

**Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) / Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Foreign-Trade Zone HAM ITRC Conference Center, M401  
Pier 2, 521 Ala Moana Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96813**

**ATTENDANCE**

- Members Present: Phil Fernandez, Donna Brown, Rich Brunner, Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Kimbal Thompson, Sue Sakai, Jim Coon, Robin Kaye, Robert Nishimoto, Angela Anderson
- Members Absent: Lori Buchanan, Robert Kaden
- Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management (OP/CZM) Staff Present: Leo Asuncion, Justine Nihipali, Lisa Webster
- Others Present: Hal Nordblom (member of the public)

**DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL**

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for February 10, 2016
- Minutes from October 16, 2015 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Program Flyer
- MACZAC Hotspots 2/2016
- Thumbs-Up Award Guidelines
- Thumbs-Up Award Nominations 2015
- Articles:
  - "Can A Sea Robot Help Heal Maunalua Bay?" –  
[<http://www.civilbeat.com/2015/12/can-a-robot-help-heal-maunalua-bay/>]
  - "Experts Strategize Future for Maui's Coral Reefs" –  
[<http://mauinow.com/2016/01/22/experts-strategize-future-for-mauis-coral-reefs/>]
  - "Lanaians unhappy with community plan changes" –  
[<http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/606634/Lanaians-unhappy-with-community-plan-changes.html?nav=10>]
  - "Legislators Target Rapid Ohia Death" –  
[<http://hawaiitribune-herald.com/news/local-news/legislators-target-rapid-ohia-death>]
  - "NEW AND NOTEWORTHY - Tuna Treaty Tanks" - (2016, February 1). NEW AND NOTEWORTHY - Tuna Treaty Tanks. Environment Hawaii, p. 2.
  - "NOAA Withdraws Proposal to Expand Whale Sanctuary" –  
[<http://www.civilbeat.com/2016/01/noaa-withdraws-proposal-to-expand-whale-sanctuary/>]
  - "Recovery and restoration" –  
[[http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/recovery-and-restoration/article\\_0fbf1e70-3e75-5ad1-805f-1c5b37cc31b6.html](http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/recovery-and-restoration/article_0fbf1e70-3e75-5ad1-805f-1c5b37cc31b6.html)]
  - "Study on Electric Utility Suggests 'Paradigm Shift'" –  
[<https://themolokaidispatch.com/study-on-electric-utility-suggests-paradigm-shift/>]

**I. Call to Order**

MACZAC Chair, Sue Sakai, called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm and welcomed everyone. All those present briefly introduced themselves. New MACZAC members, Ms. Angela Anderson (Kauai) and Dr. Robert Nishimoto (Hawaii), provided brief summaries of their work experience:

- Ms. Anderson has a law degree, as well as an environmental certificate, and is interested in conservation issues. In June 2015, Ms. Anderson joined the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust as their

Kauai Director. She also served on, and recently completed a term on, the County of Kauai Planning Commission.

- Dr. Nishimoto was born and raised in a plantation town on the Hamakua Coast. He spent a few years in the Peace Corps in Central America working as a Fishery Biologist. In 1980, Dr. Nishimoto joined DLNR/DAR as an Aquatic Biologist, transitioning to Statewide Program Manager in 2006. Dr. Nishimoto would like to see existing tools and solutions being implemented on a larger scale, and wants to advocate for the biota.

## II. Approval of October 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The October 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by all members present.

## III. Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Report

Mr. Leo Asuncion, Office of Planning, went over the CZM Program Flyer highlighting the following:

### Funding for 2015

- CZMA Funds (Federal) – \$2,167,000
- State and Other Matching Funds – \$1,305,946
- Total Funds – \$3,472,946

### Funding for 2016

- Increased slightly from 2015 Funds
- Project funding is reduced – very valuable, not dollar for dollar match
- Administration/staff funding was increased

### The CZM Program completed a number of projects in 2015, including the following:

- NOAA Section 309 Assessment and Strategy for 2016-2020, which will be coming into effect in July. MACZAC members Phil Fernandez and Dawn Hegger helped with development of this strategy.
- Completed 7 statewide training sessions of the *Wind Design Provisions of the Hawaii State Building Code* with Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.
- Completed two earthquake mitigation training sessions on Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Earthquake-Resistant Design Concepts* in Maui and Hawaii counties.

