

**Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood**  
**Meeting Minutes**

February 17, 2015 (Tuesday)

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Director’s Office Conference Room

Hawaii State Department of Human Services

Commissioners Present:

Chet Adessa, (Chair), Carl Makino (Vice Chair), Bruce Berger (Oahu), (Oahu), Mike Dias (Hawaii), Alan Sunio (Hawaii Coalition for Dads), Shannon Carrier (Maui)

Ex-Officio members Present:

Bruce Shimoda (DHS)

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Called to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chet Adessa, Chair, at 1:34 pm.

**II. Public Testimony**

None

**III. Review and approval of January 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

There was some discussion of corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Carrier moved that the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting be approved with changes. Motion was seconded by commissioner Berger and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**IV. Action Items:**

**1. Discussion Items:**

- a. .There was some discussion concerning the contract with the University of Hawaii for a “media project.” Commissioner Dias gave the commission an update on the progress. Chair Adessa stated that he will check with Ms. Susy Kawamoto, DHS, to amend the current contract with UH to include the media project.
- b. Chair Adessa mentioned that there will “New Pathways for Fathers” grants available from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, \$50,000,000 will available with 48 possible grantees, the high grant amount would be \$2,000,000 and the low grant amount would be \$350,000. Commissioner Carrier suggested that the commission collaborate with other agencies such as the Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund and University of Hawaii, in order to apply for the grant.

- c. A discussion was held concerning excused and unexcused absences of commissioners at the monthly meetings and recruitment of commissioners. It was mentioned that two commissioners whose terms expire June 30, 2015 will not be applying for reappointment and the chair asked commissioners to actively recruit replacement commissioners.
- d. Chair Adessa stated that he testified before the Senate Ways and Means Committee in opposition to a bill that would eliminate the “special fund” that DHS held funds that were donated several years ago. Commissioners present supported Chair Adessa in his opposition to the abolishment of the special fund. Chair Adessa stated that the Ways and Means Committee recommended that DHS should set up a procedure whereby private donations to the State Commission on Fatherhood could receive such donations. Chair Adessa stated the State Statute that established the commission allows for the commission to accept private donations. Chair Adessa encourage the commissioners to obtain a log in on the State of Hawaii website to follow that status of bills that effect fatherhood issues.
- e. Alan Sunio, Bruce Berger and Bruce Shimoda agreed to be on the committee to assist with the Celebrate Father event at Windward Mall on June 20, 2015.

2. Decision Making Items:

- a. With regard to Chair Adessa becoming an official representative of the commission on the Advisory of Healthy Start in Ewa Beach. It was suggested that Chair Adessa attend the meetings not as a commissioner but as a private citizen and disseminate information about the commission on fatherhood at the meetings. There was a general consensus on this matter.

V. Reports:

- a. The budget for the Commission on Fatherhood was submitted to the Legislature and there is no word of approval as yet.
- b. Commissioner Dias gave a report on the status of the “media project.” The project is moving along and expect final marketing and
- c. It has been determined that the commission cannot hold a license to conduct the Boot Camp for New Dads program but will continue to encourage other agencies to become licensed.
- d. Chair Adessa reported on the meeting with the new DHS Director and Deputy Director and stated that they are in full support of the commission’s mission and goals.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:00 pm and the next meeting scheduled for March 17, 2015.

