

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
Tuesday, July 2, 2019
Mission Memorial Building, 1st Floor Hearings Room
550 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
DRAFT 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, Rocky Mould, Uyen Vong, Hayley Cook (Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency); Courtney Sue-Ako (Corporation Counsel); Tiffany Patrick (Marine Corps Base Hawai'i); Paul Bernstein; Tenaya Jackman; Brandon Lee; Colin Lee; Anthony Aalto.

Call to order: Chair Makena Coffman called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Roll Call: All five commissioners were present. Quorum was established.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2019: The minutes of May 28, 2019 were unavailable. Agenda item skipped until next meeting.

Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Climate Change Commission (Commission):

- Chair Coffman called attention to the rule of three minute testimony per agenda item and reiterated that the Commission is going to start following the rule moving forward.

Report on the Activities of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR):

Executive Director Josh Stanbro presented the following report:

- CCSR hosted the Mayors Climate Summit where 58 mayors gathered at the East West Center on June 27, 2019. Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles founded the Climate Mayors organization to focus on climate issues at the local level, and Mayor Walsh of Boston hosted the first Mayors Climate Summit last year. Climate Mayors experienced tremendous growth after the federal administration pulled out of the Paris Agreement and now has participation from 428 mayors. At the summit, Mayor Garcetti announced that the Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative (Collaborative) now has over 2,000 vehicles that have been pledged to be purchased to help transform cities' fleets faster at a lower price point.
- The Climate Summit was hosted on the shoulder of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCOM), the largest gathering of mayors annually in the country. USCOM was attended by 237 mayors, but the membership is broader with over 1,000 mayors. Mayor Caldwell sponsored a resolution that was unanimously endorsed and adopted by all mayors at the conference that building codes in the U.S. should be on a path to zero-emission buildings by 2050. The other resolution sponsored by Mayor Caldwell encourages the use of carbon sequestration in concrete, a technology that is

taking off in Hawai'i with a Department of Transportation and Carbon Cure pilot project. Three other resolutions supported by Caldwell include: (1) Ensuring municipalities can protect their right to bring lawsuits against polluters; (2) Supporting a carbon tax to align economics with sustainability objectives; and (3) Calling for increased federal investment in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and a tax credit for EV purchases at the federal level.

Questions and Public Testimony that Followed:

- Mehnert asked if there was a specific goal tied to the carbon sequestration resolution. Stanbro responded that the resolution had urged that “all building projects use carbon sequestered concrete” and there was a friendly amendment on the floor to take out “all” and just encourage the use in building projects. Stanbro noted that Hawai'i is far ahead of the curve, in that of the three main concrete producers on island, one is already using the technology, a second is about to start using it, and the third is in talks to start using it. Mehnert asked if the mayor would encourage the use of the technology for city projects. Stanbro responded that he believes the mayor would and the City's Department of Design and Construction is already in conversations with vendors to test the technology. Stanbro also noted that once all three concrete producers switch over to the technology, all projects on island will use the carbon sequestered concrete.
- Coffman asked how Hawai'i is participating in the Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative. Stanbro responded that Hawai'i is looking into participating in the Collaborative, and while Mayor Caldwell has pledged to transform the City's fleet, there are state procurement rules that may make it difficult for the City to participate in the Collaborative. Nonetheless, Mayor Caldwell is committed to starting to change out the fleet regardless of the City's participation.
- Fletcher noted that the City of New York made an emergency declaration around the climate crisis, which is largely symbolic to draw attention to the issue. Fletcher asked if CSSR has discussed a similar effort for Honolulu. Stanbro responded that although Mayor Caldwell refers to climate change as a climate crisis, he is not sure another resolution would help the City move any faster to address the climate emergency. Stanbro noted that CCSR will look at New York's emergency declaration to assess resulting changes in the city's ability to take certain actions or implement certain rules under an emergency declaration.

Testimony received from Dr. Paul Bernstein in follow up on the carbon fee discussion at the May 28, 2019 Climate Change Commission meeting:

- Coffman noted that this agenda item was to make the commissioners aware that there has been follow up testimony to read and welcomed any comments and testimony from the public.

Comments and Public Testimony that Followed:

- None.

Bill 25 (2019), Relating to the Adoption of the State Energy Conservation Code – Editing and approval of testimony for submission to the City Council:

- Stanbro provided a review of Bill 25, which is an update to the energy code for the City and County of Honolulu (City), which has been several years out of date. He noted that the update provides an opportunity not only to increase efficiency and reduce emissions, but also to reduce the cost of living for individuals, as homes built under the new code can save between 30 and 50 percent on electric and utility usage. Stanbro also noted that there are added local amendments that have been taken from the State Building Code Council after it made amendments to the national code.
- Coffman noted that she took the opportunity to draft testimony on Bill 25 for the Commission to review and welcomed comments and questions:
- Fletcher noted that on page five of Bill 25, biomass and biofuels are listed as renewable energy although they are still carbon emitting. Fletcher asked if there had been discussion around their inclusion. Energy Program Manager Rocky Mould noted that the specific language was taken verbatim from the state statute definition of renewable energy. Coffman suggested that although the definition of renewable energy could be critiqued, it is not absolutely germane to Bill 25 and

- the draft testimony, although agreed that those energy sources are far from carbon neutral.
- Fletcher also asked about the purpose of the language on page 10 of Bill 25 that requires not more than one half the area of a dwelling unit be air conditioned. Mould responded that as part of the tropical code, and in addition to a provision for ceiling fans, it is an option for builders meant to provide a more appropriate built environment for our climate and take advantage of trade winds so as to reduce costs and avoid significant energy usage. Fletcher noted that while appropriate for our climate now, it may not be appropriate for a future scenario where heat is extremely oppressive and homes are 100 percent renewable with battery storage. Mould noted that it is intended the codes be updated on a more regular basis so that they continue to be appropriate for changing climates.
 - Fletcher asked what a “U-factor” is and Mould responded that it is an ultraviolet reflectivity factor.
 - Mehnert asked how often the codes will be updated in the future. Mould responded that the national cycle is every three years, and while that may be ambitious for the City given its track record, they are certainly going to try to make updates along the State Building Code Council update timeline, which is also every three years. Mould also noted that CCSR has worked to maximize the City’s representation at the International Energy Code Council to ensure that the City has a voice at the beginning of the code update process at the national level.
 - The Commission made edits to the draft testimony, including changing the addressee language and adding clarification language around the State target of carbon neutrality by 2045.
 - Coffman asked how the action taken on the draft testimony could follow the bill moving forward. Justin Gruenstein responded that if the Commission chose to adopt testimony only on this bill for only one hearing, then it could limit the scope in such a way. However, if adopting testimony on the bill in general, then it would stand for the hearing at full council and can also be resubmitted to the committee hearing with modifications of address lines as appropriate.

Comments and Public Testimony that Followed:

- None.

Alegado moved and Keener seconded the motion to adopt the Commission’s testimony on Bill 25 for submission to the City Council. The motion was adopted (**AYE:** Alegado, Coffman, Fletcher, Keener, Mehnert; **NAY:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None.)

Public Input for Matters Not on the Agenda:

- None.

Tentative Next Meeting Date: The next Climate Change Commission meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Announcements:

- Keener announced that on June 25, 2019, the Climate Change Commission received a letter from the mayor asking for formal guidance on informing new shoreline setback regulations and rules. The mayor requests the Commission provide best practices and science-based regulations to the mayor’s office, the Department of Planning and Permitting, and the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency. Coffman noted that the Commission will be scheduling a meeting around the mayor’s letter.
- Alegado announced that the king tide photo survey is taking place, and for those who want to participate in identifying vulnerable areas and participate as citizen scientists can visit the project website at www.pacificislandskingtides.org.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.