

April 09, 2025

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

National Initiatives

CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

IIJA funds 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. There have been three rounds of IIJA funding opportunities, which are described below. CZM Staff Contact is Kristi Kimura.

- The Coral Reef Alliance was awarded funding in FY22-23 for their project titled **Resilient Reefs for Maui Nui**. This project is strengthening coral reefs for coastal resilience on Maui and Moloka'i through a combination of habitat restoration, long-term monitoring, community engagement, and capacity building around watershed restoration and coral reef management.
- The County of Kaua'i Planning Department received FY 23-24 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.
- A third round of IIJA funding was announced in mid-June 2024, with LOIs due in August 2024. The Hawai'i 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, and award announcements are expected in April 2025.

Hawai'i CZM Program (HICZMP)

- Position Vacancies: Program Specialist V (previously Office Assistant IV)

Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

- HICZMP submitted the FY2026-2030 NOAA DRAFT Section 309 Assessment and Strategy to NOAA on April 3, 2025. Public comment is being accepted through May 3, 2025. The draft document can be found on the HICZMP website:
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/resource/CZM_Sec_309_Assessment_and_Strategy_DRAFT_04-03-25.pdf

Section 312 Evaluation

- HICZMP 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 HICZMP stakeholders during their visit on August 19-23, 2024. HICZMP provided MACZAC members with a copy of the final evaluation findings. CZM Staff contact is Mary Lou Kobayashi

Ocean Resources Management Plan

- An ORMP Coordinated Working Group Meeting was held on March 26, 2025. The agenda focused on the review of ORMP-related bills moving through the 2025 State legislative session. The meeting was attended by 28 individuals from 15 different entities.
- HICZMP continues 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. Staff are compiling information gathered from partner outreach to create a comprehensive project inventory and drafting the Refresh document. CZM Staff contact is McKenzie Lim.

Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards

- Regional Shoreline Management Strategy: HICZMP has multiple ongoing projects to support various aspects of this initiative. CZM Staff contacts are Sarah Chang, Lisa Webster, and Ciera McQuaid.
 - **Phase 2 (Agency Outreach and Consultations)**: HICZMP has completed Phase 2. The final report is available upon request.
 - **Phase 3 (Data Inventory and Preliminary Mapping)**: HICZMP is continuing to move forward with H.T. Harvey 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**: HICZMP 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, HICZMP 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. HICZMP has been scoping and preparing to procure services to facilitate a community-based participatory mapping process. Project funding goes through 2029.
- Act 178, SLH 2021 – Sea Level Rise and State Facilities: HICZMP continues to work with ICF Incorporated, LLC to develop a standardized process for assessing state facility vulnerability to sea level rise. ICF has developed an SLR vulnerability assessment methodology and is building an interactive assessment form/tool that can be used by State agencies to assess the vulnerability of their facilities to SLR. The project team is currently meeting with selected agencies to solicit initial feedback on the form, regarding its language, flow, accessibility, etc. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- Managed Retreat Analysis: HICZMP has completed this project. The final report includes over 40 recommendations on strategies to facilitate managed retreat as a voluntary option for coastal adaptation. Staff is developing an outreach plan to distribute and share the report’s findings. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- FY23 Project of Special Merit – Integrating CZM and DHHL: NOAA awarded HICZMP full funding for an FY23 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 HICZMP, DHHL, the counties, UH Sea Grant, and DLNR-OCCL. Recent milestones are summarized below. CZM Staff contact is Rachel Beasley.

- The Action team met on November 4, 2024 and will serve in an advisory role to provide feedback and guidance. The consultant continues to conduct an assessment of the current practices and laws, regulations, and jurisdictions. The project team chose the case study sites, which will be Nānākuli (O'ahu); Anahola (Kaua'i); Kapa'aeka, Kalama'ula, Kamiloloa (Moloka'i); Waiehu Kou (Maui); and Keaukaha (Hawai'i).
- The project team will commence site visits to the case study sites in April 2025 to support the development of the case study profiles, such as discussing the impacts of SMA on projects with beneficiaries, licensees, etc. A no-cost contract extension was granted for the project, extending the project time period to March 31, 2026.

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, HICZMP is continuing Phase II of the Kōkua Community-Based Monitoring Framework project under the no-cost extension through the end of 2025. CZM Staff contact is Ciera McQuaid.
 - Phase II continues 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 in partnership with communities and stakeholders for improved marine resource management. Most recently, the Kōkua group has been conducting limu surveys at the Hāni'o site outside the Ko Olina Lagoons. Through this project, HICZMP adds capacity to support the State's path towards effective management of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems by supporting DLNR-DAR's ability to collaborate with communities and advance place-based management.
- Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer: HICZMP 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. HICZMP 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)

- HICZMP 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.

County CZM

- Provided CZM and SMA training to the Moloka‘i Planning Commission on January 22, 2025 (virtual), and March 27, 2025, respectively (virtual pending).
- Conducted site visit to Moloka‘i January 20-21, 2025, with a focus on 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.
- Provided testimony on legislative bills relating to disaster recovery, CZM and SMA permitting.

Other Initiatives

- HICZMP 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 executed the agreement with NOAA OCM National Ocean Service for the Hawai‘i Beach Inventory Database and Viewer. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li.
- HICZMP 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.