



## MINUTES

Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood  
Regular Meeting

Maui Economic Opportunity Building, 99 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793  
May 25, 2018

### Commissioners Present:

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

### Ex-Officio Members Present:

### Others Present:

Chet Adessa, Consultant to the Commission

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm in the Maui Economic Opportunity Building, 99 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793 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 about experiences as fathers and involvement with the Maui Kane Connection Program to after the regular business of the commission is completed.

**III. Approval of Minutes from the April 20, 2018.** The chairman requested that the minutes be amended to read “award” rather than “grant” in reference to the funds awarded various agencies for their fatherhood events during the month of June. Chairman Riley made a motion of amend the minutes, Commissioner Kebo seconded the motion and there being no discussion or objection the motion was unanimously carried.

**IV. Decision Making.** Purchase of a banner for the Commission. Chairman Riley made a motion that the chairman be delegated the authority to approve the purchase of a banner not to exceed \$180. Chairman Riley will work with Chet Adessa on the design. Commissioner Milliken seconded the motion and there being no discussion or objection the motion was unanimously carried.

## **V. Discussion.**

- a. Strategic Plan. Commissioners Kebo and Milliken are working together to complete the plan. It was noted that the commission needs attendance of the ex-officio members at our monthly meetings and that these representatives are “stakeholders” and the commission could benefit from their areas of expertise. Chairman Riley spoke about how the concept of the Department of Human Services “Ohana Nui” program could serve as a model for the commission to include the ex-officio members. Chairman Riley spoke further about how the commission needs to serve as a “clearinghouse” of information and referrals for fathers in the state. Chairman Riley and Mr. Adessa will work together to reach out the various departments to identify replacements for the current ex-officio members. Commissioner Kebo spoke about a step-by-step process to include Public awareness, Support of Fatherhood Programs, increase our capacity and those public awareness events need to be tracked for outcomes. There is also a need for additional commissioners.
- b. Conferences and events. Mr. Adessa spoke about preliminary plans for Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, PARENTS, Inc. and the commission to jointly participate in a conference in October 2018. Mr. Adessa spoke briefly about the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Father’s Day at Windward Mall on June 16, 2018.

## **VI. Reports:**

- a. Budget. Commissioner Milliken stated that our remaining balance is approximately \$9,707. Which doesn’t include the awards given to neighbor islands for their fatherhood events in June 2018 and that we may have \$2,00. Remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year.
- b. Chairmanship. Chairman Riley spoke about the funding awards and said that the comptroller approved the awards and that Department of Human Services will process the awards. Chairman Riley also mentioned that his term as Chairman expires on June 30 and his commission expires June 30, 2019. Chairman Riley nominated Commissioner Kebo for Chairman and Commissioner Riley for Vice-Chairman.
- c. Events and meetings. Commissioner Milliken said that the Big Island’s fatherhood event is scheduled for June 10, 2018. Mr. Adessa reported on the resource table at the SPIN Conference on April 21, 2018 and that approximately 200 people visited the Commission on Fatherhood table. Commissioner Sunio and Commissioner Milliken assisted with the event.

**\*II. Public Testimony.** Chairman Riley explained the mission and goals of the State Commission on Fatherhood and how the commission will endeavor to make resources available to by collaboration and there is a need for more information from neighbor island fatherhood programs. Introductions of the commissioners were made. The public attendees spoke about their personal situations as a father, which included child custody, their struggles with drugs and alcohol issues. There were numerous stories concerning how they have turned their lives around through the “Kane Connections” program offered by Maui Family Support Services and

facilitated by Kawika Mattos. The stories showed that the fathers all realize that there is a need for role models in their children's lives and listening to other fathers in the program gave them a deeper understanding that they are not alone. A few fathers talked about their situation as a blended family and how different dynamics if this type of family is. Many fathers talked about the need for legal advocacy and more education is needed in the court system. There were stories about how the fathers overcame their pride and asked for help. A spokesperson from HeadStart spoke about the importance of father involvement in the parent education programs through reading and music. A representative from the Department of Housing and Human Services reinforced the idea of stakeholder involvement. There was some discussion about the importance of making cultural connections with Hawaiian Values. Everyone spoke highly of the "Kane Connections" (24/7 Dad) program and how the program focuses on strengths rather than on problems. Chairman Riley thanked the participants for opening up and sharing their experiences.

**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 Kittredge and was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 PM. The next meeting will be June 20, 2018.

Prepared and Submitted by: Chairman Kawika Riley

Date: June 25, 2018

Approved by the Commission