

April 26, 2023

To: Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

From: Justine Nihipali  
Program Manager  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Coastal Zone Management

Subject: CZM Program Report to MACZAC

### **National Initiatives**

#### **National CZM Program Funding**

The CZM Program is expected to receive its allocated funding in the amount of \$2,705,500 for FY23.

#### **CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**

The CZM Program has the privilege of administering IIJA funds that support the goals and intent of the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

CZM solicited for LOI and submitted the maximum of three (3) to NOAA.

- Competitive: One of the 3 projects submitted was selected to submit a full application. Announcement of funding was made on April 21, 2023. CZM facilitated the project through the process in support of CORAL.
- Capacity Building: CZM has received its first year of program capacity funding to coordinate and administer IIJA projects over 3 years. Funds will be used to establish and support a position in the CZM program.

### **Hawaii CZM Program**

- 8 of 11 positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)
  - Position Vacancies: Planner V, 2 Project Analysts (in recruitment).
- 1 intern position
  - The graduate intern is supporting Act 178, SLH 2021/FA#1 Implementation
- CZM Website updated periodically (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/>). Working on improving communications for consistency and currency. Analyzing existing website to make it more efficient and streamlined.

#### **Section 312 Evaluation**

- Notified that Hawaii CZM will be part of the NOAA evaluation cycle in federal FY24.
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

#### **Section 309 Assessment and Strategy**

- No new activity
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

#### **Program Changes**

- Submitted proposed program changes with public notice to NOAA OCM on October 12, 2022. NOAA COM issued its approval, dated January 31, 2023, on the Hawaii CZM Program request. As of January 31, 2023, the enforceable policies identified in the Table of Approved Changes are applicable in reviewing federal actions pursuant to the federal consistency requirements of the CZM Act and its implementing regulation. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

## Ocean Resources Management Plan

- CZM Staff completed work with Esri to build additional features to incorporate into the ORMP Dashboard, including an Esri Survey123 survey template and accompanying dashboard to be used for future community surveys.
- CZM Staff are reassessing the meeting and governance structure for the ORMP (i.e. Council on Ocean Resources, Coordinated Working Group, Action Teams) to account for shift to ORMP implementation projects and an increase in requests for partners to participate on Action Teams (project-specific).
- Upcoming Coordinated Working Group Meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2023 (in-person with virtual option). Meeting objectives include ORMP project status updates, debrief on 2023 Legislative Session, reconnect with Working Group members.

## **Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards**

### Recently completed projects:

- The *Menu of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategies Suitable for Hawai'i Coastlines* project was completed November 2022. This project's objective was to create an informational resource highlighting the range of potential coastal adaptation strategies appropriate for Hawai'i. Strategies spanned from gray to green infrastructure and are implementable at parcel to regional level scales. Information for each strategy includes pros and cons, relative cost, ideal siting, relevant regulatory agencies. The deliverables include a StoryMap, Adaptation Strategy Info Cards (PDFs), and interactive map. CZM is currently developing an outreach plan for disseminating resources to regulatory agencies, legislators, and the general public. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- The *Developing a Scoping Study for a Regional Shoreline Strategy Specific to the State of Hawai'i* project was completed in February 2023. This scoping study was an exploratory step towards a regional shoreline management strategy for the State of Hawai'i and resulted in a proposed methodology for delineating shoreline regions for the purpose of facilitating planning and management decisions that consider how environmental factors interact with the natural and built environment. CZM is currently doing final reviews of the final deliverables, which include a Final Report and StoryMap, and developing an outreach strategy for sharing the deliverables with relevant stakeholders. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

### On-going projects:

- CZM's NOAA Coastal Fellow began her 2-year fellowship on August 1, 2022. The Fellow's project focuses on the nexus of coastal hazards and social vulnerability in Hawai'i and aims to better understand and identify communities with higher risk to coastal hazards due to socio-economic and demographic factors. The StoryMap explaining the project background, outcomes, and uses will be housed on the ORMP Dashboard (StoryMap Link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d1c1181d2d98404cb09d22ffe4b9892b>). An inventory of Social Vulnerability factors that relate to coastal hazards has been created, and data representing those factors were collected for an initial spatial analysis. The results of the initial spatial analysis are being compared with the White House's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to see where there are overlaps or differences. The CEJST is being used by the federal government to identify underserved communities to distribute Justice 40 funds. Comparison of a Social Vulnerability-based analysis with the CEJST is being done to see if there are areas that are underserved that are not identified by the CEJST, and therefore would not receive funding. Coastal Fellow is Kristi Kimura.
- OPSD continues to move forward with the Act 178, SLH 2021 initiative looking at sea level rise and State facilities. OPSD has received and is incorporating feedback from the Act 178 Action

Team on the 2022 Annual Report. SB 1291 requests funding to support the development of a standardized vulnerability assessment. The bill is currently awaiting Conference Committee discussion. A CZM intern was brought onboard in January 2023 to assist with refining the facilities inventory and data used for the sea level rise exposure assessment. The intern is conducting QA/QC on the data, and updating GIS layers to use building footprints. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

- CZM received full funding for a NOAA Project of Special Merit FY22 project proposal to advance Focus Area #1's goal to continue building off the 2019 Managed Retreat Feasibility Study and further develop the State's understanding of managed retreat as an adaptation strategy. This project will analyze the legal and policy impacts of managed retreat in Hawai'i and will identify existing laws, policies, and regulations that either facilitate or hinder managed retreat. The policy analysis will be one of two components in a larger project, *An Analysis of Managed Retreat Strategies in Hawai'i: Policy and Funding Opportunities and Challenges*. The second component will be an analysis of potential funding and financing mechanisms to facilitate managed retreat in Hawai'i and will be supported with CZM Section 309 programmatic funds. CZM is currently reviewing proposals submitted in response to RFP solicitation, and anticipates a contract start date in late May 2023. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

Pending funding:

- CZM submitted one proposal for the NOAA Project of Special Merit FY 23 competition. The proposed project was developed in collaboration with DHHL and will improve cross-agency coordination in coastal management by (i) identifying current areas of inconsistent legal interpretations and challenges for DHHL beneficiaries when navigating county and State requirements for conducting activities in the shoreline area, as well as (ii) identifying potential strategies to address these major challenges and inconsistencies. Award announcements are anticipated to be made in Summer 2023. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

**Focus Area II: Land-based Pollution**

- CZM Staff continue to work towards developing projects under Focus Area II: Land Based Pollution with respect to the CZM-funded report produced by UH Sea Grant: *Frameworks for Nonpoint Source Pollution Management in the Hawaiian Islands*. Due to competing CZM priorities over the last few months, the project development process has been delayed with anticipated prioritization in the upcoming months. Currently, CZM staff are taking steps to update existing planning guidance documents with contemporary non-point source pollution information and best management practices tailored for the Hawaiian Islands and to identifying effective mechanisms to increase land-based pollution reduction considerations among permit and EA/EIS reviewers and the public with these revised resources. CZM Staff contact is (in recruitment and Josh Hekekoa for guidance update).

**Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems**

- Implementation of the Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program continues with the DLNR-DAR 30x30 planning team, project partners, and community groups. The program will increase DLNR-DAR's capacity to monitor culturally valuable nearshore marine resources that are not regularly monitored by the Division and support adaptive management. Due to contracting delays, an 18-month no cost extension to September 30, 2024 was approved by NOAA on March 31, 2023. The team has drafted a monitoring framework, with an initial focus on limu and 'opihi,

and a draft monitoring and communication plan (MCP) with the communities through an iterative process. The MCP will include additional information on data quality management, analysis, and communication of results both internally within the community and externally to DAR. The MCP will provide the foundation for the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement between DLNR-DAR and community entities. The draft monitoring framework is currently being circulated to partners for feedback, and training materials and monitoring protocols are in development. CZM Staff contact is in recruitment, Justine Nihipali.

#### Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- No new activity.
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

#### Climate Change Adaptation

- OPSD Director and CZM Program Manager serve as Commissioners on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.
- The next meeting date is Thursday, May 11, 2023.
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

#### Coastal Hazards

- Section 309 Coastal Hazards Strategy for the *Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping – Maui Island (Phase II) and Kaua'i Island* contract executed January 20, 2021, is underway. The Contractor requested a contract extension, which was approved by NOAA. The new contract end date is September 30, 2023. The second informational meeting for Maui Island (Phase II) and Kauai Island took place on February 16, 2023, and the second technical meeting took place on March 3, 2023. Contractor will be presenting to HACBO, hosted on Kauai, on May 17, 2023. Staff accompanying will be Lisa Webster and Justine Nihipali.
- CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster

#### County CZM Projects

- Hawai'i County has entered into Phases 4 & 5 of the Shoreline-Riparian Setback Project, *Shoreline Pursuit*. This allows continued leveraging of products in pursuit of island wide data and analysis to support coastal management objectives. Phase 4: Contract(s) and MOA were executed (May 2022) for UH-SDAV to continue data collection and processing of data in additional geographies/coastal areas. Phase 5: Contract(s) and MOA were executed (May 2022) for UH-SDAV to continue data processing, analyzing, and modelling findings.
- Request from the County of Hawai'i Planning Department to support Phase 6-7 for services to December 31, 2023 for Shoreline and Riparian Setback Project.

#### Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. Three projects have been completed to meet objectives of Act 15, SLH 2018. CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali.
- Waikiki SLR Resilience and Adaptation Plan. OPSD continues to work on an initiative to develop a SLR plan for Waikiki. UH CDC has been contracted for this initiative utilizing the \$400,000 budgeted by the 2022 Legislature. It will be conducted in collaboration with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting that received \$400,000 in county funding to develop a Waikiki Special Area Plan. This will be supported by the CZM program, with no additional State funding for staff capacity. CZM staff contact is Deb Mendes.
- CZM Program is involved with a number of external groups and activities:
  - Coral Reef Initiative Working Group (DLNR-DAR)
  - Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
  - Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and HISC Resource Committee

- State Hazard Mitigation Forum (HiEMA)
  - Coastal States Organization
  - Fisheries Local Action Strategy Hawai'i (FLASH)
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered.