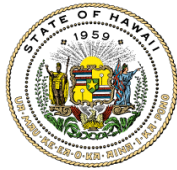


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MARJORIE ZIEGLER
JESSICA WOOLEY, OEQC DIRECTOR

Environmental Council Legislative Committee Meeting

November 19, 2014 (Wednesday)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

State Office Tower Building
235 South Beretania Street, Room 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Members Present: Jessica Wooley (Chair), Scott Glenn, Mary Steiner
EC Members Present: Mark Ambler (EC Chair), Koa Kaulukukui
Members Absent: Joseph Shacat
Counsel Present: Edward Bohlen
OEQC Staff: Genevieve Hilliard, Linda Hijirida, Meg DeLisle, Liam deClive-Lowe, Nourah Abualsaud
Others: Dan Purcell

1. Call to Order

Chair Wooley called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM with a quorum of 3 members.

2. Introductions/Attendance

All present members and guests introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes

- A. Wooley and members discussed potential minutes for the October 22, 2014, Legislative Committee meeting and, in general, importance and challenge of publishing meeting minutes in a timely way with limited staff. Counsel (Ted Bohlen) confirmed that minutes need not be approved but must be published within 30 days, as raised by member of the public, Dan Purcell.
- B. It was determined that there were only two members present in the Legislative Committee meeting on October 22nd and there are four members total on the committee, so counsel (Mr. Bohlen) clarified that the October 22nd Legislative Committee meeting did not have quorum, so it did not occur (or was only an informal meeting). As a result, no minutes are required for the October committee meeting.
- C. OEQC finally has new staff, and Linda Hijirida was recognized as the new secretary for OEQC. Linda was thanked for her assistance helping the EC and this committee with their minutes.
- D. The Chair recognized that today's agenda was not particularly detailed and welcomed any suggested agenda items or details to include for the next meeting.

4. Discuss legislative issues for the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session

To assist the Environmental Council (EC) in moving forward with the priorities identified during the August Strategy Session, volunteers for OEQC put together a legislative package entitled the “2015 Legislative Package and Sustainability Vision for Hawaii”. The volunteers used bills that were heard but never became law from the last four sessions, in particular, to help guide them and identify potential bills for the EC to support in the 2015 session.

Volunteers Liam deClive-Lowe and Meg DeLisle presented the package.

- A. To address the critical environmental, economic, climate change, administrative, and public challenges of today, a shift in government organization to promote efficiency and clarity is in order. We should create the Department of Sustainability and bring the environmental agencies out of the Department of Health and organize them within a separate department. Other states have done this, it's time for us to follow suit. The new agency would also incorporate the Aloha + Challenge into state policy and help the state achieve the six sustainability goals by 2030. Benefits include the promotion of
 1. Efficiency – government response time will be faster and more efficient because we have one unified agency and not several spread apart in different places. We should bring in the state's Sustainability Coordinator position from DLNR (or create a similar position).
 2. Collaboration – there will finally be an agency with the organization to bring issues together and encourage agencies and the private sector to work together for the common good. More collaboration will promote transparency and accountability to the public, cut government costs, and promote efficiencies across multiple sectors of government and in the private sector.
 3. Action – there will be an agency to help the Aloha + Challenge meets its goals, for example.

- B. Based on Hawaii's critical island state challenges, climate change, and food security risks, we must promote local food production for local markets. The Aloha + Challenge set forth a goal by 2030 to produce 30% of the food consumed in the state.
 1. There are so many reasons why local food production is important – Disaster Preparedness, Health, Economy, Education, and Carbon Footprint. These can be further clarified.
 2. There are four different bills on how to help us reach this goal - Agribusiness Innovation Grant Program, Food Security Program, Increasing Profit Incentives for Agriculture, and Farm-to-School Program.

- C. Endangered & Invasive Species – every year, leaders and legislators have discussed ways to better protect our endangered species while inhibiting the invasive species.
 1. Opihi - Although not yet endangered but a scarce local species, last year, for many years, and long overdue is legislation to promote Opihi recovery. Opihi are over harvested and local fisherman die attempting to harvest in more and more difficult conditions as there are fewer and fewer Opihi. Season limits and commercial restrictions can reduce mortality for humans and give Opihi a fighting chance to recover to normal populations and perhaps size.

