

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

ROSANNA 'ANOLANI ALEGADO, PH.D.,  
CHAIR  
VICTORIA KEENER, PH.D., VICE-CHAIR  
MELANIE ISLAM, NCARB, LEED AP,  
BD+C, LFA  
KIANA OTSUKA, MSc.  
BRADLEY ROMINE, PH.D.

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Rick Blangiardi, Mayor  
530 South King Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

AND

The Honorable Tommy Waters,  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mayor Blangiardi, Council Chair Waters, and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Urban Heat Guidance

Pursuant to the Revised Charter of Honolulu (RCH) Section 6-107(h), the City and County of Honolulu (City) Climate Change Commission (Commission) is charged with gathering the latest science and information on climate change impacts on Hawai'i. The Commission provides advice and recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and executive departments as they look to draft policy and engage in planning for future climate scenarios as well as reduce Honolulu's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 1950, average Honolulu temperatures have increased by 2.6 degrees Fahrenheit, with a sharp increase in warming over the last decade. Heat stress and heat shock impacts include marine heat waves and changes in prevailing wind patterns. Extreme heat can trigger fatal heat exhaustion and can exacerbate underlying health conditions. While the City has implemented several approaches and best practices to manage and mitigate urban heat, by mid-century, urban O'ahu may experience intolerable levels of heat, which is strongly associated with socio-economic impacts.

As such, the Commission makes the following recommendations for the City (please see attachment for details):

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1. Mitigation steps should be undertaken sooner rather than later as a cost and life saving measure to establish successful practices.
2. Create a public education and outreach program to increase heat awareness.
3. Develop a comprehensive plan for emergency heat response.
4. Collect more heat information.
5. Develop heat resilience building guidelines and codes.
6. Develop cool-streets and cool-roofs/walls program.
7. Use census data to identify underserved and low-income communities that are at risk of heat stress and shock.

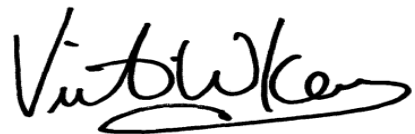
The Commission recognizes the significance of these recommendations in meeting the City's and state's climate resilience objectives and offers the resources of the Commission in helping to communicate and implement these recommendations.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at [ccc@honolulu.gov](mailto:ccc@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



Rosanna 'Anolani Alegado, Ph. D.  
Chair



Victoria Keener, Ph. D.  
Vice-Chair

Attachment

cc: All Executive Agencies  
Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation  
Honolulu Board of Water Supply