



HAWAII 2050 SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE



Sen. Russell Kokubun,
Chair

Fall Community Meeting October 3, 2007, Aupuni Center Conference Room

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Facilitators:
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Following a brief presentation of the draft plan, participants were asked to join a small “break-out group” for discussion. Each group was asked to first offer comments about the draft plan goals, strategic actions and indicators. They were asked to identify what they saw as positives – things that they thought were especially important or on point; things they thought were negatives – things they didn’t agree with or didn’t understand; and things they thought were missing. The groups were then asked to give comments on the draft implementation and accountability plan. They were asked specifically to comment on what they saw as the strengths of the proposed sustainability council; what they saw as weaknesses of the proposed sustainability council and how they might be addressed; and any other general comments they might have about the plan for implementation and accountability. Their input will be considered by the H2050 Sustainability Task Force as it revises the draft H2050 Sustainability Plan.

The goals in the plan are:

- Goal I – A Way of Life
- Goal II – The Economy
- Goal III – Environment and Natural Resources
- Goal IV – Community and Social Well Being
- Goal V – Kanaka Maoli Culture and Island Values



GROUP 1

➤ Discussion: Plan goals, strategic actions and indicators

What are the positives – things that are really important or on point?

- Goal I - In the plan, carrying capacity for populace of Hawai'i. It limits growth, community garden, good populations, and implications of sustainability.
- Goal II - Public schools to use local food products (page 50). Measure foods locally produced that are consumable.
- Goal III - More local long term planning for generations. Ahupua`a system to sustain our environment.
- Goal IV - Universal healthcare services for everybody.
- Goal V - This goal should be ranked #1 in priority.
- Goal V - Use Hawaiian language whenever possible.

What are the negatives – things that you don't agree with or don't understand?

- Goal I - How do we feed ourselves? Peak oil issues are not defined. Transport storage and preservation of food. Better use of our foods; making good use of what we have already.
- Goal II - Tourist industry may not be sustainable after peak oil. We also need to consider very carefully military actions and programs (DU).
- Goal II - Tourist industry based on true Hawaiian culture and good pono, ecotourism.
- Goal II - Infrastructure improvements to aid tourist industry first before bringing more tourists in. Local action.
- Goal II - Corporate "personhood" leaves us at risk.
- Goal III - Control of encroachments of unique zones in our environment.
- Goal III - Limitations to subsistence farming which limits ability to make farming economically sustainable.
- Goal IV - Critical that HDOT support and implement local desires for transportation (peak oil).
- Goal V - Until we remove the "Big Box" stores, we won't achieve community involvement. We are enabling people to not embrace sustainability.

What do you think is missing from this section of the plan that is critical?

- Goal I - Definition of sustainability – Who is responsible for plan implantation? What are the consequences for those who choose not to be sustainable?



- Goal II - Restrict food sales in competition with local food growers by the UH Hilo and community colleges.
- Goal II - Land use planning and zoning required for true sustainability.
- Goal III - Dedicated funding for what we are consuming, pay for water as example to make is sustainable.
- Goal III - Reverse hydro-dialysis for renewable energy.
- Goal IV - Puna is without hospitals, emergency fire and police appropriate to the size of population.
- Goal IV - Require development to supply money for human resources and not be limited to roads water and power.
- Goal IV - Any development should be required to provide green spaces every 4 streets – gardens, play areas etc., in residential developments.
- Goal V - Resolve all outstanding land use issues with Kanaka Maoli.
- Goal V - Task Force should read the book “Foreign to Familiar.”



➤ **Discussion: Concept of Sustainability Council**

What do you see as the strengths of the proposed Sustainability Council?

- Council structure and use of annual report cards.
- Does council advise or promote legislation to promote sustainability. Check other states instead of re-inventing the wheel.

What are the shortcomings or weaknesses?

- Replacement issues for members of council. The council documentation does not address limitations of growth.
- More incentives for recycle and reuse of bottles and bags etc. Charge for plastic bags at stores.

Other comments about the sustainability council?

- How does the council enforce the good ideas?
- What happens to people or businesses that refuse to involve themselves in sustainability?
- Eating local is the greenest thing you can do!
- Reduction of plastic and other packaging for food for us to eat.
- Public engagement – where is the support for sustainable gardens and farms? Marketing and incubation for farming projects.
- True cost of oil will require more support for natural food production.
- Council has not teeth
- Is the Council illegal?
- How does council add to legislation? Any teeth? What can council do?
- New entity in Council may break the existing laws. They do not follow the mandates of power of the legislature.
- Goals are more important right now. Horse before the cart (Council).

How can we engage the general public in taking action to promote Hawai'i's sustainability?

None

➤ **Calabash:**

- Reduce what regulations for business cheaper rate for electric bills.
- Regulations are not inherently bad. Do we need more or better regulations?
- WiFi needed.
- Marijuana laws – putting people in jail for victimless crimes (ho'oponopono)



- Hawaiian values must be an integral part of all university and community college curricula.
- Make fashion industry sustainable in Hawai'i i.e. hemp, bamboo, soy, organic cotton
- “End of life” vehicles – using parts instead of junk.
- Organic fuels including used cooking oil.
- Report card should reflect action taken/decision considered regarding the ideas and input we have made.
- Weakness – our annual report card does not provide enough oversight.
- Power and money to enforce the new laws.
- Evaluation of limiting factors that directly apply to our carrying capacity (water etc...)

GROUP 2

➤ Discussion: Plan goals, strategic actions and indicators

What are the positives – things that are really important or on point?

- Goal I – Everyone needs to take their own personal responsibility
- Goal I – Getting the youth aware – increase education of sustainability in our public schools.
- Goal I – It must be part of our daily life.
- Goal I – “If you don’t have Goal I achieved, nothing else will be in-line.”
- Goal I – Sustainability “ethic” is good but needs incentives and disincentives to provide motive/power in-force.
- Goal III – Recycling is great.
- Goal III – Our precious environment is what it’s all about “it sustains all life.”
- Goal III – Developing alternate energy sources.
- Goal IV – Very good.
- Goal V – Was “on the mark”

What are the negatives – things that you don’t agree with or don’t understand?

- Define what the “lightening” of regulations means
- Provide incentives and awards for small business that achieved sustainability (state competition, what school use less energy this month, school supplies). Incentives to make sustainable choices were made several times.
- Less Military; they should clean up their garbage i.e. explosive.
- Less tourist; should become better neighbors for their negative impact to our island; held accountable for their unsustainable damage (environmental damage/health). Need incentives/awards if they do it right.
- If we are going to have “Sustainable Ag” we need no GMO’s; limited pesticides (bio-diversity); organic farmers market which has locally grown products.
- Farming practice should be “organic”
- Page 14 - Get specific to recycling (green bags); outlaw plastic bags; mandatory recycling; do not have curbside recycling and reduce the amount of waste you have.
- The plan needs to look at if the military needs to be on Hawai`i Island
- Look at the level of tourist industry, should be increased or decreased.
- Page 16 – Hawai`i Island = Rural community. “Keep the country...country”
- Do not want “smart growth” – “need room to grow food around you.” Need a “bigger” footprint.



What do you think is missing from this section of the plan that is critical?

- Add clarification of what is “wrong today”
- Outlaw Styrofoam
- Luxury vehicles taxed; economy-car rebates
- Commitment made by State. Groups to use sustainable; bring more sustainable options to us. Reward the “right thing to do.”
- Legislative ordinance/regulations/code make commitments. “Make it law to be sustainable.”
- Provide incubators (small businesses) to be sustainable businesses – empower benefits.
- Page 20 –Have island be more attractive to doctors (rural areas). We have insurance but need the doctors.
- Goal III – Understand that Oahu, 90% more of their sustainable allocation of water. Too much water-very critical. No water, no life. No increase development.
- Accessible to the community – plan understanding.
- Limit island immigration based on the carrying capacity.
- Carrying capacity for island needs to be found
- Page 20 – Drive to “Live Healthy” preventatives
- Look at “recycling” do we use the “recycled products” or can we use the recycled matter.



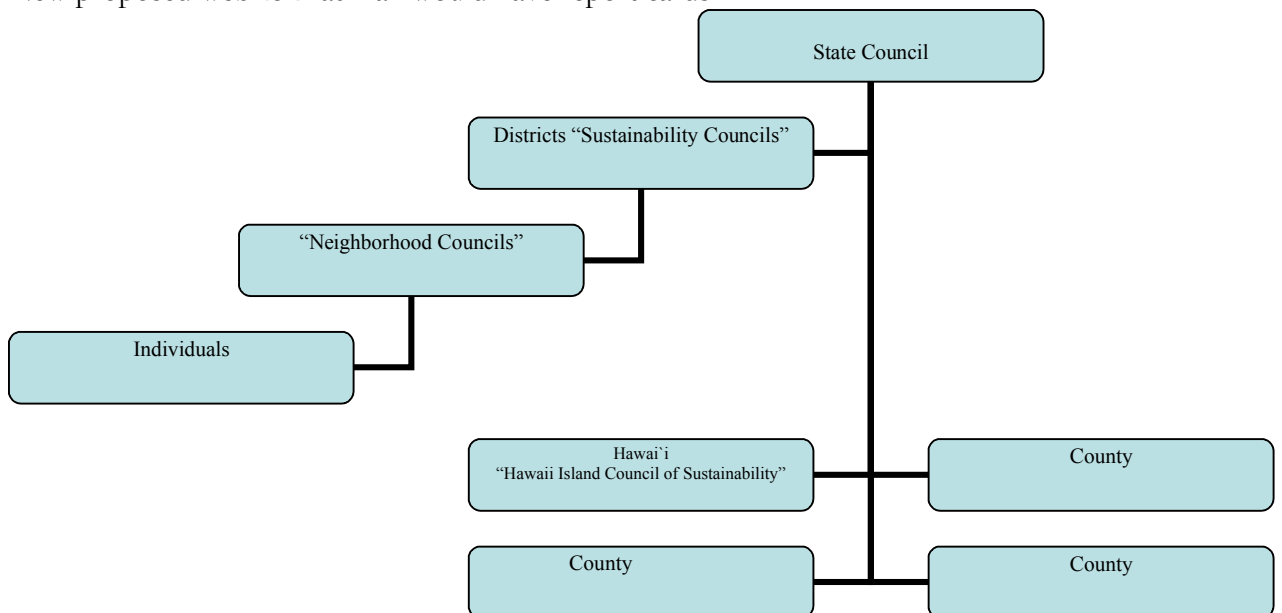
➤ Discussion: Concept of Sustainability Council

What do you see as the strengths of the proposed Sustainability Council?

- Like the diverse cross-section of the council.
- Periodic financial and management audits very good.
- Having a council is a good idea.

What are the shortcomings or weaknesses?

- Make sure their genuine stakeholders. No “same-old” people; new faces; youth (high school, young adults)
- Meet pre-requirements to join council. “Walk the walk,” recycle, solar power uses, efficient automobiles. “A report card”
- Audit fail the senators/legislators would resign
- Who is going to audit the council? Is it the State Auditor? (If yes, specify) Is it Mrs. Higa?
- Implementation of plan is critically urgent.
- Government appointment of 6 is too many. Would like to see no government officials as council members.
- More than 15 – member of each district.
- Record card – should be broken down by counties.
- Central activity because it is vital to our island - access to meetings, education, outreach, “report card” will continue on.
- New proposed web format – all would have report cards.





Other comments about the sustainability council?

- Is there an application process for interested persons (locally, state-wide) people have the opportunity to serve.
- Include the report: Preserving the quality of life in Hawai'i. A strategy for Population Growth Control (1972).
- “Internship”/Community-service for youth. “Meaningful work experience in sustainability like Gee clubs, Junior Achievement, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H etc...
- Accountable to the communities semi-annually.

How can we engage the general public in taking action to promote Hawai'i's sustainability?

None

GROUP 3

➤ Discussion: Plan goals, strategic actions and indicators

What are the positives – things that are really important or on point?

- Actions go to heart of what is necessary to achieve stated goals.
- Actions are excellent.
- Like recycling as a goal.
- Education part-stress fixing schools.
- Comprehensive and broad enough that many components can be brought into 5 key elements → adaptable
- Multi-ethnic and based on “Hawaiianization” of all.
- Connectedness of goals → implementation of one leads to implementation of others.
- Economy goals – is right on.
- Strategic actions relate to triple bottom line.
- Goals reflect diverse points of view have gone into plan.
- According to page 29, I can be Kanaka Maoli.

What are the negatives – things that you don’t agree with or don’t understand?

- Flawed because it assumes all is well now.
- Best could come up with is quasi-governmental agency (xz) increasing taxes.
- Does not address rural communities enough.
- Does not address land use issues.
- Page 7 – Missing land needs to be handled in traditional Hawaiian method i.e. use it or lose it.
- To what extent are we supporting the military to do whatever they want... Are we putting any limits?
- Let the public know what military is doing.
- Not enough talk about military. How to help in disaster.
- Lacks detail to get accountability set benchmarks.
- Failure to identify who or how to implement the strategic actions.
- Missing link between action and indicators.
- Page 11 – Supporting existing “pillars” may be in opposition to new initiatives.
- Request to review contradicting strategies especially economic goal.
- Global marketing point is arrogant → natural phenomenon (preserving Waikiki at great cost – Rising Tide).
- No science in plan.



- Agriculture should emphasize quality over quantity.
- Well being – does prevention and treatment include families or people affected by the abusers.
- What about other issues (kids) under serviced.
- No commitment of funding on implementation.
- Already wasted money on the plan.
- Don't understand some of the complicated issues and hard to have indicators.
- Wait to appropriate money until goals are set.
- Subsistence – based – implies are limited to only this type/not make money.
- Object to premise that should raise taxes to achieve sustainability should be looking at tax incentives to promote sustainability.

What do you think is missing from this section of the plan that is critical?

- Land issues (prior to page 3).
- Goal has to involve:
 - How is leadership selected/elected? Importance of leadership to implementation.
 - Process of government to empower people
 - Innovative leadership
- Government not examined.



➤ Discussion: Concept of Sustainability Council

What do you see as the strengths of the proposed Sustainability Council?

- Initiative to start – not waiting around.
- Empowered under law.
- Funded through dedicated source, independent of political pressure.
- Like county representation.
- High school students on Council.
- Interim-board – 5 members carry over from Task Force. Institutional knowledge.

What are the shortcomings or weaknesses?

- Why is it exempt from procurement code?
- Who will review Sustainability Council?
- Unconstitutional – recourse to elected officials no recourse to appointed officials. This is the job of elected officials.
- Members are political appointees.
- Asking government employees to assess indicators; taking government employees away from work.
- Another level of bureaucracy.
- Vagueness of “Implement HI 2050 Plan” (identify, prioritizing, charging various public and private entities).

Other comments about the sustainability council?

- How are they involving/selecting students? Each school should have committee → recommend representative. Have adult representative present at HS too.
- How do you get on the Council? What criteria to be on? What criteria to replace, ensure quality stays high.
- “No Child and No Community Left Behind.” Implement standard – report card.
- Get Hawai‘i 2050 to all departments to incorporate into individual agency strategic plan (i.e. DOE 3 year plan – H.S. grad rate).
- Culture base training → Kanaka Maoli.
- Are they paid? Volunteer? How are they responsive to community? What guarantees that?
- Sustainability Council for each area/county – use digital connection to other areas.

How can we engage the general public in taking action to promote Hawai‘i’s sustainability?

None

GROUP 4

➤ Discussion: Plan goals, strategic actions and indicators

What are the positives – things that are really important or on point?

- Mechanism to keep it worthwhile.
- Melting pot, diversity of cultures.
- Like overall format.
- Ownership.
- Youth being here and middle school.
- Overall format with community outreach.
- Simplified with 5 goals good.
- Focus on conserving water was good.
- Accountability built into it.
- Like the use of alternative energy.
- Inclusion of Kanaka Maoli.

What are the negatives – things that you don't agree with or don't understand?

- Education needs to include health goals for children.
- Are we going to have future mandates?
- Hands on, education, workforce – what are they going to do?
- How will it be enforced?
- Who's going to do the reporting for the annual report card?
- Healthcare – Question parody for mental health – where is it? Alcohol abuse? Why more emphasis on substance abuse? Need to be more defined (prescription drugs, nicotine etc...)
- What do they mean by Kanaka Maoli? Culture, local, people defined? Native Hawaiian avoiding sovereignty issue.
- Vicious cycle of bio-fuel as all we grow so Ag is stuck. Bio-fuel vs. Regular Ag.
- Is the existing data realistic? Especially for report card? Available at county or state level?

What do you think is missing from this section of the plan that is critical?

- Where is it going to be housed? Staffing? Budget?
- How does this relate to CDP's County/State/Community plans?
- Will meetings be held with video conference etc? Tech or both as part of outreach?
- Healthcare – Who is going to pay?
- How will infrastructure support it?



- We now have a doctor and nurse shortage etc...
- Will a matrix be put together?
- How will the 15 members be selected?
- Will commission enforce it?
- Increase grad rate – how do you increase/implement it? Give money, make school fun.
- How will government practice sustainability?
- No shows. Who hires, fires, moves inert people off?
- Council should include youth.
- Is the Governor going to appoint 10? Mayor 5?
- How do we know as individuals that we are contributing to this plan?
- Selection of people to run this – How?



➤ Discussion: Concept of Sustainability Council

What do you see as the strengths of the proposed Sustainability Council?

- The “Hope” there will be a diverse Council.
- Advisory subgroups as a possibility “maybe”
- Will report card be issued in both “official” languages? Why not?
- Like Advisory Subgroups
- Just do it!
- 6/30/2008...like it!
- Good thing to be audited every 2 years.
- Transition plan is positive – need continuity.

What are the shortcomings or weaknesses?

- Needs to consider mass size of Hawai‘i Island – need East and West reps.
- Youth reps - At least 1 from neighbor island or rural island area.
- Council – How much authority do they have to coordinate and implement the plan?
- What prevents Council members from serving their own interests?
- What prevents 5th year from an endless planning meeting?
- Document hasn’t been distributed widely.
- Too much to read in such a short period of time.
- Council percent with funding and outline is vague.
- Health – What are we doing to retain them?
- Need bigger emphasis on health.
- Integrity- You either have it or don’t. “Impeccable” integrity.
- Aging population is growing-need to be represented well.
- Auditor – Page 6, Integrity question phrasing
- Why should they be exempt by Hawai‘i , procurement for contracts, consultants etc?
- Need to represent all islands regardless of counties ex. Lāna‘i, Moloka‘i

Other comments about the sustainability council?

None

How can we engage the general public in taking action to promote Hawai‘i’s sustainability?

None



GROUP 5

➤ Discussion: Plan goals, strategic actions and indicators

What are the positives – things that are really important or on point?

- Number one goal is Goal V.
- Issue paper and plan should have the same goals as social, economic, environmental.
- Focus on children's education especially value and character.

What are the negatives – things that you don't agree with or don't understand?

- Plan is very abstract.
- No benchmark in comparison to other areas similar to Hawai'i's environment.
- Hard to put into practice too broad in goals.

What do you think is missing from this section of the plan that is critical?

- Prioritize goals.
- Goal V is most important (others agreed).
- More about the 'āina and permaculture.
- Emphasize and support self-sufficiency.



➤ Discussion: Concept of Sustainability Council

What do you see as the strengths of the proposed Sustainability Council?

- Some accountability.
- Keep project going.
- Review report cards.

What are the shortcomings or weaknesses?

- Should be accountable. Quasi-governmental power to recommend policy.
- No criteria for choosing council.
- Criteria are unknown.
- No on-going funding for council questions and plan.
- Plan to general and incomplete; needs details.

Other comments about the sustainability council?

- District representation providing connection to community for Council.
- Every Council member had their own district for which they are responsible.
- Every ahupua'a should have a representative.
- Need a system analysis.
- All islands should have equal power to influence policy and decisions.
- Incentive tax breaks.
- Continual media barrage education.
- Community monitors results; put reports in grocery stores.
- Council should be diverse.
- Careful qualifications and criteria
- People who can demonstrate they are practicing sustainability.
- Members should have skills and knowledge.
- Mayor should not appoint.
- Community should nominate Council Members.
- Pick a pool of qualified people.
- Criteria – Someone under 30 years who enjoys suffering.

