

**Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan  
Council on Ocean Resources**

**Meeting Summary**

July 1, 2021 | 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Zoom

**Council Members Present:** (8 individuals)

Jim Buika for Michele McLean (*County of Maui, Department of Planning*)

Ka'āina Hull (*County of Kauai, Department of Planning*)

Zendo Kern (*County of Hawaii, Planning Department*)

Todd Low for Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (*Department of Agriculture*)

Scott Miyashiro for Keith Kawaoka (*Department of Health*)

Brian Neilson for Suzanne Case (*Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)*)

Dean Uchida (*City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting*)

Theresa Woznick for Luke Meyers (*Hawaii Emergency Management Agency*)

**Partners Present:** (10 individuals)

William Aila Jr. (*Department of Hawaiian Home Lands*)

Stephanie Bennett for Jean Tanimoto (*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for Coastal Management*)

Shellie Habel (*DLNR - Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands/UH Sea Grant College Program*)

Melissa Iwamoto (*University of Hawaii (UH) – Pacific Island Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)*)

Melanie Lander (*UH Sea Grant College Program*)

Ben Reder for Jeffrey Herzog (*US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)*)

Brad Romine for Darren Lerner (*UH Sea Grant College Program*)

Salvatore Saluga (*DLNR - Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands*)

Jodi Sayegusa (*County of Kauai, Department of Planning*)

April Surprenant (*County of Hawaii, Planning Department*)

**Office of Planning (OP) Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) Staff and Others Present:** (9 individuals)

Mary Alice Evans (*OP*)

Keelan Barcina (*OP - CZM*)

Danielle Bass (*OP - Statewide Sustainability Program*)

Sarah Chang (*OP - CZM*)

Phil Fernandez (*Marine and Coastal Zone Advisory Council*)

Shichao Li (*OP - CZM*)

Justine Nihipali (*OP - CZM*)

Yusraa Tadj (*OP - CZM*)

Lisa Webster (*OP - CZM*)

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## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Mary Alice Evans, Director, OP*

- Ms. Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees, who briefly introduced themselves and the agency or organization they represented.

## **II. Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) General Updates**

*Justine Nihipali, Program Manager, OP-CZM*

- Ms. Nihipali provided updates on the ORMP program since the last Council meeting in January:
  - a. ORMP Partnership with USACE Silver Jackets Program
    - State and federal partners have been contacted for letters of support. Currently awaiting one last confirmation letter and anticipate moving forward soon.
    - Once all letters are received, USACE Honolulu District will submit the completed package to USACE National Team for formal recognition of the Hawaii Silver Jackets Team.
    - Once formalized, the Hawaii Silver Jackets Team will be eligible for funding immediately, however, in this instance - project requests will be “out of cycle” for the fiscal year, approval is subject to the availability of funds. Typically, requests are due in the Spring for the following Federal fiscal year.
  - b. CZM Strategic Planning Process
    - OP-CZM is transitioning from focusing on the big picture update to narrowing in on project level activities and defining the steps needed to achieve Focus Area goals.
  - c. ORMP StoryMap Outreach Tool
    - Updated StoryMap to highlight the plan itself
    - Link: [The Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

## **III. ORMP Focus Area Implementation Status**

*CZM staff & partners*

- *OP-CZM staff and partners presented 10 minute updates on Focus Area implementation projects and their status*
  - a. Focus Area #1 Development and Coastal Hazards; *Presented by Yusraa Tadj, OP-CZM*
    - OP-CZM is interested in developing a regional shoreline management scoping study
      - Currently, permitting is conducted with a parcel-by-parcel approach which creates challenges for larger-scale, green solutions, such as beach renourishment.
      - HRS 226-109 and Act 45 SLH 2020 are policies that support the need for a more coordinated effort.

- The scoping study would explore how to best define a region in Hawaii, and ask questions such as, what are factors to consider, what are some potential challenges, etc.
- OP-CZM has been conducting a literature review of strategies used by other states for managing shorelines at a regional scale. Approaches vary greatly among states. OP-CZM has identified three examples of particular interest and has reached out to these groups to learn more about their processes:
  - San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas
    - Uses Operation Landscape Units (OLUs) which identify areas that are geographically adjacent and would benefit from being managed as a unit based off ecosystem services. OLUs consider various factors including jurisdiction, habitat, land use, etc.
  - Ocean Beach Master Plan
    - Non-legally binding, guiding document for development along the shoreline
    - Highlights cross-sector collaboration and planning, as well as a phase approach of implementation
  - Cape Cod Coastal Planner
    - Within each region, shoreline is categorized using a “Vulnerability Ribbon”
- OP-CZM is working on improving communication and outreach tools, which also reflects feedback from MACZAC regarding the need for more education about coastal hazards. One new resource is the County Profiles StoryMap which highlights the partnership between OP-CZM and the County Planning Departments in supporting a place-based approach to proactive shoreline management.
  - Link: [County Profiles \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
- HB243 directs OP in cooperation with state agencies operating state facilities to: identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to SLR, flooding impacts and natural hazards; assess a range of options to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise to those facilities; and submit annual reports to the Governor, Legislature, and Hawaii Climate Commission regarding the vulnerability and adaptation assessments for state facilities and the progress made in implementing sea level rise adaptation in future plans, programs, and capital improvement needs and decisions.
  - OP-CZM will be supporting this effort on behalf of OP as it closely aligns with ORMP Focus Area 1.
  - This bill is consistent with HRS Section 226-109, Act 16 SLH 2020, and recommendations from the 2017 SLR Vulnerability Assessment Report
  - OP anticipates the bill will be signed soon and looks forward to implementing this resilience initiative.

- b. Focus Area #2 Land-Based Pollution; *Presented by Melanie Lander, UH Sea Grant*
- The 2020 ORMP defines Land-Based Pollution as pollution that largely originates from non-point sources. With no single source, it is an interdisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional issue
  - Non-point source pollution was identified as the number one issue of concern in public surveys, which
  - Ms. Lander on behalf of UH Sea Grant, is contracted by OP-CZM for the project, “Identifying frameworks for land-based pollution management in the Hawaiian Islands,” which will describe multijurisdictional management framework, successes and shortfalls, existing educational and compliance campaigns, and research needs.
    - The final report is intended to support the Focus Area 2 Action Team in its implementation of research and actions over the next decade
    - Key elements suggested by MACZAC include agency responsibilities and jurisdictions, capacity challenges and challenges of public-private co-management
    - Report will combine a literature review and first-person stakeholder interviews.
    - The project began in mid-June and will be completed by December 2021.
  - Clarifying comment: Septic systems, while approved by DOH, are still vulnerable to sea level rise impacts. As these septic systems fail, they will become sources of land-based pollution and should therefore, be considered in management strategies. This relates specifically to coastal septic systems impacted by sea level rise.
- c. Focus Area #3 Marine Ecosystems; *Presented by Keelan Barcina, OP-CZM*
- Focus Area 3 supports DAR’s Holomua: Marine 30x30 Initiative and DAR is the lead agency for the Action Team. Since the last Council meeting, the Action Team has met twice to discuss the most effective ways for ORMP to support DAR’s efforts.
  - OP-CZM and DAR are awaiting decisions regarding a Project of Special Merit proposal: Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program. Applications are currently in the review process, and award notices will be released in late summer.
  - MACZAC has voiced strong support for the ORMP’s mauka to makai approach and sees opportunities for inter/intra-agency collaboration within this Focus Area. They would also like to elevate the focus on the muliwai (ex. Estuaries) in management.
  - Conserving and Restoring American the Beautiful, released in May 2021 by the Biden Administration is the Federal plan to conserve 30% of US lands and waters by 2030. The report outlines principles and recommendations as guidance for implementation.

- d. Round table discussion on Focus Area project feedback and suggestions of related resources (existing efforts, studies, tool, staff contacts); *Facilitated by Mary Alice Evans*

Discussion (paraphrased):

William Aila (DHHL): Sees connections between the land in their jurisdiction and goals of the ORMP so DHHL will be monitoring the implementation process as it moves forward. Supportive of the goals and priorities, including the muliwai as critical habitat. Suggestion to be cognizant of traditional and customary practices that may be impacted by land-based pollution regulations and to consider potential waivers for minimal amounts.

Ka'āina Hull (County of Kauai, Dept of Planning): Asked how other states are approaching SLR and erosion mitigation? Ms. Tadj and Ms. Nihipali summarized that in OP's research we have not found a uniform method amongst coastal states or municipalities. There is variation in strategies, as well as definition/classification of threats. Mr. Hull suggested the need for standardized rules for counties for those issues that are common across the state, for example, design standards for structures within a wave run-up area. Variability between counties could create challenges for engineers/builders and open up the door for legal challenges.

April Surprenant (County of Hawaii, Planning Department): Suggestion to include other county and state agencies (particularly infrastructure agencies) beyond the Planning Department in discussions about Focus Area 2. Consider offering trainings for staff, engineers, practitioners, etc. to provide the tools and design-related knowledge necessary for implementation of green infrastructure.

