



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Hawai'i Sea Grant receives \$845,160 grant to help local communities prepare for coastal hazards and climate change

(Honolulu, HI) To help Hawai'i communities reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, NOAA's National Ocean Service awarded the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) \$845,160 in grant funding through the Regional Coastal Resilience Grants Program.

Hawai'i is particularly vulnerable to coastal hazards. Since the state is heavily reliant on tourism, and most of the development and infrastructure in Hawai'i are concentrated on or near the coast, it is highly susceptible to flooding, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and coastal disasters. The project, titled "Building Resilience to Coastal Hazards and Climate Change in Hawai'i," aims to address these critical issues and increase Hawai'i's resilience to coastal hazards and the impacts from climate change.

In addition, the project will leverage and inform ongoing planning efforts already underway throughout the state, including the development of a statewide Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report under the Hawai'i Climate Adaptation Initiative (State Act 83, 2014). Dr. Bradley Romine, Hawai'i Sea Grant's coastal management specialist and the project lead, said "The past year has been a stark reminder of Hawai'i's vulnerability to coastal hazards after a record-setting hurricane season, and massive El-Niño fueled winter surf caused damage to our coastal communities. The frequency and severity of coastal erosion and flooding events is only going to increase in the coming decades with climate change and sea-level rise. Improving coastal community resilience makes sense for now and the future. Thank you to NOAA for this grant, which will have a positive impact on Hawai'i's local efforts to improve our resilience."

Dr. Jeffrey Payne, director of the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, noted "The challenges confronting our nation's coastal communities are incredibly complicated - effective solutions are going to require strong science, ingenuity and collaboration if they are going to safeguard and ensure the future vitality of our economy and valuable natural resources. The projects that have been approved for funding represent opportunities to do just that. We are excited about what these partnership projects will accomplish at the local level and the positive impact this program will have on our nation."

Other project partners include the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i Office of Planning, Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System, University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, and the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center.

For more information about Hawai'i Sea Grant please visit <http://seagrants.oest.hawaii.edu/>

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The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program is part of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's prestigious School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. It supports an innovative program of research, education and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region and nation. Science serving Hawai'i and the Pacific since 1968.