

## NOTES of Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**Meeting date: February 27, 2013**

**Attendees:** Lynn Marie Sager, Bill Sager, Mary Guinger, Robin Kaye (via GoToMeeting), Cynthia K.L. Rezentes, Juanita Kawamoto (for her report only), Barbara Borgnino.....**No quorum**

Approval of Minutes: Lisa will circulate minutes from the last meeting (February 13, 2013) prior to our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: No report but it was noted that there has not been any activity since the last report.

Reports:

Robin Kaye (Lana'i): Robin reports on 7 items besides the fact that Larry Ellison has now also procured Island Air and that they are not necessarily interested in Big Wind but that interest continues to be with the former owner, David Murdoch.

1. Wind farm development rights stayed with Bill Murdoch. The PUC will not release any information regarding the details of those development or conditions attached to those rights. This is creating concern since it is not transparent.
2. There has been a great change in spirit felt on island with the improvements that have been occurring.
3. HECO is still pushing Big Wind on Lana'i but also more renewable on O'ahu.
4. Kahuku Wind Farm which had a fire in their battery building in October is still not operational and there is no estimated date for when that wind farm will be operational again.
5. Waimea Bay (O'ahu) is expressing frustration with First Wind. What was presented versus what the farm is looking like.
6. Ellison has purchase Island Air.
7. Desalination plant is being talked about. There is talk about making the island self-sufficient in both water and energy. Currently 75% of the water used goes to Manele Hotel and golf course.

Juanita Kawamoto: Talked about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Bill, PLDC repeal bills moving forward (and other bills related to the PLDC), GMO labeling continuing to move forward in committee but needing to be passed by the entire House. Regarding the GMO labeling "fight" she related that some legislators are telling her that the pro-GMO folks are coming in with slick brochures and products relating what they bring to the table, i.e. dollars for agriculture, food, etc. The GMO labeling folks need to come up with the same type of information and products to convince the legislators that there really is a problem and not just anecdotal stories about the dangers.

In a question to Robin about what the caucus could do to help the battle that Lana'i is facing, he responded that legislators need to understand that the PUC and HECO are not transparent with their information. They would like the bidding process to allow for immediate release of bidders on projects rather than after analysis. It appears the State seems more interested in development interests than the public interest. It was commented that it is too late to have anything introduced this session but need to discuss and prepare for next session.

Mary recommended that a letter be sent to the Governor about how less efficient wind power is very other renewable energy sources.

Mary Guinger for Energy & Climate:

- Honolulu Weekly article about wind power distributed
- SB 17: Related to Fossil Fuels passed (Study of LNG on effect on the environment and food security)
- HB451 Passed to Finance
- SB 16: Passed...requires solar water heating be done for all new houses
- HB1256: Feed-in Tariff for Electric Costs
- In Sunday's paper HECO wants to charge most expensive rate for power in the Winter and lower rates in the Summer.
- HB68 Shadow restrictions on any home with solar to no more than 25%. Would require trees being trimmed to make sure that they do not cover more than 25% of the neighbors solar panels, etc.

Bill Sager for Natural Resources:

- Repeal PLDC bills moving in both Senate and House. The House side has already passed over.
- HB935 Conveyance Tax increase to help with Invasive Species not heard by House Finance
- HB357 Single Use checkout Bag Fee
- SB15 Biofuel definition change is still moving
- HB448 PUC to evaluate dangers of LNG is dead
- HB1080 Regarding Bikeway Projects. If can't make complete streets in a maintenance project to mitigate specific items is still moving
- SB620 Composting Food Service Containers (alternative to Styrofoam) is dead
- SB894 Turtle Bay Land Acquisition is still alive
- HB478 Schools Meals Program is still alive
- SB707 PLDC repeal...this specific bill is dead
- SB1166 Conveyance Tax increase is to be determined in WAM by 2/28/2013
- SB237 Leasing of School Property has passed with amendments
- HB1330 Additional DOCARE enforcement has passed

Barbara Borgnino:

There was a discussion regarding Alan Takemoto (Monsanto lobbyist) as to whether he should be allowed to sit on the Nominating Committee which reviews candidates for the Commission on Water Resource Management. There was a lot of discussion that no lobbyist should be allowed to sit on the nominating committee. It was brought up if that goes for the environmentalists also about not being allowed to sit on the Nominating Committee? Rezendes mentioned that she has seen Alan when he was the Farm Bureau Executive Director and also as a commissioner on the CCH Clean Water and Natural Land Commission and took his role seriously when advocating in those positions.

SCC Meeting:

Lynn mentioned that the Democratic Party is holding a Recycling Event on March 16, 2013 at Aloha Stadium and they are looking for volunteers and especially from the Environmental Caucus. Please let her know if you are willing to help.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2013 (Lynn will verify the date). One thing we would like to do is elect a representative for Moloka'i. Right now Walter Ritte and Kanoho Helms are interested but Lynn has not spoken to them recently. She will confirm and add to agenda. Regarding the

rest of the agenda Mary would like guest speakers to talk about our platform. It was decided that each sub-committee chair would recommend a speaker for a 10 minute presentation on one of those platform items we support.

Rezentes left at 8:20 p.m. (I believe the meeting was essentially over by then....Lynn you can add if I left before everything was done.)

Minutes Approved on April 10, 2013

Lisa Hinano Rey, Secretary