

Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan Coordinated Working Group

Meeting Summary

November 4, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

	Name	Agency/Organization
1	Barcina, Keelan	OPSD-CZM
2	Bennett, Stephanie	NOAA OCM
3	Cameron Black	HSEO
4	Bradshaw, Wes	Maui County Planning Dept
5	Buika, Jim	Maui County Planning Dept
6	Chang, Sarah	OPSD-CZM
7	Chikasuye, Katia	HI-EMA
8	Coon, Jim	MACZAC
9	Derrington, Erin	Maui County Planning Dept
10	Eisen, Tom	OPSD-ERP
11	Ersbak, Katie	DLNR-DOFAW
12	Feeney, Susan	OPSD-CZM
13	Fitzpatrick, Trevor	DLNR-OCCL
14	Fukawa, Janice	US Navy
15	Gonser, Matthew	CC OCCSR
16	Guo, Jiangli	HDOT-HWY
17	Habel, Shellie	UH Sea Grant – OCCL
18	Hee, Brandon	HDOT-HWY
19	Hekeia, Josh	OPSD-CZM
20	Hughes, Kira	HIMB
21	Hull, Kaaina	Kauai County Planning Dept
22	Idica, Romio	Kauai County Planning Dept
23	Lander, Melanie	UH Sea Grant
24	Li, Shichao	OPSD-CZM
25	Lopez, Sybil	Maui County Planning Dept
26	McPherson, Nancy	DHHL
27	Miyashiro, Scott	DOH-CWB
28	Nihipali, Justine	OPSD-CZM
29	Owens, Tara	UH Sea Grant – Maui County Planning Dept
30	Pap, Ruby	UH Sea Grant – Kauai County Planning Dept
31	Reina, Hollie	HI-EMA
32	Romine, Brad	UH Sea Grant
33	Schafer, Monique	HSEO
34	Siu-Li, Mario	CC DPP
35	Sullivan, Genevieve	HDOT-HWY
36	Suprenant, April	CC DPP

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37	Tadj, Yusraa	OPSD-CZM
38	Tsang, Anita	DLNR-DAR Grau Fellow
39	Webster, Lisa	OPSD-CZM
40	Yamanaka, Kelsey	HI-EMA
41	Yee, Alex	CC OCCSR

Welcome, Introductions and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development Updates

Justine Nihipali, 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.

Building Coordinated Messaging Around Coastal Hazards

Sarah Chang, Project Analyst (OPSD-CZM), introduced the panel. Continuing with our discussion of outreach and communication, this CWG meeting focused on the importance of coordinated and consistent messaging in coastal hazards. With many ORMP partners working on various aspects of coastal hazards, it is important that our communications, especially to the public, are coordinated, consistent and clear.

The goal of the panel discussion was to build a shared understanding of each other's roles in communicating about coastal hazards, identify where those roles overlap and differ, and identify where there are gaps. This particular conversation looked at messaging through the lens of coastal hazards, but the themes and importance of coordinated messaging is applicable to all three of the ORMP focus areas.

The panelists were:

- Shellie Habel, *Coastal Geologist, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (DLNR) and the Hawaii State Climate Commission*
- Ka'āina Hull, *Planning Director, Kauai County Planning Department*
- Katia Chikasuye, *Mitigation Planner, HI-EMA*
- Mario Siu-Li, *Floodplain Manager, City & County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting*

Panelists answered the questions in a round-robin format, followed by a group discussion.

Panel Discussion:

Q1: What is your agency's role in terms of managing for coastal hazards?

Shellie Habel:

- [OCCL](#) is one of the main agencies responsible for regulating Hawaii state laws related to coastal management and often serves as “first responders” to coastal hazards.
 - Supports beach restoration projects of various scale, including beach nourishment and sand pushing
 - Oversees SSBN process to make it more accessible to private landowners and other agencies; continually improving BMPs and streamlining the process
 - Regulates land uses, such as temporary erosion control structures

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- Currently, an overwhelming amount of non-compliant structures being put in by landowners
 - Increasing amounts of debris (boards, nails, sandbags) from these non-compliant structures are being deposited on the shorelines
 - Supports movement towards implementing managed retreat
 - OCCL cannot take direct action due to limited jurisdiction, but provides support via tools such as the SLR Report and Viewer.
- [State Climate Commission](#) actively supports, elevates and endorses adaptation guidelines and tools
 - One of their main priorities is focused on adaptation and supporting legislation that promotes adaptation in development practices along the coast

Ka'āina Hull:

