

Hawaii State Association of Counties

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



MINUTES
HSAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 19, 2012
Honolulu Hale, Council Committee Room
Honolulu, Hawaii

I. CALL TO ORDER

The HSAC Executive Committee was called to order by President Mel Rapozo at 10:03 a.m. The following members comprising a quorum, were present:

County of Kauai:	Alternate KipuKai Kualii
County of Hawaii:	Vice President K. Angel Pilago
City and County of Honolulu:	Secretary Stanley Chang
County of Maui:	Treasurer Joseph Pontanilla
Others Present:	Maui Councilmember G. Riki Hokama Honolulu staff Naomi Cardona Honolulu staff Steve Uyeno Honolulu staff Denisse Gee Kauai staff Ashley Bunda Maui staff Kirsten Hamman

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda.

III. MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the October 12, 2012, Executive Committee meeting.

IV. REPORTS

A. Treasurer's Reports.



The following item was approved by the Executive Committee:

1. Treasurer's Report for October 2012, as submitted by the HSAC Treasurer.

B. County Reports

1. Maui County Report. Treasurer Pontanilla reported that the three major bond rating agencies, Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Ratings rated Maui County bonds at AA+. He informed the Committee that the AA+ bond rating will enable Maui County to refinance existing bonds and pay off certain SRF loans thereby saving the county at least \$1 million in interest payments. He further reported that the Maui County Council adopted Resolution 12-117, which urges the state Legislature to repeal the Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC) statute. He reported that the Maui Island Plan will be first read on December 7, 2012. He finally reported that the 2013-2014 Maui County Council has been tentatively organized with Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa as its Chair and Councilmember Robert Carroll as its Vice Chair, who are expected to be officially elected to their leadership positions on January 2, 2013.
2. Hawaii County Report. Vice President Pilago reported that Hawaii County general elections went fairly well, which he attributed to the intervention of the State Elections Office. He further reported that the incoming Hawaii County Council Chair will be Councilmember J Yoshimoto and the incoming Hawaii County Vice Chair will be Councilmember Karen Eoff. He also reported that the new HSAC representative will be Councilmember Dennis "Fresh" Onishi and the HSAC alternate will be Councilmember Greggor Ilagan. He concluded by informing the Committee that all leadership and HSAC positions will be officially elected on December 3, 2012.
3. City and County of Honolulu Report. Secretary Chang reported the City and County of Honolulu general elections results, specifically informing the Committee about the Honolulu City Council, the City Prosecutor, and Mayoral election results. He further reported that the Honolulu City Council has not formally organized, but it is expected that Council Chair Ernest Martin and Councilmember Ikaika Anderson will remain Council Chair and Council Vice Chair, respectively. He reported that Bill 72 (2012), which bans smoking at certain city beach parks, has attracted substantial public interest. He stated that Bill 72 (2012) was modeled after the Hawaii County smoking ban at all county beach parks and queried Vice President

Pilago about the public response in Hawaii County when its smoking ban was introduced.

4. Kauai County Report. Alternate Kualii reported that two of the seven Kauai County Council incumbents were not reelected in a very close election, however, President Rapozo was reelected to the Kauai County Council and is expected to remain the HSAC representative. He further reported that the Circuit Court ruled in favor of the Mayor and affirmed that the Mayor does have the authority to unilaterally discipline a commission appointee. However, he noted that the Kauai County Police Commission is expected to appeal this ruling. He also reported that the Kauai County Council will be hearing Bill 2444 which increases the minimum real property tax from \$25 to \$150 for individuals who live on Hawaiian homestead lands or qualify for certain tax exemptions. He apprised the Committee that Bill 2444 is controversial in the native Hawaiian community who has already expressed their opposition when the bill was first heard and deferred in the subject committee. He reported that Kauai County Council passed the HSAC legislative package with the exception of the proposals relating to the increase in the gallonage tax and definition of indigent and partially indigent. He concluded that the Kauai County Council approved the HSAC legislative proposal to repeal the PLDC law and his separate resolution urging the state Legislature to repeal the PLDC law.

- C. NACo Report. Maui Councilmember Hokama reported that NACo continues to monitor closely the actions that Congress may take as they affect the counties. Specifically, he reported that Congress is contemplating eliminating or reducing the following items: 1) Individual real property tax deductions; and 2) The ability of municipalities to float certain type of bonds. He assured the Committee that NACo and NACo's lobbyists are closely monitoring these specific issues and vigorously representing county interests at the federal level. He emphasized the importance for the Hawaii delegation to attend the December NACo Board of Directors meeting at which the NACo legislative package will be discussed in depth. In response to a query, Maui Councilmember Hokama clarified that the proposal to eliminate or reduce individual real property tax deductions was initiated by the United States House of Representatives Republican Caucus. However, he emphasized that NACo is a nonpartisan organization that lobbies and works with both sides of the political aisle. Maui Councilmember Hokama concluded by informing the Committee that he will be attending the upcoming United States Presidential Inauguration in his capacity as the NACo 2nd Vice President.

D. WIR Report. Vice President Pilago stated that there was no WIR report.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Approval of the 2014-2015 Western Interstate Region Conference Request for Proposal.

Alternate Kualii informed the Committee that the Kauai County Council approved transmittal of Kauai County's request for proposal (RFP) to host the 2014-2015 WIR conference for approval by WIR. He further reported that there was one Kauai Councilmember who expressed concern with the scope of effort required to host a national conference. Alternate Kualii and Vice President Pilago encouraged the Committee members to discuss with their respective Councils regarding their participation and support of Kauai County's hosting of this WIR conference.

Maui Councilmember Hokama stated that Committee members have historically spearheaded the rallying of support of their respective Councils when a county in the state of Hawaii has hosted a national conference. He informed the Committee that in his capacity as the NACo 2nd Vice President, he has received expressions of support from the 14 other states that comprise the WIR caucus. He reminded the Committee that 2005 was the last occasion that a county in the state of Hawaii hosted a national county conference. In response to a query, he informed the Committee that there is widespread support of Kauai County hosting the 2014-2015 WIR conference throughout the entire NACo membership.

This item was approved.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Schedule next meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for December 14, 2012 at Honolulu Hale.

B. Other Announcements.

Vice President Pilago and Alternate Kualii expressed their gratitude to serve as Committee members and bid farewell to their fellow Committee members.

Secretary Chang and Treasurer Pontanilla expressed their appreciation to Vice President Pilago and Alternate Kualii for their service to the Committee and HSAC.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St Chang', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STANLEY CHANG
Secretary
Hawaii State Association of Counties