



Climate Change Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COMMISSIONERS

Victoria Keener, Ph.D., Chair
Rosanna Alegado, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Bettina Mehnert, FAIA, LEED AP
Makena Coffman, Ph.D.
Charles Fletcher, Ph.D.

Climate Change Commission Monday, November 16, 2020 9:30AM Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rosie Alegado, Charles Fletcher, Victoria Keener, and Bettina Mehnert

Members Absent: Makena Coffman

Public: Uyen Vong, Josh Stanbro, Lala Nuss, Matt Gonser, and Sophie Lee (Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Layla Kilolu, Rachael Han, Hannah Thompson, Brian Lee (Hawaii LECET), Henry Curtis, June Chee, K. Mitchell, Laura Mo, Leilikolehua Gill, Lopaka Weltman. Mary Longacre, Nancy McPherson, Pane Meatoga III, Aida Arik, Tawn Keeney, Christin Reynolds (One World One Water), Barry Usagawa (Board of Water Supply), Leighton Chong, Dave Martin, Dave Raney (Sierra Club)

Call to Order: Chair Keener called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Roll Call: Four Commissioners were present. Quorum was established.

Approval of the Meeting: The October 26, 2020 were adopted as written (**AYE:** Alegado, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None)

Report on the Activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR): Executive Director Josh Stanbro presented the following:

- CCSR Coastal and Water Program Manager Matt Gonser continued to work on the climate adaptation strategy and conducting online community engagement.
- CCSR is currently working on Bill 65, which codifies responsibilities of CCSR. The bill is currently being heard by the Budget Committee this week.
- Bill 2 has been modified substantially from the original version, which focuses on reducing emissions around parking and transportation. The modifications appears to impact affordability rate and lowering emission standards.
- CCSR has been working on CARES Act and economic recovery for the city by incorporating community empowerment to ensure long-term sustainable solutions through partnerships with the Office of Economic Revitalization.

Questions and Comments that followed:

1. Chair Keener informed Stanbro that the Climate Change Commission (Commission) is submitting testimony for Bill 65, focusing on reinserting detailed language for the One Water Framework to increase collaboration. Director Stanbro acknowledged that

climate change requires a holistic approach, especially for adaptation, so the One Water Framework represents a solution to solve the difficulties that current city organization systems have in dealing with a multi-pronged issue like climate change.

2. Chair Keener asked Director Stanbro to elaborate about the language lost in Bill 2 around energy and affordability. Director Stanbro responded that the original version unbundled the parking requirement from a residential unit since the buying trends of vehicles by millennial and Generation Z has been decreasing. The current version of Bill 2 now has the parking unbundling, the increasing of setbacks, and planting of trees along roads removed. Some good components, such as reducing parking minimums, still remain in the bill.

Comments and Public Testimony that Followed: There were no public comments or testimony.

Communication and Correspondence from the Public

- Dr. Tawn Keeney inquired about his email to the Commission regarding emissions from air travel from tourism last month. Chair Keener responded that his emails were acknowledged at the last Commission meeting, and that the topic is more appropriate to be addressed by the State, not the City. Commissioner Alegado acknowledged that she recognizes the impact of air travel impacts in Honolulu, but she agrees with Chair Keener that the responsibility falls under the Hawaii Department of Transportation, which is under state jurisdiction.

Comments and Public Testimony that Followed:

1. Henry Curtis from Life of the Land believes the City is responsible because the city markets itself as a tourist destination, therefore increases the amount of air travel to Hawai'i. Thus, the City should be responsible for air pollution from air travel. Chair Keener responded that the adaptation working group created by the City can respond to Dr. Keeney's inquiry in this manner.
2. Dr. Keeney requested to present a proposal for state legislation to progress defunding of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. This proposal would not solve the problem of climate change inequity resulting from tourism, so he is unsure how much impact this proposal would have. Keeney requested the Commission to weigh in on the proposal through a commentary or testimony in regards to the scientific validity of Keeney's proposal. Commissioner Fletcher has read the proposal and asked Keeney to restate the statistics calculated by Keeney on the emission burdens of Hawai'i residents from tourism. Keeney presented the data, and Commissioner Fletcher acknowledged the value of the data and thanked Keeney. As for Keeney's proposal to defund the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Commissioner Fletcher proposes a different approach in using the HTA and current legislature to use hydrogen-fueled long distance transport. As for inter-island travel, Commissioner Fletcher recalled that it was successfully completed last year using batteries. Chair Keener responded that the Commission is planning to create a tourism guidance document about the impact of different sectors from tourism on climate change, where Keeney's data could be utilized. Chair Keener recommended Keeney to connect to the state-level Climate Change, Mitigation, and Adaptation Commission, whose coordinator is Anu Hittle.
3. Curtis inquired if they all remain when the new mayor comes in. Chair Keener and Commissioner Alegado confirmed yes, as they are all appointed on five-year rolling appointments.

