



# CITY COUNCIL

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## Memorandum

Date: July 21, 2014  
To: Council Administration  
From: Cliff Kaneshiro, <sup>Ch</sup>Legislative Aide to Councilmember Ann H. Kobayashi  
Subject: Trip to the City of New Orleans to attend the 2014 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2014 Annual Conference and Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana. Throughout the conference, I was able to attend General Sessions and Educational Sessions Blocks which featured exceptional speakers like Louisiana's U.S. Senator David Vitter and motivational speaker Chef Jeff Henderson.

This year, the Annual Conference provided county officials with a great opportunity to vote on NACo's policies related to federal legislation and regulation; elect officers; network with colleagues; learn about innovative county programs; find out about issues impacting counties across the country; and view products and services from participating companies and exhibitors.

Attached are briefings and findings of my travel to New Orleans, Louisiana to attend the 2014 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

### **Highlights from the General Sessions**

At one General Session, U.S. Senator David Vitter spoke about improvements in surface infrastructure in U. S. cities. Senator Vitter placed emphasis on establishing certainty through a six year bill and a long-term infrastructure plan. Senator Vitter added that it is vital for our counties to expand upon enduring projects aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens and the creation of long-standing jobs. Senator Vitter further stated that the implementation of a streamlined approval process as well as an accelerated review process was essential for the success of the long-term bill. Senator Vitter concluded with the notion of reestablishing confidence in the Highway Trust Fund by focusing on core highway programs that would encourage the Finance Committee to provide the required funding.

At another General Session, motivational speaker Chef Jeff Henderson described his journey from being a convicted felon to his current celebrity status, and provided insight as to how county leaders can produce creative solutions to address common issues in their cities. Chef Henderson highlighted the criminal element, education and health and welfare as important factors that influence people in our cities. Chef Henderson believes that if you can change peoples' thinking, you can change their behavior. Therefore, by providing people with a vision and a purpose, they will be able to change their thinking as well as their behavior. Chef Henderson concluded by saying, "If you can see it, you can be it."

### **Highlights from Educational Session Blocks**

During an Educational Session Block, Department of Transportation (DOT) Lobbyist, David Cole and John Diodati, former Chairman of the Morro Bay Wastewater Treatment Commission in San Luis Obispo, California, spoke on the importance of public engagement for successful county infrastructure projects.

Mr. Cole emphasized the importance of communication to facilitate public buy-in which is vital to getting more funding and getting things done. Cole added that an internal and external focus is important for knowing your people and creating a culture of teamwork, and to create new partnerships especially regarding economic development. The use of a multi-faceted communications campaign and creating co-ownership with the public and media was discussed especially with higher risk projects.

John Diodati presented a 40 year timeline of the Los Osos Wastewater Project that was under his supervision, which showed how the project ran into many challenges mostly due to poor public engagement. After permit appeals, delays and work stoppages, Diodati realized the need for community input to discuss the issues to make it a community driven project. Diodati concluded by saying with public engagement, the project received eighty percent approval from the public, improved confidence by lenders and the flexibility to make changes in the project.

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: July 21, 2014

Traveler: Cliff Kaneshiro

Event: NACo 2014 Annual Conference & Exposition

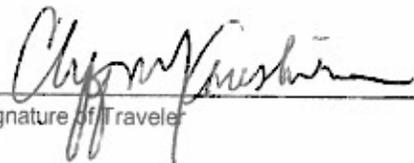
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Dates: From July 11, 2014

To July 15, 2014

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	* 515.00	* Payable to Ann Kobayashi
2. Airfare	*1318.90	* Payable to Ann Kobayashi
3. Hotel	921.27	
4. Meals	** 74.58	**\$15 Payable to Ann Kobayashi for Awards Luncheon
5. Ground Transportation	** 43.25	** \$36 Payable to Ann Kobayashi for Shuttle
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2873	

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

  
Date