

Harry Kim
Mayor



Jane H. Testa
Director

Diane L. Ley
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ENERGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

Energy Advisory Commission
Friday, June 20, 2008
Maluhia Conference Room
891 Ululani Street
Hilo, Hawai`i

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Present: Michael Kramer, Jacqui Hoover, Steven Burns and Riley Smith

Excused: Richard Ha

Others Present: Molly Lugo, Deputy Corporation Counsel

R&D Staff: Jane Testa, Diane Ley, Arlene Takahashi and Marcia Yoshiyama

Public Present: Kristine Kubat

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Interim Chair, Michael Kramer.

2. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Agenda

M. Kramer dispensed with the introductions, as no members of the public were present at the call to order.

He asked if there were any recommended changes to the agenda as presented, and there were none.

3. Statements from the Public

There were no members of the public present to offer statements.

4. Approval of Minutes – June 5, 2008

Motion: R. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2008 meeting, and J. Hoover seconded the motion.

Motion to Amend: S. Burns made a motion to amend the motion to correct the minutes, subject to verification of the transcript by staff that the Mayor had indicated that he does not support bio-fuel crop production on “prime or important agricultural lands.” J. Hoover seconded the Amended Motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Main Motion as Amended: The main motion as amended carried unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Motion: R. Smith made a motion to elect J. Hoover as the Chair and M. Kramer to serve as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by M. Kramer. Discussion included the merits of the candidates and the need for other commissioners to attend to personal business that might prevent them from serving in a leadership capacity on the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Hoover proceeded to chair the remainder of the meeting.

b. Review and Adoption of Rules of Practice and Procedure

Motion: M. Kramer made a motion to approve the draft Rules of Practice and Procedure dated June 16, 2008, and R. Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion: At the request of the Commissioners, M. Lugo reviewed the proposed changes and clarified that the Commission would serve co-terminously with the Mayor as provided for in the County Charter. J. Testa clarified that the Commission may recommend to the Mayor specific changes to the Energy Sustainability Plan. The motion was carried unanimously.

At this point, a member of the public arrived at the meeting; hence, S. Burns asked, and was permitted by the Chair, to read a written statement identifying his status of representation on the Commission as requested by his employer.

S. Burns also disclosed that he would be meeting next week as a representative of Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) with staff from the departments of Public Works and Research and Development to present a new photovoltaic system program.

M. Kramer requested updates of this and other related subjects at future meetings of the Commission.

6. New Business

a. Each Member Offers His/Her Identified Approach for Commission's Actions Until End of Term

S. Burns offered his recommended approach to the Commission's work including identification of objectives, initiatives, and timetables. He also expressed a strong desire to integrate the plan into a larger framework.

R. Smith expressed concerns regarding the short timeframe and the resulting limitations on the Commission's work. He noted that the Commission's efforts should focus on what can be accomplished, including the low hanging fruit.

M. Kramer stated that the approach could focus on (1) Topics, as the plan is laid out in terms of supply (centralized or decentralized generation) and demand (efficiencies in building, water and transportation); (2) Authority of the county, state and federal governments, communities, businesses and individuals; or (3) Activity sectors including legislative and regulatory policy, financial and consumer behavior.

J. Hoover noted that the Plan is segregated by topics, which could lead the work and then drill down to specific barriers. She looks to balance the suggestions put forth by the Commissioners.

J. Testa provided background regarding the efforts of the Council and the Administration over the past year or more. She reported that she actively participated in the Hawai'i 2050 Task Force. She went on to provide an overview of the work of the Department of Research and Development, including the department-wide commitment to utilize a sustainability lens for all initiatives and programs and the recent revision of the Code to provide for a Sustainability Action Committee (SAC) to guide the work of the department. She clarified that the SAC is framed to serve as the umbrella committee, under which might fall a future energy commission. The department's energy coordinator position is paid through the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and allows for a statewide and global perspective. The work of the energy coordinator position has resulted in saving the County millions of dollars through efficiency initiatives. She and D. Ley also covered a list of initiatives by the department and others throughout the Administration and Council to advance the growing awareness of sustainability within County government and the community. They identified the need to have conversations with department managers to identify their interests, concerns, needs as an approach to accomplishing tasks internal to the County and to support a transformation of the culture and behaviors.

Motion: M. Kramer made a motion to recess for lunch within the meeting room at 12:15 p.m., and R. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvened: J. Hoover called the meeting back to order at 12:50 p.m. All Commissioners were still present.

It was determined that to accomplish the Commission's work there should be committees made up of no more than two (2) members each. The tentative committees identified were Building, Utilities, Transportation, Water, Land and Others. The committees should focus on (1) identifying initiatives;

(2) inventory departments for what is already being done, what can be done and what would it take to move forward; and (3) identification of actions. After gathering information, vetting can happen to identify near-term, long-term priorities, as well as integrated issues. Then efforts can be made to prioritize, identify gaps and opportunities, suggest amendments, and develop a final report.

The vetting process with departments or others was further detailed to include identification of the obstacles, needed policies and financial strategies or constraints beyond money. Who has the authority; are there collaborative resources; what are the costs; and what types of incentives (taxes, impact fees, etc.) might move the initiatives forward? It was determined that in preparation for meetings with the departments, it would be beneficial for the Mayor to send a letter to department heads briefing them on the pending meetings, desired outcomes and requesting cooperation with the committees.

b. Discuss the Hawai'i County Energy Sustainability Plan/Examine Plan Strategies

This item was deferred to the yet-to-be established committees, as it will be the focus of their work.

c. Update on Actions Taken by the County Council to Implement the Hawai'i County Energy Sustainability Plan

A written report was distributed.

d. Update on the Hawai'i Model Energy Code

A written report was distributed.

e. Report on the June 6, 2008 Energy Forum

A written report was e-mailed to Commissioners and copies were distributed at the meeting.

f. Discuss a Potential Conference/Summit

This item was deferred.

Commissioner R. Smith left the meeting at 1:40 p.m. There was a quorum with the remaining members.

7. Announcements:

a. Set Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Proposed dates for the next meeting included July 3 (first choice), July 11 or July 18.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Hilo (meeting site to be determined).

b. Set Agenda for the Next Meeting

Selection of committee topics; formation of committees and process; and identification of standard content or template. Review and discuss alignment with State energy initiatives.

c. Other

Staff was requested to provide selected policies from other jurisdictions that would support the implementation of the plan.

8. Adjournment

Motion: M. Kramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by S. Burns and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Yoshiyama
Administrative Services Assistant