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

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

**Time:  10:00 am**

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

**MISSION Statement, read by Commissioner Esmond at 10:02 am**

**[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: (0:00-6:29)**

**Commissioners Present:**

(All from 10:02 am to 12:19pm)

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

**Commissioners Absent**

* Marty Oliphant

**Ex-officios Present:**

Matthew Shim, DOH

Mimari Hall, DHS

**Sunshine Law Monitors:**

Deputy Lili Young

Deputy Erin Yamashiro

**Guests Present:**

Neel Chauhan

Jed Tesoro

**II. Community shares or concerns**

* + - * 1. a. This agenda has no item II.
  1. **III Member Updates (6:45-9:55) (13:31-48:34)**

a. Mimari Hall shares that as of May 1st there will be a new Director, Director Yamane. There will

be some transitions and possible changes made, however changes will be minimized, and DHS will continue to build capacity to help the Maui community (6:45-9:54).

b. Matthew Shim shares that the DOH community-based childhood abuse prevention grant is working on submission to continue funding and the maternal infant and early childhood visiting grant will continue grant applications. At the end of May, the DOH will also submit a formula grant and an expansion grant will also be available. (9:02-9:55)

c. Commissioner Mattos shares that the agency he works with, Maui Family Support Services, has recently started men’s support groups due to an increase in suicide attempts and domestic violence in Lahaina. He talks about the difference between a learning brain and a survival brain, and how many kids and adults in Lahaina are stuck in the survival brain due to trauma, which can affect children’s development and general brain functions. He also shares about ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), and how studies show that it can affect people’s health in later years of life. Commissioner Mattos also shares about traditional Hawaiian Parenting, which included not hitting children (a practice that became regular due to missionaries) and how he shares this practice in the support groups (13:31-48:34).

**IV. Ongoing Business and Updates (9:56-11:35) (48:35-2:07:09)**

1. Fatherhood Conference (11:18-11:35)
   1. Commissioner Cardines states that he has not heard from PARENTS, Inc.
2. Periodic Newsletter (48:35-51:32)
   1. Commissioner Esmond updates that the newsletter has been approved and posted on the DHS website. He is currently working on an email list to send the newsletter to and hopes to continue this with administrative assistance, potentially to be hired as early as July 1st. Commissioner Alston suggests sharing the newsletter during meetings and having the commissioners send out the newsletter with their respective island/circle to minimize the workload of managing an email/subscription list or to create an opt in/out option for the newsletter.
3. Central Information Clearinghouse (51:34-51:56)
   1. Commissioner Esmond and Commissioner Alston share that there is no current update.
4. Annual Awards (51:57-1:31:59)
   1. Aloha Father of the Year Awards (Deadline set for May 3, 2024)
      1. Commissioner Esmond shares that there is one applicant from Kauai.
   2. Parent-Friendly Business of the Year Award (Deadline set for May 3, 2024)
      1. Commissioner Esmond shares that there are no current applicants however he hopes the commission can come up with one or two applicants as discussed previously.
   3. Sponsorship Awards (Deadline set for April 10, 2024, and discussion on April 19, 2024)
      1. Commissioner Esmond updates that there are 3 applicants; the Children’s Discovery Center, the Key Project, and GOD Forgives Bad Boys and Bad Girls. He introduces the new applicant, GOD Forgives Bad Boys and Bad Girl’s and the program’s aim to use the requested funds for activities, mentorship programs, and provisions. Commissioner Esmond expresses his struggle to understand how this relates to fatherhood and Matthew Shim asks the commission to consider that the boys in the program will one day potentially become fathers and ensuring they have resilience could have a huge impact on them being successful fathers. Commissioner Cardines suggests sending it back and having them reword their application to better explain how they connect to fatherhood.

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to approve the Children’s Discovery Center application for funds that they requested in the amount of $1500, seconded by Commissioner Mattos, unanimously approved (57:26)**

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to extend the application period for the Sponsorship Awards through May 8th, seconded by Commissioner Cardines, unanimously approved (1:00:28).**

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to award $1500 to the Key Project for their Father’s Day Event, seconded by Commissioner Sunio, unanimously approved (1:02:03).**

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to provisionally award $1500 to GOD Forgives Bad Boys and Bad Girls for $1500 as they’ve applied for pending additional information regarding how it related to fatherhood and how they intend on spending the money, seconded by Commissioner Mattos, unanimously approved (1:17:06).**

* + - 1. e. Father’s Day 2024 (1:32:00-1:50:11)

Commissioner Alston suggests that the commission encourage statewide in a message/announcement that media zero in on celebrating fathers anytime during the month of June rather than one specific day or weekend. Commissioner Esmond suggests asking DHS Publicity to do a press release with the statement. Commissioner Mattos asks the commission to consider adding more weight to this idea by encouraging organizations to do specific actions such as doing something special for the fathers in the company. Commissioner Cardines adds that he is working with the mayor’s office to combat fatherlessness and Commissioner Mattos suggests that he work in conjunction with the Fatherhood Commission’s message. Commissioner Esmond states his intent to put this on the next agenda.

* 1. f. Broader Outreach of the Commission and similar Commissions/Committees (1:50:12-2:03:28)
  2. Commissioner Alston shares that at least 25 states have a similar organization to the Commission on Fatherhood and introduces the idea of connecting with those organizations.
     + 1. g. Budget Review for current fiscal year (2:03:29-2:07:09)
  3. Commissioner Esmond shares that with only 3 applications, there is still a lot left in the budget and a very short amount of time to spend it before the fiscal year ends. Commissioner Sunio suggests having an in-person meeting on one of the islands. Commissioner Mattos agrees and suggests to Commissioner Esmond to present a budget for the meeting.

**V. Legislative Update (Vote) (2:07:10-2:13:51)**

a. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony (2:07:10-2:11:25)

a. Commissioner Cardines asks if there is an update on Jed Tesoro’s recommendation to join the commission; Commissioner Esmond responds that there is no status update however he plans to speak to the senate president’s office in person to follow up.

b. Commissioner Mattos asks the commissioners to keep an eye out for anyone in their network to join the commission as the Maui commissioner considering his term ending as it will be difficult to meet quorum otherwise.

b. Act 156 Task Force on Parentage Laws (2:11:26-2:11:35)

i. Commissioner Esmond shares that there is no update since there has been no Task Force meeting since the previous commission meeting.

c. Update on testimony (2:11:26-2:13:51)

i. SB3335 SD2 or corresponding House bill – Relating to Cannabis

a. Commissioner Esmond shares that although he was not able to attend the hearing, he submitted the commission’s written testimony for consideration. He updates that the bill has failed. Commissioner Cardines shares that the bill will come up again and hopes that the commission will prepare for that.

ii. HB2802 HD1 or corresponding Senate bill - Proposing an Amendment to Article 1, Section 23, of the Hawaii Constitution Relating to Marriage

1. Commissioner Esmond updates that he did attend the hearing and presented the commission’s testimony and the bill will be moving forward.

iii. HB2757 HD1 or corresponding Senate bill - Paid Family Leave

1. Commissioner Esmond updates that this bill is dead.

iv. HB1775 HD1 or corresponding Senate bill – Universal Free Lunch

1. Commissioner Esmond updates that this bill is dead.

**VI. Upcoming Meetings (2:13:52-2:14:18)**

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

b. Next Meetings

i. May 17, 2024

ii. June 21, 2024

iii. July 19, 2024

**VII. Conclusion (Vote) (2:14:19-2:17:14)**

1. Final Thoughts (2:14:19-2:16:17)
   1. Commissioner Esmond thanks the commissioners for a great discussion and meeting. Commissioner Cardines expresses his gratitude to Deputy Yamashiro, Deputy Young, and Mimari Hall and the commissioners.

b. Vote to Adjourn (2:16:18-2:17:14)

**Adjourn Meeting– Motion by Commissioner Esmond, 2nd by Commissioner Sunio, unanimously approved (12:19 pm).**