

REVIEW OF SELECTED PAST ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC) ANNUAL REPORTS

Prepared: March 27, 2022

(Note: The EAC was previously known as the Environmental Council (EC). The annual reports were prepared by the EC with the assistance of the State Department of Health's Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). OEQC is now the Environmental Review Program (ERP) under the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.)

Purpose of Review: To present brief summaries of several past EC/EAC annual reports to provide an overview of previous EC/EAC activities and accomplishments for consideration in current EAC strategic planning efforts.

| YEAR | NO. PAGES | GENERAL CONTENT | HIGHLIGHTS | LINK TO REPORT |
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| 1996 | 63 | Director and Chair reports, agency goals (38 agencies), environmental indicators (31 categories), environmental report card, and four citizen articles. | <p>New Chapter 200 EIS rules adopted. Future goal is to address cultural impact requirements through a guidance document. OEQC reviewed 385 documents. OEQC started using the State's geographic information system (GIS). Began performing audits to evaluate whether mitigation measures actually implemented. Overall environmental report card score was "B-minus" grade.</p> <p><i>Comment from ERP staff: The annual report was the work of former Director Gary Gill who used many extramural sources (including his wife, his former staffers at the City Council, environmental colleagues, etc.) to compile the data and write the report. A senior OEQC planner Jeyan Thirugnanam also played a major role. The director spent countless hours (above and beyond the 40-hour work week) to prepare the report. This is not a "normal" work product.</i></p> | https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Reports/EC-Annual-Report-1996.pdf |
| 1997 | 66 | Summary of recommendations, Director and Chair reports, agency goals (33 agencies), environmental indicators (27 categories), environmental report card, and five student articles. | <p>Recommendations to the Governor and Legislature: 1) Focus on critical issues (increase environmental protection funding, reuse wastewater, reduce fossil fuel dependence, and protect fisheries), 2) Adopt recommended goals for "sustainable" society and collect data, 3) Update and standardize exemption lists, and 4) Implement cultural impact guidelines. Presented an overview of environmental action taken by agencies (in addition to goals). Environmental indicators were graphed and charted. The Hawaii Environmental Education Association assisted by distributing the annual report to science teachers across the state. EC and OEQC worked on guidance documents for cultural impacts and water well development. OEQC updated the guidebook based on the new rules. OEQC reviewed 369 documents. The UH Environmental Center assisted with a general evaluation of exemption lists. Overall environmental report card score was a "C" grade.</p> | https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Reports/EC-Annual-Report-1997.pdf |

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| 1998 | 59 | Director and Chair reports, agency goals (29 agencies), environmental indicators (28 categories), and environmental report card. | Recommendations to the Governor: 1) Recommend DLNR to be lead agency on coastal erosion (provide funding), 2) Provide DLNR with fisheries management authority via agency rules, 3) Stop alien aquatic species (managing ballast water), 4) Minimize polluted runoff, 5) Improved environmental enforcement (sea walls, illegal fishing, illegal grading), 6) Implement Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) and other ocean protection plans. EC completed webpage on planting Native Hawaiian gardens, worked on updating procedural rules, and completed cultural impact guidelines. OEQC conducted statewide training on EIS rules. OEQC reviewed 399 documents. Overall environmental report card score was "B" grade. | https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Reports/EC-Annual-Report-1998.pdf |
| 2012 | 73 | Director, Chair and committee reports (3 committees), Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) overview, and environmental indicators (11 categories), and summary of conclusions and recommendations. | Initiated use of GPI as environment indicators. Recommendations included: 1) Disseminate the initial GPI results, 2) Complete the remaining components (social and economic) within the GPI framework, 3) Refine the GPI model to better reflect local priorities and conditions, 4) Search for applicable local data and evaluation studies, 5) Connect GPI to other Hawaii initiatives and priorities, 6) Use the GPI framework to engage state agencies and other stakeholders in data collection, and 7) Encourage state agencies to look more holistically at their goals (environmental, social, and economic) and refine them if needed. Released draft of proposed changes to EIS rules (HAR 11-200). Information and Outreach Committee established. David Penn of the UH Environmental Center participated in the EC monthly meetings. | https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Reports/EC-Annual-Report-2012.pdf |
| | | | <p style="text-align: center;">Other annual reports may be viewed at: <i>(Note: Only reports from 1996 to 2020 are available online. Earlier reports are available in hard copy format)</i></p> | Environmental Review Program EAC Annual Reports (hawaii.gov) |