

February 27, 2024

To: Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

From: Debra Mendes
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Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Coastal Zone Management

Subject: CZM Program Report to MACZAC

National Initiatives

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, and one of the three letters of interest we submitted was selected to submit a full proposal in January. We await NOAA's decision.

Hawaii CZM Program

- Position Vacancies: Program Manager, Office Assistant (in recruitment).
- 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.
- Legislative Update

Section 312 Evaluation

- The Hawaii CZM will be part of the NOAA evaluation cycle in federal FY24. The evaluation will cover the period of September 2018 to August 2024. The evaluation committee will conduct interviews with CZM stakeholders during site visit to be held August 19-23, 2024.
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

Ocean Resources Management Plan

- Upcoming ORMP Coordinated Working Group meeting on February 29, 2024. The main agenda items include: (1) a briefing on the 2024 Legislative Session and ORMP-related bills, and (2) lightning talks from the Climate Resilience Collaborative (UH CRC) highlighting their latest coastal modeling initiatives and research. The meeting will be held at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa campus.

Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards

- CZM, with technical support from Sea Engineering, Inc., is conducting Phase 2 (Agency Outreach and Consultation) of the *Regional Shoreline Management Strategy* initiative. CZM is holding 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. So far CZM has met with representatives from DHHL, DOH, DLNR (OCCL & Land Division), DAGS (Land Survey Division), and City & County of Honolulu (DPP, OCCSR, DTS, DDC, Parks). CZM anticipates conducting the agency meetings through April 2024, and a final report compiling agency feedback and recommendations for next steps to be completed by the end of May 2024. 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 of 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 has been used to identify areas with a high presence of social vulnerability indicators that overlap with coastal hazard exposure areas. Different community groups that work in these areas were identified and contacted. Interviews with these groups are currently being scheduled. The interviews are being conducted to ground truth to determine if the results from the map match the lived experiences of the community. Coastal Fellow is Kristi Kimura.
- OPSD continues to move forward with the Act 178, SLH 2021 initiative related to sea level rise and State facilities. The 2023 Annual Report was submitted to the Governor, Legislature and State Climate Commission. It is also posted to the ORMP website. CZM Staff continues to draft the RFP to develop a standardized process for assessing facility vulnerability to sea level rise. The OPSD is waiting for the release of the funds (FY24 General Funds) allocated towards this project. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- CZM continues to move forward on the *Analysis of Managed Retreat Strategies in Hawai‘i: Policy and Funding Opportunities and Challenges* project. SSFM is the lead consultant with support from Schlack Ito, Solutions Pacific and Integral Consulting. An Action Team with representatives from key stakeholders has been assembled to provide feedback and project direction. The first draft deliverable, an assessment of existing funding & financing tools was submitted to the Action Team for review at the end of January. The project team is now conducting 1:1 interviews with agencies with coastal/land management responsibilities to better understand existing processes, gaps and agency-identified tools that would facilitate their ability to implement managed retreat. The project team is planning to present to MACZAC mid-way through the project (mid-2024). CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- CZM was awarded full funding for an FY23 NOAA Project of Special Merit. The 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. CZM Staff, with support from DHHL Staff, have drafted a RFP that is in the internal review process to procure professional services to conduct the study and anticipate beginning the solicitation process before the end of 2024. CZM Staff contact is Sofia Luczak.

Focus Area II: Land-Based Pollution

- CZM contracted Bowers + Kubota Consulting to redevelop the Low Impact Development (LID) Users Guide. This project seeks to update and refresh the Low Impact Development Practitioners Guide that was created in 2006. The updated LID Users Guide seeks to make improvements to the original LID Guide, and to make it more relevant and account for the changes in the evolution of LID while keeping to the essential core of the 2006 guidance. The updated guidance will include such topics as evaluative criteria on LID use; assessment measures for best-management-practices (BMP) and assist in determining which techniques are best suited for a given environment or situation; and metrics to appraise LID BMP effectiveness as a valuable stormwater management planning tool. The updated guide includes a Decision-Making Matrix (on LID-BMP use), additional local examples of LID design features, better graphics, and greater

usability by the readers of the guide. The updated guidance will be used to advise land developers on stormwater management in EA/EIS response communication and will be incorporated into various public and agency outreach efforts on LID-BMPs. The LID Users Guide is anticipated to be completed by March 2024. CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekekoa.

