Much thanks to… Cherie Kauahi, Aloha Kapono, Anthony Olayon, and the many “Watermen” who have shared their knowledge and stories with us.
Wise proverb

The top of the cliff isn’t the place to look down as us; come down here and learn of the big and little current, face to face
Objective

To use a methodology that engages knowledgeable ocean users

- Biophysical processes of nearshore Hilo waters
- Human relationships w/ Hilo Bay
- How and why different ocean user groups socially construct and delineate marine space
Focus – Hawai‘i Island

Hawai‘i Island

Hilo, Hawai‘i

1. Honoli‘i
2. Hilo Bay
3. Keaukaha
Nearshore Ocean Currents of Keaukaha

Map Scales

1:1,500,000
1:20,000
1:5,000
1:2,500

Approach
Ocean experts i.e. "Hawaiian Watermen"

Identify "communities" of knowledge sources

30 interviews

a. Insider approach
b. Over 50 informants
c. Snowball sampling
Paddlers – Hilo Bay

Paddling Community
- 2 Coaches Highly Recommended
- 6 respected individuals interviewed

Findings:
- Few People Recommended as Experts ~ 0.5% of paddlers
- Outsiders recommend paddlers as knowledgeable about ocean currents, however internally they respect only a few.
Diverse Communities

- Locations
- Gear Type (Boat, Pole, Throw Net, Divers)

“Isles”
- Retired individuals
- Daily use - Pole
- 7 Interviewed

“Keaukaha”
- Broad Sample
- Weekly use
- 3 Interviewed

“Offshore Hilo”
- Boat Fisherman
- Weekly Use
- 1 Interviewed
Mitchell Wailani
Age @ Interview 77
Lost at sea July 2011
- Lifetime Commercial Fisherman
- Talks about general current in Hilo running from S to N

Daily Fisherman at “Isles“:
Do not see themselves as knowledgeable
Or
State the currents are not easy to understand

Looking at currents at a small-scale, at daily intervals = hard to see larger patterns.

Keaukaha Fisherman
- “Waterman”
- Tides very important
- Harder to identify “experts”
- Humility
Surfers – Honoliʻi

Surfers and Lifeguards
- 6 interviews on Current Flow
- 15 interviews on Surf Conditions
Surfers – Honoli’i

1:2,500 Scale

- Colors indicate individual surfer maps
- Together they create a narrative
- People eager to share

Swell Direction
River Influence

A. Kapono
Summary of Interviews

Surfers respect particular lifeguards
- All share their observations - 1:2,500

Paddlers are hesitant
- Coaches are highly respected - 1:20,000

Fisherman are not an organized group
- More confident in their knowledge - 1:5,000; 1:20,000; 1:50,000
**Management Implications**

- Watermen interact with the ocean at different **SCALES**

- Watermen describe currents in **CONTEXT**, hard to draw on a map

- High **RESPECT** for watermen of the past

- Hilo Bay currents are mild **Tidal** influence

*Future of natural resource management requires understanding stakeholder knowledge within a personal context*