

HAWAII STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 15, 2021

Time: 1:00pm



APPROVED

2.25.2022 km

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Mattos called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

MISSION Statement – read by Commissioner Woolfork

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, Jeff Esmond, Anthony Mendez & Daniel Kittredge
(Missing: Alan Sunio – Excused / David Lunceford – Unexcused)

Ex-Officio(s):

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

AG Council to the Commission:

Lily Young (AG - Commission Counsel for Erin Yamashiro, O`ahu)

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, O`ahu)
Zosimo Arista (DOH - Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, O`ahu)
Catherine Sorensen (DOH - Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program, O`ahu)
Elladine Olevao (Child Welfare Services – Administrator, Maui & O`ahu)
Jimmy James Thennes (Kāne Connections & Ku Imua Foundation, Maui)
Nathaniel Scott (Kāne Connections and Student, Maui)
Sheron Lehuanani Bissen (UH-MC Director, GEAR UP Maui and Maui County Committee on the Status of Women)

I. Introductions:

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

II. Conduct Agreement & reminder: read by Commissioner Kittredge

- a. Rules of Conduct

III. Quick Review Of Commission’s Statutory Duties: by Chair Mattos

IV. Community shares or concerns:

- a. Special Guest – Chris Yanuaria from Na Leo Kane (NLK): Men’s Voices against Family & Sexual Violence and Abuse.

- i. Chris provided a presentation on his work with Na Leo Kane to the Commission. Na Leo Kane is Hawaii's collaborative to engage men to prevent Domestic and Sexual violence. Chris stated he is original from Maui and has a master's degree in social work. He told us he is the program coordinator for Prevention, Awareness, and Understanding (PAU) at the University of Hawaii. Chris explained that male engagement is important, and as fathers we provide all sorts of things to our families, materially, emotionally, and socially. He went on to explain the reasons why men need to be engaged: (1) because men are hurting others, (2) because men themselves are hurting, (3) because men want to help. So, what started as a conversation in 2016 with the Department of Health, Chris said grew into Na Leo Kane and continues today as a resource for men offering training and a space to have open discussions about what men need. Chris also provided a list of 16 partners statewide that work with his organization. Chris finished by telling the commission about their upcoming event a virtual showing and discussion of *The Bystander Moment* a documentary about cultural stereo types on domestic violence. Chris thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak with us. Commissioner Mendez asked about where we can find statistics about domestic violence in transgender couples. Chris gave a 1 in 3 statistic which is much higher than in other groups. Commission Mendez followed up by asking if Chris's group had someone who could speak on the issue. Chris said he can offer help with that. Chair Mattos said that this was a great presentation and thanked Chris for honoring us with his presences and the information provided.
- b. Public Testimony (brief introduction - allow 1 minute)
 - i. The following introduced themselves:
 - Marty Oliphant, Nathaniel Scott, Elladine Olevao, Susan Kim, Jimmy James Thennes, Catherine Sorensen, Zosimo Arista, Hide Wu
- c. Collaborative Community Partners / Support Fatherhood Programs
 - i. Ho`ola Na Pua Starfish Mentoring Program – update by **Allen Cardines**
(*Allen's update came after Item VI Discussion a. v.*)
 - 1. Commissioner Cardines relayed to the commission that he had a meeting with Lydia from Starfish mentoring program and that the program was able to increase its numbers. He also shared that they were able to recruit a good number of men. He stated that this was a game changer because there were several boys who had request male mentors.
 - ii. Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) – update by **Hide Wu**
 - 1. Hide shared that ECAS has a sub-group focused on Fatherhood engagement and supportive partnerships that meets on the fourth Friday of the month. She explained that their last meeting focus on data that can be utilized to create a survey for fathers in Hawaii. She invited everyone to join the next meeting and let us know that they would be gearing up for the next legislative session.

