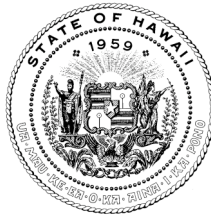


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**PETER T. YOUNG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND

**DEAN NAKANO**  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

## **Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council**

The farthest any spot of land in the State is away from the shoreline is about 28½ miles; almost half of Hawaii is within only 5 miles of the coastline. Thus, just about any activity in Hawaii could be described as possibly having an impact on our coastal resources. Hawaii's historical, cultural, environmental, social, recreational and economic foundations are centered on our states near-shore waters and coastline.

Realizing the above, in November 2003, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) called a meeting involving a variety of state agencies to discuss the state's ocean and coastal concerns. These agencies included a variety of divisions with DLNR, as well as representatives from Transportation, Health, Office of Planning, Coastal Zone Management, Tourism, DBEDT and the University of Hawaii. In May 2004, this group (with other agencies and individuals) came together, again, to prepare Hawaii's response to the draft report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

In 2005, Governor Linda Lingle issued an Executive Order forming this ad hoc group of department directors and deputies (and other County, State and Federal partners) into the Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council (HOCC.) It is similar in nature to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council has succeeded in creating a model for working partnerships between diverse state and other governmental agencies addressing issues of mutual concern and jurisdiction. In much the same way, the Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council will provide a forum for different entities to meet and discuss (at the Director or Deputy level) common and overlapping ocean and coastal concerns.

The creation of the HOCC (with participation by Directors/Deputies from the Departments of Land and Natural Resources, Defense, Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Health, Transportation, Agriculture and President of the University of Hawaii, together with other State, County and Federal representatives) provides the institutional framework for leadership and coordination for such addressing Hawaii's ocean and coastal concerns.

Running the comprehensive program addressing Hawaii's ocean and coastal concerns through the HOCC will not only eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and provide maximum leveraging and coordination of existing state funding from all HOCC departments, it will also help promote increased and targeted participation and funding from cooperating partners.

The role of the Council is not limited to Hawaii; the Council will work, share and network with similar agencies across the country. The Council provides an opportunity to learn from other states about ocean and coastal related issues. Through partnerships and information sharing, the state will take a

more proactive role in dealing with ocean and coastal policy throughout the state. A significant partner is the Coastal States Organization; they work with and represent the 35 U.S. coastal states, territories and commonwealths on oceans, lakes and coastal related issues.

In a prior the meeting of the ad hoc group, each agency was asked to prioritize their top five ocean and coastal concerns. These lists were then shared at the meeting and provided a template for multiple discussions. When the lists were shared what became clear was that coastal issues are far more complex and broad than first anticipated. It was agreed that these issues were important and that these groups would be willing to work together to address these concerns.

Ultimately, the final conclusion of the meeting was that there is a need for an overlapping, collaborative group to discuss ocean and coastal issues.

DLNR has taken the lead in assembling the interagency group to address ocean and coastal concerns. The group works to improve communication, avoid unnecessary duplication, and cooperatively discuss, assess, understand and ultimately manage ocean and coastal resources.

Present Participation:

**STATE:**

Departments of:

- Land and Natural Resources
- Defense
- Business, Economic Development and Tourism
- Health
- Transportation
- Agriculture

- University of Hawaii
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Tourism Liaison
- Office of Planning
- Polynesian Voyaging Society
- Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
- Sea Grant
- School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
- Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
- Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council

**FEDERAL:**

- Pacific Services Center
- USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Marine Sanctuaries
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
- US Coast Guard
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Navy

**County:**

- City & County of Honolulu
- Maui County
- Kauai County
- Hawaii County