

DRAFT EAC Annual Report Language

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is established by HRS § 341-3(c). The functions of the EAC are to serve as a liaison between the OPSD Director and the general public to make recommendations concerning ecology and environmental quality. The EAC also monitors the progress of the State, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies. In the past, the EAC issued an annual report with recommendations for improvement to the Governor, the Legislature, and the general public (HRS § 341-6). promulgated administrative rules for implementing Chapter 343, HRS (HRS § 343-6), and heard appeals from applicant environmental impact statements that were not accepted by the accepting authority. In 2019, the EAC, working with Office of Environmental Quality Control (now the Environmental Review Program), completed rulemaking to update the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rules, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11, Chapter 200.1.

In 2021, the EAC's roles changed with the passage of Act 152, which amended HRS Chapters 341 and 343 to delete the EAC requirements to produce an annual report and provide that applicant EISs that are not accepted by the accepting authority be appealed to the Circuit Court rather than the EAC. Most significantly, the EAC was administratively moved from the Department of Health to OPSD, along with the EAC's rulemaking authority.

2021 has been a busy year for the EAC, including legislative efforts to advocate and support changes to HRS Chapters 341 and 343, and settling into its new roles and home under OPSD. This year, the EAC began strategic planning efforts, including conducting two surveys, to better understand and plan for the EAC work and roles into the future. The EAC continues to work with state and county agencies to update their existing exemption lists to conform to amendments to HAR Title 11, Chapter 200.1 or to create new exemption lists. The EAC's Information and Outreach Committee organized forums throughout the year on watershed protection and climate change, sea level rise, shoreline protection, and erosion prevention, with several more forums on topics such as improved transportation modes, waste reduction and improved waste disposal, energy use, and growth management planned for 2022 and beyond.

[Photo to be included]

For EAC reference only - Draft OPSD Guidelines

1. A brief overview (1-2 paragraphs) from a high-level standpoint the roles and responsibilities of your Division/Program/Attached Agency. Please note the very important roles/responsibilities the State Legislature (& public) should be familiar with.
2. A bullet point listing of your Division/Program/Attached Agency's major accomplishments during this 2021 Calendar Year.
3. A 1-2 paragraph description of each of those major accomplishments in more detail. Under a bolded and underlined sub-header of the project/work.

4. Please add graphics, photos, logos, screenshots of your virtual engagement and work.

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