V. Approval of Minutes:

- a. August 27, 2021 – **Dan Kittredge**
 - i. Commissioner Kittredge presented the draft minutes. Chair Mattos requested spelling corrections. With no more corrections requested, Commissioner Kittredge asked for a motion.
 - ii. Commissioner Cardines made a motion to approve the August 27th draft minutes with corrections. Commissioner Esmond made a 2nd. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 6 / No – 0. Motion passed and these approved minutes will be posted on the DHS HS-COF website.
- b. (*Note: No meeting held in September 2021*)

VI. Discussion:

- a. Ex-Officio(s) updates:
 - i. Department of Human Services (DHS)
 - 1. Mimari Hall stated that DHS continues to support resident's needs, the needs of families and the needs of children. Also, she said DHS continues to try to mitigate the issues of COVID-19 on the community. Hall reminded the Commission that there will be training coming up next month on how to track legislative bills.
 - ii. Department of Health (DHS)
 - 1. Mathew Shim shared COVID Vaccinations are still available, 1st, 2nd, or booster shots for those

that qualify.

iii. Office of Youth Services (OYS) (Chet Okayama/OYS left the meeting prior to updates)

iv. Department of Education (DOE) – n/a

v. Department of Public Safety (DPS) – n/a

b. Budget / Finances – **Jeff Esmond**

i. New Budget for FY 2021-22

1. Commissioner Esmond shared a refined budget for the Commission to review. He went through the budget line item by line item, giving a breakdown of the proposed expenses. Commissioner Kittredge asked about the scholarship to the Hawaii Fatherhood Conference and the donation to the Kauai Men’s Conference. Commissioner Esmond explained the scholarship cost and the donation to the Kauai Men’s Conference. Chair Mattos asked if the Kauai Men’s Conference will be virtual, the answer was yes. In covering the budget items Commissioner Esmond questioned the expense for professional development. Chair Mattos answered that this item is for additional training for the Commissioners to help them fulfill their statutory duties. Commissioner Esmond rapped up by covering the small items and questioned survey monkey and zoom meeting items. Chair Mattos explained that survey monkey is for data collection and that we are currently using his personal zoom connection for our meetings. Commissioner Esmond stated that he reduced the amount for doing meeting minutes from \$2,000 to \$1,000 in an effort to fund other items. He asked how we were moving forward with taking meeting minutes. Commissioner Kittredge responded that currently for this fiscal year that he would continue to do the meeting minutes and the commission should use the money for something else. Lastly Commissioner Esmond brought up the award giving the Commission dose and the number we give out. Chair Mattos gave a history of how the awards process had developed and hoped it would continue to grow. Commissioner Esmond stated at this time to open a discussion on what item to add the extra \$1,000 mention before that was cut from doing meeting minutes. Chair Mattos began the discussion by stating having us get together is very important. Chair Mattos asked for suggestions on where to place the extra funds, Commissioner Woolfork suggested running an ad on Facebook for upcoming events, adding the money to the marketing budget. With no other suggestions Commissioner Esmond moved the \$1,000 into the marketing budget and called for a motion to approve.
2. Chair Mattos made a motion to approve the FY 2021-22 budget with adjustments.
Commissioner Kittredge made a 2nd. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 6 / No – 0.

c. COVID-19: masks, vaccines, and social distancing – **Jeff Esmond**

- i. Commissioner Esmond proposed to the commission that we release a statement from the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood on COVID-19. Commissioner Esmond presented a draft statement to the Commission for review and discussion. Commission Cardines thanked Commissioner Esmond and told us how this issue has been a very divisive issue on leeward Oahu. He stated it has torn community and families apart, and how he has been working towards healing his westside community. Commissioner Mendez expressed how he liked the statement and how this was the beginning of the commission creating its voice. Commissioner Kittredge commented on wanting statements to go to DHS for review prior to the commission voting on them. Chair Mattos asked Mimari whether we need approval by DHS before releasing a statement. Hall suggested to reach out DHS’s PR department. After discussion Commission Esmond read the corrected statement to the commission.
- ii. Commissioner Cardines made a motion to approve the COVID-19 statement with corrections and a review by DHS’s PR department.
- iii. Commissioner Woolfork made a 2nd
- iv. Vote was taken on the motion - Yes – 6 / No – 0.
Motion passed and this approved statement will be posted on the DHS HS-COF website.

