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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, APRIL 7, 2021
TIME: 1:00PM
PLACE: WEB CONFERENCE

Attendees:

Suzanne Case, DLNR, co-Chair
Mary Alice Evans, OP, co-Chair
Lynn Araki-Regan, DOT
Jordan Hart, Maui County Planning Dept.
Rick Fried, HTA
Sen. Mike Gabbard
Scott Glenn, HSEO
Tyler Gomes, DHHL
Ka'aina Hull, Kaua'i County Planning Dept.

Sylvia Hussey, OHA
Zendo Kern, Hawaii County Planning Dept.
Keith Kawaoka, DOH
Rep. Nicole Lowen
Luke Meyers, HI-EMA
Justine Nihipali, CZM, OP
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, DOA
Rep. David Tarnas
Dean Uchida, City and County of Honolulu
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.** The YouTube recording time started at 1:07 minutes into the recording. Co-Chair Case began the meeting at approximately 1:02 pm when quorum was reached. Public testimony is posted on climate.hawaii.gov/hi-commission.
2. **October 28, 2020 meeting minutes.** (5:20) DOA abstained from voting due to absence at last meeting. (5:52) Hawai'i County Planning Dept. abstained from voting due to absence at last meeting. Minutes were approved.
3. **Informational updates from Commission members:** Climate Change work and priorities for

2021 (non-action item).

I. Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Legislation considered by the 2021 Legislature.

(7:30) Presenters: Rep. Nicole Lowen, Rep. David Tarnas, Senator Mike Gabbard highlighted climate-related bills with the focuses below were discussed. Slides are posted at climate.hawaii.gov/hi-commission.

- a. Priority Policy Areas (8:54)
- b. Climate Adaptation (19:04)
- c. Nature-based Solutions (21:20)
- d. Other Climate-related legislation (28:11)

II. Commissioner Araki-Regan (DOT) updated on the implementation of the Social Cost of Carbon with new support from federal government. DOT in process of developing 2045 HI Statewide Transportation Plan, including goals to adapt to climate change. Currently finalizing Highway Division's Climate Adaptation Action Plan (30:50).

III. Commissioner Nihipali (CZM, OP) updated on wrapping up addressing coastal hazards through their 5-year strategy approved by NOAA. Currently in final stages for mapping in Maui and Kauai to build resilience against tsunamis and coastal hazards, with specific focus on chronic coastal hazards (SLR, coastal erosion). Engaging with DAR to submit joint proposal to address data gaps in monitoring nearshore resources. Closed out OP projects: Southshore Promenade Project and Soil Carbon Inventory Project for the GHGSTF; will report in next GHGSTF meeting. Finalizing HI 2050 Sustainability Plan to be published end of May (34:23).

IV. Commissioner Kawaoka (DOH) DOH CAB just received final HI GHG Emission Report for 2017, which updated previous inventories from 1990-2016, previous projections from 2020-2025, and new projections for 2030. Report will be released by April 22. Received Gov. approval to continue efforts for 3 more years, providing GHG emissions projections from 2020-2045. Under Act 234 on GHG permit caps, DOH issued 15 permits capping GHG emissions for HI's largest sources, issued 13 permits to 13 powerplants last year. Currently in the process to issue 2 more permits to the power east and power west refineries (37:58).

V. Commissioner Shimabukuro-Geiser (DOA) DOA is working to make irrigation systems more efficient and reliable to accommodate heavy rains and droughts due to climate change. Cognizant of Biden administration's initiatives on soil health, collaborating with CTAHR. Looking at how to minimize agricultural and food waste, and how to generate revenue from efforts (40:25).

VI. Commissioner Kern (Hawai'i County Planning Dept.) initiated science-based analysis of key coastal areas which lead to updated shoreline setback regulations in the implementation of Act 16. Last year, Civil Defense updated its Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, including impacts of climate change and SLR into general plan. Hawai'i County selected for Integrated Climate Action Planning Cohort with the International Local Environmental Initiatives in March 2021. Secured funding to initiate a Climate Adaption Plan (41:46).

VII. Commissioner Gomes (DHHL) is in the process of updating its 2002 general plan in 2022, hoping to include climate change impacts. Regarding cesspools, using existing data to identify Native Hawaiian families impacted by mandated conversions and associated financial burdens on families. Using SLR GIS models produced by UH to inform and update planning processes for coastal areas, in particular southshore coast of Moloka'i, and working with community to develop plans to address issues (43:12).

