

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEFENDER COUNCIL

DATE: April 28, 2023

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85328080291?pwd=b2RRLytPTHVlb0pyRkpXN3BGMGZTQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2808 0291

Passcode: 111119

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig De Costa (virtual)
Stanton Oshiro (virtual)
Crystal Glendon (virtual)
Gina Gormley (virtual)
David Hayakawa (virtual)

ALSO PRESENT: Randall Nishiyama, Deputy Attorney General (virtual)
James Tabe, Public Defender (virtual)
Lee Hayakawa, Assistant Public Defender (virtual)

Virtual meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair De Costa.

Approval of Agenda

Chair De Costa moved that the agenda be approved by the members. Member Glendon seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Public Testimony:

At 10:06 a.m., Chair De Costa solicited public testimony

Deputy Public Defender (DPD) Okechukwu Amadi inquired about the survey and if any progress was made with respect to the results of the survey. Chair De Costa indicated that the survey would be discussed in executive session and if any decision is made, it will be addressed in public session.

DPD Okechukwu Amadi was unaware of the agenda. Chair De Costa explained how to view on the state public calendar website.

It was requested that a reminder be sent out to the council 1 hour prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on January 27, 2022:

At 10:10 a.m. the meeting minutes from January 27, 2023 was approved by council members Oshiro and Glendon.

Report by Public Defender James Tabe:

Public Defender Annual Seminar is scheduled for last week of May. The seminar will be held virtually.

A request to upgrade the bandwidth/broadband for Honolulu, Hilo, Kona and Maui has been submitted. The office was hoping to have the upgrade installed by seminar; however, there is a delay in the approval process.

The First Circuit (Honolulu) has started up a new diversion program based on what is known as the Miami Model. Two attorneys, Jerry Villanueva and Alan Komagome, traveled to Miami, Florida with the Honolulu prosecutors, circuit and district court judges, probation officers, and representatives from the Department of Health to not only learn about the "Miami Model" program but also to implement the program in Honolulu. Over the past 20 years, the homelessness in Miami has been drastically reduced. Also one of their jails are no longer needed.

The Hawai'i Paroling Authority (parole board) will be visiting Saguaro in June. The parole board will be taking one of our attorneys (Phyllis Hironaka) with them.

Because of the shortage of attorneys on the Big Island, Manta Dircks from the Oahu Office volunteered to assist the Hilo office for two months (January, February). The Oahu Office will be sending an attorney to cover the Waimea Courthouse on the first Wednesday of each month and every Tuesday.

Special recognition to the following individuals for their recent community involvement:

The office held an expungement clinic in Kahuku; the clinic was held primarily for those arrested for the Kahuku windfarm protests, Sherwood protests, as well as some of those who were arrested at Mauna Kea. Participants included Darcia Forester, Hayley Cheng, Taryn Tomasa, Sara Haley, Sat Freedman, Tiara Maumau, Kayla Hughes (intern), and former DPDs Kirsha Durante and Willie Bagasol

Steven Nichols along with the Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, Neighborhood Board, worked with HPU students on a research study on the perception of crime and safety in the Downtown/Chinatown.

Teal Takayama was on a panel on PBS representing our office on the topic, "How Do We Keep Habitual Offenders Off Our Roads?"

Executive session:

Chair De Costa entertained a motion to enter into executive session.

Member Oshiro moved to enter into executive session. Member Gormley seconded the motion. No discussion. Unanimously approved. Council went into executive session at 10:26 a.m.

Council reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

Final survey results to be shared to Office of Public Defender (OPD) employees.

- No objection, Unanimous
- Discussion of interaction group and subcommittee deferred to next meeting (June 16th, 2023)
- Discussion of election for new council members for next term for council members De Costa, Oshiro, and Gromley.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to noon in person and via Zoom.

Member Oshiro moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Glendon seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.