

**Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Task Force**  
**Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309**  
**May 26, 2006**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Senator Russell Kokubun, Representative Lyla Berg, Representative Corinne Ching, Representative Pono Chong, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Kathy Sokugawa (for Henry Eng), Donald Fujimoto, David Goode, Marion Higa, Karl Kim, Keith Kurahashi, Keith Rollman, Jane Testa, Stacie Thorlakson, Beth Tokioka, Pamela Tumpap, Representative Ryan Yamane

**I. Call to Order.** The task force meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Chair Russell Kokubun on Friday, May 26, 2006, in Room 309 at the Hawai'i State Capitol. Introduction of task force members and support staff.

Attendance Policy. Chair Kokubun reported that subsequent to the adoption of the attendance policy on March 29, letters were sent to task force members who have not attended any meetings. Letters were also sent to all appointing authorities to inform them of the attendance policy. Chair Kokubun received resignation letters from members Alan Garson and Christopher Yuen, both from the County of Hawai'i. Copies of their letters were sent to all task force members. On May 24, 2006, Mayor Harry Kim sent a letter to Chair Kokubun (received on May 25, 2006) appointing two new members for the County of Hawai'i. They are Roy Takemoto, executive assistant to the Mayor and Millicent Kim, private consultant.

**II. Review and Approve Minutes.** The task force meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2006 was canceled and no minutes were prepared. A copy of the "DRAFT" minutes for March 29, 2006 was presented to the members of the task force. Donald Fujimoto moved that the minutes from the March 29, 2006 task force meeting be approved; Representative Ryan Yamane seconded the motion. The task force unanimously approved the minutes.

**III. Legislative Update.** Two bills were passed by the 2006 Legislature and sent to the Governor for her approval. The Chair thanked Representative Ryan Yamane for his efforts in moving the bills through the House. He also thanked task force members for supporting the bills and looked forward to their continued support of the task force. HB 2805 extends the task force to June 2008. HB 2806 provides an additional appropriation for activities planned by the task force. The original bill requested a \$1.3 million appropriation. The final version of the bill passed by the legislature with an appropriation of \$650,000 for task force activities. Chair Kokubun stated that, if appropriate, he and other legislative members are willing to request additional funding for the task force in the 2007 Legislative Session.

Chair Kokubun also noted that HB 2806 includes a provision requiring the task force to make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility and benefits of establishing “Hawai‘i” as a brand name. The task force did not support the feasibility study, but when the original bill requesting the study died, HB 2806 was used as a vehicle to keep the “branding” study alive. Some House members stated that they did not concur with the insertion of the “branding” study into the bill. Representative Ryan Yamane thanked Chair Kokubun for his efforts in working with the House to get the appropriation for task force work. Beth Tokioka asked if the “branding” study would be the responsibility of the task force. Chair Kokubun clarified that it was a separate issue and would be administered by the Office of the Auditor. Marion Higa informed the task force that she received “Requests for Comment” from the Governor’s office on HB 2805 and HB 2806, to which she responded.

#### **IV. Design of the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Plan.**

Bill Kaneko from the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA) presented a proposed outline for the task force to consider in designing the Hawai‘i 2050 sustainability plan.

He outlined potential components of the plan, including: (1) a preamble; (2) definition of sustainability (vision/values); (3) goals and objectives; (4) priorities; (5) approach; (6) implementation and action items; (7) reporting and benchmarks; and (8) (re)evaluation. Examples of approaches that could be used in designing a plan include geographic delineations, specific measurements and standards, broad overarching guidelines, etc. A decision-making process would need to be designed to implement the plan, ensure accountability, and consider jurisdictional overlaps of the state, counties, and individual communities.

Currently, HIPA and the University of Hawai‘i technical team is consulting with other municipalities that are implementing sustainability plans; identifying major and subcategories of goals and measurements; gathering initial information and data on sustainability models, indicators, and measurements; and designing public engagement and research components that will assist in developing the plan.

Beth Tokioka stated that the Kaua‘i Planning and Action Alliance is developing a set of indicators to measure the progress of Kaua‘i’s General Plan Update of 2000, and that she will send the list to the task force. Bill Kaneko mentioned that there are many possible indicators and benchmarks that could be considered to measure progress toward sustainability. The country of Bhutan measures economic growth by a “happiness index” which takes into account “a sustainable balance among the economic, social, emotional and cultural needs of the people.” Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland requested more information on this benchmark. Stacie Thorlakson suggested conducting research on how other island communities or nations, such as Iceland, Japan, and the Philippines that deal with sustainability issues. Keith Kurahashi stated that there are generally three

dimensions of sustainability: environment (land use, resources, physical environment), economy, and social/community.

Chair Kokubun revisited the idea of forming a working group within the task force. According to the Office of Information Practices, the task force can form working groups that focus on specific goals and report back with its recommendations at a duly noticed task force meeting. Formal action on the recommendations must take place at a subsequent meeting with proper notice. The working groups must consist of less than quorum, and Chair Kokubun suggested that no more than six members be appointed in order to keep the working group manageable.

The Chair recommended establishing a governance working group to make recommendations on the approach and design of a sustainability plan, including implementation strategies and accountability mechanisms. The working group will strive to make recommendations to the task force by late July. Chair Kokubun asked for volunteers and stated that he will also seek members to participate in the working group. Pamela Tumpap motioned to form a governance working group within the task force; Suzanne Chun Oakland seconded the motion. The task force unanimously agreed to form working groups. To date, the following members have volunteered to serve on the working group: Karl Kim, Keith Rollman, Jane Testa, Beth Tokioka, Pamela Tumpap.

- V. **Research Team Update.** Jim Hollyer, from the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, outlined the research team's data collection efforts, including the identification of sustainable development indicators and alignment of the indicators with Hawai'i 2050 plan core elements. Byron Gangnes, from the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, provided a general overview of software tools available in the marketplace to assist the task force in its community engagement and planning efforts. Sharon Miyashiro, from the UH College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center, presented preliminary findings of experiences in other jurisdictions regarding the process for developing a sustainability plan, engaging the community, implementation strategies, and accountability and evaluation mechanisms.

Representative Pono Chong stated that planning documents currently exist at the state and county levels and need to be considered by the task force and integrated into the Hawai'i 2050 plan and strategies. In addition, Representative Chong suggested that it might be helpful to research how other communities encourage and elicit changes in behavior to move toward sustainability goals, and look at policy levers and mechanisms already in place that impact behavior. Donald Fujimoto suggested that the task force look at available models such as the state Geographic Information System (GIS) to determine what is already developed and where the potential for growth lies. The research team indicated that it has been in contact with the State Office of Planning, which oversees the GIS program. Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland mentioned that a number of residential

leases are expiring in the near future, which could have an impact on the housing market.

## VI. Overview and Recommended Workplan for Task Force Activities.

Fund development. Bill Kaneko summarized an opinion from the Senate Majority Office regarding ethical considerations for soliciting contributions for the Hawai‘i 2050 sustainability effort. Although it appears that the task force can receive contributions for its efforts, there may be a perception that the solicitation of donations is unethical or coercive when conducted by task force members. It was recommended that the task force consult the Ethics Commission before proceeding with any solicitation.

Private sector participation. Senator Kokubun stated that he met with business leaders to discuss the task force’s efforts. Hawaii Business is interested in conducting a monthly series and forum on specific sustainability issues. Governor Ariyoshi wrote about the Hawai‘i 2050 task force and plan in his May 2006 Leadership Lessons column in Hawaii Business magazine.

August kick-off event. Bill Kaneko outlined the proposed format for the kick-off event. Participants will include 400-500 attendees representing all islands and sectors of the community. The goal of the kick-off is to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability and motivate and inspire participants to engage in the planning process.

- In order to establish a context for discussions about the future, information will be presented about Hawai‘i’s history, including: factual and anecdotal evidence on key benchmarks such as the price of gas and housing, population, transportation needs, etc.; comparisons of life in Hawai‘i now and 50, 100 years ago; and impressions of individuals from different sectors of the community about life in Hawai‘i past and present.
- Jim Dator, from the Hawai‘i Research Center for Futures Studies, explained that a creative, highly interactive, and unique format focused around participant reaction to alternative futures of Hawai‘i will be used to illustrate the issue of sustainability and how best to achieve it. Interactive displays, exhibits, improvisational actors, and audio visual presentations will enable participants to experience the future in an engaging and effective way.
- An inspiring keynote speaker to emphasize the need for action and outline best practices of current sustainability models being implemented in other jurisdictions.
- Specific information about the August 2006-December 2008 community engagement process will be distributed.

Senator Chun Oakland suggested that if child care was offered during the kick-off, individuals with families would be able to attend. She also suggested that a children's essay or poster contest be held for reading and display at the kick-off.

The task force discussed the possibility of a live broadcast on all islands at venues such as the Kaua'i Stadium; however, because of the interactive and experiential nature of the activities, the task force determined that it may not be feasible. It was suggested that the event be documented well so it can be used on all islands at future meetings. The task force noted the importance of having strong representation from all of the islands; a limited number of travel scholarships will be available to aid in defraying the cost of attending an O'ahu event.

Representative Chong stated that in any presentation to the public, it is important to put statistics into context to avoid misunderstanding. Donald Fujimoto recommended that the task force anticipate questions from the public, e.g., how will this plan accommodate the needs of the different counties and determine how these questions will be answered in order to reduce criticism and cynicism.

Another suggestion was to work with the public and private school systems to offer extra credit to students who participate in the kick-off and try to target and encourage educators to participate.

Task force members were requested to serve as liaisons to HIPA to assist in arranging meetings with their constituents (community organizations, business and labor leaders, legislators, mayors, councilmembers) to inform them of the goals and upcoming activities of the task force and coordinate community engagement efforts. The following members volunteered to serve as liaisons: Pam Tumpap, Stacie Thorlakson, Jane Testa, Roy Takemoto (Jane to check); Pono Chong, Corinne Ching, Lyla Berg, Ryan Yamane, Suzanne Chun Oakland, Fred Hemmings, Gary Hooser.

HIPA will be contracting with a vendor shortly to develop a website for the task force where task force information and activities can be found. Online registration will also be made available for those interested in participating in the August kick-off event.

HIPA proposed two possible dates for the summit kick-off: Saturday, August 26, 2006 or Monday, August 28, 2006. The task force agreed to hold the summit kick-off on Saturday, August 26, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Dole Ballrooms. Keith Rollman will check the availability of the Neil Blaisdell Center meeting rooms.

The task force discussed registration fees and determined that charging a nominal fee to attend the kick-off event was appropriate, and set a fee of \$20.50. A limited number of scholarships will be available to cover the cost for those unable to afford the fee.

The task force was asked to help develop the database of potential participants, including lists of representatives and participants from current sustainability and planning efforts, and submit them to HIPA in two weeks.

It was suggested that sponsorship opportunities be offered to help cover the costs for the event and other activities. The task force agreed that in light of the Senate Majority Attorney's opinion, donations should be made to HIPA with oversight by the Auditor.

**VII. Next Steps; Plan for Future Meetings.** The task force agreed to set task force meetings for the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with the next meeting on Friday, June 16, 2006. Task force members will be notified of the location of the meetings.

**VIII. Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. by Chair Kokubun.