



# Climate Change Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 South King Street, 11<sup>th</sup> 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, December 1, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chair Rosie Alegado, Vice Chair Victoria Keener, Kiana Otsuka, Brad Romine

**Members Absent:** Melanie Islam

**Public:** Matt Gonser, Miya DeVoogd, Chase McDaniel, Jennifer Sou, Chris Agcanas, Claire Rossi de Leon, 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); Dan Dinell (Trees for Honolulu's Future); Benita Lily Cheng, James Dunbar (District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment); Robert Parke; Cynthia Wessendorf; Stephanie Chan; Jillian Cristobal; J. Matt; Joshua Cooper; Howard Wiig (Hawai'i State Energy Office); Dane Sjoblom; Andy Bates; Dave Raney; Lirio Hittle; Jimmy Weir; Duane Pang; Kara Neal; Dylan Senkiw; Aly; 808-793-9267.

**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/oTrk3rZTZs/>

### **1. (00:47) Call to order**

- Chair Alegado called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

### **2. (00:58) Roll call**

- Four Commissioners were present at the start of the meeting. Quorum was established.

### 3. (1:18) Approval of the minutes: September 29, 2023 and October 27, 2023

- There were no corrections to the September 29, 2023 meeting minutes and the October 27, 2023 meeting minutes.
- (2:33) Vice Chair Keener motioned to adopt both of the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Romine seconded. (**AYE**: Alegado, Otsuka, Romine, Keener; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: None).

### 4. (3:09) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR)

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser shared the following:
  - November 30 concluded the 2023 hurricane season, but preparedness and diligence must be practiced all year round as rain and flooding can happen all year round.
  - The [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) was recently released, and today kicks off the [28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Conference of the Parties \(COP28\)](#).
  - Today concludes the public comment period on the City's draft climate adaptation strategy called [Climate Ready O'ahu](#). CCSR engaged with the community at 15 virtual and in-person outreach events, in addition to engaging with the media. Chair Alegado and Commissioner Otsuka both tabled with CCSR at Mākeke Wai'anae. Next steps include reviewing, providing responses to the public comments, introducing a resolution for adoption in early 2024.
  - CCSR has been notified of receipt of the EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government award to support the Climate Champions program with six community-based organizations.
  - The City received an urban forestry direct award through the US Forest Service as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.
  - CCSR has been invited to the State's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry full application.
  - The Flood Insurance Outreach Project is kicking off thanks to a direct grant from FEMA.
  - The CDP reported that the City has improved its score from a B to an A- for environmental performance and disclosure. This metric is reported annually in the City's Annual Sustainability Report.
  - Grant opportunities for awareness:
    - CCSR is working with the State towards the EPA's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program](#) for implementation monies. Those interested are encouraged [check out the RFI to apply](#).

- Through the Department of the Interior's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, there's a new funding opportunity for Native Hawaiian climate resilience called [Kapapahuliau Climate Resilience Program](#). CCSR was pleased to participate in community discussions, scoping and refining of the program. There will be an informational webinar December 13.
- The EPA announced the [Community Change Grants](#) opportunity for partnerships where community-based organizations are the lead.

**5. (23:04) Presentation on the Fifth National Climate Assessment by Vice Chair, Dr. Victoria Keener**

- Vice Chair Keener presented on the [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) findings for [Chapter 30](#), which includes the Hawai'i and US-Affiliated Pacific Islands region.
- Vice Chair Keener was a chapter author, and Chair Alegado and Commissioner Romine were both technical contributors.
- There will be an in-depth [Chapter 30 Webinar](#) on February 13, 2024; there will also be [webinars for other sectoral and regional chapters](#). The US Global Change Research Program team will hold an in-person workshop likely in March, with details to come.

**6. (51:25) Discussion on the in-development Urban Heat Guidance Document, draft May 12, 2022**

- Agenda Item 6 indicates the May 12, 2022 draft of the Urban Heat Guidance Document, but the more recent [November 2023 draft](#) was provided to the public on the [webpage](#); the November 2023 draft will be referenced in this meeting.
- Commissioner Romine presented on the content and key findings of the document, and Commissioner Otsuka presented on the survey and community input.
- The Urban Heat Guidance Document was screen-shared with the most recent track changes for review. The final version will be posted for the next Commission meeting in early 2024, and will be voted on for adoption.

**7. (1:39:57) Discussion on in-development Climate Change and Tourism Brief**

- The Chair Alegado and Vice Chair Keener are incorporating feedback from the previous Commission meeting into the [draft Climate Change and Tourism Brief](#).
- Recommendations from Commissioners and the public were requested to develop stakeholder and feedback groups.

## 8. (1:46:05) Discussion on the development of Commission briefs and guidance documents

- Ideas for future guidance documents include:
  - Best practices for equitably engaging with communities and community-based organizations on adaptation projects
  - Fire risk
  - Expanding on sea-level rise adaptation strategies
  - Food systems and urban heat
  - Food systems related to farm labor
  - Expanding on ground transportation emissions and reduction
  - Housing
  - Homeowner property practices
  - Permaculture and indigenous practices

## 9. (2:02:58) Communications and correspondence from the public

- No communications or correspondence were received from the public.

## 10.(2:03:30) Public input for matters not on the agenda

- Andy Bates asked for the Commission's support and advice in the following:
  - The United Christ Church in Kailua will be referencing the City's [Resilience Hub Network Final Report](#) in setting up a resilience hub with emphasis on creating a safe place for the families of hospital workers and CERT workers during disasters.
  - Kāne'ohe Yacht Club plans to incorporate climate change education into their sailing curriculum.

## 11.(2:10:15) 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. Commissioner Romine shared the following announcement:
  - a. The [2023 Hawai'i Sea Grant Research Symposium](#) is taking place

at East West Center December 8 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will feature Sea Grant supported research through brief talks from researchers and graduate students.

- b. The final December installment of the [Slice of PI-CASC Seminar Series](#) takes place December 5 with Professor Joseph Genz, who will discuss traditional navigation in Polynesia and Micronesia and its use in climate adaptation.

## **12. (2:13:00) Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m. All four Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.