

State Commission on Fatherhood

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 29, 2004

Lieutenant Governor's Meeting Room, Hawai'i State Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Baclig (Hawaii), Sandy Baz (Maui), Bernard Carvalho (Kauai), Wayne Cordeiro (Oahu), Greg Farstrup, Michael Kramer (Hawaii), Steven Nakaoka (Oahu), Marika Ripke (Oahu), Sylvia Yuen (Oahu), Merton Chinen (Youth Specialist, Office of Youth Services), Henry Oliva (Deputy Director, Dept. of Human Services), Russell Suzuki (Deputy Attorney General). **GUESTS:** Stephen Teves (Office of the Lieutenant Governor), Senator Brian Kanno, Janice Lehner (Senator Kanno's office).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Loretta Fuddy (Dept. of Health), (Dept. of Education)

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by facilitator Greg Farstrup at 11:10 a.m.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Everyone introduced themselves by talking briefly about their fathers and their families.

3. REVIEW OF ACT 156-2003, which established the State Commission on Fatherhood

Farstrup informed the panel that folders were distributed to them; included in the packet were the following: a copy of Act 156-2003 and a matrix describing the Commission; a copy of SCR 130 SD1, which establishes an awards program to recognize employers with parent-friendly policies; the report on Parental Preferences in Government, Contracts, Programs and Services as required by Act 162-200; and a list of the Commission members.

Farstrup explained that the Commission was to be made up of 14 members, reflecting the geographical and cultural diversity of the State. Nine are voting members and five are non-voting ex-officio members. He added that there are no staff positions provided, that there are no available funds, and that the Commission sunsets on June 30, 2005. Farstrup suggested that the Commission ask the 2005 Legislature to extend the sunset date for the Commission since it took 18 months for the Commission members to be appointed and hold their first meeting.

4. REVIEW OF HAWAII'S OPEN MEETINGS "SUNSHINE LAW"

Russell Suzuki explained that the purpose of the sunshine law is to protect the general public. Meeting notices must be posted six days prior to the meeting, and after that time, need a 2/3 vote to add anything to the agenda. Any meetings of two or more Commissioners require a meeting notice six days prior. Commissioners are allowed to discuss agenda items with each other prior to the meeting only if the discussion is limited to fact-finding. If this is the case, the Commission Chair should be notified and there should be a report at the next Commission meeting. Otherwise, Commissioners are not allowed to discuss Commission business with each other outside of a properly noticed meeting.

"Sunshine Law" details are available at website for State Office of Information Practices: www.hawaii.gov/oip. Suzuki also explained that our agenda must include time for public to speak or testify. Commissioners with "Sunset Law" questions may contact Russell Suzuki @ 586-1261 or russell.a.suzuki@hawaii.gov.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Suzuki was asked what are the responsibilities of the Chair. He responded that the Chair does the agenda, speaks for the Commission, submits budget requests, and conducts meetings.

ACTION: Andy Baclig nominated Greg Farstrup to be Chair. Henry Oliva seconded the motion. Farstrup nominated Michael Kramer. Kramer declined and suggested the Chair should be on Oahu. The Commissioners voted unanimously to elect Greg Farstrup as Commission Chair (Baclig/Oliva: unanimous).

ACTION: Steven Nakaoka nominated Michael Kramer to be Vice Chair. Wayne Cordeiro seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously to elect Michael Kramer as Commission Vice Chair (Nakaoka/Cordeiro: unanimous).

ACTION: Cordeiro nominated Marika Ripke to be Recording Secretary. Motion seconded by Steven Nakaoka. The Commission voted unanimously to elect Marika Ripke as Commission Recording Secretary (Cordeiro/Nakaoka: unanimous).

6. EXTENSION OF COMMISSION, FUNDS/BUDGET, & AWARDS PROGRAM

ACTION: A motion was made and seconded to for the Commission to draft a legislative bill to extend the State Commission on Fatherhood sunset date for 2 more years (i.e., until June 30, 2007), place the Commission under the Department of Human Services (DHS), draft and submit a preliminary budget, and request to spearhead the awards program (S.C.R. No. 130) recognizing businesses with parent-friendly policies. The Commissioners voted unanimously to pass this motion (Kramer/Ripke: unanimous).

Regarding the budget, we will ask for funds for: neighbor island Commissioners' travel expenses to attend Oahu Commission meetings, to implement the parent-friendly business awards program, and for "other activities" (e.g., media activities, publishing documents). For now, we will leave the amount blank. Senator Brian Kanno suggested that we submit a realistic budget by February, 2005. The Commission will ask DHS if they can provide some basic staff support for the Commission. The Legislature may also be able to provide some staff support for the Commission. We will submit an action plan to the Legislature outlining the Commission's proposed activities.

7. MEETINGS

The Commission set the following future 3-hour meeting dates to be:

- Thursday January 27th @ 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday February 24th @ 10:00 a.m..
- Thursday March 31st @ 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday April 28th @ 10:00 a.m.

8. PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Members asked each other to review the Commission's duties and bring their ideas and suggestions for proposed activities of the Commission to the January 27, 2005 meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Marika Ripke
Date Submitted: January 18, 2005

Approved with corrections by: State Commission on Fatherhood
Date Approved: January 27, 2005