

# Hawai‘i Ocean Resources Management Plan Policy Group

## Meeting Summary

February 3, 2010; 9:00-11:00.

NOAA Pacific Services Center, #1550

### **Members Present:**

Abbey Seth Mayer (OP)  
Donna Brown (MACZAC)  
Derek Chow (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)  
Steve Frano, for Bill Thomas (NOAA)  
Clayton Yoshida, for Jeff Hunt (Maui Planning)  
Darren Okimoto, for Gordon Grau (UH Sea Grant College Program)  
Alexander (Sandy) Shor, for Brian Taylor (UH-SOEST)  
Margaret Masunaga, for Bobby Jean Leithead Todd (Hawai‘i Planning)  
Ian Costa (Kauai Planning)  
Laurance Lau (DOH)

### **Others Present:**

Travis Augustin (ICAP); Cindy Barger (USACE); Jim Buika (Maui Planning); Linda Colburn (Where Talk Works); Chris Conger (UH Sea Grant); Jim Coon (MACZAC); Dolan Eversole (UH Sea Grant); Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM); Mary Lou Kobayashi (OP); Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz (The Nature Conservancy); Todd Low (DOA); Lorene Maki (OP/CZM); Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM); Hudson Slay (EPA); Lisa Ellen Smith, via telephone (Kauai Planning); Barry Usagawa (BWS); Dean Watase (DOT Harbors)

### **New Policy Group Members**

The following new members of the Policy Group were introduced:

- Donna Brown - Chairperson, replacing Arnold Lum, Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council
- Derek Chow - Senior Project Manager, Civil & Public Works Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Gordon Grau - Director, University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program
- Bobby Jean Leithead Todd, Planning Director, replacing Chris Yuen, County of Hawai‘i

### **Announcements**

- Doug Tom, CZM Program Manager, retired at the end of December, 2009, after 30+ years working at the Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management Program. Abbey Mayer is the Acting Program Manager until the position is filled, and he will be attending Working Group meetings in the interim.
- Bill Thomas, Director of NOAA’s Pacific Services Center (PSC), is on detail with FEMA for one year. Deputy Director Kristina Kekuewa will fill in on the Policy Group in the interim.

### **ORMP Implementation, 2009 Summary**

#### *Expanded Partnerships:*

Following the Policy Group’s directive at the September 2008 meeting to work more closely with our federal partners and strengthen collaboration at the Working Group level, the Working Group has welcomed NOAA’s Pacific Services Center, the UH Sea Grant College Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the table. Efforts continue to get City and County of Honolulu to participate in ORMP.

New members to the Working Group include:

Cindy Barber, USACE  
Peter Rappa, UH Sea Grant  
Steve Frano, replacing John Parks, NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Jean Tanimoto, NOAA Pacific Services Center  
Adam Stein, NOAA Pacific Services Center  
Jim Buika, Maui County, replacing Thorne Abbott  
Hudson Slay, EPA

*Collaborative Efforts:*

In response to the Policy Group's directive to increase efficiency and collaboration, the Working Group decided to form smaller caucus groups to work more specifically around areas of common interest. The caucuses were afforded opportunities to work on projects between Working Group meetings. Caucuses were also provided with time to meet in their project groups during regularly scheduled Working Group meetings. A brief overview of the four caucus groups formed at the Working Group level was given:

1. Outreach: dealing with strategies for strengthening community outreach, engagement and education of the ORMP. In addition to creating a draft outreach strategy, a recent initiative resulted in a widely circulated graphical message for the Advertiser on the ORMP, its three perspectives, the agencies and organizations involved, and how to get more information on the ORMP. A tri-fold print out of the exhibit was presented.
2. Climate change/coastal hazards: the caucus led the development of the Working Group's *Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii*, which was presented later in the meeting.
3. Watersheds: Formed to coordinate and strengthen watershed management planning efforts. An example of watershed collaboration in West Maui was presented later in the meeting.
4. Policy/legislation: This group was attenuated to legislative matters associated with the ORMP.

*Implementation Project Highlight:*

Two ORMP implementation projects were presented to the Policy Group. Both were prime examples of projects that truly reflect the land-sea connection and the cross-sector collaborative approach in the ORMP. The projects presented were:

1. *Mahuahua Ai o Hoi*, presented by J. Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz, Kaneohe Bay Marine Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Kako'o 'Oiwai, and the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, is working on Oahu's windward coast at the He'eia wetlands (*hoi*), which for years lay fallow and covered with dense vegetation. In order to restore the He'eia wetlands and reduce non-point source pollution at the shoreline, the partners are incorporating water quality monitoring within a traditional Hawaiian ahupua'a concept to land management through the interconnections of the He'eia wetlands to the He'eia shoreline. The planning and training phase of the project, for which CZM funds were requested, was chosen by the CZM Program and an evaluation committee as the 2009 ORMP Implementation Project. The presentation can be found on the CZM website at: [http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/policy\\_group.php](http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/policy_group.php).

Discussion/Q&A:

- Are site visits for the ORMP group possible?
  - Yes they are – CZM will arrange with the partners later in the year.
- Policy Group could provide valuable assistance with the permitting process.

2. *West Maui Watershed Project: Collaborative Planning in Hawai'i*, presented by Cindy Barger, Project Manager, Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the EPA, NOAA, DOH, the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the Commission on Water Resource Management, and other potential partners, aim to improve the overall quality of the West Maui Watershed, from the

summit of Puukukui to the outer reef, by incorporating holistic management aspects of traditional Hawaiian land and natural resource management at the watershed or ahupua'a level. The presentation can be found on the CZM website at: [http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/policy\\_group.php](http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/policy_group.php).

