

Meeting Minutes: Kūpuna Advisory Council

Date: December 19, 2025, **Start Time:** 2:04 PM, **End Time:** 2:29 PM

Participants & Speakers

1. **Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga**, Chair, City & County of Honolulu, Elderly Affairs Division
 2. **Marilyn Seely**, Council Member
 3. **Derrick Ariyoshi**, City and County of Honolulu, Elderly Affairs Division
 4. **Stephen Kemble**, Queen's Medical Center
 5. **Cullen Hayashida**, University of Hawai'i
 6. **Ritabelle Fernandes**, Medical Director Aloha Care
 7. **Jenny Lee**, University of Hawai'i
 8. **Jeannette Koiwane**, Kokua Mau
 9. **Warren Wong**, AARP Hawaii
 10. **Kevin Kawamoto**, University of Hawai'i
 11. **Nathan Hokama**, Strategic Communication Solutions
 12. **Lindsay Ilagan**, Hawai'i Public Health Institute
 13. **Larry Nitz**, University of Hawai'i
 14. **Audrey Suga-Nakagawa**, AARP Hawaii
 15. **Jack Lewin**, SHPDA Administrator
 16. **Terry Visperas**, SHPDA
 17. **Jason Espero**, SHPDA New Staff Member
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Speaker Summary & Talking Points

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.
- Terry Visperas conducted the roll call, confirming that with 21 total members, they reached the necessary quorum (11 members present).
- New SHPDA staff member Jason Espero was introduced to the council.

2. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the October 31st meeting were reviewed.

- Stephen Kemble moved to approve; Cullen Hayashida seconded. The motion passed.

3. Long-Term Care (LTC) Financing PIG Report Overview

- Marilyn Seely provided a summary of the recently completed 120-page white paper regarding LTC financing.
- **Key Points:**
 - The primary focus is establishing a stable funding source for LTC to move away from silos and reliance on unpaid family care.
 - Research indicates a strong community preference for home-based care, which is currently expensive and lacks a sufficient workforce.
 - The report utilizes an economic simulation model specifically calibrated for Hawai'i's unique demographics and cost of living.
 - While several other states are adopting this model, Hawai'i faces significant legislative hurdles regarding appropriations this session.

4. Legislative Update (Kūpuna Caucus)

- Cullen Hayashida and Marilyn Seely clarified the status of the LTC proposal at the State Legislature.
- The proposal did not make the "Top 5" priority bills for the Kūpuna Caucus this year, largely due to strict budget restrictions and a moratorium on new state agency work mandates.
- However, there is still legislative interest, and individual legislators may still introduce related bills.

5. Formation of the LTC Implementation Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)

- Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga announced the need for a new PIG (3–7 members) to focus on the implementation of the white paper's findings.
- Terry Visperas explained that the PIG must remain under the quorum count (max 10 members) to operate as a working group not strictly bound by certain Sunshine Law posting requirements, allowing for more flexible collaboration.

Action Items

- Council Members: Interested individuals must email Terry Visperas or Melissa Ah Ho-Mauga to nominate themselves for the new LTC Implementation PIG.

- **Chair/Staff:** Finalize the PIG membership by January to begin reviewing the white paper and engaging with legislators/council members for "seed money."
 - **Brandi Shima:** Requested to present at the next meeting regarding Medicare changes and medication coverage impacts on kūpuna.
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Next Steps

- Establish the LTC Implementation PIG within the next month.
- Continue monitoring the legislative session for potential bill introductions.
- Prepare for a presentation on pharmacy/medication issues at the next scheduled council meeting.