



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
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Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom
Makaala Kaaumoana
Ian Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

MINUTES
State of Hawai'i, Environmental Council
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 1:00 PM– 3:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

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

Members Absent

None

Staff

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

Public

Seiji Ogawa, Sandy Pfund (Department of Land Management); Lenore Ohye, Nicholas Ing, Neal Fujii, Jeremy Kimura (Commission on Water Resources Management)

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

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

With a quorum of 12 members present, Chairperson Thoene called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. All present at the beginning of the meeting introduced themselves.

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

None available.

3. **OEQC Director's Report**

Acting Director Kawaoka commented that we are heading into the biennium session in January where departments submitted restrained budgets that reflected up to 20% reduction. Due to anticipated budget, shortfall is \$1.5 billion per year for the next 4 years and 25% reduction in general funds for the next 6 years. Governor is anticipating a work furlough for the next 6 years and looking at a 2-day a month furlough for general funded employees (about 9% decrease). Special and federal funds and personnel who are emergency first responders are exempt.

The Legislative committees have been made and the Environmental committees has not changed. Chairperson Thoene recommended that the Legislative Committee meet in December to discuss any proposal changes to Chapter 343 to present to the Legislature and then discuss with Council.

As for the COVID response, the department is working on the Safe Travels Program and the vaccine distribution which is coming soon.

OEQC Director position is unknown as no funds are appropriated.

4. Exemption Committee Update

- a. Review of and action to approve publication for public comment period of County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works exemption list**
- b. Review of and action to concur with the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Land Management exemption list**
- c. Review of and action to re-concur with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources exemption list**
- d. Review of and action to approve publication for public comment period of State of Hawai'i, Commission on Water Resources Management exemption list**

MOTION: Committee Member Terry moved to group the four exemption lists together and seconded by Member Begier. Member Kaye gave a brief discussion about each of the four exemption lists. The Department of Public Works has an approved list from 2015, and re-organized and cleared up their exemption list. The City and County of Honolulu Land Management proposes that the EC concurs with their list, which went out in September and no public comments received. Department of Land and Natural Resources list has been concurred with before, but DLNR came back because the structure of the list was outdated. The Commission on Water Resources Management exemption list is ok with not having any applicant actions and requesting publication for public comment. Member Kaaumoana wanted to note that there were valuable discussions and that she learned a lot about the new river gauge device. Chairperson Thoene called for the question. The Environmental Council unanimously approved the motion (12-0-0). Exemption lists will be published in the next Environmental Notice.

- e. Discussion of potential exemption list of Judiciary projects**

Committee Member Terry commented Joanne Krippahne, Judiciary CIP Manager, came to one of the Exemption Meetings. She explained that most Judiciary projects are very minor and all they involve is a building permit. For the larger projects, DAGS handles it. Judiciary is not a 343 agency and exempt from 343 so could be applicant and can't have exemption lists. This issue and Legislative grants in aid should be further discussed at the December EC meeting.

5. Annual Report Committee Update

- a. Discussion of projected timeline and logistics for 2020 Annual Report, including agencies to be included in the report**

Committee Chair Parsons commented that the Annual Report Committee did not meet this month, but members Parsons and Kaye worked with Lisa to get the Survey Monkey questions ready to be sent out to different agencies. Committee Chair Parsons hopes to send out emails from OEQC to 5-6 agencies per county this coming week and give them two weeks to respond. Member Kaye commented that an email will be sent out to Council members so that they can add agencies that they think would be important to contact for the Annual Report. Les will send out the agency list to members for review and to respond directly to Les

by Thursday. The Office will check on budget and procurement. Information will be submitted and compiled confidentially.

Member Abe commented that he would like to see Aloha Plus being used in the Annual Report since it will show trends over the past years. However, Member Kaye commented that the point of this Annual Report is to make it simple this would not do that. Member Abe was asked to share Aloha Plus Challenge with members and perhaps added to the December meeting. Member Kinnaman asked if we were commenting on the ongoing lawsuit. AG Cooper commented that it's still pending and would alright to mention it, but not to go into detail.

b. Discussion of and action on recommended questions for agency survey
(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKMTMRQ>)

MOTION: Member Kaye moved that the Committee approve the use of Survey Monkey for the Annual Report and approve the proposed questions. This was seconded by Member Kinnaman. Chairperson Thoene called for question. The Environmental Council unanimously approved the motion (12-0-0).

6. Legislative Committee Update

Committee Chair Kaye questioned about rule changes. Chairperson Thoene commented that any rule changes should be addressed under the Rules Committee and Member Tuteur is the committee chair. After discussion, committee meetings could be held on days other than the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings would need to occur on November 27 or 30.

Member Tulang left the meeting around 2:31p; Council still has quorum.

7. Information & Outreach Committee Update

None.

8. Discussion of Vacant Council seats

Chairperson Thoene commented that there are still three open seats, and one person has applied. Member Begier mentioned that someone will apply by end of the week. Chairperson Thoene said that it has been requested to have the seat filled with someone who has experience in traditional customary practices.

9. Discussion of potential strategic planning session for Council

Chairperson Thoene opened this agenda item for discussion. Member Parsons commented that there has been some talk about having the conversation facilitated by John Parks to lead the strategic planning session. Member Kaaumoana commented that funding issues are unknown so maybe look for someone who could do pro bono. Chairperson Thoene commented that the EC needs to decide what the strategic planning session would look like before deciding if we need a facilitator. Member Kaye asked if it was possible to have the strategic planning in a PIG style format. Member Kaaumoana likes this idea and wants input from the public. Chairperson Thoene commented that she will add an agenda item to next month's meeting to create a PIG for a strategic planning session and requested that members think about EC's role and focus in the next twelve months.

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

All committee meetings will be on the same day.

11. Public Forum

There's an OIP bill to make online meetings permanent with at least one physical location. Two weeks ago, Chairperson Thoene and Member Tuteur did a presentation to the Environmental Law class on the Council.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.