

HAWAII STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 21, 2021 at 1:00pm



Approved
7.16.2021 km

Location: virtual meeting via Zoom
Zoom Meeting ID #8082816682 password Thrive
Zoom room opened at 12:55pm to log-on prior to 1:00pm.

I. Call to Order – Chair Mattos called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Commissioners present: David (Kawika) Mattos, Chad Hasegawa, Charles Woolfork, Allen Cardines Jr, Alan Sunio, Sam Kippen, Jeff Esmond
(Missing - Anthony Mendez – excused, David Lunceford – unexcused).

Ex-Officio(s):

Mimari Hall (DHS - Policy Director, O`ahu for Malia Taum-Deenik)
Matthew Shim (DOH – Chief of Family Health Services, O`ahu)
Chet Okayama (OYS, O`ahu)
Erin Yamashiro (Commission Counsel / AG)

Public Attendees:

Amber Granite (WIC – Waimānalo Health Center, O`ahu)
Anna Ordonez (Family Life Center – Hale Huliau Project, Maui)
Cara Ka`iulani Galon (DOH - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems impact grant, Maui)
Catherine Sorenson (DOH - Child Abuse Neglect and Prevention Program, O`ahu),
Darlyn Chen Scovell (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Action Group & SAFTC, O`ahu),
Hide Wu (Early Childhood Actions Strategies, O`ahu)
Jason Hartwick, (Tutu and Me – Traveling Preschool PID, Maui)
Jimmy James Thennes (Kāne Connections & Ku Imua, Maui),
Joe OConnell (PARENTS, Inc., Hawai`i Island)
Lisa Groulx (PARENTS, Inc., O`ahu Island)
Maka Brautigam-Suapaia (starting a men`s/father`s support 501(c) org. Ku Imua, Maui),
Michael Connor (retired Psychologist & Professor, Maui)
Mike Kubo (Parents & Children Together, Kona-HI)
Martin Oliphant (Lili`uokalani Trust, O`ahu)
Michael Dias (Alu Like, Inc., Hawai`i Island)
Nalu Kekona-Souza (He Lei Piko / Keiki O Ka `Aina, Maui)
Amber Granite (Tutu and Me – Traveling Preschool PID, Maui)
Robert Raasch (Prevent Child Abuse Hawai`i, O`ahu)
Susan Kim (Hawaii - Zero to Three Court, O`ahu),
Vince Razo (Inmates Initiative, Maui)
Willy Orine (community member, Maui)

MISSION Statement – read by Commissioner Esmond

The mission of the Hawaii State - Commission on Fatherhood (HS-COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws relating to children and families.

Note: Individuals who require special needs accommodations may request assistance in writing to the Commission three days prior to the meeting or by contacting the Commission at fatherhoodcommission.hi@gmail.com or call DHS (808) 586-4855.

- I. Introductions:
 - a. Fatherhood Commissioners
 - b. Ex-Officio(s)
 - c. Counsel to the Commission

- II. Conduct Agreement & reminder
 - a. Rules of Conduct – read by Commissioner Mattos

 - b. Quick Review Of Commission’s Statutory Duties - read by Mattos

 - c. Statistics on Absence of Fatherhood (through the National Fatherhood Initiative NFI)
 - Data from 2014 Census - Effects on Absence Fathers –
 1. Pregnancy loss is 22% with support compared to 48% pregnancy loss without father support
 2. If a father is involved, especially in the beginning, creates a strong bond that is created for a long lasting connection
 3. There are 2 million single fathers versus 10 million single mothers
 4. Father’s absence is to blame for many of our most intractable social ills affecting children
 5. 23.6% of children lived in father-absent homes in 2014
 6. Higher quality father-daughter relationships is a protective factor against risky sexual behavior and pregnancy
 7. 92% of parents in prison are fathers

By identifying challenges that fathers face today, want to lessen this impact as much as possible
 - d. Quick video clip from fatherhood.gov presented

- III. Community shares or concerns:
 - a. Public Testimony (listed above; introduction made- allowed 2 minutes)
 - b. Special Guests (prior request / allowed - 10 minutes)
 - a. Lisa Groulx, Executive Director – P.A.R.E.N.T.S. Inc. (with presentation)
 - i. Formally known as Parents Anonymous
 - ii. Providing Awareness, Referrals, Education, Nurturing, Therapy & Support
 - iii. Mission: Strengthening families by providing resources, skills, support and advocacy to create a cycle of positive parenting
 - iv. Vision: To perpetuate a cycle of positive parenting
 - v. Offices on O`ahu (Kaneohe) and Big Island (Hilo and Ka`u, with 41 employees, and parenting education programs, including fatherhood support group program
 - vi. Host professional trainings and workshops, along with the annual fatherhood conference
 - vii. Started fatherhood support group in 2013 on Big Island and in 2019 on Oahu
 1. Host professional trainings and workshops as well as an annual fatherhood conference
 - viii. Over 4,000 parents and children benefit from PARENTS Inc.’s services annually
 - ix. Parenting Classes: To learn basic parenting skills and to help break the cycle of abuse
 - x. Programs available to the general public
 1. 9 week Confident Parenting Class - \$60

2. 12 week Fatherhood Support Group - \$25
 3. Program flyers available
- b. Discussion and Feedback
1. Mattos shared that he conducts a weekly class called Kamalama - Parenting through Hawaiian Values. He shares is a document from Hawaiian Historian, Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp, showing that abuse was never a part of the Hawaiian culture prior to the arrival of missionaries and colonization. Mattos is willing to share document, if requested.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. May 12th, 2021

- i. Commissioner Woolfork motions to accept the May 12th, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Esmond seconded this motion. Commissioner Kippen abstain from this motion due to absence of the 5/12 meeting. Yes – 6 / No – 0. Motion passed and minutes approved to be posted on the DHS HS-COF website.

V. Discussion

a. Ex-Officio(s) updates:

- ii. Office of Youth Services (OYS) shared by Okayama:
 1. OYS is sponsoring a training with Matt Burton – Author of the book “The Unbound Man – Breaking the Shackles of Trauma & Abuse Experienced by Men”. Will receive an online book when registered. Burton will share about trauma of men. Training dates is still to be determined. Email Chet if you are interested.
- iii. Department of Health (DOH) shared by Shim:
 2. RE: COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines are available for children 12 to 17, and adults 18 and over.
 3. Neighbor Island-County travel for folks who receive their vaccine in Hawaii, you can travel through the Safe Travels program and use your vaccine card instead of taking a COVID test
 4. Starting June, they will open this directive to Trans-Pacific travel for folks who received the vaccine in Hawaii to use your vaccine card to travel from the mainland back to Hawaii without having to get a COVID test.
 5. Like inter-island travel, need to upload a copy of a picture of your COVID vaccine card, and bring the hard copy with you when you land at your destination.
 6. Guidance from CDC – if you received a vaccine according to them, you do not need to wear a mask. However, the state has not changed its stance, masks are still required in public. Maintain six feet distance and wash your hands and protect yourself and family.
 7. Mattos chimed in and introduced attendee Kara Ka`iulani Galon from Maui – focusing on early childhood development work with DOH
- iv. Department of Human Services (DHS) shared by Hall:
 8. DHS continues to work on the funding that will be coming to the state after passing of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). There is a lot of funding coming to the state for all departments, and there is a focus on early childhood, and caretakers going back to work. Need more childcare providers so that parents can get back to work especially after COVID.

- 9. Working on the economic recovery planning to support families in the community: nutrition programs, etc.
 - v. Department of Education (DOE) - *none*
 - vi. Department of Public Safety (DPS) - *none*
- b. 3rd Annual – Hawai`i Fatherhood Conference on Friday, June 18, 2021. 8am-12pm
Status & Updates – by Commissioner Cardines and Lisa Groulx
- a. Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii and PARENTS Inc. created the first HI. Fatherhood Conference 3 years ago
 - b. In partnership with the Commission on Fatherhood, the commission funded the event in the past. This year, the commission will be supporting the event for media productions and also funding the Aloha Father of the Year Awards: Hawai`i Island, Maui, Kaua`i, O`ahu (to include Leeward, Central, Windward & Other)
 - c. Focus is to have speakers to be social disruptors to disrupt unhealthy family cycles. Reached out to different Mayors to have videos with opening remarks and to give a personal message as fathers.
 - d. Governor’s office will be joining as a pre-recorded videos as well, along with Senator Kahele.
 - e. Keynote Speakers – to include Kelly Boy DeLima to share personal testimony. Another speaker will be Danny Silk to speak to fathers with his speech “slay the dragon”.
 - f. Will also be drawing attention to sex trafficking happening in the Hawaii islands.
 - g. Event is meant for moms and dads, service providers, etc., however, scholarship (waive-fees) are available for fathers to attend.
 - h. Hope that as service providers, more people get involved to plan the next conference, and potentially hold it at a huge convention center in the future
- c. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program & System, Updates – Mattos shared:
- 1. Commission awarded 3 applicants from statewide at \$1,000 each. However, one award was just decline by Aloha House, Inc. due to continued COVID restrictions on social gathering. They are unable to do their event as planned. The \$1,000 will go back into the budget to be allocated.
- d. Budget / Finances
- i. Budget for FY 2020-21
 - a) Update of Budget / Expense Status – shared by Mattos
 - i. Currently working with our \$20,000 annual budget, which will dropped to \$16,000 for the next two years due state funding cuts of COVID.
 - ii. An excel budget spreadsheet was presented. Column H has adjustments noted from prior meeting. Column AB is current status. Mattos expressed the need to finalize the budget today and solidify (or encumber) the funds. Current allocation is down to \$16,738.82 with unspent amount due to adjustments: \$3,261.18.
 - iii. Business cards were ordered by DHS and 4 commissioners ordered with an estimate of \$50 per commissioner. Total \$200 allocated.
 - iv. There is \$50 for postage. Sunio chimed in that postage is not necessary and to take off from budget.
 - v. Six (6) commissioners flying to Maui – already fixed in budget. Cost includes Hawaiian Airlines flight, car rental under Alan Cardines, and \$20

per diem for the six commissioners traveling. Allocating \$120 for parking to be reimbursed as well.

- vi. Marketing: Commissioner Sunio received quotes for banners at cost of \$100-\$135 dollars for a 3x6 banners. Working on the quantity and will be close to \$2,000. Sunio discussed status of re-doing brochures, but no concrete cost provided. Took the cost of the brochures off the budget, the commissioners does not see immediate need, except for brochures for the Maui 6/12 Celebration of Fathers Event and for commissioners to have on hand for neighborhood boards meetings, etc. Mattos suggested that cost be added to next FY budget. Mattos then provided information on quote he got through Vista Print for vinyl banner: 2.5x6' - \$268.28 for 4 banners and 2.5x8' - \$160.99 for 2 banners. Design to match business cards. Mattos suggested to also consider bumper stickers (100) for \$150. Total quote cost: \$579.27 Sunio shared that we can order table-covers at approximately \$135 for a 6 ft tables. No decision made.
Commissioner Esmond will work on masks order. Estimated \$300 for masks still allocated.
Esmond asked if hats and shirts was ever ordered. Sunio chimed in that shirts were previously embroidered with help from former commissioner Chet Adessa. If commissioners want to have embroidered shirts, commissioners must purchase their own shirts and give to Sunio to get embroidered. Please contact Commissioner Sunio directly.
 - vii. Special NCPL Fatherhood Conference for June 9th & 10th. Today is deadline to decide to register with help from Henny (DHS). Commissioners to attend will be Mattos, Mendez, Hasegawa, Woolfork, Esmond, Cardines and Sunio. Mattos will follow-up Henny to complete the registrations. \$1,253 will be the budget allocation. Kippen will not be attending because he will be on a family trip.
 - viii. RE: HI Fatherhood Conference on 6/18: Trophies cost cannot be confirmed at this time. Mattos suggested that allocation adjustment be made for eight (8) trophies for a total of \$1,500 (an increase from \$1,200).
 - ix. RE: Maui's - Celebration of Fathers event on 6/12: \$2,250 allocation still confirmed and kept for gifts for commissioners to give away at the event.
 - x. Mattos explained that with the \$1000 put back in the budget from the Aloha House decline, the budget now has an unspent amount \$2,358.
 - xi. RE: HI Fatherhood Conference on June 18th: Previous allocation was 40 fathers to receive scholarships for a total of \$1,000 already budgeted. Discussion took place about offering more scholarships to promote having more fathers attend through scholarships with the remaining unspent amount. Commissioner Mattos suggested to honor fathers and give \$25 scholarships to 135 fathers. Mattos said supporting this event with the budget is a part of the commission's statutory duties. Adjusted the budget for the conference registration fees to \$3,350 to cover cost for fathers instead of just \$1000.
 - xii. The remaining unallocated of \$8.18 to be added to supplies.
- vii. Commissioner Mattos motioned to accept the changes in allocations that were thoroughly worked through to balance the budget to \$20,000 (to include adjustment to business card, no changes for travel or parking, changes to marketing items, changes to NCPL conference registration, and changes towards scholarships towards the Fatherhood Conference) as of May 21, 2021. Commissioner Cardines 2nd the motion.

