

January 10, 2025

To: Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)
From: MACZAC Coordinators
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
Subject: CZM Program Report to MACZAC

National Initiatives

CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration under the 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 Department 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 to 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. A third round of IIJA funding was announced in mid-June, with LOIs due in August. The CZM Program received 12 LOIs and submitted three to NOAA for consideration. Two of the three LOIs were invited back to submit full proposals. Full proposals were due to NOAA on January 9, 2025.

Hawai'i CZM Program

- Position Vacancies: Program Specialist IV

Section 312 Evaluation

- The Hawai'i CZM was part of the NOAA evaluation cycle in federal FY24 for the period of September 2018 to August 2024. The evaluation committee conducted interviews with CZM stakeholders during their visit on August 19-23, 2024.
- After the final evaluation is issued by NOAA, CZM will provide MACZAC members with a copy. CZM Staff contact is Mary Lou Kobayashi.

Ocean Resources Management Plan

- An ORMP Coordinated Working Group Meeting was held on December 12, 2024. The agenda included: introduction of new CZM staff, Managed Retreat Analysis Project debrief, and an update and initial findings on the ORMP Refresh process. The meeting was attended by 34 individuals from 25 different entities.
- CZM staff continue to work on the 2025 ORMP Refresh. This Refresh marks the midway point of the ORMP Implementation Phase and will evaluate progress-to-date, as well as chart a strategic path forward for 2025-2030. CZM staff conducted interviews with agencies within the ORMP/CZM network to better understand current priorities and management gaps within the three Focus Areas. Currently, CZM staff are compiling information gathered from partner

outreach and have created an inventory of past and current projects to identify a list of potential priority areas for the 2025-2030 ORMP implementation period. CZM Staff contact is Sofia Luczak.

Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards

- **Regional Shoreline Management Strategy:** CZM has multiple ongoing projects to support various aspects of this initiative. CZM Staff contacts are Sarah Chang, Rachel Beasley, and Lisa Webster.
 - **Phase 2 (Agency Outreach and Consultations):** CZM, with technical support from Sea Engineering, Inc., is wrapping up Phase 2 of the Regional Shoreline Management Strategy initiative. This phase was composed of 10 consultation meetings with a total of 48 agency staff (Federal, State, and counties). A report compiling agency feedback and recommendations for next steps is in its final review.
 - **Phase 3 (Data Inventory and Preliminary Mapping):** CZM has initiated a contract with H.T. Harvey to identify and compile a statewide inventory of existing data relevant to regional shoreline delineation, and to use this existing data to conduct preliminary mapping to delineate regions and subregions within three selected moku: Pū‘ali Komohana, Maui; Kona, Moloka‘i; and Wai‘anae, O‘ahu. These regional delineation maps will inform pilot projects completed under Pili Nā Moku (see below). The Phase 3 completion date is October 2025.
 - **Pilot Projects:** OPSD CZM is a subawardee on the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant’s NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Award. This project, Pili Nā Moku, focuses on moku-scale restoration initiatives across the main Hawaiian Islands. As a subawardee, OPSD CZM will be working within the three moku listed above (see Phase 3 description) to pilot the regional shoreline delineation methodology and then identify one region per moku to develop a regional-scale adaptation action. OPSD CZM has been participating in collective visioning meetings with other subawardees. Project funding goes through 2029.
- **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. OPSD executed a contract with ICF Incorporated, LLC in July 2024 to develop a standardized process for assessing facility vulnerability to sea level rise. The multi-agency Action Team, which has been meeting since 2021, was convened on November 1, 2024 to present the project methodology and goals to agency partners. OPSD and ICF conducted in-person interviews with 5 different State agencies to better understand the current process, challenges and needs of State agencies in order to incorporate sea level rise considerations into planning and facilities management decisions. In December, ICF submitted their first deliverable, a background report summarizing a literature review of similar sea level rise vulnerability assessment strategies across the country, as well as summaries of the feedback heard during agency interviews. The project team is currently working on developing the vulnerability assessment methodology. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- **Managed Retreat Analysis:** CZM is in the process of reviewing the final report of the *Analysis of Managed Retreat Strategies in Hawai‘i: Policy and Funding Opportunities and Challenges* project. The project team, SSFM, Schlack Ito, Solutions Pacific, and Integral Consulting, conducted engagement and outreach (with Focus Groups, the Action Team, the ORMP Coordinated Working Group, and DLNR-OCCL) to discuss the proposed recommendations. Feedback heard during the engagement phase was used to adjust and inform the final recommendations and proposed implementation framework. The final report includes over 40 recommendations grouped into topic areas such as policy, jurisdiction, funding, land use, planning, etc. 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. Through the procurement process, SSFM was selected as the consultant, and the project’s kickoff meeting was held July 8, 2024. A project Action Team was created, consisting of the counties, UH Sea Grant, and DLNR-OCCL. To-date, the Action team has met once (November 4, 2024) and will serve in an advisory role that will provide feedback and guidance. The consultant is in the process of assessing current practices and laws, regulations, and jurisdictions, and has submitted a list of case study sites. The project was presented to the Hawaiian Homes Commission on December 16, 2024. CZM Staff contact is Rachel Beasley.

Focus Area II: Land-Based Pollution

- Expanding the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to include Moloka‘i: Shuler Hydrologic LLC was selected as the contractor for this project, and the kickoff meeting was held on September 19, 2024. The contractor has recently obtained additional needed data layers and is in the process of updating the original tool’s code, but due to a late start date, a no-cost extension request was submitted and approved, with the project anticipated to be completed by August 31, 2025. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.

Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems

- Community-Based Monitoring Program: Building upon the development of the Kōkua Community-Based Monitoring Framework, including the elements of a Monitoring Agreement, training materials, and monitoring protocols, the HICZMP has begun Phase II of the Kōkua Community-Based Monitoring Framework (Framework) project. Building from the first phase, the second phase of the Kōkua Community-based Monitoring Program will continue to provide technical support for community-based monitoring programs through collaborative development of Monitoring Agreements. The focus of the project aligns with the Place-based Management Pillar of DAR’s Holomua Marine Initiative whose goal is to identify and develop management strategies for improved management in partnership with communities and stakeholders. Through this project, HICZMP will add capacity to support the State’s path towards effective management of Hawaii’s marine ecosystems by supporting DLNR-DAR capacity to work with communities to further improve place-based management. CZM Staff contact is Ciera McQuaid.
- Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer: CZM is working with DAR to develop a statewide estuaries’ viewer. The 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 and DAR staff are co-leading this project and meet regularly with the contractor and various stakeholders to develop the data layers and determine the final capabilities and design of the viewer. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.

Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- The CZM Program continues to work with DOH, NOAA, and EPA on the final legal documentation necessary for official approval of the CNPCP. 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 November 6, 2024, with discussion on Climate Change initiatives.

County CZM

- Contract for Shoreline Pursuit Project Phases 8 and 9 under the County of Hawai‘i has been executed. The project will produce a shoreline atlas web-based GIS application, tools, package, and configuration model.
- Provided CZM and SMA training to the County of Hawai‘i’s Windward Planning Commission on October 3, 2024, Leeward Planning Commission on October 17, 2024, and Maui Planning Commission on December 12, 2024 (virtual).
- Provided general comments for special management area (SMA) use permits for reconstruction of single-family dwellings within the 2023 Lahaina Wildfire impacted area.
- Conducted site visit to County of Kauai January 6-7, 2025 to look at sites where nature-based solutions are being implemented to mitigate erosion, sites related to the managed retreat conversation, and any other highlights regarding existing coastal hazards or issues and ongoing efforts (projects, community plans, etc.) to address those issues.

Other Initiatives

- Hawai‘i CZM is 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 Staff contact is Rachel Beasley.
- HICZMP is continuing to work with NOAA geospatial services to develop the scope of work for design and preliminary development of the Hawai‘i statewide online beach inventory database and viewer. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li.
- CZM Program is involved with several 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.