

**Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Task Force  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414  
June 17, 2008  
Minutes**

Members Present: Senator Russell Kokubun, Representative Pono Chong, Ian Costa, Henry Eng, Senator Mike Gabbard, David Goode, Marion Higa, Brad Kurokawa, Abbey Seth Mayer, Keith Rollman, Jane Testa, Stacie Thorlakson, Beth Tokioka, Senator Jill Tokuda, Pamela Tumpap, Representative Ryan Yamane

Members Not Present: Representative Lyla Berg, Jeffrey Hunt, Karl Kim, Millie Kim, Keith Kurahashi, Senator Ron Menor, Representative Colleen Meyer, James Spencer, Michael Tresler

**I. Call to Order.** Quorum was established at 1:53 p.m. Chair Russell Kokubun called the meeting of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Task Force to order on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at the Hawai'i State Capitol in Room 414. Chair Kokubun introduced the newest member to the task force, Abbey Seth Mayer, Director of the State Office of Planning. Although this was the last meeting of the task force, Chair Kokubun appreciated Abbey's presence and encouraged his continued support in the sustainability effort.

**II. Review and Approve of Minutes.** Chair Russell Kokubun entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2007 and February 11, 2008 meetings of the task force. Ian Costa moved to approve the minutes, Beth Tokioka second the motion. Chair Kokubun opened discussion on the minutes. There was no discussion and the minutes from the December 14, 2007 and February 11, 2008 were unanimously approved by the task force. Chair Kokubun noted that minutes are being recorded for this meeting and asked if there were any objections to his approving the minutes on behalf of the task force. There were no objections from the members.

Chair Kokubun expressed his appreciation to members in the audience for their attendance and support of the sustainability effort.

**III. Update on Legislative Actions.** A copy Senate Bill No. 2833, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, was distributed to members. A matrix of Senate and House bills relating to sustainability was also distributed.

Chair Russell Kokubun noted that S.B. No. 2833 was the primary legislation supported by the task force which established a Sustainability Council and codified the plan in statute. During discussions on the bill, some legislators expressed concern with the establishment of the Sustainability Council. Committee members agreed that the final conference draft would require that the Public Policy Center, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, review the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan and submit

a report to the 2010 Regular Session. Chair Kokubun noted that the bill also requires that the Public Policy Center look at the whole sustainability effort of the State and is confident in the university's work since they have had a primary role in this sustainability process. The Center developed the Issue Book and assisted in establishing some of the indicators.

Chair Kokubun commented that he is very encouraged by the efforts of individuals, communities, businesses, etc. in coming forward and implementing their own sustainability practices. An inventory and information sharing of these practices would be very useful to policy-makers and communities to see what practices or programs are occurring throughout the State. Chair Kokubun also added that individuals expressed disappointment in not being able to move forward with the sustainability council and codifying the plan, but doesn't see this as a major set-back. Instead, this could be a better platform to gain more momentum from the communities and in turn gain more support from the legislature.

Chair Kokubun commented that he is very encouraged by the various sustainability initiatives occurring around the State. As chair of the task force, he has been invited to participate in many events such as a round-table discussion with University of Maryland students on the issue of in-field research on sustainability practices and farmland preservation to attending a Student Congress on Sustainability, sponsored by the Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, where Big Island high school students participated in various workshops on sustainability.

Chair Kokubun recently attended a breakfast presentation by Rob Walton and the President of Conservation International. Rob Walton, son of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, shared with participants that Wal-Mart is focusing on ensuring that products sold in their stores are produced with sustainable resources by obtaining signed agreements with their producers, for example, wood products are coming from replenishable farming and sustainable wood resources. They have also gone to China to meet with manufacturers ensuring that natural resources used in producing their products come from sustainable resources. Chair Kokubun added that the Walton Family Foundation is also supporting a number of sustainable practices for ocean resources and is funding the opening a branch of the Conservation International in the State focusing on our coral reef eco-system and fish varieties.

