

Alan Clinton
Chair

Richard Seder
Vice Chair



AmeriCorps
Hawai'i

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Meeting Minutes

Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Virtual Meeting (Zoom) and in-person at HCNCS office

AGENDA

Serve Hawai'i With Aloha

I. Call to Order

Chair Alan Clinton called the meeting to order at 11:02am

II. Introductions and Welcome to New Commissioners

Commission Members present: Alan Clinton, Frank Haas, Elizabeth Higashi, Karen Mukai, Anne Nakakura, Ben Olsen (for Raga Nadella), Diane Peters-Nguyen, Suzette Robinson, Richard Seder, and Elwyn Watkins

Commission Members excused: Anne Marie Matsuzaki

Others in Attendance: Commission staff Keala Monaco and Brian Higaki; Guests Kylie Alarcon, Logan Ayau, and Ray Galas

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 April 18, 2024 Meeting

Diane Peters-Nguyen moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting, seconded by Suzette Robinson, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

V. Program Spotlight – Papahana Kuaola

Logan Ayau, program manager of Papahana Kuaola (PK) shared about their work. Established in 2006, PK is an 'aina-based education organization based in He'eia at the site of a former dump. Now filled with native Hawaiian plants, the site emphasizes sustainability and malama 'aina through a cultural lens by hosting school groups, field trips, and community workdays. AmeriCorps members help restore and maintain the grounds, clear invasive species from the stream, work in the lo'i, and are now building a hale. Commission members engaged in discussion about member recruitment and onboarding, housing issues, and outreach to military groups.

VI. Executive Director Updates

a. Current programs

Keala Monaco shared that 2024-25 formula award notifications just came out yesterday and Brian will now be working on the UH subaward agreements with the programs.

For the current 2023-24 year, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and Teach for America are current with their fiscal reimbursements. Papahana Kuaola does not yet have a subaward with UH, but we will be prepared to process reimbursements as soon as the subaward is done.

Planning grant Ewalu decided not to accept their 2023-24 award, for various reasons. They may apply again in the future.

b. Cross-stream activities

Keala participated in an AmeriCorps outreach webinar in June with other AmeriCorps reps. The purpose was to introduce the various AmeriCorps streams to potential partners in Hawaii.

Keala participates in monthly calls with representatives from the National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC). A team recently completed a project at Camp Erdman. Next year, NCCC is considering sending a team to do projects on Maui, Kauai, and back at Camp Erdman. Our commission will support however we can, probably by providing training space.

Last week, Keala met with a representative from the Peace Corps and discussed ways we can partner better, mainly by sharing information about each other as we do recruiting for our programs.

c. AmeriCorps State and National initiatives

The new grant system that was supposed to roll out in October will now come out in 2025. This modernization initiative will not affect the required

activities of our subgrantees, but will ease some of the administrative processes between the commission and AmeriCorps.

VII. Announcements and Information

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18th at 11am via Zoom.

Ben Olsen shared a link about the upcoming RSVP competition, for anyone who does programming with older adults.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Alan Clinton adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.