

# OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY



## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

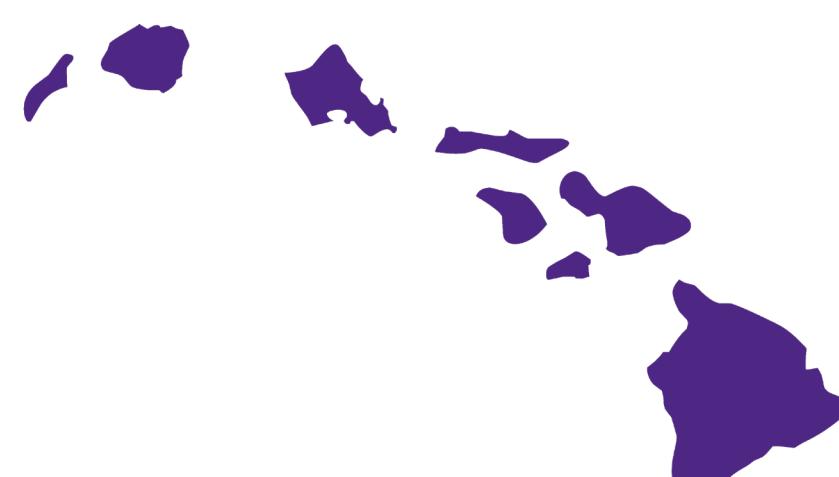
The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (“OCCSR”) was established through a City Charter Amendment to address all climate change issues. The City Charter tasked the OCCSR to seek local information from scientists and track climate change science and potential impacts on City and County of Honolulu (“City”) facilities, coordinate actions and policies of departments within the City to increase community preparedness, protect economic activity, protect the coastal areas and beaches, develop resilient infrastructure in response to the effects from climate change, and integrate sustainable and environmental values into City plans, programs, and policies.

The OCCSR started to address this prodigious task as a staff of one, but it slowly grew into a staff of eleven that oversees six main program areas: Climate Action; Climate Adaptation; Climate Resilience and Equity; Hazard Mitigation and Long-Term Disaster Recovery; Food Security and Sustainability; and Policy, Outreach and Communications. Addressing climate change and protecting our future is a challenging task. However, the OCCSR has undertaken great steps, including:

- Developing, and creating policies and programs that advance resiliency goals and working with decision-makers to adopt and fund them;
- Producing the City’s first, and now annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory;
- Advancing the State’s Sea Level Rise Viewer and City Climate Change Commission’s guidance;
- With community volunteers, collecting the data for producing the web map of a Community Heat Assessment;
- Recording and celebrating community-wide and community-led tree plantings; and
- Communicating and engaging with the public, professional sectors, non-governmental organizations, and governmental agencies toward the development of programs, policies, and initiatives at the heart of the planning profession.

In addition, as if they aren’t tasked with a challenging mandate, the OCCSR team have taken upon themselves the charge of educating future workers and providing the possibility of gaining practical experience by hosting and mentoring AmeriCorps VISTA service members, university interns and City and university fellows.

The APA Hawai‘i jury acknowledged that OCCSR within a few years from its establishment has managed to mobilize the various State and City departments and agencies, and engaged the community to produce, among many other key guiding documents, the O‘ahu Resilience Strategy. The OCCSR acts as the central office that the community and the different State and City departments can consult when implementing and constructing various projects. In addition, through its continued public engagement, education, and policy development it has elevated the public’s knowledge and awareness regarding climate change and its effect in our community. The OCSSR has also helped in pushing for policies that advance the sustainability and resiliency goals. In short, the OCCSR has proven to be a public agency that has completed exceptional work and has increased awareness of the planning principles and guidelines regarding sustainability and climate change.



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