

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Friday, February 26, 2021: 9:30 am – 12 pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

**ATTENDANCE**

- Members Present: Jim Coon, Kimbal Thompson, Rich Brunner, Robert Nishimoto, Sue Sakai, Donna Brown
- Members Absent: Phil Fernandez, Nick Palumbo
- Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management (OP/CZM) Staff Present: Justine Nihipali (OP/CZM), Sarah Chang (OP/CZM), Keelan Barcina (OP/CZM), Yusraa Tadj (OP/CZM), Lisa Webster (OP/CZM)
- Others Present: Hawai'i State Representative David Tarnas, Stephanie Bennett (NOAA), Judith Stilgenbauer (UH Manoa), Nancy McPherson (DHHL), Scott Sullivan (Sea Engineering)

**DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL**

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for February 26, 2021
- Minutes from December 4, 2020 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Report to MACZAC (February 26, 2021)

**I. Call to Order**

MACZAC Vice-Chair, Jim Coon, called the meeting to order at 9:39 am and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chair Coon noted that he had one correction to make to the December 4, 2020 minutes. In the description of the Kā'anapali Beach Restoration Project, the project proposed raising the beach 3-4 feet, rather than 3-4 inches, as stated in the draft minutes. Sue Sakai, MACZAC member, moved to approve the December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes, with the correction, and Dr. Bob Nishimoto, MACZAC member, seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by all members present.

**III. Remarks**

Justine Nihipali, CZM Program Manager, spoke on behalf of the Office of Planning, and thanked everyone for their continued contributions to MACZAC.

**IV. Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Manager's Report**

Ms. Nihipali provided a CZM Program Report highlighting the following:

**National Initiatives**

**National CZM Program Funding**

For FY 2021 (July 2021 – December 2022), the CZM line item increased by \$1,500,000 nationally for a total of \$78,500,000. CSO and state and territorial programs are requesting an increase of funding to \$88,500,000 for FY 2022. As of February 24, 2021, the State has not yet received its allocation amount for this upcoming fiscal year in 306/309 funds but anticipates this information shortly.

## Hawaii CZM Program

- 10 of 11 (2 are 0.5 FTE) positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)
  - CZM has a vacancy for the Office Assistant position.
- 1 intern position
  - The graduate intern position is vacant as of February 11, 2021.
- CZM Website updated periodically (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/>). Working on improving communications for consistency and currency. Analyzing existing website to make it more efficient and streamlined.

## Section 312 Evaluation

- No new activity
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

## Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

- No new activity
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

## Routine Program Changes

- Hawaii CZM Program submitted its program changes to NOAA OCM for concurrence by integrating statutory and regulatory changes into the CZM Program.
- The public notice was published on December 1, 2020 on Hawaii CZM Website at <http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/federal-consistency> and NOAA OCM's Website at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>
- NOAA OCM extended their decision to March 15, 2021.
- CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

## Ocean Resources Management Plan

- Staff capacity limited; working on distribution challenged by COVID-19.
- Dashboard – Successfully migrated to new platform OpenGov
- Staff and Program Manager have collaborated with stakeholder agencies to discuss opportunities to apply for the NOAA Project of Special Merit competition to advance Focus Areas #1 and #3. Proposals were submitted in January 2021.
- Current ORMP available online at ([https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp\\_update\\_reports/2020\\_ormp\\_final.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_update_reports/2020_ormp_final.pdf))
- CZM Staff contact is Sarah Chang

## Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- Five remaining Management Measures (MMs) and one Administrative Element (AE) require approval by NOAA/EPA: Roads/Highways/Bridges (3 MMs remaining); On-Site Disposal Systems (OSDS) (1 MM remaining); and Monitoring and Tracking (1 AE remaining)
- Working with DOT, DOH, counties (planning departments, public works departments) on completing the above Management Measures. Received final products for Roads/Highways/Bridges MM with County of Hawaii DPW, which will be incorporated in our justification for the RHB MM.
- Information on the CNPCP can be found online at (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/initiatives/coastal-nonpoint-pollution-control-program/>)
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

