



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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OFFICE OF PLANNING ANNOUNCES COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER

HONOLULU – The Office of Planning has announced that Justine Nihipali will be the next Planning Program Manager of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, effective July 15, 2016.

Ms. Nihipali has been a CZM Planning and Policy Analyst in the Office of Planning for the past three years with a focus on implementing the State's Ocean Resources Management Plan and leading the CZM Program's effort in developing its Section 309 Assessment and Strategy for FYs 2016 to 2020. She also has broad professional planning and management experience having been with the University of Hawaii's Center on Aging, the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai'i – Mānoa, and at Lincoln Property Company in San Francisco.

She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies, and also the University of Hawai'i – Mānoa, earning a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Ms. Nihipali becomes the third manager of the Hawai'i CZM Program since its inception in 1978, and will manage a staff of 12 administrative, intern, and professional positions in the largest and broadest (topic-wise) branch of the Office of Planning.

"It is an exciting time to be a part of the CZM Program. I look forward to fostering new and existing relationships with our partner agencies, and to continue working with the CZM Program's dedicated and experienced staff," said Ms. Nihipali.

Leo R. Asuncion, Director of the Office of Planning, and former Hawai'i CZM Program Manager adds "Justine brings a wealth of experience and energy to the Hawai'i CZM Program, as she takes on the task of moving the Program forward. This is also an important time for the Program as it embarks on its new 5-year strategy to implement national, state and local initiatives in coastal management."

Ms. Nihipali was born and raised in San Francisco, CA and marks her 10th year in Hawaii where she currently resides in Windward O'ahu, with her husband and son.

About the Hawai‘i Coastal Zone Management Program

Established in 1978, Hawaii’s Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program was enacted to provide a common focus for state and county actions dealing with land and water uses and activities. As the State's resource management policy umbrella, it is the guiding perspective for the design and implementation of allowable land and water uses and activities throughout the state. The Hawai‘i CZM Program focuses its work on the complex resource management problems of coastal areas in the State within a framework of partnerships among federal, state and local agencies that includes such activities as stewardship, planning, permitting, education/outreach, technical assistance to local governments and permit applicants, policy development and implementation, and identification of emerging issues and exploration of solutions.

About the Office of Planning

The Office of Planning, gathers, analyzes, and provides information to the Governor and the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to assist in the overall analysis and formulation of state policies and strategies. The Office provides central direction and cohesion in the allocation of resources and effectuation of state activities and programs, and effectively addresses current or emerging issues and opportunities. The Office works closely with local, state, and federal government agencies; the University of Hawai‘i; and various community stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

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Sincerely,

Leo R. Asuncion
Director