



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
6th floor conference room, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
Thursday, November 14, 2024, 1:00 PM

Governor
Josh Green, M.D.

Lt. Governor
Sylvia Luke

OPSD Director
Mary Alice Evans

Chairperson
Rachel Sprague

Vice Chair
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

Members
Michele Lefebvre
Jay Stone

Members Present

Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Michele Lefebvre, Rachel Sprague, Jay Stone

Members Absent

None

Staff

Mary Alice Evans (OPSD Director), Alison Kato (Deputy Attorney General), Tom Eisen (ERP Staff), ERP Staff

Public

Puananionaona Thoene, Mary Begier, Stephanie Dunbar-Co, Tessie Kinnaman

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/>

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

With a quorum of 3 members present, former Chairperson Thoene called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

2. Discussion of Transition of EAC Members, Succession Items, Training of New Members

Jay Stone joined the meeting at 1:08 PM. The quorum is 4 members.

Former Chairperson Thoene discussed the need for new members and potential candidates for the EAC.

Director Evans also highlighted the need for new members for the Council. She stated that she will work with the Governor's Office to try and get new members. Announcements have also been made in *The Environmental Notice*. She asked former Chairperson Thoene if the Bar Association would have any potential attorneys in the environmental area who would potentially be interested in becoming a member.

▪ Overview of EAC role and responsibilities

The [April 5, 2022 meeting minutes](#) was discussed and notes regarding the strategic planning session. These notes included what the role of the EAC and responsibilities. The notes also entailed statutory requirements of the EAC.

Regarding the statutory requirement, the Council discussed the difficulty of trying to meet the requirement due to the financial and staffing limitations.

Member Stone discussed what made him want to join the Council and his perception of the Council prior to joining. He also provided some background about himself. He is a civil engineer and has an interest in the stewardship of water and ecosystem restoration. He stated that the EAC should focus on two key areas: what the Council is required to do and what the Council can do to meet that requirement. He stated that because he is new, he is still trying to learn how the EAC operates regarding following the requirements.

Former Chairperson Thoene also discussed the Exemption Guidance document that the Council is currently working on. It is a substantive guidance document. Director Evans discussed the broader adoption of the Ka Pa'akai analysis. She would like the Council to look at this analysis and the recommendations provided. Member Lefebvre stated that following that analysis may be tricky due to the different interpretations of the analysis. Former Member Dunbar-Co also stated that it would be necessary for a member that has experience as a cultural practitioner to get the analysis right. Former Chairperson Thoene also stated that there are pros and cons to the analysis.

- **Selection of new Chairperson**

The members discussed the future goals of the Council and how the members will divvy up the different roles to achieve it.

The chairperson will be elected by the members. Potential for a Co-Chairperson role was discussed.

Former Member Dunbar-Co brought up the difficulty of Member Lefebvre being both the Exemption Committee Chair and the EAC Chairperson.

Former Chairperson Thoene acted as Chair pro tem and conducted an election for a new chairperson.

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to nominate Member Sprague as the new Chairperson, Member Hegger-Nordblom as the Vice-Chair, and Member Lefebvre will remain as the Exemption Committee Chair. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC unanimously voted (4-0-0) to approve the motion.

- **Committee Assignments**

Committee meetings (currently 6 standing committees) might be consolidated into the regular EAC meeting until membership grows.

Member Lefebvre will remain the Exemption Committee Chair.

Member Stone is the new Legislative Committee Chair. The Legislative Committee and the timeline for the next legislative session was discussed. The Council will follow bills that could potentially impact the Council or rule making.

Future rulemaking changes and cleanup were discussed. Changes include title and name changes. Title 15 will need to be updated and included. References for appeals to the Council will need to be removed from the rules.

- **Exemption List Review**

No discussion.

- **Annual Report**

Annual Report was discussed and the guidelines that need to be met. Changes need to be made to the language of the rules to be appropriate with the current EAC.

Former Member Dunbar-Co and former Chairperson Thoene discussed the timeline for the previous annual reports. The Annual Report will need to be filed to OPSD by January 15.

A previous draft will be provided to help with this year's draft.

- **Future appointments**

No discussion.

- **Discussion and planning for future forums**

This agenda item was discussed as being consolidated into the full meeting in the future.

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

Director Evans thanked former Chairperson Thoene and former Members Begier, Dunbar-Co, Kinnaman for their service to the Council.

4. Review and adoption of meeting minutes

- **August 2024 meeting minutes**

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-08-06-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf

MOTION: Member Stone motioned to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Member Lefebvre seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC unanimously voted (4-0-0) to approve the motion.

5. 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**

[State of Hawai'i Department of Education exemption list](#)

Exemption Chair Lefebvre reported that the State of Hawai'i Department of Education sent the Exemption Committee a redline strikeout of their version of the exemption list. The Exemption Committee will work to read through this new version to potentially present to the Council for the next meeting.

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

There are no other exemption lists.

- **Discussion of revised Exemptions Guidance**

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-09-03-Exemptions-Guidance-OEQC-2019-rev-8-06-24-ERP-comments.pdf

There are no current updates from the Exemption Committee. ERP staff will work to finalize the document.

6. Next meeting (tentative): Tuesday, December 3, 2024

This meeting will discuss future meeting dates and when regular meetings will be set. Special meetings can also be scheduled, outside of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Agendas for the December 3 meeting will be due to ERP by November 22. Agendas will need to be posted by November 27.

7. Reminders:

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.