



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)

January 11, 2018

11:30 a.m.

J. Walter Cameron Center, Auditorium
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793

Call to Order: 11:30 AM

Introductions

Members Present: Faraz Azizoltani, Petrina Castillo, David Courson Cranston Kapoi, Kealoha Laemoa, Ricky Sanches, Kevin Souza, Sheila Villanueva, and Kimberly West

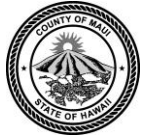
Members Excused: none

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: Kate Eifler (ASL Interpreter) and Roxann Kehus (Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities)

County Staff Present: Joshua Black (Emergency Management), Charnan Carroll (Emergency Management), Kevin Dusenbury (Office on Aging), and Jennifer Oana (Dept. of the Corporation Counsel)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the December 14, 2017 meeting minutes.	Commissioner Souza moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion to approve



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		minutes carried unanimously.
Public Comments and Testimony	<p>Mr. Mikey Tomita shared concerns regarding the emergency alert systems, especially regarding the emergency alert sirens to notify citizens of a nuclear/missile strike. Mr. Tomita also shared concerns that others who are not Deaf may not be able to hear the sirens. According to Ms. Charnan Carroll (Staff Specialist for the County’s Emergency Management Agency), the State of Hawaii is responsible to activate the sirens, not the County of Maui.</p> <p>Mr. Tomita also shared that he and other members of the Deaf community believe that the State and/or County could alert citizens via smart phones. Mr. Tomita also informed the Commission that he believes the alert should provide citizens instructions on where they should go to seek shelter, especially including procedures for the Deaf community.</p>	
New Business	<p>a. Report from Commissioners Kapoi and Villanueva regarding the hiring practices and policies of Supported Employment of King County in Seattle.</p> <p>Commissioner Villanueva informed the Commission that she spoke with the Deputy Director of Personnel at the County of Maui, Cynthia Razo-Porter. The deputy director was unaware of any concerns regarding examination accommodations for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Commissioner Villanueva shared that Ms. Razo-Porter encouraged active job seekers with a disability to speak directly with the Department of Personnel Services to request an examination accommodation.</p> <p>Chair Laemoa informed the Commission that she believes the County should provide a public service announcement designed to encourage persons with disabilities to apply for County job openings. Ms. Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui, reiterated that the Commission sits as an advisory board to the Mayor. Ms. Oana</p>	



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further reminded the Commission that they may make a recommendation to the Mayor's Office regarding a public service announcement, but the Commission cannot decide or dictate that a public service announcement will be made.

b. Safety Concerns for Persons with Disabilities:

1. Contacting 911 via text message
2. Emergency Alert Sirens, specifically regarding concerns for individuals who are Deaf

Regarding "Item b. Safety Concerns for Persons with Disabilities- 1. Contacting 911 via text message", Ms. Carroll shared that the Maui Police Department is the agency that would handle such a concern. Ms. Carroll recommended that the Commission contact the Maui Police Department's community liaison for further discussion regarding that topic.

Ms. Carroll and her colleague from the County's Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Josh Black, shared with the Commission that they wanted to address the agenda item regarding the emergency alert sirens. Ms. Carroll informed the Commission that the emergency alert sirens are intended for individuals that are outdoors, such as campers, beach goers, and tourists. According to Ms. Carroll, there has been a recommendation to place strobe lights on the sirens to notify individuals who are Deaf when the siren is activated. However the County, along with other national organizations, has determined that the strobe lights are not cost effective and are only effective if an individual is within close proximity to the siren.

While the emergency alert sirens provide notification of a potential threat, the sirens are not intended to be the only emergency alert source to notify the public of a potential emergency according to the Emergency Management Agency. Ms. Carroll also offered additional advice to the Commission



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regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios and the County's emergency alert system, Maka'ala.

Due to the recent threats from North Korea, the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii have been reviewing their emergency preparedness plans and procedures. According to the discussions between the County's Emergency Management Agency and the State, the State will be responsible to activate the sirens in the event of an imminent threat. Ms. Carroll also shared that the County is re-implementing recommendations from the Cold War Era, which includes being prepared to shelter in place for up to two weeks. In addition to sheltering in place, residents are advised to purchase heavy plastic sheeting and duct tape that can be placed on windows and doorframes in the event of an attack.

Ms. Carroll also informed the Commission that the National Weather Service will receive emergency alert information from the Department of Defense; therefore, the County recommends that all residents purchase a NOAA weather radio for their home and place of work. Per Ms. Carroll, individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing may purchase a specific NOAA weather radio at Walmart and other retailers. The radio has the ability to vibrate; display text alerts; and illuminate a strobe light to notify Deaf individuals of an emergency alert(s).

In addition to the NOAA weather radio recommendation, Ms. Carroll also shared that the County of Maui has invested in a new public emergency alert system, Maka'ala. Once the Emergency Management Agency receives a relevant notification, the agency shares the information with registered participants via text message, phone call, or email. The service does require the resident to sign up for this free service. However, Ms. Carroll reminded the Commission that the County Emergency Management Agency is not a 24 hours per day/seven days per week emergency alert provider. In the event the



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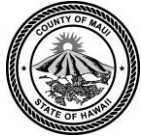
alert becomes available out of normal business hours for the Emergency Management Agency, the State will be responsible to notify residents.

Mr. Tomita inquired where individuals should go if the sirens are activated. Ms. Carroll shared that the primary recommendation is to shelter in place; or go to a place with significant concrete (if feasible and safe to do so). In addition, it is advised to shelter in place in the central/innermost part of the home/building. If an individual is in a car, Ms. Carroll recommended to vacate the automobile as quickly as possible; lie on the ground; and enter a building as soon as possible.

Chair Laemoa shared that she believes the NOAA weather radio is very expensive, and she is concerned that most seniors and persons with disabilities will not be able to afford such a device. Ms. Carroll commented that she is unaware of any financial assistance programs to purchase a NOAA weather radio.

According to Mr. Joshua Black, the emergency alert systems will broadcast on mobile phones if an individual permits such notifications on their mobile devices. However, Mr. Black reminded the Commissions that this technology might not necessarily work in a massive power failure. Mr. Black also shared that there is a multi-level NOAA radio available for sale that is not too costly. Mr. Black further explained that the specific device mentioned for persons that are Deaf and hard of hearing costs significantly more because of the additional features of the radio.

Mr. Tomita shared that he believes that it will be hard to assemble two weeks of a supply of food and water in twenty minutes. Ms. Carroll shared that residents should always have an emergency kit prepared for all disasters, not just the potential missile threats.



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Chair Laemoa shared that she does not believe that this emergency preparedness information is available to the community. Ms. Carroll informed the Commission that she would be happy to provide a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting.

Commissioner Castillo expressed her frustrations with the Department of Education, because the schools are implementing drills that relate to the potential nuclear attack threat from North Korea. Ms. Carroll shared that the schools are strictly at the State level; therefore, the Emergency Management Agency cannot provide the Department of Education directives or recommendations on how they conduct their emergency preparedness exercises and drills.

Ms. Oana requested Ms. Carroll to share information regarding the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) system. Ms. Carroll shared that the County educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. Ms. Carroll shared that they have had about three trainings on each of the islands, but it has been difficult to maintain the teams on Molokai and Lanai.

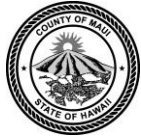
- c. Meeting Start Time Change: Due to a new Cameron Center Conference Room Usage Policy, future meetings of the Commission will begin at 12:30 PM.



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	<p>Commissioner Courson sought clarification when the time change will be effective, and the time change will be effective for February 2018.</p> <p>d. Upcoming events None</p>	
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>a. None</p>	
<p>Agenda Items for Future Meetings</p>	<p>a. Update from Commissioner Castillo regarding two proposed State Bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. County Council Communication No. 17-159- Policy, Economic Development, and Agriculture Committee: a State bill to provide a taxpayer who hires an individual with a disability a non-refundable tax credit for the six-month period after the individual is initially hired by the taxpayer ii. County Council Communication No. 17-159- Policy, Economic Development, and Agriculture Committee: A State bill to allow persons with disabilities to indicate their disability on their identification cards. <p>b. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, regarding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (tentative, pending availability of presenter)</p> <p>c. Other suggestions for next meeting’s agenda Ms. Oana mentioned to the Commission that she spoke briefly with County Councilmember, Mr. Alike Atay, regarding closed captioning concerns on Akaku and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Since Councilmember Atay is interested with both topics, Ms. Oana suggested that the Commission may want to consider inviting Councilmember Atay to a future Commission meeting.</p>	



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	Chair Laemoa informed the Commission that she will be resigning from the Commission effective February 1, 2018. Due to the resignation, Ms. Oana requested an agenda item to reflect an election and vote for the Commission's Chair and Vice Chair positions at the next scheduled meeting.	
Next Date	February 8, 2018 at 12:30 PM at the J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI.	
Motion to Adjourn	12:18 PM	Commissioner Souza moved and Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion carried unanimously.