



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
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Draft MINUTES

State of Hawai'i Environmental Advisory Council
7th floor conference area, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 1:00 PM

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), Jay Stone (Vice Chair), Michele Lefebvre, Rachel Sprague

Members Absent

None

Staff

Mary Alice Evans (OPSD Director), Jennifer Ching (ERP Staff), Reginald King (ERP Intern)

Public

Lyle Roe (Agribusiness Development Corporation [ADC]), Mark Ladao (Hawai'i Public Radio)

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

With a quorum of three members present, Vice Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 1:05PM.

2. Review and adoption of minutes from Tuesday, August 12, 2025

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2025-08-12-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to approve the August 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. Director's Report

Director Evans requested that this agenda item be moved to be included with agenda item #5 - Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials 2025 Recap.

4. Exemptions Committee

a. Discussion of State of Hawai'i, Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Comprehensive Exemption List Comments

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2025-08-26-ADC-Comprehensive-Exemption-List-Draft-ltr-v2-inc-EAC-comments.pdf

Committee Chair Lefebvre reported that after last month's initial briefing of the ADC's Exemption List, she had reviewed the list again and sent comments to ADC's representative to consider. She highlights that most of the changes were editorial in nature.

MOTION: Committee Chair Lefebvre moved to publish the ADC's Exemption List (as attached in this agenda item) in *The Environmental Notice* for public review. Member Sprague seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted to approve the motion (3-0-0).

The ADC's list will be published in *The Environmental Notice* on September 23, 2025 for its public comment period. Next steps, include addressing any comments that may come in.

5. Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials 2025 Recap

This agenda item was combined with agenda item #3 – Director's Report.

Director Evans thanked the EAC for holding the exemption session at the 2025 Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials. She asked if the EAC had any feedback from the session.

Member Lefebvre reported that the session went well, and they had approximately 40 to 50 people in attendance. Member Lefebvre inquired to Director Evans if the presentation will be available to distribute. At the time of the meeting, Director Evans reported that they are in discussion with the Conference Coordinator to determine how the presentations will be posted.

Member Lefebvre recapped the highlights of the session ranging from the importance of exemption lists and Chapter 343, the crash course through the exemption process, and legal cases that dealt with exemptions. They also had some time at the end of the session to address any questions that the attendees had.

Chairperson Hegger-Nordblom joined the meeting at 1:24PM.

Director Evans recapped a law review session held by Professor David Callies regarding a legal case about a deficient EIS.

Director Evans reported (as a part of the Director's Report) that OPSD and ERP Staff are working on a draft to update the rules for Chapter 343. The hope is to get the draft on the agenda for the EAC's meeting in October. She would like the consultation of the EAC on the draft. She notes that most of the changes are housekeeping in nature, while some are clarifications.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on October 14, 2025, at 1:00PM.

Vice Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 1:41PM.