**HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Department of Budget and Finance

STATE OF HAWAII

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, February 6, 2012

**Places:** John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawaii

615 Ilalo Street

MEB Room 202

Honolulu, HI 96813

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The Hawaii Health Authority meeting was called to order at 4:15 P.M. by Jory Watland.

**HHA Members present:**

Ritabelle Fernandes S. Peter Kim

Rey Graulty Marion Poirer

Stephen Kemble Jory Watland

**HHA Members absent:**

Nathan Chang

Wendie Schwab

**Guests present**:

Chelsea Okamoto- Intern to the Governor’s Policy Office

1. **Review of Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2012**

Minutes were reviewed. No changes were recommended. S. Peter Kim motioned to accept the minutes as is. Rey Graulty second the motion. All members voted in favor (5-0, Ritabelle arrived after the vote at 4:23 PM)

1. **Report on Senate Health Committee Hearing on SB2344**

Marion Poirier attended the Senate Health Committee hearing on January 23, 2012. She reported that this bill made a $100,000 appropriation for HHA. This bill passed out of the committee with amendments. It was referred to Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee. She mentioned that during the hearing, the Governor’s Office of Healthcare Transformation (OHT) testified with concerns. Marion stated Beth Giesting attended the hearing and offered comments against HHA receiving the appropriations. Senator Josh Green made amendments to have the money appropriated to the Governor’s OHT as opposed to HHA. Marion Poirier stated Beth Giesting would be willing to staff the HHA. Jory Watland stated the money was not to be used for staffing, but to be used for experts and consultants. He said the Governor’s OHT does not offer the expertise that the HHA is looking for. Marion Poirer stated the testimony offered by HHA did not request money for staffing but for these consultants. She continued stating that the Governor wanted to have these funds out of his office to HHA and that the important thing is that universal care should proceed, even if it comes out of the Governor’s office. She has concerns that the monies will be politicized if it came out of the Governor’s office, versus being appointed to the HHA board, which is a separate and politic body. She said we’ll need to watch for the WAM hearing for this bill and come up with a strategy.

Jory Watland stated that we shouldn’t be at odds with the Governor’s OHT and that we need to understand our role with the Governor’s OHT. Rey Graulty made quick comments by stating the Chief of Staff’s secretary mentioned that Beth Giesting claimed she hadn’t met with HHA. He saw this information as a warning sign that she didn’t want us around and might ice box what we were doing. He also stated that the testimony she offered during the hearing confirms his suspicion and he stated that HHA won’t get the funds from the Governor’s OHT if it is awarded to them. He said that he’ll wait to continue after the report from Stephen Kemble on the meeting with the Governor’s Chief of Staff.

1. **Report on meeting and discussion with Governor's Chief of Staff, Bruce Coppa**

Jory Watland, Stephen Kemble, and Rey Graulty met on January 31, 2012 with Bruce Coppa, Beth Giesting and Debbie Shimizu. Stephen Kemble had given Bruce Coppa the HHA report as well as explanatory articles. From the meeting, Stephen Kemble gathered Bruce Coppa didn’t read the report. During the meeting, Beth Giesting mentioned that her office is mainly concerned with implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and Stephen Kemble stated that the HHA is concerned with trying to implement a universal care system. He stated that how PPACA is implemented will have significant impacts on how a universal care system. Stephen Kemble stated that at the end of the meeting, Beth Giesting said she would include HHA on meetings in order to coordinate.

Rey Graulty said he saw it a little bit stronger in that Bruce Coppa ordered Beth Giesting to work with HHA and to have “connectors” to what each group was doing. He said it was strong language coming from Bruce Coppa. Even though he may not have known the substance, he knew that there was tension with OHT and HHA. Rey Graulty thought it was a good meeting because it cleared the air.

S. Peter Kim asked if it would work having Bruce Coppa intervene. Rey Graulty said he thinks that Beth Giesting works for Bruce Coppa, so it would be difficult if she didn’t comply. S. Peter Kim asked if we knew what Beth Giesting’s underlying agenda was. Jory Watland said that he doesn’t know her agenda, but he knows that some think that what HHA is trying to do will undermine what is already in existence in Hawaii. Beth Giesting’s background is in primary care and we haven’t met since the HHA formation. He said we haven’t got a clear ally in the Governor’s office and Jory Watland said he tried to articulate the pieces of legislation that we introduced. He said he was aware that everything comes down to money, and that HHA is trying to introduce more cost efficient measures. Jory Watland said that he thought Bruce Coppa seemed to be supportive and that Stephen Kemble was able to present himself as a resource, so he thought the meeting went well.

S. Peter Kim expressed concern that we may be wasting time and resources trying to introduce policy recommendations if we don’t have more coordination and synthesizing of plans, otherwise what we’re doing may end up in the trash. Rey Graulty said that what was happening can be described as “turf.” He said that Beth Giesting has turf and that she now needs to share it with HHA. Stephen Kemble stated that HHA could be an asset to Beth Giesting in directing policy recommendations. He stated that they met with Pat McManaman and Loretta Fuddy and they seemed supportive. He also had an email with Beth Giesting stating that they’ll send a schedule of meetings out. Rey Graulty also noted that Bruce Coppa is a manager and that is why he said that we need to connect. Beth Giesting said that she doesn’t know how to implement with the viewpoint of doctors, which is why Rey Graulty believes she’ll need HHA in the end.

Stephen Kemble volunteered to be a liason on behalf of the HHA in order to help steer Beth Giesting and her plans and to help her understand that we are here to help her. Rey Graulty agreed stating he saw Stephen Kemble’s skill for this position during the meeting, but he has concerns that she will be unwilling to give up her “turf.” Jory Watland said that the testimony given by Beth Giesting at the hearing suggested that the Senate doesn’t fully understand what is happening. Stephen Kemble stated that Senator Josh Green did read our report, and Rey Graulty stated that he probably just didn’t understand our position. Jory Watland said that we need to go down to WAM and make sure they understand what we want to use the appropriations for. Marion Poirier mentioned that that Senator Josh Green looked befuddled and that maybe he was just trying to keep the bill alive and that the appropriation was maintained.

Jory Watland wanted to speak about the House Committee on Human Services hearing scheduled today, February 6th. Jory Watland received a call from Representative John Mizuno that we needed to submit testimony. Ritabelle Fernandes, Jory Watland, and Marion Poirier submitted testimony. Jory Watland hopes that the bill passes through, but he wasn’t sure of the current status. Ritabelle Fernandes mentioned that it would be helpful to have more testimony from the community and that we should send out a link to the website in order to submit testimony. Jory Watland stated that we don’t really need more testimony at this stage of the legislative process. Because the chairs of the referred committee know what HHA is doing and are supportive, we don’t need to worry about quantity of testimony.

Jory Watland said that we have resolutions also introduced, but those won’t be heard for a while. He said we need to work to get the appropriations and he hopes that the Governor won’t hesitate to sign the bill. Rey Graulty motioned to appoint Stephen Kemble as a representative of the HHA to attend meetings sponsored by Office of Healthcare Transformation, provided that his participation specifically stand for “health” rather than “medicine,” and that he reports to the Board as necessary. Stephen Kemble said that he would be willing to be an advocate for all health. Marion Poirier second the motion. All voted in favor (6-0). Rey Graulty motioned to amend the motion to include an alternate in the event Stephen Kemble will be unable to attend. Marion Poirier and Ritabelle Fernandes were suggested as alternates as needed. S. Peter Kim second the motion. All voted in favor (6-0).

1. **Meeting on February 20, 2012**

Because February 20, 2012 falls on President’s Day, John A. Burns School of Medicine will be closed, and HHA won’t be able to meet at its regular place. The board agreed to cancel the February 20th meeting.

1. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2012.