



County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

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Energy Advisory Commission
Tuesday, August 12, 2008
North Hawai'i Education and Research Center
45-539 Plumeria Street
Honoka`a, Hawai'i

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Present: Steven Burns, Richard Ha, Michael Kramer and Riley Smith

Excused: Jacqui Hoover

Others Present: Molly Lugo, Deputy Corporation Counsel

R&D Staff: Jane Testa, Diane Ley, Marcia Yoshiyama and Douglas Zang

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice Chair, Michael Kramer.

2. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Agenda

a. Review of Agenda

There were no comments on the agenda as presented.

3. Statements from the Public

No one from the public was in attendance.

4. Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2008

Motion: R. Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting, and R. Ha seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Department of Research and Development's Update

Copies of the Department of Research and Development's Report to the Energy Advisory Commission, July 22 – August 12, 2008, were distributed. (See Exhibit A)

M. Kramer asked D. Ley to briefly explain the Department of Research and Development's Update handout.

D. Ley replied that the West Hawai'i Civic Center Power Purchase Agreement would provide for the installation of a 400 kilowatt photovoltaic system on the parking garage roof of the new West Hawai'i Civic Center. The photovoltaic system will provide 40 percent of the facility's power. Research and Development's role is to provide guidance and support with respect to energy and economic analysis. Commission members requested to see drawing of the civic center.

D. Ley also reported that Research and Development's staff participated in a technical training on Intragovernmental Wheeling conducted by HELCO's engineering staff. Technical issues, planning processes and interconnection issues were identified by the utility and their efforts to research possible models, industry developments and in-house experimentation that would expand the utility's capacity to bring on-line additional distributed generation and wheel power from non-utility provider/users in the future.

Commission members inquired if there was a role for the Commission to play in the development of potential policies and alignment of issues with respect to the Energy Sustainability Plan.

D. Ley indicated that an inquiry would be made with Corporation Counsel as to the role of the Energy Commission in the Wheeling Docket process or discussions.

Commission members requested to be kept updated on the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative through the Department's Update Reports.

D. Zang reported that the Hawai'i State Energy Council is a government and industry partnership, which contends with energy emergencies. In the case that an energy emergency occurs which is not caused by natural disaster, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) leads the response to a Declared Energy Emergency.

M. Kramer asked if the Hawai'i County Energy Emergency Preparedness Plan would be revised.

D. Zang responded that the Hawai'i County Energy Emergency Preparedness Plan, dated 2001 will be updated to complement the State-Level Plan. Submission of the revised plan is due to the Mayor by September 30, 2008.

D. Ley added that the County's Energy Emergency Plan has not been updated on a bi-annual basis, as the State's Plan was in the process of being updated and that document guides the County's plan.

R. Smith asked if there is funding available to pay for the Commission Members to attend the 8th Biennial Energy Expo, September 18, 2008, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

J. Testa replied that she would need to consult with the Mayor's Office to determine if funds were available. She indicated that she would advise the Commissioners.

6. Committee Reports and Discussion

a. Committee: Water Supply/Use/Other

Copies of the Water Supply/Use/Other Committee report were distributed. (See Exhibit B)

R. Smith reported that all documents in the committee's report are from the Department of Water Supply (DWS). The Department of Water Supply is HELCO's largest customer because the source of water is ground water; DWS pumps water up from near sea level to reservoirs then it is distributed to customers. The DWS has been trying to pump the water to their reservoirs during off peak hours to take advantage of low rates. He also reported that the Department of Water Supply currently has three hydroelectric units, the Kahaluu Shaft Generator, Kaloko Generator, Parker Generator and the Waimea Plant Generator. The hydroelectric unit is called a Generating Pressure Reducing Valve (GPRV). The GPRV is a turbine designed to lower water pressures before delivery to customers, and the process of lowering the pressure results in generation of electricity. This unit is installed in parallel to the existing Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) equipment used to fill the water tank. Also, the Department of Water Supply is working on testing leakage detection instrument, to minimize water leaks and energy losses.

S. Burns suggested looking into the issue of expanding storage of water for off-peak pumping and to invite the Department of Water Supply's energy management analyst to participate in our meetings.

b. Committee: Transportation/Biofuels

Copies of the Transportation/Biofuels Committee report were distributed. (See Exhibit C)

R. Ha reported with respect to the biofuel recommendations in the Energy Sustainability Plan that the committee does not believe that biofuel crops would be economically viable for farmers, as such crops would net low revenue; therefore no farmers would be willing to grow bio-fuel crops. He recommended to the Commission that they take no further initiative on biofuel recommendations contained in the Plan.

R. Ha also reported on transportation recommendations in the Energy Sustainability Plan. The committee recommends that an increased use of the public transit system by funding additional bus runs, late shift runs and adding a Kona International Airport bus route; for vehicles purchased for the County fleet, require that an increasing share of new light duty vehicles meet energy efficient vehicle standards set by HRS 103D-412; and employ photovoltaic systems to power the County's streetlights and traffic lights.

c. Committee: Building

Copies of the Building Committee's report were distributed. (See Exhibit D)

M. Kramer asked the Commission Members to review the Building Committee's report.

d. Committee: Utilities

Copies of the Utility Committee's report were distributed. (See Exhibit E)

Highlights included meeting with HELCO. In addition, six recommendations were noted that would require action by the Public Utilities Commission; all of which would not be short-term actions.

e. Committee: Planning

S. Burns reported that the Energy Sustainability Plan does not address longer-term initiatives with respect to the planning process. One immediate recommendation contained in the Energy Sustainability Plan included County Council Chair Hoffmann's unsuccessful attempt to secure funding towards structuring a new County energy department with three positions.

S. Burns also noted that it is unclear if the Energy Commission itself will remain with a new mayoral administration.

7. Unfinished Business

None.

8. New Business

None.

9. Other Business

a. Set Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Date for the next meeting was set for September 9, 2008.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: North Hawaii Education and Research Center.

b. Set Agenda for the Next Meeting

Discussion and possible action on Committee recommendation.

c. Announcements

None.

10. **Adjournment**

Motion: R. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by R. Ha and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Yoshiyama
Administrative Services Assistant

Attachments:

Exhibit A – Department of Research and Development Energy Program Activities,
July 22 – August 12, 2008

Exhibit B – Water Committee Report

Exhibit C – Biofuels/Transportation Committee Report

Exhibit D – Preliminary Framing of Issues from Plan, Building Committee Report

Exhibit E – Utilities Committee Report