Honolulu County
Committee on Aging

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
222 North School Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Lindsey Ilagan, Chair
Terrina Wong, Vice-Chair
Zosimo A. Arista, Jr., Member
Merle Okino O'Neill, Member
Rick Tabor, Member
Cristina Vocalan, Member
Kathy Wyatt, Member

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Līhau Hale, Conference Room 4A
222 North School Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i
In Person

1. CALL TO ORDER

   The meeting of the Honolulu Committee on Aging (HCOA) was called to order by Lindsey Ilagan (Chair) at 2:01pm

2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION(S)

   Committee Members present:
   Zosimo Arista, Lindsey Ilagan, Merle O'Neill, Rick Tabor, Terrina Wong

   Staff Resources Personnel for the Committee present at the meeting:
   Derrick Ariyoshi, Executive Assistant, Department of Community Services/Elderly Affairs Division (DCS/EAD)
   Thomas Atou, Chief Planner, DCS/EAD
   Zenaida Caraang, I&A Coordinator Interim, DCS/EAD
   Maria Burns, Secretary, DCS/EAD
   Joel Nakamura, Grants Manager, DCS/EAD
   Shane Akagi, Executive Assistant, Department of Community Services/Office of Grants Management (DCS/OGM)
   Jordana Ferreira, Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, DCS/OGM
   Tina Lee, Office Assistant, DCS/OGM
   Alohilani Maiva-Shigeta, Planner, DCS/OGM

   Public:
   Donald Sakamoto
   Annette Tashiro

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member motioned to accept the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes, motion was seconded by Member. All committee members present said aye to approve the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved as is.

4. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

   None

5. WRITTEN TESTIMONY

   None

6. FOR DISCUSSION: Sunshine Law Complaint Compliance– Derrick Ariyoshi, Executive Assistant, Department of Community Services DCS/EAD

   A. Briefing and response on how the complaint was addressed by the Executive Assistant of the Department of Community Services (DCS), Elderly Affairs Division (EAD), on the Honolulu Committee on Aging's (HCOA) response to the Office of Information Practices (OIP)'s Notice of Sunshine Law Appeal (S APPEAL 26-08), related to complaint by community member regarding the August 20, 2025 HCOA Committee Board Meeting:

      1. Issue was raised for failure to post board packet materials before the scheduled meeting

         Response: No violation; no materials were distributed in advance.

      2. Insufficient Notice of Topics to be discussed at meeting

         Response: Improved agenda detail.

      3. Missing Postal Contact Information for submission of written testimony

         Response: Included physical address for testimony submission.

      4. Awaiting formal response from the Office of Information Practices (OIP)

   B. Kona Low Storm Response:

      1. Multiple storms hit the Hawai'ian islands in March & April 2026, led to significant displacement and need for emergency support from Department of Community Services (DCS). This resulted in State & City government closing government offices on March 13, 2026, March 20, 2026 & April 10, 2026

         i. DCS's role: Established the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Established in Waialua, Oahu, Hawai'i as a central hub, operating seven (7) days a week, supporting over 1,500 households.

         ii. EAD's role: Coordinated food and meal relief, working with Salvation Army, Red Cross and Hawai'i Food Bank.

iii. Staffed CAC: Volunteers and staff acted as navigators, providing personalized support and referrals, helping residents access resources efficiently.

iv. Language access: Interpreters and multilingual volunteers supported limited English speakers, especially among local farmers.

v. Transportation: Department of Transportation Services expanded bus and TheHandi Van services, provided free HOLO cards, and flexible shuttle options for those with disabilities.

vi. Culturally Responsive Practices: Daily opening with prayer or intention, strong emphasis on community-led, culturally sensitive service delivery.

C. Federal Funding & Advocacy:

1. USAging Board Update: Federal funding for gaining programs remains stable, with some increases for caregiver programs. Advocacy ongoing for increased funding.

2. Legislative Support: Senator's Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz supported efforts to increase Older Americans Act funding.

D. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Build-Out

1. Funding: $2.5 million from HUD secured for Kūpuna and Intergenerational Resource Centers.

2. Renovations: Plans for multi-purpose rooms, training spaces, and accessibility features.

3. Intergenerational Programming: Collaboration with early childhood and family engagement coordinators to support families and bridge generations.

4. ADA Compliance: Intentional design with assistive technology and consultation with disability experts.

E. New Senior Center Sites:

1. Pauahi Recreation Center: Taken over for renovation and new programming (i.e. Brain Gym, congregate dining).

2. Accessibility: Focus on American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance , elevator, air conditioner, and bathroom upgrades.

F. Information & Assistance Branch Updates (Zenaida Caraang, DCS/EAD Interim Information & Assistance Coordinator)

1. Database Transition: We transferred services from WellSky to Mon Ami system for improved documentation and services tracking.

2. Disaster Preparedness: Distributed 1,000 starter disaster kits, collaborated with emergency management, and developed resource materials for families.

3. Outreach: DCS Staff volunteered at shelters and community events, acting as navigators and trainers for emergency preparedness.

G. Grants Management Updates:

1. Contract Cycle: New service contract solicitation underway to ensure continuity of card.

2. Program Expansion: Exploring reimbursement pathways for programs such as:

i. Brain Matters

ii. Brain Gym

H. Community Engagement & Partnerships:

1. Train-the-Trainer: Volunteers being trained for emergency response and preparedness education.

2. Collaboration: Ongoing partnerships with local organizations, CERT teams, and Hawai'ian Electric for community resilience.

7. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 2:00 p.m; however, needs to be reschedule. Doodle Poll will go out to determine upcoming meeting date. Proposed dates are Wednesday, July 15, 2026 and August 12, 2026 Conference Room 4A at Līhau Hale.

8. Adjournment at 3:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Derrick Ariyoshi, EAD Administrator

Date

8/27/2026

APPROVED:

Lindsey Ilagan, Committee Chair