

**COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
COUNTY OF MAUI**

**Chair:** Hannibal Starbuck

**Vice-Chair:**  
Maria Larrucea  
Solomon

August 17, 2020  
10:30 A.M.

**Members:**

Ex-Officio, Kaina Bonacorsi

Alexandria Domingo

Elizabeth Fujii

William Kinaka

Zane Lacaden

Clifford Libed

Nancy Ooki

Kelly Pearson

**MEETING SITE:**

Online Only

Phone Testimony: 1-408-915-6290; Meeting ID: 493370450

Video Testimony: <https://bluejeans.com/493370450>

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Maria Larrucea Solomon  
Nancy Ooki  
Zane Lacaden,  
Kaina Bonacorsi, Ex- officio  
Kelly Pearson

Excused: Hannibal Starbuck, Cliff Libed, Alexandria Domingo, William Kinaka

Guests: None Present

Staff Present: Kristina Toshikiyo, Corp Counsel  
Ailina Tagupa-Laborte, Secretary, DHHC

**1. CALL TO ORDER – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m. by Vice-Chair Maria Solomon.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS – WELCOME NEW MEMBER, ELIZABETH FUJII**

Members welcomed new member Elizabeth Fujii. Member Fujii is currently the Executive Director of Molokai Child Abuse Prevention Pathways (MCAPP) program. She has been on Molokai for three years, previously in Oahu for 15 years, and also worked in Washington D.C. She brings a decade of experience in non-profit management. Ms. Fujii graduated from Washington University with a Bachelor's in Psychology and has participated in fundraising, community wellness, and social change programs. Ms. Fujii was the program manager at KUPU, a malama aina pathway program

for the youth of Hawaii before moving to Molokai. Member Fujii explained the mission of MCAPP is to keep children safe and promote 'ohana wellbeing by preventing sexual violence and building healthy relationships with families in their community. Ms. Fujii discussed how sexual abuse is a tough subject, and that the organization does many events and programs with the Molokai elementary, middle, and high schools to educate its students and faculty in how to recognize, and report suspected abuse. Member Fujii stated, "It certainly takes a lot of courage to work on this issue of sexual violence, but it can actually bring us together. It can bring out our best. And there are protective factors. There's a lot of resilience here. Though we're talking and working on tough stuff, but really trying to build positive as well."

Commission on Children and Youth members welcomed Ms. Fujii.

Members followed by introducing themselves.

Member, Ex-Officio Kaina Bonacorsi introduced herself first. Ms. Bonacorsi stated she is the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Coordinator (ECRC). She stated her program serves families of young children on a range of topics prenatal to kindergarten entry. Ms. Bonacorsi does have past experience working with teenagers as well. Member Bonacorsi has been the ECRC for 13 years. She is a mom of three ages 12, 14, and 18.

Member Nancy Ooki introduced herself second. Ms. Ooki currently works at the University of Manoa, however her program is located at the UH Maui College. She is the Interim State 4-H Program Leader and Maui County 4-H Agent. She is mother of 4, with three on the mainland.

Member Kelly Pearson introduced herself third. Ms. Pearson is the Executive Director at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. She had just celebrated 23 years working at the center.

Member Zane Lacaden introduced himself next. Mr. Lacaden was born and raised on Oahu. He is currently the store manager at Hot Topic. Prior to that, he was a youth prevention specialist with TIFFE. He enjoys his current position as he is able to still connect with the youth every day.

Member Maria Solomon introduced herself as the last present member. Ms. Solomon has been on Maui for around six years. She was the board president at Ko'olauloa Health Center in Kahuku, Oahu. The center started with one site, then bought the property next to the hospital to expand. They also put a health center in the Kahuku High School. She is a mother of an adult son, who is a Master Ship's Captain. Her husband is from Hana. Member Solomon is interested in the Commission on Children and Youth because she believes it's important to support our children.

Secretary Ailina Laborte introduced herself. Ms. Laborte is the Secretary at the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. She has been with various organizations on Maui. Prior to joining the County of Maui, she was

the Coordinator at PATCH Maui, and worked closely with Ms. Bonacorsi. She was born and raised on the island and also taught at preschools throughout her early career.

Corp Counselor, Kristina Toshikiyo introduced herself. Ms. Toshikiyo is one of the newest deputies to the Corp Counsel Department. She has been here for four years. Prior to the County, she was a deputy A.G. at the Child Support division. Ms. Toshikiyo was also a guardian-ad-litem for the courts.

### **3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Member Solomon opened Public Testimony. No public testimony given. No opposition. Public testimony closed.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

Member Solomon calls for a motion to approve the February 10, 2020 minutes. Member Pearson motions to approve, Member Lacaden seconds the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

### **5. EFFECTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND RELATED ISSUES OF THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN MAUI COUNTY**

#### **a. Department of Education**

Ex-Officio Member Bonacorsi reports the DOE will be having students in distance learning for the first quarter. Currently, each school is working on the logistics individually. In Maui County, programs such as the YMCA, and Boys and Girls Club is working with the Mayor's Office to find solutions to help support families as their children transition to distance learning and provide safe childcare. Member Bonacorsi also added information about the Early Childhood population. Ms. Bonacorsi stated she will contact the child care providers and preschools to receive an update on their re-opening schedules. She also asked the Commission to get the word out about the County childcare assistance program. All families are eligible as long as they use a licensed provider, and one parent is returning to work. Member Bonacorsi suggested we refer families to PATCH for a licensed list of child care programs.

#### **b. Boys & Girls Club**

Member Pearson stated she received a call from the Mayor on March 13, having to shut down approximately 8 sites that were on the County parks. Shortly after, Ms. Pearson had to shut down the other 4 sites, two on Hawaiian Home Lands, one at Lokelani Elementary, and one at Kihei Elementary. Currently, staff are working remotely but the Club will begin to open virtual sites. Member Pearson shared they slowly opened back up in the summer serving 9 year olds to 11 year olds first, then slowly reopening to the older children. As schools reopened, the students remained within their school programs, so she had her site directors contact their respective schools to let them know they were also accepting

children. As time progressed on, Boys and Girls Club was able to keep open four sites from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The clubhouses came up with more policies and procedures and can accommodate 30 to 50 children depending on the site. They continue to operate with parents needing to call in first, and Ms. Pearson is working with the County to make safety a priority. Member Pearson did share that they were able to have their annual Teen Expo over the summer virtually. The event is to support the prevention of underage drinking. The Expo had many teens sign up online, and entertainment was provided by Josh Totofi and Anuhea. The Club also held a day where they distributed over a thousand enrichment bags with age appropriate books and activities.

**c. MEO/Head Start**

Member Alex Domingo returned to the Head Start centers today, so Ex-Officio Bonacorsi was able to provide some information. Ms. Bonacorsi shared that Federal guidance has allowed the program to operate with open sites and virtually at home. She will follow up with Head Start later in the week to find out how the virtual learning will operate and if sites on DOE campuses will reopen. Currently the program continues to provide wrap around services for the families such as food, financial, and housing security.

**d. UH Maui College**

Member Ooki shared that working as a UH Manoa program on a UH Maui site has been a little complicated when having to adhere to two different guidelines at the same time. Due to the changes, the Maui campus could not have groups with more than two people, which shut down most programs. The livestock show was canceled in July, as well as the news of Maui County not holding a fair this year. There were some challenges along the way, however her program was able to pass out some achievement awards with the clubs virtually. Currently, Member Ooki is working with club leaders and staff to move forward with virtual clubs while providing positive youth development pieces. The children would be able to do their projects online with each other. Otherwise, the college itself has gone mostly online, with nursing and automotive programs still on campus.

**e. Molokai Child Abuse Prevention Pathways**

Member Fujii shared the schools on Molokai are still open except the High School who is currently undertaking online learning. Ms. Fujii stated they planned an event for a thousand people in April, which was canceled due to COVID. Recently, MCAPP joined a small local hui in response to COVID, which provides support in times of need, preventing caregivers from abusing their children. They focused on concrete needs, the food bank, chopping kalo, etc., to pull together emotional support and publicize food resources. Unfortunately, the island is experiencing delays in shipping. The Hawaii Diaper bank has been donating diapers which will be distributed to early childhood programs on the island. Member Fujii's team is working on bridging a digital divide, working to provide broadband and computer access for families. Currently, the Molokai community

agencies are experiencing a high volume of crisis calls, with families struggling to make ends meet. Member Fujii and MCAPP are trying to be there for everyone emotionally and socially as much as possible, and just be present for their community.

**f. General Community Info**

Ex-Officio Member Bonacorsi shared she is working with the Children's Action Network, participating in virtual events, many focused on resilience training, and will send out information to anyone interested. Ms. Bonacorsi encourages everyone to participate in the 2020 Census, as that is how States receive funding for different programs. This year's Children and Youth Day event will be held virtually in October, and another Fatherhood Commission is starting up soon.

Member Ooki shared she heard about a Hawaii afterschool alliance forming to get guidelines in place for children, however it's been an uphill battle to get many stakeholders on the same page.

Secretary Laborte shared the COVID Maui Nui website with members for further resources.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Solomon called for a motion to adjourn. Member Ooki motioned to adjourn, member Lacaden seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 11:28am.

**AGENDA ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION**

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE CALLED IN ORDER FOR THE BOARD TO CONSULT WITH THEIR ATTORNEY ON QUESTIONS AND ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE BOARD'S POWERS, DUTIES, PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES AND LIABILITIES, PURSUANT TO SEC. 92-5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES (H.R.S.)

BOARD PACKETS, AS DEFINED BY SECTION 92-7.5 OF THE H.R.S., ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS' ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, LOCATED AT 2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546, WAILUKU, HI. BOARD PACKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BY REQUEST.

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS OR REQUIRE ACCOMODATION THAT WOULD ASSIST IN YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING (I.E., LARGE PRINT, TAPED MATERIALS, SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, HANDICAPPED-ACCESSIBLE PARKING, ETC.), PLEASE CALL AILINA LABORTE AT 270-7805 AT LEAST FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING.

**COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH VISION STATEMENT**

All Maui County children and youth will reach adulthood having experienced a safe, healthy and nurturing childhood which prepares them to become responsible and contributing members of the community.

**COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION STATEMENT**

The Commission on Children and Youth promotes the well-being of Maui County children, youth and families so our children and youth can achieve their full potential as contributing citizens of our community.

The Commission advances its mission by: (1) identifying the needs of young people and their families, and the groups and agencies that serve them; (2) informing and advising the Maui County Mayor, the County Council, and the community at large; (3) making recommendations on policies, programs, legislative priorities and on requested matters related to children and youth proposed for adoption by the County Council; (4) affirming the needs, aspirations and achievements of all of the children, youth and families of Maui County.

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