

EAC DRAFT Policy
Potential Response to HRS Chapter 343 Scoping Requests, Requests to review EAs or EISs

The Environmental Advisory Council's (EAC) charge from its enabling legislation is clear. Act 152 (2021) establishes the Environmental Advisory Council. The EAC serves as a liaison between the Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the public on matters concerning ecology and environmental quality. The EAC monitors the progress of state, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies and publishes its findings in its annual reports. The EAC also conducts forums for various outreach activities.

The EAC members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to assure a broad and balanced representation of educational, business, and environmentally pertinent disciplines and professions.

It was not the intent of the establishing legislation for the EAC to provide comments on — or to provide a review of — individual environmental assessments or environmental impact statements. The EAC's members, as individuals, are always welcome to make comments as individuals, but it would be extremely challenging for a body of 15 volunteer participants — who meet only once/month while serving on a EAC with no budget — to make a collective “comment” on an EA or EIS.

It is, therefore, the policy of this 2023 EAC to not respond to any and all requests for comments on environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements.