

## Welcoming Remarks

In 1962, Thomas Kuhn wrote The Structure of Scientific Revolution and popularized the concept of a "paradigm shift." Kuhn argued that scientific advancement is not evolutionary, but rather a "series of peaceful interludes punctuated by intellectually violent revolutions," and in those revolutions "one conceptual world view is replaced by another." In other words, a paradigm shift is a change from one way of thinking to another. It's a transformation that does not happen, but rather is driven by agents of change.

I welcome you today as those agents of change in Hawaii, ready to shift and advance the way we view and manage our natural resources. This change is being promoted by many of us because we are not blind to the signs that foretell destruction of our natural resources and our native culture unless something is done now. Our shift into the future is a step back to retrieve and revive the native culture of Hawaii that was supplanted by Western culture. It is a long overdue step to recognize the value of the culture that existed for millennia in these islands and which is embodied in the cultural practitioners who are gathered with us today. This valuable inheritance is available for all of us if we are willing to accept it.

Many of us have been working within the confines of our individual organizations to materialize this needed change from business as usual, which we all know has not and is not working.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has spent the past five years working on the implementation of traditional and cultural practices into government policy. They have held approximately 40 community meetings statewide in this effort.

The Office of Planning has prepared a draft Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) that calls for the establishment of moku councils that will provide for the wise use of Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical manner and ensure comprehensive planning and coordination that will enhance the quality of life of Hawaii's people.

The Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force, chaired by Senator Russell Kokubun, was established in 2005 to address and guide Hawaii's long-term sustainable future. The process seeks input from businesses, government, and private citizens – from our keiki to our kupuna. In 2005, the Hawaii State Legislature, through Act 8 created this Task Force to review the Hawaii State Plan and its planning process. Its members are appointed by the Governor, and include the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, the Mayors of Hawaii, and the President of the University of Hawaii. In the statewide community meetings held in 2006 and concluded just a few weeks ago, the public was asked to list and rate their most

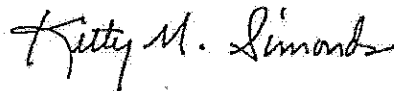
prevalent concerns in regards to sustainability. Integration of the ahupua'a concept and ecosystem stability was rated as one of the highest.

Along those lines, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, whose responsibility is to conserve and manage marine resources of the United States in the central and western Pacific, has been working on an ecosystem approach to manage these resources. To accomplish this, the Council established the Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), which includes a framework under which ecosystem-based management strategies can be implemented in the future. The US Congress also mandates the Council to work closely with communities to develop appropriate policies that conserve marine resources yet provide for continued use of those resources. In the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, adopted by Congress just a week and half ago, the Council was also directed to "develop means by which local and traditional knowledge can enhance science-based management of fishery resources of the region."

It is clear that a critical mass has been reached to initiate a paradigm shift in the way Hawaii views, relates to and manages its natural resources. The time is here, today, now, to establish a community and cultural consultation process that will allow communities to develop sustainable plans for their kuleana.

The Council is hosting the Hoohanohano I Na Kupuna Puwalu to provide the Hawaiian people a forum to discuss their traditional ahupuaa practices and to facilitate the incorporation of this information into our core educational systems and into the framework for resource conservation and management in Hawaii.

We thank you for your participation in this much needed and timely conference.



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