



# 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**  
**February 11, 2021**  
**12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans Video/Teleconference**

**Meeting Link:** <https://bluejeans.com/147234477/8313?src=calendarLink>

**Call to Order:** 12:31 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Evalina ‘Nani’ Watanabe, Faraz Azizsoltani, Joseph D’Alessandro, Cranston Kapoi, Ricky Sanches, Beverly Stanich, Melody Uchimura, and Kimberly West.

**Commissioners Absent:** Vice Chair John Copeland

**Guests Present:** Ellen Lundquist; Telecia Blythe; Gay Sibonga and Harry Johnson of MEO, Inc.; Kelisa Paleafai and Douglas Lucas of Roberts Hawaii; Roxann Kehus, Developmental Disabilities Council; Gertrude Espinoza

**County Staff Present:** Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA): James Mariano, Claudette Medeiros; Maui County Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana; Mayor’s Office, Ipo Mossman; Maui County Department of Transportation (MDOT): Director Marc Takamori, Deputy Director Michael DuPont; County Councilman Gabe Johnson

<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. MCOA staffer J. Mariano announced that the John Copeland contacted him and said he was resigning from the commission effective immediately.	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 the meeting minutes of January 14, 2021.	Commissioner West moved to approve the minutes, seconded



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

		by Commissioner Azizoltani. All in favor of approving; motion passed. No further discussion.
4. New Business	<p>A. Bus services for people with disabilities- Discussion with the County Department of Transportation, Maui Economic Opportunity Transportation, and Roberts Hawaii. PowerPoint presentation made by agency representatives: Maui County Department of Transportation Director Marc Takamori and Deputy Director Michael DuPont; operators of the Paratransit bus service-- Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. Transportation Department Harry Johnson; and operator of the fixed-route and commuter bus service-- Roberts Hawaii (Kelisa Peleafai &amp; Douglas Lucas). Overall ridership for transportation is down since the start of the pandemic.</p> <p>Salient points from the presentation:</p> <p>Commissioner West asked about the grievance policy, how it's made, etc. Director Takamori stated there are processes for each agency in handling these matters. The County works with its vendors in resolving situations. The DOT has in-bus cameras on their vehicles that can be used in doing investigations.</p> <p>Commissioner D'Allesandro commented that having the Quantum system-locking mechanism on the buses are great but one critique is the rider faces everyone else. He would recommend having a design review to create more privacy for the rider. Dr. Takamori said the idea is a consideration and this sentiment was supported by Telecia Blythe.</p> <p>Commissioner Uchimura wanted to address the language used in the presentation slides referring to mental retardation. The preferred phrasing should be intellectual disability or developmental disability. The former term is considered offensive and should not be used. Commissioner D'Allesandro also</p>	



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

cautioned about using phrasing like “dealing with the disabled.” They are “assisted” and not dealt with. Ms. Peleafai from Roberts Hawaii thanked the commissioners for their feedback and said they would update their slides and incorporate the learning into their training. Commissioner West added another element that can be addressed in driver education is handling mental health and first aid situations.

Commissioner Stanich asked if annual training and updates are done with new employees at the start of employment, besides on-going. Director Takamori said yes.

Corporation Counsel J. Oana brought up the Paratransit Advisory Council: what is it and who is responsible for this group. The Chair asked MEO COO Gay Sibonga to address that. She said the group is an advisory group to MEO, the Paratransit operators, about ADA issues regarding transportation. The number of members has dropped to 5 individuals and MEO is looking to resurrect the council. This body is not a County Board or Commission.

- B. Possible revisions and approval of a letter to invite David Nakama and Christopher Kish of the Homeless Program Division, Department of Housing and Human Concerns, to present to the Commission on the program. The commissioners reviewed the draft and recommended sending it out soon to reserve them a spot to speak in the April meeting.

Motion to approve and send the letter to Mr. Nakama and Mr. Kish made by Commissioner D’Allesandro and seconded by Commissioner West. All in favor; motion carried. No further discussion. J. Mariano to send letter as soon as the Chair’s signature is obtained.



# MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

<p>5. Unfinished Business</p>	<p>A. Revision to Mission and Vision Statement (to revise from “Maui citizens” to “Maui County citizens.”) Commissioner D’Allesandro recommended that instead of the term ‘citizens’ use ‘residents.’</p> <p>B. Invitation letter to the new chair of the Affordable Housing Committee Councilmember Gabe Johnson to attend a Commission meeting to discuss affordable/accessible housing for persons with disabilities in Maui County.</p> <p>C. Invitation letter to chair of the Human Concerns and Parks Committee Councilmember Tasha Kama to attend a Commission meeting to discuss various issues and concerns related to persons with disabilities in Maui County. This item was associated with Vice Chair Copeland who committed to writing the letter. With his resignation, the group discussed that the item should be deferred to another time.</p>	<p>Motion to change the wording to Mission and Vision statements to “Maui County residents” rather than “Maui citizens” made by Commissioner D’Allesandro and seconded by Commissioner Sanches. All in favor, motion carried. No further discussion.</p> <p>J. Mariano reported that the letter to Councilman Johnson was mailed on February 3 and his office responded about his interest in attending a full meeting one day. (He was in attendance at this meeting but had to leave due to another meeting.)</p> <p>Motion to defer this item to a later time made by Commissioner D’Allesandro and seconded by Commissioner West. All in favor, motion carried. No further discussion. Item deferred.</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>D. Discussion and comments on Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA) Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan and Community Meetings. This topic has been in discussion for the past two meetings. Commissioner Kapoi stated he watched one of the community meetings on AKAKU and invited other members to contribute their personal feedback to the plan. Commissioner D’Allesandro shared an article about 3-D printing of homes being done on the US mainland.</p> <p>E. Open discussion with individuals who have disabilities on their need for affordable/accessible housing in Maui County. Commissioner Kapoi said from his experience in construction and working with clients, there is a great need for awareness about the overall challenges people with disabilities experience without accessible features in homes. Commissioner D’Allesandro feels there needs to be more coordination and work amongst the different disability groups in addressing the housing topic.</p>	<p>J. Mariano to look into scheduling HCA as a future speaker/presenter.</p> <p>Commissioners all agreed that having this standing item on the agenda will encourage the opportunity to get feedback from the public.</p>
<p>6. Upcoming Events/ Announcements</p>	<p>March is <i>Developmental Disabilities Awareness</i> month.</p> <p>A. <u>March 2<sup>nd</sup></u> 10am - Mayor Victorino will make a Proclamation. All are welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Join Zoom Meeting - <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86053816070">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86053816070</a> (Meeting ID: 860 5381 6070)</li> </ul> <p>B. <u>March 4<sup>th</sup></u> is the Annual Day at the Capitol event. This year will be online. Everyone is welcome. Register through Eventbrite. Contact Roxann Kehus (<a href="mailto:Roxann.kehus@doh.hawaii.gov">Roxann.kehus@doh.hawaii.gov</a>) for more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="https://hawaii2021capitol.eventbrite.com">https://hawaii2021capitol.eventbrite.com</a></li> </ul>	
<p>7. Agenda Setting</p>	<p>A. Kaahumanu Avenue Community Corridor project by the Department of Planning (tentatively March 2021)</p> <p>B. Update/status by Affordable/Accessible Housing Temporary Investigative Group</p>	<p>MCOA staffer J. Mariano to follow up with inviting the various speakers. The commissioners decided to</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>C. "Talk-story" with Council member Gabe Johnson, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee (tentatively scheduled for March 2021)</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). (tentatively April 2021)</p>	defer item B. for the time being.
8. Next Meeting Date	<p>Meeting ended 2:27 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. and will be virtual using BlueJeans.</p>	<p>Commissioner Kapoi moved to adjourn meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Sanches seconded. All in favor; no objections. Motion passed.</p>

Submitted by James Mariano, Program Specialist (Maui County Office on Aging), 3/05/2021

DRAFT