

Cultural Working Group Minutes

Cultural Working Group

Tuesday, July 1, 2003

Attendance:

Steve Morse (Alu Like), Nani Lee and Peter Yee (OHA), Claire Assam (QLCC), Cindy Hoddick (Bishop Museum), John Alamodin (Lunalilo Home), Bob Freitas (DHHL), Richard Paglinawan (Queen Emma Foundation & Energy Forum), Gayle Bonham and Lisa Ha'o (Papa Ola Lokahi), Lynette Cruz (Ahupua'a Action Alliance & Energy Forum), Mike Hamnett, Sharon Miyashiro, Luciano Minerbi & Regina Gregory (UH)

I. Introductions & Overview

Richard Paglinawan gave the welcome and opening pule. Everyone introduced themselves.

Mike Hamnett gave an overview of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Project. The Cultural Issues Working Group is one of several working groups dealing with social, economic and cultural issues related to energy. The idea is to help educate Forum members and prepare recommendations for a public Energy Summit in the fall.

Sharon Miyashiro noted that there is a need to know of cultural values that may prohibit energy efforts before decisions are made, eg. any kapu relating to any of the energy sources. The working group can help in identifying these and also of a process for dealing with this.

II. Discussion

During the discussion a number of issues and questions were raised:

- "How do we bat the ball instead of ducking it?"
- Geothermal controversy

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- Importance of transportation
- Ugly abandoned windmills at Lalamilo and Kahuku
- Appropriate time frame for energy planning
- Comprehensive plan needed; “where is technology taking us?”
- Using ceded lands for energy could increase revenues.
- Importance of process/protocol/asking permission when approaching communities
- Why are we doing this? Is there any commitment to implement our recommendations?
- We “missed the train” in the 1973 oil embargo.
- More public education is needed.
- A multi-pronged approach is needed.
- We need a cultural framework—based on ideas like ahupua‘a, kuleana, malama, aloha ‘aina, pono. Things look different when you identify your well-being with that of the land.
- HECO should take responsibility for its impacts.
- Technology/infrastructure are intrusive on fishing, surfing, forests ...
- Hawaiians are not all together on these issues. We should expand on our Hawaiianness.
- People don’t connect switching on the light or driving their car to any kind of environmental damage
- We should focus on people’s lifestyles and needs.
- People tend to be more active if they are personally affected, and even more so when their kids are involved. There are different layers of people—some will give money, some time ...
- Need to determine what can be done, at what scale, in what locations.
- The educational materials need to be more simple, with more pictures. Focus on electricity and gasoline, which people can relate to. Make a video.
- The community is “jaded” about embarking on a new participatory process.

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- HECO should do a blanket apology.
- Hawaiians should lead in energy.
- This group needs a clear mission.

III. Next Meeting

Richard Paglinawan volunteered to convene another meeting on these matters. Lynette Cruz, Steve Morse, John Alamodin, Nani Lee, and Cindy Hoddick also volunteered. Date to be determined.