Yes – 6 / No – 0. Motion passed with 6 commissioners (Commissioner Hasegawa left the meeting earlier) and this final approved budget to be forwarded to DHS Fiscal Office.

- e. One Shared Future (OSF) Professional Development Training. Mattos recapped the training plan. He shared the following:
 - i. Alternative Dates proposed: (Two 3-hour sessions):
 - a. 8:00am-11:00am (or) 1:00pm-4:00pm
 - b. Session 1 (Doodle Poll)
 - a. Monday, July 12
 - b. Tuesday, July 13
 - c. Thursday, July 15
 - d. Friday, July 16
 - c. Session 2 (Doodle Poll)
 - a. Monday, August 16
 - b. Tuesday, August 17
 - c. Thursday, August 19
 - d. Friday, August 20
 - ii. Mattos noted that Ex-Officio(s) have already attended this training and are declining to participate. There are 15 slots opened. Commissioners to fill the doodle poll ASAP. First session in July is focused on identifying strengths and goals and August session will identify who can do what to support the commission’s statutory duties. Agencies currently approved by the commission are Ho‘ōla Nā Pua, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Hawaii Fatherhood Conference agencies (Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii and PARENTS Inc.). Prioritize these organizations first for the open slots.
 - iii. After continued discussion about dates in July, the commission determined that July 12th would be the best date. The tentative August date set for August 16th.
 - iv. Commissioner Cardines motions for Commissioner Mattos to have authority to fill the spots up to 15 slots with will include agency partners to participate in the One Shared Future training. Mattos to find like-minded people that will help fill the statutory duties and mission of the Commission on Fatherhood. Esmond 2nd this motion. Yes – 6 / No – 0. Motion passed with 6 commissioners (Commissioner Hasegawa left the meeting).
- f. Commission TEAM
 - i. Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info.
 - 1. Welcoming Commissioner Esmond to the team.
 - 2. Commissioner Cardines is approved to start his 4 year term from July 1st.
 - 3. Former Commissioner Dan Kittridge is coming on July 1st.
 - 4. Commissioner Hasegawa is ending as a commissioner on June 30th.
 - 5. Mattos will be working on contacting the missing & inactive commissioner to have him resign. He also expressed the need to work with legislation to change the law about unexcused absences and removal of commissioners sooner.
 - g. Commission’s nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates – *no further discussion*
 - 1. Central Information Clearinghouse (informational center) – *no further discussion*
 - 2. Identify Best Practices – *no further discussion*
 - 3. Identify Obstacles – *no further discussion*
 - a. Family Court
 - b. Child Welfare Services
 - c. Other obstacles

