

CITY COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 7, 2022

TO: Kenny Amazaki
Administrative Services Officer
Council Administrative Services
Honolulu City Council

FROM: Augie Tulba 
Councilmember, District 9
Honolulu City Council

SUBJECT: Travel Report - Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) 2022 Annual Conference

Attached is my travel report for the Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) 2022 Annual Conference held at the Westin Hapuna Beach Resort, Waimea, HI from September 28-30, 2022.

**Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC)
2022 Annual Conference
Westin Hapuna Beach Resort, Waimea, HI
September 28-30, 2022**

Introduction

As a freshman councilmember, this was my first opportunity to attend the HSAC Conference. I had signed up for the 2021 conference, but the conference was postponed due to an uptick of COVID-19 infections and state and county restrictions.



The theme of the 2022 conference was “Ho’ola Hawaii: Reconnect & Reimagine.” During the conference, I was able to reflect on what I have experienced so far as a councilmember, learn about initiatives and issues, and connect with mayors, staff, organizations, and conference participants from counties across the state. The experience has given me new ideas on things I’m already working on in the community so my office can expand our existing plans and projects for 2023.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Leadership Panel

NACo leaders gave updates on federal policies, issues facing counties across the country, and various initiatives across the nation. During the networking breakfast, I was able to talk story with Larry Johnson, Mary Ann Borgeson, and Denise Winfrey. The NACo representatives presented the HSAC leaders with a key-shaped plaque in recognition of Hawaii’s 100% participation in NACo.

Speakers included:

- Mary Ann Borgeson, County Commissioner – Douglas County Nebraska
- Matthew Chase, CEO/Executive Director
 - Served as the NACo director since 2012
 - Responsible for the overall management of the association
 - NACo represents 3,069 county governments
- Gary Moore, Past NACo President – Burlington, Kentucky
- Denise Winfrey, NACo President

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- Became NACo President in July 2022; first woman of color to be elected to the position over 40 year
- Larry Johnson, Past NACo President – Dekalb County, Georgia

Breakout Session: Connecting Community – Broadband and Energy Panel

Panel speakers discussed how their respective organizations have changed as a result of the pandemic and the innovative ways they will impact broadband and energy for the future.

The session was moderated by Hawaii County Councilmember Heather Kimball and the speakers included the following:

- Hawaii Electric – Jim Kelly, Vice President - Government & Community Affairs & Corporate Communications
- Hawaiian Telcom – Steve Golden, Vice President - External Affairs
- Charter Communications [Spectrum] – Keri Askew Bailey – Group Vice President - State Government Affairs for the West Region

Question 1: How has the pandemic changed your company?

- Jim Kelly - Hawaiian Electric: The pandemic sped up change within the company that would have taken longer. Overall, the pandemic brought about a way to bring improved services to people faster.
- Steve Golden - Hawaiian Telcom: With the pandemic, we saw the digital divide. Hawaiian Telcom helped to close the divide and help provide access to folks. The company has a free access program that came out of the pandemic, and also a program to help buy devices.
- Keri Bailey - Charter Spectrum: They connected 450k households to 60 days of free broadband as a result of the pandemic. They provided forgiveness in balances to customers experiencing hardship. Workers received pay increases. The company also has a high speed program for an affordable, low rate for those who qualify.

Question 2: What are you doing to build resilience and sustainability?

- Steve Golden - Hawaiian Telcom: Company is working on products with faster speed and making investments in the “middle mile” where there’s no connection or access by installing new poles.
- Keri Bailey - Charter Spectrum: Company is also working on improving speed by upgrading their system. The pandemic allowed the company to test the network and

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proved the network could handle the increase in usage from people doing work from home.

- Jim Kelly - Hawaiian Electric: They partnered with UH for a grant to improve infrastructure. Hawaiian Electric is continuing to apply for funding to help with resiliency. They are aggressively going after federal funding that has become available as a result of the pandemic.

Question 3: What are some of the policy challenges and barriers, and what can those in policy do to overcome those?

- Keri Bailey - Charter Spectrum: Building infrastructure can be challenging in Hawaii. Communication between the company, government, and local communities can help in the decision making processes and informing customers of programs that they can apply for.
- Jim Kelly - Hawaiian Electric: It's been challenging to get the renewable projects online. There have been delays on all islands. Federal funds are a game-changer that helps to execute changes and fund projects for the community.
- Steve Golden - Hawaiian Telcom: Regulatory permitting, HRS 46-89, says within 61 days broadband installation will get approved. Because of the federal funding coming in, there's going to be more permitting requests, and companies must do their fed funded projects within a certain timeframe or risk losing funding.

