

# Statewide Information Sharing Sessions Outcomes

---

In August 2019, the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning Coastal Zone Management Program hosted eight information sharing sessions on six islands.



# *Mahalo!*

I am grateful to all the individuals that attended the in-person sharing sessions or completed the online survey to gather input for the public outreach portion of this update of the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan. The Plan is an important component of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program and will be used to drive efforts with our agency partners.

It was a privilege and an honor to have hosted statewide events that afforded us the opportunity to meet with you during 8 sessions across the State. Our discussions elicited your input about the challenges that you see facing the environment in your community, and the overarching themes are identified in this report. Concurrently, individual interviews were conducted with a broad representation of contributors to inform how the Plan might be improved upon and guided by traditional ecological knowledge.

I cannot express enough, the appreciation for your choices to contribute time and effort to help us to develop this Plan update. We look forward to sharing the finalized Plan with you next Spring 2020.

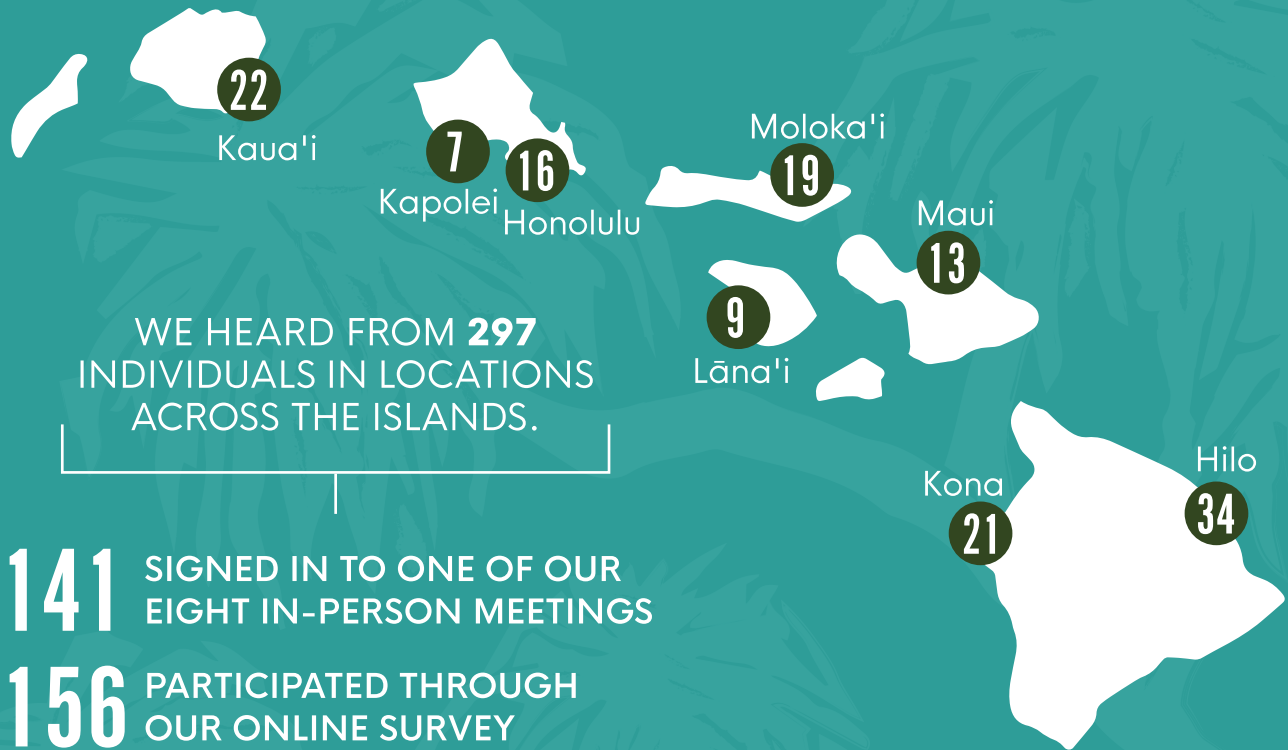
Mahalo from the Coastal Zone Management Team!

*Justine Nihipali*

Justine Nihipali

Planning Program Manager | Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program





**141** SIGNED IN TO ONE OF OUR EIGHT IN-PERSON MEETINGS

**156** PARTICIPATED THROUGH OUR ONLINE SURVEY

The Statewide Information Sharing Sessions were a series of public meetings held to gain insights into coastal zone management issues that have been observed or experienced by people around the state.

