MINUTES FOR THE
BRIEFING OF THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE:	THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006
TIME:	9:00 A.M.
PLACE:	KALANIMOKU BUILDING LAND BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM 132 1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Chairperson Peter Young called the meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to order at 10:08 a.m. The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Mr. Peter Young
Mr. Ted Yamamura
Ms. Taryn Schuman
Mr. Tim Johns
Mr. Ron Agor

STAFF

Mr. Sam Lemmo, OCCL
Mr. Chris Conger, OCCL
Mr. Dolan Eversole, OCCL

Briefing on the Shoreline Certification Process, The Coastal Construction Mitigation Guidebook and the Shoreline Working Group by the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

Sam Lemmo, Administrator of the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) spoke of the Departments efforts in partnering with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College to integrate science in coastal land use. He went on to introduce two individuals on staff at the department who are also part of the Sea Grant Faculty, Dolan Eversole a Coastal Lands Specialist with a degree in Coastal Geology and Chris Conger a Shoreline Specialist who also holds a degree in Coastal Geology. Mr. Lemmo spoke of the mission and objectives of the Sea Grant College as well as those of the Department of Land &

Natural Resources (DLNR). In their partnership efforts Sea Grant and OCCL hope to provide direction and guidance to coastal landowners and the public on current best practices for shoreline use and management through the development, implementation and monitoring of Coastal Management Policy and Procedures.

Mr. Eversole, a Coastal Land Specialist pointed out the position he holds is co-funded between the DLNR and UH Sea Grant while the position held by Mr. Conger is funded by the DLNR, UH Sea Grant and the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). Mr. Eversole announced that they are currently conducting statewide workshops to express the need to integrate our shoreline policies which in turn would be very important when we look at the bifurcation of our coastal system. Mr. Eversole communicated that a lot of their efforts are a result of the Coastal Erosion Management Plan (COEMAP) that was adopted by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) in 2000. The COEMAP provided a framework for discussion and management of the coastal erosion problems in the state, identified the need for expert in-house support and provides guidelines, recommendations and implementation steps to improve coastal management in the state. At present, Mr. Eversole has been serving in an advisor capacity with OCCL, Land Division and DAGS on incorporating more science into the shoreline certification process which includes looking at wave data and the types of shoreline vegetation. He clarified that the shoreline is certified by the State (DLNR) and from that line the County establishes the coastal setbacks. With regards to the department's rules, Mr. Eversole conveyed that they've been working with staff on rule amendments to the Shoreline Policy, the Shoreline Certification Rules, Conservation District Rules and the definition of Shoreline. The next topic Mr. Eversole discussed was the Hawaii Coastal Hazard Mitigation Guidebook. He pointed out the guidebook talks about the eight development stages for Land Use starting with early inception all the way to erosion. Mr. Eversole feels the state needs to implement early hazard recognition signs at steps one, two or three so that we do not reach the last step which is erosion. Mr. Eversole let it be known at present they are in the process of including the University of Hawaii (UH) Erosion Mapping into the fold in order to map historical shoreline. Present mapping efforts include mapping the historical shorelines on Oahu and Kauai which are being handled by Chip Fletcher and other geologist. Mr. Eversole went over the mapping process as well as the Erosion Zone Setback Formula which is used to calculate the annual erosion rate which in turn can be used to establish coastal setbacks. Mr. Eversole spoke a little about the various erosion management alternatives which includes soft erosion control, beach nourishment and sand management, temporary structures, adapt or relocated structures or no nothing. The final topic, Mr. Eversole addressed is the department's efforts toward education and outreach through presentations and workshops, coastal policy and guidance documents and Public information and website development. Lastly he made it known the department is in the final stages of providing a brochure on "Purchasing Coastal Property in Hawaii" which will educate potential homeowners who are looking at purchasing coastal property and another document titled, "Erosion Management Alternatives for Hawaii" which helps homeowners to evaluate what alternatives are best for them.

Chris Conger, a shoreline specialist for DLNR gave some background into the creation of his position and the need for a shoreline specialist due to the fact that in 1997, 25% of Oahu's and 30% of Maui's beaches have been diminished due to shoreline structures. He believes the need for possible movement of a shoreline structures happens a generation or two after the structure has been built due to locating the structure in the wrong place which is a result of an improper shoreline location and setbacks. Mr. Conger went on to speak of the state's shoreline certification review process. He pointed out his job is to go out and observer the upper reaches of the wash of the waves and to identify features indicative of this area. Since coming on board at DLNR, Mr. Conger has been on fifty-four (54) site visits (two-thirds of the shoreline applications) and almost one hundred (100) percent of the shoreline applications on sandy beaches. In order to determine the shoreline he uses beach morphology and beach vegetation. Mr. Conger spoke of salt tolerant vegetation which could be used on the shoreline those include Beach Morning Glory, Sea shore Paspalum, Naupaka, Akulikuli, Akiaki and Ironwood Trees. In summary, Mr. Conger noted his job entails Certification of the Shoreline as well as Outreach and Education. As part of the shoreline certification process he reviews of all shoreline applications, conducts site visits to determine the shoreline, identifies violations and encroachments and consults with applicants and surveyors on a daily basis. As far as outreach and education the department has conducted presentations and workshops, provided guidance documents, actively reviewed statutes, regulations and policies dealing with shoreline and coastal lands and conducted research on wave data and recurrence intervals.

The Board asked Mr. Eversole if the Department was working with the counties so they may amend or change their county codes to fit the State's program. Mr. Eversole answered yes and let it be known they were going to Kauai to conduct a workshop in which the County of Kauai Planning Department has been invited. Mr. Eversole noted they have encouraged the Counties to look at our Shoreline Setback Policy and so far the County of Kauai is interested in the erosion-based set back and have asked for a review of a new ordinance they are considering and staff is providing input. Mr. Eversole explained to the Board California's comprehensive coastal mitigation effort which states that if someone wants to armor a coastal bluff they would need to compensate the state for how much material would have been delivered to the shoreline. He noted their interest in pursuing this issue but confirmed they are a ways away from that program. Mr. Eversole spoke of a program used by the Army Corp of Engineers which they look at functional replacement – how much loss will you have from that ecosystem/environment and what its functional value is. If the ecosystem/environment can not be replaced on site then they would look at another site which would be on the same island and replacing it with dollars or ecosystem dollars.

Board member Agor asked staff if they've come across an incident in which a property owner could not do anything on the property due to the shoreline set back. Mr. Lemmo noted there is a potential for that situation to occur but to date it has not happened. He believes should that incident occur there would be a number of alternatives including buying the individuals property or reducing the size of the structure so they'll be able to build something on the property.

There being no further business, Chairperson Young adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Tapes of the meeting and all written testimony submitted at the meeting are filed in the Chairperson's Office and are available for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Crowell

Terry Crowell

Approved for submittal:

PETER T. YOUNG
Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources