



NAVIGATING CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

22nd Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference

July 15 - 17th, 2014 · Hawaii Convention Center

2014 Hawai'i Conservation Conference Plenary Session Navigating Change: A Dialogue with Island Leaders on Climate Change

Thursday, July 17, 2014

8:35 – 9:35 AM

Hawai'i Convention Center, Honolulu, O'ahu

Background

Climate change is a reality impacting islands around the world. Warming temperatures, rising seas, changes in rainfall, more powerful storms, and oceans that are heating up as they also become more acidic – these impacts of global climate change paint a stark picture for the future of small islands. Yet this reality has sparked action rather than apathy and bold leadership challenges to a global community that has been slow to respond to the growing threat of climate change.

This [Hawai'i Conservation Conference](#) plenary session brings together leaders working at the forefront of climate change mitigation and adaptation policy at local, regional, and international arenas. Locally, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed legislation addressing sea-level rise and climate adaptation with the full support of Governor Abercrombie who, in 2013, was appointed by U.S. President Barak Obama to the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. As the international community continues to debate binding targets to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, regional momentum is building around climate resilience policies and practices. In September of this year the world will be gathering in Apia, Sāmoa, for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States to seek renewed political commitment to islands on climate change and other sustainability issues. As Republic of the Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak recently declared, "This is the battle of our generation, and 2014 is our moment."

The distinguished panelists all have demonstrated leadership in local, national, and international settings. Looking back over the past several years and forward to the 2015 global negotiation on climate change, this session will highlight watershed moments and current strategies to spearhead an island response to global climate change.

Panelists:

- ❖ Governor Neil Abercrombie, State of Hawai'i: and appointed by President Barak Obama to the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience (*invited*)
- ❖ Ambassador Ronny Jumeau, Seychelles: Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues and Spokesperson for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- ❖ Hawai'i State Representative Chris Lee: co-author of 2014 climate adaptation legislation for Hawai'i
- ❖ Malia Nobrega-Olivera: Director of Strategic Partnerships, Loli Aniau, Maka'ala Aniau (LAMA) and Climate Change, Climate Alert, University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law

Moderator: Deanna Spooner, Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative