



## HAWAII STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council

**DRAFT**

### Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2025, | 1:00 PM Hawaii Time  
Virtually via Zoom and Physical Meeting Location at  
The Keoni Ana Building, 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402

MEMBERS: Tori Abe Carapelho, Katherine Finn Davis, Wesley Sumida, Jodi Hashimoto, Trisha Kajimura,  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Charlene Takeno, Creighton Liu  
GUESTS: None  
SHPDA: John Lewin, Terry Visperas, Barbara Yamashita

### ATTENDANCE RECORD OF APPOINTED MEMBERS

| Date                   | 4/11/2024 | 8/8/2024 | 10/10/2024 | 11/14/2024 | 1/23/2025 | 2/20/2025 | 3/18/2025 | 5/15/2025 | 7/18/2025 |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Tori Abe Carapelho*    | X         | 0        | X          | X          | X         | X         | X         | X         | X         |
| Katherine Finn Davis** | X         | X        | X          | X          | X         | X         | 0         | X         | X         |
| Trisha Kajimura        | X         | X        | X          | 0          | X         | 0         | X         | 0         | X         |
| Wesley Sumida          | X         | X        | X          | X          | X         | X         | X         | X         | X         |
| Charlene Takeno        | X         | X        | X          | X          | X         | X         | X         | 0         | 0         |
| Creighton Liu          |           |          |            |            | X         | 0         | X         | 0         | 0         |
| Jodi Hashimoto         |           |          |            |            | X         | X         | X         | X         | X         |

Legend: X=Present; 0=Absent; /=No Meeting, \*-Chair, \*\*-Vice Chair

Meeting Recording: [https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/TWdR8\\_BuQWacMvi5jJUpm29CJj-xXXjflrWz1lxmzNI8e6ljiL9nQr-SBYZYBAU.K5oxRt1LzTiUhSwj](https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/TWdR8_BuQWacMvi5jJUpm29CJj-xXXjflrWz1lxmzNI8e6ljiL9nQr-SBYZYBAU.K5oxRt1LzTiUhSwj)

Passcode: Kq\*6JkdW

| TOPIC  | DISCUSSION  | ACTION |
|--|---|--------|
| Call to Order  | The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Tori Abe Carapelho, Chairperson, presiding.   |        |
| Minutes  | Motion to accept the minutes from the May 15, 2025, meeting.<br>Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried.<br>Public testimony – None.  |        |
| State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) Updates | J. Lewin, SHPDA Administrator, provided the following updates:<br><b>AHEAD Grant:</b><br>There is continued support for the "All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development" (AHEAD) grant from the current administration. The term "equity" in the grant name had been changed to "efficiency." The new "CHOMP" (Competition and Choice Realm) process offers specific choices for the grant's direction, including exploring independent practice for physician assistants and transparent drug pricing, which SHPDA supports. He indicated that eliminating the Certificate of Need (CON) was proposed but is not being pursued due to strong opposition from hospitals and hospices. SHPDA anticipates an extra year for planning the grant, with full hospital participation potentially bringing in over \$200 million annually in provider subsidies. This could significantly offset projected Medicaid cuts and the loss of Obamacare exchange incentives, which are expected to lead to a rise in uninsured individuals.<br><br><b>Medicaid Benchmark:</b><br>Announced \$250,000 in consulting funds to advocate for an increase in Hawaii's Medicaid benchmark, currently the lowest in the nation, to prevent potential bankruptcies for providers. The strategy includes lobbying Congress for a small, unnoticeable increase in Medicare reimbursement that would have a significant positive impact on Hawaii. |        |

**Staffing:**

SHPDA is hiring two federal positions for the AHEAD grant (a project director and an administrative officer) and a new SHPDA administrative officer. There's a commitment for an informatics clinician position next year to analyze all-payer claims database data.

**Certificate of Need (CON):**

T. Visperas confirmed no significant new CON issues for Oahu at present. J. Lewin mentioned routine CONs for Hawaii State Hospital and temporary emergency beds for Queen's Medical Center.

**KupunaAloha Program:**

A proposed statewide volunteer system to assist homebound seniors who don't qualify for Medicaid services. SHPDA would manage a volunteer registry, including background checks and training, with potential funding from the legislature, AHEAD, or new rural health grants.

**Rural Health Grants:**

A new \$10 billion/year federal rural health grant, available for 5 years, which aims to offset Medicaid cuts. Hawaii expects to receive \$100 million annually from one portion of this fund. Another \$2.5 billion/year is at the discretion of the CMS Administrator, whom the Governor knows. Members were asked to consider how this funding could be best utilized on Oahu.

**HONSAC Engagement and Future Direction:**

There is increased interest in SHPDA's work, citing an invitation from Senator Dela Cruz to discuss the future of health in Hawaii. He emphasized that the council's recommendations are now more likely to translate into policy and funding.

**Recruiting New Members:**

Encouraged members to nominate individuals to join the council to ensure more diverse representation.

**Public testimony – none.**

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| HONSAC Priorities                  | <p>Tori Carapelho led the review of the Honolulu Subarea Council (HONSAC) priority areas. Following this review, a motion was made and unanimously approved by those present to accept the five identified priorities. These priorities will now be submitted to the Plan Development Committee and the State Health Coordinating Council for further consideration and action.</p> <p><b>Workforce:</b><br/>Address workforce shortages straining care delivery and compromising timely, quality care.</p> <p><b>Mental Health:</b><br/>Increase access to comprehensive mental health services as part of overall health and well-being.</p> <p><b>Kupuna:</b><br/>Support the growing needs of the aging population by improving systems that enable health, safety, and quality of life.</p> <p><b>Access:</b><br/>Provide timely access to equitable, quality healthcare by addressing barriers and embracing cost effective, innovative approaches to service delivery.</p> <p><b>Preventative:</b><br/>Expand proactive measures to prevent negative health impacts.</p> <p>Public testimony – none.</p> |  |
| Standing Committee Reports/Updates | <p><b>No committee reports or updates.</b></p>  |  |
| Announcements                      | <p><b>Future Meeting Schedule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1PM-2PM</li><li>• Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 12PM-1PM</li><li>• Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1PM-2PM</li><li>• Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1PM-2PM</li><li>• Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1PM-2PM</li></ul>  |  |
| Meeting Adjournment                | <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:03PM.</p>   |  |