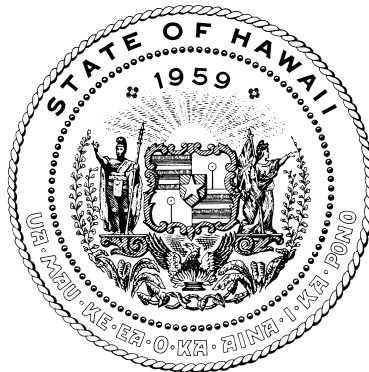


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**ACTIVITIES OF THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 2007**



**Submitted on behalf of the
Kaneohe Bay Regional Council by the**

**State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources**

In Response To

Section 200D-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes

**Honolulu, Hawaii
November 2007**

ACTIVITIES OF THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (Council) was established by Chapter 200D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to:

- (1) Facilitate the implementation of the master plan as it relates to ocean use activities;
- (2) Review and periodically amend the master plan as it relates to ocean use activities;
- (3) Serve as a central coordinative clearinghouse of public and private activities in Kaneohe Bay, and as a repository and disseminator of information on the bay;
- (4) Facilitate productive interaction between users of the bay and the general public in order to develop a common vision and make recommendations for public policy related to the bay;
- (5) Recommend research, studies, data collection, and planning activities designed to provide additional information on Kaneohe Bay, with particular reference to the specific needs of the bay, and to publicize the results thereof, to the extent that these functions do not duplicate or supplant activities provided by other state or county agencies;
- (6) Advise and make recommendations to the State and the county on matters regarding the use of Kaneohe Bay by the general public, marine research programs, and commercial ocean use activities, including legislative matters;
- (7) Develop short- and long-term goals based on the master plan, resources, and programs for Kaneohe Bay;
- (8) Educate the public and users of Kaneohe Bay on the problems and needs of the bay through public education programs;
- (9) Serve as the public advocate for Kaneohe Bay;
- (10) Initiate and maintain contact with public, private, county, and state organizations, agencies, and individuals engaging in activities in Kaneohe Bay;
- (11) Establish a Kaneohe Bay fishing panel to monitor fishing activities in the bay, as recommended in the master plan as it relates to ocean use activities; and
- (12) Hold annual public hearings until 1999 on the status of the implementation of the master plan as it relates to ocean use activities and research being conducted by the Hawaii institute of marine biology.

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 200D-5, HRS, which requests the Council to report to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities.

MEETINGS

As required by law, the Council held public meetings during the year, on January 3, 2007, April 4, 2007, July 11, 2007 and October 3, 2007. Matters of business discussed during these meetings are reflected in the agendas and the minutes for same, copies of which are available through the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR). All meetings were conducted as scheduled but there was no quorum for the January or April meetings.

SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL

As in prior years, DOBOR provided the Council with administrative support for its meetings.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS

The following are the significant presentations, discussions and actions taken by the Council in 2007. Some of the most significant issues discussed during year included the proposed amendments to Chapters 13-231 and 13-256, Hawaii Administrative Rules, and violence occurring at *Ahu o Laka* (the "Sandbar").

1. **Informational Presentations:**

The following presentations were made at Council meetings:

- a. **January 3, 2007 - Presentation by Reef Check Hawaii president David Krupp, Ph.D., on Reef Check Hawaii.** Reef Check Hawaii is a not-for-profit, 501 (c) 3 status pending, that promotes environmental awareness through training community members in coral reef surveying methods. These community members volunteer their time to collect data regarding the status of Hawaii's coral reef environments. The data collected are entered into an international database which is used to track the health of coral reefs world-wide. Reef Check Hawaii promotes coral reef conservation and protection by engaging the community.
- b. **April 4, 2007 - Presentation by University of Hawaii fisheries biologist Charles Birkeland, Ph.D., on "The Effects of predation by roi on native fish populations."** The presentation covered recent field research on introduced species and their effects on native reef fish populations. The point was made that scientific field research needs to accompany all proposed rules in order to accurately reflect and align what is actually going on in the environment with rules that take that data into account.
- c. **July 11, 2007 - Presentation by DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) Officer Guy Chang on lay net fishing rules.** DOCARE Officer Chang summarized some of the new regulations governing the use of lay nets for fishing.

2. **Concerns and Issues:**

The following concerns and issues were brought up at Council meetings:

- a. **Proposed Amendments to Chapters 13-231 and 13-256, Hawaii Administrative Rules.** The draft rules incorporating elements of the 1992 Kaneohe Bay Master Plan were presented and discussed. Some variances between the draft rules and Master Plan were noted. The Council plans to make a recommendation regarding these rules during the January 2008 meeting.
- b. **Violence at *Ahu o Laka*, the "Sandbar."** A brawl on Labor Day, September 3, 2007, led to renewed concerns over alcohol-related disorderly conduct at *Ahu o Laka*. The general consensus of both the community and the Council was that new rules do not need to be adopted and that enforcement of existing rules should be sufficient to deal with these problems. The Council also expressed the opinion that there needs to be a greater DOCARE presence at *Ahu o Laka*. DLNR requested that the community and Council provide suggestions for how to prevent similar occurrences in the future.
- c. **New Lay Net Rules.** A number of community members and several of the Council members are concerned about the new lay net rules, both in terms of their clarity and their enforceability.

- d. **Filling of Vacancies on the Council.** The Council has suffered by not having complete representation by all of its constituents. However, by the October 3, 2007 meeting, all vacancies had been filled.

3. **Resolutions Adopted**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Council during 2007 (details in the meeting minutes).

- a. **January 3, 2007 – Establishment of a DOCARE Substation at Heeia State Park.** The Council adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of a DOCARE substation at Heeia State Park.
- b. **October 3, 2007 – Increase Funds for Enforcement.** The Council adopted a resolution recommending increased funds for DOCARE enforcement activities.

Respectfully submitted,
David Krupp, Chairman
Kaneohe Bay Regional Council