



# 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)

February 8, 2018

12:30 PM

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

**Call to Order: 12:30 PM**

### Introductions

**Members Present:** Petrina Castillo, David Courson, Cranston Kapoi, Ricky Sanches, Kevin Souza, and Kimberly West

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

**Members Absent:** none

**Guests Present:** Roxann Kehus (Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities)

**County Staff Present:** Kevin Dusenbury (Office on Aging) and Jerrie Sheppard (Dept. of the Corporation Counsel)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the January 11, 2018 meeting minutes.	Commissioner Castillo moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion to approve minutes carried unanimously.



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Public Comments and Testimony	None	
New Business	<p>a. Nomination and election for vacant position openings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chair (for the remainder of the 2017-2018 Board Year) Vice-Chair Souza opened nominations for the vacant chair position.</li> <li>2. Vice-Chair (if the current Vice-Chair is elected as Chair) Chair Souza opened nominations for the vacant vice-chair position.</li> </ol> <p>b. Update from Vice Chair Castillo regarding two proposed State Bills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> </ol> <p>Vice Chair Castillo reported that there have been no updates. Vice Chair Castillo also shared that she believes she will be able to track the proposed legislation online. Ms. Roxanne Kehus, representing the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, informed the Commission that the mentioned bills are proposed at the State level, and users are able to access the information online at <a href="http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov">www.capitol.hawaii.gov</a>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. 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. Please see New Business, Item b.1 for Vice Chair Castillo's update.</li> </ol>	<p>(a.) 1. Commissioner Courson nominated Vice-Chair Souza; Commissioner Sanches seconded. There were no other nominations. Nomination and election of Vice-Chair Souza to Chair passed unanimously.</p> <p>(a.) 2. Commissioner Sanches nominated Commissioner Castillo; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. There were no other nominations. Nomination and election of Commissioner Castillo to Vice-Chair passed unanimously.</p>



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	<p>In addition to checking the bills’ status, Ms. Kehus also further explained that web users are able to identify which agencies either support or oppose the proposed State bills. According to Ms. Kehus, the State Developmental Disabilities does not recommend or support this proposed bill, which would allow persons with disabilities to indicate their disability on their identification cards.</p> <p>c. Discuss a potential Commission meeting invitation to County Councilmember, Mr. Alike Atay, regarding closed captioning concerns on Akaku and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>d. Upcoming events Maui Health System 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heart Failure Event Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the Maui Memorial Medical Center 4:00 PM- 6:30 PM</p> <p>Vice Chair Castillo shared more information about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT program). Vice Chair Castillo would like to bring awareness to this program and encourage those with disabilities to attend and complete the CERT training.</p> <p>Ms. Kehus informed the Commission that she is a member of the Maui Disability Alliance, and she shared that a member of the Commission could invite members of the Maui Disability Alliance to join the CERT trainings. Ms. Kehus also shared with the Commission that the timing of the trainings is often difficult for persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities to attend.</p>	<p>(b.) Commissioner Courson recommended deferring agenda item b.1 and 2 until Commissioner Castillo can review the testimony.</p> <p>(c.) Commissioner Courson moved to invite Councilmember Alike Atay to a future meeting of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion to invite Councilmember Atay to a future Commission meeting carried unanimously.</p> <p>(c.) Commissioner Kapoi was tasked by Chair Souza to complete a draft invitation letter to Councilmember Atay. The draft will be reviewed, discussed, and voted upon at the next Commission meeting.</p>
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	<p>Vice Chair Castillo shared that she will be able to provide more about the CERT trainings after she completes the training in 5 weeks.</p> <p>Commissioner West also communicated to the Commission that she believes participants with Mental Health Kokua could benefit from the CERT trainings.</p>	
Old Business	a. None	
Agenda Items for Future Meetings	<p>a. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, regarding employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (tentative, pending availability of presenter). Ms. Kehus informed the Commission that the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation on Maui is currently in the process of recruiting a fulltime branch administrator. Therefore, this item will be removed at this time and will be revisited once the position is filled at the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.</p> <p>Ms. Kehus also shared that the Commission may be interested in a presentation from Ms. Amy Gonzalez about the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI). According to Hire Abilities Hawaii, the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) seeks to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes of youth and adults who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or receiving Social Security Disability benefits. DEI projects improve collaboration between employment and training and asset development programs implemented at state and local levels, including the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program, and build effective partnerships that leverage resources to better serve individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>b. Other suggestions for next meeting's agenda</p>	



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	<p>Chair Souza shared that he would like a presentation from Ms. Gonzalez regarding the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI). Ms. Kehus agreed to provide Ms. Gonzalez's contact information to Vice Chair Castillo.</p> <p>Vice Chair Castillo also shared that she is concerned about parents with disabilities who are raising children. She shared that she would like to discover programs available in Maui County or even help organize a new organization to help with such situations.</p> <p>Commissioner West agreed with Vice Chair Castillo, and she would like to identify the specific needs or hurdles parents with disabilities raising children encounter during day-to-day activities. Vice Chair Castillo provided an example of a child wishing to participate in a dance class, but the disabled parent is unable to drive the child to the dance studio to participate in the class. Commissioner Courson inquired if Vice Chair Castillo spoke with anyone at Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) for such opportunities. At this time, Vice Chair Castillo has not contacted MEO.</p> <p>Ms. Kehus shared that the Maui County Office on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) may be an avenue to find information. Mr. Kevin Dusenbury, representing the Office on Aging and acting as the County's facilitator for the Commission, informed the Commission about the Office on Aging and ADRC. Mr. Dusenbury explained the distinction between the Area Agency on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center, which included the explanation of the tangible home and community based services authorized by the agency. Mr. Dusenbury also shared that the ADRC provides information and referrals for individuals seeking advice or guidance for disability or aging concerns. Mr. Dusenbury also informed the Commission that the Maui County Office on Aging adheres to an inclusion/exclusion policy</p>	<p>Vice Chair Castillo agreed to invite Ms. Gonzalez to next month's meeting to discuss the Disability Employment Initiative.</p>
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established by the Executive Office on Aging. According to the policy, the resource database will include services and programs that address the needs of older adults and adults with a disability or long term services and supports needs and/or their caregivers. Mr. Dusenbury reiterated that the Maui County Office on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center does not receive funding to authorize direct services to individuals with disabilities under the age of 60; rather, the ADRC serves as a community resource that links individuals to pertinent agencies, providers, and/or programs.

Commissioner West shared that she works for Mental Health Kokua with their housing program, and Commissioner West also informed the Commission that housing is a hardship for many individuals with disabilities. Commissioner West would like a program that targets and provides housing to individuals with disabilities first. Commissioner West also recalled and recounted the presentation from the Department of Housing and Human and Concerns, Section 8 Housing Division.

Vice Chair Castillo inquired if any actions or recommendations were made to improve housing opportunities for persons with disabilities within the Section 8 Housing Division. Mr. Dusenbury informed the Commission that the Section 8 Housing Division is a federal program, and the Commission may not have the oversight to make recommendations for such programs. Vice Chair Castillo provided her insight, and she informed the Commission that the Section 8 Housing funding is provided by the federal government, but the funds are then transferred to the State and counties for their use. Vice Chair Castillo further shared that there are other funding streams for the HUD programs, which may include County funding. Mr. Dusenbury informed the Commissioners that he does not work for Section 8 and therefore cannot address their concerns. However, Mr. Dusenbury encouraged the



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Commissioners to address their concerns through the Commission by placing the proposed item on a future meeting agenda.

Commissioner Courson expressed that he hopes the Commission will remain focused and mindful of the Commission's capacity, which is to act as an advisory board to the Mayor's Office. Commissioner Courson expressed that he would like the Commission to create action steps after presentations are made to the Commission, and he shared that it may not be in the Commission's best interest to hear a presentation if there will not be an outcome where the Commission can make a recommendation to the Mayor's Office.

Chair Souza inquired if there were any further recommendations for next month's agenda, and Vice Chair Castillo shared that she believes the Commission should still discuss opportunities for children with parents with disabilities at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Castillo also inquired if the Commission has ever had a fair or other type of community event. Deputy Corporation Counsel, Ms. Jerrie Sheppard, reminded the Commission that the Commission is an advisory board and could provide support for public events or measures but would not be the coordinator or sponsor of a public event. Commissioner West inquired if there are any events throughout the year on Maui that focus on disabilities. Ms. Kehus informed the Commission that there is an annual legislative forum sponsored by the Maui Disability Alliance, awareness walks (such as the National MS Society Walk), and awareness months (such as the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March). Ms. Kehus encouraged members of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities to attend the Maui Disability Alliance meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Ohana Health Plan office from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. Ms. Kehus shared that the Maui



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	<p>Disability Alliance is currently advocating for “visitability” of public housing structures. According to the National Council on Independent Living, visitability refers to single-family or owner-occupied housing designed in such a way that it can be lived in or visited by people who have trouble with steps or individuals who use wheelchairs or walkers.</p> <p>Vice Chair Castillo offered a recommendation to invite the Blue Zones Project to present at next month’s meeting.</p>	<p>Vice Chair Castillo will contact and invite the Blue Zones Project to provide a presentation at next month’s meeting.</p>
Next Date	March 8, 2018 at 12:30 PM at the J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI.	
Motion to Adjourn	1:30 PM	Commissioner Kapoi moved and Commissioner Sanches seconded. Motion carried unanimously.