



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

Background Information

The Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) is the Hawaii chapter of the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo represents 3,069 county governments. "Ho'ola Hawaii: Reconnect & Reimagine" was the theme of this year's HSAC conference, which was held at the Westin Hapuna Beach Resort from September 28-30, 2022.

This was my first time attending the HSAC Annual Conference and it gave me the opportunity to hear from visiting NACo leadership, connect with leaders and staff from other counties within the state, and learn more about initiatives from private, government, and nonprofit organizations. A range of key issues were discussed at the conference and included topics like housing and homelessness, broadband and energy access, and regenerative tourism. The topics discussed directly relate to my work at the City Council as we regularly engage with these issues at committee hearings, community meetings, and when drafting and analyzing legislation.

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, September 28

- 3:00PM – 4:45PM Registration
- 5:00PM – 7:00PM Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 29

- 8:00AM – 8:30AM Welcome Ceremony
- 8:30AM – 8:45AM Speakers: HSAC President and Mayor Roth
- 8:45AM – 9:45AM NACo Federal Policy Update and County Landscape Review
- 10:00AM – 11:15AM Breakout Sessions
- 11:30AM – 1:00PM LUNCH
- Regenerative Tourism Panel
- Keynote: Lt. Governor Josh Green
- 1:15PM – 2:30PM Breakout Session
- 2:45PM – 5:00PM Smallify Lab
- 5:00PM – 6:00PM HSAC Executive Board Meeting
- 6:30PM – 8:30PM Locally Sourced Dinner

Friday, September 30

8:00AM – 8:45AM	Breakout Session
9:00AM – 10:30AM	Achieving Justness in the Law
11:00AM – 3:00PM	Huakai (Field Trips)
3:30PM – 4:45PM	Breakout Sessions
5:00PM – 6:00PM	Closing Ceremonies and Reflections

National Association of Counties (NACo) Leadership Panel

Gary Moore from Kentucky discussed the growing need for access to broadband that arose in 2016. During the pandemic, schools were buying chromebooks, but students had no way to connect to the internet so there was a dire need to find hotspots. In October 2020, a Broadband Task Force was created at NACo to come up with recommendations to address this crisis. In Boone County, Kentucky, they also created a task force, put out a bid for broadband service, selected a provider, and started running fiber lines in March 2020 as the result of a Public-Private Partnership and subsidized gap funding. A contract was signed with a two year installation period and the \$42 million project was finished in March 2022, which provides 1 gig internet for anyone in the county that participates in the program. The program touched over 40,000 homes. A key lesson he offered to the audience – when looking for federal funds for improvements to broadband service, be sure that the fabric mapping is correct so that counties can get an accurate allocation of federal funding.

The panel participants included:

- Denise Winfrey, NACo President
- Matthew Chase, NACo CEO/Executive Director
- Gary Moore, Past NACo President, Burlington, Kentucky
- Larry Johnson, Past NACo President – Dekalb County, Georgia
- Mary Ann Borgeson, County Commissioner, Douglas County Nebraska

Connecting Community – Broadband and Energy Panel

Broadband and energy companies had to quickly adapt to the changing needs of consumers as the result of the pandemic. All panel participants shared the same sentiment that the pandemic allowed their companies to implement innovative ideas rapidly and take measures to ensure that infrastructure, funding, and programs could withstand the demand and capacity of our evolving environment.

The panel participants included:

- Moderator: Hawaii County Councilmember Heather Kimball
- 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 West Region

How has the pandemic changed your company?

- Jim Kelly - Hawaiian Electric:
 - The pandemic was “good” in that it brought better services to people
 - The company was able to make changes within one month to things that would have normally taken years to do

- Steve Golden - Hawaiian Telcom:
 - The pandemic highlighted the digital divide
 - There are four reasons for the digital divide - no access, not affordable, no device, and digital literacy
 - Hawaiian Telcom can help to bridge the divide and give access to those who are in need

- Keri Bailey - Charter Spectrum:
 - Based out of California; operates in 41 states; have a suite of connectivity products; services 479k customers
 - In 2021, they had \$105 million in investments in Hawaii
 - As a result of the pandemic, they connected 450k households to 60 days of free broadband. Additionally, they provided \$85 million forgiveness in balances to customers who were unable to pay
 - They provided workers with pay increases and raised the company minimum wage to \$20/hour
 - They launched a K-12 program with schools and school districts to bridge the digital divide
 - They have a high speed program that’s under \$30 if you qualify

What are you doing to build resilience and sustainability?

- Steve Golden: Hawaiian Telcom
 - Working on products with faster speed
 - Running fiber optics, which is glass smaller than human hair so that things can travel at the speed of light; phasing out copper
 - Investing in the “middle mile” where there’s no fiber optics, installing new poles

- Keri Bailey - Charter Spectrum:
 - Recently completed upgrade with the system; starting speeds on the residential side is at 300 download up to a gig
 - New build “data over cable service” (DOCSUS) technology to increase speed
 - Learned that during the pandemic, there was a high demand and the company was able to stress test the network
 - They are building to exceed the capacity for the future and COVID showed that the network could handle the demand

- Jim Kelly - Hawaiian Electric:
 - Partnered with UH for a grant application
 - Applying for funding that will help with resiliency, like \$190 mil over 5 year for resilience work that cost the average customer less than \$1

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

- Keri Bailey - Charter Spectrum:
 - Hawaii is a unique place to build infrastructure; the interisland cables are important but most of the cables will age out.
 - There are adoption barriers, but spectrum has good relationships with local people and partnerships; lines of communication with those making decisions is open
 - 97% of Hawaii has high-speed/broadband; but what do we do to get to the 3%?
- Jim Kelly - Hawaiian Electric:
 - Barrier: 19 renewable projects, 18 are delayed on all the islands
 - Spent the last decade working on policy to move from fossil fuels to renewable, this is the decade it has to get done
 - Working on community engagement earlier on; communities are more open to projects
 - Federal money can change everything, developers are now eligible for billions in tax credits; this is a game changer for feds to invest. It's really on us if it fails.
 - It's time to execute and get things done
- Steve Golden - Hawaiian Telcom:
 - Regulatory permitting, HRS 46-89, within 61 days broadband installation will get approved
 - On the private side, they need to do things quicker to process
 - Lots of federal dollars coming in; have to spend money in 4-6 years so counties are going to see more permitting requests because if not done in the allotted time, they will lose access to the funds
 - HT owns 3 cable systems, creates additional undersea cable paths

Regenerative Tourism Panel

Panel participants discussed what regenerative tourism can look like.

