

HAWAI'I STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 27, 2021

Time: 1:00pm



Approved

10.15.2021.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 1:03 pm.

MISSION Statement - read by Commissioner Sunio.

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.

Commissioners present: David (Kawika) Mattos, Charles Woolfork, Allen Cardines Jr, Alan Sunio, Sam Kippen, Jeff Esmond, Anthony Mendez & Daniel Kittredge
(Missing: David Lunceford – unexcused)

Ex-Officio(s):

Mimari Hall (DHS - Policy Director, O`ahu for Malia Taum-Deenik)

Chet Okayama (OYS - Director, O`ahu)

AG Council to the Commission: Erin Yamashiro (Deputy Attorney)

Public Attendees:

Hide Wu (Early Childhood Action Strategy – Logistics and Support, O`ahu)

Marty Oliphant (Lili`uokalani Trust – Director of Program Integration, O`ahu)

Susan Kim (O`ahu - Zero To Three Drug Court)

Zosimo Arista (DOH - Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, O`ahu)

Aileen Deese (Retiree from Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, O`ahu)

Claire Kamalu Carroll (Hana Community Association, Maui)

Yuki Lei Sugimura (Maui County – Councilmember, Upcountry Representative)

Bob Raasch (Prevent Child Abuse Hawai`i, O`ahu)

Kehau (Wai`anae Neighborhood Place, O`ahu)

Deborah Zysman (Hawai`i Children`s Action Network, O`ahu)

Catherine Sorensen (DOH - Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program, O`ahu)

Sara Larrimer (Maui Family Support Services, Inc., Program Assistant - Early Literacy Project, Maui)

I. Introductions:

a. Fatherhood Commissioners

b. Ex-Officio(s)

c. Counsel to the Commission

II. Conduct Agreement & reminder

a. Rules of Conduct - read by Chair Mattos

III. Community shares or concerns:

a. Special Guests (prior request – allowed 10 minutes)

Catherine Sorensen (DOH - Child Abuse Neglect and Prevention Program, O`ahu)

- i. Sorensen began by providing the commission with an overview of the program, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, which she is the director. She explained that she manages the federally funded Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant. This grant funds programs established by Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act with the purpose of supporting community-based initiatives, coordinate resources and strengthen diverse families to prevent child abuse and neglect. The grants core functions are:
 - Commitment to promote parent leadership and involvement in prevention programs
 - Foster interagency collaboration with private and public agencies
 - Leverage federal, state, and private funds to support work in child abuse/neglect prevention
 - Promote use of evidenced-based/evidence-informed programs
 - Evaluation
- ii. Sorensen explained why her program exist and defined what child abuse looks like in our society today. She provided real life examples by putting a face on child abuse and gave a breakdown using current statistics on child abuse in Hawaii. She laid out the underlying factors that contribute to abuse and neglect and showed the perpetrators by age groups. She also shared the consequences from abuse like severe head trauma all the way to death. Children with disabilities are at higher risk to abuse or neglected. In conclusion, Sorensen gave an open invitation to contact her for more information and guidance.
- iii. Chair Mattos, Commissioner Kippen and Mendez thanked Sorensen for her presentation.

*Note: Chair Mattos asked the Commissioners to move item V (public testimony) on the agenda ahead of item IV (election on leadership). With no objections noted, item V was moved forward.

IV. Election on Leadership

- a. Chair Mattos went over what commissioners should consider when accepting leadership position on the commission. He requested commissioners nominate themselves for leadership positions that they were comfortable with accepting. After each commissioner had an opportunity to speak and nominate themselves if they so wished, the commission was left with four nominees, one for each of the leadership positions.
- b. Commissioner Woolfork made a motion to elect the four nominees, stating one position at a time and the person's name to their respective position as follows:
 - i. Chairperson – David (Kawika) Mattos
 - ii. Vice-Chair – Charles Woolfork
 - iii. Secretary – Daniel Kittredge
 - iv. Finance Chair (Treasurer) – Jeff EsmondCommissioner Sunio seconded the motion. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 8 / No – 0, Motion passed.

- V. Community shares or concerns:
- a. Public Testimony (brief introduction - allow 1 minute). See above attendance list.
- VI. Quick Review Of Commission's Statutory Duties
- a. Nine (9) Statutory Duties - reviewed by Chair Mattos
- VII. Approval of Minutes
- a. July 16, 2021
 - i. Commissioner Mendez motioned to accept the July 16, 2021, meeting minutes with corrections made by Chair Mattos. Commissioner Kippen seconded the motion. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 8 / No – 0. Motion passed and the approved minutes will be posted on the DHS HS-COF website.
- VIII. Ethics & Boundaries / Office of Information Practices (OIP): updates or information
- a. *No discussion or updates at this meeting*
- IX. Discussion
- a. Ex-Officio(s) updates:
 - i. Department of Human Services (DHS)
Mimari Hall shared that the Department continues to support businesses, services, and families during the covid pandemic, to make sure the needs are being met. DHS is working with Hawaii Emergency Management Agency providing support to connect people with resources when testing positive and having to quarantine. DHS is preparing to aid with upcoming removal of the eviction moratorium and rental protection programs.
 - ii. Department of Health (DOH)
(Dr Matthew Shim could not attend meeting) – no updates
 - iii. Office of Youth Services (OYS)
Chet Okayama expressed a thank-you to Commissioners Sunio and Chair Mattos for meeting with the Youth Commissioners about the program sponsorship fund, grants, and scholarships and also thanked Commissioner Kippen for connecting with him. Chair Mattos and Commissioner Sunio expressed how wonderful it was to meet with the young leaders.
 - iv. Department of Education (DOE) – *no current representation*
 - v. Department of Public Safety (DPS) – *no current representation*
 - b. Upcoming Events 2021-22
 - i. Kaua'i Men's Conference in November 2021
 - a. Commissioner Kittredge provided the following information for the conference:
 - Place – Smith's Tropical Paradise (Wailua, Kaua'i)
 - Date – November 6, 2021 (8:00 am – 2:30 pm)
 - Theme – Healthy and Wellness for the Whole Family
 - Currently planned to be in-person, pending COVID updates.
 - ii. HI 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference
 1. Updates & recap: Commissioner Cardines stated that there are no new updates for the 2022 Hawaii Annual Fatherhood Conference. They will be meeting next month to continue moving forward. He stated that the Annual

Maui Celebration of Fathers Event should also be listed on the agenda. Chair Mattos agreed to place it on the future agenda. *No further discussions on the following.*

- a. Sponsorship support to father/male-caregiver registrations
 - b. Business Partner Award(s)
 - c. Father of the Year Awards:
 - i. Seven (7) Recognitions: Hawai'i Island, Maui, Kaua'i, and three on O'ahu (3)
2. Budget & Finances – *no discussion*
- c. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program & System
 - i. Chair Mattos expressed that the commission should revisit how this program award system is administered, and whether it needed to be adjusted for this fiscal year. Mattos will provide additional information and the commission can discuss this further at future meetings.
 - d. Budget / Finances
 - i. New Budget for FY 2021-22
Chair Mattos offered a prepared budget, went through it line by line, for review and discussion with the commissioners. Commissioner Mendez asked if the commission could use the zoom meeting recording as our meeting minutes. Chair responded that we could but there are guidelines. Commissioner Kittredge asked if DHS had a zoom account and could we access it. DHS Rep Mimari stated that DHS does not have a zoom account, they utilize Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings. Commissioner Mendez asked if we could still consider an intern for helping with minutes. Commissioner Sunio added that possible Aileen Deese might be a good resource for help. Chair Mattos asked if the commission would like to vote on this budget for approval or allow the Finance Chair Esmond to work on it and move approval to September's meeting. Commissioner Mendez wanted to let Commissioner Esmond have a chance to review the budget. Commissioner Esmond asked if all the trophies had reached all recipients. Commissioner Cardines stated that they have not all been given out and he would work with the outer island commissioners to deliver them personally for a photo op. Commissioner Esmond asked how we go about increasing our budget. DHS Rep Mimari explained the process of working with DHS at budget time. Commissioner Kittredge asked about the line item of training not having any money on it, whether the Clifton Strengths Training was paid out of this year's budget, and also asked if the commission were planning on future training opportunities. Chair Mattos explained that the training was paid out of last year's budget and the commission should consider funding future training as part of professional development for the commission team each year. Commissioner Sunio suggested to Commissioner Esmond that we use the budget process to show cause for additional funds. Mattos concluded that we will revisit the budget at next month's meeting.