- **The Kauai County Planning Department** has two main division for coastal management: the long-range division (responsible for policies and updates, community and general plans) and the regulatory division (which will be the focus for today's panel discussion).
 - The Regulatory Division has two main programs for managing the coastal zone:
 - SMA Permit Review Process
 - Implements CZMA to regulate the impact of the built environment on coastal areas
 - Mitigative permitting process which aims to minimize the impacts of the activity on coastal resources, and minimize the impacts of coastal hazards on the activity
 - Shoreline Setback Ordinance
 - Zoning authority and police powers
 - A hard and fast rule to prohibit development or use of a set area adjacent to the shoreline
 - There are allowed uses (variances), but few
 - Shoreline Constrained Districts
 - Constrained Districts were established in the 1970s and have been somewhat nullified by newer ordinances
 - Discussion on possibly reconfiguring to a SLR Constraint District

Katia Chikasuye:

- The goal of the **Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)** is to prevent loss of life and minimize property and environmental damage. HI-EMA is involved with managing coastal hazards in several capacities and is responsible for:
 - The maintenance and update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan – a 5-year strategic plan to reduce risk and losses for all-hazards.
 - The maintenance and operation of the All-Hazard Statewide Outdoor Warning Siren System – includes monthly testing in collaboration with all the counties, as well as local television and radio stations. This Statewide Alert and Warning System (SAWS) includes >400 sirens across four counties and is used for all hazards including but not limited to: tsunamis, hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, volcanic eruptions, hazardous materials conditions, and terrorist incidents.
 - Continuous monitoring of seismic and weather activity across the state through the State Warning Point in collaboration with the National Weather Service and the United States Geological Survey.

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- In the last legislative session, Act 178 relating to SLR adaptation was passed – a section of that bill mandates HI-EMA to identify state-owned buildings or facilities under our operational control that are vulnerable to sea level rise. This information will be incorporated into the 2023 update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mario Siu-Li

- The **City and County of Honolulu, Floodplain Management Program** specializes in enforcement of floodplain ordinances in order to reduce flood losses
 - Flood ordinances consider various types of flood hazard, including coastal inundation and riverine flooding
 - Involved with flood mapping to enhance the identification of areas subject to flooding.
 - Updates often occur after a flooding event, or in on-going studies (if funding is available)
 - Control subdivision development in flood areas

Q2: What is your agency's role in terms of communicating about coastal hazards:

What is your primary message?

Who is your primary audience/constituency?

What is the response of your audience? Do they understand the issues?

Habel:

- **OCCL's** primary message is that sea level is actively rising and the IPCC reports continued rising for generations, even if carbon emissions are stopped today. There is a strong relationship between SLR and chronic erosion and we can anticipate that coastal hazards will continue to worsen. It is OCCL's responsibility to manage coastal resources to maintain quality of life for Hawaii's residents and wildlife. As challenges are mounting, the agency needs to clarify its goals in managing the coast and focus its efforts accordingly.
 - Primary audience: decision makers and the public
 - Methods of communication: OCCL has two UH Sea Grant extension agents responsible for communicating/disseminating information; Work regularly with DLNR communications offices to issue press releases; informational presentations to decision makers (ie. BLNR), which are often broadcast to the public; regularly take calls from the public and responds to council member concerns
 - Audience response: Coastal landowners are often acting in desperation and build erosion control without oversight. OCCL is now spending a lot of time on enforcing and addressing non-compliant structures.
 - The public is very well-educated on SLR and its impacts. Lots of public opposition to large beach restoration projects because they would prefer managed retreat, but the framework for implementing MR is not there.
- **The State Climate Commission's** primary message is that The State Climate Commission recognizes the need to act quickly and encourages ambitious climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean and equitable.
 - Primary audience: department agencies, policy makers and the general public
 - Methods of communication: issues statements and reports, provides informational presentations to guide policy makers; publishes blogs, slide decks and hosts presentations to break down complex climate issues so they are accessible to those without scientific background; Has an active social media presence to connect with the general public

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- Wants to serve as a venue for climate-related presentations and discussions

Hull:

- The **Kauai County Planning Dept**'s primary message is that there should not be development in coastal areas; however, they recognize property rights and work to ensure that landowners are informed of the hazards.
 - Primary audience: Developers and applicants
 - Methods of communication: presentations to industry groups (board of realtors, land use attorneys, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
 - Audience Response: generally applauded for having progressive and pro-active shoreline rules
 - Individual landowners accept and understand the rules, but they are not well-received
 - People agree that rules are for the greater good but are less supportive when their property is impacted.

