



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

Draft MINUTES

State of Hawai'i Environmental Advisory Council

7th floor conference area, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 1:00PM

Governor
Josh B. Green, M.D.

Lt. Governor
Sylvia Luke

OPSD Director
Mary Alice Evans

Chairperson
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

Vice Chair
Jay Stone

Members
Michele Lefebvre
Rachel Sprague

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 (Chairperson), Michele Lefebvre, Rachel Sprague

Members Absent

Jay Stone (Vice-Chair)

Staff

Mary Alice Evans (OPSD Director), Tom Eisen (Environmental Review Program [ERP] Staff), Reginald King (ERP Intern)

Public

Lyle ROE (Agribusiness Development Corporation [ADC]), Gaylyn Nakatsuka (Department of Education [DOE]), Delanie Prescott-Tate (Attorney General with ADC)

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

With a quorum of three members present, Chairperson Hegger-Nordblom called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

2. Review and adoption of minutes from Tuesday, July 8, 2025

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2025-07-08-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to approve the July 2025 meeting minutes. Member Sprague seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted to approve the motion (3-0-0).

3. Directors Report

Director Evans reported that they are continuing to draft amendments to the rules for Chapter 343. These amendments are housekeeping amendments to bring the rules into compliance with Act 152, which went into effect in 2022. The office's amendments are currently in review with the attorney general and once the review is complete, the draft will be provided to the Council for their review and the public's knowledge. Director Evans requests that the Council provide feedback or comments before the next step of public hearings is conducted. If no substantial changes are made after the public hearings, the amendments will be provided to the governor. If substantial changes need to be made, a second public hearing will be conducted following the changes.

Director Evans also reported that the Honolulu City Council received a draft resolution that urged the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a time limit on the validity of environmental review documents that would provide clear criteria for accepting agencies and decision makers. It would also provide clarity for the public and predictability for developers as to whether further environmental review is warranted. If this request moves through, this item will be brought to the Council for their feedback and comments.

Member Lefebvre inquired as to how binding the resolution mentioned above by Director Evans would be if it passed. Director Evans stated that it would not be binding.

4. Exemptions Committee

a. Approve/Concur Hawaii Department of Education's (DOE) Exemption List Item(s)

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2025-08-12-DOE-Updated-Exemption-List-5-16-25.pdf

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the Council was satisfied with the changes made by the DOE on their list and had no further comments or feedback.

MOTION: Chairperson Hegger-Nordblom motioned to approve/concur the Hawaii DOE's Exemption list. Member Sprague seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted to approve the motion (3-0-0).

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported to the DOE's representative that the next steps include the DOE removing the word "Draft" from their list. The list will be uploaded on the EAC website and uploaded in the next *Environmental Notice* after it is received.

DOE's representative Gaylyn Nakatsuka inquired to the Council regarding stylistic changes to the document to be consistent with other lists and to ensure that the correct information is included following this meeting's concurrence. It was also highlighted that the document be ADA-compliant.

b. Internal Discussion on State of Hawaii, Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Comprehensive Exemption List

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2025-08-12-ADC-Comprehensive-Exemption-List-Draft-ltrv1.pdf

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that the last concurrence to the ADC's exemption list occurred in 2018, which was before the 2019 rule change.

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that looking through the list, the ADC follows the requirements.

Chairperson Hegger-Nordblom inquired about the ADC's properties, such as if they are on agricultural land or if they need repair/structural maintenance. ADC's representative Lyle Roe reported that they have about 4000 acres on Oahu, 1900 acres on Kauai, and 1.5 acres on Hawaii. He further noted that there are structures, such as ditch structures, that need to be repaired and are actually in the process of being repaired. He reported that the list reflects these changes and the previous list, with the only new item being Exemption Type 9, Part 1.

Committee Chair Lefebvre stated that she will review the list again for any other changes and will be in contact with Lyle Roe. The list will then be resubmitted and placed on the Council's agenda

for the next meeting to be discussed and provided a public comment period. The public comment period is 15 days. Any comments received will be submitted back to the ADC to be addressed.

c. Discussion of [NEPA's implementing regulations](#) and [CEQ guidance](#) as it relates to HAR sections 11-200.1-31(3) and 11-200.1-31(4)

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that this item came in through email, inquiring about the implications of these changes.

In the discussion of 11-200.1-31(3), Mr. Eisen explains that he interprets the document as a NEPA document that is not explicitly prepared to satisfy HEPA, and won't satisfy HEPA because they are not required to look at anything that a NEPA document requires. Committee Chair Lefebvre also agrees with this and that there isn't much change with 11-200.1-31(3).

In discussion of 11-200.1-31(4), Mr. Eisen expects that they will likely be receiving fewer combined documents. Committee Chair Lefebvre agrees with this notion because the environmental justice and climate change exemptions have been rescinded following executive orders. There are no requirements for public meetings.

5. Information and Outreach Committee – Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) 2025 Session Discussion

An internal meeting was held in July to discuss the format of the panel session that will be held at HCPO. Another internal meeting was planned for August 13 to finalize the details of the panel session.

The session that the Council will be preparing for will occur on August 28.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 2, 2025, at 1:00PM.

7. Adjournment

Chairperson Hegger-Nordblom adjourned the meeting at 1:56PM.