

State Commission on Fatherhood

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2005

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Baclig (Hawaii), Bernard Carvalho (Kauai), Greg Farstrup (Hawaii Coalition For Dads), Michael Kramer (Hawaii), Steven Nakaoka (Oahu), Marika Ripke (Oahu), Sylvia Yuen (Oahu), Loretta Fuddy (Dept. of Health), Merton Chinen (Youth Specialist, Office of Youth Services), Henry Oliva (Deputy Director, Dept. of Human Services), Russell Suzuki (Deputy Attorney General), Clayton Fujie (Deputy Superintendent, Dept. of Education).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Baz (Maui), Wayne Cordeiro (Oahu)

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Farstrup at 11:02 a.m.

2. DECEMBER 29, 2004 MEETING MINUTES. Russell Suzuki pointed out that the term "sunset" should be changed to "sunshine" (in reference to the Sunshine law).

ACTION: The December 29, 2005 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF ACT 156.

Suzuki and Farstrup drafted revisions for Act 156 and the updated draft was circulated. It extends the Commission's sunset date to 2007. Suzuki informed the Commission that Brian Kanno was working with the Senate President on the draft. Oliva shared that he has spoken to the director of DHS regarding the language of the bill placing the Commission under DHS and that she had no objections.

ACTION: The Act 156 revisions were endorsed by the Commission (Yuen/Oliva: unanimous).

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING

a. Legislature's Family-Friendly Business Awards (SCR 130-2003)

This item was briefly discussed, and it was suggested by Kramer that we need some kind of business association partnership (e.g., Chamber of Commerce). Fuddy suggested that, at least initially, we include the presentation of the words as part of the October Children and Youth Month Awards event.

b. ACT 301-01 & ACT 162-02 (Report on Fathers inclusion in State funded services)

Kramer spoke to author of this report regarding the methodology of this study. He discovered that each executive branch was shown the act and asked to indicate (yes/no) whether their agency/branch showed a preference. It was basically a self-assessment procedure with no criteria. Kramer suggested that one possible activity for the Commission would be to do another, more thorough, assessment using specific criteria and that we create and conduct the interviews/surveys.

c. Funding for father/inmate-parenting education program.

Farstrup informed the Commission that the Hawaii Coalition for Dads and GBA asked for a bill that is being introduced requesting for funding to carry out father/inmate-parenting education programs in Hawaii's prison system.

d. Testimony and Testimony Committee

Suzuki asked if the Commission will be responsible for providing written/oral testimony for/against bills that affect fathers. Oliva offered to flag legislation that he peruses that relates to fathers. It was also suggested that we look to others to write letters or support. It was agreed that for the time being, we should focus on our bill; then, in the future, look at other relevant bills. Farstrup suggested establishing a committee/subcommittee within the Commission who would be responsible for drafting/providing such testimonies.

ACTION: It was decided that the “Testimony Committee” of the Commission would include Farstrup, Chinen, Suzuki, and Kramer. However, all Commission members will be available for support. The Testimony Committee will draft, prepare, and send testimony via email as attachments to other Commission members. Those who are available will support.

e. Funds

It was agreed that we would ask for approximately \$50,000 for the Commissions’ budget.

5. **RECESS:** An hour break was taken from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the Commission to be introduced in the House and Senate meetings.

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

a. Dates

For the time being, we change our monthly meetings to the last Wednesday of each month. They will now be February 23, March 30, and April 27 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. We will revisit this topic at our next meeting because some members (e.g., Wayne Cordeiro) are unable to attend given the new meeting dates.

b. Topics for February Meeting

Sylvia suggested (and it was agreed) to have a facilitator at our next meeting to help us develop more specifically our strategic plan. Before the next meeting, Oliva, Farstrup, and Kramer will secure a facilitator and provide them with some background information about the Commission and its objectives, as well as an overview of the outcomes we would like to attain at the February 23rd meeting. One of the outcomes we would like to see at the next meeting is a realistic budget. Other suggestions for topics of discussion at our next meeting include: What are other agencies doing along this topic? What are the Commission’s short and long term goals?

c. Between Now and the Next Meeting

ACTION: It was agreed that each Commission member should look over the Commission’s duties as described in Act 156 and email Greg their top three priorities (Carvalho/Yuen: unanimous).

d. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m. (Fuddy/Yuen: unanimous).

Submitted by: Marika Ripke, Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: February 8, 2005

Approved by: State Commission on Fatherhood

Date Approved: February 23, 2005