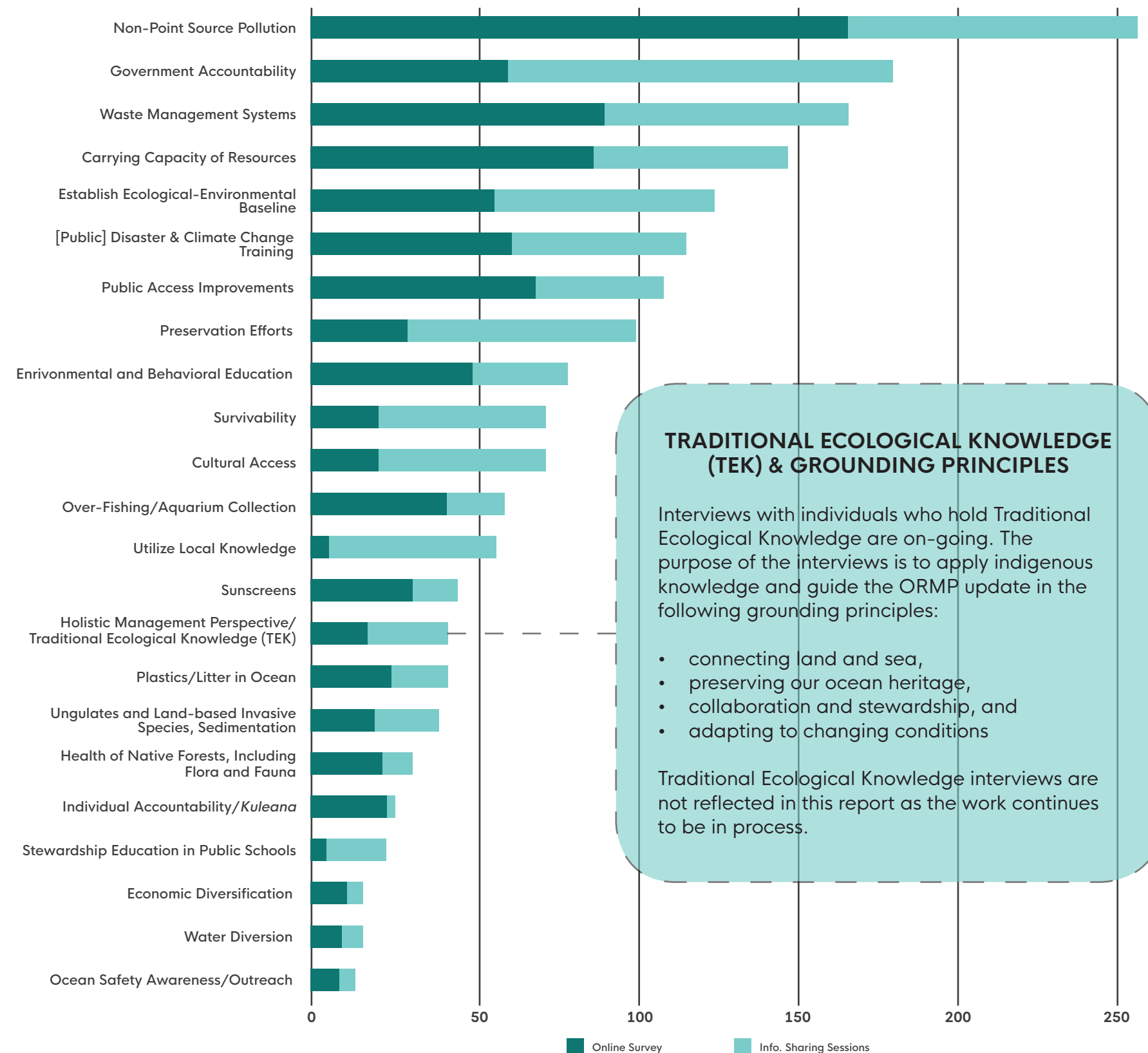
The Sharing Sessions were designed to provide a reciprocal exchange of information. The Office of Planning Coastal Zone Management Program discussed their role in resource management and shared the progress made on priority issues since the last ORMP update. The meetings provided a space for individuals around the State to share their concerns on environmental issues, from mauka to makai. The information sessions also served as a component of the stakeholder and public engagement towards the development of the Coastal Zone Management Program's Section 309 assessment and strategy for FY2021-2025.

Eight (8) information Sharing Sessions were held between August 19th and 30th, 2019. Two meetings were held on each of the islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i, and one meeting was held on each of the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i. In total, 141 people attended the Information Sharing Sessions.

Concurrently, an on-line survey was available to those who could not attend an in-person meeting. Survey questions mirrored the topics discussed at the Information Sharing Sessions. An additional 156 people remotely provided input via the online survey.

## THE MOST COMMON\* THEMES, IN ORDER OF MOST TO LEAST CITED, WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Reduce non-point source pollution, including agricultural and urban chemical, nutrient, and sediment runoff.
2. Build enforcement capacity and prioritize public trust in the transparency and accountability of government agencies and offices.
3. Upgrade, improve, and/or adapt (for climate change and sea level rise) waste management systems, including septic, sewer, cesspools, undersea injection wells, and/or sewer processing facilities.
4. Evaluate current and historical negative impacts of overuse, overcrowding, or exceedance of a place or resource's potential or perceived "carrying capacity."
5. Assess resources lost or damaged, assess areas where restoration is needed, establish an ecological environmental baseline.
6. Increase [public] Disaster & climate change training, outreach, and community capacity building. Expand number of shelters.
7. Maintain, expand and/or restore public access to shoreline and ocean resources.
8. Increase reciprocity or balance between economic interests and ecological resource protection or preservation efforts.
9. Promote environmental or behavioral education and awareness outreach; stricter management or restriction of visitor industry and activities.
10. Foster passive survivability in preparation for natural disasters and/or climate change and sea level rise, such as building food/water or energy security.



### TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE (TEK) & GROUNDING PRINCIPLES

Interviews with individuals who hold Traditional Ecological Knowledge are on-going. The purpose of the interviews is to apply indigenous knowledge and guide the ORMP update in the following grounding principles:

- connecting land and sea,
- preserving our ocean heritage,
- collaboration and stewardship, and
- adapting to changing conditions

Traditional Ecological Knowledge interviews are not reflected in this report as the work continues to be in process.

\*Themes were deduced from the data using open and axial coding methods for qualitative data, and the coded themes were then tallied and totaled across all questions and datasets.

## WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 2013?

Several themes were not components of the 2013 ORMP, including: public trust and accountability, waste management systems, carrying capacity, and resource loss. These issues signal a significant shift in public awareness and opinion since the last ORMP Update (2013). The most commonly heard concern, non-point source pollution, has evolved since its inclusion in the 2013 plan. Previously, watershed management concerns extended to the control of non-native alien plants, animals, and fires. Presently, concerns over runoff from active and fallow agricultural sites, such as chemicals, nutrients, and sediment, are a major public concern. Concerns over other commonly discussed themes, including the maintenance and restoration of coastal public access and the impacts of Hawaii's visitor industry, have amplified with the effects of global climate change and increasing tourist numbers.

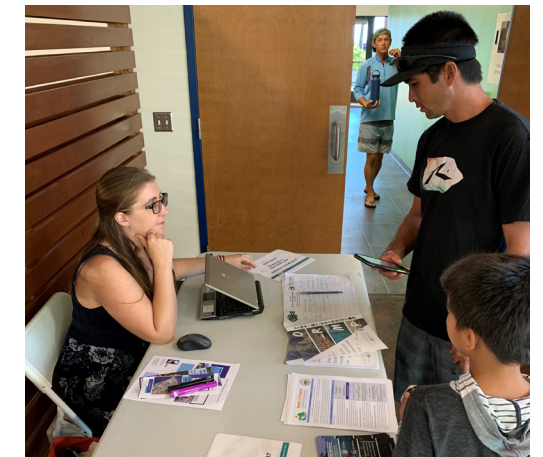
The public feedback received in the 2019 ORMP Update Information Sharing Sessions and online survey suggests that consideration of these topics by policy makers is critical in order to account for environmental change; advances in scientific research and discoveries; shifts in public opinion and awareness; and global events or movements that have taken place since the last ORMP update in 2013.

### Emerging issues include:

- Decision-makers should utilize local knowledge
- Sunscreens (and associated impacts to reefs and marine ecosystems)
- Desire for a more holistic management perspective
- Integrate ecosystem/stewardship into public compulsory education
- Diversify the economy to include more sustainable industries, ie. move toward local agriculture and production methods rather than reliance on imported goods
- Public (and visitor) ocean safety awareness, training and/or outreach
- Water diversion
- Over-fishing (either commercial or individual) and aquarium collection

### Continuing themes include:

- Plastic trash or pollution in oceans (mentioned in definitions of 'Marine debris' - MP #4 Marine Resources)
- Foster an individual sense of environmental stewardship, a sense of or personal responsibility, accountability, or environmental consequence for individual actions and habits, kuleana (MP #8 Training, Education, and Awareness)



*Cesspools, inadequate wastewater systems especially in high occupancy transient vacation houses that have aging cesspools close to the ocean and beachfront landscaping that uses pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers and imported soil amendments that run off into the ocean.*



*Run off that goes directly from the land with pollutants into the ocean, perhaps natural filtration systems and other approaches that would slow water run off could help.*



*Hawai'i is 100% dependent on tourism and we'll collapse if we don't take care of the resources that support tourism.*



## How will public input be incorporated in the ORMP update?

- Public input has been shared with ORMP partners (state and federal agencies, and counties)
- Frequently heard community concerns have been reviewed with agency efforts to identify ORMP Update focus areas
- Opportunities to apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge to focus area issues will be sought.

### Considerations for selection of focus areas:



Is it a statewide issue?



Is there a management gap?



Is it distinct from or complementary to other efforts?



Is it a multi-agency collaborative effort?

### What's Next:

#### NOVEMBER 2019

Identify recommended focus areas for ORMP Update

#### DECEMBER 2019

Review recommended focus areas with Plan Partners and the Council on Ocean Resources

#### JANUARY 2020

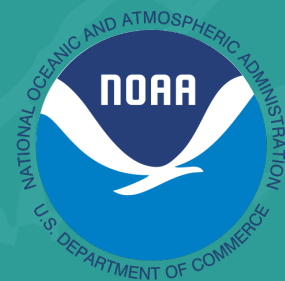
Complete an in-house draft ORMP Update

#### MARCH 2020

Finalize ORMP Update & share with Plan Partners and the public



**CZM Hawaii**  
Coastal Zone Management



*"A publication of the Hawai'i Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program, pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA17NOS4190102 and Award No. NA18NOS4190082, funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Department of Commerce. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies."*