Chikasuye:

- **HI-EMA** takes an "All Hazards" Approach that is used for Hawaii's State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Statewide Alert and Warning System. Following our Administrator's Intent, one of our general preparedness messages is: Be Prepared and Know Your Hazards - where you live, work, and play. The other element is knowing your resources in your community.
 - Primary audience: general public – residents and visitors, this includes preparedness resources, as well as alerts and warnings for disaster incidents. We leverage several web media platforms including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and our State Website to maintain community engagement with the public.
 - HI-EMA is also the coordinating agency for the four county Emergency Management Agencies – Hawaii County Civil Defense, Maui Emergency Management Agency, The City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, and Kauai Emergency Management Agency.
 - HI-EMA is the lead for working with our State Agency Emergency Management Officers and sharing information about the hazards that can impact their operations and ways to reduce overall vulnerability.
 - Audience Response: In general, our audience tends to have a mixed response. There are many folks who understand there are risks and will go out and learn about their flood zone or tsunami evacuation zone and build their emergency kit.
 - At the same time, there are those who think a major coastal disaster is rare and will likely never affect them. There tends to be a disconnect amongst these folks in terms of cascading impacts from a disaster - port closures, water treatment plants, oil refineries, all in inundation zones.
 - Some local communities have gone above and beyond to understand these issues by participating in the [Hawaii Hazards Awareness and Resilience Program \(HHARP\)](#) to enhance their community resilience through education and outreach sessions that build awareness and understanding of hazard mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Siu-Li

- The **City and County of Honolulu, Floodplain Management Program**'s communication is focused on educating people about flood compliance requirements.

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- Primary audience: design community – engineers, architects, surveyors, those who prepare applications; public – homeowners and developers
- Offer trainings for surveyors, architects and engineers on flood requirements and when projects trigger compliance requirements
 - Have found that not all engineers/developers understand flood requirements, often receive plans with no information regarding flood compliance standards
- Because there is no local FEMA agent in Hawaii, County floodplain managers are responsible for fielding questions from the public regarding NFIP questions.

Q3: As a primarily regulatory body and/or agency whose primary function is not outreach, what do you wish you had to support communication/engagement with your constituents?

Habel:

- **OCCL** recommends having a uniform approach to informing the public about planned projects. Even projects that comply with all the outreach requirements in the permitting process receive backlash because the public doesn't learn about them until the end of the permitting process and feel like they were being side-stepped.
 - Can we create a uniform approach to informing the public? Similar to the Environmental Notice, but more user-friendly, accessible to the public.
- Need for agencies with overlapping jurisdictions to coordinate and agree on adaptation priorities. It is impossible to save both coastal resources and backshore development at the same time, especially without large scale beach restoration projects which are becoming increasingly unpopular. All impacted agencies need to agree on a direction and shape their actions accordingly.
- How do we combat misinformation? False information which is said during public testimony often makes it to the news, where viewers then take it as fact.
- The **State Climate Commission** would like to see more interagency commitments to formalize and grow the Climate Ready Hawaii Initiative and provide more grants and technical support to adaptation work.
- Need to build stronger ties with community organizations to continue two-way conversation
- The Climate Commission would like to serve as a concierge service to navigate the technical information around sea level rise and the decision-making process.

Hull:

- The **Kauai County Planning Dept** is effectively reaching their intended audience (permit applicants and developers).
- At the larger scale, any attention brought to SLR helps drive messaging and support when implementing regulations
- Many coastal properties are being built in a global speculative market that does not necessarily have Hawaii's coastal resources at interest.

Chikasuye:

- In terms of community engagement, one of the things **HI-EMA** is working on is increasing outreach resources dedicated to the most vulnerable groups including Limited English Proficiency, as well as Access and Functional Needs populations.

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- Developing ideas for taking care of kūpuna during an evacuation or coastal disaster and ensuring they have a safe place to go – “Adopt a Kūpuna” is one such idea that our External Affairs Office is working on.
- How do we let non-English speaking people know what #TurnAroundDontDrown means or to understand to get to high ground if they feel an earthquake near the shore or see the ocean receding are other outreach challenges that we are working to address.
- While outreach is not our primary function, it is a major component of our work. HI-EMA organizes and participates in many outreach events such as virtual town halls, emergency prep events, legislative visits to present on critical vulnerabilities, and developed “tsunami kids” in partnership with NOAA, the International Tsunami Information Center, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Sea Grant, and the Pacific Tsunami Museum. More information on this virtual educational seminar for students during Tsunami Awareness Month can be found at website tsunamikidshi.info.