- VIII. **Commissioner Hussey (OHA)** has been oriented to consumer-based information. Appreciative of Climate Change Portal, Climate Adaptation Design Principles. Connection of policy and practice has been very real with OHA, appreciate Commission efforts to help to inform and bridge policy and practice (44:57).
- IX. **Commissioner Meyers (HI-EMA)** continues to work with county partners on updating FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan and efforts in response to intense climate events in the past couple of years. State Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated in 2023, looking at risk assessment methodologies in 2022. In mitigation and adaptation front, submitted 15 potential applications in the FEMA BRICK Program – including projects on hurricane, flood, microgrids across several counties. In immediate response and recovery front, looking into severe flooding from March 2021 to assess response capabilities. Looking into after-action mitigation efforts as current infrastructure and capacities not meant to handle large amount rainfall in short amount of time. Invested in GIS resources working with OP to update risk inventories in the State Mitigation Plan (46:18).
- X. **Commissioner Uchida (CC Planning)** Representative Case contacted DPP on CPF Grants to fund Waikiki Special Area plan, looking into SLR issues, flooding, getting back with tourism, post-pandemic Waikiki will look like going forward. Working with HSEO permitting for battery and EV that need to be online before September 22 (49:49).
- XI. **Commissioner Glenn (HSEO)** Mentioned SB 1101 – Safe Homes Program through Insurance commission designed to provide wind-resistant devices onto homes to help with hurricane preparedness. HSEO has direct interest in adaptation and mitigation sides, but will also allow for solar to be installed on roofs. Tied to 100% Renewable Energy goal calls for all residential homes to have solar. Governor issued EO 2021-01 establishing the Powering Past Coal Taskforce with the goal to coordinate, align, and facilitate the efforts needed to safely decommission coal plants and replaced with renewable energy and ensure grid stability. Taskforce has 18 months to achieve its goal; coal plants will be shut down on Sept. 1, 2022. Taskforce is a coordinating entity, not a decision making entity. United States rejoined Paris Agreement in Feb 2021. Many states adopted goals of Obama’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) when the Trump Administration pulled out in 2017. Biden Administration will release new NDC in April 2021, and examine Hawai‘i’s role and share in that discussion (51:18).
- XII. **Commissioner Hull (Kaua‘i County Planning Dept.)** Adopted West Kaua‘i Community Plan, one of the subordinates was the new Special Treatment Coastal Edge District that can be used island wide. District is for coastal areas within SLR exposure area. Any proposals within district will have to go through public hearing and review by planning commission to specifically address how to avoid and mitigate SLR impacts. Procuring services to administrative rules to specifically address SLR exposure area points and mitigation measures like passive flooding, highway runup. Working with UH to expand Special Management Area Line to incorporate SLR exposure area to include in all special management area permits in tandem with administrative rules. Expect implementation and adoption in 8-12 months. From a mitigation standpoint, the County of Kaua‘i initiated Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency Plan Program, and will be built out over the next 2 years. Working with Utility on their renewable program. 60% of Kaua‘i energy is currently renewable sourced. Current large project on West Kaua‘i is a mix of solar and hydro energy, will push Kaua‘i to 80% threshold by 2023. Next focus would be looking to transition to EV and reduction of VMT (55:45).
- XIII. **Commissioner Hart (Maui County Planning Dept)** Updating SMA in shoreline rules for the Maui Planning Commission, working with specific high risk communities on coordinating long

range and planning initiatives. Continuing to update West Maui Community Plan and initiating South Maui Community Plan, both with significant areas of existing erosion and SLR exposure. Addressing SLR through the administration of our various permitting approval processes (1:01:10).

XIV. **Commissioner Fried (HTA)** HTA was concerned about SLR impacts on tourism. Raised this issue and work in various HTA meetings. (1:02:10).

Discussions followed reports (1:03:40).

