

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hudson at 1:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

George Kaimiola, Vice-Chair
Faith Chase
Joyce Kawakami
Mary Trotto
Scott Hansen
John Decker
John Tomoso
Lisa Darcy

Excused:

Wendy Hudson, Chair
Zhanell Lindo

Present Staff:

Lori Tsuhako, Director
Mimi Desjardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Pili Nahooikaika, Secretary

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was presented.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Resource Mapping TIG – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Kawakami and Trotto
Commissioner Kawakami suggested that the Commission recommend to the Maui County Council the use of UNITE Hawaii to assist homeless services agencies on Maui.

- Street Medical/Mental Team TIG – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Kawakami, Chase, Hansen, and Trotto
Commissioner Kawakami reported that the TIG is researching what is needed on Maui and what resources and support have been successful on Oahu. The TIG is looking to propose funding through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns budget.
- Monthly Reporting TIG
Nothing to report.
- Diversified Housing Solutions TIG – Members Darcy, Decker, Lindo, Tomoso, and Chase
The TIG discussed prioritizing entry points to create an array of welcoming a diversified, safe, different avenues for people who have different types of needs. Acknowledging that people that are struggling with sobriety, trauma, domestic abuse, or individuals released from prison will have the support needed.
- Social and Community Impacts TIG – Members Darcy, Decker, Kawakami, Tomoso, and Chase
Nothing to report.
- Sustainable Housing TIG – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Decker, and Darcy
Commissioner Chase reported that the TIG is looking at malama cycles with core elements for the urgency of recommendations, regional considerations, green initiatives by means of a portal to collect ideas, and identify challenges.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Stan Franco, Senior Deacon, Catholic Diocese of Honolulu letter of support for housing and the homeless – Member Tomoso
Deacon Franco expressed that religious leaders are concerned about the right of human beings to have appropriate, safe and decent housing and to live with dignity and morale. He expressed that the Maui County Council will vote on a resolution that comes from the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan to provide affordable, decent and suitable homes for purchase or rent, as a right to all residents countywide, including Hana, Molokai and Lanai. He expressed that the hope is to open church doors in evenings so that have a safe place to sleep. Commissioner Trotto disagreed stating that while it will be generous to open doors, churches wouldn't have the ability to provide the necessary means of kitchens and hygiene facilities.
- The New York Times "A Quietly Big Idea on How We Think About Homeless People" – Member Decker
Member Decker brought this to the attention of the commission as a resource to see if using it would be legally feasible.
- The Maui News "Long-term solutions for homeless encampments hard to come by" – Member Tomoso

No discussion taken.

- Presentation by Maui Economic Opportunity Project Team regarding Hale Mahaolu Ke Kahua Affordable Housing Community
Commissioner Trotto moved and Commissioner Tomoso seconded the motion to draft a letter of support for Ke Kahua Affordable Housing project. The motion carried.
- Presentation by Pastor Dan Kaneshiro regarding “The Shelter” project
Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.
- Presentation by Carol Hayashida of Unite Hawaii
Ms. Hayashida reported that Unite Hawaii is a software piece bringing people together with a goal in making community based organizations available to everyone in need of health care at no cost. Ms. Hayashida explained that funding for Unite Hawaii is funded by health care organizations such as Aloha Care, Kaiser Permanente, Blue Health Care, etc. Ms. Hayashida explained that Unite Hawaii will only onboard an organization that is willing to assist resources within the community.
- Sunshine Law Amendments Allowing Remote Meetings
Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Commissioner Trotto seconded the motion to establish a hybrid remote location based on Governor Ige’s emergency proclamation. The motion carried.
Director Tshako confirmed that the Department of Housing and Human Concerns is currently working on securing a location for the remote meetings.
Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HHAW 2021 Calendar of Events – Commissioner Tomoso

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Kaimiola adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m. No motions made or votes taken.