The panel participants included:

- Moderator: Maui County Councilmember Keani Rawlins
- Kuhao Zane - Creator & Designer, Sig Zane Designs
 - We need to look at the culture as education, not just entertainment
 - Regenerative tourism is having the industry give more than it takes.
- Rebecca Soon - President, Ward Research and Solutions Pacific
- Adrian Kamalii - President and Chief Consultant, Pae Aina Communications
 - How can we be the storyteller? And who better to tell the stories than us?
- Amy Kalili - Partner, Pilina First, LLC
 - Can we have regenerative tourism with that many people?

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
- 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 panel participants included:

- 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.

Five strategic pilot programs were developed 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
 - There is no established rapid transit system in the area for commuters to get from their homes to work. This program provides vehicle acquisition for motivated clients seeking employment who do not have available transportation.
 - The program assists with:
 - Drivers license renewal and DMV fees
 - Job search and securement of employment
 - Appropriate apparel for job interview and employment
 - Gift cards for food, clothing, and gas
- 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

- The family reunification process is a viable housing consideration which facilitates the return home of homeless individuals in Hawaii to their families of origin
- The program includes:
 - Mediation between the homeless client and family member
 - Collaboration with Kona Community Police Department to vet and provide background checks
 - Contract with City Prosecutors Office to remove any encumbrances, where necessary prior to travel
 - Purchase of apparel, food gift cards, backpacks, airline fare and transportation to the airport
- 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.
 - The program involves direct service referrals to medical detoxification and residential treatment facilities on neighboring islands
- 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.
- The program involves intensive case management and continues for as long as it takes to meet the client's milestones and achieve personal goals; they provide support for employment, family reunification, housing, drug and alcohol rehab, and follow-up care

Haukai (Field Trips)

The conference offered the following huakai (field trips):

- Keawewai (Kohala Center) - The Kohala Center (TKC) is an independent, community-based center for research, conservation, and education. Attendees visit Keawewai, a parcel of former ranch land stewarded by TKC in Kawaihae uka that is our testing ground for native dry land forest regeneration trials.
- Kohanaiki Shoreline Park & Cultural Learning Center - Kohanaiki is the heart of the PASH (Public Access Shoreline Hawaii) Supreme Court Legal Victory determining standing for Native Hawaiians and the mandate to protect Cultural Practices and Public Trust Resources in Land Use Decisions. The Kohanaiki Shoreline Park is the result of years of grassroots organizing and public participation in the land use process and represents a true partnership between the County of Hawaii, the Community and the Landowners. The Shoreline Park is a very popular site for fishing, camping, surfing and

gathering; the Cultural Learning Center includes the largest Halau on the island, a 17-foot Navigational Star Compass and an extensive Native Plant Garden.

- Nā Kālai Wa‘a - Nā Kālai Wa‘a is a nonprofit dedicated to maintaining cultural values and customs through teaching and applying non-instrument navigation and open ocean voyaging. Attendees visit the Voyaging Canoe, Makali‘i, and learn how it is sustained and also sustains our community. “He wa‘a he moku, he moku he wa‘a”...the Canoe is an island, the island is a canoe.”
- Ulu Mau Puanui - Ulu Mau Puanui is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed for research and educational purposes to discover and understand how Hawaiians sustained rain-fed (unirrigated) intensive farming for centuries. Attendees will have a condensed introduction and tour of the historical Kohala Dryland Agricultural Field System and its potential for guiding efforts toward food security, responsible resource management, and a sustainable Hawai‘i.
- HuiMAU - HuiMAU is a community-based hui (organization) of ‘ohana from Hāmākua Hikina (East Hāmākua) on Hawai‘i Island, founded in 2011 and recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in 2015. The organization is committed to cultivating kīpuka (safe, regenerative spaces) that foster and regenerate the growth of place-based ancestral knowledge, healthy food- and ecosystems, and strong ‘ohana with the capacity to live and thrive in Hāmākua for generations.
- Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest Ho‘ōla Ka Makana‘ā - Ka‘ūpūlehu Dryland Forest is located at mid level elevation on Hualālai mountain in North Kona. It is home to many rare and endangered plants and is one of the best remnant dryland forests of the less than 5% that remain today. It is also an honored and ancient homeland that has sustained many generations of plant and human life.

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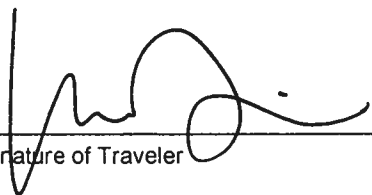
CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 10/6/22

Traveler: MARINA TAGAVILLA
 Event: 2022 HWAC Annual Conference
 Location: 62-100 KANNA'OA DR. HAWAII ISLAND, HI
 Dates: From 9/20/22 To 9/30/22

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel	1 811.90	HOTEL + PARKING \$352.71 + 459.17
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	0 \$811.90	

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

10/6/22

 Date