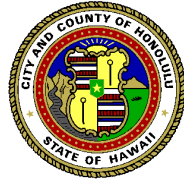


CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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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
Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Mission Memorial Building, 1st Floor Hearings Room
550 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Makena Coffman.

Public: Executive Director Josh Stanbro, Deputy Director Justin Gruenstein, Uyen Vong (Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency), Courtney Sue-Ako (Corporation Counsel), Nancy Matsumoto (Board of Water Supply), Jodi Malinoski and Randy Ching (Sierra Club of Hawai'i), Sam Lemmo and Anu Hittle (Department of Land and Natural Resources), and Sarah Sutton.

Call to order: Vice Chair Charles Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Roll Call: Four commissioners were present. Quorum was established.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2018:

- Page 4: "...marine insurance companies" should be "...reinsurance companies".

The minutes were adopted as amended (**AYE:** Alegado, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None).

Discussion with Council Chair Ron Menor: Council Chair Ron Menor was unable to attend the meeting.

Discussion with City Managing Director Roy K. Amemiya, Jr. on Matters Relating to Activities of the Climate Change Commission:

- Amemiya commented that he attended a seminar which discussed the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and stated that it was an eye-opening experience because O'ahu could face the same scenario. Amemiya stated that one of the most important issues to the City is how the City should form policy around sea level rise, especially in places such as Waikiki which is an economic engine and Mapunapuna which is routinely flooded just in events of high tides. Amemiya noted that recommendations put forth by the Climate Change Commission should be a benchmark for something that cannot be changed easily because it is unfair for property owners to adjust to new regulations once it is set. Amemiya stated that another big issue is finding funding because mitigation efforts are expensive and require substantial funding. Amemiya noted that bond agencies also take climate change impacts into consideration.
- Fletcher stated that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued two reports last year that provided a range of sea level rise prediction at particular decades associated with an intermediate scenario, a high scenario and an extreme scenario. Fletcher noted that advice given for planning of major public infrastructure projects should be to plan for high or extreme scenarios. Fletcher also stated that it is hard to figure out the target because how the City would determine its tolerance of flooding and the ability of the City to deal with it with current resources. Amemiya mentioned that the wastewater plant on Sand Island is an example of public infrastructure that must be looked at with consideration of sea level rise impacts. Amemiya also stated that the City should be conservative, meaning that the City should plan for a bigger impact

than the recommended preparedness.

- Amemiya commented that the City could treat legacy beaches with priority because they are the reason some visitors come to O'ahu.
- Keener asked what the next steps are for the City to take when a recommendation is put forth. Amemiya stated that the City would have to assess how sea level rise would impact city facilities in coastal areas and work out a cost-benefit analysis. The City will also determine what the consequences are if no action was taken.

Discussion with Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) on Matters Relating to the Activities of the Climate Change Commission:

- DPP Acting Director Kathy Sokugawa introduced the office. There are about 250 planners, engineers, inspectors, and GIS technicians. In terms of long-range planning, the O'ahu General Plan will be heard before the Planning Commission soon and on its way to City Council for adoption of its updates. The updated plan includes climate change and sea level rise considerations. There are eight regional plans with two plans currently being adopted which are the East Honolulu Plan and the Primary Urban Center (PUC) Plan.
- Sokugawa stated that DPP, Department of Emergency Services (HESD), and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is working closely together to address erosion issues in a coordinated fashion.
- Keener asked what the biggest barriers are in coordinating with the State. Sokugawa replied that the shoreline management program is closely aligned with the state's coastal management program and that there are no coordination barriers. Sokugawa stated there is a challenge of finding funding. Sokugawa stated she would be open to updating Chapter 205A, but staff allocation and resources must be properly appropriated.
- Sokugawa noted that decades ago, DPP established a policy to set the shoreline back 20 feet but DPP received a large amount of opposition from the public, particularly in from the North Shore community. Sokugawa commented the Commission could help with engaging conversations with the public.
- Fletcher asked about additional public meetings on the General Plan. Sokugawa stated that testimonies may be submitted to the Planning Commission and to the City Council who will be hearing it in the form of a resolution.
- Sokugawa would like a guidance from the Commission on sea wall variances.

