

HAWAI'I STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Time: 1:00pm



Approved
4.22.2022 km

Location: virtual meeting via Zoom
Zoom Meeting ID #8082816682 password Thrive
Zoom opened at 12:55pm to log-on prior to 1:00pm.

I. Call to Order

Chair Mattos called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

MISSION Statement – read by Commissioner Woolfork

The mission of the Hawaii State - Commission on Fatherhood (HS-COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws relating to children and families.

Commissioners present:

David (Kawika) Mattos, Charles Woolfork, Allen Cardines Jr, Jeff Esmond, Anthony Mendez
(Missing: Excused - Daniel Kittredge, Alan Sunio / Unexcused - David Lunceford)

Ex-Officio(s):

Mimari Hall (DHS - Policy Director, O`ahu)
Matthew Shim (DOH – Chief of Family Health Services, O`ahu)

AG Council to the Commission:

Erin Yamashiro (AG - Commission Counsel, O`ahu)

Public Attendees:

Jimmy James Thennes (Kāne Connections & Ku Imua Foundation, Maui)

I. Introductions:

- a. Fatherhood Commissioners
- b. Ex-Officio(s)
- c. Counsel to the Commission

II. Conduct Agreement & reminder: read by Commissioner Mendez

- a. Rules of Conduct

III. Quick Review Of Commission's Statutory Duties: read by Commissioner Mendez

IV. Community shares or concerns:

- a. Special Share (allow 10 minute share) – “Early Act - Parent Influencers” seeking fatherhood social influencers / (Not Present)
 - i. Chair Mattos explained that he recently met with this group. They wrote a grant that focuses on prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN), which includes a social media campaign

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to show adults actively participating in their children's lives. They are accepting application for social media influencers and are offering an initial \$750 stipend if parent applicant is selected will provide an additional \$750 stipend at another point in the program agreement. They want to create social media post on Facebook and Instagram. They reached out to Mattos in the hopes that fathers will apply.

- b. Public Testimony (brief introduction - allow 1 minute)
- c. Collaborative Community Partners / Support Fatherhood Programs
 - i. Ho`ola Na Pua Starfish Mentoring Program update -
Commissioner Cardines relayed to the commission that Lydia from Starfish mentoring program has application received for the mentoring program. He also shared that there is a change within the organization including that Tim has left y were able to recruit a good number of men.
 - ii. Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) / *No updates.*

(Note – As Commissioner Cardines was sharing about Ho`ola Na Pua Program, Chair Mattos welcomed New Commissioner – Joseph O’Connell on board 1:20pm. Mattos also gave a quick recap of Commissioner Kippen resigning back in November 2021 and Commissioner Lunceford finally being removed from the commission due to lack of attendance. Mattos also shared that O’Connell has been sworn-in with the help from Henny/DHS; however O’Connell will become official when his documents are notarized. Meanwhile, Mattos shared that he was told O’Connell and another applicant (unknown) submitted applications with Boards & Commissions and their applications should be going through the legislation process for review and acceptance. Mattos returned to the agenda.)

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 15, 2021
 - i. Chair Mattos presented the draft minutes. Chair Mattos made minor format and indention corrections to the draft create by Commissioner Kittredge. With no more corrections needed, Mattos asked for a motion.
 - ii. Commissioner Esmond made a motion to approve the October 15th draft minutes with corrections. Commissioner Woolfork made a 2nd. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 5 / No – 0. Motion passed and these approved minutes will be posted on the DHS HS-COF website.
- b. Note –no meetings held in November - December 2021 and January 2022.

VI. Discussion

- a. Ex-Officio(s) updates:
 - i. Department of Human Services (DHS) - Mimari Hall shared a brief status of DHS currently focused on current legislation process. Hall also shared that current COVID variants are still a concern, but direction and changes may be coming in the future.
 - ii. Department of Health (DHS) - Shim shared that DOH is also focused on Legislation as well. He shared that there is not much proposed bills that are connected with fatherhood, however; there is the bill on resource centers that may apply. Shim also shared about the current job vacancies now open in DOH. There is a need for applicants of many positions. Mattos asked about lifting mask mandates. Shim shared that no mandate changes and watch for media postings.
 - iii. Office of Youth Services (OYS) – *no representation from OYS due to Chet Okayama resigning from OYS.*
 - iv. Department of Education (DOE) – *no representative assigned from DOE.*

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- v. Department of Public Safety (DPS) – *no representative assigned from DPS.*

(Note: Commissioner Sunio logged on to meeting and Chair Mattos welcomed Sunio at 1:30pm. Mattos shared that he was advised that Sunio would be attending late. Mattos noted the presence of six commissioners. Mattos also welcome guest J.J. Thennes from Maui and returned to the agenda.)

- b. Budget / Finances – **Jeff Esmond**

- i. Budget for FY 2021-22 – updates, revisions

Commissioner Esmond shared that minimum spending has taken place to our budget. He presented a budget that we reviewed during the meeting. He went through the budget line item by line item. Commissioner Esmond explained the no donation of \$500 was given to the Kauai Men’s Conference, even after several attempts to contact someone through calls and emails. Commissioner Mendez interjected that he has receipts to submit for mailing out the Father of the Year Awards to neighbor islands. Mendez and Esmond will contact Henny / DHS to learn the reimbursement process. In covering the budget items, Commissioner Esmond shared the following allocations: \$104 for business cards, logo & apparel \$400 (which Commissioner Sunio has contacts for this), copying & printing \$100, Travel \$2600. Esmond asked for clarification on upcoming travel and guidelines. Mattos shared that the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation ends on March 2th. Therefore we may need to resume pre-COVID statutes. Mattos referred to Counsel Yamashiro. As Yamashiro was then checking for information and status, Esmond continued. Mattos then shared the need to find conference rooms and the procedure of posting meeting. Hall / DHS will check on status of public meetings to be held at main DHS Building. Esmond continued: Survey Monkey \$200 and Zoom subscription \$250, marketing \$\$1800.91 and COF logo update \$300. Dialog took place on how survey monkey is beneficial to create surveys to get information from the public. Incoming Commissioner O’Connell interjected and shared how his work stopped using Survey Monkey and now use Google platform instead. Mendez expressed the wanting to be involved in that process. Esmond express stated the allocation to IT instead of \$200. Esmond continue with Program Sponsorship Award \$4000, MFSS Celebration of Fathers event \$1500, HI Fatherhood Conference \$1000, Open Award \$500, Special Conference (education and training of commissioners) \$1500. Esmond shared information about an upcoming 24th Annual International Conference coming up June 8-9, with cost of \$25 registration fee. This is the WA conference. Esmond continue with allocation for the HI Conference for trophies \$700. Mattos shared that previous budget allocation was \$20,000 per year until this year and the budget this year is \$16,000 and will be the same for next year. No budget changes will take place at this meeting and no voting needed.

Esmond asked for information about cost of the last year’s HI Fatherhood Conference. Cardines shared a document that PARENTS, Inc. and explained the breakdown of expenses of the conference.

Comment interjected by Mattos was said that Counsel Yamashiro confirmed the Emergency Proclamation does end on March 25th, therefore a location must be stated on where the public can attend and that commissioners and the public can still attend virtually.

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- c. COVID-19: masks, vaccines and social distancing – updates, revisions
 - i. *No updates other than Ex-Officio’s shares earlier*
- d. Upcoming Events 2022
 - i. HI 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference – June, 2022
 - 1. Planning Committee Updates:
 - a. Sponsorship support to father/male-caregiver registrations –
 - i. Mattos recapped recent meeting with the planning meeting. Plan is for a two-short day conference on June 17th & 18. Time 8am-11am or 9am-12pm. 1st day geared towards human services staff and then 2nd day towards fathers/public. Cardines asked about possible schedule conflict between this event and the Maui MFSS Fatherhood Conference. Mattos shared that MFSS decided to hold their event on June 4th (1st Saturday in June) to support both events.

(Note: Commissioner Sunio appeared to have left the meeting unannounced at approximately 2:10p. The meeting continued with the remaining five (5) commissioners and still meeting quorum.)

- b. Parent-Friendly Business Award (BPA) –
 - i. Discussion took place about the business award and if there’s a need to add additional awards. Based on the limited time before the conference, it was determined that one award will be given this June. Commissioner Esmond will research additional information and selection criteria for next year. Commissioner Mendez will find a business recipient this year for June.
- c. Father of the Year Awards (FOTYA):
 - i. Seven (7) Recognitions:
 - a) Hawai`i island, Maui, Kaua`i, and three on O`ahu (3) - Mattos recapped the FOTYA process done last year. The 2021 application and criteria forms were reviewed. A discussion took place to include all types of fathers/male caregivers (step, grandfathers, trans-fathers, gay-fathers, etc.). A suggestion was made to ensure verbiage of this discussion in the revised 2022 forms for distribution.
 - b) In addition, a discussion also took place about adding additional recipients for the FOTYA to include the following:
 Eleven (11) Father of the Year Awards Recognitions:
 - i. Hawai`i County (2): East HI (1) and West HI (1)
 - ii. Maui (3): Maui (1), Lāna`i (1) and Molokai (1)
 - iii. Kaua`i (1)
 - iv. O`ahu (5): Leeward (2), Central (1), Honolulu (1), Windward (1)

Commissioner Mendez made a motion which stated the above increase in awards to eleven (11) and its designations. Woolfork 2nd the motion. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 5 / No – 0. Motion passed.

