

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: ccc@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org



KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

MAKENA COFFMAN, PH.D., CHAIR  
CHARLES FLETCHER, PH.D., VICE CHAIR  
ROSIE ALEGADO, PH.D.  
VICTORIA KEENER, PH.D.  
BETTINA MEHNERT, FAIA, LEED AP

**Climate Change Commission**  
**Tuesday, November 18, 2019**  
**Mission Memorial Building, 1st Floor Hearings Room**  
**550 South King Street**  
**Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Rosie Alegado, Makena Coffman, Charles Fletcher, Victoria Keener

**Members Absent:** Bettina Mehnert

**Public:** Executive Director Josh Stanbro, Deputy Director Justin Gruenstein, Uyen Vong, Hayley Cook (Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Courtney Sue-Ako (Corporation Counsel); Grant Yoshimori; Henry Curtis; Teresa Dawson; Shichao Li; Christin Reynolds; Aida Arik; Megan Canniff; Sophie Lee; Kem Lowry; Emma Ho; Tenaya Jackman; Marta Foreo Wayne; Michael Foley; Rob Porro; Rich McCreeedy; Bruce Tsuchida; and Barry Usagawa.

**Call to Order:** Chair Makena Coffman called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Four of the five Commissioners were present. Quorum was established.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2019:** The May 28, 2019 meeting minutes were adopted as amended. (**AYE:** Alegado, Coffman, Fletcher, Keener, **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None.)

- On page 3, "fleet increases overtime" amended to "fleet is assumed to increase overtime".

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

- Three members of the Resilience Office attended the Urban Sustainability Directors Network annual meeting in Detroit, Michigan. The training was focused on climate change and equity. Honolulu won the bid to host the annual meeting in October 2020. Commissioners are welcome to suggest content ideas for this gathering.
- The Resilience Office held three trainings for City employees, as part of the Department of Human Resources Catalogue of Trainings. The training focuses on climate change science and how to interpret Mayor's Directive 18-2. CCSR thanks the Commission for putting out the content, metrics, and suggested planning in terms of benchmarking.
- The Resilience Strategy has been formally adopted by the City Council. CCSR staff and VISTAs have been going to neighborhood boards to present the Resilience Strategy. The neighborhood boards were among the first groups to give input in 2018 for the creation of the Resilience Strategy.
- Honolulu is the 13<sup>th</sup> municipality to take file a lawsuit against fossil fuel corporations. Maui County intends to pursue litigation.
- Councilmember Manahan introduced Bill 40, a single-use plastics ban. The Resilience Office has been meeting with stakeholders and the bill has gotten progressively better and should pass City Council. Mayor Caldwell is inclined to approve the bill.
- Bill 25, relating to energy code update, did not get scheduled to be heard in November 2019, as originally hoped. The new updates would mandate EV charging and infrastructure for new

buildings and make sure solar water heating is mandated in the energy code.

**Questions and Comments that Followed:**

- Coffman asked about Bill 25's progress at the City Council. Director Stanbro replied that the Resilience Office met with stakeholders over many months and has provided a final recommendation which provides additional flexibility for the building and construction industry. Lacking a special committee hearing, the bill is likely not heard until December 2019 or January 2019.

**Communications and Correspondence from the Public:**

- Coffman stated the Commission received a letter from Grant Yoshimori of "Save Kaneohe" regarding the expansion of the Hawaiian Memorial Park in Kaneohe. The expansion plan involves removing 31 acres of forest as part of the expansion of the cemetery. Keener suggested taking this issue to the State Commission Commission or the Land Use Commission.

**Questions and Comments that Followed:**

- Grant Yoshimori distributed a supplemental handout to the commissioners requested the Commission to advise the Department of Planning and Permitting against this expansion. Yoshimori explained that why the expansion should be denied: the Land Use Commission heard a similar request 10 years ago and they denied it; the expansion would result in a deforestation of 31 acres; and the plan contracts the City's commitment to plant 100,000 new trees.
- Fletcher asked what alternatives are available for the cemetery. Yoshimori replied that the cemetery can increase the density of the burials or defer clients to other cemeteries that have the capacity.

**Creation of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) for Shoreline Planning:**

- Coffman stated the intention to create a PIG so that commissioners can formally report back their research and discoveries on shoreline planning issues.

**Questions and Comments that Followed:**

- Henry Curtis commented that although PIGs do not have the follow Sunshine Law, he would request that they do to increase transparency. Coffman stated that the reason for creating the PIG would be to have transparency and a public mechanism for the commissioners to report their findings.
- Corporation Counsel Courtney Sue-Ako suggested convening an executive session to discuss creation of a PIG.

**Coffman amended the agenda to convene an executive session at the end of the meeting.**

**Discussion on Draft Shoreline Setback Guidance:** Fletcher explained that the Commission has been tasked by Mayor Caldwell to provide guidance on Revised Ordinances of Hawaii Chapter 23 which deals with shoreline setback. Fletcher further commented:

- The setback deals with a no-build zone which is an administrative boundary. A no-build zone is important because the threat of sea level rise brings coastal hazards closer to the shoreline.
- The main reasons for a shoreline setback guidance include allowing and enhancing open space, protecting and preserving public access, and protecting the environment, especially beaches. The secondary reason is recognizing that hazard avoidance is the most efficient way to mitigate climate threats.

**The recommendations are as follows:**

- Design ROH Chapter 23 to be consistent with, and reflect learning from, the science of climate change and sea level rise. Revisions constituent with this knowledge have the greatest probability of achieving ordinance objectives. Opening paragraphs of ROH Chapter 23 should alert users that no-build zones on Oahu are designed in recognition of climate change and sea level rise.
- Combine the objectives of ROH Chapter 23 into a "risk avoidance" policy which would include two

ranked policy objectives (primary and secondary).

- Design a place-based setback regime, meaning a singular consistent management regime should apply to all coastal segments, instead of parcel-scale planning.
- Utilize multiple criteria to determine the no-build zone and revise variance criteria to eliminate practices that are inconsistent with the objectives of ROH Chapter 23, including a re-examination of what constitutes as reason use of land, i.e. is it reasonable to build in a high risk zone?
- Develop criteria for repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure that harden the shoreline.
- Setback criteria may change over time, but any seaward change in setback line should not be allowed.
- Incorporate the ability to change the ordinance every five years. New information in the disciplines of sea level rise, climate change, and coastal risk are constantly emerging and improved modeling results that promote successful achievement of policy objects are frequently released.

**Questions and Comments that Followed:**

- Keener asked if the recommendations are backed by literature. Fletcher confirmed that it is and there is a draft 14-page white paper in the works.
- Alegado asked about the significance of having a primary and secondary policy and Keener suggested asking Balassiano to assess the benefits of combining both policies.
- Alegado questioned what the difference is between no-build zone and public use in the fifth recommendation. Coffman replied that a no-build zone can include private property.
- Fletcher mentioned permits for shoreline hardening may be allowing homeowners to expand their current footprint of development.
- Keener asked if there are examples of how other states are handling repair and maintenance of structures (i.e. seawalls) that harden the shoreline. Pereira will look into it.
- Coffman noted that the recommendation to revise the ordinance every five years may be too frequent. Keener clarified that this would mean there is an opportunity to amend the ordinance every five years, but it is not mandatory to do so every time.
- Alegado inquired about the military's involvement with monitoring or regulating the shoreline.
- Shichao Li from the Office of Planning a shoreline setback is better than a no-build zone because the setback allows for variances. Li also mentioned that the shoreline is dynamic and the setback can be adjusted. Alegado commented that it is important to have evidence-based eco-physical zones.
- OceanIt coastal engineer Mike Foley asked about the theory behind "holding the line", because if the policy should be reflective of evidence-based decision making. Coffman responded that it makes sense to be forward-looking, not just backward-looking with the policies.
- Coffman announced that the next Climate Change Commission meeting on Tuesday, December 17, which will focus on shoreline setback and a draft white paper will be available to the public prior to the meeting.

**Presentation on One Water Framework by Christin Reynolds, One World One WATER LLC.**

**Reynolds presented the following information:**

- A large portion of climate change impacts are expressed in the form of water: droughts, flooding, sea level rise, coastal erosion. The current governance structure is not set up to collaboratively plan for climate change impacts. An example is raising the streets which requires cooperation and planning from multiple departments.
- Honolulu could use San Francisco as a model for managing water efficiency when deciding to use the One Water framework.

**Questions and comments that Followed:**

- Fletcher asked how One Water is logistically organized. Reynolds responded that the it depends on each city. For example, San Francisco meets one to two times a year to budget and sequence projects while the City of Los Angeles has a comprehensive plan to handle all of their services into One Water.
- Fletcher asked if the City is doing something similar to this and Director Stanbro replied that the

- City has a monthly meeting to provide updates on resilience actions.
- Reynolds mentioned that the framework includes 10-15 options that a city can choose to implement the One Water framework.

**Public Input for Matters Not on the Agenda:** There was no public input during this time.

**Tentative Next Meeting Date:** The next tentative meeting date is December 17 at 3:00pm in the urban Honolulu.

**Announcements:** There were no announcements.

**Executive Session:** The Commission went into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. The Commission exited Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.