Siu-Li:

- OCCSR is leading the charge for **City and County of Honolulu** in terms of outreach to the public and pushing for more climate change policy. This allows other agencies to focus more on enforcement/regulatory functions.
- Multi-jurisdictional system along the shoreline creates confusion – how can this be streamlined?

Q4: Where do you see gaps in communication around coastal hazards?

Habel:

- **OCCL** is noticing that SLR is creating new situations and highlighting a need for clarification of priorities and policies
 - It is unclear what happens when the shoreline moves landwards towards privately owned structures. Do those structures become part of the public trust even though they aren’t doing any public good? Removal has negative impacts for the landowner. It is unclear what should happen in these cases and as a result, regulators are hesitant to order removal.
 - The certified shoreline is defined as the upper reaches of the wash of the wave (other than storm waves). There is ambiguity as to what constitutes as “storm wave”
 - Ex. Residents in the North Shore are arguing that large swells cannot be used to determine the shoreline because the swells are created by storms hundreds of miles offshore.
- There are also points where increased public education could be helpful:
 - Confusion by landowners about the extent of their property. TMK boundaries include areas seaward of the shoreline. This can lead to hostility between landowners and beach users.
 - It is not understood that seawalls can work in a domino effect along the beach, degrading nearby beach environments
 - The general public doesn’t know that beaches are part of the public trust. If more people were aware, they might be more invested in restoration/protection.

Hull:

- The **Kauai County Planning Dept** echoes the points made by Shellie Habel.
- It is important for those leading coastal hazard discussions to understand the limitations of data/models (ex. The various factors represented in SLR-XA) in order to ensure that information is presented in an accurate way.

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Chikasuye:

- For risk reduction from coastal hazards, **HI-EMA** is focused on improving communication surrounding building codes and accreditation programs such as the Building Code Effective Grading Schedule (BCEGS) and the Community Rating System (CRS). These accreditation programs have been underutilized throughout the state and there are many benefits to be gained at the individual, community, and agency-level.
- From a state perspective, hurricanes, tsunamis, and flooding are the three greatest natural and coastal hazards that we need to prepare for. There are many resources available from various agencies but a coordinated approach with complementing roles and responsibilities that encourages sharing and transparency is needed.

Siu-Li:

- **City and County of Honolulu, DPP** acknowledges that the building codes are not accessible to the lay person. Is there a way to make the information more digestible? What resources will help the coastal property owners understand what is expected/what they can do?
- Can land lost to erosion be reflected on a map after shoreline certification process in order to make it enforceable by the counties, and so the property owner does not think they still own the land that has already been lost to erosion (seaward of the shoreline)

Group Discussion:

Q: Regarding new FEMA Risk Rating 2.0 which could significantly impact people's premiums, especially next year when the program will affect existing structures. Does DPP anticipate doing any additional outreach?

Mario Siu-Li: no plans as yet, DPP anticipates seeing homeowners taking steps to adapt buildings to be exempted from higher premiums.

Matt Gonser: C&C anticipates being a participating CRS (Community Rating System) jurisdiction around the time that the next Risk Rating 2.0 step is rolled out and is planning to do communication around that. Outreach messages will include:

- with climate change comes increasing risk
- we've known that existing rates locally and national did not represent today's risk
- insurance is an important mitigation measure, but one of last resort when, after siting and design, remaining risk needs to be mitigated

-knowing that rates would increase, City proactively sought participation in the FEMA NFIP CRS to maintain flood insurance affordability for residents and promote flood risk resilience

FEMA has a projected premium changes tool here, by zip code: no.floods.org/rr2sfh

Risk Rating 2.0 talking points: <https://www.floods.org/whats-new/risk-rating-2-0-talking-points-and-resources-to-help-you-navigate-the-changes/>

Q: How does the upgraded building code at the State level affect the adoption of county building codes?

Katia Chikasuye: The State Building Code Council has 2 years to adopt the latest building codes - 2018 was adopted back in April of this year. Once the State adopts code, the counties have 2 years to amend the state code and adopt it themselves. Historically, the counties have waited the full 2 years until the code is automatically adopted with few amendments but that has been changing. Hawaii County is currently amending the 2018 state code and will adopt them hopefully by the end of this year.

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Q: What is the nature of the pushback on beach nourishment/shoreline replenishment projects? Is it the use of sand from elsewhere, and are there concerns about the presence of iwi kupuna? What is some of the misinformation that's being spread over social media?

