

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
WRITTEN SUMMARY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

[\(HYPERLINK TO WEBEX RECORDING OF MEETING\)](#)

The Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2020, 1:33 p.m., remote and at Mission Memorial Auditorium, 550 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii. Chair Lee presided.

Pursuant to HRS 92-3.5 and Proclamations issued by Governor David Ige relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Commission members may be participating in the meeting by interactive technology from remote locations.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Brian Lee, Chair
Arthur B. Tolentino [remote]
Ken K. Hayashida
Gifford K. F. Chang
Ryan Kamo

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Steve S. C. Lim]
[prior notice given]
Aki Marceau
[recused; prior notice given]
8th and 9th seats [vacant]

DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL: Mele Coleman
(Advisory to the Commission) [remote]

COMMISSION STAFF: Gloria Takara
Secretary-Hearings Reporter

DIT STAFF: Gregory Cieless, WebEx Management

DPP REPRESENTATIVE: Katia Balassiano, Land Use Permits Division Chief

[30:21]

I. CALL TO ORDER

[30:51]

II. ROLL CALL

[34:08]

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 6, 2021 and February 17, 2021 meetings, as previously circulated, to be approved by the Commission.

[34:30]

[It was moved by Tolentino and seconded by Chang that the minutes of the January 6, 2021 and February 17, 2021 meetings, as previously circulated, to be approved by the Commission. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.] [Note: The January 6, 2021 transcripts was previously circulated to Commissioner Tolentino prior to the March 17, 2021 meeting.]

[35:10]

IV. FOR ACTION

Adoption of Applicant's First Amended Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision and Order, Approving the Application for State Special Use Permit File No. 2020/SUP-6, AES West Oahu Solar, LLC; Exhibit "A" and Certificate of Service, dated February 18, 2021.

[No discussions and no appearances]

[36:45]

[It was moved by Chang and seconded by Kamo to close discussion for Item No. 4. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.]

[37:49]

[It was moved by Hayashida and seconded by Chang that the Adoption of Applicant's First Amended Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision and Order, Approving the Application for State Special Use Permit File No. 2020/SUP-6, AES West Oahu Solar, LLC; Exhibit "A" and Certificate of Service, dated February 18, 2021, be granted. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.]

[38:07]

V. PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing notice published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on Friday, March 5, 2021. The Commission will take action on each agenda item after public hearing is closed.

A REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 21, REVISED ORDINANCES OF HONOLULU 1990 (The Land Use Ordinance), RELATING TO WIND MACHINES

The City Council initiated a proposal to amend the Land Use Ordinance (LUO), relating to wind machines that will require wind machines with a capacity of 100 kilowatts or more to be setback five-miles from all property lines.

Resolution No. 19-305, proposes an amendment to the LUO that will require wind machines with a capacity of 100 kilowatts or more to be setback five-miles from all property lines.

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) proposes “Bill A” as an alternative to the amendment proposed by Resolution No. 19-305. Bill A’s proposed amendment increases the current setback to a distance of 1,500 feet or a distance equal to no less than two feet for each foot of height, measured from the highest vertical extension of the system, whichever is greater, from all property lines. The DPP recommends approval of Bill A.

[39:20 – 44:36] Katia Balassiano, DPP Land Use Permits Division Chief

[44:46 – 51:09] Questioning by Commissioners

[52:48] Public Testimony

- 1) Michael Pickens
- 2) Choon James
- 3) Matthew Gonser, Exec. Director, City Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency

[1:06:16] Questioning by Commissioners

- 4) District 2 Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi
- 5) Henry Curtis, Exec. Director, Life of the Land

[1:14:08] Questioning by Chair Lee

- 6) Sandra-Ann Wong
- 7) Ryan Hurley
- 8) Dawn Bruns
- 9) Sunny Unga
- 10) Uila Fotu Vendiola
- 11) Brenda McCallum
- 12) Greg Shimokawa, Hawaiian Electric Company

[1:40:00] Questioning by Chair Lee

[1:40:20] Questioning by Chair Lee to DPP Katia Balassiano

- 13) Kathleen Casey Connors

[1:44:34] Dawn Takeuchi-Apuna, DPP Deputy Director
Questioning by Chair Lee

- 14) Michael Richards, Director, Science Camps of America
- 15) Ramsey Calimlim

[No discussions]

[1:52:55]

[It was moved by Chang and seconded by Kamo that the public testimony portion of the public hearing be closed. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.]

[1:53:00]

[It was moved by Chang and seconded by Kamo to continue the public hearing, a request for amendments to Chapter 21, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 (The Land Use Ordinance), Relating to Wind Machines for 90 days.]

[1:53:48] Discussion and/or Questioning by Commissioners

[2:10:05] Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi

[2:11:30] DPP Katia Balassiano

[2:12:51]

[It was moved by Chang and seconded by Kamo to amend the previous motion to continue the public hearing, a request for amendments to Chapter 21, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 (The Land Use Ordinance), Relating to Wind Machines, from 90 days to 60 days. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.]

[2:13:47]

[It was moved by Chang and seconded by Hayashida that the public hearing be closed. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.]

[2:14:24]

ADJOURNMENT

[It was moved by Chang and seconded by Hayashida that the Planning Commission's March 17, 2021 meeting be adjourned. Motion was unanimously carried, 5:0.]

There being no further business before the Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Lee at approximately 3:18 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct summary of the proceedings, prepared to the best of my ability, of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Gloria Takara
Secretary-Hearings Reporter
Planning Commission