



## MINUTES

Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood  
Regular Meeting

Honua Studios, 73-4855 Kanalani Street, Kailua -Kona, HI 96740  
June 29, 2018

### Commissioners Present:

Kawika Riley, Chairman, Richard Kebo (Oahu), Kawika Mattos, (Maui). Caleb Milliken (Hawaii), Daniel Kittredge (Kauai), Alan Sunio (Oahu)

### Ex-Officio Members Present: None

### Others Present:

Chet Adessa, Consultant to the Commission

Chairman Riley welcomed the attendees from the public and each commissioner introduced themselves. Commissioner Milliken gave an opening statement

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:12 pm in the Honua Studios, 73-4855 Kanalani Street, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 by Chairman Riley. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

**\*II. Public Testimony:** Chairman Riley corrected the agenda to allow the public attendees to speak about their experiences as fathers and involvement with the Fatherhood Initiative in Kona after the commission conducts its business.

**III. Approval of Minutes from the May 25, 2018 Meeting.** Chairman Riley made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Milliken seconded the motion and there being no discussion or objection the motion was unanimously carried.

**IV. Decision Making.** Selection of Chair and Vice Chair. Chair Riley stated that is not running for Chairperson for a second term and he spoke about the changes in leadership that occurred in the past year or so and the rapid commissioner turnover. Chair Riley expressed his appreciation and thanked the commissioners for their support during the past year. Chairman Riley nominated Richard Kebo for the new chairman position. Commissioner Sunio seconded the motion and there being no objections or discussions the motion was unanimously carried.

The floor was opened for nominations for vice-chairman. A nomination for vice-chairman was made by Commissioner Sunio for Commissioner Milliken (Commissioner Milliken stated that it would be better to have a commissioner from Oahu as vice-chair), Commissioner Kittredge said that he would like to see a neighbor island commissioner as vice-chair. Chairman Riley called for a paper ballot. The ballots were counted and there were four votes for Kawika Riley and two votes for Caleb Milliken. Commissioner Riley was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

## **V. Discussion.**

- a. Presentation by Hawai'i Chapter of the Civil Liberties Union. The speaker gave a presentation on the mission of the ACLU and talked about their latest endeavor concerning Bail Reform. Their executive director gave many facts and figures about the current Bail and Bond procedures in Hawai'i and how inequitable the current system is.
- b. Fatherhood Commission 2018-2020 Strategic Plan and Priorities. This item was deferred to the next regular meeting.

## **VI. Reports:**

- a. Budget. Commissioner Milliken gave a fiscal report for the Budget Year 2018.
- b. Commissioner's reports on community involvement, events, trainings or meetings attended. Commissioner Sunio reported on a successful 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Father's Day at Windward Mall. He reported that the number of contestants for the Father Child Look-a-Like Contest were low and that the entertainment was great and there was a larger than normal audience. Mr. Adessa mentioned the commission received approximately \$43,000 worth of free Public Service Announcements on nine Salem Radio stations which reached over 239,000 listeners. Commissioner Kittredge reported that the Kauai Fatherhood Council will be holding their Men's Conference on October 27, 2018, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, Kapaa, Kauai. He urged to commissioners or anyone who would like to attend to go to Eventbrite.com. This year's theme is "Manhood. What is a Man?".

**\*II. Public Testimony.** Chairman Riley opened the floor for the public attendees to introduce themselves and speak about their experiences. David Okumura, a representative from the Hawaii State Department of Human Services spoke about the important role of mothers and fathers to the success of a family and how those roles are continually changing. A representative from the Prosecutor's Office spoke about "Camp Agape," which is designed to ease the transition from incarceration to family reunification. A representative from PARENTS, Inc. spoke about their successful fatherhood programs. There were many stories about how the Fatherhood Initiative in Kona has helped the men and fathers improve their relationships with their families. Many of the fathers now volunteer and are trained facilitators for the program. Some of the "testimony" was concerning estranged families and how those families reunited through the help of The Fatherhood Initiative programs and support groups. Many of the men that spoke, talked about

how once they heard other men speak about their experiences and asked for help and how that has been a tremendous relief to know that other men have similar experiences. It was mentioned that the State Department of Health Mental Division is working with the State Department of Education to address issues that occur due to lack of therapists and caseworkers and how working with faith-based organizations may improve the situation. It was also mentioned that cases of young children suffering depression and the increase in suicide is becoming more prevalent. Many people mentioned the importance of the need for more agencies to collaborate with each other to address these issues. Commissioner Milliken mentioned a letter of support he received from the Mayor of Hawaii. Commissioner Sunio spoke about how the stories that were told today have inspired and reinforced his status as a father. Chairman Riley expressed how impressed he was with willingness of the fathers to come forward and share their stories and praised the men for their successes. The men shared heartfelt experiences about being part of a blended family and the challenging dynamics that occur in these situations. Commissioner Kittredge spoke briefly about “generational fathering.”

**VII. Commission/Public Generated Issues:**

None

**IX. Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Milliken and was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm. The date of the next meeting will be announced.

Prepared and Submitted by: Chairman Kawika Riley

Date: July 18, 2018

Approved by the Commission: July 18, 2018