

MINUTES of Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii
Meeting date: October 16, 2013

Call to order: A General membership meeting of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii was held in Kakaako Conference Room on October 16, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:30 pm. Chair Charley Ice presiding, and Lisa Rey as secretary.

Members in attendance: 23 members see attached

Approval of minutes: Motion was made to approve general meeting minutes of November 14, 2012; December 12, 2012; April 24, 2013 as well as Executive Minutes of February 13, 2013. Motion was approved with correction to date (Feb 13, 2013).

Chair overview of agenda for the evening:

Mike DeWert. Proposes that we add to agenda to have Chris Lee and Dante contribute and Juanita has seconded the motion.

Treasurer report: \$475.00 in primary account and \$321.81 in savings

Chair report, Charley Ice:

Big island hardwood growth plan, various groups like Kahea, [Ai Kea](#) Cultural and medical practitioners, is aware of multitude of potential strategic allies that have common cause with our caucus purposes ([watershed restoration, sustainable agriculture, pesticide use](#)).

Mission and goals are education, to us the public and the party

We want to focus our education and advocacy on getting ready for Leg session

Dante Carpenter:

Here to speak on the role of the caucuses within the Democratic Party:

- Firstly to congratulate the Environmental caucus who currently has more members than any other caucus of Democratic Party, is most active and meets more frequently.
- How a Caucus is set up: Proposal of new caucus, example, and military caucus.

Article 5 states that the authority of authorizing any caucus is the state central committee who represent 25 districts, ad hoc mem and a few organizations

9 caucuses are currently named:

Affirmative action, Hawaiian affairs, business, education, environment and consumer, gay lesbian, kupuna, labor, women's

- Functions of a Caucus:
Requires active member or associative member of party to participate in caucus and or other autonomous caucuses include ability to fundraise.

Each of the caucus should report activities to State central committees who meets quarterly

Instruction for standard rules; can be de-certified; such as Hawaiian caucus but Hubbard & Kawamoto action at 2012 convention revived the caucus. Dante observes that our caucus has been stable.

- Question posed: does our testimony need to be constrained to the resolutions of the Democratic Party?
Dante does not think that we need to be restrained to those resolutions
It is not the philosophy of the democratic to squash opinions- we may be criticized however it is not forbidden

In closing, Juanita shared that she appreciated Dante and that the DPH is the body that allows are caucus to exist.

Charley introduced Chris Lee, from windward side, chair of leg environmental protection committee, working on molasses spill and Energy (HECO vs. alt energy)

Chris Lee Presentation:

Climate change goals now looking at what do we do in the meantime: office to coordinate county and state experts to strategize retreat; heat island safety; invasive species;

Open to hearing from the caucus regarding ideas of action
Storm water ideas proposed by Gary Gill

Even controversial bills can be passed with the right group of people in support of it.

Juanita questions why it can be so difficult to get some bills heard
Chris is saying that in the House they are trying to improve that.

Chris suggests let's experiment with this idea; establish point of contact with the chairs of the senate and house.

Marjorie Ziegler says one year the [resolutions from State Convention](#) were not even [written up as bills and sent to the Legislature](#); and also that we need to go to old-fashioned organizing.

Suggested timing for creation of new bills: before Christmas we should have ideas on paper- end of November.

Charley is looking forward to this session because with our past experiences, we have our experience to do a really good job this year.

Mike DeWert Energy and Climate Change Subcommittee Report:

Climate change push leg for consequence management

Get us off fossil fuels

Solar Status, as of 9/6/13 temp halt to solar permits-

- Make HECO behave like a good community citizens
- Priority of PUC to promote solar
- On bill financing
- Do we oppose imported natural gas?
- Do we oppose cable?

Charley on climate change: State of Hawaii has the best climate change scientists
 Many briefings have occurred by very succinct and knowledgeable scientists have presented to state agencies but maybe the caucus could host a symposium

Mary Guinger emphasized non-motor transportation: bikes, skateboards, scooters, etc. need to have their own lanes and sidewalks for pedestrians to decrease oil and gas consumption and increase safety.

Food and farm sustainability report, Juanita Kawamoto

Priorities:

1. Small family farms cooperatives and local feed mills
2. Support and fund school garden and school farms
3. GMO labeling
4. Transparent and public disclosure of commercial pesticide usage and impacts on community schools hospitals and waterways

Summary of steps to legislation

1. Citizen advocacy training
2. Education and awareness of issues- events and outreach
3. Bills vs. resos
4. Tracking and supporting existing bills and rests
5. Connect with elected officials Dem Party of Hawaii and grass roots

Outreach Report, Barbara Borgnino

Three outreach ideas:

1. Have regular planned educational forums
2. Have a meet and greet with Legislators before session in Jan.: Chris Lee agrees that it is a good idea and would be willing to collaborate with the caucus to make the idea a success. Location perhaps State Capitol and Chris will look into it. Marjorie Ziegler volunteers to assist outreach committee with planning this event.
3. Determine, which district each of our members, are in and invite them to lobby their reps on specific issues as needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Kalabash collection amounted to: 62.00 in donation money

Minutes recorded by Lisa Hinano Rey, secretary