

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Honolulu, Hawaii

October 10, 2014

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF
THE STATE OF HAWAII MAKAI WATCH PROGRAM
AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE STATE MAKAI WATCH COORDINATOR TO
FACILITATE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT PROCESS WITH COMPLIANT
MAKAI WATCH SITE PROGRAMS

State of Hawaii Makai Watch Program

The Makai Watch (MW) concept was proposed in early 2000s by coastal communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs and also often referred to as non-profit organizations) interested in playing a role in stewardship of marine and coastal resources. The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) received the proposal enthusiastically and MW was born. MW consisted of three mandatory components: Outreach and Education, Human Use and Biological Monitoring, and Observation and Incident Reporting.

During the development of MW it was suggested by DLNR that the program should extend to Mauka areas. For several years the program was referred to as Mauka Makai Watch. However, collaborators have recommended that there is not sufficient capacity to maintain the program for both Mauka and Makai areas. As a result the program is focusing on marine and coastal areas.

Since the formation of the MW Program, as many as fifteen coastal communities have initiated MW Site Programs. Several of these MW Site Programs have achieved significant success in ocean stewardship. The MW Site Programs have resulted in greater public awareness of the ecology and status of near-shore marine environments, cultural history and importance of MW sites, importance of ocean stewardship, regulations at the MW site, benefits of proactive management, and many other aspects of the MW area. Several of these programs remain very active with a regular outreach and observation and incident reporting activities taking place in the field. These Site Programs are the core of the MW effort and have advanced the program in major ways over the past several years. Other Site Programs are currently inactive for various reasons. However, community enthusiasm for enhanced stewardship remains strong among most, if not all of Hawai'i's coastal communities. Thus MW remains a priority for the State, coastal communities, and supporting organizations. The State of Hawai'i DLNR greatly values the participation of citizens in ocean stewardship and supports MW as a very important aspect of this involvement. It is now more important than ever to develop and implement successful

Makai Watch Site Programs given increases in the human population, expanded land use, and other growing threats to marine resources.

In 2010, it was determined that government and community understanding of MW objectives, guidelines and standards and the relationship between the State, communities, and NGOs either differed or had never been fully determined or agreed upon. It was suggested by various organizations involved in MW that explicit standards and guidelines should be created to streamline processing and communication between organizations and the State DLNR. The initial focus for standards development was on the Observation and Incident Reporting (OIR) component. A collaboration of the MW Advisory Group (formerly referred to as the MW Steering Committee), the DLNR Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE), the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Hawai'i Community Stewardship Network (HCSN) and others developed a set of standards for OIR. While the OIR Standards were not officially approved by the DLNR Chair or Land Board, they were generally agreed to by DOCARE and formed the basis for a MW OIR Training, which was provided in several sites.

In order to build on the development of OIR standards and develop a comprehensive set of standards for a State of Hawai'i Makai Watch Program (MW Program or MW), a Strategic Planning process was coordinated late in 2012 and early 2013. With the logistical support of Conservation International (CI), the MW Advisory Group, DLNR, DOCARE, DAR, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (the sanctuary), Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA), formerly HCSN, and Site Programs participated in the Strategic Planning Process. The Strategic Planning Process consisted of: 1) A preparatory phase including a survey of the status of the MW Program; 2) A three day Strategic Planning workshop; and 3) Follow up consultation to review and agree on the outcomes of the process. A report covering the preparatory phase and the recommendations from the workshop is available from Risa Minato at: charissa@hawaii.edu.

The "STATE OF HAWAII MAKAI WATCH PROGRAM STRATEGY" provides a draft 2013-2016 Strategy for the MW Program. This includes a comprehensive strategy and set of standards that the collaborators felt are necessary for an effective MW program. The intent is that this strategy and standards will be formally approved by the State and fully adopted by the State and partner organizations to form the core of a formalized State of Hawai'i MW Program.

The MW Program has been and will remain a collaborative program whereby citizens and NGOs systematically assist the DLNR in its mandate to manage marine and coastal resources. MW will continue to be guided by an Advisory Group (formally referred to as a Steering Committee) and will include two mandatory components: Awareness Raising and Outreach (ARO) and Observation and Incident Reporting (OIR). The third component, Biological and Human Use Monitoring (BHUM) was previously mandatory but is now optional. However, if feasible over time, the development of a BHUM program is highly encouraged. DAR and/or other supporting organizations may provide guidance and assistance with development of BHUM programs.

To enhance organization, safety, and communications, MW Site Programs (Site Programs - as they will now be referred to) must be sponsored by legally incorporated organizations.

MW Volunteers will be volunteers of those organizations. Site Programs will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State to formalize their collaboration. The advantages of obtaining State recognition are:

- 1) DOCARE and DAR can better manage and enforce resource regulations given the information shared by the Site Programs. This will result in improved stewardship.
- 2) DOCARE, DAR and Site Programs have a foundation to build the necessary relationships to mutually improve the protection and communication concerning the management of resources and cherished regions where the community is organized and engaged.
- 3) DLNR will assist the MW programs to access training and mentoring in MW activities.
- 4) Site Programs can use the State of Hawai'i MW name.
- 5) As requested, DLNR will endorse recognized Site Programs that are in good standing as they seek financing and other support to operate their programs.

DLNR will employ a Statewide MW Coordinator (Statewide Coordinator) to coordinate the program and to assist Site Programs to access information, training, and technical assistance on the standards and other aspects of the program. A guidebook is being developed as a resource for Site Programs. The 2010 training program will be updated to incorporate this new information including a 'Ike Kai curriculum, focused on Awareness Raising and Outreach techniques. The MW Strategy and Standards will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the program including improved communication among collaborators to enhance resource management and better the condition of marine and coastal resources of the State of Hawai'i.

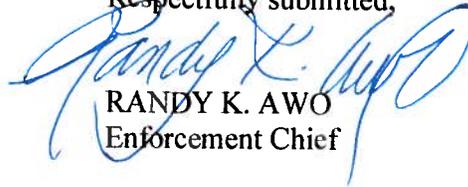
The approval of the State of Hawai'i Makai Watch program, is subject to the review of the Makai Watch Strategy and Standards by the Attorney General and successful completion of any adjustments to the program based on that review. This approval would allow the State Makai Watch coordinator to formally engage recognized Makai Watch site programs in compliance with the Makai Watch program standards to apply for a Memorandum of Agreement with the DOCARE, DAR, and where applicable DOBOR. Once the application is finalized, the MW Site Program, State MW coordinator, DOCARE, and DAR, will present their MOA for approval by the DLNR to be recognized as an official State of Hawai'i Makai Watch Program. As part of the compliance requirements, Makai Watch volunteers will be trained in both the DOCARE Observation and Incident Reporting and the 'Ike Kai curriculum, provided by DOCARE, DAR, and partner organizations.

RECOMMENDATION:

DOCARE recommends the Board of Land and Natural Resources authorize the department to:

1. Approve the State of Hawai'i Makai Watch program, subject to the review of the Makai Watch Strategy and Standards by the Attorney General and successful completion of any adjustments to the program based on that review.
2. Authorize the State Makai Watch Coordinator to facilitate the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) process with compliant Makai Watch Site programs for approval by the BLNR.

Respectfully submitted,



RANDY K. AWO
Enforcement Chief

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, Jr., Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources