

Meeting Minutes [Approved]

Date: January 2, 2025
Time: 9:00am - 11:00pm
Location (Zoom): www.HawaiiSILC.org/zoom.php
Location (In Person): Hub Coworking Hawaii
1050 Queen St #100
Honolulu HI 96814

Attendees:

- Patrick Gartside (Chair)
- Judy Guajardo (Treasurer)
- Phillip Ana (Vice Chair)
- Brian Hauser (Council Member)
- Linda (Council Member)
- Becky (ASL Interpreter)
- Jason (ASL Interpreter)

Absent:

- Sam Nagasawa (Excused)
- Cat Garell (Excused)

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:19 AM by Chair Patrick Gartside.

2. Roll Call and Attendance:

- Each member present introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the December 5, 2024, quarterly meeting were reviewed.
- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Brian Hauser and seconded by Judy Guajardo.
- The motion passed.

4. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions:

- Chair Gartside welcomed attendees and expressed enthusiasm for the new year.
- He acknowledged Judy Guajardo's contributions in navigating past challenges.
- He emphasized the importance of working together to advance the mission of the SILC and the State Plan for Independent Living.

5. Reflections from the December 5, 2024, Quarterly Meeting:

- Members shared positive feedback on the recent quarterly meeting, highlighting the strong turnout and the valuable participation of community partners.
- The importance of partnerships and collaboration was emphasized.
- Chair Gartside raised concerns about the absence of representation from the Centers for Independent Living (CILs.)
- Members discussed the importance of CIL participation and the need for improved communication and collaboration. The importance of working together to advance the Independent Living philosophy was emphasized.
- Chair Gartside concluded the discussion by acknowledging the positive turnout and valuable participation at the quarterly meeting.

6. SILC Reports:

a) Community Needs Report:

- Chair Gartside highlighted the results of the community survey, which identified the most significant needs as disability services, support for competitive integrated employment, and accessible and affordable housing and transportation.

b) SPIL Committee Report:

- Chair Gartside reported that the SPIL Committee is working on making recommendations for adjustments to the State Plan for Independent Living, particularly adjustments to the reported service areas and the identification of additional key partners.
- He mentioned the need to reach out to ACL for support on making adjustments to the SPIL.
- Vice Chair Ana added that the committee also wants to include the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies in the SPIL plan.

c) Engagement Committee Report:

- Chair Gartside reported that the Engagement Committee is working on increasing membership and ex-officio membership and participation in the SILC.
- He mentioned that the committee is accepting applications year-round and will be recommending a slate of candidates at the March quarterly meeting.
- He also discussed the committee's work on developing an outreach letter to encourage people to apply for SILC membership.
- Members discussed the timeline for appointments and the possibility of adjusting the process to allow for quicker onboarding of new members.
- The committee also discussed the need to clarify whether ex-officio members need to fill out the application as well.
- Chair Gartside concluded the report by mentioning that the committee will continue working on the outreach letter and the application process.

d) Executive Committee Report:

- Chair Gartside reported that the SILC is hiring a part-time executive director and part-time administrative staff.
- He mentioned that the job description and information are posted on the SILC website and that they have received a couple of inquiries.
- He also requested approval to spend up to \$500 to post the job description on Indeed and Craigslist.
- A motion to approve the \$500 budget was made by Phillip Ana and seconded by Judy Guajardo.
- The motion passed.
- Members discussed the timeline for hiring and the importance of finding the right person to support the SILC's efforts.

e) SILC Activities Report:

- Chair Gartside reported that the SILC has been active in the community, participating in various events and meetings.
- He mentioned that they have been working on issues such as accessible and affordable housing, emergency preparedness and response, and have been meeting with stakeholders to understand the needs of people with disabilities.
- He also requested that members submit any activities they have participated in for inclusion in the December activity report.

f) Financial Report:

- Treasurer Guajardo presented the financial report, noting a slight increase in the monthly fee for the supporting strategies firm.
- She reported a balance of \$187,457.08 at the end of December.
- Members discussed the availability of funds for hiring and the importance of maintaining reserves.

7. Unfinished Business:

- Chair Gartside reported that the Federal Fiscal Year 25-27 contract is still under review and has not been issued.
- He also mentioned that the SPIL amendments are still being worked on.

8. New Business:

- Chair Gartside discussed the need for data collection and community reports, as well as the possibility of SILC training from ACL.
- He also mentioned the accessible and affordable housing opportunities being worked on by Vice Chair Ana, including a potential partnership with the City and County of Honolulu and Sofos Realty Group.
- He suggested reaching out to ACL to clarify SILC's role in these housing initiatives.
- Chair Gartside also discussed the Hawaii State Grants in Aid, mentioning the possibility of partnering with DD Council to submit an application.
- He also talked about emergency preparedness and response, mentioning that the Disability Communications Access Board (DECAB) is working on an interagency action plan.
- He suggested the possibility of developing a SILC Disability Resilience Hub.
- Members discussed the importance of having a hub on each island and the possibility of creating a database of people with disabilities who need assistance.
- Chair Gartside also mentioned the SILC's work with the Hawaii Employment First Task Force.
- He concluded the new business section by discussing the possibility of putting together a presentation for the ADRCs and the Executive Office on Aging.

9. Announcements:

- Chair Gartside announced the National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC) SILC Congress, which will be held from March 10-13, 2025.
- He requested a budget of \$2,100 to send a representative to the conference.

- A motion to approve the \$2,100 budget was made by Judy Guajardo and seconded by Phillip Ana.
- The motion passed.
- Chair Gartside also announced the Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride quarterly meeting, which will be held on February 20, 2025, on Oahu.
- He also mentioned the 40th Annual Pacific Rim Conference, which will be held on April 14-15, 2025.
- He concluded the announcements by mentioning that SILC members will be presenting at the conference.

10. Open Discussions and Q&A:

- Members discussed the need to book flights and accommodations for the NASILC SILC Congress as soon as possible due to rising prices.
- Chair Gartside suggested increasing the budget to \$2,500 to be safe.
- A motion to approve the increased budget was made by Brian Hauser and seconded by Phillip Ana.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judy Guajardo at 11:08 AM and seconded by Phillip Ana. The motion passed.