

Meeting Minutes [Approved]

Date: February 6, 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)
- Philip Ana (Vice Chair)
- Judy Guajardo (Treasurer)
- Linda Lambert (Council Member)
- Cat Garell (Council Member)
- Donald Sakamoto
- Annette Tashiro
- Nani Watanabe
- Vicky Kennedy
- Zosimo Arista-HISCDD
- Jason (ASL Interpreter)
- Katy (ASL Interpreter)

Absent:

- Brian Hauser (excused)

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 AM by Chair Patrick Gartside.

2. Roll Call and Attendance:

- Each member present introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- Review of minutes from the January 2 meeting.
- Motion: Philip Ana made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Seconded by: Judy Guajardo
- Outcome: Motion carried; minutes approved.

4. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions:

- Gartside welcomed attendees and expressed excitement about the potential new members.

5. Funding Freeze Discussions

- Gartside discussed the funding freeze and its potential impact on the community.
- Watanabe shared stories from the Maui community highlighting the importance of independent living centers and the potential impact of funding cuts.
- Gartside discussed the delay in Title VII Part B funding to Aloha Independent Living.
- Watanabe and Gartside discussed the importance of county funding.
- Ana and Gartside discussed the importance of personal stories in advocating for funding.
- Gartside shared a personal story about the importance of Medicaid.
- Garell shared an experience about the impact of the funding freeze on a small business grant.
- Guajardo shared experiences of difficulties accessing the SNAP and Medicaid application sites.

- Watanabe shared experiences from Lanai and the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in accessing services.

6. SILC Reports:

Engagement Committee Report

Presented by: Patrick Gartside

- Five applications received for council membership, with two additional applicants in the queue.
- Applications will be accepted year-round, with recommendations to the Governor's office made once a year.
- Committee to conduct one-on-one interviews with applicants to prepare them for the boards and commissions application process.

Executive Committee Report

- Hiring part-time Executive Director; job descriptions are available on the website.
- Patrick experienced a medical issue, resulting in hospitalization.
- Upcoming job openings will be shared widely to attract suitable candidates.

Fiscal Report

- Bank statement as of January 31 reflects a beginning balance of \$187,503.02.
- Total subtractions: \$6,316.36, leaving a balance of \$180,186.70.
- Discussion about a \$2,084.99 debit from the bank account attributed to payment for the ramp credit card, which will be clarified with Patrick's statements.

Accessibility and Affordable Housing Opportunities

- Discussed the City and County of Honolulu's RFQs for four properties aimed at creating accessible housing.

- Collaboration with various organizations is encouraged to support housing initiatives.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Updates on the Windward Resilience Hub and FEMA meetings.
- Emphasis on proactive community training during non-disaster times to foster preparedness.

7. Unfinished Business:

- Chair Gartside reported that the Federal Fiscal Year 25-27 contract has been approved and signed.
- Invoices for October through January will be prepared.
- SILC Training from ACL: The council has requested training from ACL but has not yet heard back.

8. New Business:

- The engagement committee will meet to discuss next steps for onboarding new members.

9. Announcements:

- Sakamoto announced the Honolulu Rate Commission meeting on February 11th.
- Sakamoto discussed the Mobility Task Force bill and its hearing.

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.

Motion: Philip Ana made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Linda

Outcome: Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 6, 2025.