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Technical Report 188

**Predicting impacts of sea level rise for cultural and natural resources
in five National Park units on the Island of Hawai`i**

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The HPI CESU is one of 17 cooperative ecosystem studies units across the U.S.

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PROJECT ABSTRACT

Various climate change models predict that global sea levels will rise up to 1.9 m by 2100. Sea level rise and changes in storm run up during large surf events will affect nearshore habitats, cultural resources, water resources and infra-structure worldwide. Tide gauges on the island of Hawaii have shown an average sea level rise of 3.5 mm/yr over recent decades and future accelerated rates are expected. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail includes an approximately 280 km portion of prehistoric trail on or parallel to the Hawai‘i Island shoreline and passes through numerous significant cultural and biological resources including resources within four national parks (Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Pu‘ukohola Heiau National Historical Site, Pu‘uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, and Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park), all of which will be impacted by sea level rise. Incorporating detailed elevation data and sea level rise predictions in the early stages of planning could lessen impacts and aid in long term management of the trail. In this project, investigators at University of California, Berkeley collaborated with National Park Service staff to model the effects of future sea level rise on present cultural and natural resources within the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail corridor. Specifically, LiDAR and other existing spatial data were used to create high resolution Digital Elevation Models. Then a Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to create visualizations of resource inundation likely to occur by the year 2100 using a range of more conservative to more extreme sea-level rise predictions. Spatial analysis was also used to determine areas where particular habitats such as anchialine pools, fishponds, and wetlands will most likely occur in 2100 so that these future habitats can be protected. The inundation models are conservative because they do not include projections of wave run-up during storms, erosion, or groundwater elevations above sea level. Additionally, comparisons of LiDAR points to National Geodetic Survey Benchmarks indicates LiDAR elevations are offset by an average of + 0.25 m. Correction of this error in DEMs resulted in greater inundation at each sea level rise scenario compared to the models without the correction. Final sea level rise scenarios incorporate corrections for the offset. Detailed elevation data and model results for the NPS units are provided in a GIS geodatabase format for trail planning, park management and resource protection within the ALKA corridor.

INTRODUCTION

Global mean sea level will rise between 0.2 m and 2.0 m by 2100 (Parris *et al.* 2012, IPCC 2013). Sea level rise and changes in storm surge during large surf events will affect coastal habitats and resources worldwide (Nicholls and Cazenave 2010, IPCC 2013, Williams 2013). Sea level rise is caused by a combination of processes including the melting of polar ice caps and glaciers, thermal expansion of ocean water, mining of groundwater aquifers, and, in some regions, subsidence of land masses (IPCC 2013). Global estimates of sea level rise vary depending on the future trajectory of global greenhouse gas emissions and are based on different

scenarios established by the IPCC (2013) (Figure 1). Recent studies support the estimates of the more extreme projection of 1.5 to 1.9 m by 2100 (Vermeer and Rahmstorf 2009). For example, Rignot *et al.* (2011) projects that sea levels will rise 32 cm by 2050 based solely on the melting of Greenland and Western Antarctic ice sheets. Tidal gauge and satellite altimetry measurements indicate sea level rise has changed measurably over the last century averaging 3.2 ± 0.4 mm/yr since 1993 (Church and White 2011). Rates of sea level rise are accelerating and will continue to accelerate in the future (Vermeer and Rahmstorf 2009, Church and White 2011, Rignot *et al.* 2011).

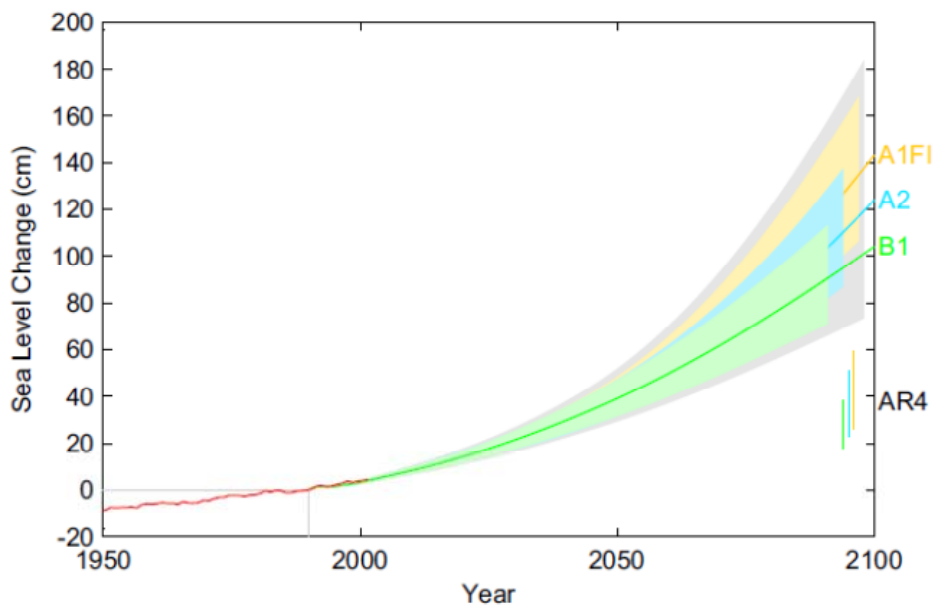


Figure 1: Projection of sea level rise from 1990 to 2100, based on IPCC temperature projections for three different emission scenarios (A1FI, A2, B1). This is an update for projections made by Rahmstorf (2007) used in the IPCC AR4 report (2007). The 2007 projections are shown for comparison in the bars on the bottom right. Also shown in red is the observation-based annual global sea-level data (Church and White 2006). Figure used with permission from Dr. Martin Vermeer and Dr. Stefan Rahmstorf (2009).

Dates at which these heights are projected to occur vary depending on future carbon emissions (Figure 1). For example, based on the Vermeer and Rahmstorf model (2009) global mean sea levels could rise between 0.3 m to 0.53 m by 2050, and may reach 0.75 m to 1.9 m by 2100. The more extreme values are those predicted for the future emission scenario (A1FI) in which global population growth is coupled with continued intensive fossil fuel use. In all scenarios, the rate of sea level rise increases over time. Because studies are continuing to update

the expected time frames within which we expect these sea level rise scenarios to occur, it is probably most useful to look at inundation levels while keeping in mind that dates may shift.

Geospatial predictions of coastal change under sea level rise typically include coastal elevation data and sea level scenarios (Dasgupta *et al.* 2009, Gesch 2009, NOAA 2012). These models are conservative because they typically do not incorporate future tectonic uplift or subsidence, high wave events, or shoreline erosion which will exacerbate coastal inundation and change, especially during large episodic events (*eg.* Vitousek *et al.* 2010, Reynolds *et al.* 2012). In some coastal areas, groundwater floating on top of denser, more saline water, may exacerbate flooding as sea levels rise (Bjerklie *et al.* 2012; Rotzoll and Fletcher 2013). Components such as erosion, wave run up, and groundwater heights can be included in models but require local high-resolution data on these components. In all sea level rise models, local predictions should be viewed with the understanding that there is considerable regional and local uncertainty in the future propagation of storms and waves, vertical land movement, and variation in basin wide processes such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (Marra *et al.* 2012).

STUDY SITE

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (ALKA) includes an approximately 280 km portion of prehistoric trail on or parallel to the shoreline on the island of Hawai‘i. The trail passes through Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park (KAHO), Pu‘ukohola Heiau National Historical Site (PUHE), Pu‘uhonua O Honaunau NHP (PUHO), and Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO), as well as numerous state and county parks and private lands (Figure 2). The ALKA corridor encompasses numerous significant cultural sites as well as biologically important nearshore habitats including fishponds, anchialine pools, turtle nesting areas and wetlands. Numerous threatened and endangered species rely on these habitats. ALKA works in partnership with federal, state, and county agencies as well as private land owners, native Hawaiian groups and other community members to manage these important and threatened resources. Many, but not all, of these resources fall within PUHE, KAHO, PUHO, and HAVO boundaries.

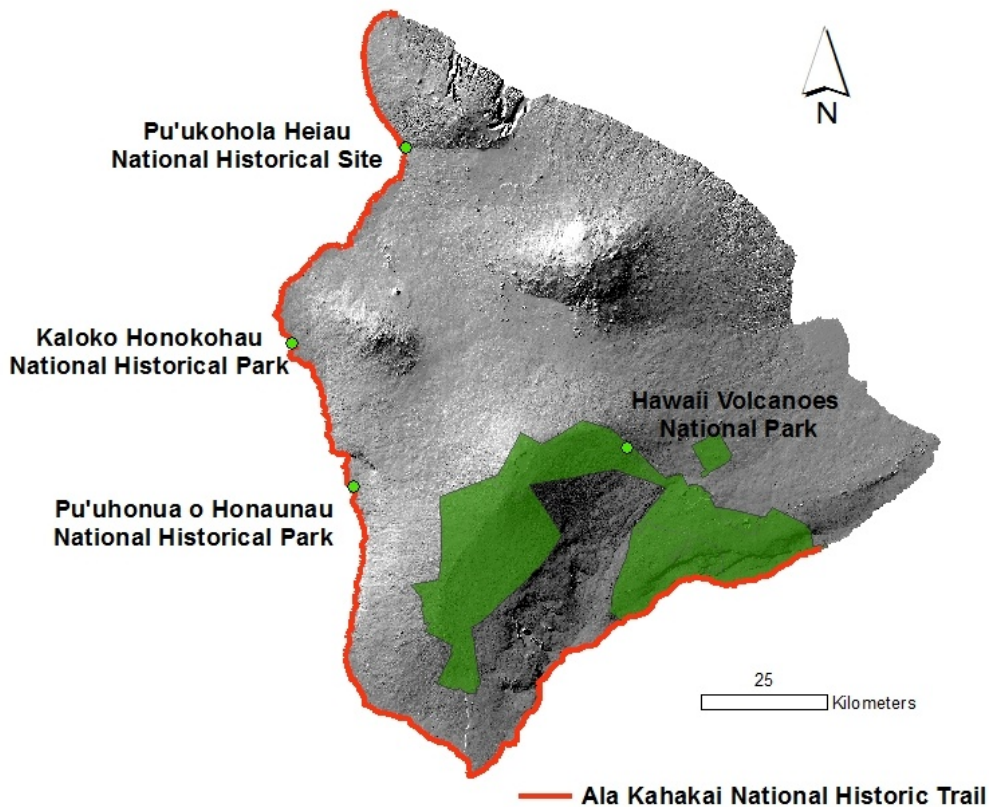


Figure 2: The National Park units on the island of Hawai‘i.

Tide gauges on the island of Hawai‘i have undergone an average sea level rise of 3.19 mm/yr since the 1950s on the east side of the island (Hilo) and 3.8 mm/yr since the 1990s on the west side of the island (Kawaihae) (Vitousek *et al.* 2010). These data fit the measured global averages of sea level rise (Church and White 2011). However Topex/Poseidon and Jason-1 satellite altimetry data indicate that the global acceleration of sea level rise due to thermal expansion and melting ice has not reached Hawai‘i and that the local long-term trend has been approximately 1.5 mm/yr (Figure 3; Meyssignac and Cazenave 2012). Based on this information, the difference between local tide gauge measurements and the satellite altimetry measurements is most likely due to the island of Hawaii’s subsidence rates. Subsidence for the island of Hawaii is estimated to be an average of 2.6 mm/yr due to loading of the lithosphere by Kilauea volcano (Moore and Clague 1992, Zhong and Watts 2002). Although it is unclear if local subsidence rates and regional oceanographic processes will remain constant, sea level in Hawaii will

continue to rise and rates are expected to increase by the middle of the decade (Marra *et al.* 2012).

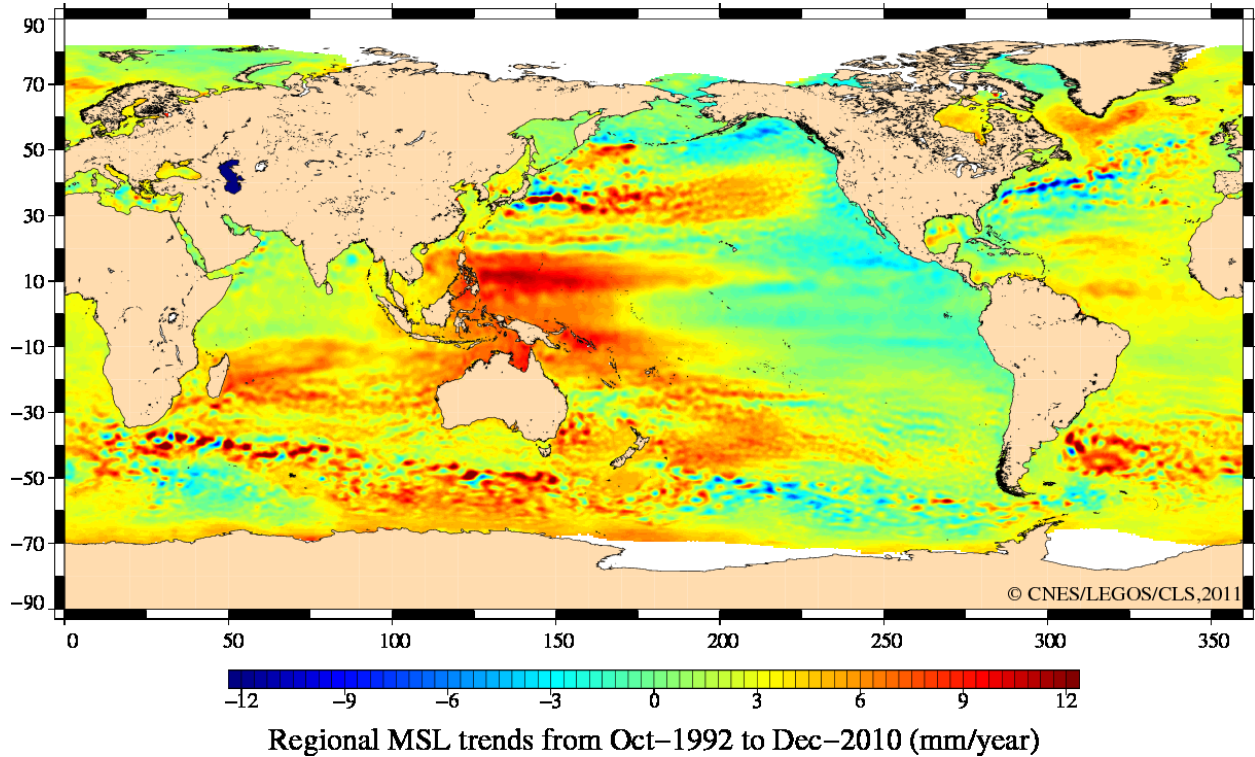


Figure 3: Topex/Poseidon satellite altimetry data showing average sea level rise trends between October 1992 to December 2010 (Aviso 2012).

Detailed coastal hazard analysis by Vitousek *et al.* (2010) show that coastal erosion, tsunamis, and coastal inundation due to waves and sea level rise will have serious impacts on the future shorelines of KAHO and PUHE. These coastal impacts will also occur at PUHO, HAVO, and ALKA. Coastal cultural and natural resources will be altered by sea level rise however little is known about the extent of inundation and detailed coastal elevation data is lacking for most of the trail corridor. Incorporating detailed elevation data and sea level rise predictions in the early stages of trail and resource protection planning will aid in long term management of park trails and infrastructure and could lessen resource impacts. Furthermore, scenario planning for habitat migration due to rising ocean levels and retreating groundwater is essential so that the predicted future locations of important habitats will be protected from current and proposed coastal urban development.

OBJECTIVES

Incorporating sea level rise scenarios into planning is becoming widely practiced by local and federal government, business, and agencies in many coastal states including California (Cayan *et al.* 2009, Knowles 2010), Washington, Oregon, Florida (Geselbracht *et al.* 2011), and US Atlantic states (Titus *et al.* 2009, Grannis 2011, State of Massachusetts 2011). The various models used to examine future scenarios vary in complexity, spatial resolution, and focus, but all recognize that sea level rise is expected to accelerate in future years and that coastal areas will be impacted. This study maps inundation with a commonly used single-value surface model or “bathtub model” (Marcy *et al.* 2009, NOAA 2012). These models incorporate the inundation level (relative sea level rise + tidal surfaces) and ground elevation as the two primary variables. Relative sea level rise incorporates eustatic sea level rise as well as island subsidence. These models are conservative estimates, because they do not incorporate estimates of erosion, wave run up during storm events, or groundwater heights elevated above sea level.

In this project, future sea level rise was modeled in relation to present cultural and natural resources within the ALKA corridor. Specifically, maps and vector files were created to visualize inundation of resources likely to occur by 2100 using a range of more conservative to more extreme sea-level rise predictions. The model can be used to determine areas where particular habitats such as anchialine pools, fishponds, and wetlands will most likely be in 2100. Areas that may not appear to be a priority now may be the new anchialine pool or wetland habitats of the future. Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) at a 1m scale were also produced for PUHO, KAHO, PUHE, HAVO, and ALKA using LiDAR data (Federal Emergency Management Agency Task Order 26, 2006). These will be made available for trail planning and management.

This report summarizes the methods used to create the Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles that represent sea level rise scenarios along the entire ALKA trail corridor. Sources of uncertainty in the models are examined. Case studies showing the application of the scenarios to cultural and natural resources are also included. Ideally, resource managers and planners will incorporate the scenarios in long range coastal planning.

METHODS

Sea level rise was mapped using a single-value surface model approach (Marcy *et al.* 2009). The two variables used were the ground elevation and the inundation level. Ground elevation data

was created using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - LiDAR data (2006) that is referenced to a Local Tidal Datum. Inundation levels were selected based on current global models and measured local tidal data. Various sea level inundation scenarios were then modeled over the landscape using ESRI's ArcGIS 10.0 geoprocessing tools. Polygons were also created to illustrate uncertainty due to LiDAR using 95th percentile confidence interval bands. Preliminary assessments of LiDAR elevation data were conducted by comparing LiDAR data to National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Benchmark elevations. Three case studies were included to illustrate the types of analysis that can be done with the inundation layers: 1) Anchialine Pool Inundation and Future Habitat Locations; 2) Kaloko Fishpond Expansion; 3) Predicted Effect of Sea Level Rise on Puako Community and Kailua Pier.

Elevation Data

The elevation data used were derived from the FEMA LiDAR (2006) data set. The data extend from the water line to the 15 m elevation contour at the time of collection. Coverage of the west coast of Hawai'i Island was made available through the National Park Service. It includes 1074, 1000m x 1000m tiles that wrap from Upolu Point in the north to the eastern HAVO boundary (Figure 4). There are approximately 500,000 elevation points per tile, and the average point distance is 0.9 m. The vertical datum is referenced to a Local Tidal Datum with 0 m = Mean Sea Level (MSL).

Horizontal Datum

The survey report associated with the FEMA LiDAR data states that the data are referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 for epoch date 1993.62 (Aug. 14, 1993). The survey utilized the National Geodetic Surveys CORS network published on the 2002.00 Epoch which was shown to be consistent with the 1993.62 Epoch.

Vertical Datum

NAVD88 is specific to the continental US and does not exist for Hawai'i. The survey report associated with the FEMA LiDAR states that the LiDAR data is referenced to a Local Tidal Datum. This vertical datum is derived from the last National Geodetic Survey leveling network established circa 1975. Using the FEMA survey results from November 2006, the datum was updated to the present 1983-2001 tidal epoch based on three Kawaihae tidal benchmarks (MSL+

0.16 m). An additional adjustment of -0.031 m was applied to account for the rise in sea level between the 1960-1978 Tidal Epoch and the 1983-2001 Tidal Epoch (McGee 2007). Therefore the 2006 survey places the FEMA LiDAR data in a modernized Local Tidal Datum approximately 0.13 m above the Kawaihae Harbor MSL elevation.