- Tawn Keeney, member of the public, provided testimony on his White Paper “Visitor Air Travel to Hawai‘i as Contributor to Global Warming” (See Public Testimony). Paper was presented for the CC Honolulu Climate Commission in November 2020 and described as very important and recommended to be presented to State Climate Commission. Air Transport of visitors in 2019 accounted for 18 mil tonnes CO₂ equivalent emissions, contrasted 7.8 mil tonnes from state’s electrical generation and refineries, 4 mil tonnes from all ground transportation. Request is future meeting address specifically the issue emission burden of tourism in Hawai‘i with complex goal of suggesting a desirable number of yearly visitors.
- Senator Chris Lee asked if the Commission is able to intervene and influence incoming infrastructure funding for the state from the federal government in the next couple months before it gets allotted to different departments. Co-Chair Case stated that this is something they can further discuss following the meeting.

4. **Informational presentation on climate change mitigation work** (non-action item): *Carbon Pricing Assessment for Hawai‘i: Economic and Greenhouse Gas Impacts, Draft Final Report.*

I. **Opening Remarks** by Scott Glenn (1:06:43).

II. **Carbon Pricing Presentation.** Presenter: Dr. Makena Coffman, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (1:07:47); presentation slides are posted at climate.hawaii.gov/hi-commission.

Discussion followed presentations (1:33:30).

- Commissioner Lowen asked how does the study take into account other factors like households in rural areas and varying transportation needs, since the study just uses estimate energy use per household as a statewide average. Dr. Coffman replies that the study scratches the surface of the factors mentioned, but is out of scope of the study and is part of the next steps to make this study more spatial.
- Matt Geyer (Faith Action Environmental Taskforce) provided public testimony on how carbon pricing can help benefit vast majority of low-income families and continue to benefit environmental, social, and economic justice all at once.
- Marti Townsend (Sierra Club) provided public testimony on shared sense of urgency to create carbon tax systems to create a carbon-negative economy, emphasizing that details matter. Need to know how carbon pricing mechanism will affect different communities differently, especially low-income households. Townsend says it is unfair that the general public should pay carbon taxes when responsibilities should go towards large corporations mainly contributing to carbon emissions. Public written testimonies are available at climate.hawaii.gov/hi-commission/. Dr. Coffman replies to Marti that getting into the detailed administrative implementations is out of the scope of the study, but very important to consider factors such as the element of burden when creating carbon tax systems for the state. Dr. Coffman emphasizes that the carbon tax is not a perpetual source of income, but rather to change the behavior and technological adoption away from carbon reliant sources of energy.

III. **Presentation on climate change adaptation work** (non-action item). Update on Climate Ready Hawai‘i Working Paper and introduction to information exchange. Presenters: Anu Hittle, Leah

Laramee (DLNR) and Dr. Christian Giardina (USDA).

IV. **Climate Ready Hawai'i Working Paper.** Presenter: Anu Hittle. (1:44:56).

V. **Hawai'i Climate Exchange.** Presenters: Leah Laramee (DLNR) and Christian Giardina (USDA). (1:49:00); See accompanying slides.

Discussion followed presentation (1:54:28). Commissioner Nihipali is curious on how the Hawai'i Climate Exchange (HICE) is coordinating with existing knowledge exchanges. Dr. Giardina states that HICE does not desire to duplicate or replace any existing actions already done, but to fill the need in coordinating communication between meta organizations that tend to be idiosyncratic said HICE will evolve as data is collected on user's wants and needs. Dr. Susan Crow (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) provided public testimony to speak on behalf the Hawai'i Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Research Team to express support the Climate Ready Hawai'i Working Paper to highlight healthy, diverse natural and working lands to help achieve the state's climate initiatives and make Hawai'i Climate Ready. Dr. Albie Miles (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) supports the assessments outlined in the Working Paper and highlights the need for the state to define food equity and security and putting resources towards creating a food system resilience and adaptation guidance plan for Hawai'i.

5. **Coordinator's Update** (non-action item). (2:06:23). Coordinator Anu Hittle introduces the first Climate Ready Hawai'i Cohort which started their one-year term in December 2020. Each VISTA introduced themselves to the Commission. The Commission is focusing on strategies for vehicle miles travelled (VMT), and has secured a grant from EPA through the DOH's Clean air branch to develop strategies for such reductions in Hawai'i. Secured funds from O'ahu MPO last year to work on a multimodal mobility hub project and will keep Commission members updated on progress.

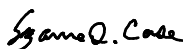
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:14 pm (YouTube stamp 2:12:21).

Respectfully submitted,

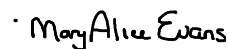


Anukriti S. Hittle, Coordinator

Approved for Submittal:



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