



WINDWARD AHUPUA'A ALLIANCE

From the Peaks of *Na Ko'olau* to the Outer Reefs

*Community-Based Planning
Sustainable Economic Development
Restoration, Preservation, Protection & Public Access
Educational & Cultural Programs*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

1:30 pm

Monday, March 30, 2009

Conference Room 224

SCR 74/SR 45

REQUESTING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

TO HOST A UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN HAWAII

STRONGLY SUPPORT

I'm Shannon Wood speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua'a Alliance* in strong support of **SCR 74/SR 45** which helps set in motion the possibility that Hawai'i could host a **UN Climate Change Conference** in 2010.

For the past three years, *WAA* has been working on climate change policies - including being part of a national advocacy team. Part of my job is to keep up with what's happening all around the world with respect to the steps involved in negotiating an international agreement on climate change when the **1997 Kyoto Protocol** expires in 2012.

Later this year, there will be three international climate change conferences. In April, leaders from 16 major economies will come to Washington for a preparatory session which will be followed by a summit in Italy in July to work towards a *United Nations* agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions to replace the **Kyoto Protocols**. This agreement will be signed in December at the Copenhagen conference.

Additional climate change conferences will be held in the run-up to 2012. This resolution will request President Barack Obama to offer Hawai'i as a logical place to hold an international scientific & policy conference in 2010. His chief science advisor, John Holden, and Todd Stern, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's climate change envoy, would be involved in the discussions.

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Not only would such a conference showcase what we are doing here in Hawai'i both in terms of academic research along with the major steps we're taking to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions but also it would be an needed boost to our economy which has taken a number of hits over the past 15 months. As the resolution states, we have everything needed to put on an event of this magnitude in one of the world's most beautiful places. We're also going to be directly impacted by climate change policy decisions which will be negotiated over the three years.

When I brought the resolution request to *Senator* Jill Tokuda and *Representative* Chris Lee, I suggested that it be directed to the *President* Obama by way of our Congressional delegation rather than just sending them a copy. If you feel that it would strengthen the resolution to actively include them in the process, I certainly would have no objection. In any case, I've contacted their offices to notify that the resolution is making its way through the legislative process.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that *President* Obama himself has a few ties to Hawai'i!

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak in support of SCR 74/SR 45 REQUESTING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO HOST A UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN HAWAI'I.