

Hawai‘i Ocean Resources Management Plan Policy Group

Meeting Summary

September 15th, 2008; 9:00-12p.m.
State Office Tower, 14th floor

Members Present:

Abbey Seth Mayer (OP)	Davis Yogi (DOT)
Arnold Lum (MACZAC)	Dean Nakano (BWS)
Bill Thomas (NOAA)	Ian Costa (Kauai Planning)
Brian Taylor (UH-SOEST)	Larry Lau (DOH)
Brig. General Gary Ishikawa (SCD)	Laura Thielen (DLNR)
Chris Yuen (Hawai‘i Planning)	Todd Low, for Sandy Kunitomo (DOA)
CDR Randy Farmer (USCG)	

Others Present:

Alec Wong (DOH); Audrey Shileikis (US EPA); Barry Usagawa (BWS); Brian Hunter (DOH); Chip Fletcher (UH-SOEST); Chris Ostrander (UH Ocean Observing); Christian Kay (Hawai‘i Planning); Dana Okano (Hawai‘i Planning); Dean Watase (DOT); Doug Tom (OP/CZM); Hudson Slay (DOH); Jim Coon (MACZAC); John Parks (NOAA OCRM); Kelvin Sunada (DOH); Kenny Roberts (OP/CZM); Kitty Courtney (Tetra Tech); Linda Colburn, Facilitator; Lisa Ellen Smith (Kauai Planning); Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM); Mary Lou Kobayashi (OP); Melanie Saucier (OP); Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM); Sam Lemmo (DLNR-OCCL); Steve Godzsak (Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Council); Susan Feeney (OP/CZM); Thorne Abbot (Maui Planning)

New Policy Group Members

The following new members of the Policy Group were introduced:

- Bill Thomas, NOAA
- Davis Yogi, for Brennon Morioka, DOT Harbors Division

Overview of Previous Policy Group Meeting

Doug Tom gave an overview of the Working Group’s tasks that were approved at the Policy Group’s previous meeting in April:

1. Streamline implementation (in progress);
2. Develop an ORMP public outreach strategy (in progress);
3. Reassess resources after legislative session (complete);
4. Explore need for rule/legislative changes for 2009 (efforts were made, no Legislative proposals were agreed upon for the 2009 session);
5. Budgets assessments (complete);
6. Cross-sector collaboration, institutional arrangements, and conflict resolution (work in progress);
7. Update the ORMP (not started);
8. Address future priorities (in progress: see proposals); and
9. Strengthen participation (there have been initial discussions, work in progress).

ORMP Collaborative Efforts

One of the major tasks of the Working Group, as well as a benefit of the group, is the collaborative efforts across federal, state, county, local, and community levels to integrate ocean and coastal resource management. Members of the Working Group are encouraged to stay in close contact with their partners, and they continue to collaborate with each other on numerous levels to streamline ORMP implementation

and share resources on a variety of levels. Three examples of collaborative efforts among the Working Group and their partners were presented:

1. Efforts to develop a Watershed Planning Guidance package (DOH Polluted Runoff Control Program and CZM Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program);
2. Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group website and water quality monitoring program (County of Hawai'i, the Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group, and numerous other local partners); and
3. Tsunami Education, Preparation & Recovery Plan for Downtown Hilo (County of Hawai'i and the Pacific Tsunami Museum).

Looking Toward Future ORMP Priorities: Planning for Climate Change in Hawai'i

Dr. Chip Fletcher of the UH School of Ocean and Earth Science & Technology gave a presentation on global climate change, and how sea level rise will affect Hawaii. Some suggestions for planning and mitigating impacts were presented, such as: planning for a 1 meter sea level rise; planning for impacts on a place by place basis, as different parts of the islands will have different impacts; and retreating from the coast.

Other suggestions from the Policy Group discussion were:

- Working in partnerships with federal agencies and the private sector to leverage resources;
- Establishing an ORMP implementation strategy and aligning it with federal strategies in order to positively position ourselves for federal grants;
- Focus efforts on planning and educating ourselves, including a governance structure that would allow for a truly integrated approach;
- Explore ways to support a regional ocean governance approach, looking at the other regions in the US who are already getting significant funding for climate change as models; and
- Try again to get the City and County of Honolulu to participate on ORMP – they are a crucial missing piece of the ORMP as well as planning for climate change.

Proposals for 2009

Despite devoting substantial time and effort, the Working Group did not reach consensus on a legislative proposal to improve the ORMP and its implementation. The complexities of the interests and the contrasting perspectives at work require more deliberation. In addition, before progress on this topic can be made, the Working Group has realized that the members need clarify the context, protocols, and expectations relating to their collective work.

The Working Group agreed on two proposals, which were presented to the Policy Group for endorsement. Both proposals require financial support, a difficult proposition during the current budget crisis. The Working Group believes these proposals are important due to their potential to improve ocean and coastal planning and management. The two proposals were as follows:

1. Data integration for the purpose of improved ocean resource management in Hawaii; and
2. Studying the impacts of global climate change in Hawaii.

The first proposal is a data integration project to be carried out within the Hawaii Ocean Observing System (HiOOS). The goal is more consistent planning and implementation among agencies, which will be accomplished through the development and use of a common database. The Working Group requested policy feedback on the potential for pooling the necessary fiscal resources to develop the system to integrate the existing data of the Working Group agencies. HiOOS will translate data sets, design and develop programs, and develop the necessary web services to integrate the data into a cohesive system.

The second proposal requests endorsement and support in seeking funds for a comprehensive study of the impacts of global climate change on Hawaii. The Working Group believes that such a study is an essential precursor to an effective and collaborative planning approach to address future impacts. Indeed, a proactive approach to developing adaptation strategies will reduce or minimize the anticipated economic, social, and environmental costs associated with the impacts.

Action Items

The following three motions were unanimously passed by the Policy Group:

1. Motion to accept proposal: *Data integration for the purpose of improved ocean resource management in Hawaii*, with the condition that non-state funding will be sought;
2. Motion to accept proposal: *Studying the impacts of global climate change in Hawaii*, with the condition that non-state funding will be sought; and
3. Motion to direct the Working Group to explore collaborative governance models.