

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: 1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM 132
HONOLULU, HI 96813, AND VIDEO CONFERENCE

PUBLIC VIEWING LINK: <https://youtu.be/O9InDGXot50>

Attendees:

Suzanne Case, DLNR, Co-Chair

Mary Alice Evans, OPSD, Co-Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard

Rep. Nicole Lowen

Rep. David Tarnas

Brain Kau, DOA

April Surprenant, Hawai'i County Planning
Dept.

Luke Meyers, HIEMA

Nancy McPherson, DHHL

Scott Glenn, DBEDT

David Rodriguez, DOT

Marianne Rossio, DOH

Dean Uchida, City and County of Honolulu

Jeff Dack, Maui County Planning Dept.

Alisha Summers, Kaua'i 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: <https://climate.hawaii.gov/hi-commission/>.

1. **Welcome.** The YouTube recording time started 00:01 minutes into the recording. Co-Chair Case began the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM when quorum was reached.

2. **April 6, 2022 meeting minutes.** (11:14)

Technical corrections by Representative Tarnas. Motion to approve as amended by Senator Gabbard, Second by Co-Chair Evans. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Draft statement on climate ready Hawai'i.** (12:28) Draft Statement on "Legislative Update to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Committee"

1. *Opening Remarks*, Representative Lowen (14:31) Discussed bills that passed and those that did not pass relating to clean transportation, regenerative agriculture and carbon sequestration, energy, conservation, and sea level rise.

2. *Closing Remarks*, Chair Case (21:14)

4. **Informational Updates from Commission Members.** (non-action item) (21:50) Resilient infrastructure projects and programs demonstrating climate readiness and addressing adaptation and mitigation in Hawai'i.

1. Mary Alice Evans (OPSD, Commission Co-Chair): (22:00)

- a. Discussed Comprehensive 5-Year Review that focuses on policy direction, strategies, and goals to guide planning and implementation, identifying vulnerable communities and existing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, making recommendations, tracking progress, and maintaining the website.
2. Dean Uchida (Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu): (26:15)
 - a. Discussed issuing an RFP for a consultant to help with acquiring new office building to house additional staff for increases in permitting. Issued another RFP to conduct analysis of plants and tree coverage on O'ahu in relation to sea level rise.
3. Sen. Mike Gabbard: (28:55)
 - a. Discussed Green Fees Bill priority and the impact it has on tourism.
4. Rep. Nicole Lowen: (30:10)
 - a. Emphasized potential impact of incorporating social cost of carbon and proper disposal of harmful and toxic chemicals and materials.
5. David Tarnas: (32:10)
 - a. Discussed bills that relate to sea level rise and the infrastructure impacts related to sea level rise and other effects of climate change.
6. Nancy McPherson (DHHL): (33:20)
 - a. Discussed major initiatives in regard to equity, energy, and beneficiary engagement. Highlight climate change impacts and prioritized actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change in their updated general plan. Emphasized focus on the Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program.
7. Scott Glenn (DBEDT): (36:15)
 - a. Reported upon the State's renewable energy goals and our success in meeting and surpassing them. Mentioned the closing of the cola plant and energy production alternatives.
8. Emma Yuen (DLNR): (39:22)
 - a. Discussed updates on watershed funding and funds for private entities to perform large scale tree planting initiatives. Mentioned progress on watershed protection and importance of those initiatives.
9. David Rodriguez (DOT): (41:37)
 - a. Discussed creation of an electric bike program and the steps in creating and facilitating the program.
10. Marianne Rossio (DOH): (42:10)
 - a. Discussed entering a contract with ICF Inc. to create a greenhouse gas emission inventory. The first deliverable that

will contain draft numbers will be released in August and statewide projections will be released in November. Emphasized clean air action group with a focus on non-white rural workers.

11. Jeff Dack (Department of Planning, County of Maui): (46:08)
 - a. Stated that the Department is working on a sea level vulnerability adaptation report currently. Mentioned incorporating climate change policy in community plan updates.
 12. April Surprenant (Department of Planning, Hawai'i Island) (50:50)
 - a. Announced work regarding shoreline setback rule and developing new shoreline policy. Completed updates on subdivision codes that incorporate climate change mitigation strategies and the general plan comprehensive update that addresses climate change throughout that plan. Discussed that Hawai'i Island is the first place in Hawai'i to have hydrogen buses and trying to secure 6 more buses.
 13. Alisha Summers (Department of Planning, County of Kaua'i) (55:30)
 - a. Discussed future brief on the proposed sea level rise constraint district bill)
 14. Luke Meyers (HI-EMA) (56:04)
 - a. Discussed potential of danger from tropical storms becoming hurricanes and higher tides and larger waves. The agency was also conducting damage assessments on various neighborhoods with regards to damage from storms and high sea levels. Highlighted the potential of adopting a drainage ditch redesign to reduce flooding damage and developing a community vulnerability viewer to highlight individuals more impacted by climate change effects.
 15. Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Commission, Co-chair) (1:02:45)
 - a. Started a study to create a framework on regional strategies for sea level rise mitigation and adaptation.
5. **Informational presentation on DLNR climate change adaptation work.** (non-action item). (1:04:13) *Urban and Community Forestry Program*. Presenter: Heather McMillen, Urban and Community Forester for DNLR (see accompanying slides).
1. Heather McMillen provided a link to DLNR DOFAW's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/lap/kaulunani/>. (1:21:50)
 2. Scott Glenn asked a question about whether the 3:30:300 initiative matched any environmental justice data visualization layers in the tree canopy viewer or if it matched the Commission's equity mapping project. (1:23:01)

3. Heather McMillen responded that DLNR DOFAW has not had the capacity to analyze or visualize the full scope of the 3:30:300 initiative, especially the aspect of the three trees visible from each house. That analysis and visualization would require more groundwork than was available during the development of the viewer. McMillen noted that a Canopy Viewer Fellow may be able to take on that task. (1:23:48)
4. Scott Glenn provided a link to the Lava Lab as a resource for data visualization and analytics: <https://www.lavaflow.info/>
6. **Informational presentation on Coastal Erosion.** (non-action item). (1:28:34) *DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands*. Presenter: Michael Cain, Administrator DLNR OCCL (no accompanying slides).
 1. Suzanne Case asked for clarification on whether T-groins change the beach aesthetically. (1:43:34)
 2. Michael Cain responded correctly, OCCL engineers tell us the T-groins are removable but realistically they are large and would be difficult to remove. Cain continues to provide context on how T-groins are meant to mimic a natural cove to trap sand and mitigate coastal erosion. He mentions they aren't a solution for every beach on the islands, and that beach nourishment can be accomplished without manmade structures, in some cases. (1:43:46)
 3. Representative Lowen asked about some major events that happened on the North Shore and whether the Commission had any takeaway about what happened. (1:45:16)
 4. Michael Cain responds that DLNR OCCL alleges 50 potential conservation district-use violations on the North Shore and since DLNR is a regulatory agency, he cannot answer that question outside of a formal violation hearing in front of a judge or a board. (1:45:45)
 5. Suzanne Case noted how she and Michael went to Waikiki during the king tide the previous week and at the pinnacle of the tide the water reached and covered walkways and left a lot of sand on the harbor side of Waikiki. A T-groin replaced an older version in that area, but it didn't seem to have a significant effect on mitigating flooding in the area. (1:46:36)
7. **Informational Presentation on Projected Sea Level Rise.** (non-action item). (1:48:13) *NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*. Presenter, Benjamin Hamlington, Research Scientist (see accompanying slides).
 1. Suzanne Case asked if the 2000-2020 scenario of projected sea level rise is evenly spaced, meaning since we are in ~2020 that means we are approximately two-fifths into the projected scenario. (2:05:41)
 2. Benjamin Hamlington responded that the observations, extrapolations, and trajectories provided in the presentation reference back to a 2005 IPCC report and can be checked against regionally reported sea level rise data. In some cases, the regional

- reported data does not reflect the same as the projected data in the observations provided. (2:06:10)
3. Scott Glenn noted the difference between the data provided in this presentation and the State of Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Viewer which includes coastal erosion and high wash wave flooding. Comparing the two data sets will provide different numbers due to the different content used. (2:08:52)
 4. Scott Glenn noted that the presentation was focused on low to intermediate range with the assumption of 1.5-degree Celsius change when the global conversation has revolved around the three-to-four-degree temperature range being a realistic goal. 1.5 is an aspirational goal and Glenn asked if Hamlington could highlight some factors with the glaciers and melt data within the 3-4 temperature degree range rather than the 1.5-degree range. (2:09:17)
 5. Benjamin Hamlington responded that the intermediate and low scenarios are most representative of the 3-degree temperature change. He continues to say that the projection scenarios up to 2050 provides a consistent storyline. (2:09:55)
 6. Suzanne Case noted that the Commission needs to make sure that the State's policy is focused on the latest science and aimed at solving and addressing local issues represented in the numbers presented. (2:11:30)
 7. Scott Glenn notes that when strategizing on critical energy infrastructure, the state needs to be more conservative and plan more for sea level rise and flooding than what's represented in the numbers as flooding maybe more severe than what is currently projected. (2:12:03)
 8. Benjamin Hamlington responds that a lot of search goes into these reports and while there is a possibility of a change in projections, the 2050 scenarios are more definite than they have been in the past. After 2050, the numbers do become more uncertain and there is a greater likelihood in a change of projection. (2:12:55)
 9. Jeffery Dack notes that the State of Hawai'i is working on the 2017 State Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report and it is building different policy initiatives to address the conclusions in the report. He notes there is supposed to be an update to that document every five years. He states it would be reasonable for the Commission to take on the task to update the report. He recommends that the Commission respond to the five year update, include information presented by Ben during this meeting, include a comparison of where we are in 2022 to where we were in 2017, and produce public messaging about 2022 compared to 2017. Maui County has been working on shoreline rule updates and the county is trying to implement the sea level rise report over the past five years but have received push back from property owners who feel property

rights are being impacted. Messages from the Commission about the effects of sea level rise would be beneficial in helping implement these projects. (2:15:01)