### Climate Change Adaptation

- Office of Planning Director and CZM Program Manager serve as Commissioners on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
- Meeting schedule: - April 7, 2021, August 4, 2021, and November 3, 2021 from 1:00 – 4:00pm.
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

### Coastal Hazards

- Section 309 Coastal Hazards Strategy for the *Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping – Maui Island (Phase I)* contract was executed February 26, 2020. This is for the high-resolution mapping for the island of Maui - request for extension in process due to feedback received from the technical meeting on October 30, 2020. Questions were raised on the topography used to run the model which contained some buildings. Consequently, the modeling team decided to re-run their models to ensure that the models used bare earth topography to ensure that the inundation modeling does not affect the flow. The extension would run through June 30, 2021. Procurement for the mapping/modeling for the second phase for Maui and Kauai was accomplished, and the contract for this last phase was executed January 20, 2021. CZM Staff contact is Yusraa Tadj
- SMA Coordination - Act 16, SLH 2020, effective Sept 15, 2020, amends Ch.205A. Amendments include changes to the definition of “development”, increases to the minimum shoreline setback from 20 feet to 40 feet, adding sea level rise to the definition of coastal hazards, and adding a definition of beach to enhance beach protection. Act 16 also restricts and/or prohibits shoreline hardening structures at sites with beaches. OP provided Hawaii CZM Program Guidance for Act 16, SLH 2020 for Use by the County Planning Departments on November 19, 2020. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

### County CZM Projects

- Kauai County was provided resources to update its Public Access database as well. To be completed June 30, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this project has been delayed. NOAA granted a 12-month extension for the award. Although the project was approximately 75% complete prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, major delays occurred due to travel and social distancing restrictions. As some restrictions were eased, the contractor and County Planner were able to complete 30 site visits. This project is on track for completion by June 30, 2021.
- Kauai County was provided resources to obtain GIS layers to analyze and inform potential expansion of the SLR-XA for their SMA. During this time (the second half of 2020), Kauai County began the process of updating its sea level rise information and GIS layers to assess applicability for expanding the SMAs to include sea level rise projections.
- DPP was provided resources to update its aerial seawall imagery database - completed.
- County of Hawaii project: *Phase I Analysis to Establish Research-Based Shoreline and Riparian Setbacks*. No-cost extension requested and granted. Expected completion is December 31, 2021. During this time, prolonged contract negotiations regarding the scope of services has resulted in a delay for the implementation of the project.
- County of Hawaii project: *Pilot Public Access Geodatabase Update*. During this time, a recent county personnel vacancy has resulted in additional time needed to on-board a new project manager to oversee the project. Expected completion is December 31, 2021.

### Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. Two projects have been completed and CZM staff continues to support one project to meet objectives of Act 15, SLH 2018. The most recent meeting was held February 16, 2021. CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali.
- South Shore Promenade – Proof of Concept Study. CZM received the Final Report from the University of Hawaii Community Design Center in November 2020. It was accepted and the Final Report was approved in December 2020. The 3 catalytic sites are: (1) Ala Wai area, (2) Keehi Lagoon area, and (3) Richardson Field/Pearl Harbor Regional Park. CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekekoa.
- CZM Program is involved with a number of external groups and activities:
  - Coral Reef Initiative Working Group (DLNR-DAR)
  - Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
  - Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and HISC Resource Committee
  - Coastal States Organization
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered.

