

Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation

In recent decades, climate change has caused impacts on natural and human systems. Therefore, there is a need to identify the vulnerabilities on natural and human systems and to develop adaptation measures to protect these systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) considers the vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems, the observed impacts and future risks of climate change, and the potential for and limits to adaptation. Dr. Francis will discuss climate vulnerability and adaptation. Assessing vulnerability includes the process of identifying climate vulnerability and the development of a response, an adaptation, due to climate change impacts.

WES participants will form teams and be given a climate stressor to analyze. From the climate stressor, the teams will learn what goes into performing a vulnerability assessment. Then from their vulnerability assessment, teams will learn how to develop an adaptation. Certain teams will be chosen to share their results with the audience.

Dr. Oceana P. Francis, Professional Engineer (P.E.), is an Assistant Professor with both the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and Sea Grant College Program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. She is a licensed civil engineering within the states of Alaska and Hawai‘i. Dr. Francis’ research focuses on coastal sustainability. She has spent considerable time working with communities on built environment vulnerability and adaptation.



Dr. Francis deploying an ADCP (Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler) from her lab, which measures full wave spectrum and current velocity profiles, off the coast of Kahoolawe.

Light refreshments will be served. Please bring your own water bottle, cup, plate/bowl and utensil.

The public is invited to attend.