

Day 2 – Youth Panel

The meeting focused on the local, regional, and global perspectives on climate change and sustainability, emphasizing the importance of indigenous knowledge and local action. Samantha House, the local 2030 islands networking manager, introduced the Aloha Plus Challenge, Hawaii's localized version of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes six goals: clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart sustainable communities, and education. The youth panelists shared their experiences at the UN Summit of the Future, highlighting the need for youth voices and the importance of local action in achieving global goals. They also discussed their personal passions and future aspirations in environmental advocacy and education.

Action Items

- Expand the SDG Youth Council to include more high schools and diverse representation.
- Incorporate more climate change education into school curriculums to prepare students for the future.
- Bring the local, indigenous perspective on sustainability and interconnectedness to global discussions and policy-making.
- Continue to share the Kamāla pathway program as an example of connecting local knowledge to global action.

Outline

Introduction and Welcome

- Emcee introduces the project's focus on local, regional, and global perspectives, incorporating use and appeal perspectives.
- Emcee introduces Samantha Happ, the local 2030 islands networking manager and director.
- Speaker 10 requests self-introductions from the panelists.
- Speaker 11 and Speaker 17 discuss the importance of indigenous knowledge and natural resources in maintaining a sustainable future for Hawaii and Island Earth.

Youth Perspectives on Climate Change

- Speaker 13 emphasizes the mission and vision of taking care of the earth and each other to create a sustainable future.
- Speaker 15 and Speaker 16 discuss the challenges of war, hunger, violence, racism, and inequality, especially affecting the youth.
- Speaker 18 highlights the need for children to be educated, compassionate, and healthy, and to inherit a thriving world.

- Speaker 2 and Speaker 4 envision a future where community needs are prioritized over business interests and equality is the norm.

Introduction of Youth Panelists

- Speaker 10 introduces the youth panelists, emphasizing their roles as ambassadors for Hawaii and sustainable development topics.
- Speaker 14, Speaker 6, Speaker 7, Speaker 17, Speaker 8, and Speaker 10 share their backgrounds and interests outside of school.
- Speaker 10 highlights the importance of understanding the youth panelists' personal lives to ground the conversation in joy and inspiration.
- Speaker 14, Speaker 6, Speaker 7, Speaker 17, Speaker 8, and Speaker 10 discuss their passions and activities outside of the climate field.

Role of the SDG Youth Council

- Speaker 14 explains the formation of the SDG Youth Council in 2022 and its goal to bring the Hawaiian and youth viewpoints to global forums.
- Speaker 14 emphasizes the council's expansion to include members from various schools and its mission to represent all youth, not just private school students.
- Speaker 10 discusses the council's implementation-focused approach and its work to create a coalition among all counties in Hawaii.
- Speaker 10 introduces the concept of the Aloha Plus Challenge, a local interpretation of the UN SDGs, and its relevance to the youth panelists.

Impact of Climate Change on Youth

- Speaker 7 and Speaker 8 discuss the heavy burden of climate change on their generation and the hope that comes from seeing people take action.
- Speaker 17 emphasizes the importance of climate education from a young age to prepare future generations for the challenges ahead.
- Speaker 14 shares the pressure of being responsible for solving global problems and the urgency of addressing climate change now.
- Speaker 6 highlights the lack of education on climate change in Hawaii and the need for more action and awareness.

Thinking Locally, Acting Globally

- Speaker 14 explains the concept of thinking locally and acting globally, using the example of the Aloha spirit and the connection to the land.
- Speaker 14 shares an exercise to connect with the land and the importance of reciprocal relationships with the environment.

- Speaker 6 discusses the Kamala Pathway course at McCall, which brings local knowledge to a global stage.
- Speaker 8 and Speaker 10 emphasize the importance of the ocean in connecting people and the need to appreciate local resources.

Well-being and Community Connection

- Speaker 7 defines well-being as a healthy, flourishing land and community, emphasizing the connection between the land and the people.
- Speaker 6 highlights the importance of community support and the sense of safety and health it brings.
- Speaker 17 discusses the significance of the ocean and the need to foster a love for the environment in future generations.
- Speaker 10 connects the concept of well-being to the intersection of climate and health, emphasizing the need to protect both.

Aloha Plus Challenge and Local Goals

- Speaker 8 outlines the six goals of the Aloha Plus Challenge: clean energy transformation, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart sustainable communities, and education.
- Speaker 17 explains how the Aloha Plus Challenge predates the UN SDGs and serves as a localized version of the global goals.
- Speaker 10 emphasizes the importance of local action in achieving global goals and the holistic approach of the Aloha Plus Challenge.
- Speaker 10 discusses the need for a health goal within the Aloha Plus Challenge and the integration of health and climate across all goals.

Experiences at the UN Summit

- Speaker 17 shares the experience of attending the UN Summit of the Future, highlighting the opportunity to learn from experts and engage in meaningful dialogue.
- Speaker 7 discusses the lack of youth representation at the summit and the importance of including youth voices in global discussions.
- Speaker 14 recounts the experience of meeting with Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and the impact of their conversation on her perspective.
- Speaker 8 reflects on the importance of creating opportunities for youth and the inspiration gained from seeing others take action.

Future Actions and Vision for Hawaii

- Speaker 8 emphasizes the need to engage more youth and create opportunities for education and action.

- Speaker 17 discusses the goal of helping to prepare the 2025 Voluntary Local Review and ensuring proper measurement of progress on the SDGs.
- Speaker 6 highlights the importance of events like the Hawaii Island Dean Summit and the need for similar gatherings in other islands.
- Speaker 7 and Speaker 10 discuss the importance of educating the community about the SDGs and the Aloha Plus Challenge.

Personal Passions and Future Goals

- Speaker 8 expresses a desire to make a difference in creating a thriving environment and economy for future generations.
- Speaker 17 is passionate about meeting people from diverse backgrounds and studying international relations with a focus on climate change.
- Speaker 7 aims to be at the forefront of environmental engineering and design systems to benefit climate change.
- Speaker 6 envisions a future in environmental science, educating future generations on the fight against climate change.
- Speaker 14 finds hope in seeing other youth in power and the potential for collective action to solve global challenges.