2. Ivory Sales – Hawaii can help on global animal extinction issues as well, and the legislature nearly succeeded last year. Hawaii significantly contributes to the illegal but profitable industries connected to trade in ivory. A bill to close loopholes in federal law to make clear the state bans the sale of ivory and allow for better enforcement could move forward this year and would both save elephants and make a strong statement about Hawaii’s commitment to protect endangered animals.
 3. Invasive Free Intra-Island Import – several bills almost passed the legislature last session to address this critical issue. There are many challenges with invasive species coming into the state from abroad or the mainland, but there is a really big problem we can solve right now with intra island movement of invasive species (for ones that already got to Hawaii). The Little Fire Ant, Coqui Frog, and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle are just a few of the many species that are spreading because laws now allow for and even promote their movement intra island for commercial gain. Changes are needed in law to make offenders accountable and financially responsible for their actions. There should be authorization to establish quarantine zones when areas are infested. Stopping new invasive species is easier than getting rid of something already established here.
- D. Freshwater and Nearshore Water Management – because of our remote position, we need to manage our resources better.
1. Freshwater Conservation - help people understand that water is a precious resource.
 2. Water Usage Cap – create an incentive for people to use less water. Charge an extra fee if you go over your allotted amount, based on household occupancy.
 3. Gray Water Catchment – we must promote the use of gray water for our toilets, watering our yards, or washing our cars instead of potable water. Set up gray water catchment systems. Get private and public partnership involved. Set up more incentives.
 4. Shoreline Retreat – as sea levels rise, our shoreline will change. Zone new construction accordingly.
 5. Nearshore Marine Waters – set aside more marine protected areas, manage our fishing resources, and be mindful of wastewater washing up near our shores.
- E. Renewable Energy – 70% locally-generated renewable energy by 2030. We’re unique because we can create all four types of renewable energy here; Geothermal, Waves, Wind, and Solar. There are a lot of incentives for businesses to convert to renewable energy.
- F. Discussion
1. Ms. Steiner asked if these were the items agreed to in last month’s meeting. The Chair said no, these are working meetings. Members said, in the Strategic Meeting, the EC said these are the main topics we care about. Ms. Steiner said, when we bring this forward to the EC, we need to say here is our recommended legislative package and then the EC can comment on it.
 2. Ms. Kaulukukui asked if there are any draft bills. The Chair said they’re working on that. Liam deClive-Lowe said this is the meeting where we figure out what we want

to change and what we want to add. This is the framework. A lot of this is based on previous bills, but the language needs to be changed.

3. Ms. Steiner asked why we decided on the Department of Sustainability and not the Department of Environment. Members in the group responded that there was already a DOE. Ms. Steiner said she thinks people will get hung up on the word and she didn't agree about using the word sustainability. Meg DeLisle responded that she thought sustainability was a really important word for the future, thinking about the bigger picture. It was also said that sustainability captures the food issue and it's a broader topic than environment.
 4. Counsel said he believed that by law there are only eighteen departments in the state, so it may be that you have to get rid of one and substitute the Department of Sustainability, or it has to be administratively attached to one. Ms. Steiner reminded us that we had discussed moving OEQC out of DOH.
 5. Mr. Glenn offered comments:
 - a) Department of Sustainability – two points he wanted the new agency bill to include,
 - i. Accountability – to reduce the conflict of interest internally within the agency.
 - ii. Effectiveness – to focus on people specialized in the environment, run by people who are competent on this subject matter.
 - b) Local Food Production – we have to be very careful about language.
 - c) Ivory Sales – didn't know we were a "hub" for ivory. It'll be helpful to have a couple sources and footnotes.
 - d) Renewable Energy – glad you're using "renewable" energy and not "clean" energy because they're two separate things. It might be worthwhile to add - no LPG.
 6. The Chair asked if issues addressed in the past, like pesticides, should be added to this package. Now is the time to decide.
- G. Administrative Bills – for the OEQC, Genevieve Hilliard presented and distributed hard copies of draft bills that amend both HRS, Chapter 341 and 343. A brief discussion followed, highlighting a couple of the proposed amendments included in the bills. The amendments included: reducing the number of council members and restructuring the duties of OEQC and the EC. Due to lack of time, this discussion was tabled until the full EC meeting.
- H. The Chair mentioned that maybe we can get the EC to delegate to the committee the decision making because timing is going to be a problem in January.
- I. Need to talk about who's going to speak on behalf of the EC at the legislative level.

5. Public Comments

Dan Purcell asked - Do you have someone in the Senate and the House that will sponsor these bills? Chair – nothing from the EC can be presented until the EC says so. So nothing has been presented to the Governor or either of the chairs.

6. New Business

Current Chair, Jessica Wooley, would like to step down as Chair as soon as possible. She doesn't have the time and she has to focus on the mandates as the Director. It was discussed that she would step down at the next full EC meeting to allow another committee member to step forward.

7. Next Meeting

Next Legislative Committee meeting will be on December 4, 2014, 1:00-3:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:05 PM.