

**State of Hawai'i - Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism**  
**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 02, 2009**  
**11 am – 1 pm**  
**Room 436, No. 1 Capitol District Building. (fmr. Hemmeter Bldg)**  
**250 S. Hotel St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Attendance

Task Force (TF) present:

1. Mr. Laurence K. Lau (DOH)
2. Ms. Estrella Seese, designee for Theodor E. Liu (DBEDT)
3. Mr. Gareth Sakakida (Hawaii Transportation Assn.)
4. Mr. Mark Fox (The Nature Conservancy)
5. Mr. Jeff Mikulina (Blue Planet)
6. Mr. Frank Clouse (Tesoro)
7. Prof. Maxine Burkett, (Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy, UH),

1) The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Lau at 11:12 am.

2) Minutes from the February and March TF meeting were approved.

3) Dr. Cheryl L. Anderson, PhD, Director of Hazards, Climate & Environment Program at University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute gave a presentation on “Social, Cultural, and Economic Impacts of Islands to Climate Variability and Change: Focus on Hawai‘i.” Full presentation now posted online at:

[http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/greenhouse/task\\_force\\_material.html](http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/greenhouse/task_force_material.html),

as “*Dr. Anderson UH Hawaii socioecon impacts of climate change powerpoint*”

Presentation focused on impacts on society, livelihood, and the merging of such impacts in ways detrimental to at-risk populations and vulnerable such as special needs people, isolated populations, and populations living in poor conditions and on the fringe of society. Especially

- Nearly half of the costs of global disasters (about \$79 billion in 2007) are from hydro-meteorological disasters, although much stronger in El Niño and La Niña years. Economic losses from natural disasters in the 1990’s averaged \$63 billion/year; five times the equivalent figure for the 1970’s.
- The upward trend in global disasters is mainly driven by the increase in the number of hydro-meteorological disasters
- The Pacific Islands Regional Assessment focused on Vulnerability to: understand exposure & sensitivity (impacts), address adaptive capacity (resilience), develop appropriate response options, and engage all experts in shared learning and joint problem-solving.
- Pacific Regional Integrated Science and Assessment (RISA), an organization that came out of the national assessment, focuses on following areas: stakeholder dialogue, climate forecasts and applications, extreme climate events, decision support tools and technologies
- Pacific Climate Information System (PaCIS) Vision: resilient and sustainable Pacific communities using climate information to manage risks and support practical decision-making in the context of climate variability and change.

Discussion on the presentation covered what mechanisms exist for groups to talk, and how important entities such as this TF are for cross-dialogue of experts from all fields. The question

was raised as to how to allocate scarce resources, whether to put into studies or to deal with those already suffering; consensus was that both are needed to increase knowledge so as to increase capacity and awareness to respond.

- 4) The analysis committee reported that Mark Fox had suggested that because the analysis and policy committees handle many of the same issues, it would be good to merge the two, and that the committee recommended that he should be added to the analysis committee. While TF agreed Mark Fox should be added to the analysis committee, the issue was raised that one committee may not have more than half the members of the whole TF. TF put off any action on the merging of the committees until the next meeting when Gregg Kinkley, State Attorney's Office, could attend and guide the TF through the process with sunshine law.

Analysis committee reported on ICF work order #3. This will expend the remainder of the \$500K from fiscal '07-'08. No funds for public hearings; must rely on TF to run them. No funds for rulemaking support to DOH. Estrella Seese conveyed that bi-monthly teleconferences every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 8 a.m. are held with ICF to discuss work order #3 and that the finalized work order #3 would be sent to all TF members.

On behalf of the analysis committee, Larry Lau covered briefly the EPA's proposed mandatory reporting rule for greenhouse gases. This meeting was only to give information, as the EPA's 60 days for public comment has not yet begun; still time to take comment action at next meeting. Any action would be taken by TF at next meeting, and Lau would draft a state letter to the EPA and present it as a proposal to the next TF meeting.

A significant point in the proposal: it does not preempt the state from requiring more. Most small businesses and agriculture entities not required to report to the EPA. First report is due to EPA in 2011. At analysis committee's request, Lau had emailed EPA to ask if they could provide the number of Hawaii sources that would be affected by their proposal, but still awaiting answer. The big choice the EPA has before it is what threshold to set for reporting. Public hearings are scheduled in Arlington, VA, and Sacramento, CA. Lau encouraged TF members to check the EPA factsheets online and materials he had earlier distributed by email.

- 5) Discussion proceeded to the next agenda item, outreach. Jeff Mikulina and Mark Fox had judged elementary-school level videos from Olelo TV's youth video contest, which DOH and DBEDT helped sponsor in the global climate change category. High school level video judging would follow in mid-April. Maile commented that Olelo had thousands of entries for the overall contest in its many topics, 15 entries for the global climate change topic, which is illustrative of the baseline of where this subject is working from.
- 6) Housekeeping and next meeting: The next scheduled meeting May 7<sup>th</sup> had some quorum problems, so next meeting date would be set later via email. ICF would be asked whether they would charge extra fee for participating by teleconference in a future TF meeting to give an update on their work; perhaps they could participate in a TF meeting vice one of their biweekly conference calls with DBEDT. Other agenda items to include next meeting: EPA mandatory reporting rule comments proposal, outreach, and legislative update.
- 7) Public Comment time: Hawaii Conservation Association has Conference, July 28-30, on climate change issues. They are also working on public outreach events with other partners during Hawaii Conservation Week, last week of July, and they invite any partnering and involvement.
- 8) Meeting was adjourned 12:59 p.m.