

MINUTES

Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2017

Commissioners Present:

Kawika Riley (Acting Chairman), Alan Sunio, Richard Kebo, Kawika Mattos (Maui) Caleb Milliken (Hawaii),

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Malia Taum-Deenik, Department of Human Services

Others Present:

Chet Adessa, Administrative Asst to Commission

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm in the Department of Human Services, 1390 Miller Street, Honolulu by Acting Chairman Riley. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum. Acting Chairman Riley modified the agenda and there were no objections. In reference to item b. under Discussion, Acting Chair Riley tabled the discussion on the Nurturing Father Program on Kauai. Acting Chair Riley spoke about the fact that Alan Sunio, who was elected as Chair of the Commission at the June 30, 2017 meeting, was ineligible to serve as chair because he is serving as the Hawaii Coalition for Dads representative and according to State Statute he is unable to serve as chair or vice-chair. After consultation with the State Attorney General's office and the DHS Director, Acting Chair Riley discussed what constitutes a quorum. In the past a quorum for the commission to meet was 5 commissioners and it has been difficult to achieve a quorum due to the fluctuation in the number of commissioners. After the consultation, Acting Riley said that it was determined by the AG that a "simple majority" of existing commissioners will constitute a quorum from now on.

II. Public Testimony: There were no testimonies from the public.

III. Approval of Minutes from the June 30, 2017: The minutes were reviewed, Commissioner Kebo moved to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sunio and unanimously carried.

IV. Decision Making. Acting Chair Riley shared his willingness to serve as Commission Chairperson for the remainder of the state fiscal year and asked if any other commissioners wanted to run for Chair; there were none. Acting Chair nominated himself and the vote was unanimous. Chair Riley asked if there were any nominations for vice-chair. There no nominations at this time. Chair Riley stated that this item will be placed on future agendas. Commissioner Milliken offered his support and Commissioner Kebo said that he would be interested in being vice-chair at a later date.

V. Discussion. Commissioner Kebo gave a report on the Strategic Plan. He said that he used some of the data from the Department of Human Services and "State of Fathers in The State of Hawaii" while working on the plan. Commissioner Kebo said that the commission's focus should be on acting as a clearinghouse of information and resource for fathers and at be involved at the policy making level. He suggested that we partner with other agencies, use existing revised statutes and other best practices in the fatherhood field. Commissioner Kebo recommended that the commission prioritize the activities and events. He also said that the commission needs to keep apprised on father and family policy and advocacy issues, look at our current performance and impact. Commissioner Milliken spoke about the Hawaii Island Fatherhood Initiative and its advocacy for housing and family court related issues. Chair Riley spoke about how the commission is to accomplish the goals

and mission of the commission and recommended the Department of Human Service ““Ohana Nui Project” as a great resource.

V. (contd) Mr. Adessa spoke about the need for a Treasurer and Chair Riley said that this would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. There was some discussion on the need for clarity concerning donations to the commission through public or private partnerships. Funds from federal grants were discussed and it was noted that many grants specifically for fatherhood programs are becoming minimal. Richard asked the commissioners to submit a list of their respective fatherhood resources to be included in the Strategic Plan. Chair Riley spoke about the University of Hawaii survey of statewide fatherhood programs and the report is to be expected in mid-October 2017. Other ideas discussed were to collect data at the public awareness events that the commission conducts, establish a Facebook page. Mr. Adessa mentioned that there are many templates available online to collect this data. It was also mentioned the commission needs to keep current on legislative policies and that each commissioner subscribe to the State of Hawaii Legislative hearing notices online. Commissioner Mattos spoke about some legal and family court issues that many fathers on Maui are experiencing. Ms. Taum-Deenik mentioned that the commission can submit an annual report to the governor by November 1. There was some discussion about men/father issues in general and Acting Chair Riley said that these issues need to be prioritized that the commission needs to focus the more important and impactful issues that affect the fathers in our state. Commissioner Kebo further stated that there may be a need to rethink the commission’s goals and mission. Commissioner Kebo also asked the commissioners to submit a list of the father/family related activities and meetings they are involved with.

VI. Reports.

- a. Budget. The Expense and Encumbrance Report was discussed and the importance of spending the allotted funds. It was also mentioned that the commission needs an annual budget. There was additional discussion concerning establishing a budget and nominating a “treasurer.”
- b. Commissioner Sunio reported that he is involved with the Children and Youth Day at The capitol on October 1 and Commissioner Milliken spoke about a mentorship program on the Island of Hawaii. Chair Riley distributed and spoke about a Commission on Fatherhood Orientation Packet that he created.

VII. Commission/Public Generated Issues: None

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2017 at 1 PM

Prepared and Submitted by:

Date:

Chet Adessa, Administrative Asst to the Commission

Approved by the Commission: _____