**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, May 31, 2025 | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Zoom Conference Call

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Quorum reached at 9:29 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Faitalia at 9:32 AM.

*Present:* Chair Lydia Faitalia, 1st Vice Chair Lalita Uppala, Cmmr. Carrie Huie, Cmmr. Scott Lehrman, Cmmr. Sam Cho, Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Cmmr. Anna Lising, Cmmr. David Phongsa, Cmmr. Ping Ping, Cmmr. Kiana McKenna, Cmmr. Malia D’Alio, and Cmmr. Emeritus Rey Pascua

*Absent:*  2nd Vice Chair Kendall Kosai

*Staff:* Executive Director Nam Nguyen, Project Manager Negheen Kamkar, and Project Coordinator Brenda O’Brien

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Sisavatdy

Seconded by: Cmmr. Lising

*No abstentions or objections. Motion carried unanimously.*

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Huie

Seconded by: Cmmr. Lising

*No abstentions or objections. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Public Comment**

**CE Pascua** shared that he wrote a resolution that both passed and received funding during this last Legislative session. [House Resolution 4644](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=4644&Year=2025&Initiative=False) recognizes and honors Filipino American educators in our state.

CE Pascua was also able to attend two historical events for the Filipino American community. The first event was the ceremony appointing Judge Benjamin Santos as the first Filipino judge in King County. The second event was the unveiling of a new cable car in what is now known as Filipino Town (CID). There were 40 community members in attendance for the maiden voyage that day.

**V. Staff Report**

**ED Nguyen** gave a verbal overview of the report at 9:46 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



**VI. OCA Convention**

This year’s OCA Convention is taking place in Seattle at the end of July. CAPAA will cover registration, lodging, and per diem for any commissioner who would like to attend. Please let us know by June 15th.

**VII. Legislative Budget Update**

**PM Kamkar** gave a verbal summary of the Legislative budget at 9:51 AM. Full presentation can be accessed below.



**VIII. Discussion on Sponsorship Requests**

**ED Nguyen** proposed a suspension of sponsorship requests, suggesting use of those funds for special projects instead. We could use these funds in a more strategic way with commissioners identifying projects that CAPAA could sponsor.

During the discussion, concerns were raised that this could result in losing connection with groups that don’t have community representation or connections to our commission. Are we using some sort of rubric measuring equity or access? A question was also raised about whether we need to

sharpen our sponsorship criteria if this discussion is mainly due to challenges of declining requests related to specific reasons.

Commissioners would like more time and information about this issue before weighing in on a final decision. Staff will put together a sponsorship presentation for our September Board meeting.

**IX. Commissioner Roundtable**

**Cmmr. Huie** sent a shoutout to the Filipino Community Hall in Wapato. They are hosting an event this morning where elders are being interviewed about the bias and discrimination they experienced during the 1950’s. The article will be written by a young Filipina woman from the Washington State History Museum.

Cmmr. Huieis currently traveling to support various Memorial Day events honoring A/AA & NH/PI elders for the work they accomplished before us. She has also been focused on advocacy for behavioral health wellness of youth and elders.

**Cmmr. Lehrman** has once again been raising awareness on A/AA & NH/PI Month to their city council and advocating for their own proclamation. A/AA & NH/PI allies were invited to celebrate at the meeting on May 5th, and they had a great turnout. Cmmr. Phongsa was present as well.

He was also among many who were interviewed by local high school seniors about the importance of advocacy on all levels for our communities. Their hope is to start an A/AA & NH/PI club at Chiawana High School. Lastly, after taking a break for three years, he is running to serve again on the school board.

**Cmmr. McKenna** announced that May 1st was May Day, which recognizes Marshallese independence as a self-governing country since its Constitution was signed in 1979. For those unaware, the Marshallese along with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau have a treaty with the US called the “Compacts of Free Association,” otherwise known as COFA. It followed the 67 nuclear tests that were conducted there from 1946-1958.

The detonation of these tests are estimated to be the equivalent of 7200 Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs. This is an important point to raise to illustrate the devastating health impacts of those that were exposed, and to explain the heavy migration patterns of its citizens to the states. The ensuing treaty allows the Marshallese to live, work, and pay taxes in our country, but does not recognize them as citizens or allow them to vote.

UTOPIA recently issued a report that is worth highlighting. It’s an important study that I will link in the chat (below).

Last month at a Pasifika Village Council meeting, the issue of maternal health was flagged as fast-reaching a crisis level for NH/PI communities and not talked about enough. We have seen a number of hospitals close their labor and delivery units in Puget Sound as well as rural areas.

Community has been reporting that some hospitals are capping or redirecting Medicaid patients, which is illegal. This has resulted in many being forced to incur higher costs due to giving birth in ER’s, which are the most expensive places to give birth. We are also continuing to see really high birth and maternal death rates.

We are still facing a crisis with housing. Their community health workers are facing an uphill battle in triaging the crisis, as there are currently no resources or support for help around housing. They are largely reduced to work with landlords to set up payment plans or do their best to find affordable housing. If anyone is aware of any housing resources, please send them her way.

Lastly, a shoutout to Asians for Collective Liberation who put together wonderful programming for Heritage Month. It’s a bittersweet time as NH/PI communities often feel a sense of erasure when we are celebrating it. In that regards, Cmmr. McKenna would like to direct everyone to page 13 of the below report, (in chat) which lists specific requests that allies and partners can adopt to show their support and solidarity towards their communities.

**Cmmr. Cho** shared that the focus has been on helping organizations handle REAL ID. It has been a source of confusion for many in understanding the differences between who can apply for enhanced driver’s licenses vs. REAL ID’s.

In other news, thanks to a $500k budget from the city and a $500k donation from the Asian American Foundation, The CID is able to fund “Downtown Ambassadors” in their district. These ambassadors serve to clean the area and monitor it for safety.

**Cmmr. Phongsa** traveled to many Lao Temples for Lao New Year events tabling for CAPAA and engaging with communities. As elsewhere, residents in the eastern part of the state, comprised largely of Hispanic communities, have been concerned about immigration. To learn more about how to best support them, he has reached out to the Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber and attended events that educated the public on what resources are available to help them.

Lastly, he and Cmmr. Sisavatdy have been helping to plan the Lao Heritage event that is coming up. It will take place on August 8th at the Capitol.

**Cmmr. Ping** recently returned from family leave in China. Some highlights of note include a youth who recently had her car spit on while driving with her mom. The incident is being considered a hate crime.

The New York Times reported that the current administration will be aggressively revoking visas for Chinese students with ties to the Chinese Communist party. The administration also announced that they would enhance scrutiny of all future visa applications including monitoring social media posts. Many Chinese Americans in Spokane and in Academia have expressed deep concerns about this development.

On May 10th, Cmmr. Ping was able to attend Spokane United We Stand’s 5th Annual Asian Heritage Month. The number of vendors for the event went from 127 to 80 due to cuts for DEI programs and funding loss.

**Cmmr. Sisavatdy** shared that this quarter has really been a testament to the power of community. Sixty-four organizations and hundreds of community members showed up to support Make Us Visible’s [SB 5574](https://www.culturesconnecting.com/post/make-us-visible-urgent-action-needed-to-include-aa-nh-pi-history-in-schools). Unfortunately, it did not pass but we did gain momentum. It definitely is within reach for 2026.

The Third Annual Community Reception and Student Showcase is taking place at the Inatai Foundation in Seattle today from 3:00 to 5:00. There will be performances, keynote speakers, and a book launch.

Since March, Washington has really been alive with Lao New Year celebrations. Cmmr. Sisavatdy has represented CAPAA at four events along with Cmmr. Phongsa, Chair Faitalia, and PM Kamkar.

Finally, the 50th Anniversary of Lao Heritage and Resilience will be taking place on August 8th. We have received the Governor’s proclamation, which pays tribute to the sacrifices and resilience our community has shown. Please join us in celebrating at the capitol lawn that day.

**Cmmr. Lising** conveyed that current community concerns centered around ICE detainment and confusion around REAL ID. How do we best support those who are trying to follow the rules, but have fears about showing up to court or being detained at airports when traveling?

Speaking for herself, Cmmr. Lising is a naturalized citizen and their family had to have a game plan in place in case problems arose in re-entering the country after traveling to the Philippines. She would love to see CAPAA put together something similar to CHA’s Rapid Response Hub to present to our own communities as a resource.

On April 26th, 11 people were killed at the Lapu Day Festival in Vancouver, BC. We had folks in our Filipino American community here who were in BC to help celebrate and it has impacted us directly. It is something that is still very fresh as they continue to work through the grief to heal from it.

Finally, working through intersectionalities is something Cmmr. Lising has been focused on lately.

She has realized how thinly supported the LGBTQ community has been amongst A/AA’s & NH/PI’s. In heading into Pride Month, how can we show up better for all our intersecting identities?

**First VC Uppala** has been assisting in building up the legal defense of immigrants and green card holders. Workers have been reluctant to go into work due to concerns about being detained, which is why it is crucial for ORIA to bring in their workshops to address these issues with small business owners. Emergency rental assistance is also an area of concern. Funding has dried up and it should be addressed with the next biennial budget.

**X.**  **Meet Kabul Seattle Community Services**

**Executive Director Dawood Niazi & Hadi Abdulhai** introduced their organization and gave a presentation of the services they provide. CAPAA recently partnered with KSCS in hosting a workshop on starting a small business. Full presentation can be accessed below.

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**XI.** **Presentation by the Office of Regulatory Innovation & Assistance**

**Hugo Nicholas,** Small Business Consultant for ORIA, gave an overview of their agency and the services they provide. Full presentation can be accessed below.

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**XII.** **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.

**Zoom Attendees and Chat**

Negheen Kamkar joined as a guest  
Lydia M. Faitalia joined as a guest  
Rey’s iPhone joined as a guest  
David Phongsa joined as a guest  
Meha Goyal joined as a guest  
Scott Lehrman joined as a guest  
Ping Ping (she/her) joined as a guest  
Carrie Huie (she/her) joined as a guest  
Lalita Uppala joined as a guest  
Anna Lising joined as a guest  
Scott Lehrman joined as a guest  
Ekk Sisavatdy (he/him) joined as a guest  
Rey’s iPhone left  
Kiana McKenna (she/her) joined as a guest  
Sam Cho joined as a guest  
Scott Lehrman left  
Rey’s iPhone joined as a guest  
bobhasegawa joined as a guest  
Bri  joined as a guest  
Malia D'Alio (Seattle Children's) joined as a guest  
  
**Negheen Kamkar** 9:42 AM  
Welcome to the CAPAA meeting! For new attendees, we are currently in public comment period. feel free to message if you'd like to speak.  
  
**bobhasegawa** 9:43 AM  
No need to call on me unless you have a specific question you want me to answer.  
  
**Lalita Uppala** 9:44 AM  
Welcome Commissioner Malia

**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 9:44 AM  
Welcome, sister! Aloha kakou!  
Scott Lehrman joined as a guest  
  
**Anna Lising** 9:45 AM  
Welcome Commissioner D’Alio and happy birthday to your kiddo!  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 9:45 AM  
Happy birthday and blessings to your daughter!  
Scott Lehrman left  
  
**Ping Ping (she/her)** 9:46 AM  
Welcome Commissioner Malia, thanks for your wonderful introduction!  
  
**Lydia M. Faitalia** 9:46 AM  
Welcome Commissioner Malia!  
  
**Ekk Sisavatdy (he/him)** 9:47 AM  
Welcome Commissioner D'Alio!  
  
**Lydia M. Faitalia** 9:49 AM  
Sign me up ED Nguyen  
  
**Nam Nguyen** 9:50 AM  
www.ocanationalconvention.org  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 9:55 AM  
Thanks for chairing Cmr. Lising!  
  
**Ping Ping (she/her)** 9:57 AM  
Maybe you can just read the words of the ppt, we can hear you very clearly 🙂 while

showing the ppt

Sam Cho left  
Sam Cho joined as a guest  
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 10:02 AM  
Do we utilize any equity tools or rubrics for decision making where prioritizing funding is concerned?  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 10:04 AM  
How would this also work for conflicts of interest?  
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 10:05 AM  
And one follow up clarifying question: is this Budget separate from or inclusive of community grant awards?  
Thank you   
Lalita Uppala left  
Lalita Uppala joined as a guest  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 10:07 AM  
That is helpful context about the other commissions thanks Nam  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 10:11 AM  
Thank you for bringing this conversation!  
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 10:13 AM  
Happy to share some equity rubric tools as resources for consideration to support general funding allocations/decisions moving forward from CAPAA to the extent other Commissioners feel could be applicable.  
  
**Negheen Kamkar** 10:13 AM  
Please do Cmsr.

**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 10:14 AM  
Happy to support this   
Dawood Niazi KSCS joined as a guest  
Abdulhai joined as a guest  
  
**Lalita Uppala** 10:36 AM  
Thank you Negheen that will be very helpful -  
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 10:37 AM  
And identifying pre-existing coalitions that are already collaborating around the shared priorities we identify from our communities   
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 10:38 AM  
This is going to take a village ❤️  
  
**Nam Nguyen** 10:45 AM  
We are running a little late  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 10:47 AM  
**UTOPIA WA Tautua Climate Community Research Study**

* Study Report: [https://www.flipsnack.com/utopiawa/tautua-climate-leadership-cohort-2024-survey-report/full-view.html](https://mcas-proxyweb.mcas-gov.ms/certificate-checker?login=false&originalUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.flipsnack.com.mcas-gov.ms%2Futopiawa%2Ftautua-climate-leadership-cohort-2024-survey-report%2Ffull-view.html%3FMcasTsid%3D20893&McasCSRF=e314e8c2e334ccf9736c77aed183acadbfdfd9d5e1afded700382f56bc1da5ec)

