



### Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2011 & Green Growth: Hawaii Briefing with US Ambassador Tong

Halekulani Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii – August 9, 2011

"Hawaii has the potential to be a pioneer and advocate for green growth," said U.S. Ambassador Kurt Tong, Senior Official to APEC, at the APEC 2011 and Green Growth Hawaii Briefing in Honolulu on August 9, 2011.

The briefing was attended by Hawaii leaders from government, business and civil society in key positions to help Hawaii build a green economy for the future. Organized by the Hawaii Green Growth Working Group and the Global Island Partnership, the briefing provided an opportunity to learn about U.S. priorities to promote green growth with APEC partners and to explore opportunities for Hawaii to engage in this national and international agenda.



**Ambassador Kurt Tong, Senior Official for APEC, US State Department, addresses Hawaii leaders at the APEC 2011 & Green Growth Briefing**

Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz presented a compelling overview of the state's green growth achievements and leadership potential, including successful public-private partnerships, an ambitious goal of 70% clean energy by 2030, and a track record for long-range planning, integrated policies, natural resource management and recognizing carrying capacity limits.

Ambassador Tong stated that the Hawaii "island economy and island state has a lot to offer," and cited "real opportunities for Hawaii to be an example for the U.S. and other APEC economies." Ambassador Tong reviewed a range of U.S. green initiatives being advanced with APEC, from next-generation trade agreements to low emission development strategies.

Led by Hawaii Department of Agriculture Chair Russell Kokubun, spokespeople from the Hawaii Green Growth Working Group described successful multi-sector partnerships and programs that provide a solid foundation for green growth in the islands and opportunities for future collaboration.

- \* Chair Russell Kokubun, introduced the *Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan*, briefing participants on the importance of broad community engagement and an integrated strategy for achieving the state's goals for local food security, renewable energy, and natural resource management.
- \* Ulalia Woodside, Regional Assets Manager for Kamehameha Schools, opened the meeting with a traditional chant describing the interdependence of water, land, sea, people and all life. Representing the state's largest private landowner, she later outlined the economic and cultural importance of Kamehameha Schools' investments in active land stewardship and their strong support for Hawaii's statewide watershed partnerships, which jointly manage 2.2 million acres and virtually all of the State's fresh water supply.
- \* Mark Fox, The Nature Conservancy's External Affairs Director, introduced the effective network of statewide partnerships for invasive species management and prevention. All sectors in Hawaii recognize and work together to address the high impact of invasive species on the state's economy and people. Hawaii's experience could help advance regional biosecurity and clean trade.

- Public Utilities Commission Chair Hermina Morita outlined the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative's goal to achieve 70% clean energy by 2030. "Despite being rich in renewable resources, there is not one single action, one single person, or one single agency or business that can achieve Hawaii's clean energy future," she explained. "To achieve energy and food security for Hawai'i... the break through strategies ... can only come from cross-sector collaboration and community support."



Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz highlights the New Day Hawai'i plan and the state's green growth achievements and leadership potential

- Dean Okimoto, President and Owner of Nalo Farms and recognized agriculture leader, shared the story of the special partnership between Hawai'i chefs and farmers that created Hawai'i Regional Cuisine and built the foundation for a new tourism niche and modern diversified agriculture in the state.

- Aulani Wilhelm, NOAA Superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, described the lead role of the US and Hawai'i in launching *Big Ocean: A Network of the World's Largest Marine Managed Areas*, filling a new global role as the learning leader in very large-scale marine conservation. Together, the five founding Big Ocean protected areas contain over 50 percent of the total ocean area under management and protection in the world.

- Chipper Wichman, National Tropical Botanical Garden Executive Director, ably emceed the briefing and described Hawaii's strong desire to work with federal partners and others in the region to advance the green growth agenda. "Hawai'i can be a learning site," he said, "what we learn here can be shared, adapted and scaled up by others."

The **Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative** is a group of Hawai'i leaders working together across government, business, academia and civil society to achieve targets in energy, food and eco(system) security for a sustainable, resilient and prosperous future in the Hawaiian islands. In support of the *Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan* and *New Day Hawai'i*, these leaders are working to achieve ambitious targets for Hawai'i by 2030:

- 70% **clean energy** (40% from renewable resources, 30% from conservation)
- double **local food** production (to 20-30% of food consumed locally)
- reverse the trend of **natural resource** loss mauka to makai (from the mountains to the sea) (more water; more reef fish; more healthy forests, streams & coastlines; no new extinctions of Hawaiian species)
- increase local **green jobs and education** to implement these targets

**For more information on Hawaii Green Growth and the briefing, please visit our blog on Malama Hawaii's website: <http://malamahawaii.org/hawaiigreengrowth>**

**The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)** promotes action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments, facilitating collaboration and sharing solutions. The Partnership is recognized as a best practice partnership by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and as an implementation mechanism for advancing conservation of island biodiversity by the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity. For more information on GLISPA, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml>

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