

Alan Clinton
Chair

Richard Seder
Vice Chair



AmeriCorps
Hawai'i

Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service
1601 East-West Road, JAB 4082
Honolulu, HI 96848
Phone: (808) 956-8145
Fax: (808) 944-7677
Email: hicncs@hawaii.edu

Meeting Minutes

Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

AGENDA

Serve Hawai'i With Aloha

- I.** Call to Order
Chair Alan Clinton called the meeting to order at 11:03am.
- II.** Introductions and Welcome to New Commissioners
Commission Members present: Alan Clinton, Frank Haas, Elizabeth Higashi, Anne Marie Matsuzaki, Karen Mukai, Raga Nadella, Diane Peters-Nguyen, and Richard Seder

Commission Members excused: Anne Nakakura, Suzette Robinson, and Elwyn Watkins

Others in Attendance: Commission staff Keala Monaco, Brian Higaki, and Maelynn Puchalski; Guests Ray Galas, Sandra Larsen, and Angela Lovitt
- 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 September 18, 2024 Meeting
Frank Haas moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting, seconded by Diane Peters-Nguyen, and the motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.
- V.** Program Spotlight – Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
Angela Lovitt, Deputy Director of Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i (LASH) shared about the organization's work. LASH has been affiliated with AmeriCorps (in various forms) for

over 20 years. LASH is currently in the second year of their 3-year grant and has 10 slots this program year. Members serve as navigators in the legal justice system, assisting low income and disadvantaged individuals and families with issues related to housing, food, other basic needs, vital documents, and family matters. LASH serves about 2,000 individuals per year and has members on every island except Molokai and Lanai. Their members include recent college graduates, individuals thinking about law school, as well as those transitioning from other fields.

Commission members engaged in discussion regarding member living allowances, education awards, other benefits, a potential pathway from Kapiolani Community College's paralegal program, and legal assistance related to the Maui wildfires.

VI. Executive Director Updates

a. Current programs

Keala Monaco reported that the awards for program year 2024-25 have not been accepted by UH yet. HCNCS staff is working to finalize reimbursements for program year 2023-24.

VII. Announcements and Information

a. Introduction of Maelynn Puchalski, HCNCS Program Officer

Maelynn introduced herself providing her background working at Shidler College of Business operating executive MBA and non-degree programs with a focus on ensuring programs operate within policies and procedures while our students and instructors are strongly supported.

b. HCNCS update

Keala Monaco announced she will be transferring to the Office of the Vice President for Community Colleges (OVPCC) effective January 2, 2025, serving as Director of Workforce Development. HCNCS will remain under her purview. Physically, the HCNCS office and staff will remain at East-West Center; organizationally, HCNCS will fall under OVPCC.

c. Fort Shafter Christmas Tree Lighting

Ray Galas extended an invitation to Fort Shafter's Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 5, 2024.

d. Grantmaking

HCNCS is working on its grantmaking calendar; staff will update the website and communicate with current and potential programs to schedule meetings.

e. Youth Mental Health Corps

Keala Monaco mentioned the possibility of the Governor's office applying for the Schultz Family Foundation's Youth Mental Health Corps grant via HCNCS.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Alan Clinton adjourned the meeting at 11:40am.