



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)

February 8, 2022

12:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans Video/Teleconference

Meeting Link: <https://bluejeans.com/499746763>

Call to Order: 12:39 pm

Members Present: Chair Doreen Forsberg, Vice-Chair Debbie Cabebe, Council Members Jim Diegel, Arleen Gerbig, Elaine Slavinsky, Laura Vo, Leonardo Sequeira, Edward Romson, Teana Kaho'ohanohano, Helen Tabura, Judith Mikami, John Tomoso and Yuki-Lei Sugimura

Members Excused: Council Members Edwina Wilson-Snyder and Miguel Morales

Members Unexcused Absent: None

County Staff Present: James Mariano (MCOA), Vicki Belluomini (MCOA), Kevin Dusenbury Jr. (MCOA), Claudette Medeiros (MCOA), Rae-Ann Pagatpatan (MCOA), Daniel Kunkel (Deputy Corporation Counsel)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	Chair Doreen Forsberg called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m.	
2. Roll Call of Council on Aging Members	Staff member conducted Roll Call. 13 members were present and 2 members were excused absent.	
3. Public Testimony on Agenda Items	None	
4. Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2021	Members reviewed the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes.	Vice Chair Cabebe moved to approve the minutes; Councilmember Vo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
5. New Business	<p>A. Meet the Council Members Pt 3 – Welcome New Members. New members were asked to briefly introduce themselves.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Edwina Wilson-Snyder – Deferred. 2) John A.H. Tomoso – Former priest and former social worker, including the Executive on Aging role. Very engaged with Legislative committees such as PABEA and other community professional networks. 	



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- B. Mahalo to Council on Aging Members whose terms are up as of March 31, 2022. – Council on Aging said farewell to members whose terms expire on March 31.
- 3) Doreen Forsberg – New Chair will be voted on at April Meeting.
 - 4) Miguel Morales
- C. Refresher of the Sunshine Law – Pursuant to Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statute – Presentation by Deputy Corporation Council Dan Kunkel. Including Ethics and Responsibilities of the Council on Aging.
- A power point was presented covering the Rules of Practice and Procedures required by the Sunshine Law. Deputy Corp. Counsel gave in depth explanation and examples of how the rules pertain to Council on Aging.
- D. Regional/Area Reports – Respective Council members and Staff Secretary covered reports as detailed on the agenda. No additional reporting.
- 1) Hana: The Hana Community is suffering from community spread of the Omicron variant of the novel Corona-virus 2019. In the month of January alone Hana Health reported 72 new cases of infection. Hana Health has been actively promoting vaccines and boosters to all that are eligible and following CDC Guidelines. Unfortunately, Ho'okele Caregivers Maui lost their remaining worker at the end of December. As a result, various services are Wait-listed until further notice. Fortunately, Kaunoa Senior Services with the assistance of Hale Mahaolu and the Hawaii State Department of Education continues to provide 5 home-delivered meals each week through the Meals on Wheels Program. The Hana nutrition site of the Kaunoa Congregate Meals Program has suspended gathering due to COVID but continues to deliver meals to its current participants at least 3 days a week. Report provided by MCOA Staff.
 - 2) Lanai: Kupuna Council has provided Councilmember Gabe Johnson with a request to add a crosswalk on Fraser Avenue, as well as add more sidewalks, speed bumps and signs. Traffic and speeding have become an issue for residents in that area. Also, two members attended a meeting with leaders of the Air Ambulance



