



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

CAMERON CENTER • 95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

## COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CPD)

October 13, 2016

12:30 p.m.

J. Walter Cameron Center Auditorium  
95 Mahalani Street, Wailuku

**Call to Order: 12:35 PM**

### Introductions

**Members Present:** Mikey Tomita (ASL Interpreter, Denise Green), David Courson, Cranston Kapoi, Kealoha Laemoa, Vivian Lindsey, and Kevin Souza

**Members Excused:** Faraz Azisoltani and Sheila Villanueva

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Three guests were present representing a community agency and the general public.

**County Staff Present:** Deborah Stone-Walls, Kevin Dusenbury, DJ Schwind, and Jerrie Sheppard

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the September 8, 2016 minutes.	Commissioner Courson moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Tomita seconded. Motion to approve minutes carried unanimously.



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<p>Public Comments and Testimony</p>	<p>Mr. Victor Lesa offered public testimony regarding motorized/non-motorized wheelchair use on the side of roads and on bike paths/lanes (because sidewalks are often not available). According to Mr. Lesa's friends, authorities have informed individuals who use wheelchairs (motorized or non-motorized) are not permitted for use on the sides of roads and sidewalks in Maui County. Mr. Lesa is concerned about what people who use wheelchairs are supposed to do if the only route available is either the side of a road or bike path/lane.</p>	<p>The commission would like to hear further about this subject, especially if Mr. Lesa may provide specific instances and locations on where this is occurring along with photographs representing there is not a sidewalk available for use.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership: Commissioner Lindsey attended the Paratransit Council meeting regarding the group traveling concerns that were mentioned at last month's CPD meeting. At the Paratransit Council meeting, it was explained that for a group to ride together, they will all meet at a designated place to ride together to the same destination. Commissioner Lindsey believes that the concern about the group paratransit travel is now resolved, but Commissioner Lindsey would like to keep paratransit active for old business at this time.</li><li>b. Underemployment of Persons with Disabilities: This topic is deferred due to Commissioner Villanueva's absence from the meeting.</li><li>c. American Sign Language Training and Funding for sign language interpreter: Commissioner Tomita shared a flyer with the entire commission entitled, "Effective Communication in an Emergency." The workshop, which is sponsored by the Department of Health and Disability Communication Access Board, will focus on effective communication with the police, emergency medical services, and fire departments in the event of an emergency. The event will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 10 AM- 12 PM at UH- Maui College. Mr. Schwind will furnish the handout to the County's public information officer to have it published on the county's website, and Commissioner Courson offered to share the details of the event on his radio show.</li></ol>	



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- d. Concerns about Department of Transportation regarding Provision of Services in General and Paratransit: This agenda item was addressed by Commissioner Lindsey during “Old Business- item (a). Mr. Harry Johnson will also be conducting a training regarding this topic at today’s (10/13/2016) meeting.
- e. Message from Deborah Stone-Walls, Maui County Executive on Aging, regarding the review and prioritization of “Old Business” items: Since the Commission on Persons with Disabilities meeting are relatively short (1.5 hours), Ms. Stone-Walls is recommending that the commission re-evaluate their “Old Business” items and to re-focus their energy and attention to one main topic per meeting, and to use the “Old Business” items as an opportunity to do a short recap of the bulleted items. For example, Ms. Stone-Walls provided an example of organization for future meetings: (1) Focus on main issues (2) Select the top 3 issues (3) Select one of the main issues (4) Invite the agency that relates to the CPD meeting issue and listen to their statements (5) {Next Meeting} Focus on the discussion from the agency and find a recommended solution to that agency and (6) {Next Meeting} Make recommendations to the Mayor and County and follow up with their recommendation in subsequent meetings. Chair Laemoa informed the Commission that she has been frustrated because she believes that they are not making any impact, and she would like the Commission to prioritize their agenda and move collectively forward. Corporations Counsel, Jerrie Sheppard, also recommended that each Commissioner should bring a list of 3 agenda items that they believe are most important to the next scheduled meeting. At the following meeting, Ms. Sheppard encourages the Commission to discuss their topic items and then select the top 3 items as a collective group.

