



HAWAII STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Kupuna Advisory Council - Plan Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025 | 11:00 PM Hawaii Time

Virtually via Zoom and Physical Meeting Location at
The Keoni Ana Building, 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402

MEMBERS: Derrick Ariyoshi, Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga, Ritabelle Fernandez, Nathan Hokama, Lindsey Ilagan, Jeanette Koiijane, Kia'i Lee, Melvin Sakurai, Marilyn Seeley, Warren Wong

MEMBERS ABSENT: Poki'i Balaz, Michelle Cordero-Lee, Jinyong Lee, Lawrence Nitz, Brandy Shima, Mia Taylor

GUESTS: Alex Tellez, Sterling Enterprises, HI

SHFDA: John Lewin, Wendy Nihoa

ATTENDANCE RECORD OF MEMBERS

Date	11/2/23	12/8/23	1/12/24	1/25/24	3/11/25	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga	X	X	X	X	X					
Derrick Ariyoshi	O	X	O	X	O					
Michelle Cordero	X	X	X	O	O					
Ritabelle Fernandez	X	X	X	X	X					
Nathan Hokama	X	X	X	X	O					
Lindsey Ilagan	X	X	O	X	X					
Jinyong "Jenny" Lee	X	X	O	O	O					
Jeanette Koiijane	X	X	X	O	X					
Kia'i Lee	O	O	X	X	O					
Lawrence Nitz	X	X	X	O	X					
Melvin Sakurai	X	X	X	X	X					
Marilyn Seeley	X	X	X	X	X					
Brandy Shima	X	X	O	O	O					
Mia Taylor	O	O	O	O	O					

Warren Wong	X	X	X	X	X					
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Legend: X=Present | O=Absent | /=No Meeting | *-Chair | **=Vice Chair

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	A quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 11:01 p.m. by M. Ah Ho-Mauga, Chairperson, Kupuna Advisory Council (KAC) presiding.	
Roll Call	Member roll call.	
Welcome	M. Ah Ho-Mauga welcomed members and staff.	
Minutes	Motion to accept the minutes from the January 7, 2024, meeting. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Call for public testimony – none.	
Special Presentation by Alex Tellez, Sterling Enterprises, HI	A.Tellez, has 17 years of experience in artificial intelligence, shared insights from his work in healthcare, focusing on bridging the gap between social determinants of health and the resources available to support individuals. Previously involved in the creation of Tinder's matching algorithm, his work now centers around matching people with essential health services. He noted that many individuals, especially on the island, face multiple barriers to healthcare, such as transportation and social isolation. This led him to develop a solution that connects people to over 580 local nonprofit organizations catering to various needs like housing, transportation, and meal delivery. The core of the solution presented was a simple digital questionnaire designed to assess an individual's social determinants of health. This tool, which can be used by anyone—not just healthcare professionals—links the responses to available services, generating personalized care plans. Using AI, the system processes the responses and matches individuals with the appropriate services. Once a match is identified, referrals are sent automatically to the respective organizations, ensuring that each person gets the help they need in real-time. The system is designed to handle multiple social determinants of health simultaneously, addressing co-existing challenges such as transportation, isolation, and understanding medical information. A. Tellez highlighted the program's ability to continue reaching out to organizations if initial referrals are unavailable, ensuring that gaps in care are eventually filled. HMSA (Hawaii Medical Service Association) has supported this initiative, recognizing its potential to reduce healthcare costs by	

Kupuna Advisory Council Priorities	<p>focusing on prevention and community connections rather than paying for sick care. KAC members can reach out to Alex Tellez by email at Alex.Tellez@sterlingadministration.com</p>
SHPDA Updates	<p>M. Ah Ho-Mauga emphasized the Kupuna Advisory Council's key priorities: food, long-term care, and financing. Our goal is to develop a white paper on these issues. We are in the process of forming a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to evaluate both the resources within our group and those available in the broader community. Under the State of Hawaii Sunshine Laws, the PIG can consist of two or more members, but fewer than a quorum. This group can investigate matters related to the Council's business, though no decisions can be made within the PIG itself. The findings and recommendations must be presented to the board in a formal, publicly announced council meeting. Any deliberation and decision-making on the matter can only occur at a properly noticed meeting, which must take place at least six business days after the presentation of the findings and recommendations.</p> <p>Public testimony – none.</p> <p>J. Lewin, Administrator, highlighted key strategies for addressing long-term care financing in Hawaii, emphasizing the creation of a dedicated working group ("PIG group") to explore funding options and program structures. He clarified that while this group could operate outside the advisory council, its findings would need to be reported back to the council for further action. He also discussed opportunities for engagement with local and state initiatives, including legislative support and community-based pilot projects focused on improving long-term care services for Kupuna.</p> <p>J. Lewin proposed a pilot project aimed at enhancing home and community-based services to help Kupuna age at home more effectively. He referenced successful models from states like Minnesota and Washington, where resources were shifted from institutional care to home-based services, improving both care quality and cost-efficiency. He suggested that a similar model could be implemented in Hawaii with thoughtful planning and community involvement.</p> <p>SHPDA continues to monitor the financial challenges facing long-term care, particularly with potential federal funding cuts. He encouraged leveraging state and community resources, citing examples like Palolo Valley, where local initiatives have successfully supported aging populations. He concluded by urging continued creativity and collaboration to build a sustainable long-term care system that uses resources efficiently and meets the needs of Hawaii's aging population.</p> <p>Public testimony – none.</p>

Meeting Logistics	Discussion regarding meeting frequency. In addition to the PIG that will be established, the KAC revised and proposed meeting dates are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thursday, July 31st at 11AMThursday, September 25th at 11AMThursday, November 20th at 11AM	
Announcements	None.	
Next Meeting	Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.	