



PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER

2023 HAWAI'I CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE SUMMIT

PROGRAM GUIDE



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Day 1 Agenda | Tuesday, January 10

- 12:30** **Welcome and introduction**
- **Dr. Mari-Vaughn Johnson**, PI-CASC Federal Director
 - **Dr. Darren Lerner**, PI-CASC University Consortium Director
- Theme 1: Drought and Wildfire in Hawai'i**
- 1:00** **Keynote Presentation**
- Introduction by **Dr. Alyssa Anderson**
 - *Wildfire in Hawai'i and the Pacific*
Speaker: **Elizabeth Pickett**, Co-Executive Director, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization
- 1:30** **Research to Management Presentations**
- Introduction by **Dr. Mari-Vaughn Johnson**
 - *Data at your fingertips: The frontier of climate science in Hawai'i*
Dr. Ryan Longman, Research Fellow, East-West Center
 - *How the Pacific Fire Exchange supports current and future fire management needs in the Pacific*
Dr. Clay Trauernicht, Extension Specialist in ecosystems and fire, UH Mānoa
 - *Considering the nexus of climate change, wildfire, and drought and the impacts on invasive species through the Pacific RISCC*
Dr. Elliott Parsons, Assistant Specialist, Pacific RISCC
 - *Informing contemporary wildfire science from historical Hawaiian language newspapers*
Dr. Alyssa Anderson, Postdoctoral Fellow, PI-CASC, UH Mānoa
- 2:30** **Break**
- 2:45** **Moderated Wildfire Managers Panel Discussion**
- Moderator: **Dr. Clay Trauernicht**
 - Panelists: **Dr. Elliott Parsons**; **Ryan Peralta**, Forest Management Supervisor I, DLNR/Forestry and Wildlife; **Kapua Kawelo**, Biologist, O'ahu Army Natural Resource Program
- 3:45** **Moderated Early Career Panel Discussion**
- Moderator: **Dr. Alyssa Anderson**
 - Panelists: **Hi'ilei Casco**, William S. Richardson School of Law, UH Mānoa; **Samantha Alvarado**, Tropical Plant and Soil Science, UH Mānoa/Grow With US Mentorship Program Coordinator; **Puakea Mo'okini-Oliveira**, Environmental Management, UH Mānoa; **Kevin Faccenda**, PI-CASC Scholar, Botany Department, UH Mānoa
- 5:00** **Adjourn Day 1**

Day 2 Agenda | Wednesday, January 11

12:00

Welcome back/review of Day 1

- **Dr. Mari-Vaughn Johnson**, PI-CASC Federal Director
- **Dr. Darren Lerner**, PI-CASC University Consortium Director

Theme 2: Integrated Watershed Science (Pacific Islands-Alaska CASC collaboration)

12:10

Keynote Presentation

- *Supporting Indigenous approaches to science and stewardship in Hawai'i*
Speaker: **Dr. Kawika Winter**, He'eia National Estuarine Reserve Manager

12:40

Introduction to PI-AK Collaboration

- **Dr. Stephen Gray**, AK CASC USGS Director

12:50

PI-AK Research to Management Applications Presentations

- *The influence of streamflow variability on land-to-ocean nutrient and organic matter export to southeast Alaska nearshore ecosystems?*
Dr. Jason Fellman, Research Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center and Program of the Environment, University of Alaska Southeast
- *Shifts in carbon export from a Hawaiian watershed under a changing climate*
Dr. Tracy Wiegner, Professor of Marine Science, UH Hilo
- *Modeling future precipitation regimes to inform resource management: Learning from each other in Alaska and Hawai'i*
Dr. Rick Lader, Research Associate, AK CASC, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and **Dr. Thomas Giambelluca**, Professor of Geography, UH Mānoa

1:30

Watershed Management Panel Discussion

- Moderator: **Dr. Allison Bidlack**, Research professor, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks/AK CASC
- Panelists: **Rebecca Bellmore**, Science Director, SE AK Watershed Coalition; **Dr. Kawika Winter**; **Ulalia Woodside Lee**, Hawai'i & Palmyra Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy; **Dr. Jessica Garron**, Deputy Director, AK CASC, University of Alaska Fairbanks

