



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)

August 9, 2018

12:30 p.m.

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

Call to Order: 12:31 p.m.

Introductions

Members Present: Kevin Souza (Chair), Faraz Azizsoltani, Cranston Kapoi, Ricky Sanches, Sheila Villanueva, and Kimberly West

Members Excused: David Courson

Members Absent: Petrina Castillo (Vice-Chair)

Guests Present: Roxann Kehus (State Council on Developmental Disabilities), Gay Sibonga (Maui Economic Opportunity), and Nani Watanabe (Maui Economic Opportunity)

County Staff Present: Kevin Dusenbury (Office on Aging), Jennifer Oana (Dept. of the Corporation Counsel), Darren Konno (Department of Transportation), and Ralph Thomas (Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the June 14, 2018 meeting minutes.	Commissioner Azizsoltani moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Sanches seconded; Motion to



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		approve minutes carried unanimously.
Public Comments and Testimony	None	
New Business	<p>a. Presentation from the County of Maui Section 8 Housing Voucher Program regarding reasonable accommodations, alternate housing projects, and other potential housing opportunities for persons with disabilities</p> <p>Deferred until September or October 2018, as the representative from the Housing Division was unavailable.</p> <p>b. Discussion on need for monthly passes for paratransit services and Commission's support for monthly passes for paratransit in the upcoming FY2020 Budget</p> <p>The Commissioners in attendance at June's meeting were interested in advocating for the re-instatement of a monthly paratransit bus pass. Ms. Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel, provided the following recommendation. The Commission may assign a Commissioner to attend and voice the Commission's position on the need for monthly passes for paratransit services at the Mayor's upcoming community budget meetings. In addition to public support at the Mayor's community budget meetings, Ms. Oana recommended the Commission to task a Commissioner to draft a letter of recommendation to the Mayor's Office to include monthly passes for paratransit services in the Mayor's Budget and to assign Commissioners to attend the Mayor's public budget meetings in the Fall.</p> <p>Mr. Ralph Thomas, Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist for the County of Maui, recommended assigning two Commissioners in the event of sickness or other events that may arise.</p>	Deferred by the Chair.



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Commissioner Villanueva inquired when the community budget meetings would be held, and Ms. Sibonga from Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) informed the Commission that she would provide this information to the Commission’s facilitator, Mr. Kevin Dusenbury from the Maui County Office on Aging. Mr. Dusenbury shared that he will share the information with the Commission.

Ms. Roxann Kehus, representing the State Council on Development Disabilities, informed the Commission that MEO has implemented a subsidy to assist with the cost to paratransit riders.

Chair Souza shared that the senior citizen community (fifty-five years of age and older) was able to maintain the \$45.00 monthly bus pass. Ms. Kehus explained to the Commission that paratransit service is intended for riders that are unable to use the fixed bus route, and Ms. Kehus expressed her concerns regarding the financial burden caused by the elimination of the monthly paratransit bus pass.

Commissioner Azizoltani inquired about the demand for the monthly paratransit bus pass, and Ms. Sibonga replied that twenty-five paratransit riders are receiving the subsidy. Mr. Konno, representing the County of Maui Department of Transportation, notified the Commission that there are over 1,200 eligible paratransit riders at this time.

A discussion ensued regarding the eligibility and criteria for paratransit services, and Mr. Thomas provided those details from the County of Maui’s website. A discussion also ensued regarding whether the application requires a doctor’s note or certification; Mr. Konno reiterated that the application requires a physician’s certification.

MEO’s Independent Living Center representative, Ms. Nani Watanabe, shared her opinion of the importance and value of the paratransit program, because the program assists persons with disabilities.

Motion to adopt the Commission’s position on the monthly paratransit bus pass was moved by Commissioner Azizoltani; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion to adopt the position on the monthly paratransit buss pass carried unanimously.

