

ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

SCC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

March 26, 2015

1. The ECDPH has been very busy following 2015 Legislative session regarding Food and Farm Sustainability, Energy and Climate Change and Protection of Land and Natural Resources. Please check our minutes for our past executive committee meetings in February and March 2014 for our current status reports or contact our subcommittee chairs – Barbara Borgnino or Carl Campagna at our caucus website.
2. On February 26, the ECDPH had a talk story forum with Carlton Ching and Kekoa Kaluhiwa as Nominee appointees for DLNR. Our membership and guests appreciated the opportunity to understand their opinions and goals as nominees as well as the open and respectful forum conducted to ask important questions regarding their roles as public servants to protect and preserve our natural resources and to assist and improve economic conditions through real estate management of our State's largest land based asset which impacts this massive and underfunded department. As of recent, the Governor has withdrawn Mr. Ching's nominee for director of DLNR and the administration is currently searching for another individual to take on this highly criticized and underpaid position as director. Mr. Kekoa Kaluhiwa will be heard by the WTL committee, this Friday, March 27, 2015 at 2:45 pm. No decision was made at the time of this report.
3. The current concerns our caucus will be focusing on is a better understanding as to the progress on the TPP (Transpacific Partnership) treaty that will have a major impact on issues involving our Nation and our State civil rights to know and what kind of transparency will be subjective when dealing with the many issues that will impact people powered concerns versus corporation initiatives and their protection of their bottom line. We have contacted our Senators Schatz and Hirono to get their responses currently and the feedback from the office has been a "No" vote from Schatz and a wait and see for more info with reservations from Hirono. Our caucus is greatly concerned regarding this treaty and will continue to diligently watch for its outcome and encourage the membership to weigh in for us all.
4. We would like to announce our upcoming General Membership meeting on April 30, Thursday @ 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lyon's and Associates offices, 45 N. King St., 5th flr. We are preparing a panel of speakers to talk on climate change impacts in Hawaii and the South Pacific and what our community can do to prepare and manage the changes we are facing environmentally for Hawaii nei. Please visit our website at EnvironmentalCaucusoftheDemocraticPartyofHawaii.wordpress.com for updates and directions.

Sincerely,

Juanita Brown Kawamoto and Michael DeWeert

SCC Female and Male Representatives