

EFFECTIVE PARTNERING TO MANAGE OCEAN RESOURCES AND MITIGATE COASTAL HAZARDS

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The Hawaii CZM Program collaborates with other agencies and groups to reduce the risks to life and property from coastal hazards. This approach has resulted in wiser use of limited resources, less duplication of work, and improved progress in reaching common goals and objectives. This presentation will showcase two separate interagency groups with which CZM participates, discuss the challenges faced, and share lessons learned by both groups.

One of the Program's mandates is to coordinate the implementation of Hawaii's Ocean Resources Management Plan, or ORMP. The plan is an integrated, place-based approach to management of ocean resources in the islands, based on the recognition of the ecological connections between land and sea, and therefore the need for improved collaboration and stewardship in natural resource governance. In the summer of 2007, CZM established an executive-level, multi-agency Policy Group to oversee the implementation and further development of the plan. The Policy Group consists of Director-level representatives of the affected State and County agencies, academia, citizen groups, and some of our federal partners. This group provides general oversight and guidance to the ORMP Working Group, consisting of the managers and staff of the same agencies and organizations. Although Working Group members have made progress in implementing the ORMP on an individual basis thus far, the group struggles on how to initiate collaboration on this front, as the multi-stakeholder group consists of many different agendas and mandates. Furthermore, as we move toward the long-term goal of place-based resource management, it will be a challenge to incorporate such concepts into state policy, which currently utilizes a sector-based framework. Successes and challenges encountered as we begin to implement such an approach will be shared for the benefit of other coastal programs.

CZM actively works with groups established under the Hawaii State Civil Defense Agency, whose objectives clearly focus on the protection of life and property from the effects of coastal hazards. The Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Committee, or HSEAC, is one of these groups. HSEAC was established in 1990 as a non-political technical advisory committee to identify and implement Hawaii State Civil Defense seismic hazards mitigation programs. In addition to recommending policy and program initiatives and changes to Hawaii State Civil Defense regarding seismic safety, preparedness, and planning, this committee also makes recommendations pertinent to civil defense activities in earthquake hazards mitigation, emergency response, and planning. HSEAC has a track record of accomplishment and has served as a model for the establishment of other technical groups representing specific natural hazards.

What are the attributes or practices of HSEAC that have led to its productivity? Can they be adapted to other multi-agency groups? The establishment, structure, and processes of HSEAC will be discussed, along with key attributes of the committee that have developed over its maturation.

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