

May 10, 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.

Funding awards for the FY23-24 federal funding opportunity were announced by NOAA on April 22, 2024. The County of Kaua'i Planning Department received full funding to support a **Dune Restoration, Community Outreach, and Capacity-Building Project at Hanapēpē Salt Pond**. This project will plan and implement a dune restoration program at Hanapēpē Salt Pond to create an essential buffer against storm surge and sea level rise, and will protect the natural resources integral for the traditional Native Hawaiian practice of salt making. The Kaua'i Planning Dept will partner with UH Sea Grant and Hui Hana Pa'akai to conduct additional studies to analyze the impacts of sea level rise and groundwater inundation to the Hanapēpē Beach Park and historic salt pans, and engage with community members and *hana lo'i pa'akai* (Native Hawaiian salt-makers) to develop and implement beach and dune restoration plans to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise impacts to preserve the historic and unique salt pans. Intended benefits include improved habitat for native flora and fauna due to a restored elevated dune system, a marine flooding buffer, enhanced public access, and increased beach health.

### Hawai'i CZM Program

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

### Section 312 Evaluation

- The Hawai'i 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 their visit to be held August 19-23, 2024.
- NOAA will be conducting an online survey about the implementation of our program and its impacts.
- NOAA will also want to have a meeting with MACZAC to discuss your impressions and concerns with our program.
- CZM Staff contact is Mary Lou Kobayashi.

### Ocean Resources Management Plan

- Upcoming ORMP Coordinated Working Group meeting on May 23, 2024. The main agenda items include: (1) a debrief on the 2024 Legislative Session and ORMP-related bills, (2) presentation from NOAA on newly available data products, (3) presentation on the Kōkua Community Based Monitoring Program - outcomes of Phase 1 (completed Dec 2023) and plans for Phase 2 (in progress), and (4) presentation from American Samoa's CZM Program on their current initiatives and coastal challenges. The meeting will be held at the OPSD 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

- Held an ORMP Coordinated Working Group meeting on February 29, 2024. The group discussed the status of ORMP-related bills moving through the 2024 Legislative Session, and UH Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) presented lightning talks on their latest coastal modeling research. The hybrid meeting was attended by 71 individuals, representing 27 different entities.
- CZM staff are in the early stages of a 2025 ORMP Refresh. This Refresh marks the midway point in the ORMP Implementation phase and will evaluate progress-to-date, as well as chart a strategic path forward for 2025-2030. Currently, CZM staff are conducting an inventory of ORMP implementation projects that have been completed using CZM funding. CZM Staff contact is Sofia Luczak.

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

- Regional Shoreline Management Strategy: 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 conducted 9 consultation meetings, with representatives from 17 different State and County agencies. A final report compiling agency feedback and recommendations for next steps is anticipated to be completed by the end of May 2024. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- Coastal Hazards and Social Vulnerability: 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. Analysis of conducted interviews is in progress. Coastal Fellow is Kristi Kimura.
- Act 178, SLH 2021 – Sea Level Rise and State Facilities: OPSD continues to move forward with the Act 178, SLH 2021 initiative related to sea level rise and State facilities. The OPSD is waiting for the release of the funds (FY24 General Funds) allocated towards this project which will be used to develop a standardized process for assessing facility vulnerability to sea level rise. CZM staff are preparing the RFP and necessary documents to begin the procurement process as soon as funding is released. The RFP was developed with input from key stakeholders including DAGS, HDOT, and UH Sea Grant/OCCL. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- Managed Retreat Analysis: 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 providing feedback on draft deliverables. To date, the project team has submitted the first set of deliverables, three assessments (Funding & Financing, Policy, and Legal) describing the current landscape of managed retreat through the three respective lenses. The project team completed 1:1 stakeholder interview with 12 different State and County agencies. The project team is now using the information gathered in the assessments and stakeholder interviews to develop a set of

recommendations and implementation actions to create a managed retreat framework. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

- FY23 Project of Special Merit – Integrating CZM and DHHL: 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**

- Low Impact Development Guide: 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 assistance 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 Guide is anticipated to be completed by end of May. CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekeka.
- Expanding the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to include Molokaʻi: CZM is currently drafting an RFQ to obtain professional services to expand the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to include Molokaʻi. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.
- Silver Jackets – Alternative Watershed-based Plan for Lahaina (Kahoma and Kauaʻula watersheds): CZM, DOH – Clean Water Branch and the USACE have submitted a Silver Jackets proposal to develop an alternative watershed-based plan for the Lahaina area. If accepted, the USACE will work with local partners to develop a DOH-approvable alternative watershed-based plan for the two watersheds that make up the Lahaina burn area. Watersheds with DOH-approved plans are eligible for Clean Water Act § 319 funding. Anticipated start date is October 2024. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

## **Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems**

- Community-Based Monitoring Program: 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 ʻopihi 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.

- Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer: CZM is working with DAR to develop a statewide estuaries’ viewer. 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, attributes, and imagery with both stakeholders and the public. CZM staff, with review from DAR staff, have developed RFQs to procure services to support the two tasks and are currently in the solicitation process. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.

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

- In November 2023, the Hawai‘i CZM Program received an interim decision stating that Hawai‘i fully satisfied all conditions related to the roads, highways, and bridges management measures of 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

- The County of Hawaii has completed the Shoreline Pursuit Project Phases 4 and 5 – Enhanced Imaging Processing for Priority Coastal Areas, and Phases 6 and 7 – Enhanced Imaging Processing for Priority Coastal Areas & Code and Rule Revision Recommendations and Examples.
- Contract for Shoreline Pursuit Project Phases 8 and 9 under the County of Hawaii has been executed. The project will produce a shoreline atlas web GIS application, tools, package, and configuration model.
- Worked with the county planning departments and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands to align positions and testimony on the legislative bills relating to CZM and SMAs, and Beach Restoration.

#### 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.

- Hawai'i CZM is also participating in the Adapt Waikīkī 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 *Waikīkī* Special District.
- CZM is further working with NOAA geospatial services with the scope of work 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.