



# 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, June 6, 2023, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Zoom and in person meeting:

Leiopapa A Kamehameha, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

235 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813

Josh B. Green, M.D.  
Governor

Sylvia Luke  
Lt. Governor

Chairperson

Puananionaona Thoene

Vice-Chairperson  
Mary Begier

Members  
Roy Abe

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

### Members Present

Puananionaona Thoene (Chairperson), Mary Begier (Vice-Chairperson), Roy Abe, Stephanie Dunbar-Co, Makaala Kaaumoana, Robin Kaye, Gordon Scruton, Jr., Rachel Sprague, Mahina Tuteur

### Members Absent

Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Tessie Kinnaman, Michele Lefebvre, Ron Terry, Michael Tulang

### Staff

Mary Alice Evans (Acting Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development), Alison Kato (Deputy Attorney General), Tom Eisen (Environmental Review Program), Kayli Ann Yoshioka (Intern)

### Public Present

None

Materials for this agenda and minutes of this meeting will be available at specific links indicated below or at:  
<https://planning.hawaii.gov/erp/ec-meetings/>

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

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

With a quorum of 9 members present, Chairperson Thoene called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

#### 2. Review and adoption of meeting minutes

- **2021-09-07-Environmental-Advisory-Council Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2021-09-07-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2021-09-07-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2021-10-05-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2021-10-05-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2021-10-05-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2022-07-05-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-07-05-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-07-05-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)

- **2022-08-02-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-08-02-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-08-02-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2022-09-06-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-09-06-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-09-06-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2022-10-04-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-10-04-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-10-04-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2022-11-01-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-11-01-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-11-01-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2022-12-06-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2022-12-06-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2022-12-06-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)
- **2023-05-02-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes**  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2023-05-02-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2023-05-02-EnvironmentalAdvisory-Council-Minutes.pdf)

Member Abe suggested that a change be made to the 2022-08-02 minutes, so that the phrase “regulation, such as” be removed from page 3, agenda item 6.

MOTION: Member Kaye motioned to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Vice-Chairperson Begier seconded the motion. Member Kaaumoana noted in the discussion of the meeting minutes that the review of content may not be accurate due to the amount of time that has passed from the time of the meeting. The Council unanimously approved the motion (9-0-0).

### **3. Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) Acting Director’s Update**

Acting Director Evans recommended that the Council not use news releases for future communications regarding forums. As previously discussed with Vice-Chairperson Begier, it was decided that the Council should instead use the OPSD and ERP MailChimp mailing lists to send out announcements for forum events.

Acting Director Evans also reported that it is the end of the fiscal year, and anything not expended by June 30 will lapse back to the general fund. She also reports that the Environmental Review Program (ERP) is in active recruitment to fill the Planner III position following the retirement of Leslie Segundo.

Mr. Eisen reported that he conducted an educational Ch. 343 training on the island of Hawai'i. The training was hosted by the Office of Housing and Community Development.

Member Kaye inquired to Acting Director Evans’ next steps regarding the nomination of a Director. Acting Director Evans reported that she will remain as Acting Director until July 3, after which she will return to her civil service position. The Governor will make the appointment for a new Acting Director.

**4. Information & Outreach (I&O) Committee Update**

▪ **Update on June 1, 2023 forum with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Committee Chair Begier reported that the forum with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife was successful and the information that was presented was interesting. She reported that the information will be applicable for the public.

▪ **Discussion of and planning of future forums**

The next forum will be held on June 27, 2023 at 12:00 PM. This forum will focus on "Clearing the Hurdles of an EIS." More information will be sent out soon.

Committee Chair Begier reported that no committee meeting was held. Chairperson Thoene requested that Google calendar invites be sent to members for meetings information. Committee Chair Begier requested that any ideas or suggestions for forums are to be sent to her.

**5. Review and discussion of [request to the EAC](#) for Pre-Assessment Consultation, Proposed Tank Replacement Project, Wailapa Road, Halele'a District, Kīlauea, Kaua'i, TMK No. (4) 5-1-005: 131.**

Chairperson Thoene reported that the EAC received a Pre-Assessment Consultation on May 26, with a 30-day comment period (deadline is June 26). Members of the Council can respond and comment as an individual.

Member Kaye inquired as to what the implications would be if the Council does not review or comment on it. Chairperson Thoene responded that there are no implications. The first step for an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) is a pre-consultation, in which they would receive comments from interested stakeholders. Therefore, the Council does not need to provide a comment during this stage.

Acting Director Evans mentioned that the Council does have policy autonomy to decide if they would like to comment on the scoping letters that they receive. However, due to the limited staffing at ERP, they might not be able to receive the full support.

Member Kaye inquired if a policy discussion could be held at the next Council meeting to address whether the Council will take a particular stance on reviewing and commenting on scoping letters they receive. Chairperson Thoene will agendize this topic for the next meeting.

**6. Reminder: Send all ERP correspondence to [dbedt.opsd.erp@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.opsd.erp@hawaii.gov)**

**7. Discussion of next in-person meeting**

Acting Director Evans suggests that the Council should decide on an in-person meeting date that is most convenient and that OPSD will find the money for funding.

September 5, 2023 will be considered as the tentative date for the next in-person Council meeting.

**8. Next meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

The next meeting will be held July 11, 2023 via Zoom. Agendas will need to be submitted to ERP, Chairperson Thoene, and Deputy Attorney General Kato by July 3, 2023.

Member Scruton, Jr.'s last meeting was today as his appointment ends on June 30, 2023.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 PM.