



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

---

## COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### MEETING MINUTES

**October 8, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Cameron Center, Conference Room #1  
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kealoha Laemoa called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in Cameron Center, Conference Room #1 at 95 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793.

Commissioners present included Kevin Souza, Andrew Valentine, Mikey Tomita, Faraz Azizsoltani and Sheila Villanueva.

Commissioners excused included David Courson and Gabriel Johnson. Commissioner Vivian Lindsey was absent.

Staff present included Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana and Nalani Podlewski, Secretary.

County staff present included DJ Schwind, ADA Coordinator.

Guests present included Lisa Siva (sign interpreter) and Harry Johnson/Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO).

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 10, 2015**

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed. None offered. Commissioner Azizsoltani introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Valentine. 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**

None

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership:**

Commissioner Valentine reported that MEO is making a valiant effort to improve the process with automated calls and they are trying to work out the kinks in the system.

Commissioner Tomita shared that on Oahu, the bus fare is a one-time annual fee of \$30 or \$40; in comparison to Maui its monthly \$30 or \$40. He questioned how Oahu is only once a year. Commissioner Valentine responded that different communities have different tax base and it depends on what the County Council approves. He agreed that the fee should be a one-time fee. Commissioner Valentine added they should be able to ride any bus, not only paratransit. He also commented that they should continue to lobby for this with County Council and probably Administration too.

Mr. Schwind commented that budget meetings are being held now; he suggested that the commission start with the Administration to include additional funds into the budget, as it is difficult for Council to put funds into the Mayor's budget. Ms. Oana shared the budget meeting schedule: Today on Lanai, next Monday in Hana, and Monday, October 19th in Kihei. Mr. Schwind added that the commission could also schedule a time with the Mayor to discuss this item.

Commissioner Tomita advised that he would like to get information from the Oahu bus before meeting with the Mayor. Chair Laemoa agreed that it is a good idea for him to proceed and also reminded him that if he should meet with the Mayor, he would do so as an individual.

Ms. Oana commented that commissioners can provide public testimony as an individual and may mention that he/she is a member of this commission. She also mentioned that there is also permitted interaction according to the Sunshine Law in which, two or more members of a board, but less than the number of members which would constitute a quorum for the board, may be assigned to present, discuss, or negotiate any position which the board has adopted at a meeting of the board; provided that the assignment is made and the scope of each member's authority is defined at a meeting of the board prior to the presentation, discussion or negotiation.

Chair Laemoa added that she would like to wait for Commissioner Tomita to get information and discuss at next meeting. She asked if Commissioners Tomita and Valentine would be able to prepare a presentation for the Mayor. Commissioner Tomita asked if Ms. Podlewski could help him get information for the bus on Oahu prior to the meeting. Ms. Podlewski responded that Commissioner Tomita should find someone on the committee to assist him. Chair Laemoa added that Ms. Podlewski's duties for this commission is to prepare the minutes and arrange travel. Commissioner Valentine responded that he will work with Commissioner Tomita on this.

b. Lack of Disabled or Handicapped Access to Lanai Post Office:

Chair Laemoa deferred item.

c. Kalaupapa General Plan Update

Chair Laemoa shared that she visited Kalaupapa and spoke with National Parks staff about the future plans. She reported that there are many areas that accessibility need to be altered. Chair Laemoa advised that the EIS or General Plan should be released next month; she will email to Ms. Podlewski for distribution to commission members.

d. American Sign Language Pamphlets Update

Mr. Schwind reported that he wrote a memo to both the Fire Chief and Police Chief indicating that the Commission on Persons with Disabilities asked that the pamphlets be given to personnel who service persons with disabilities and distribute as appropriate.

Commissioner Tomita volunteered to accompany Mr. Schwind to visit the different departments to explain and teach as needed. Mr. Schwind responded that he will follow up with the departments if additional information is needed.

Commissioner Valentine questioned if any pamphlets were given to Civil Defense. Mr. Schwind advised that he did not forward any pamphlets to them.

Commissioner Tomita asked if commissioners could get pamphlets to distribute. Ms. Podlewski advised that she needs to check if funds are available in the budget to purchase additional pamphlets.

Commissioner Tomita also requested a copy of the memo that was sent with the pamphlets. Mr. Schwind responded that he would provide a copy to him.

e. Access Changes at Hookipa Park (report by V. Lesa)

Commissioner Valentine advised that Mr. Lesa is unavailable to attend today.

Commissioner Tomita commented that he provided the photos that were distributed today; pointing out that the area with orange fence that has been inaccessible for some time.

Mr. Schwind asked Chair Laemoa if she would like him to write a letter to the Parks Director to ask what the status is of upper parking area and share with the commission. Chair Laemoa responded yes.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Budget Process and Review

Commissioner Valentine commented that based on the commission's mission, they need to review if sufficient amounts are included in Mayor's Budget and provide input before it is submitted to the County Council.

Ms. Oana suggested that last year's budget could be reviewed and input could be provided to the Mayor. Mr. Schwind responded that he does not believe that accessibility improvements are listed as line items in the budget.

Commissioner Tomita commented that he does not recall seeing any pamphlet at the Mayor's office that include ADA. Mr. Schwind responded that he believes that when responsibilities of the commission was establish 25 years ago, there were specific line items in the budget that dealt with ADA improvements; he does not believe that this is the case today.

Commissioner Valentine suggested that they question departments as to what is being done to meet ADA compliance. Mr. Schwind added that they could ask departments which of their projects include accessibility improvements and it will be probably construction projects.

Commissioner Tomita volunteered to go to Mayor's Office to pick up 15 copies of FY2016 budget pamphlet and bring to next meeting.

Mr. Schwind recommended that the commission prepare a letter to all departments requesting information regarding the current budget and how much of the budget is earmarked for accessibility for persons with disabilities. Commissioner Villanueva agreed to prepare draft letter. Ms. Oana suggested that they also ask for proposed budget; Chair Laemoa agreed.

b. Upcoming Events

Chair Laemoa shared that planning for Disabilities Resource Fair on Molokai will start with first meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Valentine announced that sometime this month, the Department of Public Works will be conducting a sidewalk tour in Wailuku.

c. Request Representative from Parks Department

Commissioner Villanueva volunteered to draft letter requesting a representative to address inaccessibility at various parks.

Commissioner Tomita asked if each park will have emergency flashing lights installed. Mr. Schwind responded that they are called emergency call poles. He reported that they are in the process of installing poles at Kanaha, Kamaole I and II.

## **VI. AGENDA SETTING**

Chair Laemoa indicated that she has the following items for next meeting: Lack of Disabled or Handicapped Access to Lanai Post Office; Access Changes at Hookipa Park; letter about Budget Process and Review; and letter for Parks Department.

Commissioner Valentine asked to keep Paratransit Transportation on the agenda. Chair Laemoa agreed.

Mr. Schwind questioned Chair Laemoa if he should continue to write a letter to Parks Department on Hookipa since another letter is being drafted. Chair Laemoa responded that Mr. Schwind can still do his letter.

Commissioner Villanueva asked for if there are any specific items that should be included in the letter to Parks. Chair Laemoa responded that it should include accessibility to beaches and parks, specifically for wheelchairs and walkers.

Commissioner Tomita commented that more pictures are needed. Commissioner Valentine responded that he would contact Mr. Lesa to request additional photos for Hookipa.

## **VII. NEXT MEETING**

Chair Laemoa reminded everyone that next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conference Room 1.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Valentine presented a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no objection. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.