



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, March 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: None

Public: Matthew Gonser, Coranne Park-Chun, Miya DeVoogd, Chase McDaniel, Chris Agcanas, Hayley Cook, 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); Joe Martin (Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance; INDOPACOM Climate Change Impact Program); Tyler Belko (Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance); Darcy Apao; Jimmy Weir; Dane Sjoblom; Alice Terry McLean; Lenise Marrero; Andy Bates; Ura Yvan; Melveen Janeen Camba; Matt Milward; Ollie Lau; Kalehua; Lauren; Eli.

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/qZlv5F0X_c/

1. (01:05) Call to order

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

2. (01:11) Roll call

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

3. (01:36) Approval of the minutes: January 26, 2024

- There were no corrections to the January 26, 2024 meeting minutes.
- (02:20) Vice Chair Keener motioned to adopt the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Otsuka seconded. (**AYE**: Alegado, Islam, Otsuka, Keener; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: Romine).

4. (03:09) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR)

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser shared the following:
 - CCSR welcomed Jason Shon on February 2 as the new Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager. CCSR is willing to present at a future Commission meeting about where the City is at with its food programs. The Office of Economic Revitalization also has food staff who collaborate.
 - CCSR staff will be attending [Kalo Fest](#) in Kahalu'u, Prince Kūhiō Festival in Nānākuli, and a variety of other activities during April.
 - Mayor's Town Halls began yesterday, starting in Kapolei. There are 11 total across the island, and are a tremendous opportunity for the public to ask questions and receive immediate responses and/or follow up. The Town Halls will be recorded and [posted](#). Commissioner Otsuka asked if there has been climate or resilience topics mentioned at past Town Halls that the Commission may consider. Matt responded that CCSR will compile it, as well as City-military relationship news, and get back to the Commission.
 - It is budget season at the City and County of Honolulu. CCSR received potential changes from City Council; there is good support and partnership from City Councilmembers, and CCSR currently has no proposed cuts.
 - Two of the Climate Change Commission's guidance documents were [transmitted](#) to the Mayor, departments and City Council: the [Urban Heat Guidance Document](#) and updated [Climate Change and Social Equity Document](#), which includes the [Equity Pledge](#).
 - On February 28, Resolution 24-16 was adopted by City Council to formally establish the City's climate adaptation strategy called [Climate Ready O'ahu](#). Its creation was assisted by the Commission's contribution and foundational information. CCSR will be able to provide an update in the next couple months; Commissioner Romine recommended that the Commission can discuss how to assist. CCSR celebrated the adoption at Makalapa Neighborhood Park with a tree planting ceremony and [news conference](#).

- On March 7, the Ko‘olau Poko Resilience Review launched to support communities with installations in Ko‘olau Poko. It is a partnership with the UH Climate Resilience Collaborative and Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i, and is supported by a grant to the City from the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. The City will receive the project report after completion and it will be publicly available.
- The City is updating its five-year [Climate Action Plan](#). In the coming months there should be a Request for Proposals for technical support. There is also a unique Notice of Funding availability so that CCSR can work directly with place-based organizations to support in connecting with community members. CCSR is referencing the Commission’s updated [Climate Change and Social Equity Guidance](#) in their work.
- With funding through FEMA’s Cooperating Technical Partnership Program, CCSR is hosting an [O‘ahu Flood Risk Survey](#) to better understand people’s awareness of flood risk, experiences, and understanding on mitigating flood risk and obtaining flood insurance.
- Commissioner Islam asked about what the Commission can do to move actions steps forward in guidance documents. Matt responded that the Commission that they can convene with City departments and community leaders. Vice Chair Keener noted that the Hawai‘i Climate Conference is next week, and will be a great opportunity to talk with stakeholders.

5. (35:28) Presentation on U.S. Military Installations' Efforts on Climate Risks in Hawai‘i and the Pacific, by Mr. Joseph Martin, Director, Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM), and Director, INDOPACOM Climate Change Impact (CCI) Program

- Mr. Martin overviewed the CFE-DM, climate change impacts, security impacts, and some case studies on the international front.
- Chair Alegado asked if there is someone looking at the U.S. installations located domestically. Mr. Martin will connect the Commission with those contacts.
- Chair Alegado asked if military climate change strategy plans include the adjacent communities. The local contacts that Mr. Martin will provide should be able to provide examples of how the adjacent communities are included.
- Commissioner Otsuka asked about military efforts to partner in mitigating emissions and making O‘ahu more resilient to climate change, including transportation to and from military bases. Mr. Martin responded that the Indo-Pacific Command recently expanded its Hawai‘i Office with staff dedicated to engagement with the local and state government. These staff should be able to respond to local requests.
- Vice Chair Keener asked if there is analogous program to the Hawai‘i Office that looks at climate impacts in Hawai‘i holistically. Mr. Martin

responded that he will look into the best contact, and said that they incorporated the impacts of climate change into every project.

- Commissioner Islam mentioned that on local federal projects, there is an opportunity for the military to use the Commission's guidance documents and local code advancement as a test pilot to see if strategies are implementable and what the challenges are. Also, the federal government may have flexibility to test out concepts in other countries that could be implemented on O'ahu or Hawai'i.
- Commissioner Romine asked if the military can share its technological and nature-based innovations regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation with Hawai'i and O'ahu. Mr. Martin replied that the need to share information is very important.
- Tyler Belko shared, "In addition to the REPI Installation Resilience Program mentioned by Matt, there is also the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program. This is a good starting point when discussing projects that benefit both in and outside of the installation fence line on O'ahu. [\[Link\]](#)."
- The Commission is interested in potentially creating a brief about the intersection of military activities on O'ahu that make O'ahu more resilient (pertaining to climate risks and resilience), and also military activities that make O'ahu less resilient. The Commission is interested in understanding how they can work with the Department of Defense to improve the lives of people on O'ahu, including those associated with the military.

6. (1:20:08) Discussion on tentative next meeting date April 26, May 26, and June 28.

- On April 26, the meeting will be in the afternoon instead of the morning.
- The Commission will be meeting April 26, May 24 (not May 26), and June 28.

7. (1:22:39) Communications and correspondence from the public

- No communications or correspondence were received from the public.

8. (1:22:48) Public input for matters not on the agenda

- Andy Bates is working to put together a small resilience hub in Kailua by Castle Hospital, and is looking for someone to provide an estimate for hardening the buildings.
- Matt Gonser replied that CCSR does not have engineers or architects but CCSR will reconnect with Mr. Bates to further discuss.

9. (1:27:00) Announcements:

1. Vice Chair Keener shared the following announcements:

- a. [Register for Climate Week](#), coming up March 23-31. Events will be open to the public, and there will be an opportunity to engage with authors of the Fifth National Climate Assessment, as well as a variety of other events.
2. Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcements:
 - a. It might be of interest to the Commission to hear a presentation on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan to discuss if or how the Commission could be involved in supporting implementation.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Commissioner Otsuka also asked if there was progress on the Commission having an in-person meeting for Earth Day/Week or in some combination with Resilience Office events. Chair Alegado responded that there is not progress, partially because of the Mayor's Town Halls.
3. Matt Gonser shared the following announcements:
 - a. Two CCSR staff will be at [Kalo Fest](#) tomorrow.
 - b. CCSR Deputy Director Ben Sullivan will be at the Prince Kūhiō Festival at Nānākuli tomorrow to talk about energy affordability, energy equity and Solarize808.
 - c. The Flood Risk Survey is open through April 1 at resilientoahu.org/getfloodready.

10.(1:33:28) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m. All five Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.