

Updating the 2006 Ocean Resources Management Plan

Authority: Section 205A-62, HRS, charges Hawaii's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), Office of Planning with responsibility for the overall update and coordination of the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) and its implementation.

Anticipating the update of the 2006 ORMP, CZM submitted and has received approval by NOAA for an enhancement grant under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended in 1990 and 1996, for funding in FY2011-2015 in the area of ocean resources.

Goals: The 309 Strategy for ocean resources for FY 2011-2015 will set forth as explicit State public policy the importance of managing Hawaii's ocean resources because of their economic, environmental, and cultural significance to the State. By the end of the five year strategy, ocean resources objectives and policies will be part of Hawaii's statewide policy document, the Hawaii State Plan.

Justification: Ocean resources management needs to be elevated as a priority in the State of Hawaii in order to obtain the financial and other support that it needs to address these critical issues. This sentiment was clearly articulated by participants of the Joint ORMP Strategic Planning Meeting in July of 2010. This strategy addresses the important gaps identified by CZM and the members of the ORMP Policy and Working Groups.

In addition, there is also a need to set forth as explicit State public policy, the importance of managing Hawaii's ocean resources because of their economic, environmental, and cultural significance to the State. Specifically, ocean resources objectives and policies should be expressed and endorsed through executive approval as state functional/strategic plans. Moreover, there is a need for a mechanism to express and formalize Executive Branch support and implementation of these objectives and policies.

Approach and Activities: In order to capitalize on the collaborative work that has been strengthening for several years now, an analysis and update of the existing 2006 ORMP will be conducted to provide the basis for approval by the Governor as a state functional/strategic plan, and subsequent (by year 5) legislation to amend the Hawaii State Plan. The existing ORMP will be analyzed to identify what is working, constraints and obstacles frequently encountered, and gaps in the plan. The analysis will include facilitated discussions with major partners on various aspects of ORMP implementation (e.g., definitions of terms we use, often with different intentions and understandings). This facilitated and strategic analysis will help CZM to ensure that the ORMP continues to evolve and be relevant and meaningful to CZM and our partners. The data gathered will also provide the foundation for the development of new policies to address the challenges encountered and any gap areas identified, e.g., climate change and regional ocean partnerships.

Outcomes and Schedule: Year 1

1. An analysis of the current 2006 ORMP will be conducted. Target completion date: December, 2011.
2. Necessary research on existing plans and priorities will be conducted for relevancy to the ORMP update. Target completion date: December, 2011.
3. Facilitated discussions with the ORMP Policy and Working Groups, the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC), and other relevant stakeholders and government agencies will be conducted in order to gather input for the update of the ORMP. Target completion date: December, 2011.
4. Draft revisions to the ORMP will be prepared. Target completion date: February, 2012.
5. The first round of statewide public hearings to obtain input into the draft revisions to the ORMP will be completed. Target completion date: March, 2012.
6. Incorporating public input gathered at public hearings, a First Draft of the ORMP Update will be completed. Target completion date: June 30, 2012.