d. Upcoming Events 2021-22

i. Kaua’i Men’s Conference on November 6, 2021 – **Dan Kittredge / Charles Woolfork**

1. Commissioner Woolfork gave an update on the Kauai Men’s Conference. He said there will be upcoming pre-recorded sessions on November 2, Social wellness with coaches, Family financial

wellness, and mental and emotional with Trust Circle. He added they are looking for recorded presentations of up to 40 minutes. They also looking at getting a legendary coach and ex-Superintendent Bill Arikaki will be presenting. Commissioner Woolfork closed by saying they are very excited about the conference and looking forward to a great time.

ii. Hawai`i 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference – **Allen Cardines Jr.**

1. Commissioner Cardines told the commission the tentative date is June 17th, 2022, for the conference. He said that they are considering have a two-day event (Friday & Saturday) to accommodate working people. Commissioner Cardines was concerned about having a conflict with the Maui event.

a. Sponsorship support to father/male-caregiver registrations

b. Business Partner Award(s) - *consider additional options*

c. Father of the Year Awards:

i. Seven (7) Recognitions:

Hawai`i island, Maui, Kaua`i, and three on O`ahu

One Business-Friendly Award

d. Budget & Finances

iii. MFSS 15th Annual Celebration of Fathers event – **Kawika Mattos**

1. Chair Mattos shared that the Maui celebration will be held on the same Saturday and will be a drive thru event like last year. He added that he did not want the Maui schedule effect the O`ahu schedule, and he liked the idea of having two-day event for Oahu.

e. Fatherhood Sponsorship Award Program & System – **Kawika Mattos**

i. Chair Mattos informed us that the system is all set up, the funding was voted on today with our new budget, we will have a final review at our next meeting and vote on when to send the application package out. Commission Kittredge asked if this could be placed on the decision-making agenda item for next meeting, Chair Mattos responded yes.

VII. Commission TEAM - **Kawika Mattos**

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

i. Chair Mattos informed the commission that Commissioner Kippen has resigned.

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

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

1. Central Information Clearinghouse (informational center) - **Anthony Mendez**

a. Commissioner Mendez said he will be working on compiling a list of services for O`ahu, he said he needs help for the outer island. He told the commission that for rural communities, online resources are great, so he will be researching that and update the commission. Chair Mattos said MFSS updates its information every two years and will provide that to Commissioner Mendez. He also urged fellow commissioners to send Commissioner Mendez any info they might have.

2. Identify Best Practices

a. Chair Mattos remind the commission that we did not have anyone who has volunteered for this duty and ask if there was anyone interested. Chair Mattos gave a summary of the duty and suggested that possible our new commissioner could take this on.

3. Identify Obstacles –

a. Chair Mattos spoke on this item, he said we have different speakers come on and cover these topics, Family Court, Child Welfare Services. Commissioner Mendez said he thought it would be a good idea to reach out to the public, people that have come to our meeting, to get more information on what we need to know.

4. Raise Public Awareness – **Charles Woolfork and Anthony Mendez**

a. Commissioner Woolfork gave an update on social media. He said he spoke with Amanda Stevens, and she is going to continue to provide him with Google training and advice as he administrates the Commission Facebook page. Commissioner Mendez said he has an idea to expand the Facebook page by putting out a challenge to share the page. Chair Mattos asked if there was a plan to expand our social network, maybe with twitter. Commissioner Woolfork said for now we will

concentrate on the Facebook page and make it strong, then later expand to other platforms.

i. Create Social Media platforms to also identify obstacles and issues

b. Other community / public events & shares

5. Recommend Policies and Practices -

a. Chair Mattos gave an update on the revision of statute for unexcused absences of commissioners. He said he has been in touch with Boards & Commission office for the Governor, and more work must be done.

b. Commissioner Mender gave a brief update on Shared Parenting Laws for review. He said he enjoyed doing this last year but would really like some help with this item. Commissioner Esmond said he would like to be involved with this work.

c. Child Support issues for review – *(Nothing on this item)*

d. Chair Mattos said there is no update for re-establishing the commission's years of terms to a full 8 years or 3 terms, whichever comes first. He said work on this continues.