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai has put the task force in contact with the Ted Turner Family Foundation. Chair Kokubun will meet with the foundation on the Big Island to discuss the issues of alternative and renewable energy resources and food self-sufficiency.

Chair Kokubun commented that the sustainability effort in the State is becoming part of a much bigger movement. Sustainability has become a marketing tool for many businesses and will become a daily practice.

Beth Tokioka asked legislative members on the task force if they could provide their perspective on lessons learned or constructive feedback on their involvement in the

development of the plan and discussions within the legislative process. Senator Mike Gabbard commented that, from his experience as a freshman legislator, things don't always appear as you think it should be. Legislation that is thought to be excellent bills with the potential of moving through the process, may take two or more years to be passed. He shared some advice offered by a fellow colleague that you need to be persistent—do the best that you can, keep trying, and never give up. Senator Gabbard also added that the visibility of the task force has filtered to the communities, for example, the Malama Learning Center, a project in his district, originally began for performing arts but has expanded into a cultural and sustainability project.

Ian Costa commented if there was any particular perception or misperception in this effort. Chair Kokubun responded that legislators had difficulty in encompassing the plan as a whole. Chair Kokubun commented that another outcome could have been that the bill was killed in session so we should look at this as an opportunity to continue the sustainability movement. He also added that he and Representative Ryan Yamane have been selected to participate in the Public Policy Center's Legislator in Residence program. They will work with the Center through the fall semester on the sustainability issue.

Representative Pono Chong commented that people were appreciative of the work of the task force and interested in the "next step" and some felt that the Sustainability Council was not the "next step." Senator Jill Tokuda commented that she was pleased that some kind of sustainability initiative came out of this legislative session and added that the Legislator in Residence program is an excellent program and had the honor of participating in it this past year. There are many young people who are still interested in this effort. She also expressed satisfaction in the number of sustainability-related bills that was passed in this legislative session.

Chair Kokubun asked other members to share their perspective on the legislative process. Beth commented that she was unsure if the legislature had concerns with the content of the legislation or the process used in developing the plan. She was unsure if the bottom-line issues were the context of the plan, the Council, or the funding.

Representative Yamane emphasized that Chair Kokubun and members of the Senate were cohesive, solid, and vocal in their support for sustainability. The House took conservative positions on a lot of different issues across the board. President Colleen Hanabusa's speeches for the past two years focused on sustainability and the need to move towards this direction. He believes this is the direction the State needs to move towards but pace and steps to move in that direction differs among members and needs to be worked on.

Pamela Tumpap inquired if the legislature agreed with the task force's definition of sustainability. She expressed concern that since the task force struggled with the definition and made it a public issue to have it incorporated in our daily lives, would there be marketing resources to keep the definition moving forward and continue to broaden the awareness of sustainability. Chair Kokubun responded that he did not hear

much criticism directed at the definition, unlike the concerns of implementation of a Council and the codification of the plan. Pamela added that if there was acceptance of the definition, she would assist in developing public-private partnerships to keep the marketing aspects moving forward and keep the community interest high. Chair Kokubun agreed that there are many communities that share many common interests and believes that the Public Policy Center will play an integral part in bringing the efforts of various communities together and work towards the same goal.

Chair Kokubun noted that the Governor has not yet signed the bill. He added that she has not been a strong supporter of the task force's efforts and has until June 23<sup>rd</sup> to notify to the Legislature bills she may consider to veto. Beth inquired if the bill was vetoed, could the study still take place. Chair Kokubun responded that the study could still take place since there was no enactment and no funding attached. The University is using their resources to move this effort forward.

Marion Higa thanked everyone for assisting her staff in conducting their work for the task force. Chair Kokubun added that the first task force meeting occurred on October 25, 2005 and is appreciative of the time, effort, and energy contributed by members. Marion also acknowledged HIPA's role in this sustainability effort—they went above and beyond the responsibilities of their contract. Task force members concurred. Bill Kaneko acknowledged the strong support of the HIPA staff. Chair Kokubun commented that this truly was a "team" effort.

Chair Kokubun commented on the matrix, prepared by HIPA staff, which provides an understanding of sustainability-related legislation passed this legislative session and how they relate to the goals. He suggested using this as a model for inventorying sustainability activities in our communities and how they relate to a specific goal.

**IV. Review and Discussion of the Hawai'i 2050 Process.** Bill Kaneko distributed a timeline that showed the task force's journey through the entire process. The major part of the process began in December 2006. An interim report submitted to the legislature reported on task force activities beginning from the first meeting in October 2005. The task force also reported that this would be a "people's" or citizen-based plan. This permeated the task force's entire approach, process, and plan for the year 2050. This timeline is a multi-faceted approach to 2050 which guided us through the research component and community engagement component. Bill asked members to review the timeline to see if major tasks were accomplished and if project deliverables were met.

Chair Kokubun commented that the process seemed very ambitious and a huge mountain to climb, but with the efforts of everyone involved, we accomplished our goal. Chair Kokubun acknowledged Leland Chang, seated in the audience, and thank him and Janis Reischmann for their contributions in the community outreach efforts.

Beth Tokioka commented on criticism she heard with regards to the cost involved in developing the plan. The kind of community outreach conducted is very expensive but needed to do a good job. The total amount may seem large, but if you look at the details

of the process, she believes it is money well spent. Pamela Tumpap also heard similar criticisms, especially from the administration. She suggested drafting a written article detailing the cost for this project and the necessity for the type of community outreach conducted. Ian Costa inquired on the total cost for developing the plan. Marion Higa responded that a total of \$1.8 million was spent. Ian agreed that it was money well spent and commented that the amount is comparable to producing a development plan. Chair Kokubun commented that \$1.8 million is a lot of money, but the task force did not want to compromise particularly on the community input aspect. The funding was appropriated by the Legislature and Chair Kokubun felt that it was spent appropriately with the best intentions in mind. Ian added that contributions from non-profit organizations also helped move this project forward. Keith Rollman commented that this effort is not finished but just beginning.

Chair Kokubun acknowledged and thanked Hawai'i Island members for compiling the Hawai'i County Government Sustainability Activities matrix. Chair Kokubun suggested expanding the matrix to include the goals that the activities met. Bill Kaneko mentioned that a handout listing sustainability activities and events was distributed to members. Attached to the list is some background information of each activity. Chair Kokubun spoke with the person hired by the Walton Family Foundation to develop their sustainability program in Hawai'i and she is also inventorying a list activities and events. Chair Kokubun also encourages members to share information on sustainability activities they are involved with or happening in their communities. The information may be submitted to the H2050 website.

Pamela commented on the use of branding materials used at various activities and inquired if there was a way to keep these materials visible and possibly charge a usage fee to organizations that use them—who owns them, how do we use them, and how do we keep them publically visible. Keith Rollman questioned the faith of the website. Bill and Marion responded that the government owns the H2050 logo—it is the product of the expenditure appropriated. As the custodian of record, the records would be with the Office of the Auditor. With regards to the use of the branding materials by private organizations, Marion will research policies and regulations on its use. Bill informed members that HIPA will maintain the H2050 website for another year. Pamela also commented that she has received inquiries on purchasing the posters used at the summits. Chair Kokubun asked Marion for her assistance in the purchasing of H2050 materials. Marion confirmed. Stacie Thorlaxson inquired if a record of videos, such as the summits, could be posted to the website and be burned to a CD or DVD, so that when the website is taken down, there is still a record of it. Bill responded that they will submit a final report to the Office of the Auditor and Chair Kokubun. The report includes videos, collateral, minutes, etc.—everything that resulted from this project.

**V. Follow up on Hawai'i 2050 Plan.**

- Task Force review and input on Public Policy Center draft plan and survey
- Future actions

Chair Russell Kokubun introduced Susan Chandler and Sharon Miyashiro from the Public Policy Center, University of Hawai'i. Chair Kokubun noted that they are seeking input from the task force so that they can develop a mechanism to move forward.

Susan provided some background on the legislation and Center. The legislation requests that the Public Policy Center review the Hawai'i 2050 sustainability plan. The Public Policy Center is within the College of Social Sciences. A benefit to being within the College of Social Sciences is that there are about 65 faculty affiliates from various departments who can assist in this review. Their main objective is to help this process continue. Since funding was not appropriated for this review, the Center will need to find innovative ways to keep communities and individuals involved, especially on the neighbor islands.

A program mentioned earlier, Legislator in Residence, will help to continue to process. Senator Jill Tokuda and Senator Gary Hooser participated in the program last year. This program gives the University an opportunity to meet the legislators and provide students and faculty a better understanding of public policy. Representative Ryan Yamane and Chair Kokubun will be this fall semester's legislators in the program. The initiative for this semester is sustainability. Sustainability fits nicely with other activities such as the Sustainability Saunders project.

Susan acknowledged HIPA's assistance with this transition and with maintaining and keeping the website up for another year.

Susan proposed the Center's "next step" by creating an "asset map," activities and events happening throughout the State. HIPA has provided the Center with a database of everyone who has been involved with this sustainability effort over the past three years. Susan suggested the first step in creating the asset map would be to send an email blast asking people what was happening in their communities take that information and develop a matrix similar to the handout prepared by the County of Hawai'i.

Two draft surveys were distributed to the task force members. The first survey seeks information on current activities and events happening in their communities and ideas for "next steps." The second survey seeks community input on specific goals and activities in the plan. The surveys would be conducted in the fall with the intent of submitting an interim report to the 2009 Legislature.

Susan asked task force members for their feedback on whether they agreed that this would be a reasonable method in moving forward. A sign-up sheet was also being circulated for those interested in remaining involved.

Sharon welcomed any suggestions from members on ideas on how to follow-up with the information gathered. The survey is just one idea and the Center is opened to other suggestions. Pamela Tumpap inquired on the timeframe for the survey. Sharon responded that they would like to begin during the summer to utilize the students available to them and suggested receiving feedback from members in the next couple

weeks. Pamela clarified that since the University is a state agency, they would be allowed to use the H2050 logo for this survey. Sharon believed that it would be okay to use the logo. Susan suggested the email include an introduction on the legislation and note that this is a continuation of the work conducted by the task force. The Center should seek permission to use the logo—the branding will show that this effort is continuing. Susan noted that the database received contained about 500 names on the list serve. Bill Kaneko clarified that there are about 3,500 names total and that Susan received only the stakeholders list.

Chair Kokubun acknowledged the need for some kind of transition communication—bridging the efforts of the task force to the Public Policy Center. Chair Kokubun noted that he would draft communication.

Sharon suggested using the communication as a cover for the survey and sending it out as soon as possible. Chair Kokubun confirmed that the timeframe for sending out the survey would be the beginning of July. Sharon commented that it would be good to have the survey conducted during the summer. Susan commented that since their student and the legislators will not start until the first of August, the survey should be sent out then. Chair Kokubun commented that they could discuss the matter further but a decision should be made on the tools to be used and the sequence in getting them out. Susan suggested attaching a letter from the Chair regarding the transition to the survey. Once the information is gathered, it would be shared with task force members.

Chair Kokubun asked task force members if they would be interested in continuing to be a part of a network—to receive and provide input. Task force members affirmed to be part of a network. Chair Kokubun also asked if members were willing to continue, especially from the neighbor islands, to keep the Center informed on sustainability efforts happening on their islands and communities. Chair Kokubun added that he will try to continue visiting neighbor islands to meet with various organizations and communities to continue the dialogue. No objections from members. Senator Tokuda suggested that the surveys also be posted to the website.

Susan welcomed any comments members may have, including content, format, suggestions, etc. All comments should be forwarded to Susan or Sharon via email, [chandler@hawaii.edu](mailto:chandler@hawaii.edu) or [sharonmi@hawaii.edu](mailto:sharonmi@hawaii.edu) by August 1. Susan also welcomed fundraising ideas or suggestions from members.

Stacie Thorlakson suggested sending handwritten notes or letters to individuals and organizations to personally thank them for their support and participation, instead of just sending out an email blast or through a newsletter. She also suggested that in keeping with the continuity of our summits, sending emails blasts around the same time the summits occurred linking them to this on-going process.

Henry Eng questioned if corporate contributions could be received to help fund activities, since no funding appropriated to the Center to conduct this review. Sharon responded that an account could be set up through the University of Hawai'i Foundation. Chair

Kokubun, along with Representative Yamane, will focus on fundraising efforts as resident legislators. If the logo could be used, Beth Tokioka suggested printing it on items that could be sold to generate funds. The logo could be put on t-shirts or some kind of sustainable product. Stacie recalls that there were two logos created, one for the summit and another for the youth summit. Are previous discussions referring to the “adult” logo or both? Pamela commented that all materials created should be included. Senator Tokuda added that it may depend on the activity being conducted—if it involves youth, then the “youth” logo would be used. Chair Kokubun clarified with Senator Tokuda that when the University sponsored the Sustainable Saunders event, some items were sold. Senator Tokuda responded that the University would need to check their policies and guidelines when dealing the fundraising and the use of logos. Susan added that they went through this process when coordinating Sustainable Saunders and it is possible as long as a Foundation account is set up and the moneys are paid out from that account.

Representative Pono Chong asked that assuming the legislation is signed, how does the Center foresee this process. Susan responded that she sees the process proceeding just as discussed. She also added that if the legislation passes unsigned, it is likely that the review will still be conducted. She was unsure of the outcome if the legislation was vetoed. Pamela inquired if discussions with the administration have occurred on whether the Governor will veto the legislation; and if vetoed, is it possible that the review will still be conducted. Susan responded that the University was asked to provide feedback on the bill, and in turn, the Chancellor asked the Center if they would conduct the review, which they responded yes. The Chancellor also asked about resources and why this review was not being funded. The Chancellor expressed concerns with the non-funding for this project, but the Center expressed their support and desire to continue the work of the task force and added that one of their themes was sustainability. Senator Tokuda had some concerns that the Center may be sending the wrong message by saying they would do the review regardless of the outcome of the legislation. Susan commented that she believes the University was asked as part of the executive branch, and the Governor sought their input on whether they would support the legislation and University President and the Center responded that they are very supportive of the bill.

Kirsten Baumgard Turner, a member of the audience, informed members that there is outside funding available to help in coordinating your program. She suggests including the military in process. She invited task force members to participate in the military’s joint sustainability planning group. A formal invitation is forthcoming.

Margaret Willie, a member of the audience, encouraged information gathering and exchange. She recommended that the survey convey a sense of joint self-sacrifice—sacrificing together for the future and not just for the current generation—and provide more choices. She encourages promoting the Hawaiian culture such as ahupua‘a and link them to the concepts of the plan.

Bill again informed members that HIPA will be submitting a report to the Office of the Auditor and Chair Kokubun within a week. He also commented that Susan and Sharon

are very familiar with the issues, substance, and process that the task force went through and is very confident that they will do an excellent job.

- VI. Adjourn.** Chair Russell Kokubun again thanked everyone for their participation in this effort. This process could not have been accomplished without your input. Although we did not always agree, the sense of camaraderie led us to work towards the brightest future for Hawai‘i. He truly appreciates the hard work put forth by members. On behalf of the task force members, Jane Testa thanked and applauded Chair Kokubun for his leadership and HIPA for their contributions. Chair Kokubun adjourned the meeting of the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Task Force at 3:15 p.m.

On behalf of the members of the Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Task Force, I approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008, Hawai‘i 2050 Sustainability Task Force meeting.

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Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair

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Date