

Meeting Minutes – Approved

Mayor's Advisory Committee For Equal Access (MACFEA)

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Mo'ikeha Building, Meeting Room 2A-2B

4444 Rice Street, Lihu'e, HI 96766

Members Present: Rita Manriquez – State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB); Roberta Eiben, Consumer; Dr. Lucy Miller – DCAB (Disability and Communication Access Board) Board Member; Betty Bell, Kaua'i Federation for the Blind; Kathy English, Hawai'i Disability Rights Center; Ellen Ching, Consumer; Suzie Woolway, 'Ohana Home Health; Julia Hall, Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i;

Members Excused: Kathy Sheffield – National Alliance on Mental Illness; Linda Nuland-Ames, ADA Coordinator

Staff members also present: Jay Furfaro, Boards and Commissions Administrator; Lani Agoot, Administrative Specialist; Philip Dureza, Deputy County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roberta Eiben called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with 8 members present.

INTRODUCTION OF MACFEA MEMBERS AND STAFF

The committee welcomed newly appointed member Julia Hall of Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i. Julia shared that she is delighted to be back, she was a member of MACFEA in 2009 and 2010. She said Aloha Independent Living just started up on Kauai, their main office is in O'ahu and Hilo. They are getting out information regarding several services, information and referral, peer counseling, advocacy, and independent living skills.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Regular Open Session Minutes of October 20, 2015

Action: Ms. Bell moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Ms. Manriquez seconded the motion. Motion carried 8:0.

GUEST SPEAKER

- Mona Higa, Department of Land and Natural Resources
 - * Presentation regarding House Concurrent Resolution 141, Beach Access

Ms. Higa introduced Dean Aoki as presenter.

Mr. Aoki: I am the ADA Coordinator for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am here to brief you on House Concurrent Resolution 141 that has been set up for both the department and for the four counties to report to the legislature on improving beach access for persons with disabilities. I want to brief you on what we are doing for that report and introduce the method in which we are doing it. You received a handout and instructions on how to complete a matrix that we developed. We had a person from all the different counties and we came up with a method of trying to assign a point value system to all the different beaches so that we could get an idea of what the current conditions of the beaches are and to give us an idea as to what the level of accessibility was currently there now and what would we have to do to improve that access for the beach up to the shoreline. That is what Resolution 141 is.

Basically we identified different attributes of the beaches for the island of Kauai and we divided it into three different categories. One was your general information, name, location and district that they are in. The second went into what kind of developed improvements were at the beaches. That helped us identify to what level the current accessible features were, meaning parking, comfort stations, picnic areas, showers, drinking fountains and so on. What we are hoping to do is as we identify all of the different characteristics or attributes at a park we will see which ones would be the most attractive to increase that level so that we can have beach access. The second section was about the natural conditions, natural terrain, and the ground surfaces. Because we are dealing with the beach we are dealing with off-shore conditions, waves, currents, so if there were any danger, things that should be considered when looking at these beaches. The last section was the exceptions. Under the Access Board for the National (inaudible) they have exceptions that include things such as wildlife preservation and environmental protection. These are things that would supersede or override providing access. These were some of the categories that we listed to identify all the different beaches and help us identify which beaches would be candidates for improving beach access to the shoreline.

Because this report was due to be reported to the legislature in the 2017 session all of this work is being done this year. We hope to get the final report sometime in December to be presented to the 2017 legislature. This is the first of three major steps, this is identifying and analyzing and determining what are the candidates for beaches to have shoreline access. And then the next is again going into the legislature and getting money to execute design and then construct if necessary.

Ms. Woolway said with some of the beaches such as in Po'ipū they have access to a beach wheelchair and asked Mr. Aoki what category would beaches that are already making headway in accessibility to the shoreline fall under? Mr. Aoki responded that that should be another category that they will add into the matrix, if there are existing means of access whether is it through sand chairs or the mobility chairs. He said there are also the beach mats. Ms. Woolway said it would reflect well on the county that they are already making some headway into beach access. She asked Mr. Aoki if there will be a public comment time during this research to which Mr. Aoki responded that as they get further along there will be a time for public comment. He said one of the things he would ask the committee to do is reach out the people they are aware of that may have

an interest in beach access and if they have input or any suggestions if they could contact the county, maybe someone in Parks and Recreation. Ms. Woolway asked Mr. Aoki if he could provide the committee with a point person they could contact and that they could refer other agencies. Mr. Aoki suggested that she find out who the Mayor would like to designate as the point person. He said the Mayor received the same letter regarding the house concurrent resolution and should be aware of the efforts being done to address the resolution.

Ms. Ching asked Mr. Aoki what the department's thoughts are on access especially when there are so many obstacles when looking at accessibility and hardening of the shoreline and how do to mitigate that in providing accessibility? Mr. Aoki responded that that is one of the questions that his department has also. He said their mission is to preserve natural resources so it doesn't warrant them to start paving, putting concrete or developing the areas they are trying to preserve. Mr. Aoki said DCAB is developing some outdoor developed area guidelines and they will be looking at that as these guidelines come up for comment before they become actual requirements, they want to address those concerns. He said there are conditions within the matrix, the type of ground surfaces they are dealing with, the type of terrain, the slope requirements, those are all environmental conditions that will definitely determine or identify whether a beach would be good candidate or not. Ms. Ching asked if that would potentially disqualify a beach for environmental reasons under that category to which Mr. Aoki responded yes.

Ms. Bell asked if insect control and fertilizing the grassy areas is under Mr. Aoki's prevue as well, to which Aoki replied that it would fall under the county's respective department such as maintenance.

Dr. Lucy suggested that the committee make a motion to select a lead person from the committee to follow up on this matter. Ms. Ching suggested that they ask the Mayor to designate someone as the point person for the county so that groups could contact that person and other state agencies would have somebody that could coordinate with the county. Mr. Aoki clarified that the handout is the initial instructions; there was a meeting similar to this one on Maui which had additional comments that were very similar to the comments today. He said based on these comments the columns in the matrix will increase.

Ms. Woolway moved to recess at 12:53 p.m. Ms. Ching seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

Chair Eiben called the meeting back to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Woolway asked Mr. Aoki if there was something online that would be available to the county to provide input and information. Mr. Aoki said that when he has the point person for Kauai County he can make available the same matrix that all counties as well as DLNR have for review and it would be public information.

Dr. Lucy moved that the committee make a request to the Mayor to designate a point person for coordination of the beach accessibility and House Concurrent Resolution 141 matter. Ms. Ching seconded the motion. Motion carried 8:0.

Mr. Aoki added that some of the other comments that will be added to the list will include neighborhoods where beaches are because that changes if it is rural versus suburban and urban. The other change is identifying if the beach already has any kind of emergency call system.

BUSINESS

REPORTS

- ADA Coordinator's Report

Chair Eiben read the ADA Coordinator's report (on file) for the record.

- Updates / Announcements

Dr. Lucy shared that the Text to 911 system, which the Kauai Police Department is involved with, will be happening soon and that she is a volunteer for this testing. She encouraged committee members to let her know if they were interested in being a part of this Text to 911 testing. Dr. Lucy will send the informational flyer to Office of Boards and Commissions for disbursement to the committee members. Ms. Hall asked Dr. Lucy if she knew whether the Text to 911 system was able to respond to these text messages. Dr. Lucy said she thought the emergency operators could text back but she wasn't sure. She said there is another emergency system on O'ahu called Smart 911 which is much more sophisticated and was going to find out why we don't have that system on Kauai. This is where anyone, particularly disabled, can sign up for it and give out certain basic information, where you live, what disabilities you have, information that needs to be in their data base. Then if you do send out a 911 call they already have that information. Ms. Hall said the EOC's system has that same process to where you sign up and they get your information so when there is a tsunami alert you get alerted. Dr. Lucy said that is done on a county basis and text 911 will be statewide.

Administrator Furfaro asked Chair Eiben if the committee would like to have a briefing from the County's IT Department at the next meeting to which Chair Eiben replied yes.

Action: Chair Eiben moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 p.m. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried 8:0.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 12:30 p.m., Mo'ikeha Building, Meeting Room 2A/2B.

Respectfully submitted by: Lani L. Agoot
Lani Agoot, Administrative Specialist

Approved as circulated Approved as amended