Discussion and Action on Bill 65 (2020) Testimony

- Chair Keener provided context for the Bill 65 testimony, in that this current draft is in response to Bill 65, CD1, which presented a more general implementation of the One Water Framework. The current testimony requests that more detailed language surrounding the One Water Framework be reinserted into the bill. Chair Keener shared her screen and presented a high level overview of the draft.
- Commissioner Fletcher inquired why the details were dropped in the CD1 version. Chair Keener responded that there was concern about Bill 65 being duplicative. Christin Reynolds, with One World One Water, responded to Commissioner Fletcher's question that there were concerns of

the CCSR conducting implementation, which is a misinterpretation of the bill, as the responsibility of implementation falls on line agencies like BWS and CCSR is responsible for coordination. Barry Usagawa from BWS added on to Reynold's comments, in that the pushback came from the business community and reiterated his thanks to the Commission for supporting Bill 65.

Commissioner Fletcher moved and Commissioner Mehnert seconded the motion to adopt the testimony in support of Bill 65 (2020), and to submit it to City Council (**AYE**: Alegado, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert; **NAY**: none; **ABSTAIN**: None).

Discussion and Action on Climate Change & Social Equity Guidance Document: Chair Keener presented a high level overview of the draft, including details in which sections have remained the same and which sections have changed.

Questions and Comments that followed:

1. Commissioner Alegado requests a change in language from "underrepresented" communities to "minoritized" for section 1.3 titled *Climate Change Commission Pledge Towards Equity*.
2. Commissioner Fletcher edited the last sentence of the first paragraph in the Commission's Equity Pledge to increase clarity.
3. Commissioner Fletcher advised that recommending a model focused on community ownership for issues like energy and sea level rise, instead of top-down models, should be added. Chair Keener responded that section 3.2 of the paper addresses these concerns. Commissioner Alegado responded that the paper should be more clear about renewable energy conflicting with traditional Hawaiian culture and its disproportionate negative impact on Hawaiian communities. Commissioner Alegado brought up the spectrum of community participation and referenced Artstein's ladder of participation. Chair Keener acknowledges that a couple more sentences about disproportionate impacts of renewable energy and the historical lack of Hawaiian agency need to be added to Section 3.2, which is where Henry Curtis's comment on renewable energy can be included.
4. Commissioner Fletcher proposed a revision to recommendation four that includes language proposed by McPherson. He also added another sentence to the Commission's equity pledge surrounding increased community engagement for climate mitigation and adaptation projects.
5. Nancy McPherson sent in the chat a suggestion from DDHL on adding a sentence in the recommendations section about the CCSR regularly consulting with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to increase inclusion of native Hawaiian communities. McPherson also offered to send references for indigenous knowledge on climate change adaptation and resilience.
6. Henry Curtis sent a comment in the chat about defining renewable energy in the paper to mean decarbonization or decreased GHG emissions, as renewable energy does not always mean decreased GHG emissions.
7. In response to the "Areas for Further Research" section, CCSR Climate Resilience and Equity Manager Lala Nuss stated that exploration of the nexus of western science and indigenous methods of adapting to climate change should be included.
8. Dave Raney (Sierra Club Hawaii) is supportive of the Commission in collaborating and partnering with frontline communities.

Commissioner Fletcher moved and Commissioner Alegado seconded the motion to adopt the Climate Change and Social Equity Guidance Document as amended today to transmit to Mayor Caldwell and the City Council (**AYE**: Alegado, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: None)

Public Input for Matters Not on the Agenda:

- Matt Gonser from CCSR provided clarification from his contribution at the last meeting. The Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition actually has two members at the advisory hui instead of one to purposefully increase youth representation.

Tentative Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is December 8, 2020 at 2:00PM via Zoom.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Alegado thanked Layla Kilolu for all the work she has contributed and completed for the Commission and offered her congratulations for Layla's new job.
- Commissioner Fletcher announced a meeting on Wednesday, November 18 at 10:30, which is hosted by the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR). The meeting will feature DPP staff discussing design guidelines and options in regards to SLR.
- Commissioner Alegado spoke about her involvement in the upcoming 2020 Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Summit.
- Chair Keener revisited Commissioner Fletcher's request to discuss the impact of Senate Bill 2060, which was signed into law by the Governor's Act 16, on the Coastal Zone Management law, 205a. Chair Keener and Commissioner Fletcher agreed that it would be good for someone from the CZM program to be present in the next meeting to discuss the impact of the bill on

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.