



# Maui County Council on Aging

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

## COUNCIL ON AGING (COA)

October 13, 2020

12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans Video/Teleconference

Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/988428221?src=calendarLink>

**Call to Order: 12:53 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mei Lani Aki, Chair Debbie Cabebe, Doreen Forsberg, Arleen Gerbig, Susan Lussier, Judy Mikami, Miguel Morales, Lois Prey, Ed Romson, Leonardo Sequeira

**Members Excused:** Brian Hauser, Vice Chair Yuki-Lei Sugimura

**Members Absent:** Agnes Groff, Vivian Lindsey, Katherine Smith

**Guests Present:** None

**County Staff Present:** Vicki Belluomini (Office on Aging), Kevin Dusenbury, Jr (Office on Aging), Sanya Lucas (Office on Aging), James Mariano (Office on Aging), Deborah Stone-Walls (Office on Aging), Claudette Medeiros (Office on Aging), Daniel Kunkel (Deputy Corporation Counsel), and Kristina Toshikiyo (Deputy Corporation Counsel)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	Chair Debbie Cabebe called the meeting to order at 12:53 p.m.	
2. Roll Call of Council on Aging Members	Chair Debbie Cabebe conducted Roll Call.	
3. Introduction of County staff and members of the public in attendance	County staff introduced themselves. There were no members of the public in attendance.	
4. Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2020	Members reviewed the August 11, 2020 meeting minutes. Revised Molokai report per Councilmember Mikami to read: Packages of personal hygiene supplies were delivered to Home Pumehana for distribution to kupuna living there through a drive-thru event. The drive through was sponsored by Maui County and employees distributed bags to cars. This allowed the seniors to remain in vehicles and reduce exposure to COVID.	Councilmember Prey moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Councilmember Morales seconded. Motion to approve corrected minutes passed unanimously.



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<p>5. Public Testimony on Agenda Items</p>	<p>None. Chair Debbie Cabebe called for a motion to close testimony as no testifiers were present.</p>	<p>Councilmember Romson moved to close Public Testimony; Councilmember Gerbig seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p>6. Regional/Area Reports</p>	<p>a. Hana: COVID-19—Reactions of Kupuna; Senior Service Providers Status – Executive on Aging Deborah Stone-Walls:</p> <p>The reactions of Hana ambulatory seniors to COVID-19 may be categorized in 3 groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing life as usual while complying with social distancing, mask wearing, and other CDC guidelines and local directives as required.</li> <li>2. Significant reduction in the number of public outings including allowable social and religious gatherings. However, when they do venture out, they were obeying CDC guidelines, etc.</li> <li>3. Voluntarily remaining at home in relative isolation with minimal physical contact with others not of their household in an effort to prevent COVID-19 infection.</li> </ol> <p>For groups 2 and 3, shopping, banking, and other errands were done by household members and/or friends who took precautions to minimize infecting their Kupuna.</p> <p>Regarding seniors who are homebound, family caregivers who were now unemployed due to the shutdown of non-essential businesses were now able to care for their loved ones on a more full-time basis while collecting unemployment insurance benefits. Some family caregivers considered this a win-win situation while other family caregivers—those now caring for their loved ones for longer periods of time than usual—experienced more stress and risked burning out.</p> <p><b>Updates of Hana Senior Service Providers</b></p> <p><b>Hale Hulu Mamo Hana Senior Center</b> reopened to Kupuna on July 14, 2020. <b>MEO Transportation</b> shuttle service has resumed allowing Kupuna another mode of transportation to the Center. COVID-19 protocols are still in effect. A new activity of Zoom Hula with Kauai Krueger of <b>Hui No Ke Ola Pono</b> started mid-August each Wednesday morning. The</p>	



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Hana staff of **Hui No Ke Ola Pono** also treated the hula participants to foot soaks and facials.

**Kaunoa Senior Services Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals** continued to deliver meals to participants as the Kupuna not allowed to gather for lunch.

**Hui No Ke Ola Pono** received more funding to resume in October home-delivered meals to Kupuna living in the outlying areas of Kaupo, Kipahulu, Nahiku and Keanae.

**Ohana Makamae Hana Family Resource Center** continued food box distribution to Kupuna and their families on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

**MEO Transportation** shuttle service to Kahului/Wailuku continues with limited passengers to maintain social distancing. Passengers are also required to wear masks.

**Hana Health** held a Kupuna Drive Thru Flu Shot Event on September 8 and 15.

**East Maui Kupuna Hui** (identified as East Maui Kupuna Response Hui in the previous report) is working on a resource guide for Kupuna and Caregivers of the Hana District. This Hui has also started a pilot program Kāko‘o Kupuna to provide assistance for in home caregiver relief, socialization activities, chore service, grocery shopping and transportation during this COVID period.

Executive on Aging Deborah Stone-Walls attended the **East Maui Kupuna Response Hui** meeting this week. East Maui residents are experiencing quite a high level of anxiety right now with the islands opening back up to tourists. They’re nervous about how to respond if they see someone not wearing a mask. With the increase of misinformation on social media about COVID-19 on whether to wear masks, etc. the hui is trying to identify a strategy to truthfully communicate and educate folks in a community relevant language. Community response often appears “pre-COVID” because of how/when people gather. When the community was closed residents felt safer. With opening not only to Mauians, but soon to tourists, Hana folks are frightened COVID will come to them.

b. Lanai: Deferred



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	<p>c. Molokai: Deferred</p> <p>d. Veterans: Deferred</p>	
<p>7. Maui County Office On Aging Report</p>	<p>a. Impact of COVID-19 on Maui County Seniors and Family Caregivers and the services they receive. Review of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency Community Based Organizational Capacity and Needs for COVID-19 Response and Recovery Survey (passed out to members at the August 11, 2020 meeting and Deferred). Executive on Aging Deborah Stone-Walls reported on the results of the survey. This was a statewide report, but overall Maui is experiencing many of the impacts of COVID and there is a lot of commonality across the state. Immediate issues started out being food and hunger, housing, mental health needs, COVID-19 specific concerns such as having adequate PPE, cleaning supplies, what's happening with quarantine and testing, job loss, financial strain and access to health care. These were the immediate needs and it seems like these are continuing today. The second question that was asked was what do you foresee as the top issues or problems that will emerge or be exacerbated within the next 6-12 months. We're now past the 6 month mark and many of the things people imagined would be issues, remain issues. All of the above issues were listed again along with telemedicine and technological divides and family related concerns, including domestic violence, child abuse, child care, as well as elder abuse issues with an increased number of scams emerging and the sense of the loss of community and being socially isolated. One thing people did not anticipate is the amount of misinformation being spread and how quickly it spreads. MCOA fields a lot of questions and we are clearing up rumors every day. One of the immediate needs agencies seem to be encountering is the lack of the ability to conduct home visits and face to face meetings. Another question asked in the survey was what additional or new services would you like to support. One that stood out was food resources including farm operators and food pantries. For the folks with disabilities, the main challenges that were anticipated were access to services, communication across virtual platforms, telehealth challenges, social isolation and meeting those basic needs. Financial strain on organizations was also mentioned a lot in the survey.</p>	



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b. Brief updates regarding program initiatives:

