

July 07, 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 has accepted its cooperative agreement for FY23-24 in the amount of \$2,705,500.

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.

The FY23-24 federal funding opportunity (FFO) was issued on June 13, 2023. CZM will be conducting a “Request for Letters of Intent” process similar to last year. A notice was sent to MACZAC members for distribution to potential interested parties. Current activities are supported by the CZM Program Manager and staff, while the request to establish the position for a CZM IIJA Coordinator is in process.

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

- No new activity.
- CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

Ocean Resources Management Plan

- The Coordinated Working Group Meeting met on Thursday, May 18, 2023 for the first in-person ORMP meeting since 2021 (virtual option was offered). There were 37 individuals in attendance representing 18 different entities. Meeting objectives included ORMP project status updates and a debrief on 2023 Legislative Session. The next Coordinated Working Group Meeting will be held in October 2023.

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. CZM is doing a final review of the resource components and drafting a press release to announce the resource launch. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- The *Developing a Scoping Study for a Regional Shoreline Management Strategy Specific to the State of Hawai'i* project was completed in February 2023. 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 continues the *Regional Shoreline Management Strategy* initiative with Phase 2 – agency outreach and consultation. CZM will be conducting 1:1 meetings with agencies with land use and/or coastal resource-related regulatory and planning responsibilities to share the findings of the Scoping Study, hear partner feedback and concerns, and better understand how a regional management approach might impact/conflict with/support existing regulatory and planning processes. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- 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. 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 initial spatial analysis has been completed and data has been transferred into an online ArcMap. This map will be used to identify areas with a high presence of social vulnerability indicators overlap with coastal hazard exposure areas. 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. The 2023 Legislature allocated \$400,000 of the general budget to OPSD to support the development of a standardized vulnerability assessment. 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. OPSD is planning to reconvene the Act 178 Action Team to provide updates on the outcome of the 2023 Legislative session and request volunteers to assist with the development of an RFP to procure consultant services to develop a standardized vulnerability assessment process. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- CZM is moving forward with executing and encumbering the contract for *An Analysis of Managed Retreat Strategies in Hawai'i: Policy and Funding Opportunities and Challenges*. A project kickoff with the consultant team and CZM is scheduled for the first week of July 2023. This project is comprised of two main components: (1) a legal and policy analysis to identify existing laws, policies, and regulations that either facilitate or hinder managed retreat, and (2) a funding and financing analysis of potential strategies and mechanisms to facilitate managed retreat in Hawai'i. 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, August 10, 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 near completion.

Contractor presented to HACBO, hosted on Kaua‘i, on May 17, 2023, to increase awareness among county building code officials about updates to tsunami design zone maps. A final informational meeting will be scheduled soon, with contract to end September 30, 2023.

- CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster

County CZM

- 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.
- County site visits scheduled July 31-August 1, 2023 for Kaua‘i, August 7-8, 2023 for Big Island, and August 28-29, 2023 for Maui, respectively.

Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. No New Activity. CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali.
- Waikīkī SLR Resilience and Adaptation Plan. OPSD continues to work on an initiative to develop a SLR plan for Waikīkī. 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 Waikīkī 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.