



## Climate Ready O'ahu Community Advisory Hui Meeting #3 Notes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021  
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.climatereadyoahu.org/advisory-hui>.*

### **ATTENDEES**

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

- David Arakawa, Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
- Adam Borrello, North Shore Community Land Trust
- Amy Brinker, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estates (*arrived at 3:45 PM*)
- Kahikina Burgess, Hawaiian Electric
- Cathy Camp, Hawai'i Chapter of the National Associate of Industrial and Office Properties (*arrived at 3:31 PM*)
- Yvonne Chan, Na Wai 'Ekolu School Network (*arrived at 3:31 PM*)
- Dyson Chee, Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition
- Dan Dinell, Trees for Honolulu's Future (*arrived at 3:31 PM*)
- Steph Dunbar-Co, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i (*arrived at 4:03 PM*)
- Chip Fletcher, City Climate Change Commission
- Matthew Geyer, Faith Action for Community Equity, Environmental Justice Task Force Chair (*arrived at 3:33 PM*)
- Doug Harper, Mālama Maunaloa (*arrived at 3:32 PM*)
- Hunter Heavilin, Sierra Club O'ahu Group (*arrived at 3:38 PM*)
- Lesley Harvey, Hawai'i Economic Association (*arrived at 3:32 PM*)
- Lea Hong, Trust for Public Lands (*arrived at 3:35 PM*)
- Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (*arrived at 3:36 PM*)
- Kimeona Kāne, Waimanalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 (*arrived at 3:43 PM*)
- Dotty Kelly-Paddock, Hau'ula Community Association
- LorMona Meredith, Polynesian Voyaging Society (*arrived at 3:54 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*)
- Daniel Nāho'opi'i, Ka'ahahui Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
- Dana Okano, Hawai'i Community Foundation (*arrived at 3:32 PM*)



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- Mike Onofrietti, Island Insurance (*arrived at 3:58 PM*)
- Kawika Pegram, Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition
- Sharlette Poe, Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board No. 24
- Kiran Polk, Kapolei Chamber of Commerce (*arrived at 3:32 PM*)
- Elizabeth Reilly, Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui (*arrived at 3:46 PM*)
- Pauline Sato, Mālama Learning Center (*arrived at 3:34 PM*)
- Colby Takeda, Blue Zones Project Hawai'i (*arrived at 3:32 PM*)
- Jessica Yamauchi, Hawai'i Public Health Institute
- Suzanne Young, Honolulu Board of Realtors (*arrived at 3:33 PM*)

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

- Hayley Cook, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Matthew Gonser, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Anna Mines, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Isabella Roberson, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Ujay Siddharth, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency

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

- Sean Connelly, After Oceanic
- Kuuleilani Samson, Ma'o Farms
- 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 (Hui) Member Roster since the first Hui meeting.

One new member was recognized and welcomed: Kahikina Burgess, replacing Stuart Chong, to represent Hawaiian Electric. Member Kahikina introduced himself and stated Hawaiian Electric's interest in participating in the Hui.

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

Project Lead Gonser formally announced the notes from Meeting #2 and asked Hui Members to comment if they noticed any issues with the notes as published. No comments were made by Hui Members and the notes from Meeting #2 were accepted (notes are posted at <https://www.climatereadyoahu.org/advisory-hui>).



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### 3. Climate Ready O'ahu Project Updates

Project Lead Gonser provided a brief project overview refresher; recapped results from the activities in Hui Meetings #1 and #2 and Rounds 1 and 2 of virtual community workshops; described the work the consultant team and City departments did to select adaptation action areas, complete a Final Climate Risk Assessment, and draft Community Climate Briefs for each Community Plan Area; outlined the purposes and goals of this Meeting #3; and described upcoming work with regard to the Climate Adaptation Strategy.

At the conclusion of the project updates, the floor was opened for questions and comments from Hui Members.

Member Fletcher commented in the chat: *Seems like 5 (hurricanes) should be "possible/catastrophic"*

Member Burgess responded to Chip's comment and asked in the chat: *Also curious about this. How hurricane was categorized as "moderate" vs "catastrophic" compared to other hazards*

Project Lead Gonser responded: We will make sure to bring these comments back to the consultant team to inform them on how the consequence rating of a hurricane is being received by the Community Advisory Hui.

Member Arakawa asked: The office has done a good job with a cross-section of representation among the members but I don't think the hotels are appropriately represented and certain areas that would be affected such as Ala Moana Shopping Center and Kaka'ako.

Project Lead Gonser responded: This discussion point is an important one and has been brought up in a prior meeting as well. Invitations to be part of the Hui were extended beyond those on the Hui Member Roster. Additionally, certain Hui Members also support and represent larger constituencies, which helps to extend representation. Of course, more could be done and there are opportunities for one-on-one engagement with stakeholders. We ask the Hui to please continue to provide recommendations for engagement.



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#### 4. Activity and Discussion on Recommendations on Adaptation Actions

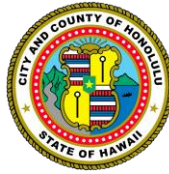
The Resilience Office facilitated an activity through Menti live-polling and open discussion seeking recommendations for adaptation actions for 1) heat, drought, and wildfire, 2) sea-level rise and coastal hazards, and 3) “rain bombs” and hurricanes. Project Lead Gonser introduced the activity and the rating scale system by which Hui Members rated each given action on a scale of Strongly Oppose to Strongly Support.

Member Arakawa commented: For future questions, it's important to communicate the difference between “require/mandate” and “incentivize.” Breaking those up may be more easily understood since incentivizing a program or making a program an option is different than requiring a program. It's also important to add that, if something is required/mandated, it will increase the cost of the unit.

Member Dinell commented: In regards to the action “Establish new programs that encourage residents to plant and maintain trees on private and/or public lands,” a better phrasing would be to “support existing” to support existing tree planting programs.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, good points. We are trying to use language that prioritizes specificity. There should be a clear path forward for pursuing programs or projects. While we are trying to support departments, we also need to find clear agreed upon measures to address climate change. “Support” doesn't necessarily achieve the specificity and the actionable outcomes we are trying to accomplish.

Member Arakawa commented in response to the action “Adopt climate resilient design requirements to support low-energy use thermal comfort/on-site renewably-powered cooling systems”: The State Building Code Council last month, just rejected a requirement/mandate for all houses to have A/C or heater installation for open-air homes. The requirement was proposed by the council to require thermal insulation for all homes and the official from the Big Island strenuously objected to it because of the added cost. There needs to be a way to describe this type of policy to local residents that explains how a mainland strategy is being imposed on local residents.



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Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, thank you. We are familiar with the work being done at the State and understand your comment in regards to being up front about certain consequences. It's important to be honest about the challenges and if the response is "no can," then it's important to find other ways to support community to thrive into the future in spite of what will be multiple days of 105-degree heat index.

Member Kakesako commented in the chat: *aloha Matt -- could planting of trees lift up native plants from the place? I think it is important as tied to place and culture as well as may have implications as tied to less maintenance/watering.*

Member Kāne commented in the chat: *agree with Brent, I advocate for planting as many native trees primarily in all projects*

Project Lead Gonser responded: Brent, if you have thoughts on how to refine a specific question that would be great, especially when we enter following rounds and meetings that focus on action implementation.

Member Camp commented in the chat: *we also need to look at trade offs- would people be willing to pay more for this or that and to what degree would someone be willing to pay for*

Project Lead Gonser responded: This is right. The reality is that change is coming to us and unless we are proactively addressing it we will be in a difficult position. How do we find ways to support everybody in ways that are not cost-prohibitive and cost-burdened?

Member Okano commented in the chat: *could you define what resource distribution and services would be in this statement? "Resilience hubs: Develop a network of community resilience hubs for residents to coordinate resource distribution and services during extreme heat."*

Project Lead Gonser responded: It's envisioned to be a place that receives and then distributes services such as food, medicine, or water, it can be set up to serve that function but obviously there are a lot of additional services to consider. Part of this process will be to identify precisely what services to consider as the actions get fleshed out.



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Member Kelly-Paddock commented in the chat: *Can we include at least one option for some of these trees be food tree...to enhance food security*

Project Lead Gonser responded: Thank you for your comment. Heard loud and clear!

Member Dunbar-Co commented in the chat: *Absolutely. And the native species/populations used in those plantings come from the most appropriate source (i.e., genetics, closest proximity, habitat, etc.)*

Public Participant Yunker commented in the chat: *Agree with previous comment - we also need to look at trade offs- would people be willing to pay more for this or that and to what degree would someone be willing to pay for. or some kind of cost benefit analysis for trade-offs*

Project Lead Gonser responded: Thank you for your input and agree with your point. Not every project idea will be vetted so thoroughly through the plan development process. This plan is to develop a suite of options for leadership, departments, city council, and everybody to target action to address the challenges we are confronted with.

Project Lead Gonser emphasized the process for the Climate Adaptation Strategy here being a first-time process with the ultimate goal of incorporating the Climate Adaptation Strategy into the 5-year updates of the Long-term Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Member Camp commented: Everything is getting very high marks on this rating scale. My suggestion is to have a bucketing of priorities where a set of actions is at top priority, another set of actions is at medium priority, a final set of actions is at low priority. Then, it's possible to focus on the set of actions designated as top priority. At that point, it would also be effective to discuss the tradeoffs of the top priority actions.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Perhaps there's a step after this to target the voting, prioritization, and tradeoffs discussion. There's challenges to having these discussions and we are always looking for ways to improve the process.



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Member Onofrietti commented: I concur with Cathy's comments. Some of the strategies cost a lot more and some general idea of the dollar amounts would be important to know too.

Project Lead Gonser responded: We know that actions cost today – but we also know that no action results in costs later. We have to find a way forward to protect prosperity and economic opportunities well into the future. The no action alternative is not an option for a number of these climate hazard risks.

Member Polk commented: I agree with Member Camp. Having a realistic standpoint is important. What are the costs and what is realistic for these different groups? If there are no price tags then we won't get the honest feedback from community. The business community strongly believes in meeting these goals but it is a balancing act of what is realistic.

Project Lead Gonser responded: It's important to consider the investments we need to make now to gain returns in the future that protect our community from heat stroke and heat-stress when they walk outside. We want our community to be able to engage in sports, in agriculture, and we still want to encourage tourists to come here.

Member Poe commented: I think we should take costs into consideration but when community comes forward they don't necessarily come from a cost perspective. They consider what is best for their community and there isn't always a price tag to that. It's important to be realistic but it's also about coming up with possibilities on how we take the time to build up and develop key community resources. It's important to look at what can we do collectively that is less about the financial aspect but is about putting in the time and sweat.

Project Lead Gonser responded: If the early discussions always point to no can then we can't ever make progress. We shouldn't lose sight of that.

Member Heavilin commented: Sierra Club has adopted a Negative Resources Assessment process to evaluate whether a project should be taken on or not. I can offer that as a platform for evaluating actions and projects. A second resource I'd like to suggest is a conjoint analysis – a comparative analysis that always presents options in pairs to tease out what the levels of rating are for multiple different options on a given issue.



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Project Lead Gonser responded: Thank you for your comments. Hunter, do you have a definition or resource for us to look in to?

Member Heavilin commented in chat:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conjoint\\_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conjoint_analysis). *would be useful for this group to determine what the facets of an intervention are that should be collected to inform next level of decision making. timeline, cost, coordination requirements, community role, etc. Sierra Club Oahu Group adopted Janis Birkeland's 'negative resources transfers' as an assessment tool for development and advocacy project review. some of that vein of approach can be reviewed here*  
[https://shiftn.com/uploads\\_pdf/SN\\_RP\\_janisbirkeland\\_v02LOW-kopie.pdf](https://shiftn.com/uploads_pdf/SN_RP_janisbirkeland_v02LOW-kopie.pdf).

Member Nāho'opi'i asked in the chat: *I do not understand this one: Elevate communities: Require and invest in the raising of new and redevelopment and associated supporting infrastructure.*

Project Lead Gonser responded: It is a strategy to address sea-level rise and flooding where it allows communities to stay in place by raising up and building up their infrastructure from the ground level. Kapālama Terminal at the harbor is elevating, Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is elevating their ground level for the second digester, etc. The City of Miami is one major example of elevating roadways and supporting properties to come up to the same grade.

Member Nāho'opi'i asked: *In future sessions is there going to be an opportunity to determine whose kuleana and whose responsibility for specific actions? This could help in determining priorities and cost and the tradeoffs.*

Public Participant Yunker commented in the chat: *@Daniel - Good point might help with identifying partnerships and leveraging resources*

Project Lead Gonser responded: There's a challenge of identifying the community if a service has typically been a City responsibility. The jurisdictional designations are critical while it's also important to leverage the immense value community brings to action lead and implementation.

Member Poe asked: We're in the middle of a pandemic and we're looking at major impacts to our budgets and reallocation of funds. What is the strategy for considering costs and cost-sharing when faced with these additional challenges?





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Project Lead Gonser responded: Part of the project scope acknowledged this from the beginning. The next activity will be to work towards decision-making alignment so that we can be open and transparent about the finite resources the City has to implement action. The key here is to have actions ready to go if and when the opportunity presents itself to implement. Tools such as a Climate Resilience and Equity Screen and/or a Budget Screen will help to better guide some of this work as we move forward.

Member Polk asked: At what point has engagement with our congressional delegation taken place during this process and not at the end when we have the data? It would be important to take this into consideration.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, we have ongoing relationships with our congressional delegation and we've participated in their briefings so that we can better understand how to work together. The primary thing is to be prepared when there are asks to provide them with options that have been a result of consensus-building. It's important to leverage federal leadership and resources especially now after the transition to a new administration at the federal level.

Member Fletcher commented in chat: *Implement a socially equitable fee and dividend on carbon. Adapting to SLR is a classic "wicked" problem that has no right or wrong solution that can be determined through a linear, technical process, but rather must rely on the collective judgement of stakeholders involved in a process that is experiential, interactive, and deliberative.*

## **5. Activity and Discussion on Recommendations for an Equity Framework**

Project Team Member Siddharth and Project Lead Gonser presented on the equity framework for the Climate Adaptation Strategy and facilitated discussion on the Climate Resilience and Equity Screen.

Project Team Member Siddharth started discussion on the Climate Resilience and Equity Screen with the question: "Do you think different types of communities are affected differently by climate change? What (if any) concerns do you have that climate change impacts will affect individual communities unequally?"

Member Camp commented: One thing I don't see on this list is increasing the cost of housing. As we develop and consider higher density in the city such as in



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TOD zones, and have to also consider the impacts of sea-level rise, this will increase the cost of housing.

Project Lead Gonser responded: The cost of housing can be twofold – a construction cost and a cost for the resident. Maybe the occupant discussion is better presented as housing + transportation to represent a more complete discussion of the cost of living. While we don't want cost to go up at all, if the cost of one goes down then maybe we can consider an increased cost of another.

Member Camp responded: I'm thinking more simply in terms of operational cost when living in a space. But, I'm also thinking of construction costs which will be higher, causing the cost of delivering the product to also increase. Instead of 20 floors, now the building has 19 to accommodate for sea-level rise and the cost of construction is spread across fewer units.

Member Arakawa responded: I agree with Cathy, the impact on affordable housing is not necessarily in here. One thing that should be in this slide is a cost-benefit analysis of different communities, the other thing that should be in this slide is the impact on housing. For example, Bill 25 increased the cost of housing by \$24,000 to a single unit. The developer won't eat that cost and will transfer the cost burden to home-buyers or will transfer the cost to lower quality construction. Communities that cannot afford the increased cost need to also be considered when pushing forward policies and other initiatives.

Project Lead Gonser responded: To capture what you're saying, we should include a contextual approach when pursuing regulation.

Member Arakawa responded: To fully express my sentiment – we need to recognize that when we fill out these surveys, they become bills, which then become laws and regulation that affect the cost of affordable housing. We need to be careful and fully understand what the cost-benefit of a policy will be.

Member Fletcher commented: One of the communities we tend to ignore is outside of Hawai'i, the developing nations of the world, where our high-consumption lifestyle exports the environmental damage to supply us with our mineral resources, our timber, our beef. Other nations are economically strapped and are selling their resources at an unsustainable rate so that we can live our lifestyles. These are the nations that are strongest hit by the climate crisis.



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Ethically, it's important to think beyond the shores of Hawai'i and consider how other communities are paying the cost.

Project Lead Gonser responded: To capture what Chip said, we should look over the horizon to other places. It's thinking multi-generationally but also thinking beyond geographies.

Member Fletcher responded: We can consider this "global social equity."

Member Fletcher commented in the chat: *This new paper uses unusually straightforward (and appropriate) language regarding the intersection of biodiversity loss, climate change, and political impotence in meeting international goals: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcsc.2020.615419/full#F1>*

Public Participant Samson commented in the chat: *What impacts can these changes have towards the homeless/houseless population? What connections can be made to accommodate the impacts?*

Member Poe commented in the chat: *Developer vs homeowner vs home buyers?*

Project Team Member Siddharth continued with the presentation on the equity framework for the Climate Adaptation Strategy covering the development process for the Climate Resiliency and Equity Screen and other city examples of similar screening tools. Project Lead Gonser provided comments throughout.

Member Nāho'opi'i commented in the chat: *Loss of the ability for subsistence gathering (fishing, upland gathering) will impact for Native Hawaiians practitioners but many others (Local Japanese gathering bamboo every new year, etc). Can we include that in the summary so it doesn't just sound like only Hawaiian "cultural" is suffering.*

Project Team Member Siddharth opened discussion on the Climate Resilience and Equity Screen.

Member Camp commented in the chat: *I think it's great we are looking at good examples instead of trying to recreate !! great job!*

Member Fletcher commented in the chat: *You guys have put most thought into this - which do you prefer?*



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Project Lead Gonser responded: I don't see most agencies, staff or directors, getting onboard with something that is so extensive. If a screen looks like more work, there will be hesitation in using it. Strategizing with a shorter list of more direct questions may be the pathway to take here.

Member Arakawa asked in the chat: *Do we only have to choose between either Portland and San Antonio? this is Hawaii!*

Project Lead Gonser responded: One of these examples shows a truncated list, another example shows a broader suite of questions across themes and categories. It's less about adopting one or the other and more about thinking about the good practices of each to incorporate.

Member Borrello commented: All of this is important and helpful. What is really critical however, is the political will to actually execute. We need to connect the dots throughout the process to actually help execute at the back end.

Project Lead Gonser responded: Thanks for your comments. The North Shore Sustainable Communities Plan update process is starting up and we want to make sure we are supporting that work through the conversations we are having now. We know that equity is an important component but also not the only component.

Member Sato commented in the chat: *I tend to like shorter surveys rather than long, detailed ones that get tedious.*

Project Lead Gonser responded: Yes, agreed. Not only tedious but intimidating as well.

Member Yamauchi commented: This is a new area of work for us. In the past, there has been consideration to look at everything through a public health lens. Over the past year, we've been looking at everything through an equity lens as well to help push forward key initiatives that impact our communities.

Project Lead Gonser responded: It's one thing to promote and educate but once you work towards processes, how do you socialize them? It's important to recognize it's all iterative.



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Project Lead Gonser wrapped up the discussion on the equity framework and the Climate Resilience and Equity Screen.

Member Dinell commented: I'm glad you all are looking at equity. Uneven impacts are especially apparent now with the pandemic highlighting disparate access to resources. It's important to recognize that the benefit is something less apparent. It's hard to look at one sliver of an action when there are ancillary benefits and collective benefits. The other benefits shouldn't get lost in the conversation. Leaving one group behind means there will be greater costs down the line.

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

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

#### **7. Tentative Next Meeting Date**

No next meeting date set in the interest of first aligning the project team schedule with the community engagement schedule before setting a date.

Member Nāho'opi'i asked: What will be covered in the next week Round 3 set of public community meetings?

Project Lead Gonser responded: We'll cover the same material as we did for this Community Advisory Hui meeting with some refinement on the interactivity portion.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.