



STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL OF HAWAII

Date: June 5, 2025

Time: 9:05am - 11:00am

Location (Zoom): <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83211242897?pwd=Qdaa9r43RJUyKEab9DygFMPsbtIP8y.1>
Virtual Meeting

Location (In Person): Hub Coworking Hawaii, Honolulu, Oahu

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call / Attendance

Council Members Present:

- Patrick Gartside (Chair)
- Philip Ana (Vice Chair)
- Judy Guajardo (Treasurer)
- Brian Hauser (Member)
- Catia Garell (Member)
- Annette Tashiro
- Vickie Kennedy
- Donald Sakamoto
- Jodi Asato
- Nani Watanabe
- Valerie Janikowski

Council Staff:

- Amanda Lowe (Executive Director)

State Representatives:

- Lea Dias (DVR Administrator)
- Zosimo Arista (Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities)

Guests:

- Elizabeth Delovio (DCAB Planner and ADA Coordinator)
- Kevin Peralta (Student Intern, Thrive for Life)
- Malaya Van Kleek (Maui County Office on Aging)

3. Proof of Notice

Chair Gartside confirmed that meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the State calendar (calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar) and the SILC website (independentliving.hawaii.org).

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Philip Ana moved to approve the minutes from the May 8th meeting.

Second: Judy Guajardo seconded the motion.

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

5. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Gartside highlighted critical advocacy victories at the national level, including:

- Protection of Administration for Community Living (ACL) programs in the Federal FY 2026 Health and Human Services (HHS) budget proposal
- Partial restoration of funding for State councils on developmental disabilities and protection advocacy systems
- Increased funding for independent living programs
- Ongoing fight against HR 1 (Budget Reconciliation Bill) that would make devastating cuts to Medicaid

Chair emphasized the importance of continued advocacy and announced the upcoming ADA 35th anniversary rally planned for July 25th.

6. Executive Director Report

Amanda Lowe introduced herself and shared her background:

- 6-7 years with National Disability Rights Network
- Former Disability Policy Director for US Senate Health Education Labor Pensions Committee
- Previous work with National Council on Disability as independent contractor
- Goal to build coalitions and strengthen advocacy efforts in Hawaii

7. Committee Reports

a. Advocacy Committee Report (Philip Ana)

- Following federal budget cuts and advocating for personal testimonies to senators
- Attended Kapuna Collective meeting focusing on federal cuts
- Participated in Senator Hirono's AARP Town Hall meeting on social security benefits
- Senator Hirono's office opens case files for constituent issues
- Senator working on bill to increase social security contribution cap from \$176,000

b. Financial Report (Judy Guajardo)

- Beginning balance (May): \$209,958.51
- Total subtractions: \$30,065.82 (including final HR payment to former director, taxes, credit card charges, and accounting fees)
- Ending balance: \$179,892.69
- Awaiting DVR invoicing payments

8. Unfinished Business

a. State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Amendment

Committee members volunteered: Patrick Gartside, Philip Ana, Judy Guajardo, Annette Tashiro, Catia Garell. Committee will meet to discuss amendments and process.

b. Training and Technical Assistance

Working with University of Montana Training and Technical Assistance center and California SILC for upcoming SILC 101 training at next month's meeting.

c. SILC Policies and Procedures Manual

Need to develop policies and procedures specific to Council operations. Valerie Janikowski volunteered to help with formatting and letterhead design.

d. NICIL Conference and Membership

- Patrick Gartside, Amanda Lowe, Donald Sakamoto, and Brian Hauser will attend NICIL conference July 21-24 in Washington, DC
- **Motion:** Judy Guajardo moved that SILC pay the \$300 NICIL membership fee for all members to have access to resources
- **Second:** Brian Hauser seconded the motion
- **Result:** Motion passed unanimously

e. Governor's Appointments

Six new members appointed by Governor with terms beginning July 1, 2025, expiring June 30, 2028: Annette Tashiro, Donald Sakamoto, Evalina [last name not provided], Victoria Kennedy, Valerie Janikowski, and Jodi Asato.

9. New Business

a. ADA 35th Anniversary Rally - July 25, 2025

Confirmed locations:

- Oahu: State Capitol Rotunda
- Maui: Queen Ka'ahumanu Mall
- Hawaii Island: Interest expressed
- Planning committee meets weekly at 2:00 PM Thursdays
- Outreach ongoing to disability organizations and community groups
- Discussion of potential legislative forum and Crip Camp screening

b. Mayor's Committees on Disabilities

Donald Sakamoto reported on efforts to reestablish:

- Honolulu: Last active in 2012 under Mayor Peter Carlisle; contacted Mayor Blangiardi's office
- Kauai: Last committee in 2008; contacted HR office about reestablishment
- Working with ADA coordinators and city officials

10. SILC Activities Report

a. Community Advocacy (Nani Watanabe)

Reported ongoing case involving deaf couple from 1991 home purchase without interpreter services, seeking legal assistance for discrimination case.

b. Falls Prevention (Judy Guajardo)

- Steering committee member for reformed Falls Prevention Coalition through Hawaii Department of Health
- Statewide meeting planned for July
- Na Hoaloha provides free in-home assessments and durable medical equipment

11. Announcements

a. Upcoming Events

- **June 18, 2025:** 3rd Annual Hawaii Summit on Employment First at Windward Community College
- **July 5, 2025:** Lanai Pineapple Festival
- **July 21-24, 2025:** NICIL Conference, Washington DC
- **July 25, 2025:** ADA 35th Anniversary Rally (Statewide)

- **August 23, 2025:** Maui Abilities Fair, Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, 10am-2pm
- **November 2025:** Lanai Health Fair

b. Transportation Issues

Donald Sakamoto reported accessibility concerns at Don Quixote Kapolei regarding different entrance/exit locations creating barriers for people with disabilities.

12. Open Discussion

Council members discussed various community issues, upcoming events, and coordination opportunities between islands.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Philip Ana moved to close the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Second: Judy Guajardo seconded the motion.

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: First Thursday of July 2025 (SILC 101 Training and DSE training on Hawaii boards and commissions)