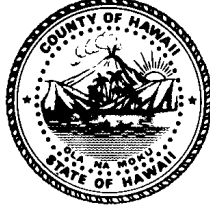


Eric P. Gee, *Chairperson*, Mayor Appointee  
Cheydon A. Naleimaile-Evangelista, *Vice-Chairperson*, Mayor Appointee  
Hemi Martinez, District 1  
Sage Huston, District 2  
[Vacant] District 3  
Benjamin Rudo, District 4  
Kyla-Marie Turner, District 5  
Marquis P. Fonoimoana, District 6  
Miliani Bunghanoi-Aiu, District 7  
Peyton Halemau, District 8  
Abigail-Zoe Garan, District 9  
Damon Nagata, Mayor Appointee  
Goretti Allen, District, Mayor Appointee  
Hayden Konanui-Tucker, Mayor Appointee  
Perseas Vanebo, Mayor Appointee



*County of Hawai'i*  
***Youth Commission***

**Mitchell D. Roth**

*Mayor*

**Deanna S. Sako**

Managing Director

**Robert H. Command**

Deputy Managing Director

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 (808) 961-8211  
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 (808) 323-4444

**Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
**TIME:** 3:00p.m. - 4:30p.m.  
**IN-PERSON LOCATION:** Hawai'i County Building  
Puna Conference Room (Room 1501)  
25 Aupuni Center  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**04.17.2024 Meeting - Hilo Mayor's Office**

**I. Official Call to Order: 3:23 pm | Acting Chair/Assistant Secretary Turner  
Secretary Turner**

District 1: Hemi Martinez (Excused)  
District 6: Marquis P. Fonoimoana (Excused)  
Mayor Appointee: Chairperson Eric Gee (Excused)  
District 2: Vacant  
District 3: Vacant  
Mayor Appointee: Damon Nagata (Absent)  
District 7: Mililani Bunghanoi-Aiu (Absent)  
District 8: Peyton Halemau (Absent)  
District 4: Benjamin Rudo (Present)  
District 5: Kyla-Marie Turner (Present)  
District 9: Abigail-Zoe Garan (Present)  
Councilmember: Jennifer Kagiwada (Present)

Mayor Appointee: Goretti Allen (Present)

Mayor Appointee: Hayden Konanui-Tucker Present)

Mayor Appointee: Perseas Vanebo (Present)

Mayor Appointee: Vice-Chairperson Cheydon Naleimaile-Evangelista (Present)

**Quorum was present.**

**II. Chairperson Announcements**

- A. Acting Chairperson Turner gives chairperson announcements on behalf of Chairperson Gee “Aloha everyone. I apologize for not being in attendance during today’s meeting, I am currently off island. Today’s agenda is super jam packed and I hope every commissioner has the opportunity to voice their individual opinions as well as their communities. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Hawai‘i Youth Congress event in a few weeks and if not I’ll see you in Kona for our general meeting. Mahalo, Eric Pōmaika‘i Gee”

**III. Statements from the Public/Testimony**

- A. None

**IV. Approval of March 13th, 2024 Meeting Minutes** |

- A. No corrections and the minutes approved as drafted.

**VI- OUT OF ORDER NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM 6B - MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION**

Mental Health Presentation

- *Zee, a community advocate is given 10 minutes to present followed by a 5 minute Q& A period. Pronouns: (she/her)*
  - *Works in advocacy work (mental health, LGBTQ+ community,*

Main Points:

- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
  - Zee provided statistics on middle and high students related to mental health and suicide, LGBTQ+ community, eating disorders, and being bullied.
- Hawai‘i Island has a 1 therapist to 500 young people ratio. Group therapy is 72% more effective than one-on-one therapy.
- Zee talks about her personal experience of having a difficult time finding a mental health therapist for her child. She mentioned that there was not a single psychiatrist on Hawaii Island.
- Most suicide attempts never end up on record.
- What can commissioners do?
  - 988 is a national mental health line for anyone, 24/7
  - Request a resolution from the County Council to make 988 more transparent and more known amongst the public– not just as a crisis hotline.

*Granted an extra minute by Chair-Tempore Turner*

- Commissioner Naleimaile-Evangelista thanked Zee for her time and for sharing her personal experiences.
- Commissioner Tucker thanks Zee for her time.
- Chair-Tempore Turner appreciated the idea of 988 transparency. Told Zee that we would bring it back to the floor.
- Councilmember Kagiwada thanked Zee for her time.
- Acting Chair Turner appreciates the statistics Zee provided. Wants to address how to incorporate non-traditional mental health practices (e.g. group therapy)

Questions from Commissioners:

- None.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Discussion/Selection of Three Adult Advisors to the Commission**

- Discussion:
  - Three occupancies to fill. Two applicants for the commission to consider.
    - Mr. Ho, Ms. Alana Barber.
  - Will review Mr. Ho's application
    - Ho works for the Hawaii Department of Education in Leadership and Voice Aspect, has been a teacher for the past 12 years, and is not attending in any official capacity.
    - Councilmember Kagiwada asks "Are there differences between your backgrounds or similar?" (Between Mr. Ho and Ms. Barber)
      - Ms. Barber's background is in mental health.
    - Councilmember Kagiwada asks if current meeting times work for Mr. Ho.
      - Mr. Ho responds with a yes.
- Motion by: Vice Chairperson Naleimaile-Evangelista to select Mr. Ho as one of its adult advisors.
  - Seconded by: Commissioner Rudo

ROLL CALL VOTE: Approved by Commissioners via voice vote (All ayes)

- Ms. Barber's application was moved to the next meeting.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Selection of Hawai'i County Sustainability Summit Youth Congress Participants**

- Discussion:
  - Commissioners are to talk about the experience of being on the commission at the Summit. Commissioners are expected to be peer mentors to summit participants.
  - The summit is on Thursday, May 2 at the Outrigger Hotel.
  - A total of seven participants are welcome.

- Chair Gee, Assist. Secretary Turner, Press Secretary Fonoimoana, Commissioner Rudo, Commissioner Vanebo, and Commissioner Garan, Councilmember Kaigwada)

**VII. Announcements**

- A. Next Meeting: May 8th, 2024, Kailua-Kona, West Hawaii Civic Center Building  
G: 3:00 pm - 4:30pm
- B. No other announcements.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- Acting Chair Turner adjourns at 4:03 pm. (Commission lost quorum at 4:03pm and the meeting was adjourned.)