

HAWAI‘I OCEAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007 Report to the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, Regular Session of 2008

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

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2005, 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 (ORMP). This is a status report detailing ORMP project-related activities in calendar year 2007.

Background

The Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i 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 Legislature adopted the ORMP in 1994 and enacted legislation in 1995 to incorporate the plan into the CZM Program. 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. Section 205A-62, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, charges OP with the review and periodic update of the ORMP, as well as coordination of overall implementation of the plan. On December 28, 2006, an updated ORMP was submitted to the 24th Regular Session of the Hawai‘i State Legislature in fulfillment of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2005, and Section 205A-62, HRS.

The Revised ORMP: A Three-Perspective Framework

The 2006 ORMP involved extensive outreach and input-gathering with participation of various stakeholder groups, government agencies, and the public over a period of eighteen months. The culmination was the December, 2006 updated ORMP. The updated plan is an integrated, place-based approach to management of ocean resources, based on land – sea links, 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 in the plan for Perspective 1 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 the 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 Hawaiian principles of land division such as *ahupua'a*.

Implementation Update

Charged with coordinating the implementation of the ORMP, the CZM Program established an ORMP Policy Group and an ORMP Working Group in the summer of 2007. The Policy Group consists of the directors of the affected state agencies and counties. The Working Group consists of managers and staff of the same groups. The University of Hawai'i, MACZAC, and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs are also represented in these groups.

The Working Group is the focus of ORMP implementation- they are tasked with coordinating their agency's implementation efforts. After prioritizing the ORMP management goals and strategic actions for their respective agencies, members will develop two-year agency work plans to ensure the implementation of selected goals and actions. The Working Group will also identify budget requirements and develop legislative proposals to further support implementation efforts. The Policy Group will make the final approvals and decisions.

The following agencies and groups are represented and participating on the ORMP Policy and Working Groups:

- Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture Development Program,
- Department of Defense, State Civil Defense,
- Department of Health,
- Department of Land and Natural Resources,
- Department of Transportation, Harbors Division,

- Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
- Office of Planning,
- County Planning Departments: Hawai'i, Kauai & Maui,
- University of Hawai'i, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology,
- Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council,
- Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and
- U.S. Coast Guard.

ORMP Policy Group

The first ORMP Policy Group was held in July. At the meeting, the Policy Group developed a schedule and agreed on a list of work tasks for the Working Group to conduct during the first six months of ORMP implementation. The Working Group's initial assignments to be completed by March of 2008 are:

1. Identify which of the ORMP management goals/strategic actions are priorities for each agency over the next 2 years;
2. Consolidate agency work plans specifying how each priority management goal/strategic action will be implemented; and
3. Select annual results indicators for each of the identified priority management goals/strategic actions.

The Working Group will present the completed proposed priorities, work plans and indicators to the Policy Group at its March, 2008 meeting for final review and approval.

Legislative/Budget Proposals

Since departments and agencies have already begun developing their 2008 legislative proposals, the group made a commitment to work towards proposals relating to the ORMP for the 2009 session. The members also agreed to share their 2008 legislative and budget proposals that relate to the ORMP prior to the session.

Federal Legislation

The group discussed the option of making recommendations to influence federal legislation, but the members agreed that the Policy Group would focus on statewide issues at present.

ORMP Working Group

The Working Group first convened in August and has since met monthly. Members have been working on the three tasks assigned by the Policy Group. To date, Working Group members have selected their priorities, and they are in the process of developing work plans to describe how their respective agencies will implement the ORMP. The work plans include information on the tasks that will be undertaken, partners involved, timeframes and anticipated completion dates, results indicators, budgets, and additional needs. Items in the ORMP that are currently being addressed or have been completed as part of agency programs will also be included. Final agency work plans will be presented to the Policy Group in March.

In order to address multi-agency management goals/strategic actions in the ORMP, agencies are encouraged to work together to develop collaborative work plans. Lead agencies should determine the extent of their roles within a specific management goal/strategic action. Collaborative projects to implement the ORMP will be a main focus of the Working Group after final agency work plans are approved by the Policy Group. Members have already presented some of the major projects and challenges within their own agencies to the rest of the group so that they can start thinking of how to enhance collaboration on different ORMP strategic actions. Needs commonly identified by members included improved enforcement, more data, increased capacity, and support at the policy level.

