



Climate Change Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 S. 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 APBD+C, LFA
Kiana Otsuka, MSc
Brad Romine, Ph.D.

Climate Change Commission Pledge Towards Equity - DRAFT

Modified and expanded from the City and County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission's "Climate Change and Social Equity – Guidance Document," adopted December 8, 2020 and updated July 29, 2022
https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/HNLClimateChangeCommission-ClimateChangeSocialEquityGuidance_July2022.pdf

The Commission acknowledges that climate change is still viewed as primarily an environmental issue, and thus needs to be reframed as a human issue that is a core challenge for sustainable development with powerful economic, social, and environmental implications.¹ The Commission acknowledges that centuries of chronic exploitation, inequitable and extractive systems, and policies and environmental design has deliberately left many populations at greater risk of exposure and with fewer tools and resources to mitigate or adapt to climate change. ~~the need to understand the different ways that people are vulnerable to the consequences of climate change events by virtue of their geographic locations, livelihoods, asset holdings, historical contexts, and social positioning.~~² As climate inequity and climate injustice are in part a result of policy outcomes and government action (or at times, inaction) ~~O'ahu plans for climate change impacts,~~ we the Commission will explore to what extent mitigation or adaptation strategies may offer simultaneous opportunities to promote wider societal development objectives.³ In addition, the Commission supports the City in advancing meaningful community engagement practices that center the needs of chronically exploited local communities to address site-specific climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Understanding that change begins with leadership, the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu pledges to:

- Periodically host the Commission's in-person meetings in different areas of the island of O'ahu so that a diversity of communities can participate in the planning process for their communities, and to invite leaders of ~~minoritized minority~~ communities to participate; the Commission will:
 - Strive to have in-person meetings no further than one-quarter mile walk from a bus stop;
 - Work with the City Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (OCCSR) to reach out directly to local community groups where the meeting is being held;
 - Engage the public on how to make Commission meetings more accessible; and
 - Work with OCCSR to provide activities for children at in-person meetings where appropriate;
- Request that OCCSR includes in the Executive Director's report how the Commission performed on the four meeting accessibility metrics above, on an annual basis;

¹ Mearns, Robin, et al. Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Equity and Vulnerability in a Warming World. World Bank, 2010, pp. xxiii, 319, doi:10.1596/978-0-8213-7887-8.

² ~~Mearns, Robin, et al. Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Equity and Vulnerability in a Warming World. World Bank, 2010, pp. xxiii, 319, doi:10.1596/978-0-8213-7887-8.~~

³ Mearns, Robin, et al. Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Equity and Vulnerability in a Warming World. World Bank, 2010, pp. xxiii, 319, doi:10.1596/978-0-8213-7887-8.

