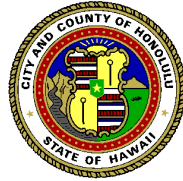


CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

MAKENA COFFMAN, PH.D., CHAIR
CHARLES FLETCHER, PH.D., VICE CHAIR
ROSIE ALEGADO, PH.D.
VICTORIA KEENER, PH.D.
BETTINA MEHNERT, FAIA, LEED AP O+M

Climate Change Commission
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
Council Committee Meeting Room
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Rosie Alegado, Makena Coffman, Charles Fletcher, Victoria Keener, and Bettina Mehnert.

Members Absent: None.

Public: Executive Director Josh Stanbro, Deputy Director Justin Gruenstein, Uyen Vong (Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency), Chair Suzanne Case (Department of Land and Natural Resources), Executive Director Jan Yamane (Honolulu Ethics Commission), Courtney Sue-Ako (Deputy Corporation Counsel), Susan Opie, Kitty Courtney, Michael Hamnett (Ala Wai Collaboration), and Ben Trevino.

The Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts Executive Director Misty Kela'i delivered the Oli as a blessing for the first meeting of the Climate Change Commission.

Call to order: Chair Pro Tempore Charles Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

Roll Call: All commissioners were present. Quorum established.

Introduction of Commissioners:

- Charles "Chip" Fletcher is a Professor of Geology and Geophysics and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology.
- Rosie Alegado is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Oceanography and University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program as well as the Associate Director of the Center for Integrated Science, Knowledge, and Culture.
- Makena Coffman is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as well as a Research Fellow at the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO).
- Victoria Keener is a Research Fellow at the East-West Center and is also the Lead Principal Investigator of the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (Pacific RISA) program.
- Bettina Mehnert is the president and Chief Operating Officer at Architects Hawai'i, Limited (AHL), a 71-year old architecture firm in Hawai'i.

Welcome from Chief of Staff Gary Kurokawa:

- Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Chief of Staff Gary Kurokawa stated that Mayor Caldwell's administration is very supportive of the Commission, noting that a large part of city functions involves infrastructure which requires a lot of investment. Kurokawa acknowledged that climate change will be integral in making decisions about infrastructure and looks forward to working with the Commission and receiving recommendations from the commission.

Questions and comments that followed:

- Fletcher asked Kurokawa to identify an important issue for the Climate Change Commission to address. Kurokawa noted the city's need to acquire comprehensive and local sea level rise data to assess risks and exposure for Honolulu's facilities and infrastructure. Kurokawa commented that the City would like to use recommendations from the Commission to guide city-wide infrastructure and budget decisions in the future.
- Keener asked what the longest timeline is for Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs). Kurokawa replied that the City publishes a 6-year CIP plan, however agencies such as the Board of Water Supply, Honolulu Fire Department, and Honolulu Police Department have plans for the next 50 years or more.
- Fletcher asked if the City has the authority to levy a carbon tax and what the taxation powers are for the City. Kurokawa replied that the Hawai'i State Constitution only authorizes the City to tax real estate, i.e. property tax, however the City can collect other taxes such as the fuel tax which is granted by the state. Kurokawa further explained that a carbon tax is possible with a constitutional change or if the state legislature grants the City the authority.
- Coffman asked for more information on the initiatives that will work toward the mayor's commitment to 100% renewable ground transportation. Kurokawa replied that large investments such as electric buses and rail will work toward 100% renewable ground transportation.
- Fletcher asked where have attempts to be sustainable in the City proved most difficult. Kurokawa responded that the existing budget makes it hard to incorporate sustainability policies as a big portion of the city budget is dedicated to public safety which leaves little for other types of discretionary spending.
- Fletcher asked what Kurokawa's opinion is on carbon-intensive behavior. Kurokawa replied that carbon-intensive behavior is something the City could look into.
- Keener asked if there are specific barriers within the departments the Commission should be aware of. Kurokawa replied that the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency will help in organizing all the departments to address issues like climate change in their operations.

Discussion and Action on the Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate Change Commission:

- Alegado nominated and Keener seconded the nomination of Coffman as Chair of the Climate Change Commission for the term ending on June 30, 2018. Coffman accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimously approved (**AYE:** Alegado, Coffman, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None).

Coffman was elected as the Chair of the Commission.

- Keener nominated and Alegado seconded the nomination of Fletcher as Vice Chair of the Climate Change Commission for the term ending on June 30, 2018. Fletcher accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimously approved (**AYE:** Alegado, Coffman, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None).

Fletcher was elected as the Vice Chair of the Commission.

Discussion and Action on Meeting Dates and Locations for the Climate Change Commission:

- Keener proposed that the Commission meet once a month at a different location every few months. Coffman noted that the first meetings should be about information gathering and should be located in the Honolulu Hale campus. Mehnert brought up a concern that the public may not be able to participate if the meeting is held during the day. Alegado proposed that some meetings be held at night when the public is more available to participate.