Regenerative Tourism Panel

Panel participants discussed what regenerative tourism can look like.

The session was moderated by Maui County Councilmember Keani Rawlins and the speakers included the following:

- Kuhao Zane - Creator & Designer, Sig Zane Designs
- Rebecca Soon - President, Ward Research and Solutions Pacific
- Adrian Kamalii - President and Chief Consultant, Pae Aina Communications
- Amy Kalili - Partner, Pilina First, LLC

Keynote Speaker: Lt. Governor Josh Green - Housing and Homelessness

- To meet the projected housing demand, 3,615 units are needed per year
- 2022 appropriation for housing initiatives includes:
 - \$15M to extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program
 - \$300M for Rental Housing Revolving Fund for 60-100% AMI
 - \$600M for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands
- ~10,000 homeless on any given day; 2,000 chronically homeless; over 300 homeless children

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- Average life expectancy of 53; 25% of homeless are employed
- 5,973: 2022 Point in Time Count
- Cost to our health system
 - 3.61% of Medicaid users; 61% of \$2 billion budget
 - 13,000 people; \$1.2 billion
 - \$4,650/day/person
 - highest users = \$82,000/year
- What is “Kauhale”?
 - Houses up to 100 people per location
 - Cost between \$2.5 - \$5 million per community
 - Permanent, sustainable housing
 - Traditional and cultural model of communal housing
 - Communal bathrooms and kitchen
 - Rent can be affordable for those with very low income

Breakout Session: Rapid Aloha Homeless Services Network

The speakers for this session including the following:

- Regina Weller - Executive Director, 808 Homelessness Task Force
- Wyattlane Nahale - Kona Community Police Sector
- Lizanne Carvalho - 808 Homeless Task Force

808 Homeless Task Force transferred from Los Angeles in 2018 to West Hawaii, Big Island.

I liked that this program is focused on building relationships with the homeless and not enabling them. I hope to meet with Regina to see how we can bring some of her strategies to District 9.

They developed five strategic pilot programs and implemented to meet the specific needs of the homeless population in this community:

- Return To Work Program - Fiscal Year 2021-2022: 5 vehicles were donated to motivated clients seeking employment; 12 individuals were assisted in acquiring employment. Original projection was for 12 people to find jobs.
- Family Reunification/Return Home Program - Fiscal Year 2021-2022: 32 individuals were returned home to families of origin out-of-state. Projection was for 15 people to return home.
- Safe Haven Housing Program - Fiscal Year 2021-2022: 67 people (including families with children) were placed into housing. Projection was for 20 people.
- Fab Rehab Program - Fiscal Year 2021-2022: 8 individuals were placed into drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities. Projection was for 10 people into rehab.
- A Vision For You Program - Fiscal Year 2021-2022: 119 homeless individuals were interviewed for this program. All were successfully placed into programs noted above. Projection was for 100 individuals.

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2022 HSAC Sponsors

The HSAC Sponsors included the following:

- National Association of Counties
- County of Hawaii, Department of Research and Development
- Hawaiian Electric
- Spectrum
- Hawaiian Telcom
- R.M. Towill Corporation
- Kamehameha Schools
- HPM Building Supply
- Southern Airways Express | Mokulele Airlines
- Ulupono Initiative
- Pacific Biodiesel
- Best Friends
- Ola Brew
- Fairmont Orchid Hawaii
- Hawaii Credit Union League
- Ward Research Incorporated
- Young Brothers
- Kauai Utility Cooperative
- Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel
- UA Local 675

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

RECEIVED

2022 NOV - 7 10:13:00

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 10/6/22

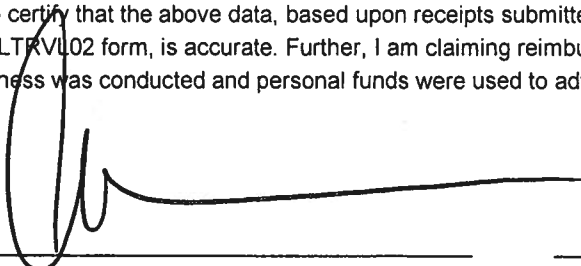
Traveler: Angie Tuiba
Event: 2022 HOAC Annual Conference
Location: 62-100 Kanna'oa Dr. Hawaii Island, HI
Dates: From 9/28/22 To 9/30/22

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel	\$ 396.35	
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	0 \$ 396.35	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:

Signature of Traveler

Date


10/6/2022