



# 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, September 29, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Zoom Virtual Meeting Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** Vice Chair Victoria Keener, Melanie Islam

**Public:** Matthew Gonser, Chase McDaniel, Jennifer Sou, Resilient O'ahu, Chris Agcanas, Claire Rossi de Leon, Victor Limon, Madeline Krueger (Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Terry Chan, Walter Billingsley (Honolulu Department of Design and Construction); Nicole Cernohorsky, Monique Schafer, James Francucci (Hawai'i State Energy Office); Cynthia Emoto (Honolulu Department of Budget and Fiscal Services); Tawn Keeney; Robert Parke; Grace Cajski; Felix Gottdiener; Anthony Aalto; Kate Hogue; Makena Coffman; Kara Neal; Mahinakai50; Erica.

**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://www.facebook.com/ResilientOahu/videos/648449314083795/>

### **1. (01:42) Call to order**

- Chair Alegado called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **2. (01:50) Roll call**

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

### 3. (2:20) Approval of the Minutes: August 25, 2023

- (3:13) Commissioner Romine motioned to adopt the August 25, 2023 meeting minutes, and Commissioner Otsuka seconded. (**AYE**: Alegado, Otsuka, Romine; **NAY**: None; **ABSTAIN**: None).

### 4. (3:43) Report on activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR)

- CCSR Director Matt Gonser shared the following:
  - Mahalo to outgoing staff member Rori Kirkpatrick, who served as the Climate Action and Mobility Specialist. The position will soon be advertised. With Rori's departure, programs and initiatives will not be delayed, including progress on the Climate Action Plan and Transportation Emissions Reduction Strategy, etc.
  - CCSR has six new team members, including Chris Agcanas, Fleet Electrification Analyst; Dr. Jennifer Sou, Budget and Operations Specialist; Madeline Krueger, Coasts & Hazards Mitigation Fellow (Hawai'i Sea Grant Grau Fellow); Claire Rossi de Leon, Climate Adaptation Fellow (Hawai'i Sea Grant Grau Fellow); Mattison Priest, Policy & Grants Specialist; Victor Limon, Sustainability Data Analyst.
    - Commissioner Otsuka inquired about the Castle Foundation funding for the Policy & Grants Specialist position. Matt replied that the Castle Foundation is expanding into climate change adaptation work, and the position is funded by for two years.
  - The City's Department of Environmental Services was the first City agency to tap into a State Department of Transportation "Infrastructure as a Service" contract with Sustainability Partners to receive an electric vehicle and charger.
  - CCSR is collaborating with other agencies to pursue federal funds:
    - HUD Green and Resilient Retrofit Program with the Department of Land Management
    - Inflation Reduction Act "Direct Pay" with the Department of Environmental Services
    - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program Phase II Implementation with the Department of Transportation Services and others City agencies
  - An Affordable Green Housing Retrofit Program is being developed to improve efficiency and affordability for multi-unit residential properties.
  - Project underway with the UH Institute for Sustainability and Resilience, looking at coastal profiles and a potential transfer of development rights program. There is possibility for a presentation on this project at a future Commission meeting.

- CCSR launched two projects that manage and mitigate heat.
- At the City Council Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health on September 13, Vice Chair Keener and Matt Gonsler provided informational briefings about the Commission's updated 2023 Climate Change Brief and a status update on the in-development Climate Ready O'ahu climate adaptation strategy, respectively.
- Commissioner Romine inquired about Resolution 23-162 (Climate Resilience Fund). Matt said is not on the agenda at the next full City Council meeting, but could possibly be on the October 18 Housing, Sustainability and Health Committee.

#### **5. (26:55) Discussion on the in-development Climate Change and Tourism Guidance Document**

- Chair Alegado gave background about the creation of the draft [Tourism and Climate Change Guidance Document](#) and shared her screen to overview the general organization of the draft.
- Commissioner Otsuka recommended adding the following items: housing impacts, evacuations, transportation section, invasive species, and Green Fee.
- Commissioner Romine agreed with including a transportation section, and recommended adding impacts to City parks as well as gathering data on energy use for air conditioning in tourist buildings like hotels. Commissioner Romine also recommended reaching out to the Sea Grant Center for Sustainable Coastal Tourism.
- Dr. Tawn Keeney summarized his [written testimony](#) and requests that some of the sections on aviation be reconsidered.
- Erica asked about coral reefs and groundwater impacts and the potential of the tourist industry being a part of the financial solution.
- Monique Schafer (Hawai'i State Energy Office) raised a question on policy mechanisms to enforce simple energy conservation and efficiency practices for bigger tourism businesses, and how length of stay might decrease air transportation emissions.
- The following links were sent in the Zoom chat:
  - From Chair Alegado regarding combined water and sewer bills: <https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/customer-service/about-your-bill>
  - From Erica: "Here is additional information from the Hawaii DOH Cesspool Conversion Working Group with studies around impacts, prioritization, and financial cost of cesspool conversion <https://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/home/ccwg/>."
  - From Chair Alegado regarding the Shut the Front Door campaign: <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-01362>
- Commissioner Otsuka shared a [blog post](#) about how the public bus on Maui was integral to evacuation during the fires and continues to be used

during recovery efforts.

**6. (1:17:10) Discussion on the [in-development Urban Heat Guidance Document, draft May 12, 2022](#)**

- Commissioner Otsuka shared that herself, Commissioner Romine, Robert Parke and Kara Neal have finalized the survey questions and format, and hope to release the survey today.
- Robert Parke was introduced as a masters student at UH and a Climate Change Commission intern who is assisting with the Urban Heat Guidance Document and other Commission work.
- CCSR will provide Commissioner Otsuka with recommendations on what demographics to collect in the survey.

**7. (1:22:20) Discussion on tentative next meeting date(s)**

- The Commission has been interested in hosting a meeting in-person in the community. One iteration includes an official Commission meeting with a CCSR Open House afterward that focuses on [Climate Ready O’ahu](#). CCSR is on schedule to have a Climate Ready O’ahu public comment period during November, and will participate at multiple in-person outreach events.
- The next Commission meetings are expected in October and December.

**8. (1:30:10) Communications and correspondence from the public**

- Dr. Tawn Keeney provided [written testimony](#) referencing aviation in the draft Tourism and Climate Change Guidance Document.
- Walter Billingsley (Department of Design and Construction) shared the following in the Zoom chat: “Domestic (non-irrigation) water & wastewater per capita consumption by tourists might exceed residential rates. Can you use utility bills (water meter data) to quantify this? SLR will create new challenges for water and wastewater systems, including groundwater supply and saltwater intrusion into sewers making reuse and recycling of wastewater more expensive and less practical. Also, SLR will seriously impact individual wastewater systems, because clearance between the bottom of septic system leach fields and the high groundwater level is regulated by DOH (3-ft. minimum).”

**9. (1:32:22) Public input for matters not on the agenda**

- None.

**10.(1:32:44) Announcements**

- Commissioner Otsuka shared the following announcement:
  - The Hawai'i Department of Transportation has 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. (1:33:41) Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. All three Commissioners left the meeting at adjournment.