2:25

Break

Day 2 Agenda (cont.) | Wednesday, January 11

Theme 3: Sea-level Rise Adaptation Science

2:40

Introduction

- **Heather Kerkering**, PI-CASC Federal Acting Deputy Director/ Science Coordinator
- **Dr. Brad Romine**, PI-CASC University Consortium Deputy Director

2:45

Research and Science Tools Presentations

- *Science to application: PacIOOS launches wave flooding tools for West Maui to support community preparedness and resilience*
Tara Owens, Extension Faculty, Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist, Hawai'i Sea Grant
- *Sea-level rise in a Hawaiian National Historical Park and American Sāmoa*
Dr. Phil Thompson, Director, UH Sea Level Rise Center, UH Mānoa
- *Application of consistent projections of future coastal flooding due to climate change and sea-level rise to evaluate risk and guide prioritization for adaptation*
Dr. Curt Storlazzi, Research Geologist, USGS
- *Building policy around the modeled impacts of sea-level rise*
Dr. Chip Fletcher, Interim Dean, SOEST, UH Mānoa

3:45

Moderated Managers and Decision-makers Panel Discussion

- Moderator: **Dr. Brad Romine**
- Panelists: **Michael Cain**, Administrator, DLNR Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands; **Matthew Gonser**, Executive Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency, City and County of Honolulu; **Dr. Jared Underwood**, Superintendent, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, US Fish and Wildlife Service; **Malia Nobrega-Olivera**, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement, Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, UH Mānoa

5:00

Adjourn Day 2

Leadership



Dr. Mari-Vaughn Johnson **PI-CASC Federal Director**

As Federal Director of PI-CASC, Dr. Mari-Vaughn Johnson brings a human-centric, systems-oriented perspective, informed by her experiences in international diplomacy, multi-functional land-use solutions, and policy impact assessments. Dr. Johnson believes strong relationships between people and place are key to developing successful climate change adaptation strategies. She demonstrates her leadership and commitment to the Pacific region through her many service activities, including as coordinating lead author of the Hawai'i/USAPI chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5), co-chair of the USGS Council for Pacific Island Science, and an active member of the Coral Reef Task Force. Prior to joining USGS, Dr. Johnson worked with the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, served as Science Advisor at the US Department of State as a AAAS Fellow, and co-chaired the Global Young Academy.



Dr. Darren Lerner **PI-CASC University Consortium Director**

Dr. Darren Lerner serves as the PI-CASC University Consortium Director, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program Director, and also, currently, the Interim Associate Dean for Research at SOEST, UH Mānoa. His academic background focuses on the environmental physiology of fishes and the effects of environmental contaminants on animal physiology and behavior. He has more than 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals covering these topics as well as a focus on water resources and STEM education. Dr. Lerner earned his PhD in organismic and evolutionary biology from the University of Massachusetts.



Heather Kerkering **PI-CASC Federal Acting Deputy Director/Science Coordinator**

Heather Kerkering serves as the PI-CASC Acting Deputy Director and as the Science Coordinator. In these capacities, she oversees the federal PI-CASC project portfolio and facilitates strategic partnerships, the development and application of science-based climate adaptation strategies, and the funding solicitation and award process. She represents USGS and PI-CASC on several regional, national, and international climate-focused initiatives and has traveled as part of the U.S. Department of Interior delegation. Prior to joining USGS, she held leadership positions with the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) and the Central and Northern CA Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) where she honed her skills in science administration and strategic leadership.



Dr. Brad Romine **PI-CASC University Consortium Deputy Director**

Dr. Brad Romine is the PI-CASC University Consortium Deputy Director and also works as a coastal resilience extension specialist with the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. As deputy director, he works with the USGS, consortium partners at UH Hilo and the University of Guam, and with university and federal researchers to provide the best-available science on climate change and landscape-scale stressors throughout Hawai'i and the USAPI. Last fall, Brad was appointed to the Honolulu Climate Change Commission, filling the role of expert on coastal hazards and impacts of sea-level rise. Brad earned his PhD in coastal geology at UH Mānoa in 2013, and has published research articles and contributed to government reports on coastal and beach processes, shoreline change, sea-level rise impacts, climate adaptation, and disaster preparedness.

Theme 1: Drought and Wildfire in Hawai'i



Dr. Christian Giardina
Research Ecologist, Institute of Pacific Forestry
USDA Forest Service

Following urban-focused social work in NYC and Denver, Dr. Christian Giardina pursued Justice Studies at the Iliff School of Theology (MAR, 1993), with thesis work on Indigenous resource stewardship and political autonomy in eastern Nicaragua. He then studied soil biology, forest management, and global change at Colorado State University (MS, 1996) and the University of Denver (PHD, 1999). Following a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, he joined the USDA Forest Service where he has been studying global change, climate mitigation, restoration of ecosystem processes, and community-based stewardship.



Elizabeth Pickett
Co-Executive Director, Hawai'i Wildfire Management
Organization

Elizabeth Pickett is co-executive director of Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO), where she began working in 2008. Elizabeth works with staff and partners across Hawai'i and the Western Pacific to implement wildfire mitigation, planning, and education projects with the goals of improving wildfire readiness and resilience. She is vice president of the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group, and co-founded the Pacific Fire Exchange, a fire science communication project. She earned a Master of Environmental Science from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.



Dr. Ryan Longman
Research Fellow, East-West Center

Dr. Ryan Longman is a climate scientist, whose research is focused on the development and dissemination of climate data and knowledge products in Hawai'i and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. He co-leads the development of the Hawai'i Climate Data Portal (HCDP) and the Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange (PDKE). The main objective of his work is to make data and information more accessible to users so that it can be used to make adaptation decisions that build resilience to observed and projected changing environmental conditions.



Dr. Clay Trauernicht
Extension Specialist in Ecosystems and Fire
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dr. Clay Trauernicht grew up on Long Island, NY, and first came to Hawai'i in 1999 as a forest bird project intern. He soon turned to plant science, pursuing graduate degrees at UH Botany and University of Tasmania with lots of field-based jobs in between. He's been an Extension Specialist faculty at UH Mānoa since 2013, working primarily on fire science and management across Hawai'i and Micronesia and via the Pacific Fire Exchange. In 2021, he started a new position in partnership with the Army Natural Resource Program to build an extension program to support conservation and restoration professionals, called Ecosystems Work.

Theme 1: Drought and Wildfire in Hawai'i



Dr. Elliott Parsons
Assistant Specialist, Pacific RISCC

Dr. Elliott Parsons is currently a UH specialist working with the Pacific Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (Pacific RISCC) Management Network, a multi-partner collaboration across Hawai'i and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands dedicated to understanding the interactions between invasive species and climate change in the Pacific to improve management strategies. Prior to this role he was a resource manager at Pu'uwa'awa'a in North Kona for 12 years working on invasive species issues associated with both drought and wildfire, and he has taught courses in wildlife science at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo since 2016.



Dr. Alyssa Anderson
Postdoctoral Fellow, PI-CASC, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dr. Alyssa Anderson graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology where she is now a postdoctoral fellow researching climate and fire in the Hawaiian Islands. She has taught Earth science classes through Hawaiian language immersion instruction at Windward Community College, and previously worked on the Kahua A'o project translating Hawaiian language newspapers for science research and education.



Ryan Peralta
Forest Management Supervisor, DLNR/Forestry & Wildlife

Ryan Peralta has worked for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for over 20 years. He got his start as a volunteer in high school cleaning trails. He worked his way up the ladder as a volunteer, intern, contractor, technician, service forester, protection forester, and now the forestry manager. He was a forester on both the Big Island and O'ahu and has fought fire on all the major Hawaiian Islands. Wildland firefighting is the part of the job that he loves the best.



Kapua Kawelo
Biologist, O'ahu Army Natural Resource Program

Kapua Kawelo grew up on the windward side of O'ahu, and her 'ohana is from Ka'alae'a and Pakole, O'ahu. She grew up hiking and diving with family and friends, experiences that fostered her love of Hawai'i's natural resources. She earned a Bachelor's in Botany at the University of California at Davis, and then interned with The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and the USGS. She has worked for the Army's Natural Resource Program on O'ahu since 1995 at which time she was one of only four staff. Now, there are more than 50 staff. The Natural Resource Program works in the Wai'anai and Ko'olau Mountains, conserving many endangered native Hawaiian plants, animals, and the native forests upon which they depend.

Theme 1: Drought and Wildfire in Hawai'i



Hi'ilei Casco
William S. Richardson School of Law, UH Mānoa

Hi'ilei K. Casco was born and raised on Maui. As a Kanaka Maoli scholar, she is currently pursuing a law degree and certificates in Native Hawaiian law and environmental law at the William S. Richardson School of Law to nurture her passion for upholding and improving legal protections for the livelihoods of Native communities, as well as their ability to understand and utilize legal resources in ways that they can embrace and be co-powered by.



Samantha Alvarado
Tropical Plant and Soil Science, CTAHR, UH Mānoa
Grow With Us Mentorship Program Coordinator

Samantha Alvarado is a PhD student in the Tropical Plant and Soil Science Department studying learning farms while pursuing her graduate certificate in sustainability and resilience education. As a Hau'oli Mau Loa Fellow and Kulana Noi'i Award recipient, Sam received her master's in environmental management while studying biocultural land stewardship. Sam is the program coordinator for the Grow With Us Mentorship Program for CTAHR and also serves as summer faculty at Punahou School for the PUEO Program, teaching Hawaiian studies and outdoor education. She dreams of creating a learning farm centered on place-based pedagogy, indigenous epistemology, native ecosystem restoration, and sustainable agriculture.



Puakea Mo'okini-Oliveira
Environmental Management, UH Mānoa

Puakea Mo'okini-Oliveira is broadly interested in Indigenous knowledge systems and restoration ecology. Specifically, she is passionate about the elemental force that connects us all: water. Her graduate work is being done in collaboration with nonprofits from Halele'a, Kaua'i where she's been living and working on riparian restoration projects and stream monitoring. Using lessons learned from Limahuli Garden and Preserve, Waipā Foundation, and Nā Maka Onaona, Puakea is helping to develop an 'ōiwi-based stream monitoring toolkit to rekindle relationships to waterways, close knowledge and data gaps, equip communities/organizations, and build networks of placed-based programs for contextually robust decision-making.



Kevin Faccenda
Botany Department, UH Mānoa

Kevin Faccenda is a second-year graduate student in the Botany Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he is focusing his studies on invasive species. He is especially interested in the history and ecology of grass invasions across the islands and how these invasions may change in a changing climate.

Theme 2: Integrated Watershed Science



Dr. Kawika Winter **Director, He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Dr. Kawika Winter was previously the Director of Limahuli Garden and Preserve on Kaua'i, where he led the Hā'eina Ahupua'a Project. That project aimed to engage in biocultural restoration on a mountain-to-sea scale. In 2018, he became the Director of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve to support community-led, ahupua'a-scale restoration on O'ahu. Dr. Winter is also a biocultural ecologist with appointments at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, Botany, and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. In the scientific realm, he has deep interest in the dynamics within and resilience of social-ecological systems.



Dr. Stephen Gray **USGS Director, Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center**

Dr. Stephen Gray is the director of the USGS Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center and an affiliate research professor in the University of Alaska Fairbanks' International Arctic Research Center. Steve previously served as the Wyoming State Climatologist and Director of the Wyoming Water Resources Data System. Steve's research explores the interplay between climate variability, climatic change, and natural resource management. Among his other duties, Steve serves as a co-lead for the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee's (IARPC) Risk Management and Hazards Mitigation team, and he was the Federal Coordinating Lead Author for the Alaska Chapter in the Fourth National Climate Assessment.



