



STATE OF HAWAII
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
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ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2014 (Thursday)
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Members Present: Mark Ambler (Chair), Scott Glenn (Vice-Chair), Charles Prentiss, John Richards, Joseph Shacat, Marjorie Ziegler, Mary Steiner, Glenn Teves and Jessica Wooley

Members Absent: Koalani Kaulukukui, Azita Quon

Counsel Present: Edward Bohlen (Department of the Attorney General)

Special Guests: Senator Mike Gabbard, Representative Chris Lee, Gary Gill

1. Call to Order

Chair Ambler called the meeting to order at 0913 hrs with quorum of 9 members.

2. Introductions/Attendance

- Chair Ambler welcomed and introduced Senator Gabbard.
- Chair Ambler thanked the volunteers and staff who helped to make the meeting happen including: Meg DeLisle, Kory Rosette, Liam deClive-Lowe, Kelsey Anderson, and Jessica Wooley
- Chair Ambler welcomed former OEQC Director Genevieve Salmonson
- Council members introduced themselves

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made for approval of the May 15, 2014 meeting minutes by Ms. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Prentiss, and the minutes were approved by 8 Environmental Council (EC) members present.

The July 24, 2014 meeting minutes were not prepared in time for this meeting and will be presented at the next full EC meeting.

4. IUCN Presentation with Chipper Wichman

Chair introduced Mr. Wichman. Mr. Wichman spoke about the events leading up to selection of Hawaii for the IUCN and the significance of the event including:

- This is the first time the event is going to be held in the United States
- There was push back due to the IUCN being open to delegates from all countries
- Attendance at the 2012 IUCN solidified the bid for Hawaii, 2016
- Initial expression of interest was accepted as the "Government of Hawaii" to meet timeline

- Competition for bid was tough and included Korea, Turkey, Abu Dhabi, Hungary, Istanbul, Panama
- IUCN initially took Hawaii off the list due to US Department of State
- US approval finally came through and a letter from President Obama helped to finally secure the selection of Hawaii by IUCN

Hawaii has the financial responsibility to fund the event. They are creating a non-profit to organize the event. It will be September 1-10, 2016.

Council comments received. If people are interested in helping with the event, they will soon have information available. For now, they should contact Chipper directly. Organizations can apply to be members of the IUCN.

Public comments received. Comment that the focus for the event should be on conservation rather than financial benefit from it coming to Hawaii. There was a question about federal funding match. There is currently no federal funding match and preparations are not counting on federal funds.

5. Invasive Species Presentation with Christy Martin and Rick Barboza

Chair introduced Ms. Martin and Mr. Barboza. Ms. Martin presented slides which are attached to these minutes. Mr. Barboza raised the concern that Hawaii is the extinction capitol of the world which also includes the extinction of native medicinal plants and how that has cultural impacts. Reptiles in Hawaii are a major issue. Ohia rust makes it very difficult to raise Ohia.

Council comments received. Need to make it easier for shipments to be inspected. Not enough coordination between agencies for reducing invasives. Ms. Martin mentioned that CGAPS is trying to coordinate all the involved agencies. UH research is ongoing regarding invasives. www.plantpono.org was mentioned as a resource. Last year legislation was passed for funding invasive response efforts. This year, implementation will be the primary issue. Comments regarding a greater focus on Ohia were presented.

Representative Chris Lee was introduced by the Chair of the EC.

Public comments received. UH Professor commented on the importance of prevention. DOH Environmental Planning office commented on their interest in collaboration to address the issue. Feral cats was identified as an important issue. Senator Gabbard commented on getting \$5M into the budget and mentioned the importance of awareness.

6. Climate Change Presentation with Tom Giambelluca

Chair introduced Mr. Giambelluca. Mr. Giambelluca presented slides which are attached to these minutes.

Council comments received. The decrease in rainfall in low rainfall areas is a significant percentage, but for a place that doesn't get much rainfall, it won't be a big change. The increase of rainfall in high rainfall areas will be more apparent. There's a need for more data collection using rain gauges. Beach erosion question was asked, but referred to Chip Fletcher who focuses more in that area. The agricultural areas will receive less water and may result in a deficit of water in the State where we need it. The importance of rainfall data for engineering design was mentioned. <http://rainfall.geography.hawaii.edu/> was mentioned as a great resource for the rainfall data.

Public comments received. Representative Lee suggested installing weather stations at schools to gather data while raising awareness would be a good idea and Mr. Giambelluca agreed. Commission on Water Resources and DLNR reached joint funding agreement for water resource monitoring for FY2015. Mr. Giambelluca suggested that is likely for stream gauges. Question was raised about what we should do. Mitigation and adaptation was discussed including reducing greenhouse gasses and understanding the changes and planning appropriately for them. There was a question about climate change effect on health and if there is research being conducted. Mr. Giambelluca did not believe research in Hawaii was being conducted. Talk about the need for low impact development was mentioned. New gray water standards was mentioned.

Lunch Break (1207 hrs)

Decision Making Resumed (1316 hrs)

The Chair acknowledged and thanked Gary Gill for coming to the planning session.

7. Environmental Council Subcommittee Goals:

a. Annual Report Committee

- i. Get the report out on time (by 1/31/2015)
- ii. Finalize topics by 9/18/2014
- iii. Draft sections by 10/16/2014
- iv. Revised draft 11/20/2014
- v. Finalized content 12/18/2014
- vi. Design and Production 1/12/2014
- vii. GPI from HPU will be included
- viii. Presenters Topics should be included
- ix. Public comments received. Quarterly report suggested. GPI focusing on environmental impacts suggested. Focus on climate change suggested.
- x. Decision Making: Glenn presents motion to include GPI and the 3 topics discussed today in the annual report (Wooley second). 9 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

b. Exemption Committee

- i. Chair presented goals including:
 1. Update all existing exemption lists
 2. Encourage exemption lists for all applicable agencies
 3. Ensure that all concurred in exemption lists are available online
 4. Ensure that agencies keep a record of actions declared exempt
 5. Discuss issue of public notification of exemption actions
- ii. Public Comments Solicited. No comments.
- iii. Decision Making: Prentiss presents motion to include the goals as written (Steiner second). 9 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

c. Legislative Committee

- i. Wooley offers to fill the Chair position on the committee
- ii. Shacat offers to fill a Vice Chair position on the committee
- iii. Public Comments Solicited. Environmental Council has not been active in legislature.
- iv. Decision Making: Glenn motion to appoint Wooley as Chair and Shacat as Vice Chair of the legislative committee with Glenn continuing as a member (Steiner second): 9 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.
- v. Committee will meet to discuss potential legislation to bring to full EC for discussion.

vi. Public Comments Solicited. No comments.

d. Information and Outreach Committee

- i. 300 Facebook likes
- ii. Post meeting announcements on Facebook
- iii. Become involved in the 3 topics from today
- iv. Invite agencies and other stakeholders to the meetings
- v. Post openings on the council
- vi. Public Comments Solicited. Reach out to military stakeholders, IUCN, have longer meetings to accommodate speakers.
- vii. Goals to be refined at next IO committee meeting and will be presented to the full EC

e. Rules Committee

- i. Rules committee includes Chair Glenn, and members: Ambler, Wooley, Kaulukukui, and Shacat.
- ii. Hold rules process until the next Governor is in place
- iii. Public Comments Solicited. Comment to consider the stakeholder comments even during the revision process.
- iv. No voting was conducted

Break (1445 hrs)

Decision Making Resumed (1455 hrs)

8. Environmental Council discusses Budget

- f. Wooley discusses current budget request
- g. Included is EC budget separate from OEQC
- h. Also included is staff support specific to EC
- i. Court recorder for rules revisions was requested
- j. Web conferencing service membership was requested
- k. Discussion of separation from administrative attachment to HDOH
- l. Public Comments Solicited. Other councils are receiving relatively large budgets compared to the EC. Need to include all islands in the EC meetings. Teleconferencing is important to implement. The budget as presented is way too small. Information was provided about applying for being on the EC. Go to this site: <http://boards.hawaii.gov/apply/apply-for-a-board/>
- m. Decision Making

9. Next Meeting

Next EC meeting will be 9/18/2014, 2-4pm. Exemption committee will meet on the same day at 1-2pm.

10. Adjournment

The Chair thanked everybody for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1545 hrs.