

May 22, 2026

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 was completed in March 2026. Led by The Coral Reef Alliance, the project strengthened 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 was completed in April 2026, and resulted in a planned and implemented dune restoration program at Hanapēpē Salt Pond to create an essential buffer against storm surge and sea level rise in order to protect the natural resources integral for the traditional Native Hawaiian practice of salt making. The Kaua'i Planning Department partnered 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.
- **Puapua'a Iki Habitat Restoration Project.** This project will restore 11.5 acres of coastal land by restoring native ecosystems, preserving historic and cultural sites, and strengthening community resilience against climate impacts such as erosion, flooding, and sea level rise at Puapua'a Iki in Kona on Hawai'i Island. The County of Hawai'i's Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience will be leading the work in collaboration with the County's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission program.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

The Hawai'i CZM Program received non-competitive funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support capacity building around the State. Requests for Quotations were posted to solicit capacity building projects, and eleven projects around the State were selected for funding. Projects are currently ongoing. The first round of projects are expected to be completed in October 2026.

II. CZM Programmatic Updates

MACZAC Representative Vacancies

- There is currently one (1) vacancy on the MACZAC for a Moloka‘i representative. To highlight the vacancy, CZM staff prepared materials for social media/web platforms.
- The Kaua‘i vacancy has been filled with the addition of Keith Nitta. Welcome, Keith!
- The representative from East Hawai‘i and one O‘ahu representative have agreed to stay on the MACZAC until new members are recruited for their seats. Recruitment is pending.

CZM Staffing

- Recruitment for the Program Specialist IV position is complete, and the position is expected to be filled in June 2026. There are no other staff vacancies currently.
- CZM is in the process of obtaining approval to contract with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (“RCUH”) for administrative and staffing support in FY27. If approved, at least 1.0 FTE equivalent would be hired to assist with MACZAC coordination and CZM projects.

CZM Interns

- One “Hele Imua” Intern, a program offered through the State’s Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, will be joining the CZM Program for the summer. The intern will have the opportunity to select a preferred project from a list of projects upon their arrival.
- The CZM Program is also exploring bringing aboard a second intern for the summer via Hawai‘i Pacific University’s “Next Gen Internship” Program.
- Sebastian, who started as a Hele Imua Intern and then rejoined the CZM Program as a Next Gen Intern, graduated earlier this month. Sebastian helped with the development of the Watershed Coordination Map, in preparation for the release of the Beta Version. A Hui Hou Sebastian and mahalo nui for all your contributions to CZM!

Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

CZM will begin implementation of the approved FY2026-2030 NOAA Section 309 Assessment and Strategy in August 2026 (dependent on release of NOAA funding). Anticipated Year 1 projects include: organizing and facilitating a multi-stakeholder group to discuss a coordination framework for implementing regional shoreline management; and developing a methodology to increase the availability of updated wetland maps across all counties. The full 5-year strategy can be found here: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/resource/CZM_Sec_309_Assessment_and_Strategy_FINAL_2026.pdf

County Implementation of Chapter 205A

CZM staff conducted an annual site visit to the island of Maui relating to CZM priorities and county implementation on May 20, 2026.

Other CZM Initiatives

- **County of Hawai‘i Shoreline Pursuit Project Phases 8 and 9.** The County of Hawai‘i Planning Department provided deliverables on April 15, 2026 for the County of Hawai‘i Shoreline Pursuit Project Phases 8 and 9: Enhanced Imaging Processing for Priority Coastal Areas and Shoreline

Atlas Web GIS Application. The external web application is available at Hawai‘i County Coastal Zone Management Atlas

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4bf2aae3b12c4f30943097b191c014b5>

- **Hawai‘i Beach Inventory Database and Viewer Prototype.** This project will design and establish an interactive and searchable online geospatial platform enabling users to access and view available beach data from different sources through a centralized database. CZM executed an agreement with NOAA Office of Coastal Management (OCM), National Ocean Service, in February 2025, to develop the viewer with information for one beach each from the islands of Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i and O‘ahu. On May 11, 2026, OCM’s consultant Dewberry presented the current Beta Version of the platform to local and state agency partners for feedback and comments. The project will be presented to MACZAC representatives in August and December, respectively. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li.

III. 2020 Ocean Resources Management Plan Implementation

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.
 - **Pilot Projects (Pili Nā Moku):** CZM has formed a Project Team and contracted a Statewide Facilitator and Regional Facilitators for Wai‘anae, O‘ahu and Mā‘alaea, Maui. Since project initiation, Regional Facilitators have been conducting outreach and small group meetings within their respective communities to recruit participants and gather early community input. The Regional Facilitators have also been working closely with the Statewide Facilitator and Project Team to coordinate workshop planning and refine the participatory mapping process. Community participatory mapping workshops are anticipated to occur in July 2026. CZM is continuing discussion with organizations on Moloka‘i to scope plans for Phase 2 of the project within the Kona moku. Project funding goes through 2029.
- **FY23 Project of Special Merit – Integrating CZM and DHHL.** This project was completed March 31, 2026 and resulted in the identification of seven potential statewide strategies that DHHL could use to manage development in coastal areas. While recommendations could be combined or sequenced, one strategy was selected as the Project Team’s final recommendation: ‘Clarify the Coastal Zone Management Authorities of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands’. In addition to a legal analysis of DHHL’s authorities that support this recommendation, the final report outlines an implementation roadmap that includes proposing statutory amendments to HRS Chapter 205A to delegate CZM authority to DHHL on HHL, and developing a DHHL-specific process for conducting coastal zone management consistency reviews. The final recommendations were presented to the Hawaiian Homes Commission on March 26, 2026. CZM is in the process of preparing the report for public availability. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

Focus Area II: Land-Based Pollution

- **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.

CZM has been conducting outreach and collecting spatial data and descriptive information from participating organizations. Drafted content has been sent back to organizations for their review and final approval. A beta version of the map is anticipated to be publicly available at the end of May 2026, with ongoing data collection and updates continuing thereafter. This project is a part of a 5-year Ocean Resources Enhancement Area strategy under the CZM's Section 309 Assessment and Strategy with NOAA. Staff Contact is Ciera McQuaid.

Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems

- **Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer:** CZM collaborated with DAR to develop the statewide Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer. The project consisted 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 co-led this project and met regularly to complete development of the data layers. The original contract to support this project ended August 31, 2025, and a new contract to work with Esri staff was finalized October 29, 2025, to design and develop the Viewer, with the Viewer development completed December 31, 2025. The Beta Version of the Viewer has been publicly released and can be viewed at the following link: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/46574a40af654a69a322cae23aafd59b>. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.

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