Dr. Jason Fellman **Research Associate Professor of Environmental Science** **Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center and Program of the** **Environment, University of Alaska Southeast**

Dr. Jason Fellman is a research associate professor of environmental science at the University of Alaska Southeast. Jason has nearly 15 years of research experience in southeast Alaska investigating watershed-scale biogeochemical cycling and freshwater habitat quality for Pacific salmon. Much of his research has focused on quantifying lateral carbon and nutrient export from forested watersheds in the context of a changing hydrologic regime and studying how the ecology and biogeochemistry of proglacial streams may change with continued glacial retreat. He enjoys climbing, skiing, trail running as well as camping and traveling with his wife and two children.



Dr. Tracy Wiegner **Professor of Marine Science, UH Hilo**

Dr. Tracy Wiegner is a professor of marine science and the director of the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science Program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). Her research focuses on the connection between the land and ocean, specifically focusing on how terrestrial freshwater inputs affect near-shore water quality and biological processes. At UH Hilo, she teaches courses on global change, watersheds, chemical oceanography, and the scientific method, as well as mentors undergraduate and graduate students on research projects.

Theme 2: Integrated Watershed Science



Dr. Rick Lader
Research Associate, AK CASC

Dr. Rick Lader is a research associate with the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Rick specializes in climate model analysis and in regional climate modeling, having earned his doctorate in Atmospheric Sciences from UAF in 2018. He has authored and contributed to many publications on climate extremes and extreme event attribution studies in Alaska and is a co-author on the latest NOAA Arctic Report Card. Recently, Rick has worked with the Pacific Islands and Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Centers to translate climate model data into more understandable formats to help facilitate broader usage and accessibility.



Dr. Thomas Giambelluca
Professor of Geography, UH Mānoa

Dr. Tom Giambelluca is a professor with the Department of Geography and Environment, and director of the Water Resources Research Center at UH Mānoa. His research focuses on climate variability, both spatial and temporal, including natural fluctuation and trends associated with global climate change, and looking at both past changes and projections of future changes. He also studies interactions between the atmosphere and the land surface, including effects of land-cover change on exchanges of water, carbon, and energy over terrestrial ecosystems, effects of invasive plants on ecosystem function, and hydrological processes in tropical montane cloud forests.



Dr. Allison Bidlack
**Research Associate Professor, International Arctic
Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks/AK CASC**

Dr. Allison Bidlack is a research associate professor at the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and serves on the leadership team for the Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center. Allison has worked in southeast Alaska for over 10 years developing collaborative, multidisciplinary research on coastal margin ecosystem processes and climate change, focusing on issues of concern to coastal communities and industries.



Rebecca Bellmore
Science Director, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

Rebecca Bellmore is the science director at the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, where she collaborates with community groups and Tribes on watershed stewardship projects, including monitoring, assessment and restoration of aquatic resources. She has a background in watershed biogeochemistry and stream ecology, including field work in Arizona and the Pacific Northwest. Rebecca lives in Juneau, Alaska with her husband and two young daughters.

Theme 2: Integrated Watershed Science



Ulalia Woodside Lee **Hawai'i & Palmyra Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy**

In her career and as Kumu Hula, Ulalia Woodside Lee is dedicated to thriving lands, seas, people and culture in Hawai'i. Ulalia is the executive director of The Nature Conservancy's Hawai'i and Palmyra program, which protects and restores native forests, collaborates with communities for healthy coral reefs and fisheries, and develops cutting-edge research and interventions across the Hawaiian archipelago and to Palmyra Atoll. Prior to TNC, Ulalia worked for Kamehameha Schools, overseeing a portfolio of agricultural and conservation lands, place-based education, and natural and cultural resources management programs. She is an author and invited speaker on ecosystem services and Indigenous peoples' approaches and relationship with nature.



Dr. Jessica Garron **Deputy University Director, AK CASC**

Dr. Jessica Garron works with a broad spectrum of scientists, community members, agency partners and industry representatives to apply science-based solutions to decision-making. Garron's primary work identifies remote sensing and drone-based technological solutions to address community, scientific, and operational problems focused on the circumpolar Arctic and to serve as a knowledge broker of those solutions. In her current role as research faculty at the International Arctic Research Center and as the Deputy Director of the AK CASC, she connects operational and community-based end users with actionable, geospatial, and model-based science information to support climate change adaptation planning and response. Garron specializes in bringing together teams to create solutions and enhance outcomes of science-influenced operational decision-making.