8. **Informational Update from Commission Member.** (non-action item).
 1. **Brian Kau**, Department of Agriculture. Department of Agriculture wanted to report it finished the installation of a 65 kilowatt energy system in its commonwealth vacuum cooling plant on the Big Island. The agency anticipates a 70% offset of the annual cost associated with energy charges in that area. (2:22:18)
9. **Informational Presentation on Updates from the Climate Commission's Coordinator.** (non-action item). Presenters: Leah Laramée (Climate Commission), Kiana Otsuka (Hawai'i State Energy Office), Amanda Ho (Hawai'i State Energy Office), Revere Wood (Climate Commission)
 1. Discussed the ongoing speak series, the Hā O Ke Kai collection, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i Better Tomorrow Speaker Series. The talks are available on the Commission's website: <https://climate.hawaii.gov/hi-conference/2021-collection/> (2:23:36)
 2. Discussed the passing of Act 185, the Hawai'i Carbon Smart Land Management Assistant pilot program. The program is set to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentive contracts that provide compensation for eligible practices including but not limited to invasive species control, afforestation, interplanting enrichment harvesting methods, fire breaks, nutrient management, and erosion control. (2:24:24)
 3. Discussed the O'ahu mobility study being funded by an O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization grant in collaboration with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation and the Climate Commission. A mobility hub is a place where people can connect with multiple modes of transportation in one shared location. The study will conduct a parking inventory of state facilities as well as a utilization analysis. It'll develop classification and evaluation criteria for site selection, and it creates some implementation strategies to help pilot potential mobility hubs on O'ahu with the goal of creating safer and more enjoyable transportation options. The scope of work has been produced as of now and the study will take about a year in which findings will be reported back to the Commission. (2:25:31)
 4. Discussed the production of a Hazard Mitigation Vulnerability Clearinghouse White Paper in collaboration with HIEMA. In the last commission meeting, the need for a clearinghouse on existing climate vulnerability resources was discussed. It was discussed that while many state and county agencies are conducting climate vulnerability assessments there isn't a coordinated effort. This lack of coordinated effort can lead to a duplication of efforts, an inability to determine a statewide standard for assessment, and create

conflicting messages to those using various information and systems. Vulnerability assessments are often used to develop projects, validate funding needs, and inform legislation. The document produced outlines the needs, importance, and benefits of a clearinghouse which is designed to increase access and reduce time spent accessing the resources. The project team is seeking input from the Commission on how to move forward with this Clearinghouse and are asking for the feedback to be provided by August 19th. (2:27:49)

5. Discussed the beach restoration project the Commission is doing in coordination with DLNR OCCL, DOT, and the Sea Grant. The project is contracting an engineer to perform a feasibility assessment of nature-based solutions to erosion and sea level impacts at Honolulu Beach Park on O'ahu. Shoreline erosion has narrowed the beach park such that the shoreline vegetation is within 50 feet or less of the Kamehameha highway. This park has been identified as a key location for a demonstration project to protect critical infrastructure by restoring and expanding a natural resource to improve ecological resources and also serve Hawai'i's communities. The state is also launching a community engagement plan to consult with local residents and other relevant stakeholders to capture and report community priorities. The goal is to share information and increase public awareness of nature-based solutions to sea level rise. (2:29:57)
6. Discussed the Grants to Projects Bridge and the IIJA Crosswalk. Leah reached out to the commission members to identify their priority funding projects so the projects can be added to the crosswalk. (2:33:47)
7. Discussed the Commission's Guide of the Justice40 Initiative that the White House released. The guide includes social vulnerability indicators that was presented at the last Commission meeting. The Justice40 initiative is a requirement for a lot of the federal funding requirements going towards disadvantaged communities. Projects seeking funding especially from the IIJA will need to show how it is addressing the Justice40 Initiative. The guide intends to make it easy for projects to identify whether they are meeting the requirements set in the initiative. The guide is available at <https://climate.hawaii.gov/social-vulnerability-framework/> (23:34:09)
8. The Commission's Coordinator Leah Laramée will present at the Hawai'i Conservation Conference in collaboration with the Hawaii Conservation Alliance and the USDA Forest Service on synergizing climate mitigation and adaptation in Hawai'i. They will seek ideas and input on how to better coordinate a knowledge exchange of climate information making it more accessible. The goal is to create a coordinated structure for Hawai'i that serves diverse

organizations that engage in climate adaptation and mitigation.
(2:35:20)

9. Updated the next commission meeting to October 19th, 2022.
(2:36:14)

10. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm (YouTube time stamp (2:37:10)).