Discussion with State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) regarding the 2017 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report:

- Sam Lemmo introduced himself as the administrator in DLNR, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. The office is responsible for overseeing the state's conservation lands as well as beaches and all areas offshore up to three (3) miles.
- Lemmo stated that Act 32 established the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. One of their first tasks was to produce a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report which was released in December 2017. There are over 20 people in the commission, albeit not subject matter experts, but high level administrators in state and county level.
- There are nine (9) recommendations in the sea level rise report, in which one is to "support sustainable and resilient land use and community development". The mayor of Maui issued a proclamation to urge its county planners to use the report.
- The next two meetings of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission will be used to vet legislative strategy and priorities for 2019 legislative session.
- Mehnert asked if the maps from the sea level rise modeling can be overlaid with existing FEMA maps. Romine responded that there is currently method to compare the two maps, but noted that the viewer can be accessed at www.pacioos.hawaii.edu which provide assessment of coastal zones with sea level rise modeling. Fletcher asked if there were opportunities for developing models for higher sea level rise scenarios. Romine commented it is possible, because 3.2 feet may be a mid-range scenario and not a high end scenario anymore. Romine added that they have been referring people to the NOAA viewer to see data on sea level rise higher than 3.2 feet.
- Keener asked Hittle to explain her role. Hittle explained that she is the coordinator for the activities of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, whose role is to provide

guidance and advice for the state and coordinate with other entities like the City and County of Honolulu. Hittle commented that she is currently doing a gap analysis and will produce a white paper that will highlight what still needs to be done and where the gaps in knowledge are.

- Alegado asked what the timeframe is for the ground transportation analysis. Hittle noted it will be completed by the end of 2018.

Discussion with the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) on Matters relating to the Activities of the Climate Change Commission

- Executive Director Josh Stanbro gave an update on the office. CCSR has been going to different communities, including over 22 neighborhood boards, on O'ahu to expand outreach efforts and get responses from community members on their perceptions on resilience issues. Over 1,000 residents provided input which will be a part of Honolulu's Resiliency Strategy.
- Stanbro announced that AmeriCorps awarded a grant to CCSR which will provide four (4) AmeriCorps VISTAs to serve in the office. One of the positions will focus on greenhouse gas inventory and doing a climate action plan for O'ahu. Another VISTA will focus on energy and water conservation and another VISTA will focus on partnerships with other government agencies and community organizations.
- Stanbro announced that CCSR secured funding to complete a greenhouse gas inventory at the county level, which is one of the commitments in the Paris climate agreement. CCSR also applied for funding to complete a climate action and adaptation plan which is also a commitment in the Paris climate agreement. CCSR hopes to have the climate action and adaptation plan published as part of the Resilience Strategy in 2019. Under the Paris climate agreement, the county need to set an emissions reduction goal which the climate change commission can give advice on. Other jurisdictions have 80% reduction by 2050. Stanbro mentioned two fleet workshops that were held last year in an effort to get a discussion started on achieving mayor's commitment on 100% renewable energy for ground transportation.
- Fletcher asked about rental companies. Stanbro commented that the electric vehicles are like a chicken and egg situation with charging infrastructure and the number of people who are switching to EV. Stanbro noted there is a lot of demand for charging stations that work consistently. Stanbro highlighted that more EV charging should be available in places of work.
- Fletcher asked what the biggest barrier is to getting to the 100% renewable energy goal. Stanbro stated fossil fuel pricing and availability as well as renewable fuel options, which are priced higher right now. Fletcher asked if the City has the authority to levy a gas tax. Stanbro noted yes, because the City is authorized by the State. Fletcher acknowledged that levying a gas tax may unfairly penalized drivers who have to commute.
- Keener asked what are the concrete next steps are since CCSR has done so much outreach activities. Stanbro commented that the office will continue to do outreach. The data from the outreach activities will be analyzed in a workshop with 100 Resilient Cities. The office will select seven to eight areas that will be investigated, then narrow it down to three or four areas which will then go into the Resilience Strategy. Keener asked if the Climate Change Commission could get involved with community outreach efforts. Stanbro offered to give a report to the commission on how the office has been doing in its outreach efforts.

