# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HAWAIʻI CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM

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

PUBLIC VIEWING LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/@climatecoordinator2356>

Attendees:

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| Dawn Chang, DLNR, Co-Chair  Scott Glenn, OPSD, Co-Chair  Nicole Lowen, State Representative, Chair of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  George Kam, HTA  Morris Atta, DOA  Nancy McPherson, DHHL (unofficially)  Ed Sniffen, DOT  Diana Felton, DOH | Curt Otaguro, DOE  Garrett Smith, Maui Planning Department  Zendo Kern, Hawai’i Planning Department  Ka’aina Hull, Kaua’i Planning Department  David Lopez, HI-EMA  Justine Nihipali, CZM  Leah Laramee, CCMAC Coordinator  Jo Dunne, CCMAC Staff  Kiera Williams, CCMAC Staff |

Additional attendees: Asia Yeary, Rori Kirkpatrick (CCSR), Katie Rooney, April Surprenant, Chip Fletcher (UHI), Amy Ford-Wagner, Kiana Outska, Jhanavi Pomerantz, Trey Eldrige, Rachel Morse, Melissa Miranda-Johnson, Maria Tome

Due to COVID-19 closures, the meeting took place in a hybrid format. It 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. **Roll call, welcome announcements.** The YouTube recording time started 27:26 minutes before the meeting began. Co-Chair Dawn Chang began the meeting at approximately 12:59 PM when quorum was reached.
2. **Welcome to new and returning Commission members.** Co-Chair Chang facilitated introductions and welcome. (37:25)
3. Scott Glenn, OPSD, Co-Chair
4. Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair of the House Water and Land Committee
5. Morris Atta, DOA
6. Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee
7. Melissa Miranda-Johnson, DOT
8. Diana Felton, DOH
9. Curt Otuguro, DOE
10. Garret Smith, Maui Planning Department
11. Zendo Kern, Hawai’i Planning Department
12. Ka’aina Hull, Kaua’i Planning Department
13. Justine Nihipali, CZM
14. Mark Glick, Chief Energy Officer
15. George Kam, HTA
16. Dawn Chang, DLNR, Co-Chair

# July 20, 2022 and October 19, 2022 meeting minutes. (action item). (46:36)

# Co-Chair Chang called for motion to approve the meeting minutes for July 20th, 2022. Leah Laramee brought forth a minor amendment of spelling error corrections. Motion to approve as amended by Co-Chair Chang. Motion by Co-Chair Scott Glenn. Second by Commissioner Ka’aina Hull. Motion passed unanimously.

