



# 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 Advisory Council  
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 1:30 PM – 3:30PM  
Zoom and in person meeting:  
Leiopapa A Kamehameha, Room 405  
235 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813

Josh B. Green, M.D.  
Governor

Chairperson  
Puananiaona Thoen

Vice Chair  
Mary Begier

Members  
Roy Abe  
Stephanie Dunbar-Co  
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom  
Maka'ala Ka'aumoana  
Ian Robin Kaye  
Theresita Kinnaman  
Michele Lefebvre  
Gordon Scruton, Jr.  
Rachel Sprague  
Ron Terry  
Michael Tulang  
N. Mahina Tuteur

### Members Present

Puananiaona Thoen (Chairperson), Mary Begier (Vice- Chairperson), Roy Abe, Stephanie Dunbar-Co, Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Makaala Kaaumoana, Robin Kaye, Tessie Kinnaman, Michele Lefebvre, Gordon Scruton, Jr., Rachel Sprague, Ron Terry, Mahina Tuteur

### Members Absent

Moanaio Bjur, Michael Tulang

### Staff Present

Mary Alice Evans (Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development), Jodi Yi (Deputy Attorney General), Leslie Segundo (Environmental Review Program)

### Public Present

Randy Chu (HHFDC), K.B. Chun, Ronald Sato (HPHA), Dean Watase (HHFDC)

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

## 1. Call to order, Roll Call, Introductions, Quorum

With a quorum of 12 members present, Chairperson Thoen called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

## 2. Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) Director's Report

### ▪ House Resolution 82 Task Force Update

Director Evans reported that the House Resolution Task 82 Task Force has met three times. The group has generated a list of user-friendly updates to the Environmental Review Program's website. The next step for the task force is to get an order of magnitude cost estimate for the potential upgrades. A draft report will be completed following this step.

She also reported that the current administration is starting to prepare a transition briefing binder for the incoming administration. The briefing binder will include description of the boards and members of the boards. It is not specific to the Environmental Advisory Council, but covers all the executive branches, departments, divisions, attached agencies, and boards. OPSD will update existing information that will be included in the briefing binder.

Member Hegger-Nordblom joined the meeting at 1:43 PM. The Council has a quorum of 13 members.

### 3. Exemption Committee Update

- **Review of and action to concur with the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation exemption list**

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Agency\\_Exemption\\_Lists/State-Hawaii-Housing-and-Finance-Development-Corporation-2022-09-06-Draft-Exemption-List.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Agency_Exemption_Lists/State-Hawaii-Housing-and-Finance-Development-Corporation-2022-09-06-Draft-Exemption-List.pdf)

Committee Chair Terry reported the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation had their list available for public comment in *The Environmental Notice*. There were no comments provided. The Committee discussed some points of the exemption list that could possibly be amended.

MOTION: Committee Chair motioned that the Council concur with the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation's exemption list, as amended. There was no discussion or public testimony. The EAC unanimously approved the motion (13-0-0).

- **Review of and action to approve publication of Hawaii Public Housing Authority exemption list in *The Environmental Notice* for a 15-day public comment period**

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Exemption-Com-HPHA-Exemption-List-Oct-2022.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Exemption-Com-HPHA-Exemption-List-Oct-2022.pdf)

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Exemption-Com-HPHA-Exemption-List-Oct-2022-EDITS.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Exemption-Com-HPHA-Exemption-List-Oct-2022-EDITS.pdf)

Committee Chair Terry reported that Committee discussed the exemption list submitted by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Several minor comments regarding the list were discussed. Mr. Sato mentioned that the new exemption list was created due to the last exemption list being created in 1989.

MOTION: Committee Chair Terry motioned that the Council approve publication of Hawaii Public Housing Authority's exemption list in *The Environmental Notice* for a 15-day public comment period. There was no discussion or public testimony. The EAC unanimously approved the motion (13-0-0).

### 4. Information & Outreach Committee Update

- **Discussion of and planning for the next forum**

Committee Chair Begier reported that the forum will be held on January 11, 2023. Invitations have been distributed to members to serve on the panel. The name for the forum will be "Clearing the Hurdles of an EIS." A flyer will be sent to the Council members so that they can then distribute to their constituents.

She also reported that the Committee discussed the forum that will be conducted in February 2023, titled "Break the Code." This forum will discuss how agencies will navigate their way through federal platforms.

- **Discussion of various "elevator speeches"**

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Info-Outreach-Com-Potential-Elevator-Speech.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Info-Outreach-Com-Potential-Elevator-Speech.pdf)

Committee Chair Begier reported that after reviewing the draft "elevator speeches," the Committee decided that the draft should include eight numerical paragraphs.

