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Travel Report

NACO Legislative Conference

2008 JUN 26 A 8:54 Washington DC -March 3-6, 2008

Submitted by Councilmember Todd K. Apo, Vice Chair



CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

This year the NACO Legislative Conference was held March 3-5, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Each year elected officials representing various counties throughout the nation assemble in Washington to attend workshops and sessions about pertinent government issues. Highlights of conference sessions for this trip are included below.

Sessions Highlights - March 3, 2008:

Affordable House Session.

The affordable housing presentations focused on various programs being implemented to assist with a variety of affordable housing issues. The first speaker described the housing situations in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Durango, Colorado. Both were described as "resort-gateway communities." He described how county land banking during the 80's and 90's allowed government to provide developable lands for affordable housing to private developers and how this public-private partnership had successfully resulted in affordable housing units. To recover some of the county investment, shared appreciation programs were instituted with buyers. Rodney Tucker of the National Realtor's Association described various programs that the Realtors have instituted to assist affordable housing buyers. These have included seminars, individual counseling and financial incentive programs. He also describe a program instituted in Orlando, Florida, where the count has provided forgivable loans to new, first time homebuyer employees as a way to provide a new incentive to recruit county workers. Debra Bassert of the National Home Builder's Association discussed a couple of new reports on affordable housing. The studies have examined efforts to deal with affordable housing issues and their effect. The studies many of the expected barriers, including approval process time and working with aged plans and ordinances. The solutions revolved around incentives such as density bonuses and tax increment financing. The studies have shown interesting result in their successes, including a move towards smaller units and a shift from single family homes to multi-family developments.

Energy Bill Session

Reviewed proposed CDBG type funding program for energy and alternative energy proposals. Seeking \$2 billion per year for 5 years.

General Session

Pat Buchanan discussed the presidential race, focusing on Obama v. Clinton and the potential match ups with McCain. The session was both informative and entertaining.

Along with county council members from the other counties, we met with Scott Marlin whose company is working on a new waste to energy facility. They are hoping to have a initial pilot project in Massachusetts. They admitted that they are early in their development process and that initially, there are only looking to accept construction and demolition materials. However, their technology, which includes a high temperature "bath" system would be able to work with MSW. We shared our general solid waste issues, but with their project, discussed the issues surrounding the C&D landfill in Nanakuli – considering what relief their technology may be able to provide to this landfill. They are going to contact my office to receive further details on the C&D landfill and look at its potential.

We met with Tom Boggs and Aubrey Rothrock of Patton Boggs, LLP. The firm does lobbying work for OHA and the Campbell Company. They have worked on various transit projects and were able to share with us their view of the funding prospects and possibilities for our project. As they understood our project and the Congressional landscape, they believed that we were in a good position for federal funding. We made them aware of our project status so that they would be able to speak of it in the event they were asked about it in their other efforts.

Congressional Visits – Tuesday and Wednesday, March 4-5, 2008.

Along with the entire statewide delegation, we met separately with Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Congressman Abercrombie and Congresswoman Hirono. Each county shared their key issue with the Hawaii team. We focused on asking for continued federal assistance on base infrastructure matters. This ranged from the continuing issue with the EPA on wastewater treatment, transit funding, and affordable housing issues. We expressed the importance of CDBG and HOME funding for the housing projects.

Federal Transportation Administration – Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Met with Ron Fisher the team leader for the Honolulu Project. Discussed the Federal reauthorization bill, proposing \$1.6 billion in new starts money. We discussed the status of the Honolulu project and the forecasted timeline. He confirmed that our schedule remains ambitious, but possible and believes that what actions are ongoing for the project are in line with keeping pace. He noted that all projects seeking new starts money are on an ambitious timeline. We discussed the challenges of getting into the federal funding pipeline and that once we are in the pipeline, there is less competition for the moneys. He noted that upon review of our ridership projections, Honolulu's number are very good.

Meeting with Senator Chris Dodd, Connecticut – Thursday, March 6, 2008

I was able to have a one-on-one meeting with Senator Dodd, who chairs the Senate Banking and Urban Affairs committee. The transit appropriation bill will go through his committee. He expressed his great relation with both Senator Inouye and Akaka and said he would keep his eye on our project and would allow Senator Akaka, who is a ranking member of the committee to assist in the effort.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: June 23, 2008

Traveler: TODD APO

Event: 2008 NACO Legislative Conference

Location: Washington, D.C.

Dates: From March 1, 2008 To March 5, 2008

Description	Amount	Notes
1. Registration Fee	465.00	
2. Airfare	710.84	
3. Hotel	784.34	Rate: No. of Billable Days:
4. Meals	66.03	
5. Ground Transportation	93.75	
6. Tips	4.25	
7. Other	223.28	extra night - see explanation
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,347.49	
		TOTAL TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT: \$2,347.49

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

6/23/08
Date