In addition, Mattos made a motion to accept the criteria stated in the 2021

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forms for this 2022 year to include added verbiage in the description section to include any type of father or male caregiver. Woolfork 2nd the motion. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 5 / No – 0. Motion passed.

- d. Budget & Finances – Commissioner Esmond will calculate the additional cost for adding four more FOTYAs and present updates at our March’s meeting. No further discussion.
- ii. MFSS 15th Annual Celebration of Fathers – Maui event in June 2022:
 2. Mattos shared MFSS decided to hold their event on June 4th (1st Saturday in June). He will provide information about the event and plans for commissioners to travel to Maui at next month’s meeting. Mattos asked for a tentative count of who plans to attend the June 4th event. Tentative commitment include Woolfork, Mendez, Cardines and Esmond. Mattos to check with the other commissioners as well.
 - iii. *Commissioner Mendez added conversation about doing a beach clean-up project that could offer exposure and awareness about the fatherhood commission. His idea is to create an event which fathers and other non- profit agencies could participate in. Mendez continued to express his idea of having the event be video recorded and then later possibly use the video for public awareness. No further discussions and no decisions made.*
- e. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program – planning & updates.
 - i. Application review, selection & decisions: Mattos shared that only one application was received from PARENTS, Inc. to request for additional funds for the HI Fatherhood Conference. No other applications received either through the commission’s Gmail or by mail to DHS. He explained the deadline was Tuesday, March 15th. PARENTS, Inc.

Commissioner Esmond made a motion to accept the PARENTS, Inc. application for sponsorship funds of \$1000. Mendez 2nd the motion. Vote was taken on the motion. However, a vote was in motion and Commissioner Cardines requested himself due to uncertainty of conflict of interest because he is the commission’s liaison to the HI State Conference. After a brief discussion with Counsel Yamashiro, it was that determined that as long as we have quorum to hold a meeting, voting on items like this item can be passed by majority vote. So the motion was stated again by Esmond and 2nd by Mendez to award PARENTS, Inc. Yes – 4 / No – 0. Motion passed.
 - ii. Announcements: Mattos will advise PARENTS, Inc. of their sponsorship funding.

Note: The commission called for a 5 minute break and 3:02pm. The meeting stopped for a quick intermission & restroom break.

At 3:07pm with the return to the meeting at 3:07pm, Mattos called the meeting back to order again. The meeting continued with the remaining five (5) commissioners and still meeting quorum – Mattos, Woolfork, Mendez, Cardines and Esmond.

Mattos shared the excel COF budget on his computer to present a tentatively unspent amount after changes discussed earlier to the budget in the meeting. It was determined that there is \$3000 of unallocated amount, since only one application for sponsorship was submitted. Commissioner Esmond made a motion to reopen the sponsorship process again to allow more time to receive applications for sponsorship funds to be determined at

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the April 22nd meeting, where the deadline to apply would be Friday, April 15, 2022. Mendez 2nd the motion. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 5 / No – 0. Motion passed.

VII. Commission TEAM

- i. Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info. – Mattos gave a brief update about the one open positions. He shared that Joe O’Connell will go through the legislative committee screen process and if anyone wishes to give personal testimony, information gave be forwarded to follow the process. He also shared that there may be another candidate going through the screening process as well. Mattos also explained the designations of County named commissioners and at-large designations. No further updates.

VIII. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2020-21)

- b. Commission’s nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates
 1. Central Information Clearinghouse (informational center)
 - a. Mattos asked if each commissioner worked on getting names of community agencies and resources list within there on counties. Brief discussion took place about gathering lists from Kaua`i, O`ahu and Hawai`i County. Mattos shared that we need to gather this information to update on website.
 2. Identify Best Practices – *no discussion.*
 3. Identify Obstacles –

Woolfork shared that Kaua`i is in need of mentors and role-models. He shared about Big Brothers, Big Sisters need adult volunteers.

Mattos also shared about his work with Kane Connections and explain the work his team is doing working with probation, parole, Drug Court Maui, and recently having discussion with the Maui Prosecutor’s Office to create a possible diversion program and an alternative to jail. The goal is to keep people out of the legal system.