### Other Office of Planning Programs

- GIS – Transitioning to cloud-based, publicly available, GIS data and mapping, which will allow greater access for more people.
- LUD – Leading State coordination efforts on Transit-Oriented Development projects on approximately 2,000 acres of State-owned lands surrounding the 21 proposed rail stations on Oahu.

### Legislative Updates

- OP has one administration bill – HB2300/SB2829. This bill was pushed last session but never got out of Conference Committee. This bill has to do with updating the Hawaii State Plan, which was last updated in 1992. The Hawaii State Plan is a major policy document, which puts forth goals and objectives for the State in different areas including economy, environment, and education. The individual agency functional plans should reflect the goals and objectives of the Hawaii State Plan.
  - MACZAC member Robin Kaye suggested that it would be helpful to create a position responsible for implementation of the updated plan.

#### Staff Updates

- CZM currently has two vacancies – CZM Manager, and Nathalie Morrison’s position, CZM Planning and Policy Analyst. Both positions will begin recruitment in the near future.

#### **IV. Reports from MACZAC Working Groups**

- Education and Website Working Group  
No report.
- Ocean Resources Working Group  
Former MACZAC member Dr. Craig Severance had agreed to finish a White Paper, with input from fellow MACZAC members Mr. Phil Fernandez and Mr. Jim Coon. Mr. Fernandez will be working with Dr. Severance to complete the White Paper.
- Shoreline Access Working Group  
*Alternative Funding Mechanisms for Shoreline Public Access* report was released July, 2014. There are still funds available for county-level projects relating to public access acquisition and maintenance.
- Legislative Working Group  
Ms. Sakai stated that 7 MACZAC members made a visit to the Legislature earlier in the day, and made visits to the offices of Representative Kaniela Ing, Senator Glenn Wakai, Senator Laura Thielen, Senate President Ronald Kouchi (Kauai), and Senator Mike Gabbard. The group discussed bills having to do with:
  - community-based co-management
  - requiring EA/EIS for major infrastructure projects on coastal lands
  - considering sea level rise impacts on new development
  - Maunaloa Bay Task Force
  - Papahānaukūmokuākea National Monument

#### **V. Discussion Highlighting Critical Marine and Coastal Hotspot Issues, By Island**

- East Hawaii Island – Dr. Nishimoto discussed the following East Hawaii Island hotspot:
  - Hamakua Coast  
Realtors are selling Hamakua Coast as cliff-side homes. The cliff-sides are crumbling. In Hawaii, you own the face of the cliff, you pay taxes on it. If it falls into the ocean, who’s going to pay for that?
- Kauai – Ms. Angela Anderson, MACZAC member, shared the following Kauai hotspot:
  - Mahaulepu Beach  
Located on the southeast coast of Kauai, Mahaulepu Beach is a very popular, and heavily used beach park. Grove Farm allows unfettered access, but there’s no infrastructure, and no bathrooms. There are concerns about water quality with the proposed dairy, and there is public interest in establishing a national park in the area. Ms. Anderson noted that the South Shore Community Plan recognizes that this area should be protected and managed.
- Lanai – Mr. Robin Kaye, MACZAC member, brought up several issues facing Lanai:
  - Lanai is not a member of the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships  
Lanai is the only island that is not a member of the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships, and this is because Larry Ellison, the owner of Lanai, does not want to participate. Lanai residents went to Suzanne Case, DLNR Chair, to ask if Lanai could have a forested watershed partnership without the landowner, and she said, technically, yes, but The

Nature Conservancy, the organization that manages Kanepuu Preserve on Lanai, said they wouldn't participate if the landowner did not want to.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service MoU with Pulama Lanai and Castle & Cooke

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed designating several areas on Lanai as critical habitat, but Mr. Ellison said no, which led to Fish and Wildlife creating a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Pulama Lanai and Castle & Cooke. Mr. Kaye suggested that Castle & Cooke was included because it has the rights to develop windmills on the north end of the island. Mr. Kaye stated that the MoU provides that Fish and Wildlife will help expedite permits on land in exchange for this absence of critical habitat MoU. Residents, including Lanai's State Representative, wrote pages and pages of comments pointing out that Fish and Wildlife had no right to expedite permits for this land, that building the windmills, and even just the runoff, will destroy the land that was proposed as critical habitat. Fish and Wildlife ignored all comments and have an agreement about to be published in the register that will explain the MoU.
- Maui –
  - Molokini day-use moorings

