

**Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan  
Coordinated Working Group**

**Meeting Summary**

October 6, 2022

9:30 – 11:30 am

Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Organization</b>
1	Barcina, Keelan	OPSD-CZM
2	Buika, Jim	Maui County Planning Dept
3	Cain, Michael	DLNR-OCCL
4	Cardoza, Collette	
5	Delaney, David	NOAA NMFS
6	Derrington, Erin	Maui County Planning Dept
7	Fernandez, Phil	MACZAC
8	Hekeia, Josh	OPSD-CZM
9	Idica, Romio	Kauai County Planning Dept
10	Kimura, Kristi	OPSD-CZM
11	Lander, Melanie	UH Sea Grant
12	Li, Shichao	OPSD-CZM
13	Lopez, Sybil	Maui County Planning Dept
14	Low, Todd	HDOA
15	McPherson, Nancy	DHHL
16	Mendes, Debra	OPSD-CZM
17	Romine, Brad	UH Sea Grant
18	Schafer, Monique	HSEO
19	Setya, Amelia	Office of Sen. Chris Lee
20	Sullivan, Kevin	Hawaii County Planning Dept
21	Tsang, Anita	DLNR-DAR Grau Fellow
22	Webster, Lisa	OPSD-CZM
23	Writs, Amy	UH Sea Grant; DLNR-OCCL
24	Yee, Alex	C&C OCCSR (Resilient Oahu)

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**Welcome & Introductions**

Debra Mendes, Acting Program Manager, Coastal Zone Management Program (OPSD-CZM), welcomed participants to the Coordinated Working Group (CWG) meeting. Participants introduced themselves and the organizations/agencies they were representing.

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### **Introduction to NOAA Project of Special Merit (PSM) Funding Opportunity**

Kristi Kimura, Coastal Management Fellow, OPSD-CZM, provided a brief explanation of the requirements and priorities of the NOAA Project of Special Merit (PSM) funding opportunity. See meeting materials for handout on “What is a PSM?” for more information.

The Hawaii CZM Program is in the process of scoping potential PSM FY23 project ideas. OPSD-CZM staff and partners presented two ideas to the CWG for feedback.

### **PSM Proposal #1: Exploratory Study of DHHL Shoreline Guidance or Rules**

Nancy McPherson, DHHL and Lisa Webster, OPSD-CZM provided context and direction for a potential project addressing coastal resiliency on DHHL lands.

#### **What is the need and/or problem being addressed?**

SMA and other county land use regulations do not apply to DHHL lands, and DHHL projects on unencumbered lands have sovereign immunity. Currently, there is no enforceable guidance or rules to regulate shoreline activity and development on DHHL lands to respond to coastal hazards. As coastal issues, including sea-level rise, wave inundation, erosion, and flooding continue to become more frequent and widespread, it is necessary for DHHL to have a consistent standard policy to apply across the counties. DHHL anticipates more actions along the shoreline in the near future, as lessees attempt to protect land and existing structures from coastal hazards, and make efforts to comply with the cesspool conversion mandate.

#### **What is the proposed project?**

The purpose of this project is to explore the feasibility of guidance or rules to guide and/or regulate the existing and new development along the shoreline to increase Hawaiian Homeland coastal resiliency. Primary goals include:

- Examining existing regulations and parameters of jurisdictional boundaries on HHL
- Identifying pilot shoreline regions to explore the needs and procedures of shoreline guidance or rules
- Developing recommendations of strategies DHHL could employ to guide or regulate shoreline/coastal activities

#### **Feedback from the CWG:**

Overall, the CWG is supportive of the initiative and agree that addressing coastal resiliency on DHHL lands is a need. Questions regarding capacity of DHHL to implement any strategies that are identified.

### **PSM Proposal #2: Muliwai/estuary considerations for watershed restoration**

Keelan Barcina, OPSD-CZM, provided context and options for a potential project addressing the importance of incorporating estuary considerations into watershed restoration efforts.

#### **What is the need and/or program being addressed?**

The Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) has encouraged the CZM program to consider estuary protection as they serve as important nursery habitat for juvenile aquatic and marine species. As the interface between fresh and salt water, estuaries are both highly sensitive to, and able to impact conditions mauka and makai. Currently, estuaries are threatened by development, run-off and excess nutrients, invasive species, etc. Estuaries in Hawaii can take many forms, often unique to the State. Many estuary-related studies done on the mainland are not transferable to Hawaii. Some of the key questions and/or gaps in understanding identified in

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the initial scoping stages of this project include: (1) Given the variety of forms of estuaries in Hawaii, whose responsibility and jurisdiction are they? (2) How are streams and estuaries doing statewide? (3) No estuary management plan exists in Hawaii.

#### What is the proposed project?

Broadly, the purpose of this project is to develop new estuary-focused tools/products/information to inform watershed (mauka to makai) restoration project prioritization. These new tools could facilitate the pursuit of funding opportunities with possible expansion to development planning, permit reviews, etc. OPSD-CZM has identified examples of potential products, but is looking for feedback from the CWG on what is most useful to partners:

- Estuary GIS layer
- Literature review to identify gaps and needs
- Report outlining management recommendations, jurisdictional responsibilities, research needs, etc.
- Outreach materials

#### Feedback from the CWG:

- Inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices will be a critical piece. No projects should move forward without consultation with practitioners and communities.
- Need for place-based approach. Even if the project is statewide, must include an acknowledgement that projects must be adjusted for local conditions, uses, practices, etc.
- There are opportunities for Clean Water certifications to be deferred from DOH to another agency (ex. DLNR – fishponds and SSBN program)
- Prioritize muliwai that are impacted by impermeable surface runoff and cesspools
- It would be interesting to include the historic extent of fishponds in the GIS layer to exhibit future restoration potential (not sure if this already exists)! Any increased monitoring capacity for Hawaii's streams/estuaries would be positive
  - Previous state efforts to map fishponds received pushback. Many lists are incomplete, and the creation of an “official” fishpond map could lock into place what are “historic” fishponds, and potentially discount existing ponds that were undocumented
- Suggest contacting Pulama Lima w/UH and Ka Ipu Makani ([www.kaipumakanichc.org](http://www.kaipumakanichc.org)) - who is doing some interesting work restoring traditional brackish kalo lo'i connected to fishponds on Molokai
- Identifying freshwater springs has also been an issue in Maui. Revised maps of sensitive environmental systems mauka to makai would be a very beneficial management tool that could inform integrated ahapua'a assessments and prioritization. Maui County is working with SeaGrant on developing a tool to support this here so would be great to discuss that further.
- How are the muliwai going to evolve with sea level rise? Chip Fletcher's team may be working on this or have some capacity to help.
- A huge part of the BIL and recently IRA is of course climate change and decarbonization. It would be great to have more information on the role of wetlands as important critical carbon sinks and best practices that can both preserve their health, but also concurrently increase their carbon sequestration capacity.

#### **ORMP Updates and Announcements**

Michael Cain, DLNR-OCCL: Question about what other proposals were considered in the PSM process, Nancy McPherson provided insight into a need for a cesspool project and how it was incorporated into the DHHL proposal.

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Amy Wirts, UH Sea Grant; DLNR-OCCL: The five-year update to the 2017 Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report is currently underway. Agencies and organizations can provide accomplishments or in-progress projects that relate to the recommendations provided in the 2017 report to be included in the five-year update. A draft report of the five-year update to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission will be done on October 19, 2022. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for agencies and organizations to comment on the draft before it moves forward in its drafting process. Can email Amy at [awirts@hawaii.edu](mailto:awirts@hawaii.edu) to provide accomplishments, project updates, or questions.

Anita Tsang, DLNR-DAR Grau Fellow: The Department of Aquatic Resources will be proceeding with the Holomua 30x30 plan through and island by island engagement process. Starting in late October on the island of Maui, talk story sessions with communities will be hosted to chat about Holomua 30x30 efforts and how to approach them. DAR wants to establish who in the community wants to work with them to form, what they informally call, "island navigation teams" to aid in their efforts to have the Marine Managed Area boundaries be a community driven process. The island navigation teams for Maui will hopefully be established early next year to start identifying areas and proposing management plans.

Jim Buika, Maui County Planning Dept: The Maui County Planning Department will be holding two outreach meetings on October 18, 2022, to discuss the proposed shoreline rule changes, which incorporates erosion hazard lines, the 40 feet shoreline setback, and SMA rules. The meetings will be at 11:30 am and 5:00 pm on BlueJeans. There will be a meeting with the Maui Planning Commission on November 22, 2022, to discuss the adoption of these major rule changes to try and be implemented by the end of the year.

Michael Cain, DLNR-OCCL: Received approval to bring the Department of Land and Natural Resources Chapter 13-5 proposed rules to the Board of Land and Natural Resources in an October 14, 2022, meeting. Will request permission to go out for a public hearing. Information can be found at: [Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands | Administrative Rules \(hawaii.gov\)](https://www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/conservation-and-coastal-lands/administrative-rules/)

Kristi Kimura, OPSD-CZM NOAA Coastal Management Fellow: Introduced two-year fellow project which will focus on connecting social and climate change factors (specifically sea level rise). Project will look to identify communities that are more at risk of being negatively impacted by sea level rise due to specific factors or lack of resources that will allow them to adapt, contact Nancy to include Hawaiian Home Land beneficiaries into the analysis

Lisa Webster, OPSD-CZM: MACZAC will have their next meeting on Friday December 2, 2022. For meeting emails and updates contact Lisa at [lisa.e.webster@hawaii.gov](mailto:lisa.e.webster@hawaii.gov) .

Keelan Barcina, OPSD-CZM: Following up on the Maui Nui Watershed restoration project, the proposal is in the process of being written for a CZM IJA Habitat and Restoration competition. Project will be occurring in two sites on Molokai and West Maui Mountains.

### **Next Steps & Housekeeping**

Upcoming meeting dates:

- **Joint Council and Coordinated Working Group: Thursday, January 5, 2023**
- **Coordinated Working Group Only: Thursday, April 6, 2023**

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## Adjournment

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