

Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH)
Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms 3&4

December 18, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Council Attendees:

Mr. Scott Morishige	Chair
Mr. Harold Brackeen III	Administrator of the Homeless Programs Office of DHS
Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Pressler	Director of the Department of Health (DOH)
Ms. Elaine Young for	Director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR)
Ms. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata	Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD)
Mr. Garrett Kamemoto for	Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)
Ms. Melissa Lewis for	Attorney General
Ms. Toby Portner for	Superintendent of the Department of Education (DOE)
House Designee, Rep. Cedric Gates	Hawaii State House of Representatives
Senate Designee, Sen. Breene Harimoto	Hawaii State Senate
Mr. Marc Alexander for	Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu
Mr. Lance Niimi for	Mayor of the County of Hawaii
Ms. Kanani Fu for	Mayor of the County of Kauai
Ms. Carol Reimann for	Mayor of the County of Maui
Ms. Natalie Okeson	Continuum of Care for the City & County of Honolulu
Ms. Brandee Menino	Continuum of Care for the County of Hawaii
Ms. Debra Deluis	Continuum of Care for the County of Kauai
Ms. Maude Cumming	Continuum of Care for the County of Maui
Ms. Rebecca Borja	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning & Development
Mr. Dave Rolf	Business Community Representative

Absent:

Faith-Based Representative; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA); Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA); Department of Defense (DOD); Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL); Director of the Department of Humans Services (DHS);

Staff:

Mr. Eric Lopez, Homelessness Assistant; Ms. Ipo Paia, Administrative Assistant on Homelessness; Mr. Jason Kasamoto, Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs, Ms. Andrea Suzuki, Deputy Attorney General

Special Guests:

Ms. Pua Aiu, Department of Land and Natural Resources; Mr. Jun Yang, Department of Transportation, Ms. Yara Sutton of the Department of Health

- Call to Order. Taking of the Roll.** Roll taken and there was a quorum established with 17 out of 27 members. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Chair.

Chair Morishige welcomed everyone and noted that all material was sent out electronically. Council members were asked to sign up at the registration desk if you they did not receive handouts in advance of the meeting. Members of the public were also asked to request a copy of materials from staff, and were advised that a sign-up list was available to receive a copy of the meeting packet and handouts by e-mail.

The Chair introduced Mr. Jason Kasamoto, who was recently hired as Homelessness Special Assistant and Public Affairs and began on September 25, 2017.

The Chair provided a brief overview of the agenda for today's meeting, and acknowledged the continued progress that the council and other stakeholders are making in addressing homelessness statewide.

- II. **Overview and Approval of Agenda.** The Chair presented the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Pressler and seconded by Mr. David Rolf. The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and seeing none the Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The Chair reminded members that the September 18, 2017, meeting minutes were e-mailed to members and that copies of the minutes were included in the members' packets. The Chair provided time for members to review the minutes, and asked if there were any additions/corrections. Noting none, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2017, Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Rolf and seconded by Ms. Portner. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Public testimony.** Chair Morishige opened the floor to public testimony. The public was asked to keep testimony limited to no more than one minute.

a. **Mr. Michael Peacock, Hawaii Vet to Vet.**

Mr. Peacock thanked everyone for their support of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. He also pushed for the faith-based community to step up its efforts by helping at least one homeless person.

b. **Mr. David Cannell**

Mr. Cannell introduced himself and urged the committee consider safe zones as a strategy to address homelessness. Mr. Cannell shared his personal experience with homelessness and the importance of providing a safe and stable place to go.

During public testimony, five members of the council arrived.

At 10:21 a.m., HUD representative arrived.

At 10:25 a.m., Sen. Harimoto arrived.

At 10:30 a.m., Rep. Gates arrived

Quorum was revised to reflect 20 out of 27 members present.

- V. **New Business**

a. Discussion regarding government efforts to address trespassing and other unauthorized activities on government lands, including efforts to connect people experiencing homelessness to shelters and other housing resources. Discussion will include an overview of the following:

- Presentation by various State agencies, including the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Department of Land & Natural Resources, Hawaii Community Development Authority, and the Department of Health.

Before the presentation, the Chair emphasized the State's three-pronged approach to homelessness: Affordable Housing, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety.

Presentation by Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Transportation (DOT).

The Chair introduced the presenters from the various departments – Ms. Pua Aiu, Cultural Resources Manager, DLNR; Mr. Garret Kamemoto, Interim Executive Director, HCDA; Ms. Yara Sutton, Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator, DOH – Adult Mental Health Division; Mr. Jun Yang, Homeless Coordinator, DOT – Highways Division.

The presenters shared that public safety is one of the three main points in the State's framework to address homelessness. To address public safety, the administration has taken the following actions:

1. Increased resources for State agencies that manage land.
2. Put legal tools in place to address unsafe situations on public lands.
3. Connected public safety efforts to the health & human services and housing components of the State's framework to address homelessness.

The presenters outlined how State efforts are consistent with five steps recommended by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness when addressing people living in encampments:

1. Preparation and adequate time for planning and implementation.
2. Collaboration across sectors and systems.
3. Performance of intensive and persistent outreach and engagement.
4. Provision of low-barrier pathways to permanent housing.

The presenters highlighted two examples of the State's approach to addressing encampments:

1. DOT Highways Division efforts to address encampments along the H-1 and Nimitz corridors on Oahu.
2. HCDA efforts to address encampments in the Kakaako Makai area, including in Kakaako Waterfront and Gateway parks.

Finally, the presenters shared data regarding people encountered during State enforcement and outreach efforts (between July 2017 and December 2017):

- 540 people were encountered.
- At least 137 people were placed into shelter or housing.
- At least 306 people provided their names.
- Of the 306 people who provided names, 50 were on the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System (CES) By-Name List (BNL).