# Co-Chair Chang called for motion to approve meeting minutes for October 19th, 2022. Motion by Co-Chair Scott Glenn, Second by Commissioner Hull. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **“Hawai‘i Climate Change Annual and Five Year Report 2022”**. (action item). Leah Laramee (CCMAC Coordinator) (48:35)
2. Gave overview of statute requirement for the report, stating that it had already been submitted but was important for the commission to review. The report identified Commission members and staff, mission and priorities, a message from previous co-chairs, welcome of new co-chairs, and current projects. Laramee spoke briefly about the project updates included the report, including the VISTA cohort, grant writing support to counties, working papers (nature-based solutions and grants to projects bridge), multi-modal hubs, the Punalu’u pilot project, and reforestation and quick builds in Kaua’i. Laramee also spoke about the Commission’s involvement on the international, national, state, and county levels. Notable achievements included Laramee’s attendance at COP27, engagement in the international alliance on ocean acidification, and facilitation of a state-level speaker series and conference.
3. Chair Scott Glenn (OPSD) commented on international and local climate action and “connecting the dots” from global conversation to local action and incorporating it into framework.
4. Co-Chair Chang asked what website the public can find the report on, and Laramee clarified its location on climate.hawaii.gov.
5. Justine Nihipali provided further comments on the report and suggested for the meeting minutes (item 1) that the spelling errors be corrected as an editorial rather than an amendment.
6. Motion to approve CCMAC Report by Commissioner Hull, Second by Co-Chair Glenn. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Co-Chair Glenn offered a mahalo to those who contributed to the report.
8. **“Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report”.** (action item). (59:37) Amy Wirts (UH Sea Grant)
9. Presentation on the background of the report and those who worked on it, an overview of the science, and recommendations included in the SLR Vulnerability and Adaption Report. Progress towards goals included SLR disclosure requirements, the start of managed retreat, the creation of guidance documents, and the incorporation of SLR into county planning. Focus areas for the next 5 years will include interagency coordination, incorporation/preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural resources, including equity and justice into all planning, stopping the loss of shoreline access, making managed retreat a viable option, and phased adaption pathways. Amy also recommended a full update of the SVI assessment by 2027, and to continue recommendations from the 2017 report. Amy also spoke about the recommendation for the SLREXA to assess climate exposure and not necessarily vulnerability.
10. Chip Fletcher (UHI) contributed additional information about the projects.
11. Co-Chair Chang expressed her appreciation for the recommendation regarding Native Hawaiian cultural resources.
12. Commissioner Justine Nihipali pointed out similarities between the recommendations of the SLR report and another existing ocean management plan, and expressed the importance of leveraging efforts instead of duplicating efforts.
13. Commissioner Hull commented on setback ordinance and erosion, progress on managed retreat, and the need to model climate resilient communities to prepare for other climate change events in addition to SLR.
14. Commissioner Diana Felton suggested the future incorporation of environmental toxins and contamination considerations into report recommendations.
15. Commissioner Morris Atta commented on difficulties regarding agricultural lands in managed retreat.
16. Co-Chair Glenn commented further about agricultural lands and the need to see SLR as one piece of the puzzle, with alternatives to managed retreat.
17. Co-Chair Chang stressed the importance of working together on report recommendations.
18. Commissioner Garrett Smith expressed an interest to work with other sectors and planning efforts.
19. Motion to approve the *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaption Report* by Hull, Second by Atta. Motion passed unanimously.
20. **Commission statement on the Climate Impact Fund Legislation** (action item). (1:41:35)
21. Statement introduced by Co-Chair Scott Glenn and read aloud by Laramee.
22. Co-Chair Chang provided context for the statement and opened it to the Commission members for discussion.
23. Co-Chair Glenn suggested four uses for the potential funding: federal matching for EPA grants, funding climate projects left unfunded by the legislature, “gap” funding for when agencies need more resources for projects, and donations for climate disasters. He also suggested long-term operating needs that the fund could go towards.
24. Public input suggested in one punctuation change within the statement.
25. Motion to approve the statement by Commissioner Hull, Second by Commissioner Felton, motion passed unanimously.
26. **Seek funding for climate change mitigation and adaption through the Inflation Reduction Act** (action item). (1:57:13)
27. Leah Laramee, CCMAC Coordinator, introduced this item.
28. Asia Yeary, EPA Region 9 joined over Zoom, provided information about pollution reduction grants in accordance with the Inflation Reduction Act. She informed Commission members of the pre-registration needs, the date for the EPA guidance (March 1st), upcoming information webinars, and the deadline for submission (April 28th). Grants will be awarded in the summer of 2023.
29. Co-Chair Chang proposed that the Climate Commission be the main grant applicant, and opened this up for discussion.
30. Commissioner Felton was in favor and offered support throughout the application process.
31. Co-Chair Glenn asked if the Climate Commission were registered in grants.gov and SAMS. Laramee said it was not, but DLNR is, and the Commission would apply under DLNR.
32. Commissioner Felton asked if the grant had a required match. Yeary said there was not.
33. Laramee commented that the Climate Commission would be in the best position to coordinate amongst relevant entities throughout the grant application.
34. Commissioner Atta inquired about administrative technicalities between Commission and DLNR, and Co-Chair Chang and Laramee clarified that DLNR and the Commission share the same administrative staff and there would be no issues.
35. Commissioner Smith asked if a joint application between counties and state were possible. Yeary did not know, but clarified there could be input/project collaboration with other entities.
36. Commissioner Felton clarified the suitability for flexibility within the scope of the grant.
37. Laramee clarified that the any decision the Commission made today would be guidance, as the official invitation to apply would go to the governor’s office.
38. Co-Chair Chang read the proposed statement aloud.
39. Motion to approve the statement by Co-Chair Glenn, Second by Commissioner Atta, motion passed with one recused.
40. **Presentation on other climate legislation** (non-action item). Leah Laramee (CCMAC Coordinator) (2:28:56)
41. Presented on bills impacting the Commission. Key bill topics included the climate impact fund, funding for a social vulnerability database, carbon smart land management assistance program, a SLR relocation special fund, and zero-emissions transportation.
42. At 2:29:42, there was a technical difficulty with the YouTube recording going offline. Commission staff worked to resolve this.
43. No questions or additional comments on the climate legislation were offered by Commission members or by the public.
44. **Coordinator’s update** (non-action item). Leah Laramee (CCMAC Coordinator)
45. Presented on topics including a recap of Climate, Climate Action Day, and the Adaption Science Summit.
46. Brad Romine, Hawaiʻi Sea Grant offered additional details.
47. Laramee introduced the new VISTA cohort, and the VISTAs who were present introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their roles.
48. YouTube recording resumed during VISTA introductions.
49. Laramee presented on which entities were involved in the mobility hubs working group.
50. The 2023 Climate Commission meeting schedule was introduced.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM (YouTube time stamp at 5:03 in new recording)**