

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
ON-LINE VIA BLUE JEANS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Griffiths at 12:18 p.m.

Present:

Chair Kate Griffiths
Vice-Chair Jessica Crouse
Nalani Kaninau
Sharon Daniels
Ki`i Kaho`ohanohano
Sheron Leihuanani Bissen

Absent:

Mahie McPherson

Excused:

Ex-Officio, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women Stacey Moniz

Present Staff:

Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Darlene Endrina, Community Liaison
Tiffany Iida, Interim Administrative Assistant

Women Helping Women
Executive Director, Sanoë Kaaihue

2. Public Testimony on Agenda Items

- There was no public testimony.

3. Approval of Meetings Minutes of January 21, 2020 and February 18, 2020

- Member Bissen moved and Member Kaho`ohanohano seconded the motion to approve the meetings minutes of July 21, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

4. State Ex-Officio Report – Stacy Moniz

- Ex-Officio Moniz reported that she is now officially a member of the State Commission of the Status of Women (COSW).
- Governor Ige has appointed former Chair of the State COSW as the new Director of the Department of Human Services.
- Former member of Maui County COSW, Leslie Wilkins is on the Maui Economic Recovery Task Force.
- The State COSW is working with an Oahu donor to secure 213 laptops for single mothers and Micronesian students who are struggling to do telework and distance learning.
- University of Hawaii Better Tomorrow will have a Zoom presentation of August 27, 2020 at 1:30pm about Women's 100 years of Women having a vote.

- Three (3) of the women's caucus packages was sent to Governor Ige for approval.
 1. HB 2054 – Prohibits employer from having employee enter into a non-disclosure agreement related to sexual harassment or assault and against an employee reporting sexual harassment and/or assault.
 2. HB 2060 – Family Court may seal any denied Temporary Restraining and/or Protective Order. However, these can be available to law enforcement without a Court Order. Ms. Moniz explained that perpetrators at times file orders against the victims as a form of retaliation. This bill will allow these type of cases to be sealed, so it won't be on the victim's record. These types of orders when on record creates difficulties for the victim to apply for jobs and housing.
 3. HB 2638 – Bill to help relieve the Court's congestion of Domestic Violence cases by allowing to reduce the change the violation of Abuse of Family and/or Household Member from a Misdemeanor to a Petty Misdemeanor as well as allow a deferred acceptance for a Petty Misdemeanor and Misdemeanor of Abuse of Family and/or Household Member. Ms. Moniz explained that this bill may help with getting more of the cases prosecuted. She was initially against it due to it decreasing the offense of the crime, however now sees the value of this bill as it may increase the number of defendants being prosecuted.
- The National Association for the COSW will host a free two (2) day online conference on August 23 – 25, 2020. Panel will include a speaker from the State COSW (member from Kauai) who will speak about violence against women during this time of the pandemic.

5. Discuss Sponsorship of Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness Fair with Women Helping Women (WHW) Executive Director Sanoë Kaaihue

- Date of the DV Awareness Fair to be on October 17, 2020 at UH Maui College parking lot.
- Currently, the event is planned to be a drive thru event. There will be stations for cars to drive up and get information/resources.
- Member Bissen will follow up with UH Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana about getting approval to use the UH Maui College parking lot.
- Members also discussed using the Keopuolani Park parking lot. Darlene Endrina said this would need further discussion with the Parks Department to determine any rules due to the Covid 19 restrictions. Members discussed that this event should be permissible as it is very similar to the various drive thru food and school supplies drive thru events. Ms. Endrina asked for the request to use Keopuolani park to be placed in writing, so that this can be forwarded to the Department of Parks and Recreation to review and approve.
- Chair Griffith said that she has completed an article about Domestic Violence for the Maui Mamma's magazine. It is with Sanoë Kaaihue to approve. The article also speaks about the COSW's DV Awareness Fair.
- Ms. Kaaihue said that they will work on the flow to minimize wait time. Member Kaho`ohanohano suggested that all information/resources be gathered prior to the event and placed into one bag to make the give-away easier.
- There will also be an area for those needing face to face counseling, advice, etc. available to those in need.
- Ms. Kaaihue said that along with WHW, CFS, PACT and MPD are on board to participate and help the event.

6. Update on Council Vice Chair Rawlins-Fernandez's Resolution to Council Chair Lee Regarding Supporting and Urging the Mayor to Support a Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19 – Chair Griffiths

- Ms. Endrina reported that she did approach Mayor Victorino when this issue was brought up. She was informed that the committee was already set up and started meeting. Ipo Mossman, Community Liaison was going to follow up with Mayor Victorino and Managing Director Sandy Baz. Ms. Endrina is not aware if Mr. Mossman did speak with the Mayor and MD and if he did, what was the outcome.
- Members did speak about the lack of women that are on the Economic Recovery Task Force. They did note that one positive is that as previously discussed, Ms. Leslie Wilkins is on the task force and would be good voice for women.
- Ms. Bissen suggested getting a letter from Mayor Victorino stating that at this time a member from the Commission of the Status of Women will not be on the task force. The members discussed that they are not trying to force the issue of being on the task force, but want to show that they tried to get on as per the Resolution by Vice Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

7. Discuss the Establishment of a I loko. Waena. Imua. (IWI) Program to Assist Women in Prison in Maui County – Member Kaho`ohanohano

- Member Kaho`ohanohano reported that she has not had communication with IWI recently. She did report that IWI is excited to partner with COSW.
- Chair Griffiths suggested having a representative from IWI attend the next COSW Zoom meeting to provide information about the program.
- Member Kaninau asked if anyone is allowed to visit with inmates at this time. Member Kaho`ohanohano said no, visitors are currently not allowed. She also reported that there is a delay with inmates receiving any of their personal items delivered as well. Outside support services are also not allowed at this time.

