MINUTES FOR
THE MEETING OF THE
HAWAI‘I CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2019
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: KALANIMOKU BUILDING
LAND BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM 132
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I 96813

Attendees:
Randall Tanaka, DBEDT (co-chair designee) Ka‘aina Hull, Kaua‘i County Planning Dept.
Bruce Anderson, DOH Representative Nicole Lowen
Lynn Araki-Regan, DOT Ken Masden, DOE
Jeff Dack, Maui County Planning Dept. Justine Nihipali, CZM/OP
Kealoha Fox, OHA Brian Tan, DOA
Rick Fried, HTA Tom Travis, HIEMA
Justin Gruenstein, C+C Honolulu, OCCSR Michael Yee, Hawaii County Planning Dept.

A summary and main outcomes by agenda item are outlined below. For presentations, papers, supporting materials, and audio files please see the Commission’s website at climate.hawaii.gov/commission.

Item 1. New members, welcome and introduction, and announcements of future meeting dates (0:16).

Co-Chair designate Randall Tanaka (DBEDT) began the meeting at 1:11 pm, once quorum was achieved (attendees are listed above). Announcements for remaining meetings included the following dates: September 4 and November 6, and the 2020 Climate Conference scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2020.
Item 2. Approval of April 24, 2019 meeting minutes (03:45). Minutes were approved, with amendments—at the date of the meeting, Director Mary Alice Evans had not started as co-chair, so the proposal was to remove her as signatory from the minutes, and some other minor edits were noted. Minutes audio files will be available online, along with this summary of the minutes which also contains time stamps in the audio recording.

Item 3. Coordinator’s Report (05:41). Coordinator’s report included background on and context for the three Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) on: climate legislation for the 2020 session, transitioning public fleets to clean fuels, and climate equity; a short presentation on the work done under these PIGs, which is summarized in each group’s report of findings and recommendations, available as part of the meeting packet online; an orientation and reminder of the content on the Commission’s website (climate.hawaii.gov); and an update on the 2020 statewide conference.

Item 4a. Informational presentation (22:27). The Guidance for Disaster Recovery Preparedness in Hawaii Report (partners: Sea Grant, DLNR, Office of Planning) was presented by Dr. Brad Romine (UH Sea Grant) and Dr. Kitty Courtney (TetraTech, Inc., contractor). See slides and audio files for full presentation, questions and comments.

In summary, they discussed the concept of building resilience to coastal hazards, in close partnership with DLNR and OP, to further the work of the State’s Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, and the on-going disaster preparedness efforts in the state. Disasters are costly for the state— for example, Hurricane Iniki cost $3 billion in damages and it took 8 years for Kaua‘i to recover. The main issue of how to prepare in advance for recovery, how to improve governance structures, coordinate with federal and state entities, and what are some of the preparedness activities that must be done ahead of the event were discussed. These need to be integrated with existing plans, and support capacity building at local and county levels.

A short recap of some of the questions and comments from Commissioners follows, but for details please refer to the audio files.

Dr. Tom Travis, HIEMA: The focus on counties is appropriate but incomplete. State has a big role, but it is not addressed in this guidance.

Dr. Bruce Anderson, DOH: State agency response, particularly that of DOH, is huge and active for disaster recovery.

Dr. Kealoha Fox, OHA: Community interaction and contributions of community should be made explicit.

Other questions from the public revolved around challenges with FEMA and other guidelines.

Refer to the audio files for details.

Item 4b. Discussion and possible decision making on a Commission statement on disaster recovery preparedness (1:07:12). The Commission considered and voted on a draft statement to propose an addendum or separate statement that recognizes that disaster recovery preparedness is a component of adaptation. The following statement was approved by the Commission: The Climate Commission recognizes that disasters threaten resiliency, and encourage(s) all State and County agencies together with community to develop, strengthen, and expand pre-disaster
recovery plans and policies that incorporate opportunities to adapt to climate change and sea level rise through disaster recovery.”

**Item 5. Findings and recommendations** of the Permitted Interaction Group for public fleets transition to renewable energy (1:24:12). Items 5 and 6 were flipped on the agenda, to accommodate schedules. This was a “non-action item.” This group will deliberate and possibly take action at the Commission meeting to be held on September 4, 2019.

The findings and recommendation were presented in a brief report (see meeting packet) by Commissioner Lynn Araki-Regan, DOT. Mainly, discussion centered around a “home” for fleet transition work because of the enormity of this task.

Comments from the public included (1:33:00): Ms. Lauren Reichelt, Blue Planet Foundation, stated that procurement offices are not necessarily coordinating fleet procurement, do not have plans for a transition, and these actions are not statewide, nor coordinated. Mr. Henry Curtis, Life of the Land, asked: What is clean and renewable? Could you list who attended PIG meetings? Mr. Todd Boulanger, Biki, stated that fleet transitions to include car sharing may be a useful starting point for non-specialized vehicles.

Ms. Joelle Simonpieri, Simonpieri Enterprises, stated she believed any permanent structure being considered should include experts.

Refer to the audio files for details.

Commission discussion included: How to go forward? What would a more centralized or permanent body coordinating this task look like? Will it be reporting to the Commission so there is some transparency? A committee, sub-committee, another PIG, or standing committee were discussed as options. The AG’s office informed Commissioners that a standing committee is not an option for the Commission at this point under current statutes (1:59:00).

(1:40:20) There was discussion of how agencies purchase and procure vehicles, and the central role of DAGS. How to change the way things are done now to incorporate actions for accelerating this transition? Having a longer-term framework for this work and procurement guidelines would be helpful. How to coordinate this work so it is not ad hoc was the big question. The discussion also entailed: coming back to the Commission with what structure would be helpful; and the presence of DAGS and other agencies not on the commission who are central to this was requested.

It was proposed that the coordinator come back to the Commission with recommendations for what structure might be most useful going forward. The coordinator will draft a statement for the Commission to deliberate on and possibly take action at the next meeting. After some procedural confusion as to how to move to the next agenda item, this discussion item was concluded.

**Item 6. Findings and recommendations** of the Permitted Interaction Group for climate change legislation (2:07:05). Items 5 and 6 were flipped on the agenda, to accommodate schedules. This was a “non-action item.” This group will deliberate and possibly take action at the Commission meeting to be held on September 4, 2019. The findings and recommendations were presented in a brief report (see meeting packet) by Commissioner Justine Nihipali, OP-CZM.
Commissioners received the report and discussed some of the findings. From the public, comments included the topic of electric vehicles, their greenhouse gas intensity, their “clean” footprint, and their relevance and applicability to the problem at hand in Hawaii (2:19:12).

Meeting reminders were announced for September 4 and November 6.

There being no further business, Co-Chair Designate Tanaka adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anukriti S. Hittle

Approved for Submittal:

Suzanne D. Case, Co-Chair
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Mary Alice Evans, Co-Chair
Office of Planning, DBEDT