



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021
12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans Video/Teleconference

Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/994153803?src=calendarLink>

Call to Order: 12:31 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chair Evalina ‘Nani’ Watanabe, Vice-Chair John Copeland, Joseph D’Alessandro, Faraz Azizoltani, Cranston Kapoi, Ricky Sanches, Melody Uchimura, and Kimberly West.

Commissioners Absent: none, one vacant

Guests Present: Beverly Stanich; Telecia Blythe; Ellen Lundquist; Gay Sibonga and Harry Johnston of MEO, Inc.

County Staff Present: Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA): Deborah Stone-Walls, James Mariano, Claudette Medeiros; Maui County Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana; Mayor’s Office, Ipo Mossman

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Action</i>
1. Call to Order/Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 12:31 pm; 8 members present, and 1 vacant position.	There is quorum.
2. Public Comments and Testimony	There was no one from the public who logged/called in to testify.	Public testimony closed.
3. Approval of Minutes	Commissioners reviewed meeting minutes from December 10, 2020. Vice Chair Copeland pointed out a correction; the date of the next meeting on page 5 should be “January 14,” not February 11.	Commissioner D’Allesandro moved to approve the minutes with correction; seconded by Commissioner West. All in favor of approving; motion passed. No further discussion.



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4. Old Business	A. Update on the Mission and Vision Statement for the Commission. Staff member J. Mariano reported that the newly adopted mission and vision statements are now featured in the meeting agenda notices as well as on the Commission page on the County website.	
5. New Business	A. Invitation letter to the new chair of the Affordable Housing Committee Councilmember Gabe Johnson to attend a Commission meeting. A draft was screen shared for members to review and comment. With one correction suggested (move the statement “Our Commission meets every second Thursday of each month, currently via BlueJeans” to the end of the letter, the commissioners took a vote. Discussion took place on extending a separate invitation to Councilmember Tasha Kama, who used to chair the Affordable Housing Committee but now chairs the newly formed Human Concerns and Parks committee. This letter would be different because of the broader subject matter of human services.	Motion made by Vice Chair Copeland to approve and send the letter with the stated correction. Seconded by Commissioner Sanches. All in favor; no objection. Motion passes. Staff member J. Mariano will revise the draft of the invitation letter to Council member Johnson so that it can be signed by the Chair and mailed to him before the next meeting. Vice Chair Copeland offered to draft a letter to Council member Tasha Kama to invite her to attend a Commission meeting and will send to MCOA staffer before the next meeting.



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	<p>B. Discussion on Hawaiian Community Assets Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan and Community Meetings. Several meetings remain that the public can attend. Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana recommended that commissioners take advantage of the opportunity to login and participate in the online meetings.</p> <p>C. Open discussion with individuals who have disabilities on their need for affordable housing and accessible homes in Maui County. Member from the public, Telecia Blythe shared her experience of the challenges in finding housing as a person with a disability. She cites specifically the inability to find housing using HUD vouchers, housing due to family size, her age, and the overall shortage of homes without solar panels to offset costs. Commissioners thanked her for speaking up on the issue and was encouraged to share her story at the County Council members in related hearings.</p>	<p>Staff member J. Mariano offered to find out if sessions are being recorded for future viewing and how to go about accessing them.</p>
<p>6. Upcoming Events/ Announcements</p>	<p>MEO's 2nd Annual Abilities Awareness Fair by Maui Independent Living Center, January 22, 2021, 10-11:30am via Zoom and on MEO's Facebook page.</p>	<p>Contact: Nani Watanabe, 249-2990.</p>
<p>7. Agenda Setting</p>	<p>A. Bus services for people with disabilities- Discussion with the County Department of Transportation, Maui Economic Opportunity Transportation, and Roberts Hawaii (tentatively scheduled for February 2021).</p> <p>B. Paratransit Advisory Council update by the County Department of Transportation.</p> <p>C. Kaahumanu Avenue Community Corridor project (to be scheduled)</p> <p>D. Discussion on services/resources for those who are homeless and have mental disabilities (Homeless Program Division, Department of Housing and Human Concerns). (to be scheduled)</p>	<p>MCOA staffer J. Mariano to follow-up with inviting transportation representatives to the next meeting and scheduling other items for future meetings.</p>



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8. Next Meeting Date	Meeting ended 2:27 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. and will be done virtually using BlueJeans.	Commissioner Kapoi moved to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Sanches seconded. All in favor; no objections. Motion passed.
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Submitted by James Mariano, Program Specialist (Maui County Office on Aging), 2/03/2021

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