HAWAII (REGION 9)
A Snapshot of Hawaii’s TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics
Key Agency/Department & website
Hawaii Department of Health
Environmental Health Administration
Environmental Planning Office
http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/env-planning/wqm/wqm.html

TMDL Program Structure/Placement
Housed in Environmental Planning Office, Water Quality Management Program

By the Numbers
Number of Impaired Waters 308
Number of Causes of Impairment 596
Top Five Causes of Impairment
1. Turbidity
2. Nutrients
3. Algal Growth
4. Pathogens
5. Trash

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 3
Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est’d by EPA) 20
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 3/0/5
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 2009
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 4

TMDLs
EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? N
Broad-Scale? (e.g., watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.) Y

Non-TMDL Options
Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? Y

Funding
Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program $550,000
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding federal 106, 604(b), 104(b)(3) funds; state general funds

TMDL Implementation
TMDL Implementation Required? N
Innovations
Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed/
TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Kawa Stream, Oahu, and Kapaa Stream, Oahu, are small
watersheds dominated by waste load allocations to MS4s

--Hanalei Watershed, Kauai, is a larger area dominated by NPS
load allocations to subtropical forest, endangered waterbird
habitat, and traditional irrigated agriculture

Links to HI TMDLs:
hawaii.gov/health/environmental/env-planning/wqm/wqm.html

Barriers
Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. shifting, poorly-defined foundation of WQSs and
monitoring/assessment decisions, including lack of explicit
biological and hydraulic endpoints
2. lack of state funding, departmental resources, business
practices, and administrative policies for TMDL program
support
3. inefficiencies and lack of coordination in data collection and
information sharing (cross-program, intra-departmental,
interagency, global)

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. public perception of problems, costs, and benefits (lack of
implementation champions and examples of large-scale
implementation success)
2. overwhelming scale and scope of hydraulic modification and
habitat degradation, combined with ongoing cross-sector lack of
engineering, regulatory, and financial sophistication
3. EPA requirements for effectiveness monitoring and state
incapacity to provide guidance and technical assistance for
addressing these requirements