### **V. Guest Presentation: South Shore Promenade Study and UH School of Architecture's Vision of the 21st Century Honolulu Waterfront**

Judith Stilgenbauer, Professor, MLA Program Director, and Graduate Chair at UH Mānoa, gave a brief description of the South Shore Promenade and Coastal Open Space Network Study, a State CIP-funded project that she has been working on with her students for the past few years in coordination with Justine Nihipali and Josh Hekekoa of the Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management Program. Professor Stilgenbauer noted that this project was done through the University of Hawai'i Community Design Center (UHCDC). The UHCDC is a not-for-profit research office that brings together faculty, staff, and students, to work together on problems, through design, to help the State and other public entities address some of the problems of our time. This project investigated how coastal challenges of the primary urban center of Honolulu might be addressed over the next 50-80 years with a 6-foot sea level rise scenario.

The project reviewed existing climate change-related, ecosystem performance, connectivity and place-making issues, reports, and policies along Honolulu's south shore. This was not a traditional planning document effort, but more of an educational, forward-looking tool designed to stimulate discourse. The project included mapping and project inventorying, but today's presentation is focused on the visionary proposals and design concepts.

Six feet of sea level rise will heavily impact Honolulu's coastal inventory, much of which is publicly owned. The fact that much of the property is publicly owned provides an opportunity to create better shoreline systems that perform ecologically, provide better public waterfront access, and allow strengthening of biocultural and other place-making practices. Living shorelines initiatives around the country were considered, along with shoreline hardening, adaptation, and managed retreat. This report advocates for soft, nature-based, green infrastructure solutions, which often provide better protection than other adaptive strategies.

Many of the areas projected to be inundated with 6 feet of sea level rise are the areas that have been filled over the last 100-150 years. These often occur where fresh water meets saltwater, in areas where Native Hawaiians built fishponds.

The project focused on three catalytic sites: Ala Wai Canal and Golf Course, Keehi Lagoon, and Pearl Harbor. Hydrological hazards and existing infrastructure were mapped, along with

opportunities and constraints. Design was then incorporated to progressively transform each area. Eventually, the Ala Wai Golf Course could be transformed into a wetland, fishponds, and taro fields, with some mixed used development added to the former golf course site. Ala Wai Boulevard could be transformed into a raised promenade with just a single lane for cars and other autonomous transportation systems. The Keehi Lagoon site could be transformed to add parks and fishponds, increase waterfront accessibility and connectivity, and incorporate mixed use development. For the Pearl Harbor site, proposed changes include moving back the stadium and Halawa Rail station parking to provide pedestrian-only access to the waterfront, bringing back some of the fishponds that once existed in the area, while also increasing accessibility and equity in the area. Professor Stilgenbauer concluded by noting that this report will be publicly available on the UHCDC website.

#### **VI. Development and Coastal Hazards PIG Meeting Report Back**

Donna Brown, MACZAC member, reported that the Development and Coastal Hazards PIG met on February 9, 2021 with the following people in attendance: Sue Sakai, Rich Brunner, Donna Brown, Dr. Bob Nishimoto (attended as a guest), Justine Nihipali, Lisa Webster, and Sarah Chang. The group considered the following question: What does regional shoreline management look like? The group agreed that it is critical to require real estate disclosures about erosion and sea level rise to prospective home buyers. The group also agreed that it is important to strengthen building regulations for coastal properties by requiring developers to build up and build back and away from the shoreline, and to educate developers about coastal hazards and how to best mitigate risks. The group also agreed that there is a need for more education and outreach, and that the audience should include the real estate industry, developers, home buyers, government agencies, and the public. Next steps for the group are to determine where people get their information from and what message to share, but the group agreed that the message should be realistic.

Existing structures are the main problem, including roads, sewage treatment plants, and other facilities. There was discussion about providing outreach to government agencies about managed retreat for this infrastructure. The group added that it is important to talk not just to the managers, but also to the people doing the work in the field.

Kimbal Thompson, MACZAC member, suggested including the design community in the outreach, to include architects, landscape architects, planners, and engineers. Ms. Sakai added that it is most critical to educate government agencies because they are the decision makers.