Theresa Woznick (HI-EMA): Older communities often have challenges dealing with floods, due to older infrastructure that was built for less capacity. Any changes to code or design should incorporate NFIP and flood maps. Communities with newer infrastructure, for example larger culverts, will be protecting themselves, but could inadvertently be flooding neighbors with older infrastructure. Link for interactive flood maps: [FEMA Flood Map Service Center | Search By Address](#)

Jim Buika (County of Maui, Dept. of Planning): Suggestion to include "brown water" in Focus Area 2 report. Address questions such as: What is it, is it a pollutant and what are the impacts of brown water on reefs? Ms. Lander responded that brown water and a presentation by DOH-Clean Water Branch (CWB), was a primary interest of the ORMP Coordinated Working Group during the update process. While DOH-CWB does post placards, they don't always have the capacity to conduct water testing. "Brown water" is used as a catch-all phrase, and the actual composition varies. The brown coloring typically comes from sediment. Regarding Focus Area 1, Mr. Buika asked about the resources needed to complete a regional planning study. Ms. Tadj responded that in our discussions with groups that have completed these types of studies, we are asking about staffing, funding and other factors that aren't part of the plan but are necessary for understanding the approach and feasibility.

Dean Uchida (City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting): As part of the One Water campaign, DPP is looking at how to coordinate infrastructure improvements of water, sewer and roads. Considering a pilot project in Mapunapuna to test the collaborative effort and understand feasibility of implementation at a larger scale.

Brad Romine (UH Sea Grant College Program): UH Sea Grant is already very involved in many of these efforts. Mr. Romine has a particular interest in the regional management scoping study. He is somewhat familiar with the OLU system used in the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas and thinks it lends itself well to Hawaii's moku/ahupua'a system.

Melissa Iwamoto (PacIOOS): Just released West Maui Wave Run-Up Forecasting model. Phase 2 of the project is using the model for future scenarios and will include a large effort in risk communication outreach. PacIOOS is interested in collaborating with others on outreach. There is interest in replicating modeling project for other regions, currently looking for funding opportunities. Regarding Focus Area 1 and the Cape Cod planning tool example, Ms. Iwamoto asked if there were any features in the Cape Cod tool that could be incorporated into the Hawaii SLR Viewer. Ms. Tadj responded in the chat that our interest in the Cape Cod tool is mainly to understand how they defined their regions. But in using the tool, one nice feature was the option to overlay a map of critical facilities and existing coastal defenses in relation to SLR and erosion. Link for West Maui Model: [Wave Run-Up Forecast: West Maui, Hawai'i | PacIOOS \(hawaii.edu\)](#)

Brian Neilson (DLNR-DAR): DAR acknowledges the importance of the muliwai as important for fisheries resources and marine ecosystem health, as well as it being a nexus for many land-sea issues. DAR is supportive of seeing muliwai as being included in Focus Area 3 initiatives. OP has supported DAR through the funding of statewide high-resolution coral maps which have been instrumental for 30x30 planning. These photos were taken before and after the 2019 bleaching event and provide insight on hotspots of loss and resilience.

Phil Fernandez (MACZAC): As regional shoreline study progresses, consider including the public in conversations as they might have a different concept of "regional" than technical experts. Focus Area 2 and Focus Area 3 are two sides of the same coin. Both are multi-jurisdictional and understanding the framework of those jurisdictions and agency interactions is key to implementing projects.

#### **IV. Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan**

*Danielle Bass, Statewide Sustainability Coordinator, OP*

- Ms. Bass provided an overview of the newly updated Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan
  - o The plan originated from Act 8, SLH 2005 to replace the Hawaii State Plan. In 2019, Act 146 revised the scope of the plan to serve as the State's sustainability and climate strategy action plan. This was codified as HRS Section 226-65. The plan is updated every 10 years.

- The recent update process included review of Hawaii laws and plans, public outreach, coordination with stakeholders and determining future actions. The final plan is structured around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It encompasses 8 focus areas, 38 strategies to address these focus areas, 250 recommendations on how to implement these strategies, and 17 case studies showcasing current sustainability initiatives around the State.
- The 8 focus areas are: (1) promote a sustainable economic recovery; (2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (3) improve climate resilience; (4) advance sustainable communities; (5) advance equity; (6) institutionalize sustainability throughout government; (7) preserve the natural environment; (8) perpetuate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)
- The 2050 Sustainability Plan aligns with the ORMP and shares ORMP recommendations in goals in four of the SDGs: #6 Clean Water and Sanitation, #13 Climate Action, #14 Life below Water, and #15 Life above Land
- The plan launched July 2, 2021. Contact Danielle Bass for copies or visit the new Sustainability website: [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan \(hawaii.gov\)](https://hawaii.gov/sustainability/)

## **V. ORMP Future**

*Justine Nihipali, Program Manager, Coastal Zone Management Program*

- Ms. Nihipali thanked everyone for attending and participating. The next Council meeting will be held in January, but in the meantime the OP-CZM team will be reaching out to partners for expertise. If any participants did not have a chance to share, please reach out to Justine Nihipali or Sarah Chang with any further comments, recommendations and/or considerations for any projects.

## **VI. Next Steps & Housekeeping (5 min)**

Next Council Meeting Date – January 6, 2022

## **VII. Adjournment**

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