



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)

March 9, 2017

11:30 a.m.

Waikapu Conference Room
200 South High St., Wailuku, HI 96793

Call to Order: 11:36 AM

Introductions

Members Present: Mikey Tomita (ASL Interpreter, Kate Eifler), Faraz Azizsoltani, Cranston Kapoi, Vivian Lindsey, and Kevin Souza

Members Excused: Sheila Villanueva and Kealoha Laemoa

Members Absent: Margaret Peary and David Courson

Guests Present: Nolly Yagin, Department of Public Works

County Staff Present: Jennifer Oana, DJ Schwind, Ailina Laborte, Tara Sabado, and Kevin Dusenbury

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the February 9, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Tomita requested an amendment to the notes (page 7 of 8) regarding the use of “hearing impaired” to “deaf and hard of hearing.” This amendment has been made to the meeting minutes from February 9, 2017.	After Commissioner Tomita’s amendment was made, Commissioner Azizsoltani moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion to approve



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		minutes carried unanimously.
Public Comments and Testimony	<p>Mr. Oliver Caberto, who is a member of the Maui Wheelers and Paratransit Advisory Council, is concerned about a sidewalk along Lower Main St. and Kaneila St. in Wailuku near Jennifer's Saigon Café. According to Mr. Caberto, the sidewalk is in such dire condition that it is currently impassable in his wheelchair. Since he is unable to use the sidewalk, he must utilize the side of the road which he believes is unsafe for himself and others who use wheelchairs. Since Mr. Caberto is currently residing at Hale Makua, he is unable to take a photo this area for the Commission's viewing.</p>	<p>Mr. Schwind will submit a work order service request for the sidewalk surrounding Lower Main St. and Kaneila St. in Wailuku on Mr. Caberto's behalf.</p>
New Business	<p>a. Discussion with Department of Public Works Director, Mr. David Goode, regarding crosswalk maintenance within the County of Maui. In Mr. Goode's stead, Mr. Nolly Yagin, who serves as a public works engineer, attended the meeting to discuss the Commission's crosswalk maintenance concerns within the County of Maui.</p> <p>Mr. Yagin described the process in which the Highways Division maintains and updates the roadways, which includes the process of restriping crosswalks. According to Mr. Yagin, the Highways Division is divided into districts, such as West Maui, South Maui, Central, etc. In these districts, the crews evaluate the roadways and crosswalks and provide the repairs and restriping as time and budget allow. If there is a request for a specific location of a work request to the county, the Highways Division attempts to prioritize those requests with their work schedules. In regards to work requests for specific locations, the county typically responds within 2-3 weeks. In the event someone wishes to make a specific work request, Mr. Yagin recommends that individuals call 808-270-7869 to make a specific request.</p> <p>Commissioner Azizoltani informed Mr. Yagin that the condition of the sidewalks and crosswalks is a countywide concern. Since it is a countywide concern, Commissioner Azizoltani would like to know if the maintenance of the crosswalks will be addressed countywide. Mr.</p>	



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Yagin reiterated the process that the Highways Division follows regarding the maintenance of crosswalks, especially restriping. Mr. Yagin also informed the Commission that there is a federal law that requires all roadway signage to be updated by 2019 with signage that is more reflective and more visible to motorists. Mr. Azizoltani also informed Mr. Yagin that there are several crosswalks not identified or striped, and Mr. Yagin informed the Commission that the County is currently working to satisfy the federal requirement to update the signage by 2019. Mr. Schwind also informed the Commission that crosswalks do not need to be marked or have signs, and the law that Mr. Yagin is referring to only applies to areas that already have a sign; not areas that are currently without signage.

Commissioner Tomita loves the flashing lights at crosswalks, and he believes that motorists obviously see these flashing lights. Commissioner Tomita believes these mentioned flashing lights should be placed by crosswalks close to shopping centers, schools, and fire stations. Mr. Yagin responded to Commissioner Tomita, and he informed the Commission that the flashing beacons for crosswalks are currently being evaluated for eleven new locations across Maui. The evaluation comprises a variety of factors including pedestrian volume (which also requires someone to sit and count pedestrians utilizing a crosswalk). At this time, there is an estimated cost that ranges from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per crosswalk to add the flashing beacons. The county must also consider maintenance costs, especially if the beacons are located by trees. Since the devices are solar powered, the trees may create an environment in which the batteries may not fully charge. If the batteries do not fully charge, this may create an increased demand for maintenance, specifically regarding battery replacement.

Commissioner Kapoi wanted to confirm that the Department selects the location of the flashing beacons based upon pedestrian usage, and Mr. Yagin confirmed that is the method currently utilized by the Department.



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Commissioner Azizoltani specifically mentioned concerns about the Gateway Shopping Center on Keawe St. in Lahaina since there is plenty of traffic but there is no crosswalk. Commission Azizoltani is even more concerned because the Lahaina bypass discontinues at the end of the road, and he believes this should be a priority for the County. According to Mr. Yagin, the Lahaina Division is currently looking into this location. However, it is a complex situation because it is a multi-lane road that will most likely require a refuge in the middle for pedestrians to pause if necessary. Mr. Yagin also informed the Commission that an addition of a crosswalk walk at that location may also require traffic lanes to be shifted and moved.

Commissioner Tomita wanted to know if there is a relationship with the bus system, the bus stops, and the Highways Division. Mr. Yagin informed the Commission that the bus system and bus stops fall under the responsibility of the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Schwind recalled that a commissioner reported that he and other community members requested service on the website but never received a response. Mr. Yagin informed the Commission that it is possible because the request may be routed from a different department and not reach the intended department within the county. Mr. Yagin recommends calling and making the request directly with the Highways Division in regards to the restriping requests, and he also mentioned that photographs are also helpful but not necessary as the department staff is able to go out and examine the mentioned location.

Commissioner Azizoltani mentioned the restriping request was made several years ago by Commissioner Courson. Mr. Schwind reminded the Commission that there is a follow up feature to check on the status of work order request.

Mr. Schwind will run a test and report at the next meeting if the work order request feature on the County's website is working properly.



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Commissioner Tomita also mentioned that there are crosswalks that flood due to limited drainage. Mr. Yagin informed the Commission to make a specific work request with the Highways Division regarding crosswalks that flood due to limited drainage.

- b. Discussion and vote on the Section 8- HUD topic that the Commission would like presented to them by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

While it is her last meeting on the Commission, Commissioner Lindsey is concerned about the HUD voucher and she believes it needs to be addressed. Ms. Ailina Laborte, representing the Maui County Office on Aging and ADRC, provided advice to take concerns to a County Council committee regarding HUD. Ms. Oana explained that the County Council meetings are formal, and the subject must be pertinent to the meeting's agenda.

Commissioner Tomita also has concerns regarding the HUD vouchers and the process to obtain them, especially for people with disabilities. Commissioner Tomita also believes that the voucher is only good for 80-90 days and subsequently expires if one cannot find housing.

Commissioner Lindsey believes that there is only a 60 day period, and an individual may only request 30 day extensions if they have a medical reason from their health care provider. Since there are questions regarding this process, Ms. Laborte recommended that the Commission request a presentation from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns on the subject of applying for housing vouchers.

Ms. Lindsey informed the Commission of her experiences with applying for a HUD voucher, finding a rental unit, and the other obstacles to obtain housing. Commissioner Kapoi expressed concern regarding ADA compliant Section 8 rental units, and Commissioner Lindsey informed Commissioner Kapoi that there are ADA compliant units available.



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	<p>Commissioner Tomita reiterated that there are barriers for those that are deaf and hard of hearing to communicate to county agencies, including Section 8. Commissioner Tomita believes that it would be most helpful and beneficial to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to have the ability to send text messages to the appropriate county agency. Mr. Schwind informed the Commission that the county utilizes a text relay service, which relays information for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to the county agency and vice versa.</p> <p>Corporation Counsel Oana requested Ms. Laborte to reach out to the Department of Housing and Human Concerns for a presentation at next month's meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Schwind reminded the Commission that Section 8 is a federal program, and the County's primary responsibility is to make sure that a person with a disability is able to get into the building. The County must follow the federal guidelines established for Section 8 housing. Ms. Laborte informed the Commission that all counties are having similar issues regarding housing because of the demand and need. Ms. Laborte further stated that Honolulu has state and federal housing which assists with their needs and demand. Commissioner Lindsey would like additional housing made available to people with disabilities.</p> <p>c. Upcoming Events- Family ASL Workshop (Comprehensive Service Center): This workshop is interactive, challenging and fun. Learn basic everyday signs and phrases with your child. Maui Community College, Laulima Building # 225 on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 PM.</p> <p>d. Agenda amendment to add presentation of letters and certificates of appreciation from the Mayor's Office for Commissioner Mikey Tomita,</p>	<p>Discussion ensued regarding the topic of the presentation from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC). The Commission unanimously approved to request a presentation on the process of applying for Section 8 HUD. Ms. Laborte agreed to communicate with DHHC for this presentation.</p>
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	<p>Commissioner Margaret Peary, and Commissioner Vivian Lindsey. (Note: certificates delivered after original agenda was posted.)</p> <p>e. Presentation of letters and certificates of appreciation for Commissioner Mikey Tomita, Commissioner Margaret Peary, and Commissioner Vivian Lindsey On behalf of the Office of the Mayor, Mr. Schwind presented the certificates and letters of appreciation to Commissioners Lindsey and Tomita. Commissioner Peary was absent from the meeting. As of March 31, 2017, the terms expire for Commissioners Tomita, Lindsey, and Peary.</p>	<p>Motion to amend agenda and add agenda item (e). Commissioner Kapoi moved to approve agenda amendment; Commissioner Azizoltani seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>a. Transportation, Housing, and Employment - all of which will be further discussed once an action and resolution is met within the topic of public safety. Commissioner Tomita is concerned about bus stops and those that do not have shelters. Mr. Tomita would like to know why all of the bus stops do not have a shelter, and Mr. Schwind and Ms. Laborte informed the Commission that it is budget based due to the cost associated with building and maintaining the shelter. Due to budget cuts across the entire County system, Mr. Schwind further explained that departments and divisions are cutting positions and may not have the funding to build shelters at every bus stop at this point in time. Mr. Schwind encouraged individuals to call and make the work request if there is a specific request.</p> <p>Commissioner Tomita also reminded the Commission about the list of concerns that was compiled with Ms. Sabado at November's meeting. Since this list is available from November's meeting minutes, the list will be made available on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>b. Photographs of crosswalks Discussion ensued about the process to testify at a County Council meeting. According to Corporation Counsel, a community member or</p>	<p>Deferred</p>



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	<p>Commission member may testify in his/her own individual capacity. A Commission member may also testify on behalf of the Commission if that person is voted to act as a representative for the Commission. Corporation Counsel Oana informed the Commission that the best time to testify regarding the restriping of crosswalks would be when the Public Works Department is presenting its budget to the County Council.</p>	<p>Motion to authorize Commissioner Faraz Azizoltani to represent the Commission and provide public testimony at the budget committee meeting when the Department of Public Works is presenting their budget to discuss the Commission's concerns regarding neglected crosswalks within the County of Maui. Commissioner Tomita moved; Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Agenda Items for Next Meeting</p>	<p>a. Presentation from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns regarding the process of applying for Section 8 HUD vouchers.</p> <p>b. Revisit list of concerns from December/November meeting of prioritization.</p> <p>Commissioner Tomita is concerned with Akaku-Maui Community Media because the nonprofit organization does not offer closed captioning service for viewers that are deaf and/or hard of hearing. Corporation Counsel reminded the Commission that it has an advisory role, and the Commission cannot dictate what the County must or have to do. Ms. Laborte recommended contacting Akaku to request closed captioning. Mr. Schwind believes that Akaku-Maui Community Media may be violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement regarding effective communication. Specifically, the ADA states, "People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For</p>	<p>Mr. Schwind recommends that Commissioner Tomita testifies as an individual representing the community at budget hearing that relates to Akaku- Maui Community Media.</p>



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	example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech.”	
Next Date	April 13, 2017 at 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM at a location to be announced	Ms. Laborte will notify Mr. Dusenbury of April’s meeting location. Mr. Dusenbury will notify the Commission and community of the meeting location.
Motion to Adjourn	12:42 PM	Commissioner Tomita moved; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Unanimously passed.