**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 10:51 AM  
https://www.picawa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NHPI-Community-Data-Report-2024-Digital.pdf Page 13  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 10:53 AM  
Thank you for being here, Dawood!  
Rey’s iPhone left

**Negheen Kamkar** 10:57 AM  
IRC - International Rescue Committee  
  
**Abdulhai** 10:58 AM  
Thank you Lalita!  
Hugo (GOV) joined as a guest  
  
**Ekk Sisavatdy (he/him)** 11:03 AM  
Love seeing all the programs that meets your community needs. Keep-on-Caring-on Kabul Seattle! Thank you!  
  
**Lydia M. Faitalia** 11:11 AM  
ok  
ok  
Bri  left  
Bri  joined as a guest  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:12 AM  
Thank you, Dawood. I would love to email you next week when I am back in office to see if you are connected with some funders who would be really well aligned with you if they have open opportunities.  
  
**Nam Nguyen** 11:14 AM  
The other ORIA is the Office of Refugees and Immigration Assistance within DSHS  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:17 AM  
Thanks Nam!  
  
**Lalita Uppala** 11:19 AM  
Thank you Hugo - in this climate our small businesses are getting deeply impacted with severe drops in revenue and increase in cost of supplies. Hope OIRA can work with communities and community organizations to get some listening sessions done to

understand barriers in accessing resources  
  
**Lalita Uppala** 10:54 AM  
Thank you Dawood and Abdulhai - looking forward to getting to know you better  
  
**Dawood Niazi KSCS** 11:21 AM  
thank you and your are welcome!  
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 11:22 AM  
In the interest of time, sharing a quick update from me here: Re COFA  
Chalia Stallings-Ala’ilima (Asst Atty General, Senior Counsel for WA State Atty Gen. Office Wing Luke Civil Rights Division) has asked us to reach out to her directly if we hear of any Marshallese or COFA citizens experiencing difficulty/barriers getting their Real ID issued.   
   
I attended Mariner High School's Pacific Islander Family Night this Thursday as a new community sponsor for their event. Mariner HS in Everett has the highest population of Marshallese and Micronesian communties in WA state. The school is doing an incredible job at supporting students using a novel culturally responsive model to engage parents and community in the educational spaces and academic success of their students. Have had a lot of success reversing truancy rates and increasing students performance at school while also dressing unique equity barriers and incidences of institutionalized and interpersonal racism they experience  
  
**Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington)** 11:22 AM  
In addition to social determinants of health/basic needs, one of the primary concerns for their students right now is around climate change which is directly increasing the forced displacement from their island homes/COFA citizens here in WA state as Commissioner McKenna mentioned earlier.  
  
For those seeking to learn more about the critical health, climate crisis and human rights issues impacting Pacific Islander/COFA communities Commissioner McKenna spoke so beautifully on behalf of, there is a great free documentary available on YouTube called "The Forgotten Pacific" I'd recommend everyone watch:

https://youtu.be/cvCMGuIy79A?si=yUey7QOzuAb9vToH  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:24 AM  
Thank you so much - very helpful!  
  
**Ekk Sisavatdy (he/him)** 11:25 AM  
Thank you for sharing the resource, Hugo.  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:25 AM  
Fa’afetai Malia ❤️ let’s definitely connect  
  
**Negheen Kamkar** 11:25 AM  
Thank you Hugo for sharing the info :)  
Hugo (GOV) left  
  
**Negheen Kamkar** 11:28 AM  
I've been sharing DOL resources on social media about REAL ID (what cards are acceptable etc.) - if there are others please send my way and i'll post  
Sam Cho left  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:40 AM  
Thank you and I am so sorry to hear this. I had not heard of it, but am glad to know. Sending comfort, care and healing ❤️  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:41 AM  
+1000 Anna!! We must support and uplift our queer and trans siblings!!  
  
**Kiana McKenna (she/her)** 11:42 AM  
I am so sorry I have to sign off - thank you all ❤️  
Kiana McKenna (she/her) left

**Lalita Uppala** 11:44 AM

Thank you everyone

Anna Lising left  
  
**Bri**  11:44 AM  
Thank you!!!  
Lydia M. Faitalia left  
Malia D'Alio (CAPAA Washington) left  
Ekk Sisavatdy (he/him) left  
Bri  left  
David Phongsa left  
Ping Ping (she/her) left  
Scott Lehrman left