8. Discuss University of Hawaii Better Tomorrow Speaker Series – Webinar on Women's Suffrage and the Right to Vote – Vice Chair Crouse

- Vice Chair Crouse reiterated the information that was provided in earlier discussion from Ex-Officio Moniz's report. Vice Crouse said that she has attended past webinars and they provide great information and would suggest everyone take advantage and attend the webinars. The URL for the webinar is manoa.hawaii.edu/speakers.

9. Discuss Budget Status for Fiscal year 2020 – 2021 – Chair Griffiths

- Chair Griffiths went over the Budget details that was sent to all members via email.
- Chair Griffiths also reported that the advertising for COSW was completed and sent out to various advertisers.
- Member Bissen asked if the Sex Trafficking Outreach can be increased. Member Bissen said that this amount may be too low. She will reach out to the speakers that were present at UH Maui College to get cost. Chair Griffith said yes, that the amount can be increased by the approval of the COSW Board.

10. Discuss Ordinance No. 5070 Relating to Attendance at Board, Commission, and Committee Meetings by Appointed Members – Chair Griffiths

- Chair Griffiths said she spoke with Member McPherson about her attendance and serving on the board. Per Chair Griffiths, Member McPherson's father had a stroke at the beginning of the year and had to take vacation time to care for him. Due to this she had to use up her vacation time, she did not have enough to be able to take vacation time to attend the COSW meetings. She will have accrued more and will be able to regularly attend meetings starting next month.
- Ms. Endrina is concerned about Member McPherson's attendance/correspondence and that the Board should be following any attendance rules.
- Chair Griffiths read out the rules as stated in Ordinance No. 5070. Chair Griffiths spoke with Sherilyn Otsubo about attendance and per Ms. Otsubo, the start of the new Commission year is March 2020. So, for Ms. McPherson to be in good standing with the COSW Board, she would have to attend all meetings beginning next month.
- Ms. Endrina said that she will also discuss attendance with Mr. Ipo Mossman.
- Member Bissen is requesting a copy of the attendance ordinance. Chair Griffiths asked for Tiffany Iida to get the ordinance and email it to the Board Members. Tiffany Iida, acknowledged the request and will get the ordinance to the members.

11. Discuss the Committee on the Status of Women Tote Bag Giveaway Options – Member Kaninau

- Member Kaninau showed the bags to all the members via Bluejeans and suggested these be used for the DV Event in October.
- Member Kaninau reported that there is a total of 500 bags.
- Chair Griffiths asked if the County Seal should be on the bag? Both Chair Griffiths and Ms. Endrina thought it was discussed to have the seal on the bag. Member Kaninau said that the color seal was really pricey. Chair Griffiths said that it can be all white. Member Kaninau will price this.
- Ms. Endrina said that more bags should be ordered and suggested that more durable bags be ordered.
- The members discussed using the bag for food drives. There was discussion over what should be placed in the bag (food, baby needs, feminine needs, etc.) and how to best distribute it.
- Chair Griffiths asked Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo if these are items that COSW can purchase with funds. Kristina said yes, as it would fall under community outreach. Ms. Endrina said the cost to purchase items for the community would take up the entire budget. Chair Griffiths said that the Board could specify an amount to be used and for items to be given to those in need. Ms. Toshikiyo reminded the Board that should they expend funds on anything it needs to be for the entire County of Maui.
- Vice Chair Crouse suggested COSW also get community involvement by seeking donation and make items need based and meaningful.
- Member Kaninau suggested speaking with Nelson Okumura of VIP Food Service (who is also on the Economic Recovery Task Force) about purchasing items at cost, etc.
- Chair Griffiths suggested creating a subcommittee to determine what to use the bags for and bring the ideas to the Members/Board for approval. Member Kaninau made the motion,

Member Bissen second the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Member Kaninau will chair the committee.

12. Subcommittee Status Update

- **Website Coordination Subcommittee** – Nothing to report.
- **Women’s Survey Subcommittee** – Member Kaninau is gathering all the information from the surveys and has a few more to complete. She shared some of the information that she has already gathered. Once complete she will share the information with the board. Member Kaninau will also be providing the information to Member Bissen to have her UHMC students place the results of the survey onto charts/graphs.
- **Voter Registration Subcommittee** – Chair Griffiths reported that this year had the highest voting percentage in many years and that the Ad to encourage women to vote is complete and will be in The Mauimama and also sent out to other publications. Member Kaninau reminded members that they can volunteer to help with the Office of Elections from October 23 to November 3, 2020.
- **Human Trafficking Subcommittee** – Vice Chair Crouse said that the committee has not met, but will do so now that the budget has been established. She did report that Ho`ola na pua has secured \$800,000.00 for Pearl Haven (home for girls coming out of sex trafficking). Chair Griffiths said 160,000.00 was line itemed for sex trafficking.
- **Women of Excellence Recognition Event Subcommittee** – Member Daniels said that gifts and awards have been distributed.
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Fair Subcommittee** – Updated provided in Agenda No. 5.

13. Agenda Setting

The next meeting agenda are to include the following items:

- DV Awareness Fair
- Economic Recovery Task Force
- I loko Waena Imua – Presentation
- Tote Bag Giveaway
- Discussion of the University of Hawaii Better Tomorrow Webinar

14. Additional Comments

- Member Bissen commented that COSW should have a refresher training on commission obligations/expectations.
- Member Daniels stated that in the past former Corporation Counsel Jerrie Sheppard said that COSW is not allowed to seek donations.
- Chair Griffiths asked Corporation Counsel Toshikiyo to assist with providing COSW Members with commission obligations/expectations as members and to also look into being able to seek out donation.

15. Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. online via bluejeans.com

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.