

# Climate Change Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 S. 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 Pledge Towards Equity***

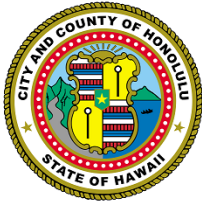
*Modified and expanded from the City and County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission's "Climate Change and Social Equity – Guidance Document," adopted December 8, 2020 and updated July 29, 2022*  
[https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/HNLClimateChangeCommission-ClimateChangeSocialEquityGuidance\\_July2022.pdf](https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/HNLClimateChangeCommission-ClimateChangeSocialEquityGuidance_July2022.pdf)

The Commission acknowledges that climate change is still viewed as primarily an environmental issue, and thus needs to be reframed as a human issue that is a core challenge for sustainable development with powerful economic, social, and environmental implications.<sup>1</sup> The Commission acknowledges that centuries of chronic exploitation, inequitable and extractive systems, and policies and environmental design has deliberately left many populations, some by virtue of their geographic locations, at greater risk of exposure and with fewer tools and resources to mitigate or adapt to climate change. As climate inequity and climate injustice are in part a result of policy outcomes and government action (or at times, inaction), the Commission will explore to what extent mitigation or adaptation strategies may offer simultaneous opportunities to promote wider societal development objectives (*ibid*). In addition, the Commission supports the City in advancing meaningful community engagement practices that center the needs of historically disadvantaged communities to address site-specific climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Understanding that change begins with leadership, the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu pledges to:

- Periodically host the Commission's in-person meetings in different areas of the island of O'ahu so that a diversity of communities can participate in the planning process for their communities, and to invite leaders of minoritized communities to participate; the Commission will:
  - Strive to have in-person meetings no further than one-quarter mile walk from a bus stop;
  - Strive to have in-person meetings during non-work hours and with consideration for City staff time and contractual availability;
  - Work with the City Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (OCCSR) to reach out directly to local community groups where the meeting is being held;
  - Engage the public on how to make Commission meetings more accessible; and
  - Work with OCCSR to provide activities for children at in-person meetings where appropriate;
- Request that OCCSR includes in the Executive Director's report how the Commission performed on the five meeting accessibility metrics above, on an annual basis;
- Integrate social equity considerations, as defined by the 2014 Urban Sustainability Directors Initiative (USDN) Report, into all its publications and policies;

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<sup>1</sup> Mearns, Robin, et al. Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Equity and Vulnerability in a Warming World. World Bank, 2009, pp. xxiii, 319, doi:10.1596/978-0-8213-7887-8.



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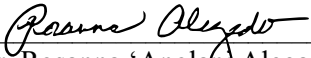
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- Provide diverse platforms and opportunities, such as virtual and in-person meetings, focus groups, surveys, field trips, and presentations, to prioritize communities/groups that have historically been marginalized or underrepresented; and
- Continue to with work OCCSR to research how the Commission may implement the following best practices for community engagement and accessibility of meetings, including the Commission’s ability to:
  - Provide the option of childcare at the meeting for in-person participants;
  - Provide compensation for community members’ time and participation in more intensive engagement in which input on people’s lived experiences are requested; for example, engagement activities on specific guidance documents topics might be considered an intensive engagement activity; compensation as deemed appropriate for example in the form of cash, gift cards, food, etc.; compensation can be in the form of cash, gift cards, food, etc.;
  - Produce Commission documents, such as agendas and meeting notifications, in plain language which is communication that is clear and easily understood by the public;<sup>2</sup> and
  - Translate key Commission documents, including meeting notifications and agendas into languages other than English commonly used in the community.

  
Chair, Rosanna ‘Anolani Alegado


December 22, 2022  
Date

  
Vice Chair, Victoria Keener


January 11, 2023  
Date

  
Commissioner, Melanie Islam

January 12, 2023  
Date

  
Commissioner, Kiana Otsuka

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
Commissioner, Bradley Romine

January 18, 2023  
Date

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/general/15058/15058.pdf>