

October 20, 2023

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

National Initiatives

National CZM Program Funding

The CZM Program has accepted its cooperative agreement for FY23-24 in the amount of \$2,705,500.

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.

The FY23-24 federal funding opportunity (FFO) was issued on June 13, 2023. CZM received seven (7) letters of interest (LOI) this year. We submitted three (3) LOIs for consideration and received notice that one (1) was selected to submit a full proposal.

White House Summit on Building Climate Resilient Communities

The CZM Program Manager was invited to participate in this Summit on September 28, 2023. The Summit, announced by President Biden in the summer, brought together local, state, Tribal, and territorial leaders and practitioners focused on climate resilience and was intended to explore opportunities to develop effective climate resilience strategies. Representatives of the White House and Federal Agencies attended the Summit.

Hawaii CZM Program

- 11 (pending) of 11 positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)
 - Position Vacancies: None
 - Project Analyst – Sofia Luczak
 - Project Support Specialist to join in Nov 2023
 - Planner V – in final stages of recruitment
- 1 intern position
 - The graduate intern is supporting Act 178, SLH 2021/FA#1 Implementation
- CZM Website updated periodically (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/>). Working on improving communications for consistency and currency. Analyzing existing website to make it more efficient and streamlined.

Section 312 Evaluation

- Notified that Hawaii CZM will be part of the NOAA evaluation cycle in federal FY24. It is slated to occur sometime between June – September 2024
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

- No new activity
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

Program Changes

- No new activity.
- CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

Ocean Resources Management Plan

Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards

- CZM executed a contract on October 1, 2023 with Sea Engineering, Inc. to begin Phase 2 (Agency Outreach and Consultation) of the *Regional Shoreline Management Strategy* initiative. CZM, with technical support from Sea Engineering, Inc., will be conducting 1:1 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. CZM anticipates conducting the agency meetings from November 2023–April 2024. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- 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 to 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. Research is being done to look at different community groups that work in these areas in order to ground truth if the results from the map match the lived experiences of the community. Coastal Fellow is Kristi Kimura.
- OPSD continues to move forward with the Act 178, SLH 2021 initiative related to sea level rise and State facilities. The Act 178 Action Team met on July 18, 2023 to discuss next steps in procuring services to develop a standardized vulnerability assessment for state facilities. A sub-group of the Action Team, representing key stakeholder agencies, met on October 2, 2023 to provide feedback and direction on the draft Scope of Work. CZM Staff continues to work on the RFP and hopes to begin the solicitation process before the end of the year. A CZM student intern is wrapping up a refined exposure assessment. Updated results will be included in the 2023 Annual Report. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- CZM executed a contract with SSFM International for *An Analysis of Managed Retreat Strategies in Hawai‘i: Policy and Funding Opportunities and Challenges*. A project kickoff with the consultant team and CZM was held on July 5, 2023. This project is comprised of two main components: (1) a legal and policy analysis to identify existing laws, policies, and regulations that either facilitate or hinder managed retreat, and (2) a funding and financing analysis of potential strategies and mechanisms to facilitate managed retreat in Hawai‘i. CZM is assembling an Action Team to review and provide feedback on draft deliverables. The project team is planning to present to MACZAC mid-way through the project (mid-2024). CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.
- 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, are drafting an RFP to procure professional services to conduct the study and anticipate beginning the solicitation process before the end of 2024. CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang.

Focus Area II: Land-Based Pollution

- CZM has contracted with Bowers + Kubota Consulting on redeveloping 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 guide LID Users Guide seeks to make LID Guide 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 assist 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. CZM envisions the updated guide to include a Decision-Making Matrix (on LID-BMP use), include more 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 various public and agency outreach on LID-BMPs. The LID Users Guide is anticipated to be completed by December 2023. CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekekia.
- The CZM Program received a letter from MACZAC regarding/requesting continued collaboration with Department of Health Clean Water Branch and the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources to reduce impacts to nearshore waters. The CZM Program will continue focusing on completion of the development of the LID Guidance prior to seeking new actions/projects. However, CZM staff maintain regular contact with DOH staff relating to this issue.

Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems

- Implementation of the Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program continues with the DLNR-DAR Holomua Initiative planning team, project partners, and community groups. The program will increase DLNR-DAR's capacity to monitor culturally valuable nearshore marine resources that are not regularly monitored by the Division and support adaptive management. Due to contracting delays, an 18-month no cost extension to September 30, 2024 was approved by NOAA on March 31, 2023. The team presented a full draft framework at the Hawaii Conservation Conference to gather feedback from agency, non-profit, and community members. The Kokua Monitoring Framework is now finalized, and companion training materials are being developed to train communities on how to work through the framework to develop a monitoring agreement when appropriate in collaboration with DLNR DAR. The team initiated a pilot with a community group in Kapolei interested in initiating stewardship activities in their place. Two communities have been engaged on how the framework could be applied to their current and future monitoring plans. CZM Staff contact is Sofia Luczak.
- CZM is working with DAR to develop a project that will support the completion of a statewide estuaries census. 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 and imagery with both stakeholders and the public. CZM staff, with review from DAR staff, are developing RFQs to procure services to support the two tasks and anticipate beginning the solicitation process before the end of 2023. CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster.
- Muliwai Outreach and Education Materials
The CZM Program received a letter from MACZAC regarding the recommended content requested for inclusion into outreach material related to the importance and key function of muliwai for the health of nearshore fisheries. The CZM Program is assessing capacity and funding for this project. CZM contact is Sofia Luczak.

Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- No new activity.
- 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 next meeting date is Wednesday, November 8, 2023.
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

Coastal Hazards

- Section 309 Coastal Hazards Strategy for the *Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping – Maui Island (Phase II) and Kaua‘i Island* contract executed January 20, 2021, has been completed, with the contract ending on September 30, 2023. A final informational meeting was held on July 24, 2023. Staff will be working on project closeout and any next steps.
- CZM Staff contact is Lisa Webster

County CZM

- Hawai‘i County has entered into Phases 4 & 5 of the Shoreline-Riparian Setback Project, *Shoreline Pursuit*. This allows continued leveraging of products in pursuit of island wide data and analysis to support coastal management objectives. Phase 4: Contract(s) and MOA were executed (May 2022) for UH-SDAV to continue data collection and processing of data in additional geographies/coastal areas. Phase 5: Contract(s) and MOA were executed (May 2022) for UH-SDAV to continue data processing, analyzing, and modelling findings.
- Request from the County of Hawai‘i Planning Department to support Phase 6-7 for services to December 31, 2023 for Shoreline and Riparian Setback Project.
- Collaborating with DPP to identify a program/project needs for their administration of HRS Chapter 205A utilizing a combination of federal and general funds.
- County site visits completed on the following dates: July 31-August 1, 2023 for Kaua‘i, August 7-8, 2023 for Big Island, and August 28-29, 2023 for Maui, respectively.

Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. No New Activity. CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali.
- 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. It 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 Deb Mendes.
- 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 to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered.