



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 702, HONOLULU, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 586-4185
Email: dbedt.opsd.erp@hawaii.gov

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, December 3, 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

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/>

Members Present

Rachel Sprague (Chairperson), Dawn Hegger-Nordblom (Vice Chair), Michele Lefebvre, Jay Stone

Members Absent

None

Staff

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

Public

None

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

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

With a quorum of 4 members present, Chairperson Sprague called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

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

Director Evans reported that OPSD is waiting for the Governor to approve the bills that were proposed in the Governor's package for the upcoming legislative session. She reported that the bills mostly relate to affordable housing.

Director Evans further reported that Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is working to look at the impact of sea level rise on shoreline parcels and the special management areas. She also reports that they are working to support DBEDT on projects such as a final EIS that was transferred from DLNR to DBEDT.

Director Evans asked the Council to update their rules to comply with Act 152, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021.

3. Review and adoption of meeting minutes

- **Nov. 2024 meeting minutes**

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-11-14-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes. Member Hegger-Nordblom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted (4-0-0) to approve the motion.

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**

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-12-03-DOE-Updated-Exemption-List-10-03-24-Draft2ERP.pdf

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the Exemption Committee met with of the State of Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) to discuss their exemption list. However, there were edits that needed to be made by the DOE, so no action to approve the publication of the list by the Council was needed during this meeting.

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

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that there is only one outstanding list by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). DHHL has not presented any new list to the Exemption Committee.

- **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

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that they were not able to discuss this agenda point in the committee meeting due to time constraints.

5. Discussion of upcoming committee topics

Chairperson Sprague asked Director Evans if there are any task that she would like the Council to get involved in. Director Evans stated that they have received a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to look at the regulatory requirements for housing permits in Hawai'i. Director Evans asked the Council for guidance on whether there are aspects of HRS 343 and its rules that burden housing and the community.

Vice Chair Hegger-Nordblom asked if there is any framework that the Council could review. Director Evans stated that this project is in the early phases, so she could possibly give the Council the grant application, which would provide the scope of work. When progress is made, work product can be given to the Council for review.

Vice Chair Hegger-Nordblom reported that the Annual Report is being drafted and is working to be finalized. It is looking to be agendized and approved at the next Council meeting in January.

Vice Chair Hegger-Nordblom reported that I&O Committee is looking to hold a forum possibly at the end of February or beginning of March. Final details are still being worked on.

Chairperson Sprague summarized that the Council will tackle the questions pending from OPSD, the Annual Report, and the upcoming forum for the near future. Member Stone also stated that the Council should also start work on the upcoming legislative session and the tracking of bills.

6. Next meeting: TBD

The next meeting will be held on January 7, 2025.

7. Reminders:

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 PM.