Discussion with Department of Emergency Management (DEM) on Matters Relating to the Activities of the Climate Change Commission:

- Director Mel Kaku introduced his office and stated that there are 13.5 staffers in DEM whose mission is to save lives and protect private property. Kaku noted that all events and incidents begin and end at the local level. Kaku stated that the three major disasters are hurricanes, tsunamis, and flooding because it is occurring more in infrequency in the last ten years. In the summer of 2015 there were 15 named storms heading towards the Hawaiian Islands, but it was fortunate that none of the storms made landfall.
- Kaku commented that first responders make up 60% of the City's employees. DEM prepares tsunami and hurricane mapping. O'ahu is the first county to receive a model to develop storm surge mapping, which will be published before June 2018. Storm surge is dangerous because people often fail to evacuate.
- Kaku stated that DEM asks residents to be self-sufficient to sustain themselves before

government can step in.

- Keener asked if the storm surge modeling include sea level rise projections. Kaku was unsure, but will report back to the Commission.
- Fletcher asked for Kaku's thoughts on the network of overhead power lines. Kaku stated they are highly vulnerable, and that there are 15,000 wooden poles on O'ahu which is unlikely be able to sustain a high-wind event beyond category 2. Kaku stated that there is a program to slowly replace the poles to withstand a higher wind speed.
- Alegado asked about flood insurance. Kaku stated that there is currently no insurance for storm surge. Alegado asked if DEM has already identified isolated communities that are vulnerable. Kaku replied that DEM started a community resiliency program in Kailua, Waimanalo and Ewa Beach. There are now 12 community resiliency groups, and there are hopes to expand the program to other communities.

Public Input for Matters Not on the Agenda

- Jodi Malinoski introduced herself as the O'ahu group coordinator for the Sierra Club of Hawai'i and offered her general support and help when needed.
- Randy Ching introduced himself as a volunteer with the Sierra Club and mentioned that he is very concerned about the effects of climate change. Ching noted that there is likely to be another El Niño season in late 2018 to 2019.
- Sarah Sutton introduced herself as a sustainability consultant for museums.

Discussion and Action on the Adoption of Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Climate Change Commission

- Deputy Corporation Counsel Courtney Sue-Ako circulated a document containing the rules of practice and procedure.
- The commission will adopt the rules at the next meeting following review of the document.

Discussion of Future Activities and Timeline of the Climate Change Commission

- Fletcher met with Chair Coffman to discuss the idea of having working group meetings and meeting as often as needed. Fletcher noted that work will be done out of the working groups, and disseminated to the full commission for review and action. Mehnert commented that her availability is limited during the day, but she could meet during evening hours. Keener is open to the idea of working groups. Alegado stated that it would be hard on her schedule.
- Alegado asked and Stanbro will provide a list of city agencies for the commission to invite to the meeting. Alegado asked to meet with the City Resilience Team.
- Mehnert and Alegado expressed concerns about immediately going into working groups. They would prefer to get the state of knowledge and hear from the department heads before going into working groups and producing work.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2018 in the Honolulu Hale campus.

Announcements: Fletcher announced that there is a Sea Level Rise, Coastal Flood Risk and Social Vulnerability Workshop, sponsored by Climate Central, on Saturday, April 7 from 8:30am to 4:00pm at UH Mānoa, School of Law.

Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 5:28 p.m.