be on June 30, 2015 at MEO.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chair Laemoa adjourned meeting at 2:05 p.m.