



# 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, May 26, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Public:** Miya DeVoogd, Marissa Kunsch, Dexter Kishida, Elin Woolf, Hayley Cook, Sarah Harris, Matthew Gonser (Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Guillaume Maman, Amy Asselbaye (Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization); Walter Billingsley, Terry Chan (Honolulu Department of Design and Construction); Nancy McPherson (Hawai'i Department of Hawaiian Home Lands); Cynthia Emoto (Honolulu Department of Budget and Fiscal Services); Jillian Cristobal (Hawai'i Green Growth); Felix Gottdiener; Dane Sjoblom; Kimberly Willis; Malachi Krishok; Joanna Zeigler; Ollie Gaskell; Lacey; Christian; 484-612-8214; 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/kMLinJXCP2/>

### **1. (00:04) Call to order**

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

### **2. (00:09) Roll call**

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

### **3. (00:35) Approval of minutes: March 31, 2023**

- (02:18) Vice Chair Keener motioned to adopt the March 31, 2023 meeting minutes and Commissioner Otsuka seconded. (**AYE:** Alegado, Keener, Otsuka, Romine; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** Islam).

#### 4. (03:07) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR)

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser discussed the following:
  - According to NOAA, there will likely be an above average hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30; we must do all that we can to prepare ourselves, households and communities and become more resilient
  - Submission of five different grant applications to three federal agencies, including two to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Climate Action Plan update and for the Climate Champions Program, two to the United States Department of Agriculture on food waste management and agriculture innovation and engagement, and one for Inflation Reduction Act funds for urban and community forestry in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation
  - Shared information and engaged public on activities at the first annual Community Climate Fair at the Capitol
  - Attendance at community preparedness fairs, including the recent one at Windward Mall, where the Long-Term Disaster Recovery project was discussed
  - Working with departments such as the Department of Environmental Services to progress on fleet conversion with better information, new external funds, and data management
  - Launch of the pilot Climate Champions Program to empower community organizations to educate their community in line with the organization's goals and Climate Ready O'ahu goals
  - Ordinance 22-17, which establishes a [Better Buildings Benchmarking Program](#), has its first upcoming reporting deadline for community buildings 100,000 square feet and larger on June 30; CCSR has been engaging and communicating with building management
  - Interviewing for a Flood and Resilience Specialist; more open positions will be announced soon after the budget is finalized
  - Mahalo to departing AmeriCorps VISTAs Abby and Rita who worked with the Office of Economic Revitalization, and to Alex Grant-Hudd and Matt Milward who worked with CCSR
  - Mahalo to CCSR's departing Budget and Operations Specialist Sonavie Ong and Deputy Director Nicola Hedge

**5. (21:32) Presentation on the City’s Regenerative Tourism Program by Guillaume Maman, Regenerative Tourism Program Manager, Office of Economic Revitalization**

- Guillaume Maman presented [slides](#) overviewing the [Office of Economic Revitalization](#)’s regenerative tourism projects.
- Commissioner Otsuka mentioned talking to Office of Economic Revitalization offline to discuss vehicle miles traveled.
- Vice Chair Keener inquired about City visitor management systems and water resource management.
- Commissioner Romine inquired about [O’ahu Good Food Program](#) success metrics.
- Commissioner Islam inquired about industry partners promoting [www.getaroundoahu.com](http://www.getaroundoahu.com) and inquired about connecting tourists to place.
- Chair Alegado inquired about the O’ahu Destination Management Action Plan addressing disaster management, and also inquired about external models of regenerative tourism to learn from.
- Amy Asselbaye, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization, commented on the first steps towards destination management and regenerative tourism despite limitations.

**6. (1:11:45) Presentation on the City’s 2023 Annual Sustainability Report by Hayley Cook, Policy & Research Manager, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency**

- Hayley Cook presented [slides](#) overviewing the [2023 Annual Sustainability Report](#), including areas that need improvement and areas of progress.
- Commissioner Romine inquired on municipal electricity usage by the Board of Water Supply.
- Commissioner Islam recommended an overlay of renewable energy with electricity usage, and also commented on intersection of energy, equity and affordability.
- Commissioner Otsuka commented on transportation fatalities related to climate action.
- Chair Alegado commented on using data to bring awareness of equity issues.

**7. (1:36:55) Discussion on process to complete an in-development Urban Heat Guidance Document, draft May 12, 2022**

- Commissioners Otsuka and Islam gave updates on process, including plans to finalize stakeholder questions, begin meetings during the first few weeks of June, and create a survey for people not able to join meetings. Commissioners Otsuka and Islam will look through all input in July, finalize in August, and present the document in fall.

**8. (1:44:12) Communications and correspondence from the public**

- No other communications or correspondence were received.

**9. (1:44:23) Public input for matters not on the agenda**

- None.

**10.(1:44:53) Discussion on tentative next meeting date(s)**

- Commissioners will share their availability for future meetings.
- Discussed the general focus of future meetings.
- Via the [Equity Pledge](#), the Commission will work on making in-person meetings accessible.

**11.(1:51:13) Announcements:**

1. Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcements
  - a. The City's Honolulu Complete Streets is seeking input from the public on how to make streets safer for everyone with the [O'ahu Vision Zero Action Plan Survey](#)
  - 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:
    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. Commissioner Romine is travelling to the "At What Point Managed

Retreat?" conference at Columbia University to share Hawai'i's progress on managed retreat, coastal hazards, and sea level rise.

3. Matt Gonser shared the following announcement
  - a. During Earth Month, the *Aloha 'Āina Art by Hawai'i's Keiki and 'Ōpio* exhibit was at Honolulu Hale in collaboration with the Resilience Office, the Mayor's Office of Culture and Arts, Mele Murals, Wisdom Circles Oceania, Sierra Club, and elementary schools. The exhibit is now moving to Kapolei Hale.

## **12.(1:55:48) Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. All five Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.