

November 6, 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

I. National Initiatives

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - Capacity Building for Habitat Protection and Restoration

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.

- **Resilient Reefs for Maui Nui.** This project, led by The Coral Reef Alliance, 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.
- **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.
- **IIJA Funding – Round 3.** The Hawai'i CZM Program received twelve 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. No official award announcement has been made.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

The Hawai'i CZM Program received non-competitive funding from NOAA to use for capacity building around the state. Request for Quotations were posted to solicit capacity building projects, and nine different projects around the State were selected for funding. Projects are currently ongoing.

II. CZM Programmatic Updates

MACZAC Representative Vacancies

There are currently three (3) vacancies on the MACZAC, with one opening each for Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. To highlight the vacancies, CZM staff engaged with community partners such as the University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law Environmental Law networks and the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and prepared materials for social media/web platforms.

- An application was received for the O'ahu vacancy and is being reviewed.

CZM Staff Vacancies

- There are currently two (2) CZM staff vacancies. A Planner IV position is in-recruitment. A Program Specialist IV position is not yet in-recruitment; however, the position has been temporarily filled via an 89-Day Hire.
- The CZM Program is attempting to re-establish a vacant Project Analyst position in the next fiscal year (FY27, which begins July 01, 2026) via the State budget process.

Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

CZM submitted the final FY2026-2030 NOAA Section 309 Assessment and Strategy to NOAA on September 30, 2025. Final approval is anticipated sometime in January of 2026. Link to the draft document:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/resource/CZM_Sec_309_Assessment_and_Strategy_DRAFT_04-03-25.pdf

County Implementation of Chapter 205A

- CZM held a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting with county CZM planners on September 17, 2025 to discuss a potential working group to develop uniform county rule and code updates to support the implementation of Chapter 205A. The group also discussed rotating county planner meetings throughout the islands to allow OPSD-CZM staff to better understand issues within each county.
- CZM staff joined the panel presentation and discussion on Education Forum: Everything Coastal, held by Kaua'i Board of Realtors on October 23, 2025 at Outrigger Kaua'i Beach Resort & Spa.

Other CZM Initiatives

- CZM executed an agreement with NOAA OCM National Ocean Service for the Hawai'i Beach Inventory Database and Viewer. OPSD-CZM has accepted the work plan from NOAA OCM contractor, Dewberry Engineering, Inc., and started bi-weekly meetings with Dewberry on September 12, 2025. The context of this project was shared with the county planning departments during the county planner meeting on September 17, 2025. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li.

III. 2020 Ocean Resources Management Plan Implementation

2025 ORMP Evaluation & Refresh

CZM finalized the 2025 ORMP Evaluation & Refresh, which serves as a progress report that marks the midway point of the ten-year ORMP Implementation Phase. Staff compiled information gathered from partner outreach to create a comprehensive project inventory and provided recommendations to inform the ORMP Network implementation strategy for 2025-2030. The deliverables included a report and accompanying StoryMap that can be found on the CZM Program's website. CZM Staff contact is McKenzie Lim.

Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards

- **Regional Shoreline Management:** CZM has multiple ongoing projects to support various aspects of this initiative. CZM Staff contacts are Sarah Chang and Ciera McQuaid.
 - **Phase 3 (Data Inventory and Preliminary Mapping):** Completed August 2025. Project contractor H.T. Harvey, developed draft regional shoreline delineation maps for three selected moku: Pū‘ali Komohana, Maui; Kona, Moloka‘i; and Wai‘anae, O‘ahu. These regional delineation maps will be used in pilot projects completed under Pili Nā Moku (see below).
 - **Pilot Projects (Pili Nā Moku):** CZM is assembling a Project Team to conduct community participatory mapping workshops across three moku. The Project Team will include a Statewide Facilitator and Regional Facilitators. CZM hopes to have the Project Team on board before the end of December 2025 to begin community workshops in early 2026. Project funding goes through 2029.
- **Act 178, SLH 2021 – Sea Level Rise and State Facilities:** CZM continues to work with ICF Incorporated, LLC to develop a standardized process for assessing state facility vulnerability to sea level rise. The final SLR Vulnerability Assessment Tool and User Guidance were revised to reflect the updated features of the Hawaii SLR Viewer. CZM is finalizing a Sharepoint website that will serve as an online portal for agencies to access the Tool, Guidance and related resources. Once Sharepoint site is finalized, CZM will reconvene the Action Team for an official launch of the Tool. Anticipated completion of the project is end of December 2025. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- **FY23 Project of Special Merit – Integrating CZM and DHHL:** CZM and the project team concluded site visits to all five case study sites Anahola (Kaua‘i), Nānākuli (O‘ahu), Kapa‘ākea, Kalama‘ula, Kamiloloa (Moloka‘i), Waiehu Kou (Maui), and Keaukaha (Hawai‘i). For each site visit, the project team met with DHHL beneficiaries, current and former Hawaiian Homes Commissioners, DHHL Island staff, members of homestead associations, etc. to better understand the on-the-ground challenges of trying to conduct activities in the shoreline area. CZM and the Action Team are reviewing two draft deliverables: Assessment of Current DHHL Practices and Legal, Regulatory and Jurisdictional Assessment. Anticipated project end date is March 31, 2026. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

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 completed the project on August 31, 2025. Cesspool prioritization maps for Molokai can be found at <https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/cesspools-tool/>. 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, CZM is continuing Phase II of the project under a no-cost extension through the end of 2025. Phase II of Kōkua CBM continues to provide technical support for community-based monitoring programs through collaborative development of Monitoring Agreements. The project recently experienced a transition in staffing and is now being led by Katie Nalesere as the new Community-Based Monitoring Coordinator. Previous Coordinator, Hoaka Thomas is continuing to provide support to the project by serving as the

primary liaison for community groups in his new role with the Department of Aquatic Resources. The Kōkua CBM team is carrying out targeted engagement with partner groups on Oahu and Hawai'i Island to discuss monitoring priorities and align future community-based monitoring efforts. CZM Staff contact is Ciera McQuaid.

- **Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer:** CZM is collaborating with DAR to develop the statewide Hawaiian 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 to complete development of the data layers. The original contract to support this project ended August 31, 2025, and a new contract is being finalized to work with Esri staff to design and develop the Viewer, with the project anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2025. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.
- **Watershed Coordination Map:** CZM is developing a GIS map of organizations and agencies across the islands working on watershed-based restoration activities. The purpose of this map is to visualize mauka-makai stewardship efforts and to strengthen coordination amongst groups. As part of this effort, CZM staff conducted a site visit to Kāko'o 'Ōiwi and joined a wetland restoration workday to help remove invasive plants and clear land for native species planting. Kāko'o 'Ōiwi's involvement in lo'i kalo restoration and connection to the He'eia Fishpond is an example of integrated mauka-to-makai management and is featured on the coordination map. CZM continues to conduct outreach and collect spatial data and descriptive information from participating organizations. This project is a part of a 5-year Ocean Resources Plan under the CZM's Section 309 Assessment and Strategy with NOAA. Staff Contact is Ciera McQuaid

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