Hazard Mitigation and Planning

At the first Policy Group meeting, General Robert Lee suggested the Working Group meet with the Department of Defense, State Civil Service (SCD) to discuss coastal hazards and planning. At this meeting between SCD, the ORMP Working Group, and others involved in hazard mitigation, CZM gave a brief update of the ORMP; UHM Social Science Research Institute gave an update on the Hawai'i State Hazard Mitigation Plan; and SCD talked about funding programs offered through the State DOD. General Lee suggested looking at mitigation in a more proactive fashion. He encouraged the members of the ORMP Working Group to think ahead and determine what they can do in the future. Several members of the Working Group expressed gratitude for the opportunity to interact with SCD staff on mutually beneficial hazard mitigation projects.

Further Development of the ORMP

In order to further develop the ORMP as charged, CZM is undertaking a moku management project. The aim is to establish a framework to move Hawai'i toward a truly integrated, place-based approach for managing our island environment. Tetra Tech EM, Inc. presented the Moku Management Framework & Principles project to the Working Group, for which they are under contract with CZM. An explanation of the project, the expected outcomes, and the schedule was presented to the group. The intent is to gather input from organized groups involved in natural and cultural resource stewardship in Hawai'i. A survey of these groups will help identify core principles on which a moku management framework might be presented, challenges and needs of these groups, best practices, successful projects, and institutional and organizational resources that contribute to success. Insights from the Working Group members were encouraged. The initial framework and principles will be completed by March of 2008.

Inter-agency collaboration

Several of the members requested discussion on how inter-agency dialogue should be fostered and supported. Since all the work cannot occur at the monthly meetings, some members felt a process was needed. The Working Group will address this.

Updating the ORMP

A number of issues have been raised regarding the content of the ORMP. The Working Group was reminded that the ORMP is a living document, and changes are inevitable. However, the group's directive is to work with what the Policy Group presented. The Working Group may make recommendations to the Policy Group on the changes needed and desired to render the ORMP more practical and reasonable. Furthermore, the plan will be updated every five years. This process allows for flexibility and adaptation to new efforts and priorities.

Participation in ORMP Implementation Process

The Working Group stressed the need for participation by all agencies listed in the ORMP. The participation of the City and County of Honolulu is particularly critical.

CZM Funding Awards to Implement the ORMP

The primary objective of the CZM Program is to coordinate the implementation of the ORMP by promoting collaborative governance and stewardship. To this end, the CZM Program received federal approval to use discretionary CZM funds for coordinated implementation activities to support the ORMP. A solicitation was sent out requesting proposals for partnership projects between government (state or county) and the community with the primary objective of implementing the management goals and strategic actions of the ORMP. Successful applicants met the following criteria:

- Demonstrated collaboration among local state and county government agencies and community entities to cooperatively implement the ORMP;
- Identified how the project would implement one or more specific management goals and strategic actions in the ORMP, how it would be done, a timeline of project activities and deliverables, and a detailed narrative budget justification; and
- Provided non-federal matching funds or services-in-kind on a one-to-one matching basis.

The following projects to implement the ORMP in FY078 were selected by CZM:

Project Name:	Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group Web Site Project
Lead Partners:	County of Hawaii Planning Dept., Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group, Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council
Description:	Project involves the design, development, implementation, and administration of a professional-quality interactive website for use by the wider community to address the Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group mission, which is to "bring the community together to understand and protect the ecology of the Hilo Bay Watershed".
Award:	\$5,000

Project Name:	Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group Water Quality Monitoring Program
Lead Partners:	County of Hawaii Planning Dept., Hilo Bay Watershed Advisory Group, Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council, DOH Clean Water Branch, Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Resources Center
Description:	Project will develop a water quality monitoring program to identify pollutants that may need application of Best Management Practices to bring suspect waters into compliance with current water quality standards.
Award:	\$5,020

Project Name:	Tsunami Education, Preparation & Recovery Plan for Downtown Hilo
Lead Partners:	County of Hawaii Planning Dept., Pacific Tsunami Museum
Description:	Project will address the risk that the Downtown Hilo business community faces from tsunami inundation, including storm surge and coastal flooding.
Award:	\$24,700

Project Name:	Baseline Monitoring at High-yield Watershed Units C and D
Lead Partners:	DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife, Kohala Watershed Partnership
Description:	To prevent the degradation of streams and coastal waters from sediment loads carried from disturbed upland forest habitats, best management practices will be followed by fencing Watershed Units C and D in the Pu'u O Umi Natural Area Reserve and the Kohala Forest Reserve on the Island of Hawaii.
Award:	\$50,000

The CZM Program is currently reviewing several more proposals to support implementation of the ORMP.

This concludes the status report detailing the CZM Program's ORMP project-related activities in calendar year 2007.