



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 31, 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: Miya DeVoogd, Coranne Park-Chun, Marissa Kunsch, Nicola Hedge, Sophia Somers, Matthew Gonser (Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Walter Billingsley, Terry Chan (Honolulu Department of Design and Construction); Nancy McPherson (Hawai'i Department of Hawaiian Home Lands); Leah Laramee (State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission); Henry Curtis; Cynthia Emoto; Jeff Kraatz; Abbey Mayer; J. Matt; Bridget Childs; Isabella Roberson; Dan Sjoblom; June Chee; Dolan Eversole; Ollie Gaskell; 757-319-8248.

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/jC_mbmETFZ/

1. (00:07) Call to order

- Chair Alegado called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. (00:22) Roll call

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

3. (00:48) Approval of minutes: January 20, 2023

- (02:18) Vice Chair Keener motioned to adopt the January 20, 2023 meeting minutes and Commissioner Romine seconded. (**AYE:** Alegado, Keener, Romine; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** Otsuka).

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

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser discussed the following:
 - Appreciation for the Commission's support in relaying scientific information from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's new [AR6 Synthesis Report](#) to support local efforts, including incorporation of relevant information into the City Climate Change Brief
 - City Council passed Bills 41 and 42 (2022) on shoreline setback and special management area; the bills were signed into law by Mayor Blangiardi as Ordinances 23-3 and 23-4, respectively
 - Bill 4 (2023) on Building Energy Conservation Code is moving through City Council
 - Creation of Climate Change Design Guidelines with the Department of Design and Construction, which is Resilience Strategy Action 14
 - Finalization of the City's Annual Sustainability Report, which is anticipated to go live April 21 and will be formatted in a new interactive online dashboard
 - Federal grant work, including the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government Program, and two USDA grants on food waste management and composting
 - Events coming up for CCSR:
 - Offering internal City staff training titled "Climate Change, City Action & You!"
 - [Climate Adaptation, Equity & Justice event with Dr. Diana Reckien](#) on March 31 from 3-5 p.m. in partnership with University of Hawai'i Department of Urban and Regional Planning
 - [Solarize Wai'anae event](#) to advance energy sovereignty and cost savings on April 1 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Mā'ili Learning Center
 - CCSR Adaptation Team speaking at the University of Hawai'i's [Institute for Sustainability and Resilience Seminar Series](#) with a sneak peak of the Climate Ready O'ahu Adaptation Strategy and its input process on April 5 from 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m.
 - Mayor's Town Halls are 2 weeks into a 10 week series; to find out more, visit www.oneoahu.org/townhall
 - To stay updated, follow CCSR on social media

@resilientoahu, and subscribe to newsletters and policy alerts at www.resilientoahu.org/subscribe.

- Commissioner Romine requested more details be written into the meeting minutes about key CCSR updates.

5. (17:31) Discussion and action on updates to the Commission’s Climate Change Brief, adopted June 5, 2018

- Commissioner Romine presented a PowerPoint titled “[Climate Change Brief 2023 Update](#)” with key findings.
- Commissioners live-edited the draft Climate Change Brief through screen-share.
- (58:54) Commissioner Otsuka motioned to adopt the updated Climate Change Brief. Vice Chair Keener seconded. (**AYE:** Alegado, Romine, Keener; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None).

6. (1:01:05) Discussion on process to complete an in-development Urban Heat Guidance Document, draft May 12, 2022

- Commissioner Otsuka shared updates on development of the Urban Heat Guidance Document. Commissioner Islam and Otsuka are putting together a stakeholder list, questions for stakeholders, draft timeline, slide deck, and engagement workshops; they’re aiming to present the document in fall—possibly September or October at the latest.
- Henry Curtis commented on the increase of high rises downtown and heat islands.

7. (1:11:43) Discussion and action of Commission testimony for City Council Bill 4 (2023), Relating to the Adoption of the State Energy Conservation Code

- Matt Gonser shared an overview of City Council Bill 4 (2023).
- (1:33:46) Commissioner Otsuka motioned to adopt the testimony in support of Bill 4 (2023). Commissioner Romine seconded. (**AYE:** Alegado, Keener, Otsuka, Romine; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None).

8. (1:31:46) Communications and correspondence from the public

- The Commission received an [email](#) on PFAS forever chemicals.
- The Commission received an [email](#) sharing about upcoming legislation

SCR200, SR99, HCR124 and HR125 that call on the federal government to enact carbon cashback.

- No other communications or correspondence were received.

9. (1:33:37) Public input for matters not on the agenda

- None.

10.(1:34:33) Tentative Next Meeting Date(s): 4/21, and 5/19, 9am-11am

- April 21 is right before Earth Day, so other dates in April or dates after April will be considered as to not take away from Earth Day events that are happening. In-person Commission meetings are also being considered.

11.(1:37:48) Announcements:

1. Chair Alegado gave a reminder that Matt Gonser had previously mentioned CCSR speaking at the University of Hawai'i's [Institute for Sustainability and Resilience Seminar Series](#) on April 5 from 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. about the upcoming Climate Ready O'ahu Adaptation Strategy and its input process.
2. Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcements:
 - a. The [Hawai'i Energy Conference and Exhibition](#) will occur at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center May 24-25; March 31 is the last day for early registration.
 - b. The Hawai'i Department of Transportation has 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:
 - Participation in a low-income assistance program such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Section 8
 - Do not own a motor vehicle with four or more wheels
 - Current enrollment in a school, college, or university.
 - c. The [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) - Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) is out and applications are due July 10, 2023. The SS4A federal competitive grant program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation and the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization are eligible applicants for developing or updating a comprehensive safety action plan.

- Commissioner Otsuka also included some statistics on O‘ahu traffic safety and violence, such as: on average, one person dies in a traffic crash every week; people walking are overrepresented in fatal crashes and serious injuries; and kūpuna are more likely to be killed walking or biking than those of other ages. She noted, “We can't expect people to use more climate friendly modes of transportation if they don't feel safe doing so.” More statistics can be found in the [City's Vision Zero Action Plan](#).

12.(1:15:24) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. All four Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.