

Panel 2: Climate Ready Hawaii-- Adapting to Rising Seas

Adapting to sea level rise in Hawaii brings to mind dealing with coastal area erosion and flooding, but inland areas are also feeling the effects of flooding—even on sunny days when there are no storms or rainfall. Add to this heavy rains, and these effects are even more severe—for people, pets, property and more. Since the 2019 Ha o ke Kai conference, where adaptation lessons were heard from other states such as Massachusetts and Florida, Hawaii through its State Climate Commission has created an initiative, “Climate Ready Hawaii” to bring additional resources and capacity to support local and state governments in addressing vulnerability and adaptation planning for public infrastructure and private development.

Panel 2 recognizes the progress that Hawaii is making at the State and county level around sea level rise adaptation and discusses challenges, emerging good practices, and the importance of effective communication of science-based information among government and community. We will also hear from panelists from outside Hawaii about their region’s challenges and successes with sea level rise adaptation planning and policy. We hope that our panel, audience and Climate Commission will leave with a clearer vision of the path forward over the coming year and beyond toward getting Hawaii climate and sea level rise ready.