



Hope Bennett, Chair
Caroline Kunitake, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Li Dotson, Member
Valerie Lam, Member
Raven Sevilleja, Member
Helen Stewart, Member
Renee Sonobe Hong, Ex-Officio

Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women *Kōmike Kāko 'o Wāhine o ke Kalana 'o Honolulu*

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 7, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Kapālama Hale, Conference Room 277
925 Dillingham Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawai'i
Via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

Committee Members present: Hope Bennett, Caroline Kunitake, Jennifer Li Dotson
Valerie Lam, Helen Stewart and Ex-Officio Member Renee Sonobe Hong

Committee Members absent: Raven Sevilleja

Staff Resources Personnel for the Committee present at the meeting:

Shane Akagi, Administrator, DCS, Office of Grants Management (OGM)

Tammy Ngo, DCS/OGM

Spenser Kunishige, DCS/OGM

Jordana Ferreira, Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, DCS

Kathleen Kelly, Deputy Corporation Counsel, assigned to the Committee

The meeting of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (HCCSW) was called to order by Chair Hope Bennett (Chair) at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: May 3, 2024 Meeting

Chair Bennett asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 3, 2024 Meeting. Vice-Chair Kunitake made the motion, Member Dotson seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. Public Testimony on all Agenda Items

There was no oral (in person or online) testimony or written testimony for this

meeting.

4. Testimony/Comments from Department Agencies

Mr. Akagi introduced the Committee to Jordana Ferreira, the City's Early Childhood Resource Coordinator. Ms. Ferreira shared information regarding her position, experience, responsibilities, and endeavors. It is one of the Mayor's priorities to support Oahu's youngest learners and working families, with a focus on bolstering childcare and early learning opportunities. Ms. Ferreira has a lot of experience in the field of early learning and childcare specifically and she is very excited for this opportunity to figure out how we can bolster the city's infrastructure to be able to expand those opportunities. She is focusing her efforts on ensuring that federal and state policies are implemented in ways that actually address the unique needs of Oahu residents and soliciting ongoing feedback from our community members and stakeholders to help inform key decisions and policies on various levels. She believes that it is important to find creative funding mechanisms and streams to infuse more funding into the field to be able to bolster support for our families and the workforce. Ms. Ferreira has been applying for grants and met with folks to get funding and execute some program related to empowering Oahu's families and doing family engagement for youngest kids and connecting families with more meaningful resources over the course of the next few years. Ms. Ferreira is also developing an early childhood action plan for the City, so she is convening stakeholders starting with early childhood professionals and their families, and hopefully we will be able to share that out and adopt that in some form within the next few months.

Mr. Akagi mentioned that he will be leaving the meeting shortly and he provided an update regarding the City's Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 budget. Last year, the City Council decreased the general funds for the division's general funds and although we tried to get the allocation back, which they did. However, when we checked the budget this year, due to the negative deficit on the budget there was additional adjustments that had to be made, so our division's budget was brought down to zero (0) in terms of general funds. Therefore, we will probably need to wait until Fiscal Year 2025 in order to spend money on the contract. Mr. Akagi apologized for the inconvenience and explained how the reports related to the budget that was used to discuss things with the City Council. Mr. Akagi will try to move some of the general fund monies for Fiscal Year 2025 to make it available for the HCCSW committee.

Mr. Akagi left the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Member Stewart joined the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

5. Paid Family Leave Project - Updates from Committee Members

The Committee will delay the discussion regarding this Agenda item as there are no additional updates at this time.

6. FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION: HCCSW Annual Retreat Planning

At the last HCCSW meeting, the Committee discussed ways for information gathering. Chair Bennett mentioned that one of the ideas for the HCCSW annual retreat is to have a presenter from Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN) share more about the legislative session and what the Committee could do in regards to Paid Family Leave. She also mentioned that in addition to the Paid Family Leave topic, there are also childcare related topics that they can discuss at the retreat. Chair Bennett stated that the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce was involved in the past legislative session for supporting potential childcare partnerships with the State so that Hawaii families can be provided more opportunities for childcare. She mentioned that the Committee could ask someone from the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce to present and give their perspective from the business point of view. Another idea for information gathering could be to have a presenter from Holomua Collective. Chair Bennett shared that Holomua Collective is a non-profit organization and their mission statement says that they are committed to making Hawaii more affordable for all working families. She shared that they have supported past legislative sessions for childcare provisions. She also stated there is a group called Hawaii Action Strategy whose vision is to ensure that Hawaii's young children are healthy and ready to learn. Chair Bennett suggested that the Committee invite HCAN, Holomua Collective and Hawaii Action Strategy to join the HCCSW annual retreat and share different perspectives on childcare.

Chair Bennett asked Ms. Ferreira if she had other groups in mind that could contribute to provide information for the annual retreat in August. She shared that the Committee has been talking about how they can gather more information they need to make an impact in the next legislative session and legislative sessions moving forward. Ms. Ferreira shared that Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN) is the advocacy organization that has taken the lead on Paid Family Leave as well as childcare related bills. She stated they convene with Hawaii Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance (HECAA) and the other groups that Chair Bennett already mentioned.

Chair Bennett shared that she would work with OGM staff and Mr. Akagi regarding the scheduling of the annual retreat and look into inviting the groups that were mentioned to have speakers present to the Committee. She stated if the annual retreat is being scheduled on August 2nd, 2024, she would not be available to attend the meeting in person however, the Committee could still have a regular scheduled meeting on that day and look at scheduling the annual retreat in September instead.

Vice-Chair Kunitake shared that she would not be available to attend the August 2nd meeting. Ex-Officio Sonobe Hong shared that she is not available the week of August 19th, 2024 and that she would need to check her schedule for September.

Member Dotson left the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

7. FOR DISCUSSION: Agenda Setting for the Next Meeting

Chair Bennett is going to work with Mr. Akagi and the OGM staff to further discuss the planning and scheduling of the HCCSW annual retreat.

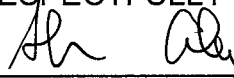
8. Next Meeting: August 2, 2024

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. as a remote meeting via Zoom with an in-person location at Kapālama Hale.

9. Adjournment

With no further items on the agenda, Chair Bennett adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

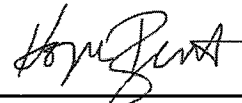


SHANE AKAGI, OGM Administrator

DATE

10/7/2024

APPROVED:



HOPE BENNETT, Chair