 - a. Family Court – *no further discussion*
 - b. Child Welfare Services – *no further discussion*
 - c. Other obstacles – *no further discussion*
 4. Raise Public Awareness
 - a. Update on Social Media Platforms - Woolfork shared that he and Mendez are strategizing the rotation of creating different types on post to put on the HI Fatherhood Commission Facebook page. Should be posting inspirational and educational type postings. Will be posting fatherhood facts and emotional reactions to being a father. Mattos suggested that Woolfork and Mendez try to make a connection with FaAthehood.gov for collaborations and information.
 - i. Create Social Media platforms to also identify obstacles and issues
 - b. Other community / public events & shares
 - i. Cardines shared about recent traffic accidents and the importance of public awareness and messaging. He suggested that we could create a Fathers against Drunk Drving campaign. With high school graduations in just a few months, Cardines expressed the importance of keeping graduates and families safe. Esmond also chimed in about his concern about recent shootings and gun concerns. No further discussion.

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5. Recommend Policies and Practices -
 - a. Revision of statute for unexcused absences of commissioners - *no discussion*
 - b. Shared Parenting Laws for review - *no discussion*
 - c. Child Support issues for review – Mattos shared his knowledge about how fathers do not realize how important it is to advise the Child Support that lower income changed and the monthly child support payments amounts.
 - d. Re-establishing the commission’s years of terms - *no discussion*
6. Promote Education to train fathers - *no discussion*
7. Support Fatherhood Programs
 - a. Ho`ola Na Pua Starfish Mentoring Program update – Cardines explained briefly about the importance of this work and being a part of collaborations who are fighting sex traffickers through legislation, etc.
 - b. Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) update - *no discussion*
8. Increase Fatherhood Capacity - *no discussion. Mattos suggested that work with DHS with the current policies and procedures in place.*
 - a. Create a Go-Fund / Fundraising
 - b. Create a Financial Business Checking Account
9. Do any and all things necessary to carry out duties and purpose.

IX. Legislation Session 2022 - *no discussion on this topic*

- a. Review of Proposed House and Senate Bills / and other matters
- b. Sex Trafficking
- c. Opposition against Casinos

X. Work Plans / Updates & Reports

- a. 2020-21 Annual DHS Report preparation, plan and author - *no discussion / Woolfork to check in to this task.*
- b. 2021-22 Annual DHS Report preparation, plan and author - *no discussion / Woolfork to check in to this task.*
- c. Community Collaborations and Volunteers
 1. Hawai`i - 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference update - *no discussion*
 2. NPCL's 2022 International Fatherhood Conference update - *no information or discussion*
 3. Other upcoming conferences/events –
 - a) 24th Annual Int’l Fatherhood Conference (Virtual Event) June 8-9, 2022

XI. DHS / HS-COF webpage updates / status of meeting minutes & other matters:

Mattos shared that are documentations and postings are up to par and the need to complete the February’s Meeting Minutes and get it posted on the DHS Website as a draft document.

XII. County of Honolulu/districts of O`ahu and the Neighbor-Island Counties updates - *no discussion*

XIII. Marketing materials updates / marketing options - *no discussion*

XIV. Ethics & Boundaries / Office of Information Practices (OIP): updates or information - *no discussion*

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XV. Decision Making

- a. Budget for FY 2021-22 - *see above notes of discussions and motions*
- b. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2021-22) - *see above notes*
 - i. Commission's nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates - *see above notes*
 - ii. Legislation Session 2022 – propose bills – *no actions or discussion*
- c. COVID-19: masks, vaccines and social distancing – *no actions or discussion*
- d. HI 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference – June, 2022 - *see above notes for the following (i.-iv.)*
 - i. Sponsorship support to father/male-caregiver registrations
 - ii. Business Partner Award(s)
 - iii. Father of the Year Awards:
 - iv. Budget & Finances
- e. MFSS 15th Annual Celebration of Fathers – Maui event - June 2022: *see above notes / no actions or discussion*
 - a. 24th Annual Int'l Fatherhood Conference (Virtual Event) June 8-9, 2022: *see above notes / no actions or discussion*
 - b. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program –*see above notes*
 - c. Community Collaborations and Volunteers - – *no actions or discussion*
 - d. Marketing – *no actions or discussion*

XVI. Next Meetings: Mattos presented the following dates for upcoming meetings. Decisions about meeting locations will take place at the March meeting to determine if will be help on O`ahu or another neighbor island.

- c. Friday, March 18, 2022 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom
- d. Friday, April 22, 2022 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom – O`ahu island and pending location
- e. Friday, May 20, 2022 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom – pending island and location
- f. Friday, June 17, 2022 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom – pending island and location

XVII. Executive Session – *no action needed*

XVIII. Adjournment

- a. As closing remarks, Commissioner Cardines shared the importance of Hawai`i being the example for the world to live ALOHA.
- b. Mattos also reminded the commissioners to register with the state capital website so they can check on meetings (etc.) and not depend only on Chair Mattos for communication.
- c. Commissioner Cardines made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 pm. Commissioner Esmond 2nd the motion. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.

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