



## Climate Ready O'ahu Community Advisory Hui Meeting #2 Notes

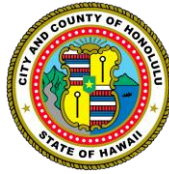
Monday, November 9, 2020  
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Virtual On-line Meeting via Zoom

*\*All Advisory Hui meeting materials, including agenda, notes, presentation/activity materials, and/or meeting recordings, are available for the respective meeting at: <https://www.climateoahu.org/advisory-hui>.*

### **ATTENDEES**

#### **Community Advisory Hui Members:**

- Amy Brinker, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estates (*arrived at 4:32 PM*)
- Cathy Camp, Hawai'i Chapter of the National Associate of Industrial and Office Properties (*arrived at 3:31 PM; left at 5:23 PM*)
- Yvonne Chan, Na Wai 'Ekolu School Network (*arrived at 4:00 PM*)
- Stewart Chong, Hawaiian Electric (*arrived at 4:36 PM*)
- Dan Dinell, Trees for Honolulu's Future
- Steph Dunbar-Co, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i (*arrived at 3:31 PM; left at 5:14 PM*)
- Matthew Geyer, Faith Action for Community Equity, Environmental Justice Task Force Chair
- Doug Harper, Mālama Maunalua (*left at 5:18 PM*)
- Hunter Heavilin, Sierra Club O'ahu Group (*arrived at 3:56 PM*)
- Pono Higa, Island Preparedness Group
- Josie Howard, We Are Oceania (*arrived at 5:03 PM*)
- Jeanne Ishikawa, Wahiawā Neighborhood Board No. 26
- Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (*arrived at 4:02 PM*)
- Kimeona Kāne, Waimanalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 (*arrived at 4:18 PM*)
- Miki'ala Lidstone, Ulu A'e Learning Center (*left at 4:20 PM*)
- LorMona Meredith, Polynesian Voyaging Society (*arrived at 3:39 PM*)
- Susan Mukai, American Society of Civil Engineers Hawai'i Section; American Water Works Association Hawai'i Section; Hawai'i Water Environment Association (*arrived at 3:58 PM*)
- Mike Onofrietti, Island Insurance (*arrived at 3:58 PM*)
- Kathleen Pahinui, North Shore Neighborhood Board No. 27 (*left at 5:17 PM*)
- Kawika Pegram, Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition (*arrived at 3:43 PM; left at 5:24 PM*)
- Kiran Polk, Kapolei Chamber of Commerce



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- Elizabeth Reilly, Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui (*arrived at 4:23 PM*)
- Pauline Sato, Mālama Learning Center (*arrived at 3:32 PM; left at 5:19 PM*)
- Jesse Souki, Hawai'i Chapter of the American Planning Association – Public Issues/Governmental Affairs Committee (*arrived at 4:37 PM*)
- Hale Takazawa, Honolulu Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Design for Risk and Resiliency Committee (*arrived at 3:43 PM*)
- Colby Takeda, Blue Zones Project Hawai'i (*arrived at 3:43 PM*)
- Aiko Yamashiro, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (*arrived at 3:32 PM*)
- Suzanne Young, Honolulu Board of Realtors (*arrived at 4:53 PM*)

#### **City and County of Honolulu:**

- Hayley Cook, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Matthew Gonser, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Ujay Siddharth, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency

#### **Members of the Public:**

- Susan Asam, ICF International
- Audrey Lee, Mālama Moana
- Julie Yunker, Hawai'i Gas

#### **NOTES**

##### **1. Welcome and Advisory Member Roster Updates**

Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (“Resilience Office”) Project Lead Gonser made welcoming remarks and shared updates made to the Community Advisory Hui Member Roster since the first Advisory Hui meeting.

Two new members were recognized and welcomed, which included: Member Geyer, taking over representation from FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity); and, Member Harvey representing HEA (Hawai'i Economic Association).

Project Lead Gonser acknowledged comments from Meeting #1 regarding recommendations for more participation on the Community Advisory Hui from affected industries including agriculture, tourism, transportation, airlines, automobile industry, construction, shopping centers, restaurants, Hawai'i Gas, etc.). Project Lead Gonser explained that though there are 42 Advisory Members, invitations were sent to 57 individuals and organizations, and that some that were unable to confirm participation included certain of these identified industries (e.g., construction, agriculture, improvement district associations, etc.). Additionally, the Advisory Hui is fortunate to have Member Arakawa whose



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organization represents many of the acknowledged industries and organizations, and can serve as a resources to connect the Resilience Office with those member organizations.

Project Lead Gonser reiterated that these Advisory Meetings, which are open to the public, are in addition to other aspects of project engagement including virtual community engagements, City department activities, engagement with state agencies, and other presentations and invited engagement opportunities. Project Lead Gonser reminded Advisory Members that it requests Members' support for connecting with their respective organizations and community hui, and that the Resilience Office is available for additional discussions and direct engagements in between Advisory Hui meetings.

## **2. Acceptance of Notes from Meeting #1**

Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser formally announced the notes from Meeting #1 and asked Advisory Hui Members to comment if they noticed any issues with the notes as published. No comments were made by Advisory Members and the notes from Meeting #1 were accepted (notes are posted at <https://www.climatereadyoahu.org/advisory-hui>).

## **3. Climate Ready O'ahu Project Updates: Susan Asam, Vice President, ICF International**

Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser provided a brief project overview refresher; recapped results from the activities in the Advisory Hui Meeting #1 and Rounds 1 and 2 of virtual community engagements; described the purposes of this Meeting #2; and introduced the Resilience Office's Project Consultant Lead and guest presenter, Susan Asam, Vice President, ICF International, to provide a presentation on internal City department activities with respect to the project.

Consultant Lead Asam delivered a presentation updating Advisory Members on the status of Climate Ready O'ahu; City department activities to date; the progress achieved thus far; and where the project work is headed through the end of 2020 into 2021. The presentation described the process for developing a climate risk assessment including the methodology and projected results of the assessment. Additionally, an overview of the consequence rating scale was provided, which is one factor of risk (risk is a function of likelihood of an event/threshold and the consequence) and one of several draft evaluation criteria



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under consideration for selecting adaptation action areas for the next phase of the project.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments from the Advisory Hui.

Member Geyer asked: Have you looked at an increased likelihood of wildfires? Is increased likelihood of fires a result of increases in temperatures and decreases in precipitation?

Project Lead Gonser responded: Wildfire is something that could also be looked at discretely as its own hazard. In this process, we are certainly working to not lose sight of compounded effects. We are asking, what are the ramifications of a main driver or change in climate, in this case, decreases in precipitation and/or increases in temperature? Wildfires was one of a dozen climate hazards as part of an initial department survey that ultimately identified the five hazards being carried forward as main risks of concern for City infrastructure and services (i.e., tropical storms, "rain bombs," sea level rise and coastal erosion, decreases in precipitation, and increases in temperature).

Member Onofrietti commented and asked: If the windward side receives increased precipitation during the rainy season, but will be drier in the summer, it will experience exponentially higher impacts from wildfires during the summer. Clearing out underbrush will be critical in the winter to prepare for this. Will you be looking at the inter-relationship between the evaluation criteria and the ways in which there are cross-level impacts across criteria?

Project Lead Gonser responded: I ask that you hold on to that thought and we will come back to it during the next agenda item, "Activity and Discussion on Recommendations for Adaptation Action Areas and Evaluation Criteria."

Advisory Member Camp asked: There is so much information, and the scope of the climate adaptation strategy is so in-depth and broad, is there any way we can prioritize specific strategies and actions to accelerate the impact?

Project Lead Gonser responded: Agreed. The effort of the adaptation action area selection process is to hone in from a broad island-wide geography to more specific geographical areas across the island, and develop case examples to think through the interrelated hazards, interdepartmental and/or



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intergovernmental opportunities and needs. This is a prioritization process in and of itself to consider areas of top concern to learn from to then address climate hazards islandwide. We agree that the project should not be so comprehensive or overwhelming that it is intimidating and/or unusable, which is also why the project will provide recommendations for decision making alignment.

Consultant Lead Asam responded: Part of the process behind selecting adaptation action areas is to hone in on location-specific strategies and prioritize actions within specific areas. These actions can then be transferred for implementation to other similar areas and similar circumstances in other parts of the island.

Advisory Member Polk asked: How does our position as an island community affect prioritization of specific actions? How does our position as an island create road blocks to each of these adaptation actions and how moveable they are today for planning towards the next five years?

Project Lead Gonser responded: Great questions, and this will be an important conversation during Meeting #3. We are in agreement that these actions need to be actionable and achievable given our position as an island community.

#### **4. Activity and Discussion on Recommendations on Adaptation Action Areas and Evaluation Criteria**

The Resilience Office facilitated an activity in Breakout Groups to solicit input from Advisory Hui Members. The focus of the activity was to understand areas of top concern with respect to climate hazards and their impacts to people in places, the environment of that place, and the economy of the island, to inform final selection of adaptation action areas for phase two of the project. Three blank island of O'ahu maps were posted in each breakout group for Advisory Members to mark geographical areas where changes in climate that result in temporary or permanent damage and disruption most impact the people that live in that area; the environment in that area; and, the economy of the island?

Following the return from breakout groups Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser facilitated discussion on the activity and recommendations for adaptation action areas evaluation criteria.



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Member Onofrietti commented and asked: There are many cross-cutting inter-relationships between the evaluation criteria. Looking at the inter-relationships between criteria could prove to be important as issues may emerge that didn't when looking at each of the criteria individually. Identifying correlations can also be useful but can also distort the results. Prioritization of the actions using the evaluation criteria is extremely important. Is one set of criteria prioritized higher than another? What is the process for prioritization? This will be critical moving forward.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, and just thinking ahead, because of selection at this phase, we don't want to preclude or close the door on a different action(s)/opportunities at a later stage.

Member Geyer commented in the Zoom chat: Another economic hazard as the ocean changes will be the reduction in size and amount catchable by fisheries.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, the City needs to be attuned to all issues including the ways in which climate hazards affect the off-shore environment and economy. A reminder, however, is that this project works to focus on City infrastructure, assets, and services to community. What is it the City needs to do to address climate hazards that affect these City functions? The City should still understand and incorporate as possible off-shore impacts even if the City is not directly able to address them.

Member Yamashiro commented: One suggestion to add to the evaluation criteria is that it can be helpful to identify if an area already has a strong community. Good sites such as Paepae o He'eia that work closely with the environment can be helpful in their understanding of an area and their ability to share a wealth of information. A strong community could bring great insight into the conversation.

Member P. Higa commented: There is a discrepancy between state and county zoning laws. If we have development policies that proceed unchecked on agriculture lands this could affect climate change impacts. Policies and past practices could also impact us.

Member Brinker commented in the Zoom chat: Wondering about the Social Vulnerability Index work that was done [during the Resilience Strategy development process]. Is this going to overlay the map you folks develop? E kala mai if I missed this in the materials or the meeting before I joined today.



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Project Lead Gonser responded in agreement and then linked a public version of the map and accompanying resources through the Resilience Office's Climate Resilience & Equity webpage (<https://resilientoahu.org/equity-social-vulnerability-index-and-other-related-maps-and-data>).

Member Geyer commented in the Zoom chat: Another concern is the increased expenses to the city and county to deal with climate hazards may require tax increases.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Thank you for your comment. Such ideas will be important discussion points in future Meetings #3-5 when we think of specific actions and implementation mechanisms to prioritize actions to take.

Member Takazawa commented in the Zoom chat: The city sewers are a black swan. No one likes to think about it. And therefore making its issues hide in plain sight. The department itself could have low interest in making change or perhaps initiating disruptive change which downplays the actual risk this can have on economic risk.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Thank you for your comment. The Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is proactively thinking about this work and continually works to identify gaps in wastewater management. This will be an important comment as we proceed towards the climate adaptation strategy's development of specific actions in Meeting #3 and beyond.

Member Makai commented: I am a project engineer contracted with the City ENV and we are completing an assessment on wastewater and sewer system currently and we have just finished an assessment for the Wai'anae region.

Member Dunbar-Co: I recognize the huge amount of work involved here and understand the importance of prioritization. It would be good to look at areas of overlap where we can have the most impact across people, economy, and environment. What are the solutions that have co-benefits? Creating artificial reef is an excellent example of a solution with co-benefits as opposed to constructing miles of concrete seawalls.



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Member Ishikawa commented in the Zoom chat: In addition to ENV, I believe DFM (Department of Facility Maintenance) is also working on new City Public Works Standards regarding roadways, drainage, and green infrastructure.

## **5. Discussion on Recommendations for Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser provided an overview of the existing and upcoming strategies of engagement for the Climate Adaptation Strategy such as future virtual engagement meetings, future Advisory Hui meetings, a “Visions of O’ahu” call for creative submissions, and the solicitation of bids for Climate Ready O’ahu Project Promotion and Participation services.

After sharing information, the floor was opened to recommendations and comments from the Advisory Hui.

Member Dinell asked: What kind of outreach has been done with the military community?

Project Lead Gonser responded: Though there is a history of discussions with the federal Department of Defense (DoD) on sea level rise and hazards preparedness, there has not yet been direct outreach or engagement on this project. Several staff of Marine Corps Base Hawai’i participated in the community meetings. We will soon be starting a concurrent discussion with state agencies and also reconnecting with DoD then.

Member Dinell responded: They are a major controller of land and the economy and they certainly have a big stake in this work.

Member Geyer commented: There may be a need to put physical signs up in communities advertising the project. In coastal communities, signs could be put up that identify the community as vulnerable to sea-level rise and flooding. The signs would also encourage community members to participate in the project.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Message received and recorded. The Advisory Hui is comprised of organizations that represent the community and we hope Members can assist in connecting with these respective and specific networks.





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Member Meredith asked: Are these being shared on the Resilient O'ahu social media platforms?

Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, they are, along with the office newsletter, a project-specific email distribution list, Neighborhood Boards, an initial press release, and the Advisory Members. Part of the purpose behind the Project Promotion and Participation scope of services is to also leverage organizations' existing networks to extend the project information and opportunities. We recognize that our reach is limited and that it is not just the content, but that the messenger also matters.

## **6. Discussion on Recommendations for Future Agenda Items**

Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser opened space for Advisory Hui Members to recommend future agenda items for the Hui to engage in or discuss. No recommendations were offered at this time, but Members were encouraged to contact the Resilience Office with thoughts and ideas.

## **7. Public Input for Matters Not on the Agenda**

Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser opened space for input on any matters not on the agenda.

Member Ishikawa asked a question in the Zoom chat: Just curious, does the state get involved with this?

Project Lead Gonser responded: We have already started discussions with the state and plan to include their participation in future working sessions.

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

A next meeting date was set tentatively for Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 3:30 PM. Resilience Office Project Lead Gonser thanked Advisory Hui Members for completing the Sunshine Law Training and requested those who have not yet done so to let him know when they have.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.