

**American Legislative Exchange Council Conference
November 27-30, 2023**

Report from Councilmember Andria Tupola

Tuesday, November 28 - Conference Day #1

12-2 pm - Conference Registration and Exhibit Hall

- Arrived at the venue, The Westin Kierlan Resort, and checked in to receive name badges and conference materials. The printed materials included 50 years of Trusted Policy Solutions 1973-2023; [Rich States, Poor States](#); Fighting crime or Raising Revenue, State Education Freedom: A 50-State Guide to Parental Empowerment; and 2024 Essential Policy Solutions.

3:30-4:45 pm - First Time Attendee and New Member Orientation

- Introductions of new members and ALEC leadership team. Presentation on the purpose and principles of ALEC—a 501(c)(3) non-profit for accountable government. ALEC advances limited government, free markets and federalism by fostering efficient, effective, accountable and transparent government that respects taxpayers.
- There were legislators from various states, private sector partners, and some municipal government representatives. I was particularly interested to meet a new Utah State legislator that had been in office for about 7 days. His name was [Matt McPherson](#) and he represents West Valley City.

6:30-8:30 pm - Jefferson Awards Welcome Reception

- Working dinner to network with other conference attendees, including elected state and city leaders, and messages from ALEC leadership.
- I spoke with [John Willis](#) from the Idaho State House. Interestingly he knew Councilmember Okimoto from a friend. We discussed his state politics, his years in office, and his thoughts on leadership.
- That night I sat by Connor Marley who is the policy manager at the Conservative Energy Network. He wrote "[Virginia's Energy Renaissance: Transforming Coal Lands into a Renewable Future](#)" and we talked about things going on in Hawaii with renewable energy. He actually just visited the Hawaii State Capitol on January 2nd.

Wednesday, November 29 - Conference Day #2

8:30 am - General Session Breakfast

- The speakers were: Daniel Perez, ALEC National Chairman and Florida House Speaker Designate, Former Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, ALEC CEO Lisa B. Nelson, U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (Video), Hon. David Walker,

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Immediate Former Comptroller General of the United States, Utah State Rep. Ken Ivory. The main thing that stood out to me was his encouragement to have good legislators making good policy. He said not to down play the importance this has on our communities and in our state.

9:15-10:15 am - Workshop: End Cash Bail - And Then What?

- This was very interesting to me because just recently a bail reform bill was passed in Hawaii. All 4 counties came together to oppose the bill and even the introducer of the bill started to oppose the bill. The press conference was on June 8, 2022 and I helped organize all the entities that came together. The first presenter in the session was from District Attorney's Office in New York. He started to parse out the data that people were using across the country when commenting on New York's recent bail reform bill that passed in 2019. The presentation by American Bail Reform was also very interesting because it was neither for the complete end of bail or accepting the status quo. They had some good ideas on ways that both side could be sufficed. I did set up a follow up appointment with them.

10-11:00 am - Task Force Town Hall

- Meet-and-greet with the ALEC policy team and leadership. We spoke with a State Senator from Illinois and discussed the challenges in our districts and shared our ideas and potential solutions.

10:30-11:30 am - Workshop: ESG and the People's Republic of China: Protecting National Security

- I did not think this was going to be relevant but it was very interesting. It was about where pension and public retirement money is being invested. It talked about SDGS which is a program by the United Nations. I recently spoke at a UN World Habitat day on Monday October 2, 2023 and wanted to learn more about these sustainability goals. So the SDGS seeks to set "green" goals and separately private companies invest in these goals using pension funds. The caution was the danger that some of these goals will have on our farmers and agricultural lands and consequently the investment of money into pension folders pushing these goals.

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11:30 am-1:30 pm Wednesday General Session Lunch

- Freedom of Speech in public school and universal curriculum. One of the main speakers was [Karrin Taylor Robson](#) the Founder and President Arizona Strategies. She talked about how important it is to allow for freedom in curriculum in public school education. She is currently on the Arizona Board of Regents.
- [Rep Quang Nguyen](#) from Arizona shared his experience in Vietnam and why he is for freedom of speech. He said that the University of Arizona is heavily restricting student's freedom of speech and he fears that having only one acceptable thought is what he saw happen in Vietnam.
- Newt Gingrich - He talked about federalism, balancing federal budget, cutting taxes requires sustained economic growth,

1:45-4:45 pm - American City Council Exchange (ACCE) Meeting

- Joel Coleman, former UT City concilmember, Amy Carney - mother, Jeremiah Galus - lawyer. They spoke about the importance of advocacy on the lowest community level. Something that I really thought about was whether or not each of our schools has a "community board." Every DOE school is supposed to have that so that it's not just the statewide school board where concerns are supposed to be heard. There's some important things happening at our schools and we need a community board at the school just like the neighborhood board at the city level.
- Carol madewell, Serial Entrepreneur - Nonprofit called Switchpoint - "opportunity with accountability." I loved this presentation because of all the homeless work that we do. They talked about converting abandoned schools into housing. They talked about creating microbusinesses for homeless to work and generate income. I really loved the doggie day care idea.
- Kevin Byne of Putnam County, NY - addressing migrant crisis and immigration policy 170 homeless shelters created a shared service agreements between county and NY City. This situation was severe. The Governor of NY actually created an emergency proclamation and Kevin talked about what they did to make sure they had enough resources to handle the flux in their county.

3:45-4:45 pm - Media Training

- This was interesting. But I didn't learn anything. It seemed like they didn't have anything organize to present. People just asked questions and they provided their best suggestions.

Thursday, November 30 - Conference Day #3

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8:00 AM - Thursday Breakout Breakfast: Ranked Choice Voting Panel

- They covered the pros and cons of ranked choice voting at the school board level, the municipal level, and the state level. This was passed in the State of Hawaii but only for special federal elections.

9:15 AM - Media Training, interview practice

- I did do a quick media snippet with their team. They gave me some pointers. But over all I didn't learn any new things.

9:15-11:45 am American City Council Exchange (ACCE) Meeting

- In this meeting we discussed various positions that ACCE was going to take as an organization. We discussed short term rentals of which the resolution did not pass and there was not agreement on what should be done. We discussed the county policy demanding the state provide services and support for homeless that are relocated into the county. We also discussed truth in taxation and how counties can ensure that there is transparency for the additional collection of property taxes.

12:00 pm - Thursday General Session Lunch

- The speakers were Justice Clint Bolick, Arizona Supreme Court; Andy Puzder, Economic Expert and Former CEO, CKE Restaurants; and Connor Boyack, President, Libertas Institute. Andy's comments were interesting but very very technical. I understood what he was saying about supporting the economy but it was probably something that would have to be rebranded if shared here in Hawaii.
- The Children's Entrepreneur Market was given an award at this luncheon for their work to pass legislation to allow children to sell their homemade products at open public markets. They shared a newsclip of the little children's market in Utah and how excited the kids were to showcase their products and make money. So cool!

2:30-4:30 pm - CARE Training

- CARE is the constituent management system for legislative members. So supposedly if I have a membership with ALEC, I will be able to use this software for free. I have sent follow up emails to see if we can start using this for some of our constituent communication.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 2/1/2024

Traveler: Andria Tupola

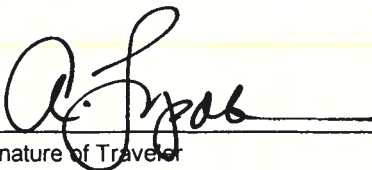
Event: ²⁰²³ American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Conference *States + National Policy Summit*

Location: Scottsdale, AZ

Dates: From ~~11/27/23~~ ²⁶ To ~~12/1/23~~ ^{11/30}

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel	1500.06	Airbnb in Scottsdale (11/27/23 to 12/1/23)
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	1500.06	

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

2/1/24
Date