- d. Create Social Media platforms to identify obstacles and issues:
4. Raise Public Awareness
 - a. Create Social Media Platform - Commissioner Woolfork gave update on working with Amanda Stevens (DHS) on ways to start social media.
 - i. Social Media - Parent Survey about fathers' rights/involvement. Through social media, surveys can get passed on. Could consider creating a parents survey to talk about fatherhood engagement and father rights. This is a good means to learn what obstacles fathers are facing.
 - ii. DHS has a media policy which the commission falls under.
 - iii. Woolfork placed a phone call with the Hawaii State Ethics on Monday to confirm procedures and rules to creating a Facebook page for the commission. In addition, the commission's activity on YouTube is private and we can share the link for access to the video. Nothing is definitive and open to discussing other platforms. Erin asked if there needs to be a vote to create a Facebook page. Woolfork to connect with ethics first if vote is necessary.
 5. Recommend Policies and Practices – *no further discussion*
 6. Promote Education to train fathers – *no further discussion*
 7. Support Fatherhood Programs – *no further discussion*
 - a. Ho‘ōla Nā Pua / Starfish Mentoring Program update - Commissioner Cardines
 - i. *No updates*
 - b. Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) update – Commissioner Mattos
 - i. *No updates*
 8. Increase Fatherhood Capacity
 - a. Create a Go-Fund / Fundraising
 - b. Create a Financial Business Checking Account
 9. Do any and all things necessary to carry out duties and purpose.
 - i. Mattos expressed that without paid DHS staff, the work-load has been intense and that he has been volunteering 20-30 hours to accomplish the commission's work. He proposed the idea to consider hiring a paralegal with next year's budget to create the meeting minutes, unless a commissioner steps up to fill the secretary needs. Sunio suggested to consider getting a community college student to get involved to do this as a part of their classwork. A commission secretary would need to be responsible to over-see the work.

VI. Legislation Session – *no discussion*

VII. Work Plans / Updates & Reports – *no discussion*

- i. 2021-22 Annual DHS Report preparation/updates
- ii. Community Collaborations and Volunteers
- iii. Other upcoming conferences/events

VIII. DHS / HS-COF webpage updates / status of Meeting Minutes & other matters

- a. Mattos shared that all filings are up-to-date.
- b. County of Honolulu/districts of O`ahu and the Neighbor-Island Counties updates - *no updates*

IX. Marketing materials updates – *previously discussed*

- X. Decision Making
- a. 3rd Annual HI Fatherhood Conference - Updates & Other Matters – *discussed and voted upon in previous section*
 - b. FY 2020-21 Budget – Updates / Expense Status / Proposed Expenditures & Revisions – *discussed and voted upon in previous section*
 - c. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program - Updates & Other Matters – *discussed and voted upon in previous section*
 - d. Commission TEAM - Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info. – *no further decisions*
 - e. Commission’s nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates
 - i. Social Media - Parent Survey about fathers’ rights/involvement – *information previously discuss with no voting at this time*
 - ii. Create a Go-Fund to increase fatherhood capacity – *no discussion*
 - iii. Create a Financial Business Checking Account – *no discussion*
 - f. Community Collaborations and Volunteers – *no discussion*
 - g. Marketing – *no further discussion*
- XI. Next meeting:
- a. Friday, June 25th, 2021 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom
- XII. Executive Session – *n/a*
- XIII. Additional Closing Remarks:
- a. Esmond shared about an upcoming virtual event on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 – called The Engagement and will discuss complete history for marriage equality. House Speaker Saiki will be speaking at the event as well. Esmond to provide information and will email Henny the flyer to be distributed.
 - b. Sunio shared information about the upcoming Children and Youth Day – coming up in October to be held virtually again this year. Susie Chun-Oakland will be doing a recognition to the commission. Sunio will discuss event details at the next meeting. The event was connected to the Coalition for Dads in the beginning. Mattos expressed that the commission can support this event as a Coalition for Dads event. Sunio will request to add topic to next meeting agenda for further updates.
- XIV. Adjournment
- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.