



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
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Notes from the November 1st, 2022 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council's Strategic Planning Committee

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chairperson
Puananiaona Thoenes

Vice Chair
Mary Begier

Members
Roy Abe
Moanaoio Bjur
Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom
Makaala Kaaumoana
Ian Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Michele Lefebvre
Gordon Scruton
Rachel Sprague
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

Present:

Roy Abe
Makaala Kaaumoana
Rachel Sprague
Ron Terry
Jodi Yi, Attorney General's Office
Robin Kaye, Committee Chair

Absent:

Gordon Scruton, Jr.

- Meeting convened 11:30 AM; Adjourned 12:25 PM
- Quorum ascertained; introductions completed
- Ron Terry moved and Makaala Kaaumoana seconded the approval of the previous meeting's minutes; motion unanimously approved.
- Update on the four initial priorities recommended by SPC at its July 5, 2022 meeting:

Priority 1: Unfinished Business

- Current PIG is looking at how to encourage more agencies to update their exemption lists, and at a deeper level, what inconsistencies, problems or barriers there are in the whole exemptions process. There was one additional PIG meeting held recently, and another one upcoming this Friday. A report is anticipated for the December EAC meeting.
- Policies and procedures for EAC currently in draft and circulating with EAC members; on agenda for 11/1/22 EAC meeting

Priority 2: Integration into OPSD

- SPC encourages EAC Chair and EAC Legislative Committee/Strategic Planning Committee chair to meet with current OPSD director on designating key leadership staff to work on this integration;

e.g., what can EAC offer/provide for OPSD, and how can EAC engage with the resources and opportunities of OPSD?

- SPC believes this should happen now; not wait for a change of administration.

Priority 3: Craft the “elevator speech” — what is the EAC/what it is NOT — and then promote broader public understanding of the EAC.

- Draft currently circulating with all the suggestions
- EAC members will be asked to rank
- Discussion of “audience;” e.g., who needs to have this elevator speech.
- Once it’s defined and confirmed, who gets it? What role does it play in making the EAC’s role better understood?

Priority 4: Dealing with the “carrying capacity” for the state, related to tourism and its burdens on the state, environment, and residents;

- Given the EAC’s limitations; e.g., no budget, no dedicated staff, how can it play a role in breaking down siloes that prevent the state’s departments from a 30,000 foot understanding of and action plan to address environmental challenges such as carrying capacity and climate change.
- Could EAC be a conveyor of key agencies (e.g., DLNR, DOT, OPSD, County planning departments, HTA, etc.)
- How to define “carrying capacity;” e.g., not just tourists but watershed, water quality, energy, etc.
- Perhaps focus on one particular area and/or issue?
- Discuss with Legislative/Gubernatorial leadership on their needs/our role?
- Could I & O frame one of its forums on carrying capacity; e.g., what is it, who’s done the relevant studies...

What can we accomplish over the next 14 months (end of 2022 and all of 2023)?

From last EAC meeting

- How can SPC assist with transition planning; e.g., bringing on new members. What do they need to have to prepare them for participation in the EAC?
- How can SPC assist in recruiting membership; e.g., a long-sought “cultural practitioner.”
- How can SPC bring clarity to topics covered in the Annual Report; e.g., what is mandated, realistic given time and capacity, and meaningful.

Today’s discussion

- Have the EAC’s role better defined; asking Legislative leadership what needs they see that EAC might serve?

- Encourage creation of a Department of Environment (see if Leg has interest in this again?)
- Feel out state agency leaders re interest in/capacity for a carrying capacity conversation
- Be careful; maybe seek one issue/one “place” within the broader “carrying capacity” framework.