Member Kaye inquired to the Committee on how they would use the "elevator speech" or how they would distribute it to the public. Committee Chair Begier replied that the Committee did not discuss

PR communication but would instead use the “elevator speech” to address any questions that the public might pose to the Council.

A new draft with suggestions made by the Council will be submitted for discussion at the next meeting on December 6.

## 5. Annual Report Committee Update

### ▪ Review and action to approve 2022 Draft Annual Report

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC\\_Annual-Report-Com\\_to\\_OPSD\\_draftv4\\_Oct2022-PPT-10-26-22.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC_Annual-Report-Com_to_OPSD_draftv4_Oct2022-PPT-10-26-22.pdf)

Committee Chair Dunbar-Co reported that the Committee was able to review and discuss changes to the draft annual report. Following the discussion, the Committee unanimously approved the 2022 Draft Annual Report, with a few amendments.

Chairperson Thoene recommended that the report also include additional language regarding the balance of the Council in promoting the protection and enhancement of the environment but also recognizing progressive development. She also recommended that the Council review HRS 341-1. The statute gives context to the report.

Chairperson Thoene deferred the action to approve the 2022 Draft Annual Report.

### ▪ EAC Annual Report due to OPSD by December 1, 2022

The deadline for the report to OPSD was extended to December 7, allowing for a final discussion of the report to be discussed at the December 6 Council meeting.

Any changes that are made to the draft report will need to be submitted by November 29, to be discussed for the December 6 Council meeting.

## 6. Legislative Committee Update

### ▪ Discussion of possible legislative changes to be proposed by the EAC in the 2023 Legislative Session

Committee Chair Kaye reported that the Legislative Committee discussed the requesting of financial support from the legislature for the Council. The Committee discussed two issues that they believe will be significant in the coming year or for 2024: cultural impact assessments and social justice issues.

### ▪ Action to approve Legislative Committee Chair and EAC Chair to approach legislative leadership regarding potential legislative changes

MOTION: Member Sprague moved to approve the Legislative Committee Chair and EAC Chair to approach legislative leadership regarding potential legislative changes. Member Kinnaman seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public testimony. The EAC unanimously approved the motion (13-0-0).

## 7. Discussion of EAC Policies and Procedures

### ▪ Review of draft policies and procedures (Version 3) and further discussion of adoption of policies and procedures, including what policies and procedures will be included and draft Committee descriptions

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-DRAFT-Policies-and-Procedures-Version-3-10-25-22-compiled.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-DRAFT-Policies-and-Procedures-Version-3-10-25-22-compiled.pdf)

Chairperson Thoene reported that a new version of the draft policies and procedures has been created following comments made by the members to draft version 2. Changes to language was suggested for the Committee sections of the draft.

Member Abe suggested that they include a procedure for when a member will speak on the behalf of the Council for testimonies or media. Chairperson Thoene will draft new procedural language for media designation.

- **Outstanding draft policies due on November 29, for discussion at December 6, 2022 EAC meeting**  
Any additional comments or suggestions will need to be submitted by November 29.

#### **8. Strategic Planning Committee Update**

- **Discussion of progress/challenges on four priorities (*What has been accomplished to date of "Unfinished Business," "Integration into OPSD," "Elevator Speeches," and "Carrying Capacity"*)**

Committee Chair Kaye reported on the four priorities that were brought up and discussed in the Strategic Planning Forum. Future discussions will be held to address the "Integration into OPSD," to facilitate further cooperation between OPSD and the EAC. He also reported that further discussion needs to be conducted regarding the dissemination of the "Elevator Speeches" to the general public. The Committee also discussed the role of the EAC in defining and addressing "Carrying Capacity." Limitations in staffing and funding were recognized.

- **Discussion of 12-month view (*What can reasonably be accomplished by the end of 2023?*)**

Committee Chair Kaye reported that the Committee discussed four points that could be accomplished within a 12-month period: having rules more clearly defined; carrying capacity conversation with legislature; recruiting a cultural practitioner for EAC membership; and transition planning.

#### **9. Discussion of EAC Member Terms and Committee Assignments**

[2022-11-01-EAC-Environmental-Council-Committees-Assignments-10-6-22.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EAC-Environmental-Council-Committees-Assignments-10-6-22.pdf)

Four members have terms ending in 2023: Terry, Kaamoana, Hegger-Nordblom, and Scruton Jr.

#### **10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

The following meeting will be held on January 10, 2023.

#### **11. Public Forum**

None.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.