

LAND USE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Leiopapa A Kamehameha, State Office Tower, Room 405
235 S Beretania Street, Room 405, Honolulu, HI 96813

YOUTUBE RECORDING: <https://youtu.be/aOuo78Vq89I>

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Brian Lee
Bruce U'u
Kuike Kamakea-'Ōhelo (zoom)
Mel Kahele (zoom)
Myles Miyasato
Nancy Carr Smith (zoom)

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Orodener, Executive Officer
Scott Derrickson, Chief Planner
Martina Segura, Staff Planner
Ariana Kwan, Chief Clerk
John Dubiel, Esq. Deputy Attorney General

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ken Hayashida
Michael Yamane

COURT REPORTER:

Naegeli Deposition and Trial
(Via Zoom Recording)

1. CALL TO ORDER (YouTube: 00:00:00 - 00:03:17)

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING: OVERVIEW OF STATE CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY MANDATES AND BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ACT 187, SESSION LAWS HAWAII ("SLH") 2025: INTEGRATED LAND USE STUDY (YouTube: 00:03:18 - 01:07:13)

There was no written or oral testimony on this item.

Presentation by Danielle Bass, State Sustainability Coordinator with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development ("OPSD"), provided an informational briefing on Hawai'i's climate and sustainability mandates and a brief overview of Act 187, SLH 2025, which directs OPSD to conduct a statewide integrated land use study. Ms. Bass explained that the State has 24 climate and sustainability mandates enacted into law, with benchmark dates ranging from 2020 through 2050, addressing greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy, energy efficiency, local food production and procurement, zero-emission vehicles, net-zero energy, water reuse, and cesspool conversion. She also explained that Act 187 authorizes a statewide integrated land use study to evaluate land capacity needed to meet the State's sustainability, agriculture, housing, and clean energy goals. The study will focus primarily on agricultural lands and is intended to provide a data-driven foundation to help policymakers better understand competing land demands and support future decision-making. She also noted that the study experienced delays due to late release of funding.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the delayed legislative report, staffing for the study, whether affordable housing would be included, and whether the study would examine land use issues by county. Commissioners also asked how emissions, renewable energy, housing, and agricultural uses would be balanced on agricultural lands, and whether the study would address related issues such as waste management. During the discussion, several commissioners referred to the mandates as ambitious goals and raised concerns about whether the timelines were realistic or achievable without clearer enforcement, better coordination, and additional resources.

Commissioners further discussed the practical challenges of meeting the State's food production and farm-to-state requirements, including limited slaughterhouse capacity, shipping costs, feed costs, lack of local processing infrastructure, aging farmers, workforce development, access to land and water, lease insecurity on agricultural lands, and the need for stronger incentives and partnerships with farmers and large landowners. Questions were also raised regarding school food procurement, the new Wahiawā regional kitchen facility, cesspool conversion assistance, and how implementation of climate and sustainability mandates could be carried out equitably without disproportionately burdening lower-income residents. Commissioner Kamakea-Ōhelo noted that these are mandates established by law, rather than aspirational goals, and emphasized the need for adequate funding, accountability, and enforcement.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 7, 2026 *(YouTube: 01:07:14 - 01:08:32)*

There was no written or oral testimony on this item.

Commissioner U'u moved to adopt the minutes, and Commissioner Miyasato seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 6 ayes, 2 absent and 0 nays.

4. TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE *(YouTube: 01:08:33 - 01:09:34)*

The Executive Officer provided the following tentative meeting dates:

March 25, 2026: SP92-380 Hawaiian Cement Pu'unēnē Quarry (Maui)

April 8, 2026: A92-683 Haseko (O'ahu)

April 22, 2026: DR21-73 Hono'ipu Hideaway LLC (Hawai'i)

May 13, 2026: SP AES Solar (Kaua'i)

May 14, 2026: A89-636 Grove Farm Properties, Inc (Kaua'i)

5. ADJOURNMENT *(YouTube: 01:09:35 - 01:09:48)*

With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.