

General Membership Meeting of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii on
November 25, 2014.

Juanita called meeting to order at 6:30 pm Quorum established.

Executive members present: Juanita Kawamoto-Brown, Barbara Borgnino, Mike DeWeert, Carl Campagna, Lisa Hinano Rey (acting as secretary for the evening).

Guests present: Alan Burdick; Pedro DiNezio, Mary Guinger, Doug Fetterls, Charley Ice, Gary Gil, Laura McIntyre, Shannon Wood, Michael DeYcaza, Fred Cash, Randy Chang, and Lei Shars

Via phone: Eva Lee, David Case, Colehour Bondera

- Chair report: Here tonight to plan ahead for the 2015 Legislative Session; thanks to the campaign and Governor elect Ige for allowing us to use the space here tonight.
- Treasurers report: Tony Austin not able to make the meeting do to an emergency.
- Secretary report: no report - Nomi Carmona could not be present today.
- Communication committee: Lisa Rey: summary of website and blogging capability anyone interested in blogging should email for a set up invitation: hinanorey@gmail.com . Website domain name was purchased and is now linked to the wordpress built website. Very good traffic allows you to Google: "green Hawaii caucus" and you will see our website: <http://hawaiiingreencaucus.org>
- Outreach subcommittee report: committee currently has nothing planned and those interested should email: borgnino@yahoo.com. Shannon suggests having an event early in the evening at the State Capitol. Outreach subcommittee will be meeting in January to plan for the years events.
- Food and Farm Sustainability Subcommittee Report: Preserve farm land; support local farmers; invasive sp. and availability of water for farming; GMO labeling; discussion: farm to school working committee considering appropriating funds for food hub; and partner with Hulupono, usda, farmers union; - desire for schools and state institutions to be procure locally produced food.

MOTION: Fred motions to accept the report of the food and farm sustainability report: this motion was accepted unanimously

- Energy and Climate change subcommittee Report: Carl Campagna passed out the working document assembled by the subcommittee. Discussion followed regarding the idea for HECO to be converted to a cooperative entity as it is on the island of Kauai. Cynthia is interested in reminding the committee that independent energy producers currently interact well with HECO- Carl responded that concept is for HECO to transform to distributor not a producers. Kauai utility has the ability to diversity as a coop (both private and public components) and it is working well.

MOTION: Fred motioned to accept the committee report seconded by Lisa, motion is accepted unanimously

- Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee is vacant Lisa Motions to post the ELN recommendations, seconded by Fred. Cynthia has reservations that we should not post ELN recommendations on our site. Perhaps with the caveat that this is for reference only and not necessary the views of the caucus membership (will be making sure that this does not conflict) Lisa withdraws the motion.

SCC Report:

Michael : long controversy about affirmative action and human rights or any caucuses at all- new rules adopted. Bart Dane new rules committee chair is the one who is against having any caucuses. Jan 21 leg opening day is when the decision has been postponed to.

Shannon comments as one of the original Women's caucus members.

Josh Hoahu county chair is resigned. New chair is now Bixby

Juanita: we will continue to share what is going on at the SCC

Special Report: David Case via mobile device: gave a background on the origins resolution and legislation that they are hoping to propose this year.

Eva Lee co owner of tea Hawaii in volcano (12 years growing) marketed worldwide chair on leg subcommittee on the act.

Working on this for 3 years along with farmers associated and farmers union.

Origins Product Act- has to do with high value local grown products sets up a regime that protects the farmers and the products; examples are cheese cacao, coffee. Helps to protect the economies of small farms. Currently the resolution is drafted and waiting for approval by the farmers union. Comments and questions followed.

Motion by Fred to add this to our farm and food sustainability

Seconded by Alan

Discussion followed.

Cynthia Rezentes abstains and motion is passed without opposition.

- Shannon Wood announcement please see flyer about educational briefings on climate change - series of presentations- advocacy workshop on Jan 12 specifically focused on training for individuals who do not have any legislative experience.

Unfinished business: Year schedule is pending and will be determined at next executive meeting.