



Climate Change Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 South King Street, 11th Floor • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

COMMISSIONERS

Rosanna Alegado, Ph.D., Chair
Victoria Keener, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Melanie Islam, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, LFA
Kiana Otsuka, MSc
Brad Romine, Ph.D.

Climate Change Commission Friday, January 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Rosie Alegado, Vice Chair Victoria Keener, Kiana Otsuka, Melanie Islam

Members Absent: Brad Romine

Public: Ben Sullivan, Coranne Park-Chun, Miya DeVoogd, Chase McDaniel, Jason Shon, Jennifer Sou, Chris Agcanas, Claire Rossi de Leon, Whitney Dulay, Victor Limon (Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Terry Chan (Honolulu Department of Design and Construction); Cynthia Emoto (Honolulu Department of Budget and Fiscal Services); Nancy McPherson (Department of Hawaiian Homelands); 808-295-4620.

Location: Virtual Zoom meeting with an in-person meeting location provided at Fasi Municipal Building 11th Floor Conference Room 3, 650 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.

Meeting Video Recording: <https://fb.watch/pPSxUklzYq/>

1. (00:50) Call to order

- Chair Alegado called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. (01:00) Roll call

- Three Commissioners were present at the start of the meeting: Chair Alegado, Vice Chair Keener, and Commissioner Islam. Quorum was established. Commissioner Otsuka joined during Agenda Item 4.

3. (01:24) Approval of the minutes: December 1, 2023

- There were no corrections to the December 1, 2023 meeting minutes.
- (02:24) Vice Chair Keener motioned to adopt the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Islam seconded. (**AYE**: Alegado, Islam, Keener; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: None).

4. (02:58) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR)

- CCSR Deputy Director Ben Sullivan shared the following:
 - CCSR recently hired Whitney Dulay as the new Climate Action Coordinator, and hired Jason Shon as the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager.
 - CCSR is currently [hiring](#) for an Energy Program Manager and a Climate Champions Coordinator.
 - CCSR staff have attended numerous events around the community, such as a Career Day at an elementary school and presenting at a Rotary Club meeting.
 - [Climate Ready O'ahu](#) has been transmitted to City Council, is anticipated to be heard at the Housing Sustainability and Health Committee on February 7, and then at full City Council meeting on February 28. The Commissioners will consider providing personal testimony.
 - CCSR is discussing Climate Ready O'ahu implementation priorities.
 - CCSR is progressing on the following grant work:
 - CCSR is planning to submit a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) coalition application with the State and other counties to receive funding to implement key projects in buildings and transportation. One of the key initiatives is creating transit priority lanes to Skyline.
 - CCSR and the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), are working to develop a FEMA flood mitigation assistance grant that would bring on a contractor to look at the review process for Elevation Certificates.
 - CCSR, DPP, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and other community partners are developing an Urban and Community Forestry Grant.
 - The City is set to receive a formula allocation for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, which will likely be utilized for personnel and needs for ongoing City projects.
 - The [Better Buildings Benchmarking Program](#) is implementing round two of large buildings reporting their water and energy data to the City. Chair Alegado recommended a presentation at a future Commission meeting.

- CCSR is working on an Affordable Green Housing Retrofit program with a contractor.

5. (21:44) Action on the [Urban Heat Guidance Document, draft December 2023](#)

- Commission Otsuka noted that since the last Commission meeting, there were no substantive changes to content, only adding page numbers and updating formatting.
- Commissioner Islam added the words “IECC 2018 with State amendments” to recommendation 5F. The Commissioners agreed it was a non-substantive change.
- Vice Chair Keener, Chair Alegado and Nancy McPherson pointed out non-substantive formatting edits to be fixed.
- (33:07) Vice Chair Keener motioned to adopt the document with the non-substantive edits, and Commissioner Islam seconded. (**AYE**: Alegado, Islam, Otsuka, Keener; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: None).

6. (35:01) Discussion on tentative next meeting date(s)

- The Commission will be meeting March 22, April 26, May 26, and June 28. The Zoom recording said April 24, but in the chat it was corrected to April 26.

7. (38:25) Communications and correspondence from the public

- No communications or correspondence were received from the public.

8. (38:34) Public input for matters not on the agenda

- None.

9. (39:23) Announcements:

1. Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcement:
 - a. The Hawai'i Department of Transportation launched the [Hawai'i Electric Bike and Electric Moped Rebate](#), which makes rebates of up to \$500 or 20% of the retail price available for eligible purchases of newly purchased electric bicycles and electric mopeds. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older, and prove one of the following:
 1. Participation in a low-income assistance program such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Section 8
 2. Do not own a motor vehicle with four or more wheels
 3. Current enrollment in a school, college, or university.
2. Chair Alegado shared the following announcements:

- a. Save the Date for Climate Week 2024, which will take place March 23-31, and is hosted by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. The annual conference events are scheduled for March 27-28 at the IMIN Conference Center at the University of Hawai'i. Details on sessions, speakers, and workshop events are forthcoming. If your organization has ideas for climate events, art shows, film festivals, out planting activities, bike rides or other fun ideas to coordinate as a side event as part of Climate Week, contact Bill Unruh at Bill.Unruh.contractor@hawaii.gov.
 - b. The [Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report](#) was recently released by the Hawai'i State Energy Office with information about sector emissions across the state. The Office be welcoming public comment in the near future.
3. Vice Chair Keener shared the following announcements:
- a. During Climate Week, on March 27 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) chapter on Hawai'i and the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands will officially be released. At this in-person event, there will be chapter highlights and keynote speakers, and authors will answer questions from the public.
 - b. There will also be a [public engagement webinar](#) about the Hawai'i and the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands chapter of the NCA5 on February 13 at 1 p.m.
4. Ben Sullivan introduced Jason Shon, CCSR's new Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager, who will begin working February 2.

10.(46:20) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. All four Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.