6. Promote Education to train fathers – *(Nothing on this item)*

7. Support Fatherhood Programs - **Allen Cardines & Kawika Mattos**

a. Commissioner Cardines gave an update on Ho`ola Na Pua Starfish Mentoring Program earlier. He did comment that he is work on some sex trafficking bills but they are not ready yet.

b. Hide Wu gave an update on Early Childhood Actions Strategizes (ECAS) earlier.

8. Increase Fatherhood Capacity – **Kawika Mattos**

a. Chair Mattos gave a brief update on Create a Go-Fund / Fundraising. He said he is working with the proper agency.

b. Chair Mattos gave a brief update on Create a Financial Business Checking Account. He said he is working with the proper agency.

9. Do any and all things necessary to carry out duties and purpose. – *(Nothing on this item)*

IX. Legislation Session 2022 – Jeff Esmond – *(Nothing on this item)*

i. Review of Proposed House and Senate Bills / and other matters

ii. Sex Trafficking – **Allen Cardines**

iii. Opposition against Casinos – **Allen Cardines**

X. Work Plans / Updates & Reports - Charles Woolfork & Jeff Esmond

i. Commissioner Woolfork gave an update on the 2021-22 Annual DHS Report preparation. He said that the report is due the end of the first quarter, next year. Commissioner Woolfork said he has begun putting the report together and will need gather information from some of the other commissioners.

ii. Community Collaborations and Volunteers

1. Hawai`i 4th Annual Fatherhood Conference update – **Allen Cardines** *(Nothing on this item)*

2. Chair Mattos gave an update on the NPCL's 2022 International Fatherhood Conference. He said he will provide more information next month.

3. Other upcoming conferences/events –

a. Children and Youth Day in October – **Alan Sunio** *(Nothing on this item)*

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

i. Chair Mattos told the commission that the DHS website is up to date.

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

i. Commissioner Kittredge informed the commission that he will be working with the Westside Christian Center to do a chili plate drive thru for Halloween. Also, He told the commission he was able to raise funds for the Kauai Fatherhood Council to pay for the venue (Smith's Tropical Paradise). Chair Mattos encouraged everyone present to attend the conference if they can.

- XIII. Marketing materials updates / marketing options – *Alan Sunio (Nothing on this item)*
- XIV. Ethics & Boundaries / Office of Information Practices (OIP): *(Nothing on this item)*
- XV. Decision Making
- a. Budget for FY 2021-22 – *(Already voted on this item)*
 - b. Strategic Planning (HS-COF / SP-FY 2020-21) – *(No votes necessary on these items)*
 - i. Commission’s nine (9) Statutory Duties / Status & Updates
 - ii. Legislation Session 2022
 - iii. Create a Go-Fund to increase fatherhood capacity
 - iv. Create a Financial Business Checking Account
 - c. COVID-19: masks, vaccines, and social distancing – *(Already voted on this item)*
 - d. Community Collaborations and Volunteers – *(No votes necessary on these items)*
 - e. Marketing – *(No votes necessary on these items)*
- XVI. Next meeting:
- a. Chair Mattos asked if Friday, November 19, 2021, at 1:00pm will work for our next meeting, hearing no objections the date was set.
- XVII. Executive Session - *None*
- XVIII. Adjournment
- a. As closing remarks, Commissioner Cardines said how much he loves and appreciates everyone, and as we end, he wanted to remind us all of how divisive the COVID-19 has been in our communities. He said we need to put unity back in community, we need to spread aloha not corona and most important to respect everyone’s opinion. He continued saying as fathers we need to be examples for our children. Commissioner Cardines said we all need to live aloha, love aloha, and share aloha. He finished by saying we need to create safe spaces to be able to have a conversation, test positive for aloha not corona,
 - b. Commissioner Woolfork made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3.44 pm. Commissioner Mendez 2nd the motion. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.