Theme 3: Sea-level Rise Adaptation Science



Tara M. Owens
Extension Faculty, Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist
University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

Tara Owens is extension faculty with the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program, specializing in coastal processes and coastal hazards. Partnered with the County of Maui Planning Department, Tara's role is to "bridge the gap" between science and policy and planning for improved community resilience. Tara also interfaces with other government agencies and the community on collaborative projects pertaining to coastal management, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise impacts. Tara earned a BS in marine science from Coastal Carolina University, and an MS in coastal geology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Dr. Phil Thompson
Director, UH Sea Level Center, UH Mānoa

Dr. Phil Thompson is an associate professor in the Department of Oceanography at UH Mānoa and director of the University of Hawai'i Sea Level Center. He serves as the principal investigator for research projects funded by USGS, NOAA, and NASA focused on understanding decadal climate variability, future tidal flooding, and the interaction of sea level and waves in the nearshore environment. An emerging theme in his work is the co-production of research that facilitates science-based coastal management and digital tools that support effective science communication.



Dr. Curt Storlazzi
Research Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey

Dr. Curt Storlazzi is a senior research geologist in the U.S. Geological Survey's Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program who specializes in coastal hydrodynamics and sediment dynamics on tropical coastlines. He presently leads a team examining the geologic and oceanographic processes that affect the growth and vitality of coral reefs, the hazard risk reduction they provide adjacent coastlines, and how climate change and sea-level rise will increase flooding hazards to, and reduce the resiliency of, coral reef-lined coasts and their associated communities.



Dr. Chip Fletcher
Interim Dean, SOEST, UH Mānoa

Dr. Chip Fletcher, is the interim dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and director of the Climate Resilience Collaborative research team. He is professor and past chair of the Department of Earth Sciences and past chair of the Honolulu Climate Change Commission. Chip's research focuses on assimilating global trends in decarbonization and climate projections, integrating climate projections for Hawai'i to understand future shocks and stresses driving adaptation needs, and modeling the impacts of sea-level rise in Hawai'i.

Theme 3: Sea-level Rise Adaptation Science



Michael Cain
Administrator, Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands

Michael Cain earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Hawai'i in 2004. He has been a planner with the Department of Land and Natural Resources since 2005. In June 2022 he was selected as the administrator of the DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). He has also worked on planning projects in American Samoa and Guam. Prior to joining the planning field he served as a public health worker with the Peace Corps in Chuuk, Micronesia, and worked in the crisis intervention field in both Michigan and Hawai'i.



Matthew Gonser
Executive Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency City & County of Honolulu

Since January 2021, Matthew Gonser has served as the City and County of Honolulu chief resilience officer and executive director of the City's Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency. He joined the City and the Resilience Office in October 2017 and previously served as coastal and water program manager. Prior to joining the City, Matthew served as the community planning and design extension agent with the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program.



Dr. Jared Underwood
Superintendent, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, US Fish and Wildlife

Dr. Jared Underwood is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's (FWS) superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. He earned BS and MS degrees in conservation biology from Brigham Young University, and then completed a PhD at Arizona State University, also in conservation biology. After graduating, Jared worked in the conservation field in both Arizona and California for several years before returning to Hawai'i. He currently resides in Kailua, O'ahu.



Malia Nobrega-Olivera
Director of Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge

Malia Nobrega-Olivera was born and raised in Hanapēpē Valley, Kona, Kaua'i. Malia is a Native Hawaiian educator, a kumu hula, a salt maker, an event strategist, and an advocate of Indigenous rights at all levels – locally, regionally, and internationally. Her experiences demonstrate her commitment to her people, language, and culture and to Indigenous peoples worldwide. Malia's advocacy work has taken her to various international meetings and currently she serves as a Pacific representative on the Global Steering Committee for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Malia is also the co-founder of Kilo Malama which supports the revival of Hawaiian pedagogies like Kaulana Mahina.
