



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
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MINUTES

State of Hawai'i Environmental Council
Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 1:00 PM– 3:30 PM
Online Zoom meeting

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chairperson
Puananionaona Thoene

Vice Chair
Mary Begier

Members
Roy Abe
Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom
Makaala Kaaumoana
Ian Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

Members Present

Puananionaona Thoene (Chairperson), Roy Abe, Mary Begier, Makaala Kaaumoana, Keith Kawaoka (Acting Director), Robin Kaye, Theresita Kinnaman, Robert Parsons, Ron Terry, Michael Tulang, Mahina Tuteur

Members Absent

Stephanie Dunbar-Co

Staff

Leslie Segundo (Environmental Health Specialist), William Cooper (Deputy Attorney General for the Environmental Council)

Public

None

Note: **Bolded** items below indicate text from the agenda

1. **Call to order, roll call and quorum, introductions**

With a quorum of 11 members present, Chairperson Thoene called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

2. **Review and approval of prior meeting minutes**

None available.

3. **OEQC Director's Report**

Acting Director Keith Kawaoka commented that departments are submitting their budgets for next legislation session. General funds are scarce due to COVID-19.

Chairperson Thoene questioned if Chapter 92 meeting would still be permitted to be on Zoom, but the answer is unknown. Even if travel is open with testing, EAC members would still like to continue online meetings and prefer not to travel.

4. **Exemption Committee Update**

Committee Chair Terry mentioned that the committee was held today.

- a. **Review of and action to concur with the Department of Land and Natural Resources exemption list (http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EC_Meetings/2020-10-06-Revised-S-14-Exemption-List-for-the-Department-of-Land-and-Natural-Resources.pdf)**

Committee Chair Terry commented that DLNR exemption list will not be moving forward. There were more substantive issues than just restructuring and decided to re-examine it.

Emma Yuen from DLNR was not comfortable changing some items from de minimis to not de minimis and will respond back to the committee later. Honolulu's Department of Design and Construction are on the web with reorganized list. Honolulu's Land Management is currently in the comment period that was published on September 23. Committee Chair Terry asked members to inquire agencies for their reorganized lists.

There were some questions last time about the exemption list with the judiciary branch since they are a branch of government that is not subject to Chapter 343 which applies to executive branches only. The committee is still trying to figure out how the judiciary branch is affected by the creation of exemption lists. Chairperson Thoene questions whether the Judiciary is exempted from Chapter 343 or an agency by definition. She mentioned that the committee could re-visit Chapter 343 procedural rules on appeals and Judiciary exemptions and acting as an approving or proposing agency, then discuss with the Council.

A question was asked on how many letters have been sent out to other agencies. Committee Chair Terry answered that there have been 63 letters sent out to different agencies to remind them to create their exemption lists. The Exemption Committee has heard back from about six agencies.

5. Annual Report Committee Update

a. Discussion of projected timeline and logistics for 2020 Annual Report

Committee Chair Parsons commented that the deadline is January 31st and that the Annual Report needs to be simplified to a Survey Monkey sent to several agencies because of a lack of resources.

A colleague of Committee Member Kaye has volunteered to help with formatting questions and tabulating the results for the Survey Monkey.

b. Discussion of and action on recommended questions for agency survey

http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EC_Meetings/2020-10-06-EC-Annual-Report-Com-Draft-List-of-Questions-for-Annual-Report-Committee-and-Environmental-Council-Review.pdf

Committee Chair Parsons commented that there are three sets of questions and that the last set questions focus on COVID and how the EC can support agencies' environmental goals. He outlined some proposed questions. Member Kaye mentioned that due to lack of resources and time constraints, the Annual Report should be simple while fulfilling the EC's statutory responsibility and that the focus should be on COVID. Committee members liked the idea of a Survey Monkey.

Acting Director Kawaoka mentioned that with budget reductions, funding for Strategic Plan facilitator is unknown. Member Begier said the cost could be around \$15,000 to \$20,000. Committee Chair Parsons stated that the budget request will be made for \$15,000 for the annual report.

MOTION: Committee Chair Parsons moved, and Member Kaye seconded to have Committee Members Parsons and Kaye work with a pro bono consult to formulate questions from the list

discussed for the Survey Monkey. Chairperson Thoene called for the question. The Environmental Council unanimously approved the motion (12-0-0).

6. Information & Outreach Committee Update

None.

7. Legislative Committee Update

None.

8. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Meeting moved due to Election Day.

9. Public Forum

Member discussed the filling three vacant seats.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:03PM.