

Coordinator Anu Hittle introduced the topic of a green recovery, and the opportunities to “seize the pandemic” to align climate action and recovery. She introduced the speakers in the order listed below. Links to their presentations may be found on climate.hawaii.gov/commission.

- a. (16:06) Dr. Kealoha Fox, Hawai‘i Feminist COVID-19 Response Team; Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women. Dr. Fox’s recommendations to the Commission are summarized here:

1. Can help see a better normal and an equitable recovery that includes centering equity

- i. Sustainable and subsistence recovery projects
- ii. Nature based solutions
- iii. Green jobs

2. Support and share the brief: *A Better Normal: Post COVID-19 Recovery for a Climate Ready Hawaii*.

3. Become champions of other plans and intersecting recommendations by being an ally, partner and key collaborator across govt, business and community.

- b. (28:00) Beth Osborne, Director, Transportation for America. Spoke on “Opportunities for green and equitable recovery” and recommended the following:

1. Reconsider the Hawaii plan to invest in transportation projects which will increase driving by 11 percent, increasing GHG. And evaluate all transportation projects and plans for its impact on VMT/GHG.

2. State of Hawaii could make alternative transportation a funding and a design priority.

3. Obligate millions of unused bike/pedestrian infrastructure funds (which the state could lose this year) to make space for people to be out at a distance and to improve safety.

4. Use tools Hawaii already has that could help evaluate projects, needs and improve response to COVID-19 and economic recovery to ensure addressing economic, health and equity priorities.

In the Q+A, Commissioner Araki-Regan, DOT, asked to schedule a meeting with Ms. Osborne, to include DOT’s transportation deputy director for highways and key managers. State Representative Lowen asked whether Ms. Osborne’s analysis was specifically on State DOT, or included counties as well. Ms. Osborne clarified that she was specifically referring to HDOT’s plan, and in general to State level activities.

- c. (48:45) Beth Giesting, Director, Hawaii Budget & Policy Center emphasized increasing climate infrastructure now. Her main takeaways included:

- i. Stimulus value for such infrastructure;
- ii. Cheap borrowing (low interest rates); and

iii. Work opportunities (capital investments and civilian conservation corps)

While there were no specific comments for Ms. Giesting, a general discussion followed on the role of climate change action and recovery from COVID-19. Commissioners Rep. Lowen, Myers, Fried and co-Chair Case touched on topics such as: conservation corps, sustainable tourism, resilience through solar and hurricane-proofing.

5. November 6, 2019 meeting and January 13-14, 2020 conference minutes: Discussion and Approval (action item). (1:16). Co-Chair Evans led the Commission through approval of the minutes from November 2019 and January 2020 meetings. She announced tentative agenda items for the next meeting.

Co-Chair Case concluded the meeting at 2:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved for Submittal:

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