

National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference
Hilton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC
March 3-7, 2012
Trip Report by Breene Harimoto

This was the annual legislative conference of the National Association of Counties (NACo) held in Washington DC. This conference brings together NACo members from across the country to discuss issues and to receive updates on national issues of importance to counties.

In attendance were the following Councilmembers from Hawaii:

Honolulu

- Ikaika Anderson
- Romy Cachola
- Stanley Chang
- Nestor Garcia
- Breene Harimoto

Hawaii County:

- Brittany Smart

Maui County

- Dan Couch
- Riki Hokama
- Joseph Pontanilla
- Michael Victorino
- David Ching, Mayor's Office

Kauai

- Tim Bynam

This was a good conference from which I learned much. In addition to the conference, we had an opportunity to meet with members of our congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. We discussed issues of importance to our counties and updated them on our rail project.

Biggest take-aways from this conference:

- There seems to be universal agreement and concern that the US House of Representatives is in disarray and unable to pass important legislation. The transportation bill, among others, is being held up by this.
- States and counties must do more for themselves as federal transportation funds are not growing. Local governments must look to new revenue streams to fund transportation projects.
- There continues to be strong support for rail in Congress.

- Transportation accounts for 2/3 of all petroleum usage; of this, vehicles consume 80% of this amount with 240 million vehicles on the road.
- Gas tax collections are declining because drivers are driving less and there are more fuel-efficient vehicles on the road. The federal gas tax has not increased in 20 years. We must find other resources to fund transportation projects.
- We must grow the economy and create jobs to get out of our current economic situation; we cannot find our way out by cutting spending. We must build America – our infrastructure (highways, bridges, rail, water systems).
- 80% of healthcare costs are spent on treatment of chronic preventable, controllable diseases. The environment and lifestyles must change.
- For the first time, our children will have shorter life expectancies than ours.
- Employees are more successful if they live in a community that is healthy.
- Keeping people healthy is cheaper than taking care of them when they are sick.
- Parks and open green spaces are very important. One study quantified the dollar benefits for parks and open green spaces. This was valued at \$13.5 million ROI, or a 4:1 investment ratio. For spending \$20 million on parks and open green spaces, there was a \$1 billion return in terms of increased property taxes, reduced healthcare costs as people led more active lifestyles, social benefits of people becoming more connected with each other, etc.

My attendance at this conference was paid from my Council contingency fund. However, I extended my stay in Washington DC by two days (March 8 and 9) on my own with no City funds used. The purpose of those two days was to meet with the Federal Transit Administration and with two professional references of Dan Grabauskas, our new HART CEO, provided to me at my request by Dan Grabauskas. I wanted to personally talk with his references to assure myself that he was a good choice for Honolulu. As Transportation Committee Chairman, this was important to me. Both people provided glowing references for Dan. In addition, an unsolicited comment from Peter Rogoff, FTA Administrator, also confirmed that HART made a good selection for their CEO.

The following are my notes from the sessions I attended. Key items are in bold print.

Sunday, March 4, 2012

9:00am – 12:00pm Transportation Committee Steering Committee Meeting

Emil Frank, Visiting Scholar, Bipartisan Policy Center

- Crossing party lines to develop solutions.
- Transportation bill
 - Expires March 31
 - Several extensions of 6 months; typically 6 years
 - If not extended, counties must begin shutting down projects
- MAP21 Senate bill
 - Bipartisan effort, unanimous committee support for highways portion
 - Consolidating highways projects
 - Optimistic Senate will pass it
 - Hundreds of amendments, most not germane
- House
 - No bipartisan effort; Republicans did own bill; vote along party lines
 - 5-year bill withdrawn
 - Speaker will not seek Democratic votes
 - Cannot see House moving even short-term extension
 - Gas tax held up, at risk
 - Failure of House finally hit transportation
 - House is a “mess”
- **No federal gas tax increase in 20 years**
- **Feds will do less with transportation funding pie not growing**
- **At best, Feds will continue at current funding levels**
 - **States and counties must do more on own**
 - ✓ Leverage scarce resources
 - ✓ Create new revenue streams – tolls, impact fees, etc.
 - ✓ Innovation, flexibility at local level
 - All levels need reforms
 - ✓ Procurement, contracting, etc.
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO’s)
 - TIPS, STIPS – list of projects
 - Feds must be permissive in how locals use funds
 - 20 states still don’t allow design/build
 - ✓ Example of procurement restrictions
- **Congress views on rail**
 - **“Lots of support” for rail despite efforts to eliminate funding for rail**
 - **Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Mica is a great supporter of transit**
 - **Inner city rail is different from high-speed rail**
 - **Reliability and frequency is key; not high speed**

- **Feds should be program level**
 - **Fed funds should be for national goals**
 - **Locals should have broad flexibility to implement**

NOTE: I left this session at 9:00 to attend a breakfast meeting with our Hawaii attendees to support Riki Hokama in his bid for 2nd VP of NACo, and Linda Langstrom, 1st VP of NACo. I returned to this session at 11:20 when the committee began consideration of various resolutions.

Bob Fogel, NACo Senior Legislative Director – Legislative Report

- Aviation bill
 - 23 extensions; political quagmire in Washington
 - NACo victory to pass this major transportation bill
- New on surface transportation bill
 - Talk to Congress; NACo supports amendments
 - Senate
 - ✓ Sen. Casey, Blunt – restore funding for bridge program; bipartisan effort
 - ✓ Urgent vote next week; talk to your members of Congress
 - ✓ 200+ amendments filed; Casey/Blunt amendment not accepted
 - Gives Sec. of Transportation authority to eliminate small MPO's
 - ✓ About 200 small MPO's may be eliminated
 - ✓ Amendment to grandfather in small MPO's
 - Sen. Begich (Alaska)
 - ✓ Surface transportation program – part of highways; most flexible
 - ✓ Renamed Transportation Mobility Program
 - ✓ Formula changed
 - 60% local, 37% state
 - House Rules Committee decides which amendments can be introduced
- Smart Vehicle Committee
 - USDOT committed to funding
 - ✓ ASHTO is lead; commissioned study
 - ✓ Recognize local government is important player
 - Connected Vehicles talk to each other and other things
 - National footprint – ID impacts to connected vehicle infrastructure
 - ✓ Signals owned by locals
 - ✓ What does this mean for counties? Who pays?

12:30pm – 2:00pm Essential Technology Subcommittee Meeting

Webster G, Regional Centers of Excellence

- How to get smaller counties to partner with larger counties
- Goal is to get 5-10 Regional Centers to network with smaller counties
- Collaborative – with shared services; pool and share expertise

Phil Bertolini, Deputy County Executive and CIO, Oakland County, MI

- SEMCOG
 - 7 counties in southeast Michigan
 - #1 problem with collaboration is that no one knows what each other has
 - Created application catalog so counties can look in database before considering a new project
- NACo Application Store
 - How to get counties to input data
 - Available to all counties, members and non-members
 - Need all counties to leverage technology
 - Benefits
 - ✓ Secured in secured government controlled system (G2G cloud)
 - ✓ Readily accessible
 - ✓ Not accessible by third parties
 - Will contain applications, service level agreements, scope of work for vendors, MOU's, best practices, etc.
 - Data can be edited only by data owner
 - Will have ad-hoc query capabilities and searchable tags
 - Timeline
 - ✓ Development Feb – June 2012
 - ✓ Pilot group testing June – July 2012
 - ✓ Launch July 2012 at NACo Annual Conference
 - Partners – NACo, G2GCloud.com, Oakgov.com
 - Clearinghouse
 - ✓ Counties own applications & data
 - ✓ Counties can charge for use

Monday, March 5, 2012

9:00am – 10:15am Highways, Bridges, Buses and Airports: When will help arrive?

Leo Bowman, Commissioner, Benton County, WA and Chair, NACo Transportation Steering Committee

Gael Sullivan, Professional Staff, US Senate Aviation Subcommittee

- 23 extensions over 4 years
- No way to run a country; unfortunate
- Bill now done
- Things changed over past 2 years since last election
- Political issues get in the way of good public policy

Joshua Schank, Transportation Policy Director under Sen. Hillary Clinton

- Surface transportation bill
 - When will help arrive? Not anytime soon
 - Funding is not only goal; improved policy may come
- **Old paradigm – increase vehicle gas tax, increase VMT, inefficient gas use**
 - **Need new model**
- **Conservatives used to support infrastructure improvements as long as funds are well-spent**
 - **Most funds go to state DOT's**
 - **Funds focus on national goals; don't know national goals**
- **Congress trying to focus on national goals**
- Gas tax holiday – so wrong; missing key factors
 - Gas price fluctuations
 - No idea of tax dollars; what we're getting for it
- Senate
 - Bipartisan bill passed committee unanimously
 - Bill only for 1½ years
 - National goals
 - ✓ Infrastructure in-ground repairs
 - ✓ Advance economic growth
 - ✓ Safety
 - Want MPO's and DOT's to recognize national goals
 - Provides greater flexibility in how to spend funds
 - More funds allocated by formula
- House
 - Greater flexibility but no accountability
 - House in transition; transportation committee also in transition
 - Bill withdrawn
 - Not in bill
 - ✓ National freight program (in Senate bill)
 - ✓ **Senate pushing multi-modal approach**
 - ✓ **House pushing highways**
 - **Other forms of transportation are alternatives**
 - ✓ House far-right won't spend funds on anything traditional
 - Boener
 - ✓ Needs 90% of Republican caucus to support it
 - ✓ Needs to increase funding on infrastructure but new Republicans cannot support it
 - ✓ Took mass transit out into separate item but new Republicans cannot support it
 - House bill is bad bill but most will take anything at this point
 - **Mica is termed out; will have new Transportation Chair next year**
 - ✓ **House bill will depend upon who is next chairman**

- **Highway trust fund will be broke in 1 year**
 - **House unsure how to pay for pension fund, etc.**
- Aviation trust fund in better shape

10:45am – 12:00pm Creating Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Jobs In Your Community

Highlights:

Valerie Brown, NACo past president and Supervisor, Sonoma County, CA

- \$54M on projects
- Solar on all buildings
- 1.4 megawatt generation
- Recycle water for landscaping
- Farm to fuel project; manure from poultry
- Teach kids to spread the word to parents
- Program in high school to teach them for job market

Donald Gilligan, President, National Association of Energy Service Companies, Washington, DC

- ESPC
 - \$40B projects
 - \$50B savings
 - \$25B infrastructure improvements
- Average public facility wastes 30-35% of energy
- Convert that wasted money into CIP energy improvements
- Measures energy savings
 - Renewable
 - Water metering
 - Street and traffic lighting
 - Building sustainability
- Fresno Plaza Building and Courthouse Square
 - \$13M projects
 - Annual savings \$1.29M
- Pennsylvania City Housing Authority
 - 45 aging units
 - \$25.1M
 - \$3.2M energy savings annually
- Shelby City Alabama Courthouse
 - \$1.3M
- Where is ESPC available? Everywhere

- Public support for ESPC
 - Washington
 - ✓ \$500M bond issue on ballot, voted down
 - ✓ EE in schools
 - ✓ Long history of energy efficiency programs
 - Georgia
 - ✓ \$500M ESPC
 - ✓ EE in state buildings
 - 60% approved; modest history of EE programs
 - ESPC Job Creation
 - ✓ \$1M project = 95 direct jobs
 - What you can do
 - ✓ Executive order
 - Stop waste
 - ESPC before more CIP appropriations
 - ✓ Appoint champion agency
 - Authority and accountability
 - ✓ Target local financing programs
- USDOE technical assistance

Clark Wiedetz, Director, Alternative and Renewable Energy, Siemens Industry, Inc., Norcross, GA

- 83% energy still from fossil fuels
- 8% renewable – 1% solar, 5% geothermal, 7% wind, 34% water, 50% biomass
- Grid parity
 - 10¢ kwh delivery power for solar and wind
 - Key benefits
 - ✓ ↓ dependency on the grid
 - ✓ Stabilize pricing
 - ✓ ↓ greenhouse gas emissions
 - ✓ ↑ access to grants
 - ✓ ↑ jobs
- New Jersey
 - New Governor will improve programs
 - ✓ Stats proved jobs creation
- **7 states consider solid waste to energy as renewable (not HI)**
- Fed tax credits
 - Solar until 2017
 - Wind until December 2012

Henry Kelly, US DOE

- **70% of electricity goes to buildings**
- Trying to revitalize manufacturing in US

- **Transportation uses 2/3 of all petroleum usage**
 - **Vehicles use 80% of this**
 - **More than 240M vehicles on the road**
 - Looking at efficient new vehicles; hybrids
 - ✓ Fuel choice – biomass, electricity, natural gas, etc.
 - Clean Cities Coalitions
 - ✓ EV Community Readiness Awards

1:30pm – 3:30pm Opening General Session

Highlights:

Lenny Eliason, NACo President and Commissioner, Athens County, OH

- Championing health initiatives
- Healthy cities
- Reduce healthcare cost, improve health

Congressman Adrian Smith (Nebraska, 3rd District)

- Large county, bigger than Maine
- More cattle than people
- Chair of Congressional Rural Caucus
- Unsustainable fiscal situation
 - All levels of government cut spending
- Need balanced approach
- 48 critical access hospitals in 3rd district
- Essential air service
- Transportation essential functions
 - Arbitrary to eliminate essential air service
- Postal service
 - Rural needs different from urban needs
- Farm bill
 - Expires this September 30
 - Nutrition title, food stamps
 - Commodities title – payments to producers
- Trade
 - Bipartisan approach
- Tax reform
 - Highest corporate tax rate in world
 - Reduce preferences and loopholes
 - ½ of Americans pay no federal income tax
 - Want fair, balanced system; must simplify
 - Must grow economy; increase in taxes results

- Wind energy tax credit
 - Set to expire this EOY
 - 200 temporary provisions in existing tax code
- Transportation bill
 - Long delayed
 - Transportation is one of the most fundamental functions of government
 - Need to hasten passage of this bill

Congresswoman Kay Grainger, former Mayor of Ft. Worth

- Fed government should be confined; interferes with our lives far beyond what our forefathers envisioned
- What can government do?
 - Keep us safe – military, weather service, etc.
 - Infrastructure – roads, bridges, flood control, etc.
 - ✓ If we can build bridges in Pakistan, we can build bridges in America
- What is spending vs. investment?
- Over-regulation is outrageous
- **4,200 new regulations in this administration**
- House gridlocked – need better way to work together
- **\$2T backlog in roads and bridges**
- Joint Chiefs Chairman – 38 years in military; this is the most dangerous time; don't cut military

Eleanor Clift

- Republicans doing pitifully; Democrats doing better
- Republicans looking hopelessly out of touch; risk becoming irrelevant
- Analysis of Republican primaries – Romney

Tucker Carlson

- More fun to cover Democrats
- Recent history
 - President never lost to another party; only lost to his own party
- Romney will win Republican primary
- Republican conservatives want brokered convention, but will not happen

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

8:30am – 10:15am General Session

Lenny Eliason, NACo President and Commissioner, Athens County, OH

Highlights:

Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL), US Senator

- Internet sales tax – Marketplace Fairness Act
 - Bipartisan effort – 10 senators
 - Illinois has internet sales tax
 - Unfair competition
 - ✓ People go to a store to find something, then buy it cheaper online
 - ✓ \$23B uncollected sales tax in all states
 - ✓ CA - \$23B deficit
 - ✓ NY - \$1.8B uncollected sales tax; 1/5 of deficit
 - ✓ IL - \$5.3B shortfall; cutting education, etc.
 - ✓ OH - \$629B uncollected sales tax
 - ✓ OK - \$500B shortfall
 - ✓ GA - \$800M shortfall
 - ✓ AL - \$359M shortfall
 - Unfair advantage to internet sales
 - Voluntary – up to states
 - ✓ States must take action to do it
 - Small internet sales exemption
 - Amazon endorsed this bill

Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY), US Senator

- Bad news – Feds have no money
- Transportation bill
 - Digging into pension funds for transportation; that's how bad it is
- Opportunity for states to increase revenue
 - Marketplace Fairness Bill

Ray LaHood, US Secretary of Transportation

- Imperative to move ahead with transportation and infrastructure
- \$500B President's transportation budget
- Counties are partners: putting people to work
- FAA bill finally passed after 23 extensions
- Gas tax
 - Still being collected
 - Must have extension; bill expires this EOM
 - House has no bill; pulled; Speaker trying to figure it out

- Built Interstate System
- **Diminished; drivers drive less; more fuel efficient vehicles**
- **Gas tax is deficient**
 - ✓ **Must find other resources**
 - ✓ **No will to raise gas tax by President or Congress**
- Tiger grants directly to USDOT; not through state DOT's
- High speed rail
 - States that are committed with a good plan are beneficiaries; vision; people committed
 - Feds won't impose will on other states

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives

- **Must grow to get out of economic situation; create jobs**
 - **Cannot cut our way out**
- **Must make it in America**
- **Build America – infrastructure – highways, bridges, rail, water systems**

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

- Making, creating, innovating economy
- 42 billion trade surplus in America
- Bio waste expansion
 - Biofuels keep fuel costs down
 - Bio-based products increases initiatives to promote
 - ✓ Most made in USA
 - ✓ USDA label
- Food secure
 - No other country in the world can feed its own people
 - China imports 40% of its soy beans
 - USA imports less than 10% of its food, far less than other countries
- 40% of military members come from rural America (farms, ranches, etc.)
- Value system learned on farms
 - Can't keep taking from land; must give back
 - Balance
 - Why they respond to call of their country
- Hope for the future from rural America

10:45am – 12:00pm Demonstrating the Positive Return on Investment in County Health Initiatives

Highlights:

Lenny Eliason, NACo President, President, Health Care Consortium of Ohio, and Commissioner, Athens County, OH

- **80% of healthcare costs spent on treatment of chronic preventable, controllable diseases**
- **Lifestyles must change**
- USDA food payment for 50% fruits & vegetables, 25% grains, 25% proteins
- Forks over Knives is a good book
- China study – every province
 - Poor people – traditional diet; low incidence of disease
 - Wealthy people – western diet; high incidence of disease
- **US is wealthiest nation; has 5th longest life expectancy**
 - **For first time, our children will have life expectancies less than ours**
- Examples of initiatives
 - Live Healthy Apalachia
 - Let's Move America (Michelle Obama)
- Key is to limit intake
- **Healthy employees are more productive**

Sue Polis, Outreach Manager, Trust for America's Health, Washington, DC

- What they do
 - Advocacy inside beltway
 - Reports
 - Awareness
 - Policy development
 - ✓ Workplace wellness
- Good news – widespread support; bipartisan, regional
- Messaging prevention
 - Personal responsibility
 - ✓ Local initiatives help
 - Prevention is popular
 - ✓ People believe prevention saves money
 - Future, kids
 - ✓ Living shorter lives
 - ✓ Comes together as a community
- ROI (Prevention for Healthier America report)
 - Strategic investment
 - ✓ For every \$1 invested in prevention, \$5.60 is saved
 - Demonstrating that prevention bends the obesity cost curve

- ✓ A 5% decrease in obesity will save \$30 billion in 5 years
- Healthier America yields a healthier economy
 - Worker productivity increases
- Proven successes by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Urban Institute
- Message
 - Create impression or thought
 - ✓ Know audience
 - ✓ Make it relevant
 - Effective
 - ✓ Credibility
 - ✓ Understand barriers
 - ✓ Link to benefits – what’s in it for me
- Business invests in employees
- **Compelling data**
 - **More than a quarter of health care costs attributed to controllable chronic conditions**
- **Employees are more successful if they live in a community that is healthy**
- **Keeping people healthy is cheaper than taking care of them when they are sick**

Michael Kirschman, Director, Nature Preserves and Natural Resources Division,
Mecklenburg County, NC

- Experiences of 6 towns in NC
- What are public open space and parks worth?
 - Can't be valued only by users
- Environmental
 - Air Quality
 - ✓ Charlotte has 6th worst air quality in US
 - ✓ \$1.30/tree/year
 - ✓ \$2.2 million air quality value
 - Water Quality
 - ✓ Not paving over open lands
 - ✓ Storm water benefit \$1 billion/year
 - New York state
 - ✓ \$10 billion if they have to treat water
 - ✓ \$1 billion/year to buy land to protect water
 - 13 years, 110,000 acres
 - ✓ Wildlife/habitat benefits \$900,000
- Economic
 - Tax benefits
 - ✓ Property values 20% greater with passive parks nearby
- Tourism
 - \$8 million/year

- Social
 - Health benefits
 - ✓ Less stress
 - ✓ More productive
 - ✓ Less depression and anxiety when near green spaces
 - ✓ Obesity
 - 40% of females graduating from high school are obese
 - People living near parks are less obese
 - ✓ Park access is key
 - No benefit if recreation programs are not accessible
 - ✓ Most effective to build trails and parks
 - Hiking in woods is more effective treatment for ADHD than drugs
 - Under 65 years old moderately active adults saved \$81 million in healthcare costs
- County cohesion
 - Safer, know neighbors better, decreased crime rates
 - Social connectiveness is greater predictiveness of success and health
- Total \$13.5 million ROI
 - 4:1 investment ratio
 - For every \$1 invested in parks and open spaces, \$4 is returned
 - For \$20 million budget, \$1 billion is returned

12:15pm – 2:30pm Attendee Luncheon

A troupe of current and former Congressional staffers, the Cappitol Steps, performed a humorous look at serious issues.

2:45pm – 4:00pm Staying Ahead of Changes in Federal Economic Development Policies

Highlights:

Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, US Department of Agriculture

- \$1.2 billion grants to communities
- Hope for \$2 billion next year

Representative of Economic Development Administration, Washington, DC

- Grant decisions made at regional offices
- New models and partnerships for future
 - Public-private partnerships with universities, colleges, etc.
 - Regional collaboration

- Not more money; smarter money; best leverage, ROI
- No longer only design and knowledge good enough
- Economic development is sole mission

Mathew Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations, Washington, DC

- Almost all of the 30-40 people attending this session are from rural communities; only 4 or 5 from metro areas
- Regional partnerships
- Local government drove economic development (infrastructure)
 - In rural areas, this is still true
 - In urban areas, this is not true
- Economic development
 - Infrastructure
 - Workforce training
 - Quality of place
- Knowledge workers need all of the above
- Access to capital – capital is out there
- After 2012 elections, lame duck Congress has 3 big tasks
 - Extension of Bush tax breaks
 - 1/1/13 cut of \$212 billion of federal programs
 - ✓ \$109 billion /year cut, total \$3.4 trillion
 - ✓ Community and development programs will be cut
 - ✓ 9% across the board cut (outside of food stamps and nutrition)
 - If no cuts to defense, 30% across the board cut on top of past 2 years cuts
 - ✓ CDBG would be cut 26%
 - ✓ CDBG already cut from \$4 billion to \$3 billion over last 2 years
 - ✓ May stop funding roads, bridges, etc.; will not be investing in future
- Eliminating discretionary funds
 - Earmarks already gone
 - 95% of money to state DOT's
 - Counties must build strong relationships with state DOT's
- 1,400 counties out of 3,000 had at least one disaster declaration
- If always rebuilding from disasters, impossible to do economic development

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Councilmembers from Honolulu, Maui, Big Island, and Kauai visited with our Congressional delegation. We met with each Senator and Representative individually to discuss key concerns of our counties. Our Honolulu delegation also updated them on the status of our rail project.

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Meeting with:

Peter Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration and
Lucy Garliauskas, Associate Administrator for Planning and Environment, FTA

We had a good discussion about our rail project. Some of the items discussed:

- Status of our rail project
- Dan Grabauskas, our new HART CEO
 - Mr. Rogoff stated that he was pleased that we hired a nationally recognized transit expert with a wealth of experience
 - Ms. Garliauskas, who oversees New Starts programs, worked with Mr. Grabauskas in Massachusetts. She provided a glowing reference for Mr. Grabauskas. One specific comment she made was that he was proactive in resolving issues, he had excellent people and public relations skills, and everyone who worked in his organization liked him.
- Contingency
- New requirement for additional contingency and Honolulu's decision to satisfy this requirement with commercial paper / line of credit
 - Mr. Rogoff reiterated that Honolulu's financial plan is sound, and the new requirement applies to all projects, not only to Honolulu. He stated that projects cannot move forward without satisfying this new requirement.
- Timing
 - Mr. Rogoff stated that Honolulu is still on track to receive our FFGA by the end of this year. The urgency to move this forward is that after the November elections, things in Washington tend to not get done during the lame duck period.
- Political issues
 - Mr. Rogoff stated that the FTA would never interfere with a local election and would never terminate or pull funding for a local project. However, he reiterated their requirement for "strong local support".

Friday, March 9, 2012

Jay McCarthy, Senior Vice President Federal Government Relations at Liberty Square Group, and former Senior Advisor at Office of Senator Paul G. Kirk, Jr., Senior Advisor at Office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Mr. McCarthy provided a positive reference for Mr. Grabauskas. They worked closely with each other for many years while Mr. McCarthy worked for Sen. Edward Kennedy. Mr. McCarthy had many good things to say about Mr. Grabauskas. He had nothing negative to say and had no concerns about Mr. Grabauskas.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 4/4/12

Traveler: Breene Harimoto

Event: 2012 NACo Legislative Conference

Location: Washington, D.C.

Dates: From March 3, 2012

To March 7, 2012

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	490.00	Online receipt attached
2. Airfare	1381.34	Online receipt & boarding passes attached
3. Hotel	749.05	Online receipt attached \$149.81 a day
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation	103.00	Receipts attached
6. Tips		
7. Other	11.35	Receipt attached
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2734.74	

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.

Breene Harimoto
Signature of Traveler

4/4/12
Date