Discussion and Questions.

There were questions about coordination involving other external agencies. The presenters shared information about coordination with the Hawaiian Humane Society and other animal rescue agencies, and noted that some of the encampments encountered during outreach had over-100 dogs and other animals on site.

- b. Discussion regarding recommendations of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5, and in accordance with House Bill 83, to discuss the issue of safe-zones for homelessness. **(Vote)**

The Chair presented the draft report from the permitted interaction group, which will be transmitted to the Legislature prior to the start of the 2018 legislative session. The draft report included the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. There is a limited body of research relating to Safe Zones, and more information needs to be collected to evaluate their overall effectiveness in addressing the needs of unsheltered homeless persons.
2. The County of Hawaii's Camp Kikaha pilot in Kona should be formally evaluated and data should be gathered to determine the effectiveness of the safe zone specifically relating to:
 - a. Number of people served
 - b. Demographics of target population (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, etc.)
 - c. Average length of stay
 - d. Monthly and annual operating cost
 - e. The number of persons transitioned to longer-term shelter and permanent housing
3. Data gathered from the Camp Kikaha pilot should be shared with the Legislature and the four Counties to inform the development of a longer-term policy.
4. Vacant land parcels identified by the working group should be considered for housing projects for homeless individuals similar to the Hale Mauiola Navigation Center, Kaka'ako Family Assessment Center, and the Kahauiki Village project.
5. The State should expand its search for vacant land to look beyond land under the direct jurisdiction of DLNR.

Motion to adopt and approve the recommendations of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5, and in accordance with House Bill 83, to discuss the issue of safe-zones for homelessness.

Dr.. Pressler motioned to begin discussion, seconded by Ms. Portner.

Mr. Alexander raised concerns that there is limited funding for safe zones, and that approval of such a project would be a shift away from permanent housing.

Mr. Niimi shared updated information on Camp Kikaha:

- There are 20 residents as of 12/18/17.
- Instead of paid security, camp residents now take 4-hour security shifts. Mr. Niimi says this move has essentially cut security costs to zero.
- The former full-time camp coordinator has become a volunteer who no longer draws a salary.

Rep. Gates said that Oahu needs a safe zone, particularly because many homeless have no place to go after sweeps, and because we are not meeting the housing needs that would get them off the street.

Mr. Niimi requested a friendly amendment to the report to include updated financial information of the County's expenses for Camp Kikaha, which reflected a reduction in costs.

Dr. Pressler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alexander, to incorporate the friendly amendment proposed by Mr. Niimi. The Chair called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rolf made a motion, seconded by Ms. Portner, to include an evaluation component in the report regarding the effectiveness of Camp Kikaha as a safe zone. The Chair called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Discussion regarding potential amendments to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness. **(Vote)**

Motion to defer this discussion until a later date was made by Mr. Rolf and seconded by Ms. Portner. The Chair called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Permitted Interaction Group

- a. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5 to review and recommend potential revisions to the ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness, and the Hawaii State Framework to Address Homelessness.

The Chair updated the council that the discussions of this permitted interaction group are still ongoing.

- b. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5, and in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 148, to address the issue of squatting in the State of Hawaii.

The Chair updated the council that the permitted interaction group has met, and recommendations will be submitted in a report to the Hawaii Legislature prior to the start of the 2018 legislative session.

- c. Report and discussion of the permitted interaction group established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (H.R.S.) §92-2.5, and in accordance with House Bill 83, to discuss the issue of safe-zones for homelessness.

The Chair updated the council that the permitted interaction group has met, and recommendations will be submitted in a report to the Hawaii Legislature prior to the start of the 2018 legislative session.

VII. **General Announcements**

A. Chairperson and Staff Reports: September/October/November 2017

- Accomplishments / Highlights
- Planned Activities

B. Written Reports from Council Members. The following written updates are provided for the Council's consideration and review (the full write-ups for each representative will be provided):

- *Department of Human Services (DHS)*
- *Department of Public Safety (PSD)*
- *Department of Health (DOH)*
- *Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)*

- *Department of Defense (DOD)*
- *Department of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)*
- *Department of Education (DOE)*
- *Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)*
- *City & County of Honolulu*
- *County of Hawaii*
- *County of Maui*
- *County of Kauai*
- *Partners in Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care*
- *Continuum of Care – Hawaii Island*
- *Continuum of Care – Maui County*
- *Continuum of Care – Kauai County*
- *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.)*
- *U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)*
- *Faith-based Community Representative*

VIII. **Executive session**

Pursuant to H.R.S. §92-7(a), the Council may, when deemed necessary, hold an Executive Session on any agenda item without the written public notice if the Executive Session was not anticipated in advance. Any such Executive Session shall be held pursuant to H.R.S. §92-4 and shall be limited to those items described in H.R.S. §92-5(a). Discussions held in Executive Session are closed to the public.

The Chair stated that an Executive Session is not necessary at this time.

IX. **Topics for upcoming meetings.**

The Chair asked members to contact his office with suggestions for upcoming meetings. The office can be reached at 586-0193 or by e-mail at gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov.

X. **Meeting schedule.**

The following Council meetings are proposed for the 2018 calendar year:

- March 19, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- June 18, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- September 17, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- December 17, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

XI. **Adjourn.**

Chair Morishige entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Dr. Pressler and seconded by Mr. Rolf. The Chair called the question. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes prepared by:



Eric Lopez
Homelessness Assistant

3/19/18
Date

Approved by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at their Regular Meeting on March 19, 2018:
 As Presented As Amended



Scott S. Morishige, MSW
Chair

3/19/18
Date