Projects and ActivitiesThu Mar 28 06:52:00 HST 2024

Name	ICAP Sea-Level Rise Policy Study
Capability Area: Variability/Changes	- Understanding Climate Variability and Change - Research/Development - Training and Capacity Building, Education, Outreach
Capability Area: Impacts/Adaptations	- Understanding Climate Impacts and Informing Adaptation - Climate Adaptation - Training and Capacity Building, Education, Outreach - Policies and Legislation
Sectors	- Public Health and Safety - Transportation/Communication and Commerce - Community Planning and Development - Social and Cultural Resources - Recreation and Tourism
Status	- Completed
Focus Area	- Coastal Inundation/Sea Level Rise, Extreme Weather, and Community Resilience
Regions	- Central North Pacific - State Of Hawaii
Description	The goal of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy Sea-level Rise Policy Study project was to increase community resiliency to the climate impacts of sea-level rise. Building on the scientific research of Dr. Charles Fletcher, this project incorporated input from state decision-makers as it identified best practices and policy options for adaptation. The project was unique in its iterative methodology, specifically designed to engage decision-makers and incorporate their feedback at multiple points throughout the process of developing adaptation strategies and policy tools.
Objectives/Outcomes	Ultimately, the project's result was a set of recommendations responsive to stakeholders' specific concerns. The publication, "Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Land Use in Hawaii: A Policy Tool Kit for State and Local Governments," is available at http://icap.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/icap-publications or www.islandclimate.org. This approach also yielded solutions appropriate for Hawaii's political landscape that have traction in the law-making arena.
Lead Agencies	Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP), NOAA Pacific Services Center
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Partnering Agencies	The NOAA Pacific Services Center provided funding for this study and will help communicate the findings with other coastal and island communities who could benefit from policy guidance for adapting to sea-level rise. The NOAA Coastal Storms Program for the Pacific region aided in coordinating the integration of scientific assessments so that ICAP's legal and policy recommendations reflect the most advanced climate science and projections for Hawaii.
Required Resources	The project budget was $100,000. About half of which accounted for the salary for a senior attorney specializing in environmental and climate change law and a legal research assistant, who together analyze extant law, develop model policy language, and evaluate adaptation options. A project manager was essential to ensure project deadlines were met, organize outreach events and meetings, and assist in the production of documents. Outreach to stakeholders and decision-makers was conducted effectively with the help of Kem Lowry, an experienced facilitator and retired professor of urban and regional planning.
Projected Timelines	The project timeline included three phases (research, writing, and outreach), which overlap at various points throughout the project. The research phase, spanning March 2011 – May 2011 encompassed an initial literature review, interviews with local decision-makers, developing an outline for the written product, and drafting sections of the final report. The writing phase took place over the course of May 2011 – August 2011 and culminated in a final draft to be sent to reviewers in August. Outreach included workshops for stakeholders and legislators in October 2011 - November 2011 to release and publicize the findings and to develop action strategies for implementing the recommendations.
Feedback/Evaluation	The project is unique in its iterative methodology, specifically designed to engage decision-makers and incorporate their feedback at multiple points throughout the process of developing adaptation strategies and policy tools. Ultimately, the result will be a set of recommendations that are responsive to stakeholders' specific concerns regarding sea-level rise and the realities and projections of climate change in Hawaii. This approach will also yield solutions appropriate for Hawaii's political landscape that will have traction in the law-making arena.
Url	http://icap.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/icap-publications