Report of the Bridging Communities & Government Workshop

US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

Wednesday August 27, 2008

Goal and Objectives

Provide a forum for communities to share information about their initiatives, strategies and techniques for enhancing conservation and management of natural and cultural resources in the marine environment.

Goals and Objectives

(1) Showcase the diversity in marine conservation and management projects and highlight the various operational models and partnerships of success;

(2) Highlight the unique circumstances and events which prompted communities to organize to take action;

Goals and Objectives

(3) Identify common obstacles and challenges to community-based management initiatives and solutions to overcome them; and

(4) Identify resources available to support and enhance community-based initiatives.

Workshop Product/Output

Gather specific information from communities on how government agencies and partners can better support community-based conservation, management and educational initiatives.
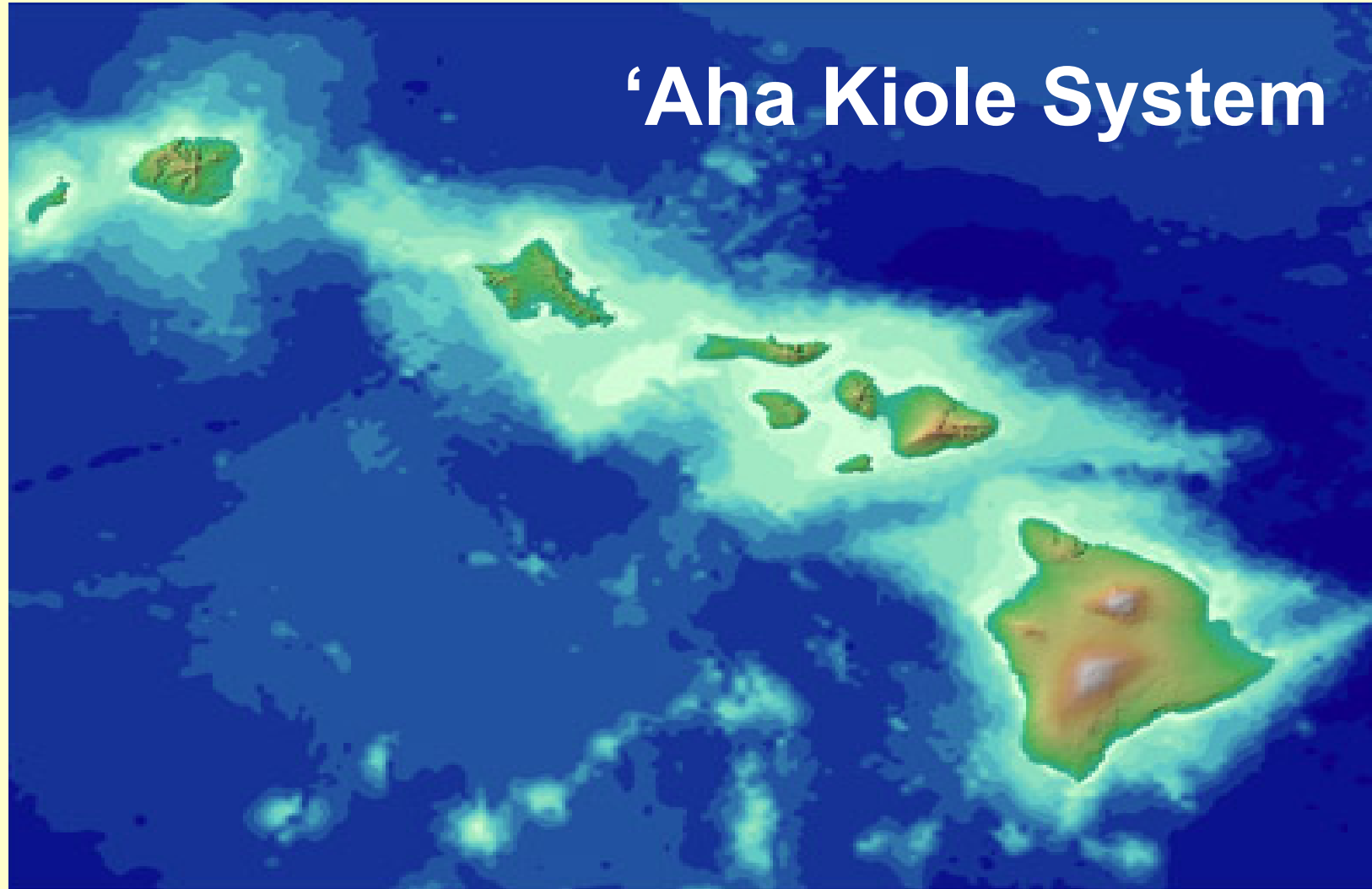
<u>Presentation Format</u>

(1) Communities with Formal Government Recognition, Assistance or Support

(2) Communities with Less Formal Government Recognition, Assistance or Support

(3) Communities without Government Assistant or Support

Panel 1

'Aha Kiole System

Panel 2

Hāʻena Fishery Management Area

Panel 3

'Ao 'Ao o Nā Loko I'a o Maui

Preliminary Findings

- Common Obstacles and Challenges to community-based initiatives;

- Actions government agencies and non-government organizations can do to better support community-based initiatives.

Obstacles and Challenges

- Individual's Time and Capacity

- Sustaining community participation

- Communication (at all levels)

- Education of broader community on why work is important

- Understanding that Gov't doesn't have all the resources it needs to fulfill all mandates and responsibilities

- $$$

Actions

- Improve opportunities for communication and networking (go to communities)

- Provide additional technical and financial support to help communities become self-sustaining;

- Reassess legislative acts, policies, and laws codes that contradict each other or impede communities from taking action.

Next Steps

- Produce a full report of the workshop including speaker's specific findings and recommendations (by Panel Group);

- Invite review by speakers;

- Submit Final Report to the USCRTF Secretariat for inclusion in meeting information

Mahalo!