Shellie Habel: Most of the pushback is connected to issues of over-tourism and the pressures tourism puts on resources and quality of life (ie. Kaanapali beach nourishment plan in Maui). Public comments strongly favor forcing the hotels to move away from the shoreline, but lack a true understanding of how complicated and complex managed retreat is to implement. Pushback from fisheries regarding long-term impacts. Short-term impacts, such as turbidity, are acknowledged; however, there are no quantitative analyses showing long-term impacts. There is also public concern about the proximity of the Kaanapali Project to Black Rock, which has cultural significance. A common piece of misinformation is that sand will be placed directly on live coral resources; however, in actuality sand will only be placed on existing beach footprints.

Q: Are your agencies starting to consider mauka watershed issues (ie: forest protection as a way to capture/store water during storm events) as part of the larger conversation about flood mitigation and downstream coastal hazards?

Katia Chikasuye: As an agency HIMEA supports watershed scale approaches, but is limited in terms of what can be funded by FEMA funds, which does not fund nature-based solutions, so there are limitations due to the confines of eligible activities for funding.

Q: Are we doing good enough of a job reaching out to kupuna, locals, those that are objecting to these projects?

Shellie Habel: This is definitely something we need to focus more on. In the case of Kaanapali efforts to reach out have not been well-received because the public is strongly opposed to beach nourishment, and there are few alternative actions that could be presented.

Ruby Pap: Rather than more messaging, it is important to invest time into building relationships and conducting active listening sessions.

Kaaina Hull: In terms of evaluating whether or not a project within the SMA will impact cultural and traditional practices, the process set up by case law is not adequate. Current process requires practitioners to prove connections to land, and that they are practicing on those lands. Practitioners argue that this line of questioning is inherently biased against practitioners who, due to private property laws, are not able to conduct their traditional practices because they cannot access those lands.

Jim Coon: Regarding the Kaanapali project – there is a lack of basic information readily available to the community. Suggestion to write an Op-Ed piece for Maui News with links to existing resources.

Jim Buika: need for trusted local (island-local) agents who are champions of the project

Q: Discussion on coral restoration

Brandon Hee: DOT is interested in coral restoration projects as a form of coastal protection

Kira Hughes: HIMB is in the process of studying hybrid natural-artificial reef structures. Interest in coral restoration is growing across the state, but there is a lack of outreach to communities. How can we reach those communities to conduct surveys and get a sense of their feelings towards various types of intervention? What groups exist that we can contact?

Ruby Pap: Suggestion to utilize UH Sea Grant extension faculty. Each island requires different strategies, and it is best to adapt place-specific outreach plans with help from local staff

Justine Nihipali: MACZAC reps are also available as a resource with connections to different community groups. The CZM Community Stewardship Directory is a compilation of contact information for various

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community environmental stewardship-related entities. It hasn't been updated in the last 2-3 years. DOFAW has a similar directory: <http://stewmaphawaii.net/>

Justine Nihipali closed the panel/discussion session by reiterating that the purpose of this discussion was to find commonalities in agency challenges so that when CZM does have the opportunity to provide support/funding related to improving communications, there is an already existing understanding of what the needs are. The intention is to loop back on possible products the CWG can work on collaboratively to address some of the issues brought up today.

ORMP Updates and Announcements

Monique Schafer, HSEO: BOEM released a cost feasibility study on offshore wind in Hawaii. This is still very early stages and does not include any environmental or siting analysis. Please contact Monique with any questions or feedback.

<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/regions/pacific-ocs-region/environmental-science/BOEM-2021-070.pdf>

Alex Yee, OCCSR: The OCCSR has an open position for a Hazard Mitigation and Long-Term Disaster Recovery Program Manager <https://resilientoahu.org/opportunities>

Kira Hughes, HIMB: Coral restoration projects are relatively new in Hawaii. The first project was started one year ago by NOAA and involved planting corals of opportunity near the airport. The one-year monitoring data is being conducted and will be available soon. Other than that, there are not many active outplanting projects in the state. HIMB is starting to look at a hybrid natural-artificial with testing planning only in Oahu. NOAA, TNC, DAR and other advisory partners are putting together a 10-year statewide coral restoration plan.

Jim Buika, Maui County Planning Dept: Maui County has an RFP underway to look at streamlining the multi-jurisdictional shoreline permitting process.

Tom Eisen, ERP: Second draft of the Kahana Bay Erosion Mitigation Project EIS is being republished with opportunity for review and comments.

Next Steps & Housekeeping

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Council on Ocean Resources: January 6, 2022
- Coordinated Working Group: February 3, 2022

Implementation of Action Team (ACT) meetings for presentations, discussions that are more Focus Area/Topic specific. ACT meetings will occur on an as-needed-basis.

Adjournment

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