



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
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Mark Gordon
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Rachel Sprague

State of Hawai'i Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes Draft
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813
Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 1:00 PM

Members Present

Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Michele Lefebvre, Mark Gordon, Rachel Sprague

Members Absent

Jay Stone

Staff

Mary Alice Evans (Office of Planning and Sustainable Development [OPSD] Director), Tom Eisen (Environmental Review Program [ERP] Staff), Daniel Pham (ERP Staff)

Public Present

Brad Ventura (Maui Fire Department), Caleb Rowe (Deputy Corporation Counsel, County of Maui [DCC,COM]), Christy Wigglesworth (DCC, COM), Andrew Nelson (DCC, COM), Emma Yuen (Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR]), Zachary King (DLNR), Jon Sprague (Pulama Lanai), Sam Marville (County of Maui Parks), Kelli Ann Kobayashi (Division of Aquatic Resources [DAR]), Kylie Cruz (Earth Justice), Christie Trenholme

Note: **Bolded** items indicate text from agenda

Materials for this agenda and minutes of this meeting will be available at specific links indicated below or at:
<https://planning.hawaii.gov/erp/eac-meetings/>

- 1. Call to order, Roll Call, Introductions, Quorum**
With a quorum of four members present, Chairperson Hegger-Nordblom called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.
- 2. Review and adoption of minutes of May 5, 2026, meeting. *The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) will review/amend the minutes from the previous meeting and will vote on whether to approve them at this time. [Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-draft.pdf
Chair Hegger-Nordblom had a question for Zachary King from DLNR inquiring who the individual from DAR alongside David Sakoda was. Emma Yuen answered that the individual was Kellyanne Kobayashi.

Chair Hegger-Nordblom requested that both David Sakoda and Kellyanne Kobayashi be added as members of the public present to the minutes.

MOTION: Member Sprague moved to approve the May 2026 meeting minutes amended. Member Gordon seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public testimony. The EAC voted to approve the motion (4-0-1).

3. Exemptions Committee

A. Proposed – Revised Environmental Assessment Exemption List Revisions for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). *The EAC members will identify next steps regarding the Proposed - Revised Environmental Assessment Exemption List Revisions for DLNR. [Action Item]*

- i. DLNR Exemption List:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-DLNR-Revised-Exemption-List.pdf
- ii. Comment from Patricia Cadiz and DLNR response:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-DLNR-Exemption-List-Cadiz-Comments-and-Response.pdf
- iii. Comment from Earth Justice and DLNR response:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-DLNR-Exemption-List-Earth-Justice-Comments-and-Response.pdf
- iv. Comment from For The Fishes and DLNR response:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-DLNR-Exemption-List-For-The-Fishes-Comments-and-Response.pdf
- v. Comment from Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and DLNR response:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-DLNR-Exemption-List-Native-Hawaiian-Legal-Corporation-Comments-and-Response.pdf
- vi. Comment from Sierra Club and DLNR response:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-05-05-DLNR-Exemption-List-Sierra-Club-Comments-and-Response.pdf

Member Lefebvre mentioned that the public comments received about DLNR's Exemption List Type 4, Part 1, Number 21 expressed similar concerns and in return DLNR responded with similar responses addressing the concerns raised. She further expressed that the exemption as it's written is consistent with the type so there are no further concerns. DLNR's Exemption Type 8, Part 1, Numbers 6-10 were reverted to Type 1. Member Lefebvre recommends the DLNR Exemption List be, "concurrent with by EAC" instead of "approved by EAC" as it was provided on May 5, 2026.

Emma Yuen from DLNR explains that the exemption list is for activities with minimal or no significant effects on the environment. She mentions that DLNR has received requests to add non-extractive language to the exemption.

MOTION: Member Lefebvre moved to concur with the DLNR list as it was provided on May 5, 2026. Member Gordon seconded the motion. Chair Hegger-Nordblom voiced her opposition because she would like to have heard from Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) and Land Division. The EAC voted to approve the motion (3-1-1).

- B. Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management Exemption List*: *The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-06-02-County-of-Maui-Exemption-List-Dept-Environmental-Management.pdf
Andrew Nelson from DCC, COM introduces the Department of Environmental Management list, which was based on the Honolulu Department of Environmental Services list. Member Lefebvre and Tom Eisen from ERP suggest that the list should be more specific to the activities of the Department of Environmental Management. Andrew Nelson agrees to review and revise the list based on EAC's feedback.
- C. Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Finance Exemption List*: *The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-06-02-County-of-Maui-Exemption-List-Dept-Finance.pdf
Caleb Rowe from DCC, COM explains that the Department of Finance list was created by reformatting the old list into the proper categories. Member Lefebvre and Tom Eisen from ERP suggest that the list should be more specific to the activities of the Department of Finance. Caleb Rowe agrees to review and revise the list based on EAC's feedback.
- D. Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Fire and Public Safety Exemption List*: *The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-06-02-County-of-Maui-Exemption-List-Dept-Fire-Public-Safety.pdf
Caleb Rowe from DCC, COM requests to advance the fire department's exemption list to the agenda. He further explains that the Department of Fire and Public Safety will not be using every single type of exemption on the Exemption List. Member Lefebvre suggests adding page numbers and headers to the lists for easier reference. Member Lefebvre and Tom Eisen from ERP suggest that individual departments should tailor their lists to their specific activities.
- E. Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Parks and Recreation Exemption List*: *The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-06-02-County-of-Maui-Exemption-List-Dept-Parks-Rec.pdf
Christy Rigglesworth from DCC, COM introduces the Department of Parks and Recreation list. Member Lefebvre and Tom Eisen from ERP suggest that the list should be more specific to the activities of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Christy Rigglesworth agrees to review and revise the list based on EAC's feedback.

4. Announcements - Next Meeting TBD. *The EAC members will discuss the date of the next meeting and possible agenda items. [Information Item]*

Member Sprague is thanked for her service on the council, and she expresses her appreciation.

Chair Hegger-Nordblom announces that the next EAC Meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2026.

5. Public Comments. *Participants may provide comments about issues not on the agenda for possible inclusion on a future agenda. [Information Item]*

Kylie Cruz from Earth Justice expresses concerns about the DLNR Exemption List specifically exemption Type 4, Part 1, Number 21, which applies to continuing activities. She suggests that DLNR should amend the exemption to apply only to non-extractive activities or put it back under Type 1. Further, she proposes that the EAC can either ask DLNR to clarify the exemption or not concur with the proposed exemption.

6. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 2:31 PM.