STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAI'I
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OPSD Director
Mary Alice Evans

Chairperson
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

Vice Chair
Jay Stone

Members
Mark Gordon
Hannah Kiblinger
Michele Lefebvre

State of Hawai'i Environmental Advisory Council
MINUTES
235 S. Beretania Street, 6th Floor Conference Room, Honolulu, HI 96813
Thursday, October 15, 2026, 1:00 PM

As authorized under Act 220, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, this meeting will be held with Council Members, Staff, and Agencies participating in-person at the above location or via Zoom online meeting venue.

If you are attending remotely and have questions, or would like to provide comments during the meeting, please use the Zoom **Raise Hand** function to notify the Chair that you would like to speak. When the Chair recognizes you, you may unmute your microphone.

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/

Members Present
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Jay Stone, Mark Gordon, Hannah Kiblinger, Michele Lefebvre

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

Public Present
Caleb Rowe (County of Maui [COM], Department of Water Supply [DWS]), Christie Trenholme (COM, Department of Fire and Public Safety), Andrew Nelson (COM, Department of Environmental Management), Kristie Wrigglesworth (COM, Department of Parks and Recreation), Paul Barany (COM, Department of Public Works), Tom Ochwat (COM, DWS), Bryce Yoshimori (State of Hawai'i, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Agricultural Resource Management Division [HDOA ARMD]), Harold "Hal" Alejandro (State of Hawai'i, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation), Ronald Sato (Bowers & Kubota [B & K]), Noah Taba (B & K), Jared Chang (B & K), Mia Charleston, Bryce Ishimaru

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

1. **Call to order, Roll Call, Introductions, Quorum**
   With a quorum of all five members present, Chairperson Dawn Hegger-Nordblom called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. Due to technical difficulties and lack of an active internet connection, she presided over the initial roll call blindly via phone line. New member Hannah Kiblinger was introduced and welcomed to the council. Hannah Kiblinger also experienced technical difficulties and participated in the remainder of the meeting blindly by phone line.
2. **Review and adoption of minutes of June 2, 2026, and August 4, 2026, meetings.** ***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]***

A. **June 2, 2026, minutes:**
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-06-02-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-Draft.pdf
Motion to approve by Jay Stone, seconded by Mark Gordon. The EAC voted to approve the motion unanimously, 5-0-0.

B. **August 4, 2026, minutes:**
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-08-04-Environmental-Advisory-Council-Minutes-Draft.pdf
Motion to approve by Michele Lefebvre, seconded by Jay Stone. The EAC voted to approve the motion unanimously, 5-0-0.

3. **Exemptions Committee**

A. **Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management Exemption List, Revised*:** ***The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-08-23-COM-Exemption-List-Dept-Env-Mgt-2026-08-06.pdf
Discussion: Jay Stone highlighted typographical errors on page 1 ("Statues" vs. "Statutes"), page 2 ("stems" vs. "stairs"), page 4 ("regarding" vs. "regrading"), page 6 (redundant "expansion"), and page 7 ("of less" vs. "or less"; "a pliable" vs. "applicable"). Mark Gordon questioned the threshold for "wastewater spills" under minor items; Andrew Nelson clarified it reflects an inherited provision governed strictly by the minor context of Part 1.

Action: Motion to concur with the list following corporate adjustments by Jay Stone, seconded by Mark Gordon. Motion passed (4-0-1, Hannah Kiblinger briefly disconnected).

B. **Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Fire and Public Safety Exemption List, Revised*:** ***The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-08-23-COM-Exemption-List-Dept-Fire-Public-Safety-2026-08-14.pdf
Discussion: Jay Stone noted twin double-commas on page 1 and page 4. On page 8, he requested changing "3,500 feet" to "square feet" and fixing the "CBDG" acronym to "CDBG" on pages 8 and 10. A clarifying discussion confirmed that direct beach grooming around lifeguard towers constitutes minor work under Part 1, whereas broader sand dune restoration falls under Part 2.

Action: Motion to concur subject to edits by Jay Stone, seconded by Dawn Hegger-Nordblom. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

C. **Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Parks and Recreation Exemption List, Revised*:** ***The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-08-23-COM-Exemption-List-Dept-Parks-Rec-2026-08-14.pdf
Discussion: Typographical edits requested by Jay Stone included fixing "hand line" to "handling" (page 1), altering "less that" to "less than" and "unities" to "units" (page 3), changing "where the is" to "where there is" (page 7), changing "3,500 feet" to "square feet" (page 9), adding a

missing "t" to "height" (page 10), and addressing a singular/plural structural discrepancy on page 11.

Action: Motion to concur with edits by Jay Stone, seconded by Mark Gordon. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

D. Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Public Works 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/2026-08-23-COM-Exemption-List-Dept-Public-Works-2026-08-06.pdf
Discussion: Jay Stone highlighted a missing comma on page 4, a typo in "installation" on page 5, and duplicate numbering constraints on pages 7 and 8. On page 10, the council asked to swap an "AND" for an "OR" to ensure the three criteria under item 3 read as disjunctive options. Tom Ochwat (Water Dept.) highlighted an overarching spelling error for the word "installation" across the text.

Action: Motion to concur with corrections by Jay Stone, seconded by Mark Gordon. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

E. Proposed – County of Maui, Department of Water Supply's 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/2026-08-23-COM-Exemption-List-Dept-Water-Supply-2026-08-06.pdf
Discussion: Jay Stone flagged "less that" (page 2), "unites" (page 2), "units" pluralization (page 3), un-hyphenated "subsurface" parameters (page 3), "where there is" (page 5), a missing forward-slash in "and/or" (page 5), linear feet constraints shifted to square feet (page 7), a missing "t" in height (page 8), a "CBDG" correction (page 9), and changing "unites" to "dwelling units" (page 9).

Action: Motion to concur with adjustments by Jay Stone, seconded by Mark Gordon. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

***Please note that these Department lists are intended to supersede the County of Maui Exemption List, concurred with on January 10, 2007 ("COM List"), only for the specified Department, and the County intends to continue to rely on the COM List for all other Departments until superseded by a separate list specific to that Department.**

F. Proposed – State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Agricultural Resource Management Division: ***The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-08-23-Dept-of-Agriculture-ARMD-Exemption-List-2026-08-07.pdf
Discussion: Jay Stone requested removing an accidental period after "street lights" on page 2, updating a cross-reference error to read "Type 6" instead of "Type 8" on page 12, and altering "as provide for" to "as provided for". Public comments were briefly discussed, and the agency's generated feedback was ruled comprehensive and adequate.

Action: Motion to concur with changes by Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, seconded by Jay Stone. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

G. **Proposed –State of Hawaii, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR):** ***The EAC will discuss and evaluate the proposed exemption list. [Information and Possible Action Item]***
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/2026-09-08-Dept-of-Corractions-and-Rehabilitation-Exemption-List-2026-08-24.pdf
Discussion: Due to corporate ties with the agency's chosen planning consultant (Bowers & Kubota), Vice Chair Jay Stone recused himself from all discussion and voting. Chief Planner Hal Alejandro explained the pressing operational necessity of navigating these guidelines to build a new kitchen facility at the Women's Correctional Facility. Chair Michele Lefebvre pointed out a typo referencing Chapter 34 rather than 343 on page 2, alongside layout indentation cleanups on page 15 to differentiate small-scale or large-scale grading thresholds across parts.

Action: Motion to publish the revised list into its statutory 14-day public comment window by Mark Gordon, seconded by Dawn Hegger-Nordblom. Motion passed (4-0-0, 1 Recusal).

4. **Review of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Repeal of Chapter 11-200.1 and Adoption of Chapter 15-20 Hawaii Administrative Rules. The Environmental Review Program staff will give an update on the progress of the rule amendments. [Information Item]**
http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EC_Meetings/Proposed-HAR-15-20-Rules-DRAFT-REVISIONS-27-May-2026.pdf
OPSD Director Mary Alice Evans stated that OPSD and ERP staff are continuing their regulatory cross-examination of the administrative rule alignment process regarding structural changes in Chapters 341 and 343. A comprehensive operational report will be formally deferred to the next regular meeting session.

5. **Announcements - Next Meeting TBD.** ***The EAC members will discuss the date of the next meeting and possible agenda items. [Information Item]***
Chair Dawn Hegger-Nordblom requested ideas for informational sessions to educate the public next year. Jay Stone proposed hosting a public presentation regarding cesspool conversions, noting he could coordinate with colleagues and the Department of Health's Wastewater Branch. Mary Alice Evans requested integrating the Chapter 343 environmental assessment (EA) angle into this discussion. Jay Stone also raised the city's pending stormwater utility structural configurations on Oahu as another key topic for consideration. The upcoming EAC Annual Report needs to be processed and submitted to DBEDT before the end of the year. The next EAC Meeting will be determined by a Doodle Poll.

6. **Public Comments.** ***Participants may provide comments about issues not on the agenda for possible inclusion on a future agenda. [Information Item]***
No public comments.

7. **Adjournment**
Chair Dawn Hegger-Nordblom adjourned the meeting at 2:34 PM.