- CZM is currently drafting an RFQ to obtain professional services to expand the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to include Molokai. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.

Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems

- Implementation of the first phase of the Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program with the DLNR-DAR Holomua Initiative planning team, project partners, and community groups has been concluded. The first phase of this project focused on developing a collaborative framework that identified roles, responsibilities, and processes for community monitoring with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). This phase also sought to identify standardized monitoring protocols for subsistence resources not captured currently by DAR monitoring efforts, such as ‘opihi and limu, and to develop training materials and supply kits for those protocols. The intention was that through standardized monitoring, data collected could be done at the regional and statewide scale. However, through discussions with both communities currently participating in monitoring and kako‘o (partner) organizations providing technical support and coordination to these communities, it was discovered that the goal of the majority of community-based programs is to inform and evaluate management at a place-based scale (generally ahupua‘a). This led to a shift in the focus of the Kōkua Monitoring Program from communities contributing to a statewide database to focusing on how coordinated community-based monitoring could be used to inform and improve management at the local level. This shift is the focus of Phase II, scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2024. The new focus aligns with the Place-based Management Pillar of DAR’s Holomua Marine Initiative goal to identify and develop management strategies for improved management in partnership with communities and stakeholders. CZM Staff contact is Sofia Luczak.
- CZM is working with DAR to develop a project that will support the completion of a statewide estuaries’ census. The proposed project consists of two main tasks: (1) complete the collection of aerial imagery of stream mouths and bays across the main Hawaiian Islands; and, (2) create an online map viewer to share estuary locations and imagery with both stakeholders and the public. CZM staff, with review from DAR staff, are developing RFQs to procure services to support the two tasks and anticipate beginning the solicitation process by the summer of 2024. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.
- Muliwai Outreach and Education Materials - the CZM Program received a letter from MACZAC regarding the recommended content requested for inclusion into outreach material related to the importance and key function of muliwai for the health of nearshore fisheries. The CZM Program is assessing capacity and funding for this project. CZM contact is Sofia Luczak.

Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- In November 2023, the Hawaii CZM Program received an interim decision stating that Hawaii fully satisfied all conditions related to the roads, highways, and bridges management measures on the coastal nonpoint program. There remains one (1) management measure (Operating Onsite Disposal Systems (OSDS)) and one (1) administrative element (Monitoring and Tracking) to get NOAA/EPA approval for a fully approved CNPCP. The CZM Program continues to work with DOH on this. 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 Commission had a meeting on February 7, 2024, with discussion on Climate Change initiatives, strategies on equity for climate solutions, statewide decarbonization strategy and update on EPA climate pollution reduction grant.

County CZM

- Request from the County of Hawai‘i Planning Department to support Phases 8-9 for services to December 31, 2024, for the Shoreline and Riparian Setback Project, which will produce a shoreline atlas web GIS application, tools, package, and configuration model.
- Collaborating with DPP to identify program/project needs for their administration of HRS Chapter 205A utilizing a combination of federal and general funds.
- Working with the county planning departments to align positions and testimony on the legislative bills relating to CZM and SMAs.

Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. No New Activity.
- 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. The work 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 Rachel Beasley.
- Hawaii CZM is also participating in the Adapt Waikiki 2050 working group led by the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting for the development of a climate adaptation plan for the Waikiki Special District.
- CZM is working with NOAA geospatial services for design and preliminary development of Hawai‘i statewide online beach inventory database and viewer. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li.
- 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
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements, and SMA use permit applications per request from the county planning departments to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered.