



**HAWAII STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402 • Honolulu, HI 96813 • Phone: (808) 587-0788 • [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org)  
 Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council

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**Meeting Minutes**

March 2, 2026, | 12:00 PM Hawaii Time  
 Virtually via Zoom and Physical Meeting Location at  
 The Keoni Ana Building, 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402

MEMBERS: Tori Abe Carapelho, Trisha Kajimura, Wesley Sumida, Creighton Liu, Katherine Finn Davis  
 MEMBERS ABSENT: Charlene Takeno, Jodi Hashimoto  
 GUESTS: Ben Sadoski (Unite Here Local 5)  
 SHPDA: John Lewin, Terry Visperas, Jason Espero, Jonas Yee

**ATTENDANCE RECORD OF APPOINTED MEMBERS**

Date	1/23/2025	2/20/2025	3/18/2025	5/15/2025	7/18/2025	8/8/2025	09/12/2025	11/14/2025	3/2/2026
Tori Abe Carapelho*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Katherine Finn Davis**	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	0	X
Trisha Kajimura	X	0	X	0	X	X	0	X	X
Wesley Sumida	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X
Charlene Takeno	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	0	0
Creighton Liu	X	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	X
Jodi Hashimoto	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0

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

Meeting Recording: <https://www.zoomgov.com/rec/share/PNY5xGB6YXBo26ZJFnw-wVf32vv85WoAVIe3WXxT62JnvpCRsBbozjQaTS4iIn6R.QoXIXSGLv9wUaS4Y>  
 Passcode: 1M3paaA

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Minutes</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Tori Abe Carapelho, Chairperson, presiding.</p> <p>Motion to accept the minutes made from the November 14, 2025, meeting. By T. Kajimura, seconded by K. Finn Davis</p> <p>Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Public testimony – None.</p>	
<p>Legislative Update- Hearing Loss State Plan Bill HB19474</p>	<p>T. Abe Carapelho, HONSAC Chair and author of bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bill (HB19474) establishing a state plan for hearing loss is progressing.</li> <li>• SHPDA is the sponsoring state agency.</li> <li>• The bill has passed three House committees, including House Finance, and is expected to cross to the Senate.</li> <li>• Purpose: Create a task force to assess the current system, identify gaps, and propose solutions.</li> <li>• Positive outlook despite legislative budget challenges.</li> <li>• Members congratulated and acknowledged Tori's advocacy.</li> </ul>	

<p>State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) Updates</p>	<p>J. Lewin, SHPDA Administrator, updates:</p> <p><b>SHPDA Staffing &amp; Capacity</b></p> <p>Summary: SHPDA has expanded its team with two new AHEAD grant staff Jonas Yee HI-AHEAD Project Manager and Jason Espero HI-AHEAD Administrative Officer and welcomed Barbara Yamashita back in a consulting role. The agency is managing a heavy legislative workload, tracking 75–80 bills and providing testimony on most. These additions strengthen SHPDA’s capacity during a demanding session.</p> <p><b>Key Legislative Bills Discussed</b></p> <p>Summary: Major bills this session includes updates to SHPDA’s statutory authority, expanded APCD data access, and multiple proposals affecting CON, mergers, and primary care funding. Several measures have stalled, while others have shifted into workgroups that SHPDA is now leading. Overall, the legislation reflects growing expectations for SHPDA’s coordination and oversight role.</p> <p><b>HMSA &amp; HPH Partnership Proposal</b></p> <p>Summary: The proposed HMSA–HPH partnership remains in an early, informal stage with no application submitted. Stakeholders have raised concerns about potential impacts on independent providers and non-participating hospitals. SHPDA is maintaining neutrality while gathering broad community input, recognizing that financial pressures tied to low Medicare reimbursement are driving the discussion.</p> <p><b>Medicare Reimbursement Context</b></p> <p>Summary: Hawai’i’s Medicare reimbursement rates remain far below the national average, creating financial strain across hospitals and providers. Because Medicaid rates cannot exceed Medicare, the low federal benchmark suppresses reimbursement across the system. SHPDA is supporting state and federal advocacy efforts by preparing data analyses to highlight the disparity.</p> <p><b>AHEAD Grant Update</b></p> <p>Summary: The AHEAD implementation timeline has been extended to January 2028, giving SHPDA and providers additional preparation time. The grant has the potential to bring substantial federal funding to Hawai’i, including support for global budgets, primary care innovation, and rural health. SHPDA will administer roughly \$70M annually and is seeking community input as it works to encumber all funds by the September 30 deadline.</p>	
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Discussion and Q & A

B. Sadoski (Unite Here Local 5)

- Asked about the process and stakeholder participation in the HMSA/HPH merger discussions.
- J. Lewin invited unions to arrange a meeting with SHPDA to provide input.

C. Liu

- Asked how SHPDA balances regulating system changes (like mergers) while implementing AHEAD and rural health programs.
- J. Lewin emphasized the need for collective statewide collaboration among all health systems and insurers.

General Discussion/Announcements

- Members discussed Civil Beat article on the merger; J. Lewin, clarified one factual error (age of photo).
- Dialogue on aligning stakeholders, data needs, and potential statewide convenings.

No committee reports, updates of announcements.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 6 at 12:00 PM, pending confirmation from all members. T. Visperas will follow up with both attendees and absentees to verify availability. Additional meeting dates beyond April will be proposed after the legislative session concludes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.