



News Release

For Immediate Release
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UH Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy Recommends Preparations for Sea-Level Rise

The Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP), at the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program, recently published a policy tool kit to assist government agencies and policymakers to prepare the state for rising sea levels: *Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Land Use in Hawai'i: A Policy Tool Kit for State and Local Governments* (<http://icap.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/icap-publications>).

Hawai'i faces a 1-foot increase in sea level by 2050 and a 3-foot rise by 2100. The tool kit outlines concrete actions that Hawai'i state and local decision-makers can implement *now* to build short-term and long-term resilience to the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.

“We can already see some of the effects of climate change in our islands. Trade wind inversion, for example, is decreasing the occurrence of rainfall, yet at the same time we are experiencing increasing rain intensity. Practical tools in this publication, such as coastal construction setback lines and mandatory real estate disclosures, could be put into action right now to protect citizens, homes, and infrastructure from current and future coastal erosion and flooding.” says Maxine Burkett, ICAP Director.

ICAP will present the tool kit to the state legislature on January 17, 2012 and provide briefings on the tool kit to interested state and county agencies and other stakeholders. ICAP's primary recommendations for state action are to 1) incorporate the 1-foot-by-2050 and 3-feet-by-2100 sea-level rise benchmark in state planning, projects, and programs; 2) increase funding for scientific research to identify site-specific impacts of climate change and sea-level rise; and 3) designate a lead agency to initiate and coordinate statewide climate adaptation planning and implementation efforts.

The project is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Services Center through the NOAA Coastal Storms Program.

As a focal point for University of Hawai'i climate law and policy expertise, ICAP serves as a two-way conduit between the university and island communities and decision-makers to catalyze climate change adaptation and resiliency.

For more information, visit www.islandclimate.org or call (808) 956-2865.

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The Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP) facilitates a sustainable, climate-conscious future for Hawai'i, the Pacific, and global island communities.

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 for over 40 years.