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	<p>company. Senior Center is still closed due to the rising Covid-19 cases. Residents are still getting a monthly surplus. Report provided by Councilmember Helen Tabura.</p> <p>3) Molokai: The County of Maui, Office of Economic Development (OED) has extended its funding to the developed Kupuna Care (Wellness) Program, initially funded July 2021 for 6 months, then extended to June 30, 2022. Funding has enabled the program to reach over 500 kupuna first through filling out an interest and demographic survey, and then through inviting kupuna to receive different basic care services. This grant through the OED is also for jobs creation, and through this funding, over 16 people have been able to work and get paid. Molokai has had several drive-throughs for free covid testing kits, two sponsored by the County. The Kupuna Care (Wellness) Program has also received funds to promote covid vaccinations and boosters through education and referral to vendors who provide these vaccinations. Report provided by Councilmember Judith Mikami.</p> <p>4) Veterans: Update on the two different offices provided by Councilmember Ed Romson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Veterans Affairs Department – State Run-office to help with claims and benefits. Office is closed for walk-ins. Appointment is necessary. 203 Hoohana St #303, Kahului, HI 96732 808-871-2545 https://www.va.gov/ • Maui Vet Center – Offers help for Veterans, service members, and their families in a non-medical setting. Services include counseling for needs such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma (MST). Office is closed for walk ins. Appointment is necessary. 157 Maa St, Kahului, HI 96732 808-242-8557 https://www.va.gov/maui-vet-center/ 	
6. New Business	None	
7. Maui County Office on Aging Report	A. Staffing Updates – Report presented by Temporarily Assigned Executive on Aging James Mariano.	



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- 1) Two new Aging & Disabilities Services Specialist IV started January 18. They will oversee Veterans Directed Program and Community Living Program.
 - Kelly Estrella and Gizelle Kuailani, both inter-governmental transfers into MCOA. Current staff count is 20 employees.
- 2) Update on the Executive on Aging position.
 - Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, former Public Works Director will be joining MCOA as of March 1, 2022. She has attended numerous Caregivers Conferences in the past.

B. Feeding Maui Nui: AlohaPlates2Go – Summary report/Story Map presented showcasing the Food Security Project executed by MCOA in partnership with Maui Food Technology Center.

- Report presented by Program Specialist Kevin Dusenbury Jr. and can be found on their website at www.mauicountyadrc.org/feeding-maui-nui The story map includes more information on Food Insecurity, About the Program, Outcomes, Service Delivery Summary and the Office on Aging.

C. Top Legislative Priorities of Kupuna Caucus – Reported by MCOA Executive on Aging. Gave a summary to Council Members of the following bills:

- 1) Amend “Our Care, Our Choice” Act
 - HB1823/SB2680
 - Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses, in addition to physicians, to practice medical aid in dying in accordance with their scope of practice and prescribing authority. Authorizes psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, in addition to psychiatrists, psychologists, and clinical social workers, to provide counseling to a qualified patient. Reduces the mandatory waiting period between oral requests from twenty days to fifteen days. (We would like to amend this provision, because states with 15-day waiting periods are now reducing theirs to 48 hours, like in California this year. 15 days is still too long and causes unnecessary suffering).
- 2) Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
 - HB1824/SB2676
 - There is only one full-time ombudsman position (retiring in 2023) to cover almost 13,000 residents needing care statewide. Add up to five positions to



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	<p>allow for adequate staffing and transition. This program is under EOA oversight.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Establish long-term rental assistance for seniors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB1826/2677 • Establish the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for individuals over sixty years old who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. 4) Extend driver license renewal period for seniors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB1822/SB2679 • Extend the renewal period from two years to four years for licensees who are seventy years of age or older but younger than eighty years of age. 5) Add State funding to the Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB1825/SB2678 • SHIP is a crucial program administered by the Hawaii Department of Health Executive Office on Aging to help people to navigate Medicare and make informed health insurance decisions. Add State funding to this 100% federally funded program to enhance services. • Council members encouraged to submit testimonies as individuals should they want to. <p>D. 2022 Maui County Outstanding Older American - Application for nominations will be out this month. The Maui event will be held in May. Dates to be determined. This year's theme will be "Age My Way".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations will be taken up to April 1, 2022 • Virtual event set for May 5, 2022 	
8. Upcoming Events/Announcements	Members are encouraged to share any upcoming events known to be happening across Maui County over the next few months.	
9. Agenda Setting for Next Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Vote for new Chair and Vice Chair B. Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to have the State Representative of Veterans' Directive Program to give more information on the program and procedures • Meet Council Members – Part 4 	
10. Next Meeting	The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 12:30pm. The meeting will be done virtually, using	



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	video/teleconferencing and possibly a Physical Location. More information to come.	
11. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.	Councilmember Sequeira moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilmember Romson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Rae-Ann Pagatpatan, 3/29/2022

DRAFT