



# 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

6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 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

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

### Members Absent

Rachel Sprague (Chairperson)

### Staff

Mary Alice Evans (OPSD Director), Tom Eisen (Environmental Review Program (ERP) Staff), Kayli Ann Yoshioka (ERP Staff), ERP Staff

### Public

None

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

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

With a quorum a three members present, Vice-Chair Hegger-Nordblom called the meeting to order at 1:01PM.

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

This agenda item was deferred until Director Evans arrived at the meeting.

#### 3. **Review and adoption of meeting minutes:**

- **December 3, 2024 meeting minutes**

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2024-12-03-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-12-03-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf)

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to approve the December 2024 meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Hegger-Nordblom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted to approve (3-0-0) the motion.

#### 4. **Review and adopt Annual Report**

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC\\_Meetings/2024-12-30-EAC-Annual-Report-to-OPSD-2024-Draft.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-12-30-EAC-Annual-Report-to-OPSD-2024-Draft.pdf)

Member Lefebvre noted a minor edit would be made to the formatting. There were two line spaces following the Strategic Planning header. The Annual Report header would then be moved to not be a hanging header.

MOTION: Member Lefebvre motioned to approve the Annual Report with noted amendments. Vice-Chair Hegger-Nordblom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted to approve (3-0-0) the motion.

## 5. Committee Updates:

### ▪ **Legislative Committee Update**

#### ▪ **Debrief on meeting with Sen. Gabbard and Rep. Lowen**

##### • **Meeting occurred via MS Teams on 19 December**

Committee Chair Stone reported that the meeting was attended by Senator Gabbard, Representative Lowen, Member Stone, and Chairperson Sprague.

##### • **What is the role of the EAC?**

Committee Chair Stone reported that the Council advises on Chapter 343 exemptions. The Council also has a broader advisory role to OPSD towards environmental goals.

##### • **Limited capacity due to small number of EAC members**

Due to the small number of EAC members, the capacity of the Council is limited. The Council will focus on certain initiatives.

##### • **Priority environmental issues**

There was discussion about issues regarding affordable housing, climate, energy, and cesspool closures. Member Stone reported that Senator Gabbard would provide a list of priorities at a later date. Other issues that were discussed included green fees.

##### • **Other committees with which EAC may want to meet**

Representative Lowen had suggested that the Council talk to water and land committees because they may also have other initiatives or legislation that may be pertinent to the Council.

#### ▪ **Debrief on meeting with former Legislative Committee chair**

##### • **How to identify and track legislation pertinent to the EAC**

Committee Chair Stone reported that he had met with the Former Legislative Committee Chair, Robin Kaye. He reported that Mr. Kaye had showed him what website to use to track the bills in the legislative session.

Vice-Chair Hegger-Nordblom inquired as to whether Committee Chair Stone is going to write testimony on some of the tracked bills. Committee Chair Stone stated that he would gain input from the Council as to what the content of the testimony would be and how to write it to be most effective.

Member Lefebvre suggested that testimony be given for bills that would address the rules for the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA) or Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR). She suggested that anything that could potentially impact how the Council could be run should be tracked and testimony provided if necessary.

- **Identify EAC's role**

The role of the EAC is to focus on certain initiatives and to provide an advisory role to OPSD.

- **Identify which types of topics and legislation that the Legislative Committee should research and track and the priority of these topics and legislation types**

Vice-Chair Hegger-Nordblom suggested that the committee focus on topics regarding Chapter 343, the EAC, the ERP, or ERP staff. Items relating to fund should also be monitored.

- **Information and Outreach Committee Update**

- **Forum on the Use of Exemptions to Chapter 343**

Committee Chair Hegger-Nordblom reported that she has been in discussion with ERP Staff Mr. Eisen and Member Lefebvre regarding the forum. The forum is being planned to be held in March with the topic to be on exemptions to Chapter 343. The committee is looking to have an agency representative present at the forum. There were some setbacks with the last forum that had to be cancelled due to a representative dropping out.

Member Stone inquired as to what the purpose of a forum is – whether it is to be training or an information session. Committee Chair Hegger-Nordblom stated that the forum is meant to be addressed to the general public and to educate them on topics that are important to the EAC.

Member Stone further inquired as to whether these meetings occur virtually or in person. Committee Chair Hegger-Nordblom stated that the forums are virtual. She further stated that these meetings occur during the lunch time break so more members of the public will be able to attend.

Mr. Eisen suggested to Committee Chair Hegger-Nordblom that the forum meeting occur during a legislative session break in order to maximize the number of participants.

Member Stone suggested that they could a future forum on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in water and the removal of these substances. Committee Chair Hegger-Nordblom inquired as to whether Member Stone would be able to put together a panel of speakers. Member Stone stated that he would try and find local agencies or experts that would be willing to speak on this topic.

Member Stone also suggested possible topics including cesspools and emerging contaminants.

- **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/2025-01-07-DOE-Updated-Exemption-List-10-03-24-Draft3ERP.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2025-01-07-DOE-Updated-Exemption-List-10-03-24-Draft3ERP.pdf)

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the Exemption Committee did not meet in January 2025 because the Hawai'i Department of Education needed more time to work on their exemption list.

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

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the committee does not have any other 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](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2024-09-03-Exemptions-Guidance-OEQC-2019-rev-8-06-24-ERP-comments.pdf)

Due to the lack of committee meeting, this agenda item was not discussed.

## 6. Discussion of New Members

- Future appointments

## 7. Next meeting: TBD

The next meeting will be held on February 4, 2025 at 1:00PM.

For the foreseeable future, the Exemption Committee meeting will be held during the full Council's meeting. The meeting will still be held at the Environmental Advisory Council's regular meeting time at 1:00PM.

## 8. Reminders:

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

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:01PM