

TASK FORCE ON REINVENTING GOVERNMENT
HCR 76 HD1 SD1
OCTOBER 22, 2009

MEETING NOTES

I. INTRODUCTIONS

A. Members Present:

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Reginald Castanares (Plumbers and Fitters, Local 675), John Monahan (Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau), Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Randy Perreira (HGEA), Ed Hubenette (Marriott International), Walter Ozawa (Judiciary)

B. Members Excused:

Don Horner (FHB), Mark Fukunaga (Servco), Laura Thielen (DLNR)

Each member provided a brief introduction.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Background Materials

Sen. Kim provided an overview of the reading materials in the packets. The materials provide a background on State and County government, and some work and research that has already been completed.

B. Selection of Chairperson

Upon the consensus of the members present, Don Horner was selected as the Chairperson of the task force.

C. Determination of operating rules

1. Sen. Kim reviewed general points regarding the task force operating rules: not subject to ch. 92; may choose to follow it; rules for internal task force operations; and general definition of quorum.
2. Rep. Oshiro stated that given the short time-frame and the fact that the task force was only an advisory group that would be providing recommendations to the Legislature; he favored keeping the rules as informal as possible.

3. Mr. Perreira stated that he favored open meetings, and suggested that the members, as a group, would not have any ex parte communications between any two of them.
4. Members generally agreed to operate by informal procedures.

D. Meetings

1. Sen. Kim noted that the report to Legislature was due on December 31, 2009, so the group had a very short time frame in which to work. It was also noted that the task force could ask for an extension, if necessary, in December.
2. Rep. Oshiro stated that within the next two months the group could address the larger themes and structural issues related to reinventing government and not expect to answer the how to questions. One key question that needs to be considered, as pointed out in a Jerry Burris article is: "What are we willing to pay for?"
3. Mr. Monahan noted the overall impact of restructuring on an organization and posed several standard questions :
 - What am I duplicating?
 - Can we do without it?
 - Does government have to provide it?
4. Mr. Hubenette commented that in trying to achieve efficiency in an organization, it tends to impact the morale of the employees. Along with operational efficiency, you need to have the technologies and systems to support the employees from a human resources standpoint.
5. Mr. Ozawa noted that the Judiciary is doing the same in looking at its technologies, programs, and services. He added that there needs to be some consideration of what government is expected to do versus what government is supposed to do. For example, the Judiciary currently has programs that no one else wants to operate, but people expect government (Judiciary) to provide.
6. The group agreed to meet every other week. The meetings for November:
 - a. Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, 2:00 p.m., Room 211
 - b. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, 2:30 p.m., Room 211
7. Sen. Kim requested that if any member is unable to attend, that they send a representative to provide and receive information, in order that the group may continue to move forward in its task.

E. Preliminary Considerations

1. The group discussed general ideas.
2. Sen. Kim noted the proposed legislation that transfers State functions to the counties as examples to look at, and that the counties' concerns may be addressed if they are also provided the associated funding for the functions.
3. Rep. Oshiro suggested that the members look through the Report of the Core Government Functions Advisory Commission, in particular, the conclusions of the Commission on page 6 of the report.
4. Mr. Perreira commented that whatever proposals come out of the group, it may receive opposition from the legislators' colleagues and the counties.
5. Sen. Kim stated that opposition to the group's recommendations can come from anywhere and would not be uncommon. But with respect to the counties, if they are provided the funding for the functions that are transferred, it may be more acceptable to them.
6. Rep. Oshiro stated that the group will just be providing suggestions to the Legislature and will not be the end-all or the be-all with respect to government restructuring. He noted that in the process it would be good to hear from the other members' private sector constituencies.
7. Mr. Monahan commented that much of what is driving the changes in his business sector is the economic meltdown, and that by necessity businesses have to adjust.
8. Rep. Oshiro noted that the group is at a disadvantage in that it does not have the key information from the different sectors and from the administration, and that hopefully, by next meeting, they will have more information on the Governor's budget.

III. NEXT MEETING

Friday, November 6, 2009, 2:00 p.m., Room 211

Sen. Kim suggested that, as a starting point for the next meeting, all Task Force members come up with 5 keys to affect government efficiency.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.