



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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June 16, 2017

TO: COUNCIL CHAIR RON MENOR  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER JOEY MANAHAN

SUBJECT: Travel Report on Travel to Washington, D.C. for "Hawaii on the Hill"



For your information, attached is a travel report summarizing my travel participation in "Hawaii on the Hill" in Washington, D.C. during the dates June 10-15, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the report, you may call me at extension 85007 or email [jmanahan@honolulu.gov](mailto:jmanahan@honolulu.gov).

Thank you for your consideration.

## Travel Report – June 10-15, 2017

### Washington, D.C. – Hawaii on the Hill 2017

#### Hawaii on the Hill

Hawaii on the Hill is a part of a tradition on Capitol Hill that allows for states to host events to showcase each respective state's pride. A part of the event includes sharing Hawaii's food, culture, and industries with Congressional leaders and other policymakers.

During this annual event, more than 50 Hawaii companies are represented, more than 300 boxes of Hawaii goods are shipped from the Aloha State to Capitol Hill, more than 100 participants travel from Hawaii to Washington, D.C., and approximately 1,500 Congressional members and staff members, state and agency representatives are in attendance.

Hawaii on the Hill itinerary included a Business Development dinner on Sunday, June 11, a Leadership dinner on Monday, June 12, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce/National Association of Manufacturers Briefing and Welcome Reception on Tuesday, June 13, and on Wednesday, June 14, the Policy Summit, and Taste of Hawaii exhibition.

Overall, this unique opportunity for businesses, local policymakers, and organizations plays an important role as it showcases the variety of business and entrepreneurial activities that we have in Hawaii to the current administration. Likewise, it is also important for businesses, local policymakers, and organizations to be aware of what is going on in our nation's capital. Allowing for networking and establishing relationships, will also help administrative agencies recognize the unique challenges that Hawaii's businesses often face.

#### Meetings

Along with my participation in the events and summit for Hawaii on the Hill, I had the opportunity to meet with key leaders in Washington, D.C. regarding key issues facing the City and County of Honolulu. I arrived prior to the Hawaii on the Hill so that I was able to highlight to our congressional delegates and federal officials the issues the City and County of Honolulu is facing along with Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

On Monday, June 12, 2017, I had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Matthew Doherty, along with Mayor Kirk Caldwell. During my meeting with Executive Director Doherty, I discussed the revolving door issue at our prison and correctional facilities that involves homeless individuals. I also spoke at great lengths about how mental illnesses and other issues homeless individuals face have a lack of core services to help address the issues. I also suggested during my meeting that if the federal government wants to focus on shelters that they have to really invest in it. Executive Director Doherty and I also brought about solutions through best practices for the following areas to tackle homelessness: federal work shelters, wet shelters, permanent supportive housing, safety nets, how to deal with drug addiction, point-of-entry coordination, and law enforcement, as well as discussing how to better equip emergency rooms so that directing or diverting concerns that are brought to them can be better handled.

After the morning meeting with Executive Director Doherty, Mayor Caldwell and I also met with Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa and her chief-of-staff, former Department of Transportation Services Director Michael Formby. In the meeting with Congresswoman Hanabusa, Mayor Caldwell and I discussed the rail financial plan and timing of the State Legislature's special session. We discussed the difficulty of using property taxes as being part of rail construction's financial perspective as well as a political one. We also reaffirmed our commitment to the full funding grant agreement (FFGA) and the minimum operable segment (MOS) as well as our partnership with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

### Business Development and Leadership Dinners

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, a Business Development dinner was held to finalize logistics for Hawaii on the Hill. The dinner was a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii leadership team, and elected officials, along with myself, who were on hand to determine the best practices to: receive products for the exhibit, storage of the products, as well as the transportation of the products. It was particularly interesting to see how the event is growing as well as learning from their past experiences to continually make the Hawaii on the Hill event better for lawmakers, exhibitors, as well as participants.

On Monday, June 12, 2017, after my day of meetings (referenced above under subsection "Meetings"), there was a Leadership Dinner that was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and Senator Mazie Hirono. This dinner was particularly special because it included almost all of the exhibitors for Hawaii on the Hill as well as local lawmakers, including Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Senate President Ronald Kouchi, and myself. The event allowed for all attendees to regroup and hone in on the goals of the next two days. What was special about this event was that I got to meet exhibitors that either reside or operate their businesses within Council District 7 and I got to speak with them before the hustle and bustle of the events began to see what they have to go through to participate in the annual Hawaii on the Hill event.

### Policy Summit

Hawaii on the Hill had its fourth Policy Summit on Wednesday, June 14. The Policy Summit is an opportunity for participants to get an inside perspective from the policymakers in Washington, D.C. on a variety of issues important to Hawaii and across the country.

This year there was a strong group of national policy experts who discussed a range of issues, including: defense policy, ensuring sustainability through energy and food security, future of healthcare, state of tourism in Hawaii, and the judiciary.

The agenda for the policy summit was packed with information and topics, but, were discussed in a concise and thorough manner.

#### Policy Summit Agenda:

- 10:00a – 10:10a – Welcome and Opening Remarks by Senator Mazie Hirono, Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii President Sherry Menor-McNamara, and Representative Tulsi Gabbard

- 10:10a – 10:20a – Defense Policy talk by Senator Jack Reed (D-Rhode Island)
- 10:20a – 10:40a – Panel Discussion on Sustainability through Energy and Food Security by Director and Senior Fellow of the Energy and National Security Program, Sarah Ladislav, and the Director of the Global Food Security Project, Kimberly Flowers
- 10:40a – 11:00a – Future of Health Care talk by Chris Jennings, Former Deputy Assistant to President Barack Obama for Health Policy and Coordinator for Health Reform
- 11:00a – 11:10a – Hawaii-Alaska Special Relationship talk by Senator Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska)
- 11:10a – 11:20a – Break
- 11:20a – 11:30a – State of Tourism in Hawaii talk by Director of Public Affairs Mike Fullerton from Brand USA
- 11:30a – 11:45a – Judiciary Update by Michele Jawando, Vice President of Legal Progress from the Center for American Progress
- 11:45a – 12:00p – Talk by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York)
- 12:00p – Policy Summit Conclusion

### *Congressional Outlook on Energy Security Policy*

In the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Hirono sponsored several energy security related bills that were ultimately included in S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act. One of these bills was the Next Generation Electric Systems Act, S. 1207, to establish a program through the Department of Energy to provide grants to public-private partnerships for projects to improve the performance and security of the electric grid.

While S. 2012 passed the Senate on an 85-12 vote in April 2016, House and Senate conferees were unable to resolve differences between the energy bills passed by both chambers.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) continue discussions with their House counterparts to determine if a path exists for reconsidering comprehensive energy legislation this Congress. There are outstanding issues related to renewable energy policy that warrant congressional attention, including Investment Tax Credits for non-solar renewable energy technologies which are scheduled to expire at the end of 2016.

President Donald Trump's budget proposes large cuts to DOE's energy programs. For example, the Office of Science's budget would be reduced by 17 percent, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would be cut by 70 percent, and the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability would be cut by 48 percent. President Trump's budget also calls for eliminating the State Energy Program, which has provided Hawaii with technical assistance as it seeks to meet its goal of 100% renewable energy generation by 2045.

President Trump's recent decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement has brought great uncertainty to the energy security policy. Since the President's decision, cities, states, and many of the country's largest businesses have stated their commitment to adhere to the Paris Climate Agreement.

### *Congressional Outlook on Health Care Policy*

In early May, the House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The Senate Parliamentarian ruled last week that House-passed legislation complies with the Senates rules for Budget Reconciliation. The bill is now on the Senate Legislative Calendar. Even though Senate Republicans can bring AHCA to the floor under fast-track procedures, their caucus has indicated they will continue to work on their own version of ACA repeal. Once the Senate passes its version, the bill will have to return to the House for passage before being sent to President Trump.

At this time, there are no details about the Senate Republican plan: a Hatch-led group of thirteen male senators are working on language. Once they release details, their language will be subject to review by the Senate Parliamentarian and CBO to ensure they meet the requirements to use fast-track procedures.

### *Congressional Travel and Tourism Policy Outlook*

Action this year has been dominated by executive orders issued by President Trump related to the so-called travel bans and other proposals to increase vetting of visa applicants. However, movement continues at Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to expand the preclearance program to Japan and other locations.

President Trump's budget proposal seeks to cut a number of travel programs like Essential Air Service and the federal contribution to Brand USA. Unlike other programs on the chopping block in the Trump budget, the funding for Brand USA is mandatory in law through 2020 and has strong bipartisan support. Senator Hirono cosponsored the 2014 bill extending the funding. The Visa Waiver Program has not seen the kinds of restrictions proposed for the visa process but travel stakeholders remain cautious.

### *Congressional Outlook on Judiciary Issues*

Since the start of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senate Judiciary Committee has focused on several high-profile hearings. The Committee held hearings on the nomination of Jeff Sessions for Attorney General and the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch as Associate Justice on the Supreme Court. The Committee also held an oversight hearing with former FBI director James Comey. Subsequent to the firing of James Comey and the appointment of Special Counsel Mueller, the Committee is now exploring ways to exercise oversight of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election.

In the weeks ahead, the Committee will be hearing on the nomination of Christopher Wray to be the Director of the FBI, as well as a number of judicial nominees as there are over 100 vacancies in the country, including a district court seat in Hawaii.

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

# CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 6/16/2017

Traveler: Joey Manahan

Event: <sup>2017</sup> Hawaii on the Hill

Location: Washington, D.C.

Dates: From <sup>13</sup> 6/10/2017

To <sup>14</sup> 6/15/2017

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare	<del>1604.50</del>	<del>Roundtrip airfare</del>
3. Hotel	1506.84	
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation	<del>109.34</del> <sup>35</sup> 96.12	
6. Tips	13.22	
7. Other	25.00	Excess baggage/check-in for Jetblue Airways
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	<del>3245.68</del> 1641.18	

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

06/16/2017  
Date