

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

## MINUTES

Friday, September 6, 2024: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Hybrid format: Zoom and in-person at the OPSD Conference Room

OPSD Conference Room  
State Office Tower, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
235 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### Link to the electronic video recording of the meeting:

[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/maczac/meeting\\_recordings/20240906\\_MACZAC\\_Mtg.mp4](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/maczac/meeting_recordings/20240906_MACZAC_Mtg.mp4)

## ATTENDANCE

- **Members present (7):** Rich Brunner, Denver Coon, Taryn Dizon, Phil Fernandez, Will Sankey, Scott Sullivan, Sylvia Yanagisako
- **Members absent (4):** Donna Brown, La'a Poepoe, Kimbal Thompson, Robert (Bob) Nishimoto
- **Office of Planning and Sustainable Development/Coastal Zone Management (OPSD/CZM) staff present (9):** Mary Alice Evans (OPSD), Debra Mendes, Rachel Beasley, Sarah Chang, Mary Lou Kobayashi, Shichao Li, McKenzie Lim, Lisa Webster, Susan Feeney
- **Others present (5):** Taylor Kaili McKenzie (ORC Development Council), Derek Brockbank (CSO), Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Kauanoë Hoomanawanui (SHPD), Randall Duldulao (DoD)

## DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL

- MACZAC meeting agenda for September 6, 2024
- Draft minutes from May 10, 2024 MACZAC Meeting
- CZM Report to MACZAC (September 6, 2024)

### **I. Call to Order**

MACZAC Chair Phil Fernandez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chair called for any notices and informed attendees of HCPO participation by Phil Fernandez, Donna Brown, Taryn Dizon, and Sylvia Yanagisako.

### **II. Notice from OPSD Director**

A notice by the DLNR-DAR Holomua Initiative was announced for communities in Maui. This initiative aims to engage the community on nearshore waters and related activities.

### **III. Approval of May 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved as circulated.

#### **IV. Welcome from OPSD Director**

#### **V. Hawai'i CZM Acting Program Manager's Report:**

##### **National Initiatives**

##### **CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Opportunity**

The CZM Program has the privilege of administering BIL 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 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the third round of competition (FY24) was posted in mid-June 2024. The CZM Program shared the NOFO with its network and was available for questions and consultations, as requested by interested applicants. Twelve (12) LOIs were submitted and a CZM Evaluation Team selected three (3) LOIs to submit to NOAA for inclusion in the nationwide competition. NOAA anticipates making their selections for full proposal invitations on October 1, 2024.

##### **Hawai'i CZM Program**

Position Vacancies: Program Manager, Office Assistant, and MACZAC Coordinator (in recruitment).

Staff member McKenzie Lim is Interim MACZAC Coordinator.

##### **Section 312 Evaluation**

The Hawai'i CZM is part of the NOAA evaluation cycle in federal FY24. The evaluation covers the period of September 2018 to August 2024. The evaluation committee conducted interviews with CZM stakeholders during their visit, held August 20-22, 2024.

NOAA conducted an online survey about the implementation of our program and its impacts.

NOAA also met with MACZAC Chair and Vice Chair to discuss their impressions and concerns with our program.

##### **Ocean Resources Management Plan**

##### **Focus Area I: Development & Coastal Hazards**

##### **Regional Shoreline Management Strategy:**

CZM, with technical support from Sea Engineering, Inc., completed agency consultations for the *Regional Shoreline Management Strategy* initiative. CZM conducted 10 consultation meetings, with representatives from 18 different State and County agencies. Deliverables for this contract will include: (1) a final report compiling

agency feedback and recommendations for a revised methodology, and (2) an assessment of the availability of existing littoral cell maps, as well as a scoping effort to identify the various levels of granularity at which littoral mapping could be completed, the methodologies, and estimated associated costs. The final products will be completed by December 31, 2024.

The OPSD CZM is a subawardee on UH Sea Grant's NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant award. The project, "Aina restoration through community governance to advance climate resilience in the Hawaiian Islands," identified five moku around the state to focus on moku-scale restoration and resilience building efforts. The OPSD CZM will be working in three moku to pilot the regional shoreline delineation methodology, and then work with three regions (1 per moku) to develop regional-scale adaptation plans. The project is anticipated to begin in October 2024 and will be a 5-year initiative.

#### Managed Retreat Analysis:

Chair Fernandez expressed interest in a Spring 2025 presentation on the findings of the Managed Retreat Analysis Report.

### **Focus Area II: Land-Based Pollution**

#### Expanding the Cesspool Prioritization Tool to Include Moloka'i:

Acting CZM Program Manager, Debra Mendes, noted that this project came out of MACZAC suggestions from member Bob Nishimoto, Ph.D..

#### Other Land-Based Pollution News:

Chair Fernandez brought up DOH's concern over a Supreme Court decision relating to land-based pollution. Department of Health has begun working with EPA to come up with an outreach plan for their non-point source pollution campaign. Former CZM Project Analyst, Sofia Luczak, and current CZM Project Analyst, Lisa Webster, took part in a series of workshops focused on interagency outreach to increase awareness of the negative impacts of cesspools.

Chair Fernandez informed the group of the Supreme Court ruling on non-point source pollution and cesspools, stating that cesspools were one of the largest contributors to non-point source pollution in Hawaii. Cesspools are generally residential in nature and the public will be most affected by this ruling. The ruling suggested that there will have to be increased technical studies conducted.

### **Focus Area III: Marine Ecosystems**

#### Hawaiian Estuaries Viewer:

Chair Fernandez requested a 2025 presentation with either the staff contact from CZM or the contractor. This idea to develop a resource focused on estuaries was born out of a suggestion from MACZAC member, Dr. Nishimoto.

A public attendee, Taylor Kaili, asked if this resource will be publicly available and accessible. Ms. Webster confirmed. Ms. Kaili also asked if this tool will impact how estuaries will be permitted and who can access them. Ms. Webster informed the group that it might impact how decisions are made, for example EA/EIS processes and/or water regulators' decision-making processes.

Chair Fernandez informed the group that CZM is involved in this issue because it is a cross-agency issue. This is something that Dr. Nishimoto emphasized, that this is a mauka to makai issue and that estuaries cross multi-jurisdictional boundaries. Kim Peyton, Ph.D., at DLNR-DAR, is leading the effort to categorize and gather information on estuaries across the State.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

OPSD Director informed the group that the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission recently adopted a workplan for 2025's "Year of Climate Action". This workplan brings together all State departments involved, all four counties, and communities and non-profits.

### **MACZAC Member Updates**

Chair Fernandez informed the group of his participation in BOEM's outreach meeting relating to offshore wind energy. There are three proposed locations: 1) South of Waikiki, 2) North of Ka'ena Point, and 3) Waimanalo's Ka'iwi Channel. The comment period was overwhelmed with public backlash. Chair Fernandez submitted written testimony. Chair Fernandez suggested that MACZAC could request a presentation from BOEM AND HSEO who are heavily involved in offshore energy planning.

Member Will Sankey informed the group that he is interested in BOEM's offshore energy efforts as well as CZM's Estuaries Viewer. Member Denver Coon informed the group he is also interested in BOEM's wind energy project.

## **VI. Presentation on the Mid-Way Assessment of the Ocean Resources Management Plan (2020), *Sarah Chang, OPSD-CZM Project Analyst***

CZM Project Analyst, Sarah Chang introduced the 2025 ORMP Evaluation and Refresh. After Ms. Luczak's departure from her position as CZM Project Analyst, the CZM Program is transitioning her into a part-time position to support completion of this effort.

The evaluation and assessment's purpose is to evaluate the progress of the ORMP network since 2020, identify accomplishments, strengths, and gaps, and inventory completed projects and policy changes that supported progress towards ORMP goals. This effort will help CZM in its' strategic planning for 2025-2030, specifically in identifying new areas of focus/priority challenges that have emerged since the 2020 update. The evaluation plan is now in the partner review phase in which the CZM program asks its' partners how their needs have changed, asks them to consider if CZM

is filling existing gaps, and whether the ORMP's goals are still relevant. The final part of this effort will be an accomplishment summary and road map for the next 5 years.

The CZM Program has created a project timeline from 2020 to the present that shows the breadth of projects that have been completed. Based on the projects that have been completed, the CZM program has put together an internal progress report based on the ORMP's Focus Areas.

Partner outreach has been a large part of the refresh process. The two methods of outreach were a high-level partner survey and in-depth one-on-one partner agency consultations. MACZAC members are also invited to fill out the survey.

Next steps for the ORMP Refresh include completing agency outreach meetings by the end of October. The CZM program will then compile information to identify gaps and opportunities, with a goal of finishing the 2025 ORMP Refresh document in February 2025.

Chair Fernandez asked if the 2025 ORMP Refresh document will be a supplement to the 2020 ORMP. Sarah Chang confirmed. Because this is only a mid-way assessment, an in-depth public outreach strategy is not going to take place, with outreach efforts focused on the ORMP network and partners. Chair Fernandez is active in the legislature and suggested that the CZM program brief the legislature. Director Evans informed the group that the program is typically writing testimony and or giving testimony on bills that affect HRS Chapter 205A and/or ORMP Focus Areas.

## **VII. Presentation on the Section 309 Assessment & Strategy, Rachel Beasley, OPSD-CZM Planner**

OPSD-CZM Planner Rachel Beasley gave an overview of NOAA's Section 309 Assessment & Strategy. Every 5 years the Coastal Zone Management Program conducts a self-assessment through NOAA's Coastal Zone Enhancement Program. This is a voluntary program and if the assessment and strategy is approved, the State's CZM Program is eligible for Section 309 funding. The funding can be used on federally approved Section 309 strategies designated for a program change. The two types of funding include weighted funds and Projects of Special Merit. Goals include a program change, which could include a change to coastal zone boundary, new or revised authorities, new or revised coastal programs and implementing ordinances, new or revised coastal land acquisition, management, and restoration programs, new or revised special area management plans or plans for areas of particular concern, and new or revised guidelines, procedures, and policy documents that are formally adopted by the State.

