

## Hawaii Energy Forum Meeting

August 15, 2007 Meeting

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

State Capitol Room #325

### **Summary Notes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Amy Asselbaye, Catherine Awakuni, Don Thomas, Steve Teves for Melissa Pavlicek, Mike Hamnett, Mitch Ewan, Peter Rosegg, Rick Reed, Sharon Miyashiro, Steve Golden, Stephen Rymsha, Tim O'Connell, Neil Abercrombie, Ted Obringer, Russell Shimaoka, Chelsea Phlegar, Susan Char, Kim Suman.

#### **Congressman Abercrombie's Update**

- Our efforts need to sustain our own energy independence
- We're making progress for energy independence at the national level
- Senate Actions
  - Energy Independence Act
  - Renewable Energy Tax Act
  - Energy Bill consolidated with Renewable Energy Tax Act to create an Energy Efficiency program
    - Tax incentives for retrofits & financing
    - Solar
    - Financing new facilities
    - Hope to tailor the program to local conditions
    - Social utility and public policy has clear connection to population
    - Alternative energy is now on the front burner and proposals included for the first time
    - Electrical utilities should be working to find alternative resources

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- Less imposition than facilitation with respect to alternative fuel vehicles, etc.
  - Lots of research
  - Small business lending
  - Capital is going to natural gas vs. coal technology
- With respect to public policy, the energy bill is not just an oil & gas bill, it includes natural gas but there is much more to it
- Legislatively, there is a lot to be optimistic about and a lot the Forum can do for the next session. Forum can start putting practical policies together based on this for Hawaii.
- Need a pro-green and pro-energy congress
- Energy Tax Bill
  - Retrofit to improve energy efficiency
  - Maybe able to help finance it from the federal side
  - Electric utilities are having to go to regulators to get fuel surcharges approved so the electric utilities are supporting these new initiatives and financing strategies
  - Renewable tax credits are being extended
  - Small steps are helping to establish a good base for forum to keep moving ahead
  - Question: Does this still include tax incentive extensions for residential units in addition to commercial installations? Amy will follow-up with Rick Reed.
- Energy Conservation Bonds designated for Honolulu
- Pacific Insular Sun Grant Center
  - To be administered by UH College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR)
  - \$3-4 million annually for research on biofuel crops, what should feedstock be for Hawaii?
  - Intent is to move from basic R&D to commercialization
  - Biodiesel, Sugarcane and ethanol, etc.

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- Doesn't list any specific projects, researchers can make decisions
- Also includes Guam and Marshall Islands
- Bill passed in the House; and has yet to be passed in the Senate
- Chairman Peterson committed to Hawaii after his trip here
  - Went back to Washington excited about Hawaii
  - During his tour, he was able to see the local energy situation first hand so he is more supportive of our efforts

## Comments

- HECO will move forward with publishing the Biofuel Procurement with NRDC
  - Biofuel Public Trust—take profits and put into research for getting agricultural field going (Jatropha research at CTAHR very promising, jatropha may be good replacement for palm oil, kukui may also be a productive option)
- There is talk about inter-island subsea power lines to transfer energy among the islands
  - Technologically it is possible
  - Will take huge infusion of capital and environmental considerations
  - Public acceptance considerations
- Are there grant opportunities for renewable energy storage?
  - HECO investigating pumped hydro technologies to make wind technology dependable, Maui will possibly reach 10 to 20% wind power in near future which creates problems for grid stability due intermittent and variable power issues.
  - Shell Wind is considering a wind farm at Ulupalakua Ranch .
  - Sun Grant funds may apply as there is considerable flexibility in how the program can be interpreted.

**Presentation by Ted Obringer: GoGreen Hawaii**

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- HECO has funded ½ hour programs on OC16, because they were impressed by quality for dollars, they have been impressed with the response
- HECO is willing to jointly support with the Forum a TV special program to deal with issues that are Hawaii specific relating to global change and how our community can take action.
- Commitment from KHON to show the special on Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00pm. Good time slot, with approximately 100,000 viewership. Will be rebroadcast on Saturday after the “Wheel of Fortune”
- Russell Shimaoka will host, and do promotion on KHON in the morning, also radio announcements
- Presentation of Go Green’s 5 minute promotional video:
  - Featured local experts and environmentalists
  - Waikiki, Honolulu and UH were featured
- Hawaii would be the first state to do a state-focused version of “An Inconvenient Truth,” and we could take the lead in confronting the issues

### Questions/Comments

- What about geothermal? It wasn’t mentioned in the promotional video, or in the handout.
  - Political controversy from geothermal makes it difficult, but it is still a valuable indigenous resource
  - Geothermal would be mentioned as well as the whole range of renewable opportunities
- What about drought?
  - Drought would be an issue
  - Go Green: We are not feeding ourselves, so drought is not that important to include
- What are calls to action? Resources?
- Follow up with additional suggestions to Peter Rosegg.

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- Want to leave people with the idea that this is a dire situation, but lots can be done.
- Using Russell is a good idea, because he is not closely connected with any particular station
- Could branch out from this to other 30 minute segments on smart cars etc

## HECO Ocean Energy Dialogues

- 40 stakeholders, Paula and Shad involved
- 5 meetings total, look at technologies including OTEC.
- Among stakeholders, all talked about impact that this technology would have for their various concerns (cultural sites, surfing, navigation, fishing)
- Report is in draft form, will bring to the form in three parts
  - Guidelines
  - List of contact of stakeholders
  - Record of proceedings

## Working Group Action Plans

- Added new working groups to address revised 10 Point Plan.
  - GHG emissions – Mike Hamnett is chairing the Working Group and reported on the State's efforts to establish a GHG inventory for Hawaii (roll back to 1990 levels). Please let Mike know if interested in joining this working group.
- Warren Bollmeier presented the Renewable Energy action plan. The draft plan will be posted on <[www.hepf.org](http://www.hepf.org)> to vett, because some points should be discussed
- Energy Efficiency draft is ready, but Steve Meder and Darren Kimura are still working on it
- Communication and Outreach draft is in preliminary stages, updated with goal and some measures.

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- Social & Cultural Impacts – Pending
- Hydrocarbon Futures – Pending

### **HEPF-HECO Briefing**

August 20th – Briefing on Commercialization of Renewable Energy Technologies,  
HEI Training Room #2

### **Next Meeting:**

September 26 . Agenda will include discussion and adoption of the remaining action plans, and presentation by HNEI, featuring the RPS study with Terry Surles and Rick Rocheleau.