#### Discussion/Q&A:

- What is the timeline for the project, and what are the resource needs?
  - The timeline is targeting 10/2017, with an estimated \$100 million needed for infrastructure and construction. Much of the project has flood risk management and urban area issues, with fewer restoration issues involved.
- How are conflicts between the Steering and Executive Committees resolved?
  - The Steering Committee is more advisory with a full array of partnering organizations and the Executive Committee is made up of representatives of the sponsoring entities. The Executive Committee, as the funding agencies, would have the final say. The USACE is an implementation agency. The goal is to optimize synergy between the partners. Cindy's role is to help navigate the complexities of that process.

#### **A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawai'i**

*The Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii*, a collaborative effort of the ORMP Working Group and the University of Hawaii, Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP), was presented to the Policy Group for discussion and official endorsement. Dolan Eversole from the UH Sea Grant College Program, made the presentation on behalf of ICAP. The presentation can be found on the CZM website at: [http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/policy\\_group.php](http://www.state.hi.us/dbedt/czm/ormp/policy_group.php).

#### Discussion/Q&A:

- The role of ICAP in the Pacific is to help facilitate climate change adaptation. Collaboration is key, as this can be an overwhelming task. This is the first of many meetings that we envision to begin implementation of the framework.
- What can we do right now?
  - Our priorities should be to organize, collaborate, find cross-jurisdictional efforts, identify where these sectors overlap, etc.
  - Identify high priority adaptation projects for future funding opportunities.
  - Identify and implement administrative and organizational framework (government leadership) for climate change adaptation projects to facilitate federal funding opportunities.
- What is the role of permitting in climate change adaptation?
  - There is a very clear role, but there is currently no requirement to consider sea level rise in EIS or EA permits. The state should set an anticipated SLR (e.g., 1 meter rise by the end of this century) and require sea level rise to be included in environmental reviews – many engineers already do include this in their coastal engineering designs but it is not specially called for in environmental assessments.
  - Kauai County determines their shoreline setbacks on annual average shoreline erosion rates – very bold and progressive thinking. The current setback is based on 40 feet *plus* 70 times the average erosion rate.
  - The Pacific Institute has studied and mapped what the impacts of a 100-year flood plus a 1.4m increase in sea level rise will do to California ([http://www.pacinst.org/reports/sea\\_level\\_rise/index.htm](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/sea_level_rise/index.htm)), and it is obvious there is a direct impact on zoning and land use.
  - According to an IPCC report, the cost of inaction to climate change is estimated to be between 1 - 5% of the GDP. The cost of adapting to climate change is estimated to be +1 - 5% of the GDP.

## Policy Group Discussion

- There are many opportunities for collaboration:
  - For example, the USACE has a technical studies program that could help address the vulnerability/risk assessments on a cost/share basis; this may be able to help for some of this.
  - UH Sea Grant (ICAP) is conducting a climate change impacts study, which should be completed this spring.
  - NOAA is expanding its Coastal Storms Program (CSP) to the Pacific Region this spring. This could provide seed money for sea level rise inundation studies. UH can produce the data via the CSP, but it needs to be used effectively. A cooperative agreement and a coordinator should be in place by July of this year.
  - DOT's \$600 million Harbor Modernization Plans account for climate change.
  - DOH has a real concern with the impacts of climate change on waste water and drinking water infrastructure.
  - Construction projects are being pushed hard right now, so we need to determine the key issues (e.g., SLR) immediately so that these projects account for future sea level estimates. Once we pour concrete we're stuck with these projects for 50 years, and retrofitting is expensive.
  - Hawaii County is working with State Civil Defense (SCD) to map the tsunami zone; county also encouraging green space in their shoreline setbacks as a buffer along the shoreline. It would be good to have a uniform effort across counties.
  - CZM has identified coastal hazard mitigation as an enhancement area for about ten years now. Initially, SCD produced Hazard Mitigation Plans for each island. Through Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, Hawaii CZM has been able to work with SCD to update each of these plans, as well as conduct wind-speed studies for hurricane events. These studies resulted in the revision of building codes on Oahu in order to be able to withstand hurricane wind speeds. CZM is working with the other counties to design standards for wind speeds and is also providing trainings in each of the counties to understand these wind speed modifications.
- Leadership from the top is very important. It is not there, which is a problem. It also doesn't appear in this framework document.
- We need strong public support for climate change adaptation; We need more publicity on published science of climate change impacts to secure legislative appropriations as well as gain more support from the public – there is a lot of doubt right now on climate change, which can stymie action. This element is also missing from the framework.
- Abbey Mayer will attend Working Group meetings and serve as a conduit to the Policy Group if answers or specific support is needed. This could increase the flow of information between the Working and Policy Group going forward.
- A suggestion was made to have a combined meeting between the Policy and Working Groups.
- To take advantage of federal funding opportunities, we would need a commitment from the group to make this a priority.
- Some of these are hard messages to sell. There may be political issues and push back. It would be important to determine what we can do in the next year.
- For climate adaptation, climate mitigation, hazard management – all have very similar end results. We need to do something now, and we have to take the “no regrets” approach. We can apply the existing laws. We don't have to reinvent policies, it's a matter of looking at things through an “adaptation” lens.

## Next Steps

- Have Policy Group meetings more than once per year. The next Policy Group meeting should be convened in 4-6 months.

- Working Group meeting agendas will be copied to the Policy Group, who are encouraged to attend when they can.
- The Working Group will try to reschedule their meeting dates to enable Abbey Mayer to attend.
- All members present are comfortable moving forward with implementing the framework, including the development of a long-term vision and proceeding with risk and vulnerability assessments.