The nine enhancement areas include: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative impacts and secondary impacts, special management plans, ocean and Great Lake resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. The

assessment of these enhancement areas must determine the extent to which problems and opportunities for program enhancement exist within each enhancement area objective(s), determine the effectiveness of current management efforts, and identify high priority needs for program enhancement.

For FY 2021-2025, the high priority enhancement areas in which the CZM program developed strategies were coastal hazards and ocean and Great Lakes resources.

NOAA has chosen wetlands and coastal hazards as FY 2026-2030 priority enhancement areas. MACZAC members were asked for their input on what they feel priority enhancements should be for the next 5 years for the CZM Program.

Ms. Kaili asked for clarification on what happens when a priority area is chosen. Ms. Beasley informed the group that funding for Projects of Special Merit are only awarded to priority enhancement areas with a strategic plan and through a competitive award process.

MACZAC member Taryn Dizon voiced that Kaua'i residents are losing public access to their beaches and shorelines. In special management area planning, Ms. Dizon advocates for the creation and development of State and county partnerships to address pollution in streams and estuaries on Kaua'i.

MACZAC member Scott Sullivan voiced that coastal hazards is the most prominent issue that Hawai'i faces.

Ms. Kaili advocated for prioritizing the enhancement area of wetlands. O'ahu has lost over 70% of its wetlands and this affects the State's lo'i kalo production. Ms. Kaili is excited to see that NOAA has wetlands on its radar.

There will be a first draft of the Section 309 Assessment & Strategy completed by mid-October. This will be posted on the CZM Program website for public comment.

#### **VIII. Report back from HCPO (Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials) Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)**

Chair Fernandez reported the HCPO 2024 selection committee did not select MACZAC as a discussion panel during the conference. Chair Fernandez suggested to disband the HCPO PIG at the next MACZAC meeting as an action item. OPSD Director reported that OPSD will be hosting HCPO 2025 and can guarantee MACZAC as part of the session panels.

#### **IX. Report back from MACZAC Public Engagement Permitted Interaction Group (PIG), held monthly**

Chair Fernandez introduced the objectives of the Public Engagement PIG. The PIG met a few times over a four-month period. Some issues were identified in dealing with how

to inform the public on what the State and counties are doing to adapt to sea level rise. Solutions included a publication, such as a supplement to the newspaper, on explaining what the State is doing to address climate change. Chair Fernandez added that the public does not have an easy or accessible information source on issues involving climate change and sea level rise. The PIG recognizes that the public doesn't typically engage in long-term issues.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out that MACZAC members need to be better informed on what the State and counties are doing in regards to climate change. He suggested that MACZAC members should be better informed and educated to better inform the public. Members must know what is happening in order to give OPSD-CZM implementable advice.

MACZAC member Sylvia Yanagisako noted that State efforts can feel abstract and distant to what people are dealing with in their daily lives. Ms. Yanagisako finds it difficult to absorb all the information that is out there surrounding the States' efforts to address climate change. Part of the issue is engaging "the public" in a general sense. She advised that a more manageable effort would be to engage and deal with very small portions of a type of "public", or specific communities. A smaller level of engagement would help MACZAC members understand specific concerns of coastal communities. How can MACZAC be involved in a productive way in listening to specific communities?

Ms. Dizon suggested using DLNR-DAR's Holomua public outreach model. Mr. Coon sits on the Holomua team and noted that it has been highly successful and beneficial. Using this PIG, MACZAC has to find a specific mechanism to make recommendations to OPSD-CZM.

Director Evans volunteered the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission presentation for the next MACZAC meeting.

Chair Fernandez resigned his seat in the public engagement permitted interaction group and appointed member Sylvia Yanagisako as the new Chair.

## **X. Hotspots**

- **Beach Erosion and Submerged Breakwaters**

Ms. Dizon informed the group that there is an area in Kaua'i with a sea wall that is shrinking due to sea level rise and increased wave activity. She shared that the coral reefs that once helped soften wave activity have begun to get deeper. Ms. Dizon shared a Civil Beat story that mentioned artificial reefs as a potential solution.

Chair Fernandez noted that the University of Hawai'i just received a grant to study submerged breakwaters as a potential solution. DARPA has funded a multi-million-dollar study to investigate submerged breakwaters.

Mr. Sullivan noted that there is a pilot project that includes concrete modules to be deployed off the Marine Corps Base on the East side of O'ahu.

- Maui Fire Updates  
Mr. Coon noted that the Lahaina Harbor fuel dock is now working and open. Lahaina Harbor is also now letting vessels dock at the harbor during storms. However, the new issue is getting water.

#### **XI. Public input on all agenda items**

No public input was provided at this time.

- MACZAC member Rich Brunner requested that MACZAC advocate for an update on HDOT-Highway Divisions' Climate Adaptation Plan. Chair Fernandez confirmed as an agenda item for the next MACZAC meeting.

#### **XII. New business**

- The next MACZAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- New business was noted throughout the meeting.

#### **XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.