

Department of Atmospheric Sciences Seminar Announcement

Department of Atmospheric Sciences, S.O.E.S.T., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2525 Correa Road, HIG 350; Honolulu, HI 96822 ☎956-8775

“The Politics of Climate Change in Washington DC: ‘Debates’ about the science, confusion about the impacts, and ideological battles.”

Dr. Johannes Loschnigg

Former White House Staff

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Refreshments: 3:00pm – 3:30pm at MSB Lanai.

Free Cookies, Coffee, & Tea Provided

Seminar Time: 3:30pm

Location: Marine Sciences Building, MSB 100 Auditorium

Abstract:

As a staff member in both the White House and the U.S. Congress during the last decade, Dr. Loschnigg has been closely involved in the debates about the science of climate change, as well as the need to reduce carbon emissions and shift to cleaner sources of energy. But Congressional action has been slower than many would prefer, often because of misinformation regarding the science of climate change and confusion about the projected impacts. Dr. Loschnigg will provide an overview of this debate, discuss the issue's deeper ideological underpinnings, and give an assessment of current and future action for reducing emissions.

Bio:

Dr. Johannes Loschnigg was a Senior Policy Analyst at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in Washington DC from 2009 to 2013. As a member of OSTP's Environment and Energy Division, Dr. Loschnigg was responsible for the development of federal policy for renewable energy, climate change, aerospace and earth satellite observations. Prior to that, Dr. Loschnigg was the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics of the Committee on Science in the U.S. House of Representatives, overseeing NASA and U.S. civil space programs. Dr. Loschnigg first came to the U.S. Congress in 2002 as a congressional science and technology policy fellow for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), working for U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. While in the Senate he directed the development of legislation relating to innovation, broadband wireless communication, nanotechnology, defense research and climate change policy. Between 1999 and 2002, Dr. Loschnigg was affiliated with the University of Hawaii (SOEST/IPRC) as post-doctoral fellow, where he concentrated on coupled ocean-atmosphere modeling of the Indian and Pacific oceans as well as the impacts of climate variability on disease and human health. Dr. Loschnigg has been a Senior Advisor for the Administrator at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC and has also consulted for the National Academy of Sciences. He has previously been a scientific assistant at the the NASA Ames Research Center in California, at the Department of Physics at the University of Freiburg in Germany, and at the Department of Physics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Dr. Loschnigg holds BA degrees in both physics and international relations from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and MS and Ph.D. degrees in astrophysical, planetary and atmospheric sciences from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He currently is a consultant providing strategic advice for organizations and companies for projects related to energy, aerospace and climate change. He resides near Portland, Oregon.