**HAWAI`I STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD (HS-COF)**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

**Time:  10:00 am**

**Location**: Queen Liliuokalani Building, 1390 Miller St, Conference Room **214**, 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.

**Call to Order: 10:02 am**

**MISSION Statement: read by Commissioner Oliphant**

**[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. Introductions and Roll Call:**

**Commissioners (voting members, by seniority)**

* Chair Jeff Esmond (Oahu)
* Alan Sunio (Hawai’i Coalition for Dads)
* Allen Cardines (Oahu)
* Brian Alston (Kauai)
* Marty Oliphant, Vice Chair (Oahu)
* Neel Chauhan (Oahu)
* Mark Augustine (Maui)

**Ex-Officio(s) or their designees (non-voting members)**

* Jon Kimura, Director of Human Services

**Deputy Attorneys General Sunshine Law monitors**

* Deputy Erin Yamashiro
* Deputy Lili Young

**Administrative Staff**

* Devyn Goo

**Guests**

Amanda Stevens, Department of Human Services Public Information Officer

Dr. Kev Thompson, Governor’s Office of Wellness and Resiliency / Trauma Informed Task Force

**II. Community shares or concerns:**

1. Commissioner Updates
	1. Commissioner Esmond shares that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. He shares two resources [at Futures Without Violence](https://futureswithoutviolence.org/news/sexualassaultawarenessmonth/) and [Campus Action for Healthy Manhood](https://catapultcampusaction.org/#catapult).

**III. New Initiatives**

1. Amanda Stevens introduces Dr. Thompson from the Governor’s Office of Wellness and Resiliency and their experience on the Trauma Informed Task Force. Dr. Thompson shares his background in the military, in psychology, and work experience. He shares how trauma can impact fathers from their violent homes in childhood to adult experiences. It can impact their behavior and how they relate to others, including spouses and children. He stresses the importance of addressing these traumas as if it is not addressed, it can undermine efforts to encourage fathers to be present fathers. He also shares the impact of trauma on cultures as well, especially in Hawaii. He introduces the Trauma Informed Training Task Force to the commissioners and how it can help the commissioners become trauma informed as fathers. Commissioners Augustine, Esmond, Sunio, and Oliphant voice their support for the training. They tentatively agree to in-person, two-hour session on Oahu.

*Note: Commissioner Chauhan exits meeting at 11:01 am, still meeting quorum.*

**IV. Current Fiscal Year Initiatives:**

1. Annual Awards – marketing, outreach, press release and updates
	1. Aloha Father of the Year Awards
		1. Commissioner Esmond asks if there are volunteer commissioners who want to work on the awards to keep the winners a surprise. Commissioner Oliphant volunteers himself.

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves that he and Commissioner Oliphant meet to discuss the Father of the Year applicants and make the selection of who receives the awards, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved 11:08 am.**

* 1. Parent-Friendly Business of the Year Award

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves that he and Commissioner Augustine meet to discuss the Parent-Friendly applicant and decide if they will receive the award, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved 11:09 am.**

* 1. Sponsorship Awards
		1. [Adult and Teen Challenge Oahu PacWest](https://atcpacwest.com/oahu-mens-campus/)

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to accept the Adult and Teen Challenge Oahu PacWest application and discuss the award amount after the vote, seconded by Commissioner Augustine, unanimously approved at 11:18am.**

* + 1. [Storybook Theater of Hawaii](https://www.storybook.org/)

Commissioner Alston introduces the Forest Akamai event from Storybook Theater of Hawaii and voices his support for the organization and event.

**Vote: Commissioner Alston moves the accept the Storybook Theater of Hawaii application, seconded by Commissioner Augustine, approved by 5 (cardines froze) at 11:22 am.**

*Note: Commissioner Cardines’ screen froze at 11:20, still meeting quorum.*

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* + 1. [Children’s Discovery Center](https://www.discoverycenterhawaii.org/)

Commissioner Esmond shares that they are a past recipient, and he is familiar with their Father’s Day event and use of funds for refreshments.

**Vote: Commissioner Oliphant moves to accept the Children’s Discovery Center’s application, seconded by Commissioner Augustine, approved by 5 at 11:27 am.**

* + 1. [Maui Family Support Services](https://mfss.org/)

Commissioner Esmond shares the Celebration of Fathers and Families event hosted by Maui Family Support Services and that they will use the funds for refreshments and supplies.

**Vote: Commissioner Oliphant moves to accept Maui Family Support Services’ application, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved 11:47 am.**

*Note: Commissioner Augustine is recused from this vote. Commissioner Augustine exits 11:24 am and returns 11:28 am.*

* + 1. Nanaikapono Church

Commissioner Esmond states that this is a first-time application from Commissioner Cardines’ church. He asks Deputy Young to confirm where the receipts should come from (café where the event is held or the applicant) and she confirms that it should come from the applicant.

**Vote: Commissioner Oliphant moves to accept Nanikapono Church’s application, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved at 11:30 am.**

*Note: Commissioner Cardines is recused from this vote.*

* + 1. [Key Project](https://www.keyproject.org/)

Commissioner Esmond shares that this is a past applicant and their family event. They plan to use funding for supplies and refreshments.

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to accept KEY Project application, seconded by Commissioner Augustine, unanimously approved at 11:30 am.**

* + 1. [Aina University](https://ainauniversity.org/)

Commissioner Esmond shares that this is a new applicant from Hilo but notes that their event does not take place until November, which would require a separate vote.

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves not to approve Aina University’s application due to criteria issues, seconded by Commissioner Oliphant, unanimously approved at 11:43 am.**

*Note: Commissioner Cardines returns at 11:35 am.*

**Vote: Commissioner Esmond moves to award $1,500 to all the approved sponsorship applicants, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved at 11:59 am.**

* + 1. Review of Sponsorship Award budget and allocation, voting on Awards
			1. Award Options
				1. Trophies (h 8.5”) – Awardline - $100 each
				2. Plaques (7” x 9”) – Robello Group LLC - $55 each

**Vote: Commissioner Augustine moves to use Awardline for the awards, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved at 12:04 pm**.

* 1. How will these awards be presented?
		1. Maui – June 4, 2025 – Celebration of Fathers and Families Event
		2. Kauai
		3. Oahu
		4. Island of Hawai’i
1. Periodic Newsletter
	1. Commissioner Esmond shares that it has been sent out in an email list and while there were no responses to the newsletter, he wonders if any applications were sent because of the newsletter.
2. Outreach Events
	1. [Civil Beat – Hawai’I Storytellers: PARENTHOOD](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hawaii-storytellers-parenthood-tickets-1280356293139?aff=website) – April 4, 2025
		1. Commissioner Oliphant shares that the event went really well and says in the future, a giveaway or game prize would be nice at outreach events.
	2. [Maui Family Support Services, Inc.](https://mfss.org/) – 18th Annual Celebration of Fathers and Families on June 7, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
3. Officer nominations and elections in the July meeting.

**V. Ongoing Business and Updates (Vote):**

a. Professional Development

i. Commissioner Esmond shares that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and presents the [Question, Persuade and Refer Suicide Prevention Certification Training](https://fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/programs.html) presented by Fathers and Families Coalition of America on May 14 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm and May 17 6:00 am – 8:30 am ($75)

**VI. Upcoming Meetings**

1. Next Meetings
	1. May 16, 2025 (DHS, Room 2F)
	2. June 20, 2025 (DHS, Room 2F)

**VII. Conclusion:**

**Adjourn Meeting– Motion by Commissioner Esmond, seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved: 12:35 pm**