

HAWAII OCEAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

2006 Final Report to the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, Regular Session of 2007

Submitted by the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program
Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

December 2006

HAWAII OCEAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006 Final Report to the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, Regular Session of 2007

This report responds to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2005, which designates Hawaii's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) and its lead agency, the State Office of Planning (OP) with responsibility for the overall implementation of the ocean resources management plan and requires CZM to supply the Legislature with a final report for the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) update process. This status report accompanies the submittal of the revised ORMP requested in the Resolution, and details the ORMP project-related activities in calendar year 2006.

Background

The Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), published in 1991, was developed by a multi-agency, cabinet-level council which included private sector and non-governmental representatives. The ORMP set forth guiding principles and recommendations for the State of Hawaii to achieve comprehensive and integrated ocean and coastal resources management. In addition to overall recommendations for a new governance structure and a comprehensive management system, the Plan included a series of specific policies and implementing actions for ten resource sectors. The State Legislature adopted the ORMP in 1994 and legislation was passed in 1995 which incorporated the plan into the CZM Program under OP. A review of the ORMP was conducted in 1998, revealing a need for a revised ORMP to address declining funds and personnel, changing priorities and new concerns relating to ocean resources management. Chapter 205A-62 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes charges OP with the review and periodic update of the ORMP, as well as coordination of overall implementation of the plan.

The Revised ORMP: A Three-Perspective Framework

As described in detail in the "Update Process" section of this report, the development of the 2006 ORMP involved an extensive outreach and input-gathering process with the participation of various stakeholder groups, governmental agencies and the public over a period of eighteen months. This culminated in the December 2006 submittal of the revised, update ORMP to the Hawai'i State Legislature. The updated plan replaces the first ORMP's sector-based approach with an integrated, place-based approach to management of ocean resources, based on land – sea links and the role of human activities and improved collaboration in governance. Each of the framing perspectives are accompanied by concrete management goals and strategic actions to address them in five-year implementation phases over the next 30 years.

Perspective 1: Connecting Land and Sea

Careful and appropriate use of the land is required to maintain the diverse array of ecological, social, cultural, and economic benefits we derive from the sea.

Strategic actions recommended by the Plan for this Perspective include reducing soil erosion and pollutant loads, developing beach management plans and protecting priority coastal areas and communities from coastal hazards.

Perspective 2: Preserving Our Ocean Heritage

A vibrant and healthy ocean environment is the foundation for the quality of life valued in Hawai'i and well-being of its people now and for generations to come.

Management goals for this Perspective emphasize the improvement of coastal water quality, strengthening of marine protected area management, enhancing the ability of communities to restore and operate Hawaiian fishponds, and promoting sustainable ocean-based tourism.

Perspective 3: Promoting Collaboration and Stewardship

Working together and sharing knowledge, experience, and resources will improve and sustain our efforts to care for the land and sea.

This perspective highlights the need for community participation in cultural and natural resources management, and the exploration of place-based approaches including traditional principles of the traditional Hawaiian *ahupua`a* and land division, which was a self-sufficient unit running from land to sea.

UPDATE PROCESS

The 2006 update process concluded in December, 2006. The chart on the following page outlines the various components and general time frame of the process. The process consisted of gathering input from various groups, holding a working conference to streamline ideas and work toward a framework for the 2006 plan, creating drafts of the plan with the selected contractor, reshaping the plan to accommodate recommendations and suggestions from various stakeholders and the public, and writing, production and transmittal of the final Plan in December 2006.

Highlights of ORMP Update Activity

Date	Activity	Products
September-October 2004	“Community Conversations” on each island to allow the Hawaiian community a chance to share their concerns and knowledge about ocean and coastal issues	List of priorities; suggestions on management approaches, and importance of ocean and coastal access
February 2005-November 2006	ORMP Implementation Working Group made up of representatives from the small business sector, DOA, DBEDT, OHA, DLNR, DOH, DOT, and the four County planning agencies meet to discuss framework, identify priorities, review drafts	Identification of management goals and priority action items; comments on drafts from different perspectives, which were incorporated into succeeding drafts by contractor
June-December 2005	Input gathering from representatives of governmental agencies, community groups, commercial ocean users, nonprofits and members of the general public	List of priorities for ocean management; specific recommendations of actions to resolve user conflict; recommendations for new ORMP framework
May –October 2005	Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council (HOCC) monthly facilitated meetings on ocean resource management issues	Recommendations to OP on the issues, priorities and specific action items to consider when updating the ORMP
October 2005	Ocean Resources Working Group of Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) meets to draft recommendations	Position paper with recommendations for changes in the laws, administrative rules; and/or change in policy
January 2006	Tetra Tech EM, Inc. selected as consultant to write the revised ORMP	

Date	Activity	Products
January 2006	Status update for ORMP revision submitted to Legislature	
June 2006	Tetra Tech prepares first draft	First draft of ORMP
September 2006	Public meetings to gather input and comment on the first draft are publicized and held on O`ahu, Maui, Kaua`i, Lana`i, Moloka`i and the Big Island.	Document, "Summary of Public Comments on the Hawai`i Ocean Resources Management Plan" (available from the CZM Program)
October-November 2006	First draft is revised to incorporate and reflect public and agency comment.	Final ORMP, completed early December 2006
December 2006	Final ORMP is formatted and prepared for submission to the 2007 legislature.	

ORMP Public Meetings

The Office of Planning (OP) held a series of public meetings to receive comments on the Hawai`i Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). Public meeting notices were published in all major newspapers. Copies of the ORMP were sent to every public library in Hawai`i in advance of the meetings.

Meetings were held in Lihu`e on Kaua`i, Kona and Hilo on the Big Island, Kahului on Maui, Honolulu on O`ahu, Lana`i City, Lana`i, and Kaunakakai, Moloka`i between September 18 and 28, 2006, and in Hana, Maui on October 19, 2006. A special effort was made to gain input from rural and fishing communities. Copies of the Hawai`i Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) were available at all meetings. OP conducted a 20-minute presentation at the beginning of each meeting, which was followed by a public dialogue.

In addition, the public was invited to send or email written comments on the ORMP to the Office of Planning from September 11, 2006 through October 13, 2006. Written comments were received by the Office of Planning and forwarded to TetraTech for incorporation into the final Plan.

The ORMP was generally well-received by the attendees of the meetings as well as

those who provided written comments. Many noted that the ORMP was well-written and that the place-based management approach was an improvement over previous management documents and the sometimes-fragmented approach of various agencies. They generally understood and approved of the three-perspective approach, and were glad that the plan acknowledged a number of existing and emerging ocean/coastal issues in their communities.

While most people stressed that the plan has good ideas, they asked whether new funds would be available from the State budget to implement the plan, or if the proposed actions would be funded from existing agency budgets. Some noted a constant diminution of state funding for ocean and land management, and encouraged sufficient agency and legislative funding for the full implementation of the plan. Some commenters offered ideas on generating necessary funding to manage and protect resources. Many were concerned that existing laws for resource management and protection lack the enforcement they require to be fully effective. A number of citizens stressed the need to incorporate lifelong education into a long-term vision for better stewardship of ocean resources. Finally, most agreed that communities are willing to do some of the work if there is funding and organizational support for the fulfilling the mandates and proposed actions.

ORMP Submittal

The Ocean Resources Management Plan was submitted to the 24th Regular Session of the Hawaii State Legislature on December 28, 2006 in fulfillment of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2005, and Chapter 205A-62, HRS.