



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, August 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Vice Chair Victoria Keener

Public: Miya DeVoogd, Marissa Kunsch, Chase McDaniel, Coranne Park-Chun, Matthew Gonser, Alex Yee, Emily Makini, Sarah Harris (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); Leah Laramie (Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission); Dane Sjoblom (HHF Planners); Justin Menina (Hawai'i Department of Health); Julie Yunker (Hawai'i Gas); Natalie Hanson; Kara Neal; Henry C; Amanda Millin; 808-375-0681; Felix Gottdiener.

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/mEQnooEhdb/>

1. (00:50) Call to order

- Chair Alegado called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Chair Alegado acknowledged the tragedy that occurred on Maui and all that was lost in the fire.

2. (02:30) Roll call

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

3. (03:21) Approval of minutes: May 26, 2023

- (04:10) Commissioner Otsuka motioned to adopt the May 26, 2023 meeting minutes, and Commissioner Romine seconded. (**AYE:** Alegado, Otsuka, Islam, Romine; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None).

4. (04:45) Discussion and Action on Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission (Term July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

- Commissioner Otsuka nominated Chair Alegado to serve as Chair, and Chair Alegado accepted the nomination.
- (06:28) Chair Romine motioned to vote for Chair Alegado to be elected as Chair, and Commissioner Islam seconded (AYE: Alegado, Otsuka, Islam, Romine; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).
- Commissioner Otsuka nominated Vice Chair Keener to serve as Vice Chair; Vice Chair Keener previously mentioned via email that she would be interested in accepting the nomination in a future meeting.
- (09:10) Commissioner Islam motioned to vote for Vice Chair Keener to be elected as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Romine seconded (AYE: Alegado, Otsuka, Islam, Romine; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: None).

5. (10:27) Discussion and Action on Transfer of Co-Leadership of In-Development Urban Heat Guidance Document, draft May 12, 2022

- Commissioner Islam indicated that the Commission is looking for another Climate Change Commissioner to take her place in completing the in-development [Urban Heat Guidance Document](#).
- Commissioner Romine accepted the transfer.
- Chair Alegado noted that a potential fire risk document should be an independent document instead of in the Urban Heat Guidance Document.

6. (18:42) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser shared the following:
 - Matt echoed and reinforced Chair Alegado's sentiments about the Maui fires, and thanked the Commission for ensuring access to actionable information in the updated [Climate Change Brief](#). The updated Climate Change Brief includes relevant information primarily on pages 19-21, 27, and 34. The City's [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) also contains info on wildfire risk in Chapter 13. The [Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization](#) has been diligent in partnering with community and government agencies, and is promoting the Firewise Communities program to help people reduce fire risk around their home and community.

- Bill 4 (2023) passed through City Council on August 9, updating the City's Building Energy Conservation Code. Mayor will sign the bill into law on August 30, 2023. Matt thanked the Commission for their [Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Buildings](#) guidance document and for their additional contributions towards the update.
- On August 17, the City's fossil fuel litigation case had a procedural step hearing at the Hawai'i Supreme Court. No decision was made at that time, and next steps may be announced in the coming months.
- The Climate Champions program is hosting a Hō'ike on August 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Honolulu Hale.
- The Long-Term Disaster Recovery Plan community survey is open at resilientoahu.org/disasterrecovery. The [Kailua Emergency Preparedness Fair](#) is August 26 and CCSR will have a booth to talk with residents about the Plan.
- The [Climate Ready O'ahu](#) draft should be released for public review within the next few months, and there could be opportunities for the Commission to collaborate with outreach events.
- The City's [Climate Action Plan](#) must be updated on a five year basis, and planning is underway. Both the City and State have received funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and will be embarking on stakeholder engagement.
- [Resolution 23-162](#) would establish a Climate Resiliency Fund. It has one more reading at City Council, and if it passes, it will be included on the 2024 ballot.
- August 28 marks the five and a half year close of the City's AmeriCorps VISTA program. Overall, about 59 or 60 VISTA members served throughout 7 or 8 City agencies. Mahalo to Julia Alaimo, Sophia Somers, Christabel Wagner, and Nadine Fuller, who will be concluding their service on Monday.
- In June, CCSR welcomed Ben Sullivan as Deputy Director, who started in the role after previous Deputy Director Nicola Hedge moved off island. CCSR bid aloha to previous Budget & Operations Specialist Sonavie Ong, and is now welcoming Jennifer Sou into the role. Chase McDaniel joined the CCSR team as the inaugural Flood and Resilience Specialist. Chris Agcanas will begin working as the inaugural Fleet Electrification Specialist on Monday. Last month, Dexter Kishida, previous Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager, transitioned to the State Department of Agriculture as the new Deputy Director; the Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager position will be advertised in the near future.
- Chair Alegado inquired about Resolution 23-162 and how the Commission can track it. Since the Commission doesn't have time to meet to draft

testimony given the timeline, Commissioners may submit personal testimony if they wish.

7. (38:29) Presentation on the City's Climate Champions Program by Alex Yee, Coastal & Water Program Manager, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency

- Alex Yee presented about the City's Climate Champions Pilot Program, which was created in alignment with the City's upcoming climate adaptation strategy, Climate Ready O'ahu.
- Commissioner Romine recommended Hawai'i Sea Grant and NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge as potential partners in the future.
- Commissioner Islam inquired if the Climate Champions' projects will be put online; Alex Yee responded that their project posters can be posted online.
- Commissioner Otsuka offered her thoughts on incorporating transportation initiatives into the program.
- Chair Alegado recommended connecting the program with the Ulana 'Ike Center of Excellence. She also mentioned that Hawai'i Sea Grant is holding a [Pacific Islands Indigenous Science Competition](#) that can be shared with Champions in support of the work they are doing.

8. (1:03:10) Discussion on tentative next meeting date(s)

- Matt Gonser and Chair Alegado noted that there may be opportunities in the near future to partner with CCSR for a collaborative in-person meeting, such as a truncated Commission meeting with an open house-style event.
- The preferred method is to schedule in-person meeting dates that are close together where similar material is presented in different locations around O'ahu. The Commission will also pair specific information with applicable communities.
- Commissioner Otsuka mentioned providing an overview of the updated draft of the [Urban Heat Guidance Document](#) during an in-person Wai'anae meeting and gathering feedback.
- Chair Alegado will work with Matt Gonser to schedule a community meeting, likely in October or November.
- At the next in-person meeting, the Commission will gauge public opinion on in-person meeting accessibility, as stated in the Commission's [Equity Pledge](#).
- Participant Felix Gottdiener shared their email address and volunteered to assist in reaching out to University of Hawai'i students about public meetings.

9. (1:10:48) Communications and correspondence from the public

- No communications or correspondence were received from the public.

10.(1:11:10) Public input for matters not on the agenda

- Chair Alegado introduced the idea of potentially creating a standalone Commission brief on the intersection of climate change and fire risk.
- The Commission will see what local resources are available on fire risk and if there are any gaps in resources. City resources will be gathered by CCSR. There will be discussion at the next meeting after the Commission assesses the resources.
- Commissioner Romine mentioned the need for better managing fallow farmland and invasive fire prone grasses.

11.(1:20:33) Announcements:

1. Chair Alegado shared the following announcements
 - a. Reminder of the Climate Champions Hō'ike today, August 25, from 2-4 p.m. at Honolulu Hale.
 - b. Nonprofits engaging in indigenous knowledge production are encouraged to apply to the [Pacific Islands Indigenous Science Competition](#).
2. Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcements
 - a. Congratulations to the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, who has been awarded a \$25 million [RAISE](#) grant to help fund the cost of constructing [Ala Pono](#), the Ala Wai Pedestrian Bridge. Ala Pono is expected to facilitate reduced emissions by promoting a modal shift to active transportation, especially for local, neighborhood-adjacent trips.
 - b. [Hawai'i Conference of Planning Officials](#) is coming up September 6-8 at the Sheraton Waikīkī. Commissioner Otsuka will be facilitating a panel on mobility hubs.
 - c. Reminder of the Hawai'i Department of Transportation's [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.
3. Commissioner Romine shared the following announcement
 - a. The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Commission and Hawai'i Sea Grant are [hiring five extension and research specialists](#) for statewide climate outreach and action.

- b. The "[Slice of PI-CASC](#)" climate adaptations science seminar series starts September 5 and will occur every first Tuesday at noon. Chair Alegado will be presenting November 7.

12. (1:27:19) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m. All four Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.