



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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## COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CPD)

August 10, 2017, 2017

11:30 a.m.

J. Walter Cameron Center, Conference Room 1  
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793

**Call to Order: 11:33 AM**

### Introductions

**Members Present:** Faraz Azizsoltani, David Courson, Cranston Kapoi, Kealoha Laemoa, Ricky Sanches, Kevin Souza, and Kimberly West

**Members Excused:** Sheila Villanueva

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Christina Chang (Lokelani Ohana), Harry Johnson (MEO), Roxann Kehus (Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities), and Gay Sibonga (MEO)

**County Staff Present:** Kevin Dusenbury, Jennifer Oana, and Ralph Thomas

<b>Topic/Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the July 13, 2017 meeting minutes.	Commissioner Souza moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Sanches seconded. Motion to approve



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		minutes carried unanimously.
Public Comments and Testimony	<p>Mr. Oliver Caberto expressed his concern about an area near the intersection of Waiale Road and Kuikahi Road in Wailuku. According to Mr. Caberto, a sidewalk is not available on the side of the roadway by the Long’s Drugstore. He is concerned about his safety while traveling in his motorized wheelchair. Chair Laemoa informed Mr. Caberto that the Department of Public Works and the Maui Police Department are tentatively scheduled to attend October’s meeting to hear and discuss these concerns.</p>	
New Business	<p>a. Presentation from the Director of Lokelani Ohana, Christina Chang, regarding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Director of Lokelani Ohana, Christina Chang was joined by her daughter, Angelica, for her presentation to the Commission on Persons with Disabilities. Ms. Chang was invited by Commissioner Kapoi to provide information about employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Additionally, Ms. Chang prepared her presentation to include information about home and community based services and the “My Choice, My Way” program. Ms. Chang has been working with Ms. Roxann Kehus, who serves as Maui’s Program Specialist for the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities.</p> <p>Ms. Chang shared that her daughter attended the Waldorf Camphill School in Pennsylvania, which is the only Waldorf school accredited for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in North America. Ms. Chang informed the Commission that the school provides students a variety of educational and vocational opportunities that offer them the opportunity to discover their passions in life. While her daughter attended the Camphill School, the educators and staff found that Angelica enjoys working with animals and gardening. Due to Angelica’s discovered interests at the Camphill School, Ms. Chang was instrumental</p>	



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in the development of Lokelani Ohana. Lokelani Ohana is a farm in Waihe'e that provides adults with developmental disabilities a variety of therapeutic programs, including Saori weaving, arts, crafts, outdoor activities, gardening, and social therapy.

Ms. Kehus informed the Commission that Angelica receives the 1915(c) Medicaid waiver, which is also known as the home and community based services waiver. The waiver enables participants to live within the community, receive home and community based services, and avoid institutionalization. Ms. Kehus further explained that in 2014 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ruled that waiver services must go further and avoid facility-based care. According to the "My Choice, My Way" Medicaid home and community based services transition plan, the individual will be provided the opportunity to look for employment and work, connect with community life, and control personal finances.

Since Angelica enjoys gardening and working with animals, she volunteers at the Maui Humane Society and works at Lokelani Ohana, where she helps at the farm and delivery of the vegetables to the retailers.

Ms. Kehus explained the concept of social valued roles to the Commission. According to Ms. Kehus, the major goal of social valued roles is to create or support socially valued roles for people in society. The belief is that if a person holds a valued social role, that person will be highly likely to receive those good things in life that are available in that person's society or at least the opportunity for obtaining such fulfillment. This process ultimately helps the individual feel connected to their community. Ms. Kehus explained that you find the interests that the person enjoys and help to develop those interests into other areas.



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Lokelani Ohana has created a working relationship with Satkhira, a co-operative store at the Queen Kaahumanu Center. Due to this working relationship, participants have been able to display and sell their handmade products. In addition to a sense of accomplishment and social value, participants receive a portion of the sale when their handmade items are sold.

Ms. Jennifer Oana inquired if Ms. Chang or Ms. Kehus may have any advice to share for parents with a child with a disability. Ms. Chang explained that you need to discover what the child loves. Ms. Kehus recommends that the parent advocate on their child's behalf, and she also informed the Commission that there are resources available within the community to help families. In addition to mentioning Child and Family Services and other support groups, Ms. Kehus offered her professional services with the State of Hawaii to help link individuals/families with the correct resources within the community.

Mr. Ralph Thomas, who serves as the Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist for the County of Maui, inquired if Ms. Chang's organization has an informational brochure to promote her organization within the community. Ms. Chang informed the Commission that the organization has a website, [www.lokelaniohana.org](http://www.lokelaniohana.org). On the website, Ms. Chang informed the Commission that they will be able to find further information about their program, including the development of an ADA compliant home and new farm workshop building. Ms. Chang wanted to share the perspective of the person-centered approach and the importance of understanding the individual first, but she does not currently have the time to create an informational brochure for Lokelani Ohana's relationship with Satkhira.



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Ms. Oana inquired how many staff members from the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities represent Maui County. According to Ms. Kehus, she is one of five representatives for the entire State of Hawaii. Even though she is the lone representative for Maui, Ms. Kehus informed the Commission that she works closely with the Maui Disability Alliance, which includes 35 different organizations. The Maui Disability Alliance also holds an annual legislative forum, which enables persons with disabilities to discuss, list, and prioritize their needs and concerns to legislators and community leaders. Ms. Kehus also informed the Commission that she is responsible for advocacy and systems improvement on the State and local level. She regularly attends meetings, like the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, to be certain that the entire disability community is working towards similar goals.

Commissioner Courson notified the presenters that the Commission on Persons with Disabilities acts as an advisory board to the Mayor's Office. Commissioner Courson sought clarification on whether this was a presentation only or was there a certain request for the Commission on Persons with Disabilities. While this was a presentation only, Ms. Chang would like assistance with the creation of informational resources for Lokelani Ohana. A discussion ensued between Chair Laemoa and Commissioner Courson; Chair Laemoa determined that Ms. Chang was invited to the meeting by Commissioner Kapoi to provide a presentation on Lokelani Ohana and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Discussion ensued between Chair Laemoa, Ms. Kehus, and Ms. Chang about finding employment for persons with disabilities. Ms. Kehus believes that persons with disabilities should find employment that meets their needs and interests. Ms. Kehus also informed the Commission that this should not be about charity; positions should be tailored to meet and



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	<p>fit the needs of the business and the person with the disability. Ms. Kehus also shared that many business may have higher paid employees completing job duties that may not necessarily be the most effective for their time, and she believes that job carving may be an effective solution. Job carving is the act of analyzing work duties performed in a given job and identifying specific tasks that might be assigned to an employee with disabilities. Therefore, the person is not receiving charitable employment, rather the person is providing meaningful employment for the individual and the business. Ms. Kehus also shared that job coaches can be very helpful throughout the process, especially training the individual with the disability and providing support until the individual feels comfortable completing the work tasks independently.</p> <p>Commissioner West thanked Ms. Chang and Ms. Kehus for their presentation. Commissioner West also shared that Mental Health Kokua’s “Stepping Stone” project will be similar to Lokelani Ohana’s collaboration with Satkhira.</p> <p>Ms. Oana sought clarification on who provides job coaching for persons with disabilities. Ms. Kehus informed the Commission that the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation provides job placement and job coaching. In the event an individual is enrolled in a Medicaid Waiver Program, the individual may be eligible for job coaching services through their long term supports and services provider.</p> <p>b. Upcoming Events- None</p>	
Old Business	<p>a. Photographs of neglected crosswalks within the County of Maui- The Commission and the public are invited to share any additional photographs of neglected crosswalks within the County of Maui. Photographs shall be printed and shall contain a caption that describes</p>	



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	<p>the location, street, intersection, etc. of the crosswalks depicted in the photographs.</p> <p>Commissioner Courson shared an image of the crosswalk on the Northside of Waipuilani Road and South Kihei Road. The image was previously shared and will be included with the submission to the Mayor’s Office. Discussion ensued and the Commission sought clarification on the status of the invitation to the Mayor’s Office. Mr. Dusenbury, the County’s facilitator for the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, informed the Commission that he received the invitations on Thursday, August 10, 2017. Mr. Dusenbury informed the Commission that he will be compiling the documents for the invitation packet and will submit to the Mayor’s Office as soon as possible. The Department of Public Works and the Maui Police Department is requested to attend October’s meeting (Thursday, October 12, 2017).</p>	
<p>Agenda Items for Future Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Presentation from Maui Economic Opportunity and the County of Maui Department of Transportation regarding public transportation services</li> <li>b. Presentation from the Department of Public Works and the Maui Police Department regarding neglected crosswalks within the County of Maui and traffic enforcement safety concerns (<b>October 2017-tentative</b>)</li> <li>c. Other suggestions for topics for future meetings</li> </ul> <p>Chair Laemoa would like employers to present at future Commission meetings. Mr. Dusenbury shared that Ka Lima O Maui is invited to attend a future meeting of the Commission (tentatively November 2017 due to invitation for Department of Public Works and Maui Police Department). Ms. Kehus encouraged the Commission to invite the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to a future meeting to discuss possible policy changes to increase the employment of persons with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Commissioner Kapoi is tasked to contact the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and invite a representative of their agency to a future Commission Meeting.</p>



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Commissioner Courson reminded the Commission that this Commission sits as an advisory council to the Mayor. Commissioner Courson expressed frustration, and he believes that the Commission should be discussing action items and providing recommendations to the Mayor's Office. Ms. Kehus provided an example of reviewing the hiring process within the County of Maui to accommodate persons with developmental disabilities. Mr. Thomas informed Ms. Kehus that the County currently does not have the ability to "carve" positions. Ms. Kehus informed Mr. Thomas that she worked in Seattle previously, and it was made possible.

Commissioner West shared that she believes the presentations are helpful and allow the Commission to obtain a better understanding of current issues. With this better understanding, Commissioner West believes the Commission may be able to make recommendations based upon the learned knowledge.

Commissioner Azizoltani shared his frustrations with the Commission's "lack of accomplishments." Commissioner Azizoltani shared a recent story in which he requested the Maui Police Department to monitor motor vehicle speeds by his residence in Lahaina. According to Commissioner Azizoltani, the monitoring device recorded speeds that were 3 or more times the legal limit. However, the police report indicated that the officer did not believe there was adequate evidence to increase speed enforcement in the neighborhood. Commissioner Azizoltani shared with the Commission that he believes the government is reactionary, and he cannot believe that there have been no improvements made to the crosswalks and sidewalks even though the Commission has made recommendations to the County.

Ms. Oana, representing the County's Corporation Counsel, reiterated that the presentations started because there were numerous questions





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	<p>regarding the various topics the Commission was discussing at their meetings. The presentations provide knowledge on the various subject matters, which allow the collective body to make recommendations to the County and the Mayor. Mr. Thomas also encouraged Mr. Azizoltani to attend a Police Commission meeting to share his concerns regarding their particular policies and procedures. Commissioner Azizoltani shared further frustrations with the County staff that attend the Commission meetings as he believes the County staff create barriers for the Commission instead of assisting them. Ms. Oana informed Commissioner Azizoltani that Corporation Counsel is present at the meetings to be certain the Commission is abiding by their jurisdiction and acting in accordance to all relative laws and procedures. Chair Laemoa informed the Commission that this discussion has made her feel uncomfortable and wishes to close the meeting.</p>	
Next Date	September 14, 2017 at 11:30 AM at the J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI.	
Motion to Adjourn	1:01 PM	Commissioner Courson moved and Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion carried unanimously.