How can we engage the general public in taking action to promote Hawai'i's sustainability?

None



➤ **Calabash:**

- Bamboo as structure.
- Building codes support.
- Hemp industrial use allowed and encouraged.
- Incentives based on goals.
- Connect goals visually. Problem is lack of urgency; we are at the crisis point now.
- More understandable data needed:
 - Projections
 - Trends
 - Need to know with factual data; how bad the problem is.



➤ Comment Sheets

Comments on Goals, Strategic Actions, and Indicators

- Goal V should be #1
- Need to define or process to resolve conflicts between strategic actions. Do sustainability solutions include a maximum "carrying capacity" goal? Where are the incentives? Who drafts them? Who enforces/monitors/administers them?
- Look into reverse hydro-dialysis as an alternative energy source (being used in Netherlands).
- Goal IV - Community & social well being-I see a huge need for housing to have park/play safe areas. Every developer should be required without any exception to include in their building design of neighborhoods or subdivisions- that every 4 streets should be provided a green space. Why 4 streets? That would be an appropriate walking distance for a child to walk to get to a play area and not be forced to play in a street or sidewalk. Green areas provide areas for socialization, community gardens, meet people in your near neighborhood, people caring for and watching out for each other.
- Determine "carrying capacity" for many factors combined - population, various economic entities (business, construction, military) and find ways to stay within carrying capacity rely less on economic entities outside Hawai'i (tourism, military). Go beyond recycling go for zero waste. Design products so that everything is reused. Design communities, change zoning laws so you don't have to drive everywhere and interaction with others is encouraged-build community
- What about limits on population growth for sustainability? Land use planning to ensure sufficient Ag lands (vs. housing).
- Goal I - Indicators: 1) I believe education, both in public and private schools and in community at large is the most important piece of implementing changes. While I believe schools adopt sustainable models is an admirable goal, I am concerned that we do not put the entire burden of education on the public schools as opposed to a wider public educational campaign...we need to focus on changing hearts and minds and wait to use doom and gloomy projections can frighten some people into action, projection of positive change possible through lifestyle changes can be more effective. Incentives also help to start the ball rolling: policy, rebates, utility energy bill savings incentives, tax breaks. 2) Criteria for council? Criteria for sub-group 3) Funding? 4) Integrating 2050 plan with "issues" plan.



Comments on Ensuring Implementation and Accountability

- Sustainability TF ends June 2008 and not funded for implementation of plan. Suggested council is to ensure plan is followed, but according to your document it does nothing to make the plan happen. It knows that plans have to be funded by leg to have an implementation staff-the urgency of getting this approved ASAP is critical. We are already behind the 8 ball on the goals and continue going backwards. All this needs attention ASAP or it will cost even more \$ to implement than it would today.
- Very important to get under 30 year olds on the Sustainability Council.
- How will state agency administrators be folded into the 2050 process? The state agencies sit like a big cow under the living room rug right now.
- Give tax breaks to businesses or individuals that add to energy and higher taxes to increase energy consumers. Typically, HELCO gives a lower rate to huge consumers of electricity like hotels and superstores. If they want to do business here, we need to remind them that this is so desirable a place that they must contribute too. If they want a tax break or a lower electric bill they must add solar, etc. Look at Costco, all cement; it needs a lot of AC. They should design it to better utilize cool breeze, plant trees for shade, anything but just relying on increase elec. use and the fact they will get a break as a large consumer. Also, individual homeowner electric rates are increased possibly to make up for the credits given the large user. Why do they get a credit at all? Why not pay for what they use and not get any breaks unless they have in place some sustainable resource replenishment.
- Find out who is using the most water...hotels or golf courses?

Additional Comments

- There needs to be details of how this would all be implemented so that specific requests for funding to the leg can be made. The council is not enough. This is a huge project requiring massive funding. Without a staff (adequate), the plan will fall on its face. Otherwise this is all a nice thought and fluff.
- In future meetings, recorders should be provided for group facilitators.
- Thanks for the opportunity & dialogue.