



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION**  
**COMMISSION**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, Office of Planning

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Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WTH  
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Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

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

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021  
TIME: 1:00 PM  
PLACE: VIDEO CONFERENCE

**Attendees:**

Suzanne Case, DLNR, Co-Chair	Zendo Kern, Hawai'i County Planning Dept.
Mary Alice Evans, OPSD, Co-Chair	Rep. Nicole Lowen
Lynn Araki-Regan, DOT	Nancy McPherson, DHHL
Jeff Dack, Maui County Planning Dept.	Luke Meyers, HI-EMA
Sen. Mike Gabbard	Justine Nihipali, CZM, OP
Scott Glenn, DBEDT/HSEO	Marianne Rossio, DOH
Ka'aina Hull, Kaua'i County Planning Dept.	Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, DOA
Sylvia Hussey, OHA	Rep. David Tarnas

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: <https://climate.hawaii.gov/hi-commission/>.

1. **Welcome.** The YouTube recording time started 00:01 minutes into the recording. Co-Chair Evans began the meeting at approximately 1:03PM when quorum was reached.
2. **April 7, 2021 meeting minutes.** (4:52) Rep. David Tarnas requested his presence at previous meeting to be noted in the April 7, 2021 minutes (5:10). Meetings were approved with correction. (5:33)
3. **Draft statement on climate ready Hawai'i.** (5:43) Draft statement on "Decision Making and Investment Guidance to Address the Climate Emergency in Hawai'i".
  - a. *Opening Remarks*, Senator Chris Lee: (9:15) Discussed potential funding packages for transportation and infrastructure that focus on climate adaptation and mitigation and underserved communities.

b. *Report on the Vehicle Economy*, Kathleen Rooney: (14:17) Discussion on the cost of the vehicle economy in Hawai‘i and on tackling ground transportation to help Hawai‘i become self-sufficient (See accompanying slides).

c. *Vision Zero: Safety, Accessibility and Climate Change*, Chris “CJ” Johnson: (26:38) Presentation on the importance of transportation equity in public health (See accompanying slides).

*There was a question on a more direct link on mobility justice and climate goals.* CJ explained there are many overlaps in our goals when dealing with economics, equity justice, sustainability, public health, safety, environment, etc., and pushing for a mode shift changes behaviors and norms from consumer-based solutions to value-based solutions. All this will help lead towards a resilient, clean and equitable transportation system.

d. *Transportation Infrastructure Spending in the FFY 2022-2025, Transportation Improvement Program*, Nicole H. Cernohorsky: (39:14) Overview of responsibilities of O‘ahu MPO and of transportation infrastructure spending on O‘ahu (See accompanying slides).

e. *Closing Remarks*, Sen. Chris Lee (53:20)

f. Commission discussion and deliberation on draft statement. (57:20)

i. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (DOA): (58:08) Commissioner supports statement but has concerns about whether the research cited is applicable to farming in Hawai‘i. She does not want any competing statements with the State’s goals to increase food security and production, and has heard that carbon sequestration on small farms is challenging (small farms are majority of farms in Hawai‘i). Agrees with aspirational goals but without hearing from stakeholders about how the proposed research would impact their ability to maintain/expand their operations, they are hesitant.

ii. Jeff Dack (Maui County Planning Dept.): (1:00:05) They are unaware of any coordination with Maui county, if that is the case with other counties as well, they request for more effort to include them. Concerned as strong language and shifting management strategies takes time, asks who has resources to putting forward an implementation strategy for the statement. There seems to be a gap – how do we get from great ideas to actual implementation, given reluctance to change, stakeholders, etc.

iii. Nancy McPherson (DHHL): (1:02:24) Tyler Gomes and Nancy support the draft. Wants to commend Anu and Staff for consistent outreach to DHHL staff and for awareness of equity and justice issues. Happy to see inclusion of traditional ecosystem knowledge, hopes that climate ready priority C will also include knowledge and wisdom of indigenous people.

iv. Luke Meyers (HI-EMA): (1:03:51) DEF supports document. Through recent grant applications, building codes and land-use tend to be the strongest sources of mitigation capabilities they have. He suggests larger language on building codes and land-use could make the statement stronger and better enforcements.

v. Sylvia Hussey (OHA) (1:04:51) OHA supports statement. Regarding implementation by priority: Priority C & D resonate well and appreciates that implementation will be at the community/county level, and Priority B in

preserving cultural, biological, and public resources that we want to uphold and protect, as impacted by climate change. OHA wants to be a part of a tactical implementation effort.

- vi. Harrison Rue (DPP-TOD): (1:06:19) Hawai'i scores well on applications based on zoning, policy work, housing developments, etc. Acknowledges current adaptation action occurring through OCCSR, i.e. O'ahu Climate plan. *Note: Mr. Rue is not a member of the Commission.*
- vii. Scott Glenn (DBEDT/HSEO): (1:07:46) Supports the motion. Energy efficiency gains of being able to do multimodal transportation is tremendous, aligned with SB1402 (Act 131 (21)). Highlights that he often meets with federal and congressional groups as Chief Energy Officer to discuss infrastructure spending to advance energy and climate mitigation and this will be a valuable tool to refer to when those questions come up.
- viii. Zendo Kern (Hawai'i County Planning Dept.) (1:08:37) Supports the draft, but wants to be mindful of costs, highlighting building codes and zones. Asking Commission to address the raising of living wages, as those are also part of overall resilience and sustainability of the State – does not want climate change efforts to equate to local residents and future generation leaving the islands. Believes that the State has areas where we can promote economic empowerment and improvements.
- ix. Lynn Araki-Regan (DOT) (1:09:55) DOT supports the draft plan. DOT will be sharing estimated costs for addressing these issues in their presentation later in this meeting.
- x. Sen. Karl Rhoads: (1:10:53) Sen. Rhoads supports the statement. Emphasizes importance to keep the pressure on the State and the whole globe. We'll have setbacks on various aspects of moving towards GHG reduction, but this is a good step for where we are now and to take advantage of funding opportunities. *Note: Sen. Rhodes is not a member of the Commission.*
- xi. Rep. Nicole Lowen: (1:11:36) Rep. Lowen supports the statement. Expresses appreciation of presenters.
- xii. Rep. Amy Perruso: (1:12:12) Echoes the sense of urgency in the statement and hopes it is adopted today. Can be adjusted and modified in the future, but it would be good to get this work started now. *Note: Rep. Perruso is not a member of the Commission.*
- xiii. Sen. Mike Gabbard: (1:12:54) Approval of draft statement, big step forward. Will really help state and counties to address climate change.
- xiv. Chair Suzanne Case: (1:13:53) Supports statement and expresses this is an important opportunity for the Commission to have a voice. Understands that whenever we make a strong decision about direction, there are impacts on other priorities as well. Emphasizes that we have to come to a balance when working through potential conflict in implementation, but the overall climate issues are overriding and it is an appropriate thing for Commission to make statement on.
- xv. Chair Evans entertains a motion to adopt draft statement (1:15:05)
- xvi. Sen. Tarnas moves to adopt draft statement, Commissioner Hussey seconds the motion (1:15:18)

- xvii. Jeff Dack (Maui County Planning Department): (1:15:32) Requests wording change in Climate ready Priority D: “Adoption and building resilience to climate change”→ “Adoption of NBS in building resilience to Climate Change” Adopted as a friendly amendment. Revised title for Climate ready priority D.

Statement Adopted (1:16:49)

4. **Informational updates from Commission members.** (non-action item) (1:18:34) Resilient infrastructure projects and programs demonstrating climate readiness and addressing adaptation and mitigation in Hawai‘i.
- a. Lynn Araki-Regan (DOT): (1:18:46)
- Currently 70% of state highways are vulnerable to a stressor or hazard. HDOT completed the Highways Climate Adaptation Action Plan that provides a map of state-owned roadways that shows areas at risk of natural hazards and improves the system’s resilience to climate related effects.
  - Regarding Honolulu Harbor Modifications, DOT-H is evaluating concept of controlling water levels at HNL harbor by installing control structures in entrance channels. They are seeking a federal feasibility study by the US Army Corps of Engineers that will take approx. 3 years to complete at a cost of \$3M – the State will pay \$1.5M of the costs. The estimated costs for Honolulu Harbor modifications to adapt to SLR is between \$1B - \$3B. For neighbor islands, DOT-H plans to replace pile supported piers with bulkhead piers involving installing sheet piles along the pier face with an estimated cost of \$8M. Kapalama Container Terminal will have a pier elevation at 9ft to adapt to sea level rise projections.
  - Airports Division is aware of impacts from climate change and has already been impacted by wind, lightning, freezing rain. Impact of temperature and precipitation could increase demand for cooling buildings and increase drainage requirements for aircraft runways. Based on the accepted SLR format, inundation would occur at 10 Hawai‘i airports. Adaptation strategies considered for airports include construction of shoreline revetment/sea walls, elevate runways, retrofit facilities at least one foot above projected SLR over next 100 years, and relocate airports to higher elevations – all with an approx. cost of \$8B to address SLR at airports. Developed the HDOT Sustainable Management Plan to support HDOT-A’s mission to incorporate principles of sustainability to implement mitigation strategies at airport operations.
  - HDOT’s Statewide Transportation Planning Office partnered with Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, and Maui counties and received \$5.1M from FTA’s Low- or No- Emission Bus Program Grant to replace aging diesel buses with nine battery electric buses and support battery changing infrastructure to further the State’s clean energy and transportation goals.
  - The State has now entered into a Hawai‘i fleet electrification contract to replace light duty fleets with electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.
- b. Leah Laramée (DLNR): (1:28:42) Working on pledges with DLNR, DOD, DOE, DOT to create a statewide pledge to join the 1Trillion Trees Initiative, a global initiative to plant 1 trillion trees before 2030. Carbon certification for the State is facing legal challenges, looking into alternative options. USCA Natural Working Lands (NWL) team working with Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force

- (GHGSTF) to identify gaps in knowledge data on GHG emissions, soil carbon sequestration, and land-use classification GIS layers specific to Hawai‘i. NWL team identified climate-smart practices that not only reduce emissions and increase sequestration, but also look at the co-benefits of each practice.
- c. Justin Nihipali (CZM): (1:33:40) Working on better communicating the support provided to county planning departments in their administration of special management area permits and shoreline setbacks. Identified some proactive work counties are working on and specific projects carrying out the coastal zones management objectives and policies to demonstrate the work their funding and NOAA coastal management grants support at the state and county level. One significant 5-year strategy is to support implementation of stronger building codes related to tsunami resilience. CZM is focusing on chronic erosion and SLR for their FY 2020–2025 strategy. Provided support through the GHGSTF in analyzing the specificity of Hawai‘i soils in comparison to national models. The Sustainable 2050 Plan was published and released recently.
  - d. Chair Mary Evans: (1:37:37) Expressed thanks to legislators for Act 178, which charges the OPSD to work with the legislature in identifying critical facilities that are at risk to climate change impacts and reporting progress on fixing them.
  - e. Rep. Nicole Lowen: (1:38:48) Asks what kind of work is DOT doing to support other modes of transportation (pedestrians, cyclists, public transit).
    - Lynn Araki-Reagan (DOT) responded: (1:39:30) Within Highways Division, there are planners, multimodal specialists, our Motor Vehicle Safety Office, to address these various issues. They have partnered with the Climate Commission on efforts. There are various programs and projects that Legislature has funded and approved like the Red-Light Camera Pilot Program.
  - f. Sen. Mike Gabbard: (1:42:53) At the last session, his committee passed 23 bills on agriculture and environments, and SCR 44 (Climate Emergency Resolution) as well. Hawai‘i made a strong statement by being the first state to declare a statewide climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration to address global climate crisis. Some bills that passed included: HB 243 SLR Adaptation Bill (Act 178), SB 474 SLR Disclosure Bill (Act 179), SB 367 Beach Restoration Bill (Act 162). Some bills that did not pass but would like to see at on the governor’s desk next session include SB 493 Agriculture and Forest Carbon Positive Incentive Program. Would like to address climate change through nature-based solutions in the next session.
  - g. Rep. Nicole Lowen: (1:48:23) Prioritizing this year on transitioning light-duty vehicles in state fleets to electric vehicles. Just passed a bill that provides sustainable source of funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging station rebate program and provide EV infrastructure for all of State. She also referred to the Climate Emergency Resolution. Senate passed resolution related to reef insurance – nature-based solution for providing coastal protection. Will continue work on energy efficiency, transition off of AES coal plant, carbon pricing in Hawai‘i, and other climate-related issues.
  - h. Rep. David Tarnas: (1:51:47) House passed bills that were Commission priorities: HB 243, requiring all executive agencies to compile critical infrastructure that is at risk to sea level rise and how to prioritize funding going forward, and SB 474, requiring property owners to disclose sea-level rise status to potential buyers. Also passed two other bills related to modifying administration to more accurately align our State goals to incorporate sustainability into our land-use decision making by (1) consolidating

