**Minutes Template**

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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceHAWAI`I STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD (HS-COF)**

**Friday, January 19, 2024**

**Time:  10:00 AM**

**Location**: Queen Liliuokalani Building, 1390 Miller St, Conference Room **2F**, Honolulu HI 96813

Virtual access to meeting via **Zoom** - Meeting ID #**876 5720 3038** / Password: **Fathers**

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87657203038?pwd=MlZOejU3VS9iRWVwNG1ZRWhLM1ZpQT09

Zoom waiting room will be open 5-15 minutes prior to meeting start time.

**Recorded Meeting Link:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_XwGICeg7ek**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XwGICeg7ek)

**Meeting Call to Order: [10:06 am]**

**MISSION Statement – read by Commissioner Esmond (0:33-0:55)**

**[From Chapter 577E, Hawaii Revised Statutes] The mission of the Hawaii State - Commission on Fatherhood (HS-COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the importance of fathers 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.**

**I. Rollcall, Introductions and Updates: (0:56-6:00)**

**Commissioners Present:**

(All from 10:06 am to 11:40am)

* Jeff Esmond, Chair
* Alan Sunio
* Kawika Mattos
* Allen Cardines
* Brian Alston
* Marty Oliphant

**Commissioners Absent:**

* Brian Alston

**Ex-officios Present:**

* Mimari Hall, DHS
* Matthew Shim, DOH
* Tommy Johnson, DOPS

**AG Council to the Commission:**

* Deputy Erin Yamashiro
* Deputy Lili Young

**Guests Present:**

* Josh (PARENTS, inc)
* Jed Tesoro

**III. Member Updates (6:01-:**

1. Community shares or concerns
   1. *This agenda has no item III, a.*
2. Ex-officio Updates
   1. Director of Human Services
      1. Mimari Hall shares that Director Betts sent a request for ex-officio representation and received response from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, with the hope that the director will be present at meeting starting from next month with the caveat that session opened up the past Wednesday, pending the director’s availability and hearing schedule. The director will also be following up with the Department of Education and Office of Youth Services to be ex-officios (6:48-9:10)
   2. Director of Health
      1. Matthew Shim shares that the director of health received the letter from Director Betts, and he will be reappointed as the designee (9:11-9:47).

c. Commissioner Updates (seniority order) and Community Outreach (9:48)

I. Commissioner Cardines shares about the Oahu west-side neighborhood security watch that he is involved in, as homicides are up by 80%. He adds that this is a good opportunity to tie the neighborhood security watch with the commission by using the commission banners. He also shares that the neighborhood watch works with GOD Forgives Bad Boys and Bad Girls, and organization of reformed ex-inmates who now give back to the community. Commissioner Cardines asks the commission if this is something they might consider sponsoring or working with (21:47).

Commissioner Esmond asks if there are any connections with other communities on the island. Commissioner Cardines responds that he is working with people in Kahaluu like Jed Tesoro and in Kalihi to train other community leaders to partner with law enforcement and other organizations. He reiterates that the Commission on Fatherhood would be a great place to have conversations like these to help other communities. Deputy Erin Yamashiro suggests putting a vote on a future agenda due to the request for sponsorship. Commissioner Oliphant voices his support for the neighborhood watch and asks what involvement would look like for the commission. Commissioner Cardines references Commissioner Mattos, who invested in his outreach in Maui, and expresses that he hopes to do something similar by flying the commission banners and getting financial support from the commission. Commissioner Mattos praises Commissioner Cardines and voices his support (21:48-31:22).

Commissioner Sunio states that although the west side has a lot of crime, there is crime everywhere. He suggests the commission creates a workshop or put the neighborhood watch on media as a model so that others join in. Commissioner Cardines shares that he has been working with government leaders to create a pilot program and states his intention to put this on the next agenda to take action (31:23-38:05).

Commissioner Esmond responds that the commission has $22,400 not spent and suggests to Commissioner Cardines to push the organizations to apply for the sponsorship awards. He asks Commissioner Cardines to clarify his end goal for the commission’s involvement, Commissioner Cardines responds that visibility (via banners and logo) is his goal from the commission (38:06-46:00).

**IV. New and Ongoing Business – Current Fiscal Year Initiatives (46:01-):**

a. Fatherhood Conference (46:02-47:08)

i. Commissioner Cardines shares that there are no specific updates this month,

however, there is a new executive director for PARENTS, inc.

1. Periodic Newsletter (47:09-1:02:15)
   1. Commissioner Alston shares the newsletter draft, titled Father Hunger: Restoring Hawaii’s Fathers to Their Children. The newsletter mentions the impact of fatherlessness and Commissioner Alston expresses his hope to eventually work with the Commission on Status of Women to hear about their relationships with their fathers and the impact of those relationships. Commissioner Esmond suggests adding a section on the awards to gain publicity. Commissioner Alston suggests having a quarterly newsletter rather than a monthly newsletter so that it can be planned several months in advance. Commissioner Esmond states that they will need to procure a distribution list to email the newsletter out (47:09-59:40).
   2. Commissioner Cardines welcomes Tommy Johnson from Department of Public Safety at Waiawa and Halawa prison. Johnson agrees that the quarterly newsletter is a good option as it takes some of the strain off the writer and allows enough time to get real content. Commissioner Esmond suggests focusing on just a few topics as newsletters with many topics are difficult to focus on and read (59:41-1:02:15).
2. Annual Awards (1:02:16-)
   1. Aloha Father of the Year Awards
      1. Commissioner Esmond asks the commissioners to ask themselves if they would be wiling to go on the news and support the applicant as father of the year when approving or submitting applicants.
   2. Parent-Friendly Business of the Year Award
   3. Sponsorship Awards
3. HS-COF 21st Anniversary in 2024
   1. Brainstorm, discussion, and objectives.

**V. Legislative Update (Vote):**

a. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

b. [Act 156 Task Force on Parentage Laws](https://ag.hawaii.gov/act-156-task-force-on-parentage-laws/)

i. Update on status of Task Force by Commissioner Esmond

c. 2024 Legislative Session Opening Day (January 17, 2024)

i. Discuss participation

**VI. General Discussion of HS-COF (Vote)**

1. Community shares or concerns
2. Central Information Clearinghouse – Commissioner Alston

**VII. Professional Development:**

1. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
2. [Strengthening Families Seminar 2024](https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/2025hawaiiseminar) sponsored by Native American Fatherhood &

Families Association – February 1-2, 2024 at Ala Moana by Mantra Hotel ($100)

c. Please look for opportunities for current fiscal year.

**VIII. Upcoming Meetings:**

1. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
2. Next Meetings
   1. February 16, 2024
   2. March 15, 2024
   3. April 19, 2024

**IX. Topics and Speakers for Upcoming Meetings (Vote):**

a. Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the HS-COF’s agenda at our

next meeting – Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

* 1. c. Member input

**X. Conclusion:**

1. Final Thoughts
2. Vote to Adjourn

**Adjourn Meeting– Motion by Esmond, 2nd by [name] unanimously approved: [Time] (timestamp)**