- Feeding Maui Nui: Executive on Aging Deborah Stone-Wall reported the program has exploded with 35-45 new participant packets going out every day. There are currently 15 trucks on Maui and 9 on Molokai. Nutrition Education information is being included in these packets. There have been more than 10,000 vouchers distributed and 600 people enrolled.
- Furry Friends: Aging & Disability Program Specialist Vicki Belluomini reported Maui County Office on Aging will be purchasing 200 robotic companion pets to assist in alleviating social isolation, loneliness, anxiety and depression for elders living alone or living with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. There are dogs, cats and kittens. These companion pets have sensors so they respond to touch, light and sound. The dogs bark and the cats purr. Ms. Belluomini shared her personal experience with a robotic cat she purchased since her landlord will not allow pets and she is very happy with it.
- PERS: Aging & Disability Program Specialist Vicki Belluomini reported Maui County Office on Aging will also be purchasing 100 Personal Emergency Response Systems. There will be 50 tablets and 50 LivelyMobile devices with fall detection. Tablets will offer emergency help for elders along with many other features such as video chat, telemedicine, Active Daily Living Website that offers Newsletters for caregivers and many other resources, a brain health app, and a physical exercise app. The Lively Mobile will provide fall detection, 24/7 emergency assistance anytime or anywhere as well as the ability to push the button and just talk with someone if the elder is lonely. Both the tablet and the LivelyMobile device are designed to assist in an emergency as well as help reduce social isolation, loneliness, anxiety and depression.
- Active Daily Living Website: Aging & Disability Program Specialist Kevin Dusenbury Jr. reported this is an enhancement of our ADRC website. Active Daily Living provides a one-stop place for validated resources. It is currently in the testing phase so not live yet. They have a monthly Newsletter and one feature of this is the ability to tailor Newsletters to a person's needs after they answer a few questions. Councilmember Romson volunteered to do Beta testing.
- Enhance®Fitness (EF): Aging & Disability Program Specialist Claudette Medeiros reported in-person classes



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are still suspended. They have produced 6 fitness videos that are shown on Akaku TV every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9am and 4pm until further notice. These videos can also be viewed on the ADRC website. They check in regularly with participants and are getting great reviews from them on the videos. They are currently producing a new video and are also looking into developing virtual classes. Currently a couple of sites where EF classes were being held are now open, but not yet to EF. They are hoping to open a couple of small in-person classes by the end of the year.

- Care Notes: Aging & Disability Program Specialist James Mariano reported this is a partnership between Maui County Office on Aging and the Maui branch of the Alzheimer's Association. These we designed to help people feel cared about and less isolated during the COVID-19 lock down when family members were prohibited from visiting loved ones. Three sites were chosen for distribution of the Care Notes, Hale Makua, Roselani Place and Kula Hospital. The goal was to get 200 cards completed by community members and they have now collected 1215 and expect at least 800 more.

### 8. Upcoming Events

- a. Senior Fair, October 23, 2020:  
Chair Cabebe reported she and Deborah Stone-Walls will be on the radio on the 20<sup>th</sup> with Kathy Collins on KAOI promoting the fair. They've been running commercials and it will be a great program. There will be great entertainment, it will be interactive, there will be commercials and swag bags. 1500 bags were donated by Hawaiian Electric. Executive on Aging Deborah Stone-Walls reported the fair will be simultaneously broadcast on Facebook Live, Akaku and Zoom. The following week MCOA and MEO will work together on swag bag distribution at designated drive-through swag bag pick-up sites across Maui island. Chair Cabebe reported MEO has received several donations for the bags.
- b. Caregivers Conference, November 2020:  
Executive on Aging Deborah Stone-Walls stated that this year in partnership with AARP, the four Area Agencies on Aging across the state will provide a series of Caregiver Wednesdays for 4 or 6 weeks in November. These will be live virtual workshops and will be held once in the morning and once in the afternoon each Wednesday. Maui County Office on Aging is scheduled to provide the workshop on November 18<sup>th</sup>.



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Agenda Items for Future Meetings	<p>a. Councilmember Romson proposed the Council get the Mayor's position on opening up Maui to tourism and for the Council to put forth a position from the kupuna standpoint of both health and tourism mixing in order to support the Mayor. Kristina Toshikiyo from Corporation Counsel recommended having two agenda items for this. The Council can request a Mayor's representative come to the Council and present the Mayor's position and then the Council can have a discussion on recommendations to put in a letter to the Mayor.</p> <p>b. Councilmember Lussier asked about getting data on senior suicide attempts and completions. Chair Cabebe thought it a good idea and recommended we add it to the February agenda and have a presenter come in just as we are having a representative from the Mayor's office come next meeting.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	December 15, 2020 at 12:30pm. The meeting will most likely be done virtually, using video/teleconference technology, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.	
Adjournment	Chair Debbie Cabebe adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.	

Submitted by Vicki R. Belluomini, 10/22/2020