



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

Via Zoom and in person at

6th floor conference room, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 1:00 pm

Governor
Josh Green, M.D.

Lt. Governor
Sylvia Luke

OPSD Director
Mary Alice Evans

Chairperson
Puananionaona Thoene

Vice Chair
Mary Begier

Members
Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom
Theresita Kinnaman
Michele Lefebvre
Rachel Sprague
Mike Tulang

Members Present

Puananionaona Thoene (Chairperson), Mary Begier (Vice Chairperson), Stephanie Dunbar-Co, Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Tessie Kinnaman, Michele Lefebvre, Rachel Sprague

Members Absent

Mike Tulang

Staff

Mary Alice Evans (OPSD Director), Alison Kato (Deputy Attorney General), Kayli Yoshioka (ERP Staff), ERP Staff

Public

Ron Terry, Kaliko Chun

Note: **Bolded** item indicate text from agenda.

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/>. Meeting recording may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4btcTrxQUQ>

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

With a quorum of 5 members present, Chairperson Thoene called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

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

Director Evans reported the emergency proclamation relating to wildfires continues to exempt Chapter 343. Maui County and Federal ordinances and rules that were adopted prior to the Governor's emergency proclamation issuance remain in force.

Discussion followed relating to the Director's update regarding the Governor's proclamation.

Director Evans also reported that there has been an increase in use in exemptions for affordable housing projects from producing an EA in the state urban district in a county zone that allows for housing. The increase implies that the addition to the 2019 rules can be used to reduce the cost of affordable housing projects in the urban district.

Member Mary Begier and Member Michele Lefebvre joined the meeting at 1:16 PM. Quorum is 7 members.

3. Review and adoption of meeting minutes

- **July 2024 meeting minutes**

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-07-02-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf

Chairperson Thoene indicated that an edit be made to the 2nd page of the July 2024 meeting minute header. The date in the header needed to be updated to the correct date of the meeting.

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes with edits. Member Lefebvre seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted (6-0-1) to approve the motion (Yes: Thoene, Begier, Hegger-Nordblom, Kinnaman, Lefebvre, Sprague; Abstain: Dunbar-Co).

4. Exemption Committee Update

- **Review of and action to approve publication of the State of Hawai'i Department of Education exemption list in *The Environmental Notice* for a 15-day public comment period**

See Exemption Committee agenda (2024-08-06) for the list:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-08-06-EAC-Exemption-Com-Agenda.pdf

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the committee did not receive a revised list from the Department of Education (DOE). The DOE requested another month to incorporate the suggestions made by the committee into their list. The DOE will present the new list to the committee in the September meeting.

- **Committee update to EAC regarding review of agency exemption lists**

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the committee is waiting on the Department of Hawaiian Homelands' (DHHL) list to provide their updated list.

- **Discussion of revised Exemptions guidance**

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-06-04-PWA-Signed-Evans-Draft-Comprehensive-Exemption-List-03-28-24.pdf

Committee Chair reported that the committee discussed revisions made to the Exemptions Guidance document with ERP staff. Discussion during the committee meeting included updates to old terminology and rules. Clarifying points were also discussed.

Chairperson Thoene thanked former EAC member and committee chair Ron Terry for providing feedback and edits to the guidance document. She had also clarified for the members that the guidance document listed in the agenda (linked above) is the list that was discussed in the committee meeting and a revised document will be provided in the agenda for the September Council meeting.

5. Information & Outreach (I&O) Committee Update

- **Discussion of and planning for future forums**

Committee Chair Begier reported that there is currently no update from the I&O committee.

6. Discussion of EAC member email addresses for EAC business

Chairperson Thoene and ERP staff asked the council for discussion regarding the use of personal or work emails when addressing EAC business. Points were raised regarding the volunteer status of the members, work email addresses being used, and the ability to access state-issued email addresses to conduct EAC business. Some members do not wish to manage multiple email addresses. It was concluded that a policy change was not necessary.

7. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Capacity of the EAC and quorum for future meetings was discussed.

8. Reminders:

- Send all ERP correspondence to dbedt.opsd.erp@hawaii.gov

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM.