



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

**June 9, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Cameron Center, Conference Room #1
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793**

Chair:
Vacant

Vice-Chair:
Vacant

Members:

Faraz Azizsoltani

David Courson

Cranston Kapoi

Kealoha Laemoa

Vivian Lindsey

Kevin Souza

Mikey Tomita

Sheila Villanueva

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kealoha Laemoa called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. in Cameron Center, Auditorium at 95 Mahalani Street in Wailuku.

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

Commissioners Vivian Lindsey and Cranston Kapoi were excused. Commissioner David Courson was absent.

Staff present included Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Nalani Podlewski, Secretary; and DJ Schwind, ADA Coordinator.

Guests present included Kate Eifler (sign interpreter).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 12, 2016

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed.

Commissioner Souza introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Tomita. 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

Chair Laemoa stated that no one was present to testify.

Ms. Oana asked if there was any objection to closing public testimony; no opposition. Ms. Oana stated that Public Testimony is closed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Tomita presented a MOTION to move Item c to Item a on the agenda. SECONDED by Commissioner Villanueva. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition. MOTION CARRIED.

- a. American Sign Language Training and Funding for sign language interpreter

Commissioner Tomita reported that he has not been able to take care of this. He shared that DCAB (Disability and Communication Access Board) can work with the Commission to present and do training for Fire, Police and Ambulance staff. Commissioner Tomita added that DCAB will be sending a letter to the Fire and Police Chiefs to get the process going and he will be working with them.

- b. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership

Chair Laemoa deferred item.

- c. Unemployment of Persons with Disabilities

Chair Laemoa advised that Commissioner Gabriel Johnson from Lanai has resigned.

Mr. Schwind reported that in the minutes from the April meeting, it indicated that Ralph Thomas addressed the issue of underemployment. He added that the County cannot question if a person has disabilities and all qualified candidates are considered as applicants and if requested, accommodations can be provided. Mr. Schwind advised that the County does not solicit persons with special needs and it

has a non-discrimination policy. He added that the Commission may make recommendations.

Chair Laemoa asked if any of the Commissioners wished to take the lead on this item. Commissioner Villanueva asked for details about what Commissioner Johnson was doing. Chair Laemoa responded that he was researching how people with disabilities can get competitive employment and if job fairs were recruiting persons with disabilities. Ms. Oana added that he may have been planning to use the Commission to come up with best practices and guidelines for employers to attract persons with disabilities or be ready to employ persons with disabilities.

Mr. Schwind commented that he asked DCAB about best practices and DCAB advised that they are not aware of any.

Commissioner Villanueva agreed to take on this item.

Ms. Oana asked Commissioner Villanueva if she attended the training presented by Mr. Thomas last month. Commissioner Villanueva replied that she and Commissioner Kapoi did attend. Ms. Oana asked if she would provide a brief report.

Commissioner Villanueva reported that the training covered sexual harassment and discrimination; how persons with disabilities are faced with it and various options if one is a victim. She added that as employers and co-workers, we may think a physical gesture such as a pat on the back is casual but to persons with disabilities it can be perceived as sexual harassment. She commented that it seemed like the attendees heard the information before.

Chair Laemoa asked which attendees were present. Commissioner Villanueva replied County supervisors. Mr. Schwind advised that County employees are provided annual training and new employees receive information at New Employee Orientation.

- c. Concerns about Department of Transportation regarding Proviso of Services in General and Paratransit

Chair Laemoa deferred item.

Commissioner Azizoltani asked about previous agenda item in which Public Works would be present. Ms. Oana replied that Rowena Dagdag attended. Commissioner Azizoltani asked what was accomplished. Chair Laemoa replied that it is covered in the minutes.

d. Upcoming Events

Commissioner Tomita asked about the follow up letter to the Mayor. He questioned if this was the time to discuss. Chair Laemoa asked which letter. Commissioner Tomita replied that there were a few letters including one about Akaku. Ms. Oana responded that there may never be any response from the Mayor, he may or may not respond back.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers

Chair Laemoa requested assistance on how to proceed. Ms. Oana advised that she should start with election of new Chair for new commission year or wait until next meeting when all Commissioners are present. Commissioners expressed interest in waiting until next meeting.

Chair Laemoa requested a MOTION to defer elections to next meeting. Commissioner Villanueva presented MOTION to defer item to next meeting. Chair Laemoa called for vote, all in favor. Ms. Oana requested a SECOND for the record. Commissioner Souza SECONDED the Motion. Ms. Oana asked if all Commissioners were in favor. All Commissioners replied yes. MOTION CARRIED.

VI. ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

Deferred.

VII. AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Tomita announced that the sidewalk at Kihei Fire Station is completed and its 4 feet wide. Mr. Schwind responded that 4 feet is the new standard.

Commissioner Tomita also shared that Maui Deaf Friends will celebrate its 36th year anniversary this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. to sunset at Kanaha Beach Park near the canoe hale.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

July 14, 2016, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conf Rm# 1.

Commissioner Tomita indicated that he would not be present at next meeting.

Mr. Schwind suggested that Chair Laemoa finalize the agenda to include Commissioner Tomita's request to follow up on the correspondence concerns. Commissioner Tomita advised that he is not sure which letters require follow up.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Laemoa requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Tomita presented a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no objection. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Laemoa adjourned meeting at 1:35 p.m.