



## MINUTES

Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood  
Regular Meeting on July 18, 2018

### **Commissioners Present:**

Richard Kebo, Chair, Kawika Riley, Vice-Chair, Kawika Mattos (Maui), Dan Kittredge (Kauai)

### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Malia Taum-Deenik, Department of Human Services  
Angela Tokuda, Attorney General Representative

### **Others Present:**

Chet Adessa, Consultant to the Commission  
Paula Sainz, Big Brothers, Big Sisters  
Robert Quartero  
Bob Raasch, Program Director, Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii  
Samuel Holi, Maui Family Support Kane Connection

### **I. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 PM at the Department of Human Services Conference Room, 1390 Miller Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 by Chairman Kebo. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

- II. Public Testimony:** Introductions of commissioners, Ex-Officio members and guests were made. Testimony was heard by Mr. Robert Quartero, who spoke about the rights of fathers and mothers and urged all present at the meeting to value the perspective of both parents. Mr. Quartero spoke about how fatherless homes adversely affect families and society. Sam Holi introduced himself as a facilitator for the Maui Family Support Kane Connection Program, Paula Sainz introduced herself as a representative from Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Honolulu and spoke about the many opportunities for single

fathers raising daughters and involving them in the program. Ms. Sainz said that there were more young girls in need of the services Big Brothers and Big Sisters offers. Ms. Sainz inquired about support groups for single fathers. Big Brothers and Sisters has a Mentoring Program and she encourages all commissioners to act as a resource and refer families in need to this program. There were several questions from the commissioners and most of the concerns were related to the background checks and screening of the Big Brothers Sisters accepted in the program. Ms. Sainz assured the commissioners that the utmost caution is used in the thorough screening each candidate and matching the young person and the adult. Malia Taum-Deenik briefly mentioned the Foster Grandparent Program currently offered through the Department of Human Services. Vice-chair Riley mentioned that there is a report of fatherhood programs throughout the state is forthcoming from the University of Hawaii.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from June 29, 2018 were reviewed and a motion was made by Vice-chair Riley to approve the minutes, with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Mattos and unanimously approved.

**IV. Decision-making: None**

**V. Discussion.**

- a. Combined conference with Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, PARENTS, Inc. and the Commission on Fatherhood. Bob Raasch gave some background information about a combined conference on October 12, 2018 and explained that the focus would be on the Nurturing Fathers Program, bring awareness of father issues to the community and bring together various agencies that work with fathers on a regular basis. Mr. Raasch distributed information concerning the goals and purposes of the conference (attached) emphasizing the importance of collaboration in a conference of this nature. There were many questions from the commissioners and especially legal issues of such a collaboration. Ms. Sainz said that Big Brothers and Sisters of Honolulu would be very interested in participating in this conference. There was some discussion about possible breakout sessions and keynote speakers that would attract agencies and their staff to such a conference. Vice-chair Riley mentioned that there are several agencies that may be interested in attending. The focus for attendees would be primarily service agencies.
- b. Children and Youth Day at the Capitol, October 7, 2018. Mr. Adessa explained how the commission participated in this event in the past. The commission set up a table with fatherhood pamphlets and brochures and conducted a father-child interactive activity or craft. Mr. Adessa mentioned that this event attracts over 40,000 people each year and this would be a good opportunity for public awareness for the commission. Mr. Adessa also mentioned that Standard Operating Procedures need

to be drafted for each of the commission's events and activities so that the knowledge is not lost when the organizers are not available. There was a general agreement to this idea. There was some discussion about the funding process for the commission. Ms. Taum-Deenik advised that now is the time to allocate funds from the commission's budget for this Fiscal Year. Ms. Taum-Deenik spoke about the possibility of establishing public/private relationships and reminded the commission about properly expending its funds before the end of the fiscal year.

- c. Strategic Plan. Chairman Kebo said that the Strategic Plan is a priority and that the commission needs to bring more "people to the table" to accomplish the tasking it to finalization. Chairman Kebo also mentioned that the commission needs to build its resources to be able to fulfill one of the commissions main missions. It was suggested that the commission hold its meeting in a variety of locations throughout the community. Chairman Kebo said that he would speak to Commissioner Milliken about the budget allocations and fund raising. Commissioner Kittredge said that it is a good idea to fund raise for awards such as the ones given this year and other resources. Commissioner Mattos spoke about the importance of establishing "grass roots" connections. Vice-chair Riley said that the commission needs to complete the plan, and suggested that with Commission Kebo taking over the chairmanship, the commission should select a new chair for the strategic plan.

**VI. Reports:**

- a. Commissioner's report on community involvement, events, trainings or meetings attended. Vice-chair Riley spoke about some near-term priorities such as the finalized report on fatherhood programs in the state from University of Hawaii. Commissioner Mattos spoke about the commission's involvement in the Early HeadStart project and his concern about legalities involved. Vice-chair Riley suggested that the commission should make a decision as to our involvement in this project.

**VI. Commission/Public Generated Issues:** No decision making) No issues generated

**VII. Adjournment:** Commissioner Mattos made a motion that the meeting be adjourned (approximately 4:30 pm) seconded by Vice-chair Riley and unanimously approved.