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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
HAWAI'I CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION COMMISSION**

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020
TIME: 1:30PM – 3:00 PM
PLACE: WEB CONFERENCE

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
Scott Glenn, HSEO
Tyler Gomes, DHHL
Ka'aina Hull, Kaua'i County Planning Dept.

Brian Kau, DOA
Keith Kawaoka, DOH
Rep. Nicole Lowen
Luke Myers, HI-EMA
Justine Nihipali, CZM, OP
Josh Stanbro, City and County of Honolulu
OCCSR
Michael Yee, Hawaii County Planning Dept.

Due to COVID-19 closures, the meeting was live cast on Zoom, and YouTube, with links posted on social media accounts of the commission for public viewing. All materials are posted on the Commission's website: climate.hawaii.gov/commission.

- 1. Welcome and introduction, and announcements of 2020 meeting dates.** (12:08). The meeting was brought to order by co-Chair Case at 1:30 pm. Co-Chair Case acknowledged and read out the names of those who testified in support of the Commission's briefing document, *A Better Normal: Post COVID-19 Recovery for a Climate Ready Hawaii*, which attempted to outline how the Climate Commission's three guiding principles of clean, equitable and resilient could help the government put into practice a fast, sustained recovery. The briefing document and testimonies may be accessed at: climate.hawaii.gov/commission.
- 2. Coordinator's Report and Informational Presentations on Commission's work relating to climate change priorities and post-COVID recovery.** Commission

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,

Anukriti S. Hittle, Coordinator

Approved for Submittal:

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