Commissioner West moved (for the purpose of presenting the Commission's position to the County) to assign: Commissioner Azizoltani to attend the Mayor’s community budget meeting in Lahaina; Commissioners Kapoi and Villanueva to attend the Mayor’s community budget meeting in Wailuku; and Commissioner Sanches to attend the Mayor’s community budget meeting on Lana’i. Commissioner



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	<p>Commissioner Azizoltani inquired the reason for the termination of the monthly paratransit bus pass, and Mr. Konno replied that it was due to cost.</p> <p>Commissioner Souza inquired if any Commissioners would be willing to advocate for the monthly paratransit bus pass at the Mayor's community budget meetings. Ms. Oana reminded the Commission to be mindful of the Sunshine Law, and she reiterated that no more than four Commissioners might attend one public meeting together.</p> <p>A group discussion ensued on the Commission's collective position regarding the re-instatement of the monthly paratransit bus pass. The Commission determined that they support the monthly pass for paratransit users in the same price range as it was previously (\$45.00); and they will advocate for this position at the Mayor's community budget meetings, County Council meetings, and future Budget Committee Meetings.</p> <p>After the Commission's position was determined, the Commissioners discussed willingness and ability to attend the Mayor's community budget meetings.</p> <p>The Commission discussed which Commissioner(s) will attend the respective community budget meetings. The Commission also discussed writing a letter to the Mayor in support of the monthly passes.</p>	<p>Villanueva seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Commissioner Kapoi moved to assign Commissioner Azizoltani as the author of the recommendation letter to the Mayor's Office regarding the reinstatement of the monthly paratransit bus pass; Commissioner Villanueva seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Azizoltani agreed, and he will provide the recommendation letter to the Chair's facilitator within the next few weeks. The Commission's consensus approval and permission were provided to the facilitator and deputy corporation counsel to edit the letter as needed and submit the recommendation letter directly to the Mayor's Office once received from Commissioner Azizoltani, and without further review or approval by the Commission.</p>
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- c. Discussion on need for closed captioning of county meetings on Akaku and Commission's support for closed captioning of county meetings on Akaku in the upcoming FY2020 Budget

Commissioner Kapoi shared that he met with the Director of Council Services, Ms. Maria Zielinski. According to Ms. Zielinski, Akaku is planning to attend a technology conference in the near future to identify a more cost effective closed captioning service. The Director of Council Services informed Commissioner Kapoi that she will keep him apprised of Akaku's progress towards closed captioning, and Commissioner Kapoi plans to attend the budget hearings in the spring.

Ms. Oana also shared that this might be an opportunity to discuss this topic at the same time the Commissioners are advocating for the previous agenda item at the Mayor's community budget meetings and subsequent Budget Committee Meetings.

A discussion amongst the Commissioners occurred regarding their position on this agenda item, and the Commission concluded that the County should provide closed captioning for all County Council meetings and other County meetings aired on Akaku.

Motion to adopt the Commission's position on its support of closed captioning of county meetings aired on Akaku was moved by Commissioner Villanueva; Commissioner Kapoi seconded. Motion to adopt the position on closed captioning of county meetings aired on Akaku carried unanimously.

Commissioner West moved to assign Commissioners Azizsoltani (Lahaina), Villanueva (Wailuku), Kapoi (Wailuku), and Sanches (Lana'i) to publicly support and advocate the Commission's position on closed captioning simultaneously along with its position regarding the reinstatement of the monthly paratransit bus pass at the Mayor's Lahaina, Wailuku, and Lana'i community budget meetings.
Commissioner Villanueva



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	<p>d. Upcoming events Maui Disability Alliance Legislative Forum on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Velma McWayne Santos Community Center</p>	<p>seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Old Business	<p>a. None</p>	
Agenda Items for Future Meetings	<p>a. Presentation from the County of Maui Section 8 Housing Voucher Program regarding reasonable accommodations, alternate housing projects, and other potential housing opportunities for persons with disabilities (October 2018, tentative) b. Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (November 2018, tentative)</p>	
Next Meeting Date	<p>September 13, 2018 at 12:30 PM at the J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>1:25 PM</p>	<p>Commissioner Souza moved to close the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.</p>