

MINUTES

Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2017

Commissioners Present:

Kawika Riley (Chairman), Richard Kebo, Kawika Mattos. Caleb Milliken

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Ms. Lila King, DHS
Representing Deputy AG, Angela Tokioka
Chet Adessa, Administrative Asst to Commission

Others Present:

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm in the Department of Human Services Director's conference room, 1390 Miller Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 by Chairman Riley. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

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

III. Approval of Minutes from the October 13, 2017. Commissioner Kebo moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2017 meeting. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Mattos and unanimously carried.

IV. Decision Making. Selection of Finance Chair and description of duties. (Background and description of duties attached as amendment to the agenda). It was explained by Chair Riley that due to limited resources a Finance Chair is needed. Commissioner Milliken was nominated for the position and a motion was made by Commissioner Mattos, seconded by Commissioner Kebo and unanimously approved.

V. Discussion.

- a. Commissioner Kebo reported on the status of the 2018 to 2022 State Commission on Fatherhood Strategic Plan. It was stated that there is a need for more feedback on the commission's mission and vision. Commissioner Milliken commented on the potential long term benefits of a strong strategic plan. Commissioner Kebo said that he would compile a set of values that will guide the commission's work. Commissioner Milliken said that each commissioner brings their own set of motivations. Some of the motivations mentioned during the discussion were Custody issues and Family Court and how fathers struggle with communicating with the mother of the child and family court concerning who gets custody of the children. Many fathers are without the resource to pursue custody of their children. Commissioner Mattos spoke about some examples of this type of situation. The long term benefits of a strong strategic plan will include public awareness of the existence of the commission, advocacy in the courts, the education of the judges on the programs and resources available to the fathers. It

was mentioned that many fathers are doing well and as a commission we should be aware of the positive attributes and strengths of those fathers and their families. It was also mentioned that commission need to focus on setting priorities that will make an impact on the general welfare of fathers in our state. It was further mentioned that the commission should increase the social media and work with an IT person to improve the commission website. Mr. Adessa mentioned that there is a Hawaii Dads Facebook. Commissioner Mattos mentioned that Maui Family Support Services has Men/Fatherhood education programs. It was stated that the commission needs to develop resources, identify the resources, where and how to access the resources for fathers in the state. The University of Hawaii is in the final stages of developing a listing of fatherhood programs and services throughout the state. Finally, it was mentioned that the Department of Human Resources Ohana Nui program is in alignment with the commission's strategic plan and that the adoption of the strategic plan will be voted on at the December commission meeting.

VI. Reports:

- a. The expenditure and Encumbrance report from DHS was distributed and Commissioner Milliken spoke about this proposed budget for FY 2018. Chair Riley mentioned that he will consult with Selva Lewin-Bizan at University of Hawaii to ask about a "social media volunteer" to assist the commission in improving our social media and improving the website.
- b. Commissioner reported on the meeting with the Commission on the Status of Women and the issue of paid family leave. Chair Riley spoke further about the proposal

VII. Commission/Public Generated Issues:

None

IX. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm. The next meeting will be determined at a later date.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Date: December 11, 2017

Chet Adessa, Administrative Asst to the Commission

Approved by the Commission: _____