

Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]

Date: March 6, 2025
Time: 9:00am - 11:00am
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)
- Brian Hauser (Council Member)
- Catia Garell (Council Member)
- Donald Sakamoto
- Annette Tashiro
- Nani Watanabe
- ASL Interpreters Inga Park
- ASL Interpreter Michele

Absent:

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Chair Patrick Gartside.

2. Roll Call and Attendance:

- Council members and attendees introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the February 6th meeting were reviewed.
- Philip Ana made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Judy Guajardo.
- The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

4. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions:

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

6. SILC Reports:

● Executive Committee Report

Patrick Gartside reported on the hiring initiatives, stating that they have been paused. The application for the part-time executive director and part-time administrative staff positions is on the website. The council is working on separation from the previous staff.

● SILC Activities Report

Philip Ana reported on attending community meetings with the resilience hubs and disaster preparedness and response, stating that he learned a lot and was impressed with the representation. He also attended a meeting on the Big Island.

Annette Tashiro discussed the Youth Academy and efforts to connect with the Koolau Hub Youth Group.

Brian Hauser discussed the importance of emergency planning for senior living and independent living facilities, particularly in light of the Maui wildfires.

Patrick Gartside reported on the State Rehab Council meeting, noting that they are finally moved off of their corrective action plan. He also shared that they had a meeting with Centene, which is Ohana Health Plan, to discuss partnering with Centers for Independent Living and Independent Living Service Providers to provide long-term support services.

Cat Garell expressed interest in connecting with Centene, as she has experience with home modification accessibility assessments.

Brian Hauser reported that SILC was represented at the transition fair, and Nani Watanabe provided further information on the fair, noting the need for support for parents and the importance of a support group.

Nani Watanabe also reported on attending the Day at the Capitol and the concerns of the Maui disability community, including housing and meeting center sites.

- **Financial Report**

Judy Guajardo provided the financial report, noting a beginning balance of \$181,186.70 as of February 28th. There was an addition of \$3,634.92 from an unemployment department refund and expenditures of \$1,049.79 through the Ramp credit card.

7. Unfinished Business:

- Patrick Gartside reported that the contract is issued and signed, and invoices have been sent. There are concerns about the CIL's Title VII, Part B contract verbiage not matching the State Plan for Independent Living.
- Patrick Gartside discussed the need for a SPIL amendment to align the contract with the state plan and the need to consult with ACL on the amendment process. Judy Guajardo suggested revisiting the SPIL committee members. Brian Hauser emphasized that SILC should be the body that allocates Part B funding. Annette Tashiro noted that making amendments requires a public forum.

- Patrick Gartside reported that SILC training was requested from ACL, but they haven't heard back.

8. New Business:

- Philip Ana reported that the engagement committee met and reviewed applications for council membership. Five applications were approved to move forward, and Letty's application was also included. Brian Hauser noted the need for a representative from the deaf community. Linda Lambert is looking for a deaf representative.
- A motion was made by Brian Hauser to approve the slate of six potential additions to the council, Judy Guajardo seconded, and the motion passed. The slate will be recommended to the governor's office for appointment on July 1, 2025.

9. Announcements:

- 40th Annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disability: April 15-16, 2025
 - SILC will be presenting their state plan for independent living.
- Judy Guajardo and Annette Tashiro are interested in tabling.
- Hawaii Summit on Employment First: Postponed, will be in May or June
- Annette Tashiro recalled a past ADA anniversary event at the Capitol and suggested having another event for the 35th anniversary on July 26th.
- Linda Lambert announced a DeafBlind conference on May 3rd, hosted by the Helen Keller National Center.
- Annette Tashiro announced a disaster preparedness fair at Windward Mall on May 3rd.
- Jody announced an AT Awareness Day on April 30th.
- Judy Guajardo discussed the NICL conference in Washington, D.C., and the need to decide on representatives to attend. She also reported on being on the steering committee for the falls prevention statewide coalition and invited members to the conference.

10. Open Discussions and Q&A:

- Donald Sakamoto discussed the Honolulu Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities and the need to re-establish it. He also discussed accessibility issues with the Honolulu rail system.
- Brian Hauser discussed a proposed bridge program to connect SILS and ILSPs with the ADRC.
- Nani Watanabe discussed the Maui Wheelers and the transportation challenges faced by individuals with disabilities on Lanai and Molokai. She also offered to find representatives from Molokai and Lanai to attend the meetings.
- Judy Guajardo discussed the need for better communication and access to information for individuals with disabilities, using audible crosswalks as an example.

Philip Ana made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Linda Lambert.

The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.