

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu

530 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 (808) 768-5032 www.hawaii-counties.com



MINUTES

HSAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, August 3, 2020 • 10:30 a.m.

Meeting held via Conference Call



I. CALL TO ORDER

The HSAC Executive Committee was called to order by HSAC President Joey Manahan at 10:32a.m. The following members comprising a quorum were present:

City and County of Honolulu:

President Joey Manahan
Council Member, City and County of Honolulu

County of Kaua'i:

Mason Chock, Alternate
Council Member, County of Kaua'i

County of Hawai'i:

Secretary Ashley Kierkiewicz
Council Member, County of Hawai'i

County of Maui:

Treasurer Kelly King
Council Member, County of Maui

Others Present:

Council Chair Ikaika Anderson
Council Member, City and County of Honolulu

Aida Kawamura, Legislative Assistant, Office of Council Services, County of Kaua'i

Shelly Espeleta, Legislative Analyst, Office of Council Services, County of Maui

Anela Keko`olani, Administrative & Committee Analyst, Office of Joey Manahan, City and County of Honolulu

George White, Office of Council Services
City and County of Honolulu

Kamakana Watanabe, Office of Council Services
City and County of Honolulu





Linae Cruz, Office of Council Services
City and County of Honolulu

President Manahan noted that today's meeting was in place of the July 27, 2020 EC meeting, which was cancelled due to impending natural disaster (Hurricane Douglas).

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Treasurer King moved to approve the agenda, with a second by Council Member Chock.

The motion to approve the agenda of the August 3, 2020 HSAC Executive Committee meeting carried unanimously.

III. REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Report: June 2020

Treasurer King provided the report (attached).

Treasurer King shared there were no responses to audit RFP. The RFP was only set to Maui firms, will cast broader net and issue statewide. Planning to issue this week and keep open for 30 days.

Secretary Kierkiewicz inquired about how reconciliation of monies unaccounted for was being handled. Treasurer King stated that it was before her time.

Motion by Secretary Kierkiewicz, second by Council Member Chock to June 2020 Treasurer's Report. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

B. County Reports

City & County of Honolulu - President Manahan expressed that government didn't seem to have a handle on this. Early on, response was okay, but should have been more aggressive with contact tracing because now we've lost track of how it is spreading. It's sad and scary. The longer we are closed, the longer we prolog economic recovery. We are feeling the hurt, and grateful that Hurricane Douglas passed us by because dodged we bullet with that.



County of Hawai'i - Secretary Kierkiewicz shared Hawai'i County received \$80 million in CARES Act funding and has issued RFPs to dollars out to community, with the goal being more dollars to households rather than to support government. Two programs are grant related: rent, mortgage, and utilities assistance for households, and support for small business. Other community partners are being engaged to provide support around PPE, childcare, food support, digital access, and more. Lots of grassroots initiatives have sprang up to fill in gaps where government could not. Also helping many navigate unemployment system. Shared concern around lack of State having necessary processes, infrastructure and teams in place to meet the need of the times.

County of Kaua'i - Council Member Chock shared Kaua'i just finished expending 2018 FEMA monies for damage caused by the April 2018 flooding. Lots of work around stream and flood mitigation. Thankful there were no adverse impacts from Hurricane Douglas, as we are keenly aware of how these disasters pile up on us. Kaua'i received \$29 million in CARES monies; half distributed via RFP to nonprofits in order to make deadline to spend by Dec. 2020. Council is busy working on revamping its housing ordinance. Council also has bill to ban polystyrene to vote on. West Kaua'i Plan is finishing up this week. Also working on an abandoned and derelict vehicles task force because it's a massive issue on Kaua'i that involves a lot of internal adjustments and coordination between buyer and seller.

County of Maui - Treasurer King noted cases are increasing on Maui because people are acting complacent. Mayor Victorino is looking for Gov. Ige to re-enforce gathering of 10 or less and to reinstate inter-island travel quarantine. Maui also has a small business grants program, but the maximum is \$7,500. Maui has an Economic Recovery Task Force. The Council adopted resolutions for Feminist Recovery and circular economy concept, with goal of being collaborative rather than extractive. Maui has seven charter amendments on the ballot, so many important decisions for voters to make. Maui is going ahead with the Bank of America lawsuit. This year, the Council had to go through budget very carefully and scale back because revenue decreased significantly. Maui hired an archaeologist, who is working with SHPD's new staff.

Secretary Kierkiewicz remarked at how nimble the various counties are being and appreciated collaborations with community to spend CARES money. She asked Council Member Chock for more info on Kaua'i's housing ordinance update as affordable housing is important to her and her Hawai'i County colleagues.

Council Member Chock stated that Kaua'i County passed inclusionary zoning in 2008. He shared there have been two housing task forces in 10 years, but no amendments to housing ordinance. The ordinance as is has not made impact on inventory. Developers won't come build on Kaua'i until the ordinance is amended. Our new housing director is different; looking to incentivize townhouse dwelling to support working families. Bottom line is no one is happy. Kaua'i is putting



together a workshop, inviting stakeholders to the table, in hopes of identifying a few developers willing to build.

Treasurer King shared Maui increased its affordable housing allocation to 3% of RPT, noting that a Charter amendment make the increase permanent.

President Manahan shared that affordable housing is also a huge issue for Honolulu. They recently lost a project (500 units first phase), and are not sure what the replacement project will be. Land and infrastructure are the biggest costs that prohibit developments. Even with changes, lots of roadblocks and no guarantee developments will result.

Motion by Secretary Kierkiewicz, second by Council Member Chock to file the County's Reports. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction and Discussion of the HSAC Executive Director - Linae Cruz

Council Chair Ikaika Anderson stated Honolulu was happy to support HSAC by paying for an executive director to provide support and be a consistent presence for HSAC at the Legislature. He shared the support would extend to helping organize the annual conference and would be the keeper and maintainer of all HSAC related information. He felt blessed to have lots of kōkua from the various counties, and felt this was a way to further support respective counties good work for HSAC.

Chair Anderson introduced Linae Cruz, who holds a degree in international business. She is a former staff member of Chair Anderson's office. He informed the body that Ms. Cruz is very knowledgeable in Quicken and various software programs, is highly organized, and has experience organizing conferences.

Ms. Cruz said she was excited to be on board and was looking forward to working with everyone. She hoped to make it as easy and organized as possible.

Council Member Chock said he was supportive of having consistency. He asked if more could be shared about the terms of the position so everyone is on the same page, working together cohesively. President Manahan said this position is very new, and Ms. Cruz can assist us the body anything. He felt initially, duties would be mechanical in nature: complete audit, advocate for legislative package, help organize the conference, support the Treasurer, Secretary, and President in their duties.



Treasurer King expressed issue and dismay at hiring of an Executive Director as she wanted to start with a job description before going any further. She said her County Council is not comfortable with the idea, noting that Council Member Riki Hokama has pushed back hard and insisting that all counties should share costs. Treasurer King also said an RFP should have been done and a salary worked out. President Manahan said Ms. Cruz was onboard to help transition and provide assistance as that is what this body has been saying they need - help.

Council Chair Anderson thanked everyone for their comments, and said Honolulu will pay for the position. He said that if HSAC would like to fund this position, that's their call. He shared that he's served on HSAC for a number of years and knows that staff spend a lot of time working on HSAC related items. He said OCS is also very helpful, but there is a lot of need that is beyond capacity of staff. He is comfortable going forward with Honolulu paying, and is committed to having Ms. Cruz assisting with the body with anything it needs.

Secretary Kierkiewicz thanked Chair Anderson and President Manahan for listening to HSAC's ongoing concerns and taking the initiative to secure help. She expressed needing help with the minutes and for someone to set up systems and processes that provide consistently for how HSAC operates now and into the future.

Treasurer King expressed worry about Honolulu taking control of this person and not sharing with other counties.

President Anderson said Honolulu is happy to share costs. He questioned the need for Ms. Cruz working on a contract basis as HSAC has done some contract work with folks that didn't work out. He asked the counties what their financial commitment to salary and benefits to support this position would be.

Treasurer King said someone was supposed to present to the group what an ED could do for HSAC. She wants each County provide insight into what they want out of this position.

Secretary Kierkiewicz wanted the group to be mindful that Ms. Cruz has remained part of this conversation, listening intently, and has been so gracious and professional while members of this body talk about the work she is being asked to do without asking for her opinion.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Scheduling the next Executive Committee meeting

The Executive Committee will meet virtually on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 10:30a.m.

B. Other announcements

There are no announcements at this time.



V. ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer King motioned to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Secretary Kierkiewicz. The motion carried unanimously. President Manahan adjourned the meeting at 11:43a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AK", is written above a horizontal line.

Council Member Ashley L. Kierkiewicz
Secretary, Hawai'i State Association of Counties