Commissioners Tomita and Lindsey also shared that they attended a workshop about universal design, and they would like to share that there are many bathrooms that are not ADA accessible in Maui County, including the Cameron Center. Ms. Stone-Walls mentioned that universal design may be a

Chair Laemoa requests that each Commissioner bring their top 3 agenda items to the next scheduled meeting to be discussed.



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	<p>subject that is discussed in next month’s meeting as one of the 3 priority topics. Mr. Schwind also made a recommendation to the Commission to focus on County buildings and facilities, because the Commission has the ability to make the most impact with those areas. Mr. Schwind also requested that the Office on Aging provide the CPD Commissioners with a copy of their responsibilities from the County. Discussion ensued about wheelchair accessible bathrooms outside of County buildings, and it was discussed by Mr. Schwind that neither the County nor the Commission have the ability to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act because it is a federal law. In the event that commission members would like to advocate for those concerns outside of the County realm, they will most likely have to hire an attorney; file a complaint with EEOC since the county and state do not have authority over the ADA. Chair Laemoa would like the Commission members to focus on their top 3 agenda items for next month.</p> <p>f. Upcoming Events: “Effective Communication in an Emergency” on Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 10 AM- 12 PM at UH- Maui College.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Commissioner Tomita shared a recent experience at Kaunoha Senior Center. According to Mr. Tomita, he requested an ASL interpreter so he could attend the activities at Kaunoha, but he was denied the request by the Kaunoha staff. Mr. Schwind informed the Commission that there is no reason for a County agency to deny a reasonable accommodation, and he apologized for Commissioner Tomita’s experience. Mr. Johnson from MEO explained that it may have been a training issue, and this is an opportunity to teach Kaunoha staff about providing reasonable accommodations.</p>	<p>Mr. Schwind will follow up regarding this concern.</p>
<p>Presentation</p>	<p>a. Paratransit Guidelines: The training is a result of an occurrence in which a group of riders traveled together (the individuals traveling together were picked up at different locations along a non-fixed route) to a senior aloha party at the Sheraton in Lahaina. During the return trip, the riders were split up and unable to ride the same bus back to their residences. Mr. Harry Johnson explained that ADA paratransit must follow rules for qualified</p>	<p>Mr. Harry Johnson, Transportation Director at MEO, presented the rules and regulations regarding group paratransit transportation</p>



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	<p>individuals who utilize the service. Paratransit rules dictate that MEO must follow a ¾ mile radius rule that follows the fixed route bus system. For example, there is a Wailuku fixed route that begins in Wailuku that travels from the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center to Maui Memorial Medical Center, Wailuku, Happy Valley, and Hawaiian Home Lands. According to the ¾ mile radius rule, the paratransit service must remain within a ¾ mile radius of the fixed route. For those outside of the ¾ mile radius of the fixed route, those participants must utilize the Ala Hou transportation service.</p> <p>According to the paratransit rules, group reservations must also originate from the same departure location and arrive at the same destination location. In regards to the mentioned example of the senior aloha party, there was a violation of paratransit rules, as the riders were not picked up at the same departure location and subsequently not riding back to the same return location. Since this was discovered before the MEO paratransit bus arrived to pick up the attendees from the party, the MEO drivers had to follow guidelines for the return trip and follow the ¾ mile radius rule.</p> <p>In summary, it is important to keep in mind that MEO must follow the ¾ mile radius rule for paratransit service, and groups requesting group transportation must meet at a designated area for pick up and arrival for both the outgoing and returning legs of the trip.</p>	
Agenda Items for Next Meeting	Discussion and prioritization of Commission members' top three agenda items for subsequent meetings.	
Next Date	November 10, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. J. Walter Cameron Center, Rm 1	
Motion to Adjourn	1:30 PM	Commissioner Tomita moved; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Unanimously passed.