



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

## COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

March 12, 2020

12:30 p.m.

J. Walter Cameron Center

95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793

**Call to Order: 12:35 p.m.**

### Introductions

**Members Present:** Chair Kimberly West, Vice Chair Nani Watanabe, Joe D’Alessandro, Faraz Azizsoltani, Cranston Kapoi, and Ricky Sanches

**Members Absent:** Robert Carroll (excused), Petrina Castillo (unexcused)

**Guests Present:** Brian Hauser- Aloha Independent Living Hawaii- Maui; Harry Johnson- MEO Transportation

**County Staff Present:** Office on Aging: Deborah Stone-Walls, Claudette Medeiros, James Mariano; Corp Counsel Jennifer Oana

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	6 members present, 2 absent (1 excused, 1 unexcused), there is quorum.	Commissioner D’Alessandro moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Sanches seconded. Motion to approve minutes carried unanimously.
2. Review/Approve Minutes	Members reviewed the February 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Jennifer Oana asked for an addition of the statement “with regards to <u>affordable housing for persons with disabilities</u> ” for 7-B. Agenda Items for Future Meetings.	
3. Public Comments and Testimony	No Public Testimony	
4. Old Business	A. Update on invitation to Councilmember Tasha Kama, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, to attend a Commission meeting to discuss affordable housing issues in the county.	Chair West asked the appropriate waiting time for



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

	<p>1. Staff J. Mariano reported that the letter drafted by Chair West was typed on commission letterhead and mailed to Ms. Kama with copies also mailed to the Mayor, County Chair Alice Lee, Director Lori Tshako and Deputy Director Linda Munsell of Housing and Human Concerns, and Executive Deborah Stone-Walls. Letters were mailed on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p>	<p>Ms. Kama’s response. Councilor Oana said “about a month.” Matter deferred.</p>
<p>5. New Business</p>	<p>A. Presentation- Brian Hauser, Advocacy coordinator, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, on discrimination against renters using housing vouchers. Mr. Hauser opened with general statistics on Maui’s housing voucher system: many experience rejection; about 1489 vouchers were issued by Maui County and only 46% were utilized. Source of income discrimination prohibits a landlord from rejecting tenants based on their lawful source of income. It should clearly identify Section 8 voucher holders. Any legislation should include the education of landlords and real estate associations in order to change the perception of renting to those with housing subsidies.</p> <p>Commissioner Watanabe pointed out that it is hardship for many disabled individuals to make the hearings because the meeting times are too early in the morning and individuals need more time to get ready and to get there. Staff member J. Mariano commented that testimony can be read by a designated proxy.</p> <p>Councilor J. Oana proposed that this body craft a letter to the Mayor suggesting that the county adopt this type of law. If the commission can provide as much information and have the issue directed to the appropriate department(s), then we may see some action. For draft ordinance, it goes to council, then goes to a special committee, and is either passed on or goes nowhere.</p>	<p>Members decided to table the matter for now and to be taken up at another meeting.</p>



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

<p>6. Upcoming Events/Announcements</p>	<p>A. MILC’s Abilities Awareness fair for April 2020. Commissioner Watanabe said that MEO staff are deciding whether or not to cancel due to COVID-19.</p> <p>B. County’s Fair Housing training, April 3 2020, at UHMC. Free, open to the public; first come, first served. Registration due March 27. Lanai and Molokai individuals can join via BlueJeans.</p> <p>C. March 13, 1-3pm. <i>Wili I Lei Lanakila</i>- UHMC. Hui No Ke Ola Pono conducting meetings on improving health and wellbeing of the community.</p> <p>D. Dragonfly presentation: Nani Watanabe reported that her workshop at MEO was well attended. It is a cell phone app that allows hearing people to communicate with the Deaf. The presenters were at PACRIM Hawaii and are piloting this assistive technology. Soon to be available.</p>	
<p>7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings</p>	<p>A. Staff member J. Mariano reported that Deputy Director Linda Munsell is not available to do a presentation in April but is able to in May. Tentative dates/speakers: June or July, Gail Rumbaoa, Section 8. MEO Transportation, County Transportation, and Roberts Hawaii could follow.</p> <p>Harry Johnson, who was in attendance, gave a brief overview of their training but since it was not on the agenda (subject to Sunshine Law), was invited to present next month. He agreed.</p>	<p>Next month’s speaker will be Harry Johnson, MEO Transportation.</p>
<p>8. Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2020 at the J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani St., Wailuku HI 96793 at 12:30 p.m.</p>	



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20 • WAILUKU, HI 96793 • PHONE (808) 270-7755 • FAX (808) 270-7935

9. Motion to Adjourn	1:55 PM	Commissioner Alessandro moved to adjourn; Commissioner Azizsoltani seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
----------------------	---------	---

Submitted by James Mariano, Program Specialist (Office on Aging), 5/4/20

DRAFT