Mr. Coon shared with the group that he was able to meet with Chair Case, as well as Ed Underwood, DLNR/DOBOR Administrator, to discuss the ongoing issue of day-use moorings at Molokini. Mr. Coon stated that DLNR has contracted a company to do a survey of day use moorings, as well as maintenance of the moorings.
  - Kaanapali ingress/egress buoys, swim buoys

Mr. Coon also discussed ingress/egress buoys and swim buoys at Kaanapali during his meeting with Chair Case and Mr. Underwood. DLNR plans to eliminate the ingress/egress buoys at Kaanapali, and wants the boat operators to put signs on the beach to show people where boats will be landing. Mr. Coon supports implementation of mobile beach signs, but would like DLNR to add permanent signage on the beach walkway, as well, to alert tourists to be on the lookout for incoming boats. Mr. Coon added that DLNR also plans to have a company come in to engineer and maintain mega-buoys for use as swim buoys.
  - Lahaina Harbor

Mr. Coon also noted that Lahaina Harbor is in desperate need of dredging, and is getting to be a real navigational issue.
  - Honoapiilani Highway

Ms. Donna Brown, MACZAC member, noted that a seawall is currently being rebuilt on Honoapiilani Highway. Ms. Brown added that Maui is quickly losing its beaches.
  - Olowalu

Mr. Rich Brunner, MACZAC member, discussed Olowalu, an area adjacent to Honoapiilani Highway, and the site of an historic massacre in 1790. It has been proven genetically that the reefs in Olowalu seed all of Maui Nui (Maui, Molokai, Lanai). A proposal to develop a town in the area was fiercely opposed by many, in part because of the impacts it would have on the near shore reef, water quality, beach access, traffic, and cultural practitioners. After an 11-hour meeting, the LUC voted to reject the developer's EIS.

- Oahu –
  - Kailua Bay/Lanikai  
Ms. Sakai stated that Kailua Bay/Lanikai is a hot spot because of the recent boating accident in which one diver was killed and another was seriously injured by a speeding boat.
  - Maunalua Bay  
Ms. Sakai noted that the Maunalua Bay hotspot relating to expansion of the Humpback Whale Sanctuary has been resolved through the withdrawal, by NOAA, of the expansion proposal.

**VI. Public Input**

No public input was given.

**VII. Nominations and Selection of 2015 Douglas Tom “Thumbs-Up” Award**

MACZAC members reviewed the list of nominees for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Douglas Tom Thumbs-Up Award, and were then asked to vote for one of the nominated organizations:

- Aha Moku ‘O Maui (nominated by Phil Fernandez)
- Conservation Council for Hawaii (nominated by Robin Kaye)
- Hawai‘i Eyes of the Reef Network (nominated by Donna Brown)
- Hui Malama O Mo‘omomi (nominated by Kimbal Thompson and Craig Severance)
- Maui Nui Marine Resource Council’s Coral Reef Recovery Team (nominated by Rich Brunner)
- Mo`omomi Preserve (nominated by Kimbal Thompson)
- Project S.E.A.-Link (nominated by Jim Coon)
- West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative (nominated by Donna Brown)

The nominee receiving the most votes was West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative. The group agreed that West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative was the winner of the 2015 Douglas Tom “Thumbs-Up” Award, and that an award should be presented to Tova Callender, West Maui Watershed Coordinator, at the next MACZAC meeting. If Ms. Callender is unable to attend, Maui MACZAC representatives will present the award to her at a later date on Maui.

**VIII. Election of MACZAC Officers**

A motion was made by Mr. Fernandez to keep the current Chair, Sue Sakai. The group voted unanimously for Ms. Sakai to continue on as Chair. The group also decided to add a second Vice-Chair position. Mr. Kaye then nominated Mr. Fernandez as First Vice-Chair, and Mr. Kimbal Thompson as Second Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Jim Coon, and unanimously approved by all members present.

**IX. New Business**

- The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm at the Office of Planning Conference Room.
- The group agreed to meet on Kauai in late September in order to attend the annual HCPO Meeting being held there.
- Agenda item for next meeting: Request a meeting with Chair Case, ask her to speak for 20 minutes about ORMP-related issues, followed by a question and answer session. If Chair Case is unavailable, check availability of DLNR First Deputy Kekoa Kaluhiwa. Another possible guest speaker would be a representative from Hawaii DOT.

**X. Adjournment**

MACZAC Chair, Sue Sakai, adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.