

Alan Clinton
Chair

Richard Seder
Vice Chair



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Meeting Minutes

Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Virtual Meeting (Zoom) & in-person at HCNCS office.

Serve Hawai'i With Aloha

I. Call to Order

Chair Alan Clinton called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

II. Introductions

Commission Members present: Alan Clinton, Frank Haas, Anne Marie Matsuzaki, Karen Mukai, Anne Nakakura, Diane Peters-Nguyen, Raga Nadella, Richard Seder, Elwyn Watkins

Others in Attendance: Commission staff Keala Monaco, Brian Higaki; UH Community Colleges Deborah Nakagawa

III. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No written comments were received and no individuals signed up for oral testimony.

IV. Approval of Minutes of the August 10, 2023 Meeting

Diane Peters-Nguyen moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023 meeting, seconded by Richard Seder, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

V. Discussion and Approval of Papahana Kuaola Grant Application

Keala Monaco stated that at the Commission's August 10, 2023 meeting, it was recommended that Papahana Kuaola's grant request be deferred until reimbursement requests for year one (program year 2022-2023) were submitted. The same application request for 20 members and \$230,263 has been re-submitted for Commission review and approval. Alan Clinton asked if this request accommodates housing numbers and Keala Monaco responded that it does not include housing numbers. Diane Peters-Nguyen inquired if year one feedback includes recruitment for 3,000 volunteers. Keala Monaco responded that Papahana Kuaola's goal is to increase community outreach and that their project progress report for 2021-2022 will include actual volunteers recruited. They have a strong program but are still working to increase their administrative capacity.

Frank Haas moved to approve the Papahana Kuaola grant request, seconded by Diane Peters-Nguyen, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Keala Monaco stated that the next step is to input this grant request into the UH Office of Research Services (ORS) system; Brian Higaki will handle the myGRANT submission.

VI. State Service Plan Discussion

Richard Seder provided an overview outline of the proposed 2024-2027 State Service Plan (SSP). The proposed SSP, which is aligned with the AmeriCorps mission, simplifies and increases the focus of the current SSP. More specific focus areas include Maui as well as assisting Hawai'i's underserved communities.

Raga Nadella said that the primary purpose of the SSP is to have a vision to steer the Commission in its goals and actions, and have alignment in those. As the SSP is publicly available on the Commission website, it is also a representation of the Commission and its priorities to the public. From the AmeriCorps standpoint, the SSP is helpful for the West Region to understand the Commission's priorities and where there could be alignment and collaboration within the larger National Service community in the state.

Richard Seder added 2 Hawaiian values – Aloha and Kuleana – to the 5 existing values. It was suggested that Laulima may better reflect cooperation and working together vs Kuahui. Frank Haas suggested discussing the inclusion of Hawaiian values with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. Keala Monaco suggested consultation with UH Hawaiian groups and spoke of the overall need for public comment on the draft SSP.

As an example of prioritizing Maui, Keala Monaco shared that the UH Maui College (UHMC) Culinary program provided as many as 10,000 meals per day for Maui wildfire victims. HCNCS connected UHMC with current AmeriCorps National program Kupu so that UHMC culinary students could become AmeriCorps members through Kupu and thus receive member allowances and education awards.

Diane Peters-Nguyen shared about previous Hawaii Red Cross experiences with building institutional capacity during recovery periods. She shared that Hawai'i Community Foundation is increasing grants to Maui for health and wellness as mental health is becoming more critical. It was recommended that HCNCS increase its efforts and resources based on our AmeriCorps strengths to support and leverage various Maui operations.

Per Keala Monaco, the staff will use the SSP as a guide for activities and to rebuild the commission. She concurs with Raga Nadella's comments that anyone reading the SSP wants to know priority areas and Hawaiian values. Richard Seder suggested prioritizing 2 focus areas. Diane Peters-Nguyen suggested that allocation percentages should be recommended for the various focus areas. Anne Marie Matsuzaki suggested reordering the slides to prioritize community-focus on environmental stewardship and economic opportunity.

Anne Nakakura suggested keeping the SSP broad to enable expanded reach, while Richard Seder said not to use too prescriptive and narrow language to enable flexibility to address emerging situations.

Alan Clinton said that the current SSP has received approval for an extension to March 2024. He recommended formatting the SSP by consolidating and prioritizing strategy, then the draft SSP will be shared and discussed at the November HCNCS meeting.

VII. Announcements and Information

Manual review requirement: Per Keala Monaco, the AmeriCorps regional office has informed her that the manual review status will be lifted soon (no specific date as provided), eliminating the requirement to audit each financial transaction.

Joint collaboration: Keala Monaco met with Hawai'i AmeriCorps Foster Grandparents and Seniors programs to learn about their programs and share about HCNCS. Maui and Hawaii Island have hundreds of senior volunteers. They will meet again to discuss possible plans to collaborate on a joint project.

HCNCS Meetings: Alan Clinton said that HCNCS is required to hold 4 meetings a year. Next meeting is November 7, 2023.

Commissioners: Alan Clinton said the commission needs to elect/re-elect officers – chair and vice chair. This can be done at the next full board meeting. Diane Peters-Nguyen asked if HCNCS needs more commissioners to be compliant with the law requiring a minimum of 15 commissioners as there are currently only 11 commissioners. Keala Monaco requested commissioners send her names of eligible nominees for the following required groups: Youth age 16-25 who is a participant or supervisor in a volunteer or service program; Local government/city/county employee; and Alumni of a national service program, e.g., Big Brothers/Sisters, Habitat alumni.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Alan Clinton adjourned the meeting at 11:04am.