

# Hawaii State Association of Counties

Counties of Kauai, Maui and Hawaii, City & County of Honolulu



**MINUTES**  
**HSAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 5, 2011**  
**Council Committee Room, Honolulu Hale**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The HSAC Executive Committee was called to order by President Mel Rapozo at 10:02 a.m. The following members comprised a quorum:

County of Kauai:	President Mel Rapozo
City and County of Honolulu:	Vice President Stanley Chang
County of Hawaii:	Secretary Angel Pilago
County of Maui:	Treasurer Joseph Pontanilla
Others Present:	Honolulu Councilmember Nestor Garcia Honolulu staff Kekoa McClellan Honolulu staff Mark Segami Honolulu staff Kimberly Ribellia Honolulu staff Gavin Kennedy Maui staff Kirsten Hamman

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Secretary Pilago to amend the agenda to include approval of the agenda. The motion was approved.

Vice President Chang made a motion seconded by Secretary Pilago to further amend the agenda to add an item to discuss the 2012 HSAC conference under VI. New Business as item D. The motion was approved.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Secretary Pilago to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved.



### III. MINUTES

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Vice President Chang to approve two items:

- A. Minutes of the July 8, 2011, Executive Committee meeting.
- B. Amended Treasurer's Report of May 2011.

The motion was approved.

### IV. REPORTS

#### A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Secretary Pilago to approve the Treasurer's Report of July 2011.

Treasurer Pontanilla stated that the current report does not include the income from the HSAC annual conference, which was over \$10,000.

The motion was approved.

#### B. County Reports

1. Maui County Report. Treasurer Pontanilla reported that Maui County is currently discussing revisions and updates to the Maui County general plan. He stated that the Council meeting scheduled for later in the day would cover some minor items.
2. Hawaii County Report. Secretary Pilago reported that Hawaii County Council had discussed the process for HSAC legislative proposals. The Council is conducting briefings regarding Native Hawaiian recognition issues and considering creating an advisory board to deal with land-use issues with regard to the interests of Native Hawaiians. The Council is also working on finalizing the building code and developing important agricultural land policies.
3. City and County of Honolulu Report. Vice President Chang reported that the Honolulu City Council had conducted committee meetings during the week and discussed issues such as trucking sewage sludge and acquisition of properties for transit development among other issues. The Council also continues to support the Sister Cities Summit and work towards its successful implementation.
4. Kauai County Report. President Rapozo reported that the Kauai Council is working on a transient accommodation unit (TAU) bill, which

will determine the Council's approach to growth and development of TAUs. A charter amendment recently approved by voters gave the Council authority to approve TAUs in addition to zoning changes. The Council may delegate TAU approval back to the Planning Commission. President Rapozo stated that whatever the Council decides to do a legal challenge is likely and will have possible ramifications to all counties. The Council is also working on a comprehensive tax review and is awaiting clarifications and presentations from the Administration.

**C. National Association of Counties (NACo) Report**

Treasurer Pontanilla reported that it was nice to see many newly elected councilmembers from all the counties attend the NACo annual conference in Portland, Oregon. Honolulu Councilmember and HSAC Vice President Stanley Chang was appointed to the NACo board of directors by the NACo President. Treasurer Pontanilla also reminded the Executive Committee members that HSAC needs to inform NACo of state association appointees to the NACo board.

Honolulu Councilmember Garcia updated the Executive Committee on his work serving on the NACo International Economic Development task force and requested that his trip report be added to the minutes of the HSAC meeting. He noted that he has taken responsibility for the travel and tourism portfolio on the task force.

Vice President Chang stated that he hosted a breakfast meeting between the Hawaii delegation and second Vice Presidential candidate Linda Langston, who was subsequently elected to that position. He also informed members that he worked to develop a "young elected officials" initiative at NACo and discussed the issue with the NACo leadership.

President Rapozo encouraged members to consider participating on NACo steering committees and make sure to take advantage of what NACo as an organization can offer Hawaii's counties.

**D. Western Interstate Region (WIR) Report**

President Rapozo reported that the WIR Executive Committee will be meeting in October on Kauai and he will transmit further details and information to HSAC members who wish to attend any events scheduled around that meeting.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Rapozo deferred item V.A. to follow item V.B. in order to get clarification on the current HSAC Bylaws.

- B. Approval of MOU agreement between HSAC and the Pacific Gateway Center relating to support of the Counties of Hawaii Sister City Summit.

Vice President Chang thanked the members for their input on the proposed agreement. He stated that the agreement is no longer necessary and does not need to be considered further by the Executive Committee. President Rapozo thanked the members from Hawaii and Kauai for raising their concerns with the agreement.

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Vice President Chang to file the item. The motion was approved.

President Rapozo called for a recess at 10:34 am.

President Rapozo reconvened the meeting at 10:46 am.

- A. Discussion and approval of nominees to the NACo Board of Directors for Fiscal year 2011-2012:

- 1. Presidential Nominee, City and County of Honolulu (NACo)

The item was received and filed with no objections.

- 2. Joseph Pontanilla, Maui County (NACo)

Secretary Pilago made a motion seconded by Vice President Chang to approve Joseph Pontanilla as a representative of HSAC to the NACo board of directors. The motion was approved.

President Rapozo noted that the agenda required further amendment to reflect the HSAC appointee to the WIR.

- 3. Angel Pilago, Hawaii County (WIR)

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Vice President Chang to approve Angel Pilago of Hawaii County to the WIR board of directors. The motion was approved.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion on revising HSAC Bylaws to reflect NACo board nominee.

President Rapozo suggested that at a future meeting the committee consider a process to fairly rotate appointees from each county and he requested suggestions from committee members. Secretary Pilago stated

that he would work to propose such a procedure at the next HSAC meeting.

Treasurer Pontanilla made a motion seconded by Vice President Chang to receive and file the item. The motion was approved.

- B. Discussion and approval of an appropriation of \$500 to honor Tom Sweet at the NACo annual conference.

Treasurer Pontanilla reported that this item had been previously approved. Mr. Sweet was honored at the NACo conference and representatives from all four counties were in attendance. He was given a lei and resolution in his honor.

Vice President Chang made a motion seconded by Treasurer Pontanilla to receive and file the item. The motion was approved.

- C. Discussion and approval of HSAC slate of officers.

Secretary Pilago stated that Hawaii County Council had approved and submitted a proposed slate of officers as follows:

President:	Mel Rapozo
Vice President:	Angel Pilago
Secretary:	Stanley Chang
Treasurer:	Joseph Pontanilla

Treasurer Pontanilla stated that some county councils had previously approved a different slate of officers for HSAC and the proposed slate by Hawaii Council must be approved by each council before it could become effective. President Rapozo responded that a slate of officers must be approved by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Vice President Chang informed the committee that Honolulu City Council will be able to meet such a deadline. Maui staff Kirsten Hamman clarified that the bylaws allow for the previous year's officers to continue serving until a new slate is approved.

Members discussed the process for approval of the slate and agreed that the bylaws required any new slate to be presented by HSAC executive committee to the county councils for approval. President Rapozo asked members if the proposed slate of officers could be acted upon by each council before the next HSAC meeting. Members responded in the affirmative.

Vice President Chang made a motion seconded by Secretary Pilago to approve the following HSAC slate of officers to the county councils for approval:

President: Mel Rapozo  
Vice President: Angel Pilago  
Secretary: Stanley Chang  
Treasurer: Joseph Pontanilla

The motion was approved.

D. Discussion of the 2012 HSAC conference.

Members praised Maui County for a successful conference in 2011. Members agreed that Hawaii County is scheduled to host the 2012 HSAC conference and Kauai is scheduled to host the 2013 HSAC conference.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Schedule next meeting.

The Executive Committee meeting and General Membership meeting were scheduled for September 9, 2011, at Honolulu Hale.

B. Other Announcements

Treasurer Pontanilla informed members that a NACo director from Georgia is currently ill and offered to send a card on behalf of HSAC.

President Rapozo stated that in future meetings he would like to discuss the NACo cooperative purchasing agreement and unadjudicated traffic fines as state legislative proposals for HSAC.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Very truly yours,



STANLEY CHANG  
Vice President  
Hawaii State Association of Counties

## **Councilmember Nestor R. Garcia**

### **TRIP REPORT National Association of Counties Annual Conference July 15 - 20, 2011 Portland, Oregon**

#### **Introduction**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments. Founded in 1935, and celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, NACo provides essential services to more than 3,000 of the nation's counties.

The annual convention in Portland was my last as a Presidential at-large member of the NACo board of directors. I am pleased to report that Hawaii once again has secured an at-large post on the board, with new NACo President Lenny Eliason naming Honolulu City Councilmember Stanley Chang as an at-large member. I remain active with the national organization, serving as a vice chair on NACo's International Economic Development Task Force. During the convention, I shared with stakeholders the progress of our Sister Cities Summit, which will be held in Honolulu in September.

Also attending the convention were Councilmembers Ernie Martin (the new Council Chairman), Stanley Chang and Romy Cachola, as well as council staffers including Mark Segami of my office, Kimberly Ribellia, chief of staff to Chair Martin, as well as members of our Clerk's Office and the Office of Council Services.

#### **July 17, Sunday**

My first meeting was held in the morning at the Portland Convention Center, with members of NACo's International Economic Development Task Force. The group will be chaired by Valerie Brown of Sonoma County, California. We discussed various issues, including areas of focus (I will concentrate on tourism), possible partnerships with Sister Cities International and the U.S. Commerce Department, and how to reach out to our more than 3,000 member counties. We agreed to hold monthly conference calls to share ideas.

Our first General Session featured ABC News correspondent Bob Woodruff. He survived the explosion of an improvised explosive device while as an embedded reporter covering the war in Iraq. He shared with the convention delegates his near tragedy, in which he suffered traumatic brain injuries. Thirteen months after being severely wounded, he produced an hour-long primetime documentary on his incident and his remarkable recovery.

NACo outgoing president Glenn Whitley delivered his Presidential Report. He told the assembled that in his time, he witnessed NACo addressing policy issues "without getting personal and political – but somehow Washington has yet to hear that message!" He pushed hard this year to get more involved with Washington – which resulted in periodic meetings with White House officials (I attended such a meeting in May). His goal was to have Washington "talk with us – not talk at us."

One of his other achievements – besides supporting programs that assist veterans – was to establish a tool kit through the NACo web site that enables people to understand how counties service constituents. One of his other prouder achievements was witnessing the signing up of all of the nation's counties with NACo – all 3,068. But – there have been a number of counties that have since dropped their membership, most citing budget deficits and the need to cut costs.

#### Breakout morning session – “The Path to Zero Waste”

With the ongoing effort in Honolulu to determine how to handle the disposal of our municipal solid waste (the administration, during our conference, made public its desire to extend the life of the only landfill on the island of Oahu, the Waimanalo Gulch. Permits to allow disposal at the Gulch are set to expire in the fall of next year), NACo sponsored a workshop on how to deal with this issue.

Susan Robinson represented Waste Management (the company currently manages operations at Waimanalo Gulch). She shared with us that many of the materials found in our solid waste actually have energy potential. She claimed that her company generates more renewable energy from its solid waste business than the entire U.S.A. solar industry. The company provides energy to 1.1 million homes, displacing 14 million barrels of oil each year. She said of the 243 million tons of municipal solid waste generated each year by the USA – 54.3 million tons are land-filled.

Roadblocks to disposing of solid waste include the cost of conversion technologies, emission and other regulatory standards, and whether the technology has experienced several years of actual operation, which would help to make it an established and accepted practice of waste disposal.

#### Breakout afternoon session – “Getting the Public Involved: Raising Awareness of County Government”

This topic comes at a time when the Honolulu City Council is preparing to adjust to a new way of delivering broadcasts to our constituents with the advent of a new fiber optic cable that will be laid connecting city hall with Oceanic Time Warner Cable. This session actually focused on outgoing NACo President Glenn Whitley's priority to get the public to understand how county government works. Specifically, the session centered on a national competition between counties (three categories, more than 50 entries) with the central theme of promoting what county government does – and that it does work (there was an emphasis on how county governments service veterans). The National Association of County Information Officers oversaw this program, and judged the entries. This contest coincided with National County Government Month – held each April. Next year's theme will be communicated to interested entrants by this Fall.

#### July 17, Monday

This day was generally devoted to the meeting of the board of directors. Just before the board meeting, the delegation representing the Hawaii State Association of Counties hosted a breakfast

with incoming NACo 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, Linda Langston. Our state was one of the first to endorse her candidacy.

At the board meeting, aside from the usual reports from the NACo staff and from various committees, of particular interest to me were the 2011 NACo Member Survey and the national survey of county elected officials.

The NACo member survey was conducted in March as a benchmarking survey to measure members' needs, perceptions and level of satisfaction with NACo benefits, programs, services and communication. The survey was sent to 38,889 members and more than 5,600 responded (a 15 percent response rate). Nearly 58 percent of those who responded said they were extremely or somewhat satisfied with NACo – slightly less than in previous years. However, that number may have been skewed by the fact that many of the members and staff who responded are new to the organization, and many have never responded previously to a NACo survey.

NACo itself is in a strong financial position, with more than \$30 million in assets. The projected income for 2011 is \$308,649 – which is \$40,838 more than budgeted previously. These numbers enabled NACo to keep dues at the same levels for member counties this year.

In May of this year, the finding of the National Survey of County Elected Officials (a random sample of 508 officials) revealed the following: although a plurality of county elected officials (48 percent) still rate the national economy as poor, they are slightly more optimistic than those surveyed in 2010. Given the focused concern with the economy, the general mood of county elected officials is negative, but the trend is now heading in the right direction. The survey also revealed that county elected officials are concerned that partisan politics is a greater problem today than in the past. And while county elected officials are very concerned about the rising level of federal spending and the resulting federal debt – they are also concerned about cuts in federal block grants.

In the afternoon, the NACo International Economic Development Task Force had a private meeting with Commerce Undersecretary for International Trade Francisco Sanchez (who apparently was suffering from a bad cold!). He brought along with him Courtney Gregoire, who heads the President's National Export Initiative for the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration. The two expressed support of, and interest in, the Task Force. The NEI is currently working with strategic partners to help companies shipping only to one market expand to new ones, expand the availability of credit to small and medium sized businesses, make available only tools to make it easier to find and faster to use, and reduce trade barriers for those who wish to export overseas. Undersecretary Sanchez told the Task Force, and the NACo general assembly, that 95 percent of the world's customers are outside the U.S.A., and 85 percent of economic growth will occur outside of our country, with 1 billion new people entering the middle class over the next 15 years.

Later in the day, the NACo delegates also heard from Aron Ralston, who also survived a harrowing incident. During a climbing adventure in a canyon in southern Utah, his arm was pinned by a half-ton boulder for nearly a week. He survived only after he used a dull pocket knife to cut his forearm away from the boulder, applied a tourniquet, and proceeded to rappel and

hike for another five hours before he was rescued. His story was later portrayed in the movie "127 hours."

**July 18, Tuesday**

NACo, through its International Economic Development Task Force, held its first session on exports, entitled "Think Globally, Act Locally: The National Export Initiative and Your Local Economy." It was moderated by the Task Force Chairman, Valerie Brown, and featured Courtney Gregoire, the director of the National Export Initiative with the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration, and Mark Calhoon, Senior Managing Director, Business Services Division, Washington State Department of Commerce.

While I have earlier reported what the NEI is doing, Calhoon outlined an interesting program entitled the Washington Export Initiative, which I will want to emulate for Honolulu. I came away with an idea to seek a Memorandum of Understanding with our Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and perhaps with our respective economic development boards, to collaborate and combine resources to enable businesses who wish to export to be able to avail themselves of government resources in an easier and faster fashion. We also heard from a representative from Riverside County, who shared with us that his county established its own trade ministry – similar to what countries do – to really focus on international trade relations. I also floated the idea after the session to have the U.S. Commerce Department's Intergovernmental Relations director, William A. Ramos, to work with his counterpart at the White House, David Agnew, to host a summit meeting of local and state government organizations like the National League of Cities, the National Governor's Association, the Conference of Mayors, and NACo, so that we all can collaborate on an export initiative, and share ideas.

Respectfully submitted,



Nestor R. Garcia  
Honolulu City Councilman  
District 9