- the Land Use Commission within the Office of Planning, renaming it now as the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) and (2) moving the Office of Environmental Quality Control into OPSD. Recently passed HB 1020 on adaptive management, for the DLNR modify regulatory framework to streamline the process to adapt more effectively.
- i. Marianne Rossio (DOH): (1:56:40) Clean Air Branch posted request for proposals for development of next statewide GHG inventories contract to support efforts to align with the Paris Agreement – all proposals due September 2, 2021 at 4:00PM. Significant work being done by Dr. Diana Felton and Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office on SLR and increased flooding on known contaminated sites in Hawai‘i (see accompanying slides).
  - j. Nancy McPherson (DHHL): (2:02:34) Updating DHHL’s general plan to include climate change adaptation on SLR and community resilience. Working on broadband expansion on Hawaiian Homelands. Working on several community-based renewable energy projects on Hawaiian Homelands, working on strengthening resilience of DHHL water systems on Moloka‘i, Kaua‘i, and Hawai‘i; initiating conversations on cesspool conversions. Will be doing an update to the Hawaiian Homes Commission on DHHL work thus far. Has been trying to look for all climate legislation that has been passed in the last two years.
  - k. Luke Meyers (HI-EMA): (2:05:24) Submitted funding applications for three projects for the State-Set-Aside, and submitted 13 projects on behalf of partners in the State for the National Competition under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) FY2020 Grant. All three State-Set-Aside projects were funded (\$600k), and none of projects in the National Competition were funded. Learned that every application automatically lost 15 technical points (out of 100) because the State and counties do not participate in a federally-accredited BCEGS program – will take into account next time they submit projects. All awarded projects in the National Competition were focused on flood-control infrastructure. Submitted three projects that focus on climatic hazards and micrgrids to the Community Project Funding Request through Congressman Ed Case’s Office. Submitted six projects that focus on masterplan drainage and flood projects to the Congressionally Directed Spending Request through Senator Brian Schatz’s Office. Highlights other projects that focus on severe weather/flooding/landslides, volcanic eruption and earthquakes, and hurricanes. Started initial scoping to update the FEMA-approved State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
  - l. Zendo Kern (Hawai‘i County Planning Department): (2:13:08) County has undergone a vehicle fleet analysis to bring Hawai‘i county to zero emissions by 2035. CIP funds allocated for energy efficiency, zero emissions infrastructure for mass transit, open-space network. Dept. of Water Supply also doing energy efficiency work, deployed over 200 leak detection loggers. County is working on the Integrated Climate Action Plan with the technical support of ICLEI – Global Governments for Sustainability. Initiated project to update shoreline setbacks repair and buffers. County is behind timeline on updating their General Plan as they reevaluate, and to make the plan more dynamic to reflect climate readiness. Setting up the County of Hawai‘i Electronic Processing and Information Center (EPIC) system with the Planning Dept. and DPW for all building permits and land-use applications to be completely paperless starting

July 26, 2021. Planning Dept. is also working to expedite renewable energy-related projects.

- m. Ka‘aina Hull (Kaua‘i County Planning Dept.): (2:19:05) Kaua‘i County issued official notice to proceed and embark on Kaua‘i’s Climate Adaptation Plan, which will focus on GHG reduction through Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) reduction, SLR adaptation, and renewable energy efforts. Working with Chip Fletcher and his team to expand the county’s special management area lines to align with the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR-XA). Working on a design standard guidebook for construction and mitigation in the SLR-XA, with hopes to either adopt in an administrative rule standpoint or work with OPSD and other partners in looking for possible uniform approaches and standards for SLR-XA not just for Kaua‘i, but for the rest of the State as well.
  - n. Jeff Dack (Maui County Planning Department): (2:22:50) Maui County employed paperless protocol for its permitting process, starting in October. Shoreline setbacks updates hoping to get back to Planning Commission this summer. Starting up informal Resilience Hui meetings again with broad interdepartmental participation. Council recently passed resolution which committed Maui County to the Paris Climate Agreement and established a climate action resilience committee. Mayor’s office also created a climate action resilience and adaptation division, working on the county’s climate action resiliency plan.
  - o. Sylvia Hussey (OHA): (2:25:46) Supports of all the great work going on at county and community level.
  - p. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (DOA): (2:26:13) DOA updates on the production of local food and protection of ecosystems. Working on an aquaculture restoration introduction project focused on increasing local food production, improve water quality, diversify and mitigate coastal ecosystems and accelerate coastal restoration through restorative aquaculture.
5. **Informational presentation on climate change adaptation work.** (non-action item). (2:29:27) *Climate Adaptation Design Principles for Urban Development*. Presenter: Harrison Rue, Community Building & Transit Oriented Development Administrator, City and County of Honolulu Dept of Planning and Permitting. (See accompanying slides)
6. **Coordinator’s Update** (non-action item) (2:48:35). Presenter: Anukriti Hittle, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Commission Coordinator.
- a. Our KUPU AmeriCorps member Megan Gonsalves, based at DOFAW is reaching the end of her term at the end of this month. Megan has worked closely with the Commission, being heavily involved in our latest CRHI Working Paper on Nature-Based Solutions, and worked on an equity playbook with the other VISTAs in the CRHI VISTA Cohort.
  - b. Some projects currently ongoing: A Grants to Projects Bridge to connect unused funds to unfunded projects, creating a toolkit for VMT reduction through an EPA grant provided to DOH, creating a Climate Vulnerability Index with UH partners at the Institute for Sustainability and Resilience, and entered into a partnership with UH’s Better Tomorrow Speaker Series to bring four intriguing climate change speakers in lieu of our annual conference.

- c. Received offers of assistance from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. See our June Coordinator's Letter for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm (YouTube time stamp 2:53:37).

Respectfully submitted,

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Anukriti S. Hittle, Coordinator

Approved for Submittal:

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

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Mary Alice Evans, Co-Chair  
Office of Planning and Sustainable  
Development, DBEDT