STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
HAWAI‘I CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: KALANIMOKU CONFERENCE ROOM 132
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96813

Attendees:

Suzanne Case, DLNR, co-Chair
Mary Alice Evans, OP, co-Chair
Lynn Araki-Regan, DOT
Jeff Dack, Maui County Planning Dept.
Rick Fried, HTA
Tyler Gomes, DHHL
Ka‘aina Hull, Kaua‘i County Planning Dept
Keith Kawaoka, DOH
Justine Nihipali, OP-CZM
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, DOA
Josh Stanbro, City and County of Honolulu
OCCSR
Tom Travis, HIEMA
Michael Yee, Hawaii County Planning Dept

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

Item 1. Welcome and introduction, and announcements of 2020 meeting dates (non-action item). Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans convened the meeting at approximately 1pm, acknowledged Representative Tarnas in attendance, and outlined rules of participation.

Item 2. Approval of September 4th meeting minutes (action item). (5:55) Minutes of the September 4th meeting of the Commission were approved.

Item 3. Climate equity: Deliberation and possible decision making to issue a Commission statement on climate equity (action item). (6:30) The Permitted Interaction Group on Climate Equity, led by Commissioner Michael Yee presented its draft statement for the Commission to consider. Members of the public provided testimony (oral testimony by Katie Rooney, Ulupono Initiative, written testimony from Layla Kilolu), to commend the Commission on making equity a central part of climate change policy. Oral testimony from Chip Fletcher, Honolulu Climate
Change Commission, and Henry Curtis, Life of the Land, urged the Commission to be more aggressive in reducing emissions.

The statement was passed, and the final will be posted on the Commission’s website.

Item 4. Mitigation: Relating to Commission’s work on Ground transportation emissions reduction & Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Taskforce projects (non-action items): (14:00)


b. Informational presentation: HECO—Electrification of Transportation for public fleets (25:00 to 33:30)

c. Updates from various departments on clean fleets activities (33:45)

d. Updates from the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Taskforce (55:00)

a. Scott Glenn, new Chief Energy Officer for HSEO summarized the new role of the HSEO as an attached agency to DBEDT, and several directions for the state of Hawaii, and the role of HSEO in addressing decarbonization, from ground transportation emissions, GHG inventory and carbon sequestration projects, to grid resilience. He also introduced June Chee, who, along with Chris Yunker at the HSEO will be key staff for transportation.

Public Comments and discussion included comments from Henry Curtis and Chip Fletcher.

b. Jimmy Yao presented HECO’s 2018 Electrification of Transportation to integrate renewable energy into the grid, increase EV adoption and provide consumer benefits.

c. Ed Sniffen presented on DOT’s sustainability efforts—from greener construction and the use of Carbon Cure, to conversion of fleets. DOT is investigating possible leasing options for charging and services, and working on a statewide procurement model, so other departments can also participate. However currently it is too difficult to incorporate counties for this round. Representative Lowen asked what percent of the DOT fleet will be transitioned—the response was that only Light Duty Vehicles right now were being considered, so only about one-third (or 40) of the vehicles.

d. Leah Laramee, DOFAW-DLNR provided an update on the activities of the Natural and Working Lands group and the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Taskforce. She updated on two main initiatives and projects—white papers with the UH NREM program (topics: agriculture, agroforestry, aquaculture, and urban forestry, can be found on planning.hawaii.gov); and forest carbon projects through DOFAW and partners such as TNC, Uh and others. These are carbon sinks for Hawaii. They are working on how to optimize this ecosystem service. This presentation was followed by discussion revolved around the high cost of carbon programs in Hawaii. OP staff made an announcement that the next meeting of the TaskForce will be held on Thursday November 14, 2019.

Item 5. Adaptation: Relating to Commission’s work on the impacts of sea level rise:

a. Update on Climate Ready Hawaii Initiative, which aims to operationalize sea level rise models for planners and decisionmakers (non-action item). (49:30)
b. Updates from various departments on adaptation to impacts of sea level rise (non-action item). (1:16)

a. Sam Lemmo, Administrator OCCL-DLNR gave an update on the newly established Climate Ready Hawaii initiative, and provided context --that it grew out of a need to help the counties and state agencies utilize the state’s sea level rise report more effectively, specifically, the exposure area (SLR-XA).

b. Updates from counties. (1:16) Ka’aina Hull explained the new draft zoning designation “Open Coastal Edge” that would put specifically identified properties as particularly vulnerable, as identified by the state’s sea level rise report. Kaua‘i county is working with property owners o this designation. They are also working on finalizing a new shoreline setback ordinance. The details were outlined (1:20). Jeff Dack presented from Maui county (1:21), and explained that the Community plan that is underway will incorporate sea level rise. They are also working on a new erosion hazard line 40 feet mauka from the current erosion line. He went on to explain the public process they have undergone thus far in connection with this effort. In addition, read out the mayoral proclamation to litigate fossil fuel companies for the climate change damage they have caused.

Michael Yee explained that Hawai‘i county will be incorporating sea level rise into its annual plan update to the general plan. They are paying close attention to what other counties are doing with regards to the shoreline.

Josh Stanbro (1:30) updated the Commission on City and County’s mayoral proclamation as well to similarly litigate; and also on setback principles that their Climate Change Commission is developing. They also remain interested in revisiting 205A and getting clarity around shoreline armoring to protect public resources and beaches from the impacts of climate change.

Item 6. Coordinator’s Report on Commission’s work relating to ground transportation emissions reduction and adaptation to impacts of sea level rise (non-action item). (1:39)

Coordinator Anu Hittle presented on various conference updates (see information on climate.hawaii.gov/conference). She will be working with Commission members’ staff during the upcoming legislative session. She also provided updates on various projects; parking policies and the state inventory that can be used for different purposes; and developing a social and vulnerability climate index for equity. She noted that the Commission’s social media accounts on Facebook (@HiClimate) and Instagram (@Hi_Climate) provide snapshots between meetings as to what work is underway, and urged everyone to follow the Commission’s activities there.

Co-Chair Evans invited Joelle Simonpetri to make an announcement about the aviation summit to be held in December.
There being no further business, co-Chair Evans adjourned the meeting shortly before 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anukriti S. Hittle, Coordinator

Approved for Submittal:

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

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