Discussion and Action on the Adoption of Rules of Practice and Procedures:

- Deputy Corporation Counsel Courtney Sue-Ako will draft the rules of practice and procedures for the Commission to vote on at the next meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Discussion on the Powers, Duties, and Functions of the Climate Change Commission Based on the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition):

- Sue-Ako shared with the commission a PowerPoint presentation. Sue-Ako highlighted from the City Charter that the Commission is required to meet no less than twice annually and that the purpose of their meetings is to gather the latest science and information on climate change effects in the city and provide advice as is deemed appropriate to the executive for the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, the mayor, city council, and executive departments of the City.

Discussion on the Requirements for Ethics Training:

- Executive Director and Legal Counsel Jan Yamane reminded the commissioners that they became city officials when they were confirmed by city council as commissioners. Yamane circulated a disclosure of conflict of interest statement. The commissioners will be sent an email regarding their ethics training.
- Yamane asked that any questions regarding conflict of interests be directed to the Commission's Deputy Corporation Counsel or the Ethics Commission.

Presentation by the Department of Corporation Counsel on the Sunshine Law: Deputy Corporation Counsel Sue-Ako provided a general overview of the Sunshine Law. Highlights of the presentation:

- The purpose and intent of the Sunshine Law is to protect the people's right to government access by allowing the public to scrutinize and participate in the formation and conduct of public policy.
- The Office of Information Practices (OIP) is the administrative agency for the execution of Sunshine Law. OIP also provides interpretations and recommendations for county and state boards and commissions.
- State and county boards and commissions are required to file meeting notices at least 6 days prior to the meeting, give the public an opportunity to testify at the meeting, and provide minutes within 30 days after the meeting.
- Executive meetings may be called with the Commission's deputy corporation counsel to discuss confidential matters relating to the powers, duties, privileges, and liabilities of the Commission.
- The Commission is required to accept public testimony on any agenda items, however the Commission may also limit the length of time for each speaker which must be universally applied.
- Serial communication and seeking a vote on matters relating to Commission business are violations of Sunshine Law.
- Any final actions taken in violation of the Sunshine Law may be voidable. Any member of the public may sue should a violation occur.

Discussion of Future Activities and Timeline of the Climate Change Commission

- Keener stated the first few meetings of the Climate Change Commission should focus on obtaining information from various city departments on where the departments see opportunities and limitations for the Commission.
- Fletcher suggested that the next meeting should focus on sea level rise as the state recently published the *2017 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*.
- Coffman recommended the Commission to discuss low-carbon transportation.
- Keener would like to know more information on the Board of Water Supply's existing projects.
- Alegado would like to know more information on ordinances around coastal zoning.
- Mehnert noted that infrastructure also includes service infrastructures such as hospitals, fire stations, and sewer system.
- Fletcher would like to discuss the possibility for the Public Utilities Commission and/or HECO to vault power lines underground in case a direct hit from a hurricane occur. Alegado would like an inventory of shelters that serve as emergency shelters during a natural disaster including an assessment of each shelter's building codes.
- Keener suggested a future discussion on natural infrastructure such as watersheds.
- Fletcher suggested a future discussion on local agriculture including subsidizing their operations. Alegado added that the discussion should include marine food systems.
- Keener suggested that sea level rise should be the main topic of the next meeting.

Fletcher moved and Alegado seconded sea level rise be the main topic of the next meeting. The vote was

unanimously approved (**AYE:** Alegado, Coffman, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None).

- Fletcher suggested inviting the city Department of Planning and Permitting and state Department of Land and Natural Resources to the meeting.
- Mehnert recommended that the Commission invite insurance companies to give their perspective on sea level rise. Keener suggested reinsurance companies.

Keener circulated a document from the Pacific RISA titled "Expert Consensus on Downscaled Climate Projections for the Main Hawaiian Islands".

- Keener asked what the timeline is for the budget cycle. Justin Gruenstein stated the budget cycle is an ongoing cycle. The budget goes into effect on July 1, then departments immediately prepare for the next fiscal year. The mayor will be sending a proposed fiscal year 19 budget shortly to city council. After City Council adopts the budget, the mayor will either sign, veto, or return unsigned the budget in June 2018.
- Fletcher suggested releasing statements in the form of press releases or letters that embody messages adopted by the Commission.

Public Input for Matters not on the Agenda:

- Kitty Courtney suggested the commissioners to look at the *2017 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*, specifically items that could be addressed by the City. Courtney noted that there will be an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City. The Office of Planning has funded a study to look building codes to address climate change impacts. Fletcher asked who is in charge of the mitigation plan. Kitty stated that Director Mel Kaku of the Department Emergency Management is in charge of the mitigation plan.
- Susan Opie commented that protecting the waters and public areas from litter and trash is an important issue to her.
- Mike Hamnett noted that he is the chair of the Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration group and offered his availability to discuss matters relating to the Ala Wai Watershed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Honolulu Hale campus.

Announcements: There are no announcements.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.