X. Commission TEAM

- a. Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info.

Chair Mattos welcomed and reconfirmed Commissioner Cardines for another four year term and welcomed back Commissioner Kittredge who previously served on the commission. He

shared that there is no update on the inactive Commissioner Lunceford and that the commission still needs to work on creating a process with legislators to have inactive commissioners removed from the commission by the Governor. Commissioner Esmond asked if the commissioner in question has been asked to step down and Chair Mattos shared that he still has had no contact with Lunceford since August 2020.

XI. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2020-21)

a. Commission's nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates

Chair Mattos led a discussion through each of the nine statutory duties to identify which Commissioners would be willing to take the lead on the duty.

1. Central Information Clearinghouse (informational center)

Commissioner Mendez accepted the lead with this. Chair Mattos suggested that the County Commissioners work on their respective islands and/or districts to collect information.

2. Identify Best Practices

No assignee currently.

3. Identify Obstacles

Commissioners Mendez and Sunio accepted lead for this duty.

a. Family Court

b. Child Welfare Services

c. Other obstacles

4. Raise Public Awareness – Commissioners Woolfork and Mendez assigned.

a. Create Social Media Platform

Commissioner Woolfork gave the commissioners a presentation of the Facebook page he created for the commission. He walked through the FB page showing the information and links that he included. He showed how to access additional agency information and how to post on the page. Commissioner Woolfork sees the page as an opportunity to advertise men's and fatherhood events, as well as post highlights of the events. He encouraged all the commissioners to go to the page, join it, like it and ask others to like it as well. Woolfork concluded by stating that he has collected the organizations information of the participants from today's meeting and he will post something from each of them so the connection will be accessible for men that visit the Facebook page. Chair Mattos commented on the passion he sees in Woolfork and the work he has done. Woolfork added that he wanted to contact DHS-Amanda Stevens to see if he could post videos on the webpage and looks forward to how the page will evolve and impact fathers. Mattos clarified that Woolfork could and remain as the only acting administrator. Mattos recommended that if other commissioners wanted to post items, they should send it to Woolfork because Woolfork completed the DHS training on social media and how to operate by DHS guidelines. DHS Rep Mimari Hall shared that DHS PR specialist Amanda Stevens is a great resource for media inquiries. Stevens would like to be included to help prepare the commissioners for interviews and be able to keep DHS in the loop. Commissioner Sunio reiterated that all postings should go through Woolfork to follow proper protocols.

- i. Create Social Media platforms to also identify obstacles and issues - *no further specific discussions about obstacles, etc.*
5. Recommend Policies and Practices - Commissioners Kippen and Esmond assigned.

Chair Mattos stated that at the last meeting, Commission Kippen and Esmond expressed interest in working on this duty. Esmond shared there is no updates at this time. Commissioner Kippen suggested that he and Commissioner Esmond connect independently to strategize how to approach this duty. Chair Mattos asked the commissioners if there were any upcoming bills that they were aware of that we could discuss. Chair continued going over the four listed items from the agenda. On the agenda item d. Re-establishing commissioner's terms, Commissioner Cardines asked Chair Mattos if he had any prepared language to propose. Chair responded no but suggested reaching out to boards & Commissions office. Commissioner Cardines agreed to make contact. Commissioner Kippen wondered if there was a process for the commission to author a resolution for a community issue. Chair Mattos requested Counsel Yamashiro to weigh in, she felt that the commission should work through DHS or a Legislator to bring forth a resolution. Commissioner Kippen restated he question to reflect a desire to make more of a public supporting statement. Counsel responded that it is not in the commission's statute. Chair asked how the commission would show its support or dis approval of something. Counsel Yamashiro thought it would be best to work with Public Relations and DHS to accomplish this goal. Commissioner Sunio recapped the process the commission has used in the past to research, track and testify on legislation to provide the positional view of the commission. He continued to explain that the commission was able to accomplish quite a few things. He also stated that moving forward the commission needed to continue this work. Chair Mattos commented he believes that Commission Kippen would excel in this arena. Commissioner Esmond asked if the commission works with specific legislators and who they might be. Commissioner Sunio stated that we as commissioners should be working on building relationships with legislators. Commission Esmond asked if Commissioner Sunio had any specific name of people who had been a help to the commission in the past. Commissioner Sunio responded by saying that there are a lot of new people now, and we need to forge new relationships so we can support and use our leverage to help community groups or agencies that further fatherhood programs. Chair Mattos stated that the commission need some to be the front man on this, someone who can compile everything and keep the rest of the commission informed. He asked if Commissioner Kippen was that man, Commissioner Kippen responded by saying he was but he needed to check on a possible conflict of interest. Commissioner Kittredge concluded the discussion by stating this is one of the most important tasks the commission does. That the impact of working in the legislative process can have long lasting effects in people's lives.

- a. Revision of statute for unexcused absences of commissioners – *Chair Mattos will further research, no other discussion.*
- b. Shared Parenting Laws for review – *no discussion*
- c. Child Support issues for review – *no discussion*

- d. Re-establishing the commission's years of terms to a full 8 years or 3 terms, whichever comes first. *Chair Mattos will further research, no other discussion.*
- 6. Promote Education to train fathers - *No assignment currently.*
- 7. Support Fatherhood Programs:
 - a. Ho`ola Na Pua Starfish Mentoring Program update – Commissioner Cardines gave an update, stating there has been an uptick in volunteer mentors, but more volunteers are needed. He is committed to work toward ending sex trafficking through recruitment. Cardines stated he continues to work with Representative Eli who is pushing legislation to prevent child abuse and sex trafficking. He will be reporting back to the commission for future action steps.
 - b. Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) update – Chair Mattos reported that there was a semi-annual meeting held yesterday (August 26st). He understands that there may be COVID funds available and wants the commission to possibly work with DHS to see what funds might be available. He will report back to the commission on this issue.
- 8. Increase Fatherhood Capacity - *No assignment currently and no discussion.*
 - 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.

XII. Legislation Session 2022 – no discussion or action taken

- i. Review of Proposed House and Senate Bills / and other matters
- ii. Sex Trafficking
- iii. Opposition against Casinos

XIII. Work Plans / Updates & Reports

- i. 2021-22 Annual DHS Report preparation, plan, and author.
Chair Mattos requested for a volunteer to compile the annual report. Commissioner Woolfork offered to take on the assignment. Commissioner Esmond said he would help by proofreading the report.
- ii. Community Collaborations and Volunteers – *already discussed and noted above.*
- iii. Hawai'i 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference update – *already discussed and noted above*
- iv. NPCL's 2022 International Fatherhood Conference update – *no discussion*
- v. Other upcoming conferences/events –
 - 1. Children and Youth Day – in October to be held virtually. *No discussion / (Commissioner Sunio left the meeting already)*

XIV. DHS / HS-COF webpage updates / status of meeting minutes & other matters

Chair Mattos informed the commission that the DHS website has been updated. Chair asked Commissioner Woolfork if we could create a link from the website to the Facebook page.

XV. County of Honolulu/districts of O`ahu and the Neighbor-Island Counties updates

- a. Kekaha (Kaua`i) Food Distribution on July 3rd – Chair Mattos requested that the item be moved to next month due to time constraints. Commissioner Kittredge will give update next month.
- b. Other – *n/a*.

XVI. Marketing materials updates / marketing options *no discussion*

XVII. Decision Making – *no decision making at this time for the following.*

- a. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2020-21)
 - i. Commission TEAM - Current Status / Updates / Boards & Commissions Info.
 - ii. Commission’s nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates
 - i. Start HS-COF Social Media streams
 - ii. Create a Go-Fund to increase fatherhood capacity
 - iii. Create a Financial Business Checking Account
- b. Community Collaborations and Volunteers
- c. Marketing

XVIII. Next meeting:

- a. Friday, September 17, 2021, at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom - Chair Mattos confirmed date.

XIX. Executive Session – *none*

Note: At 3:58pm, Commissioner Mendez stated that he needed to leave the meeting and was dismissed.

XX. Adjournment

Closing remarks: Commissioner Kittredge remarked how blessed he felt having another opportunity to serve on the commission again. He also expressed being grateful to be teamed up with such strong, determined men and supportive community partners. Kittredge remarked how encouraging it was to see the men in Maui working together in unity and how unity is built in the doing. He stated that together we can accomplish much and hoped to be an encouragement to the other commissioners as well as drawing encouragement from them.

Commissioner Kittredge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:02pm. Commissioner Sunio seconded the motion. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 7 / No – 0. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.