#### **VII. Land-Based Pollution PIG Meeting Report Back**

Mr. Thompson shared that the Land-Based Pollution PIG met on February 11, 2021, and that attendees included himself, Phil Fernandez, Justine Nihipali, Sarah Chang, and Lisa Webster. The PIG discussed the complexity of the issue and noted that there are many agencies and entities involved in management of the land, starting in the mountains and going down to the coastline. In order to move forward, this focus area needs a champion to develop a plan from the ORMP aspirations. Once a plan is developed, it should be brought to the Legislature to move forward.

#### **VIII. Marine Ecosystems PIG Meeting Report Back**

Vice-Chair Coon shared that the Marine Ecosystems PIG met on February 12, 2021, and that attendees included himself, Dr. Bob Nishimoto, Donna Brown, Nick Palumbo, Justine Nihipali, Sarah Chang, Keelan Barcina, Riley Coon, and Lisa Webster. The group discussed the challenges of DAR's Holomua: 30x30 Marine plan and how MACZAC can support the plan. The group also discussed the impacts of upcountry runoff, for example in Lāna'i, caused by the

presence of dry conditions and feral ungulates. This has led to massive sedimentation and destruction of the fringing reef on the coast of Lānaʻi.

The group agreed that there is a real need to break down the silos between DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Commission on Water Resources Management, and Division of Aquatic Resources. The group would also like to learn more about why it is critical to manage 30% of marine habitat and what is the justification from a biological perspective. The group also agreed that there is a need to focus on the mauka-makai approach, on the estuaries, and on traditional ecological knowledge. DAR may want to consider adopting overarching management practices and focusing on teaching the community best management practices.

Dr. Nishimoto added that he put together a working document for the PIG, which he hopes the rest of the group will edit and add to as needed. Dr. Nishimoto also noted that DAR restoration projects are extremely effective, with examples including herbivore protections, release of cultured urchins into Kāneʻohe Bay, and using cultured oysters to filter the water. These types of projects are popular and help stimulate public buy-in.

#### **IX. Discussion Highlighting Critical Marine and Coastal Hotspot Issues and Next Steps**

Maui –Rich Brunner, MACZAC member, shared the following Maui hotspot:

- Mr. Brunner shared a Maui News Now story about the closure of Puamana Beach Park due to erosion. There is a 3 to 4-foot drop from the park down to the beach. There is hardening to the north and to the south of the beach park, likely contributing to the erosion at the beach park.

East Hawai'i – Dr. Nishimoto discussed the following East Hawai'i hotspot:

- Dr. Nishimoto would like to share a website with the group that is developed and maintained by his neighbors. The neighbors have friends who are private airplane pilots and provide images for the website of major cliff failures along the Hamakua Coast.

#### **X. Public Input**

Representative David Tarnas thanked MACZAC members for their work and shared updates on two bills he has been working on. HB554 is a bill focused on sea level rise disclosure and real estate transactions. The bill will go to the House floor for a final reading before crossing over to the Senate. Representative Tarnas worked with the real estate community and the Climate Commission, using the sea level rise viewer to identify areas at risk. Another bill, HB243, focuses on sea level rise impacts to critical infrastructure. HB243 requires Executive Branch departments to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise flooding impacts and assess options for mitigation and adaptation. This bill will likely also cross over to the Senate.

Nancy McPherson, DHHL Planner, commented that she was really impressed with Professor Stilgenbauer's presentation. Ms. McPherson noted that it's only too late if we don't start now. Ms. McPherson added that the OEQC amended its EIS rules to include sea level rise consideration in environmental impacts assessments for projects on government land, but this amendment does not apply to privately owned properties if they do not trigger Chapter 343. Ms. McPherson added that she is pleased that the ORMP includes a focus on traditional ecological knowledge, and that it is important to incorporate this knowledge to restore coastal ecosystem services for food producing systems and estuaries.

#### **XI. New Business**

The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am on Zoom.

**XII. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Coon adjourned the meeting at 11:08 am.