



# Climate Change Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 South King Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

## COMMISSIONERS

Rosanna Alegado, Ph.D., Chair  
Victoria Keener, Ph.D., Vice Chair  
Melanie Islam, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, LFA  
Kiana Otsuka, MSc  
Brad Romine, Ph.D.

## **Climate Change Commission Friday, April 26, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes **DRAFT****

**Members Present:** Chair Rosie Alegado, Kiana Otsuka, Melanie Islam, Brad Romine

**Members Absent:** Vice Chair Victoria Keener

**Public:** Matthew Gonser, Miya DeVoogd, Chase McDaniel, Hayley Cook, Victor Limon (Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Terry Chan (Honolulu Department of Design and Construction); Guillaume Maman (Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization); Katie Roth (DLNR CWRM); Felix Gottdiener; Dolan Eversole; Bill Unruh; Tyler Oshiro; Chelsea Dau; Eli Warren; Bing Hu; Lauren McManus; Raquel Aviles; Jodi; 808-295-4620.

**Location:** Virtual Zoom meeting with an in-person meeting location provided at Fasi Municipal Building 11th Floor Conference Room 3, 650 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.

**Meeting Video Recording:** <https://fb.watch/s7Lgqcqcoe/>

### **1. (00:28) Call to order**

- Chair Alegado called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **2. (00:35) Roll call**

- Four Commissioners were present at the start of the meeting. Quorum was established.

### **3. (01:00) Approval of the minutes: March 22, 2024**

- There were no corrections to the March 22, 2024 meeting minutes.
- (01:54) Commissioner Otsuka motioned to adopt the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Romine seconded. (**AYE**: Alegado, Islam, Romine, Otsuka; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: None).

#### 4. (02:27) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR)

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser shared the following:
  - Mahalo to community for all they do to aloha ‘āina all year round and during Earth Month.
  - On Monday the City [released](#) the [2024 Annual Sustainability Report](#), and hosted an [interactive news conference and tour on Skyline](#), including sustainability projects from Department of Transportation Services, Office of Economic Revitalization, University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges, and Department of Parks and Recreation.
  - Georgina Casey joined CCSR as the Climate Champions Coordinator. She will be managing the [Climate Champions Program](#) and the associated EPA grant.
  - The Flood Outreach Survey closed April 1, which gauged residents’ awareness of flood hazards and ways they can mitigate it. This is a separate project from the FEMA grant CCSR submitted with the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) that would add staff capacity within DPP.
    - Survey takeaways include:
      - Over 1,000 respondents
      - 14% wanted to learn more about flood insurance and risk reduction
      - 1/3 had first or second-hand experience with flooding
      - 30-50% say the cost of insurance is an additional barrier to obtaining a policy
  - CCSR re-submitted a grant to the DLNR Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program to update City tree policies and practices.
  - To help update the City’s [Climate Action Plan](#), CCSR submitted a grant to U.S. Department of Energy today to develop a buildings and energy engagement process, better understand City fleet usage (including Telematics), and continue a CCSR grant funded staff person.
  - Commissioner Otsuka asked if there is an update about hiring a transportation-focused staff member at CCSR. Matt Gonser responded that CCSR will not be pursuing the previously grant funded position, but it is something that can be revisited at a later date.

**5. (19:19) Presentation on the City’s 2024 Annual Sustainability Report by the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency**

- Hayley Cook, Policy and Research Manager for CCSR, shared background and highlights from the [2024 Annual Sustainability Report](#). This report measures progress towards the City’s sustainability objectives and targets in 2023.
- Links were shared in the Zoom chat for the [Better Buildings Benchmarking Program](#) and [Resilience Hubs](#) Network Report.
- The Commissioners asked a variety of questions, and Commissioner Otsuka suggested including data on bus-only lane mileage, Safe Routes to School, and sidewalk infrastructure.

**6. (1:03:14) Discussion on the [in-development Tourism and Climate Change Guidance Document, April 2024](#)**

- This guidance document is being displayed early in the development process to include stakeholders and the public and to identify potential gaps in content.
- Chair Alegado presented information on the history of Hawai’i’s visitor industry; the guidance document’s purpose and goals; tourism numbers; visitor behavior; the vulnerability of the tourism industry to climate change; and the impacts of tourism on greenhouse gas emissions, water use, food systems, emergency services, the environment and the ecosystem.
- Commissioners Romine, Islam and Otsuka provided comments and recommendations.

**7. (1:57:42) Discussion on tentative next meeting date(s).**

- The next meetings are anticipated for May 24 and June 21.

**8. (1:59:17) Communications and correspondence from the public**

- No communications or correspondence were received from the public.

**9. (1:59:29) Public input for matters not on the agenda**

- Chair Alegado noted that Felix Gottdiener wrote in the Zoom chat “Would be great to ban non-reef safe sunscreen.”
- (2:00:30) Commissioner Otsuka mentioned that the Commission received a request to look at the impacts of invasive species on O’ahu and climate change. The requester may attend a future meeting.

**10.(2:00:12) Announcements**

1. Commissioner Romine shared the following announcement:
  - a. Commissioner Romine will be presenting at the “[Hawai'i's Shoreline: Legal & Regulatory Issues, Sea Level Rise and Adaptation](#)” seminar, which takes place May 2 and 3 in Honolulu.
2. Chair Alegado shared the following announcement:
  - a. On Earth Day, Governor Green appointed former Commission Chair Dr. Chip Fletcher as a Special Advisor for Climate and Resilience, and Dr. David Carl as Chair of the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Marine Affairs.
3. Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcement:
  - a. The Hawai'i Department of Transportation launched the [Hawai'i Electric Bike and Electric Moped Rebate](#), which makes rebates of up to \$500 or 20% of the retail price available for eligible purchases of newly purchased electric bicycles and electric mopeds. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older, and prove one of the following:
    1. Participation in a low-income assistance program such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Section 8
    2. Do not own a motor vehicle with four or more wheels
    3. Current enrollment in a school, college, or university.

#### **11.(2:04:06) Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m. All four Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.