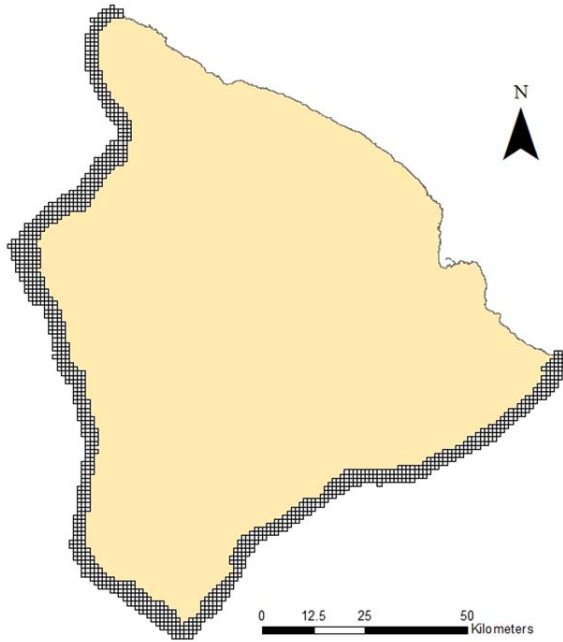


Figure 4: Coverage of 2006 FEMA-LiDAR data on the Big Island of Hawai‘i.

Vertical Error

Errors in measurement of the elevation surface due to LiDAR and other processing are typically reported as Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) values. In the case of LiDAR data, the RMSE values represent the difference between elevation at points on a surface created with interpolated LiDAR points and independent “on the ground” survey elevation samples.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\sum (z_{data\ I} - z_{check\ I})^2 / n}$$

Where:

- $z_{data\ I}$ = vertical coordinate of the I^{th} check point of the elevation dataset (LiDAR)
- $z_{check\ I}$ = vertical coordinate for the I^{th} check point of the independent reference dataset
- I = integer from 1 to n
- n = number of points being checked

Vertical accuracy values can then be calculated as $RMSE \times 1.96$ when the data are normally distributed (ASPRS 2004, Gesch 2009, NOAA 2011). When error (RMSE) is not normally

distributed and skewness values are greater than ± 0.5 , vertical accuracy should be determined by 95th percentile testing (ASPRS 2004). Furthermore accuracy for all land cover types except open terrain shall also be determined with the 95th percentile testing (ASPRS 2004).

Prior to this study, Dewberry and Davis (2007) tested the spatial accuracy of the LiDAR-derived elevation data with independent ground-based measurements. Elevation data from the FEMA data set are reported as horizontally accurate to 0.3 m with 68.2% of laser returns. In open terrain the tested vertical accuracy of the LiDAR data was ± 0.16 m (at the 95% confidence interval, corresponding to a RMSE of 0.08 m). In all terrain types including open, vegetated and urban landcover types the consolidated vertical accuracy at the 95th percentile was ± 0.25 m (Table 1). More information on vertical and horizontal accuracy of LiDAR data can be found in “ASPRS Guidelines Vertical Accuracy Reporting for LiDAR Data V1.0.”

<http://www.asprs.org/Standards> and the NOAA Digital Coast website (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastalLiDAR/index.html>).

Table 1: Statistics on error and accuracy for FEMA-LiDAR data within four terrain classifications.

	RMS						
	E (m)	Mean (m)	Media n (m)	Skew	# of points	Accuracy (RMSE*1.96)	Accuracy (95th percentile)
Open Terrain	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.98	24	0.16	0.13
Vegetation	0.14	0.09	0.08	0.36	23	0.28	0.29
Urban	0.09	0.04	0.06	-0.89	21	0.17	0.14
Consolidated	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.50	68	0.21	0.25

Sea Level Rise Scenarios

For this study, sea level rise was mapped in 0.5 meter increments (0 m, 0.5 m, 1 m, 1.5 m, 1.9 m). Dates at which these heights are projected to occur vary depending on future carbon emission (Figure 1; Vermeer and Rahmstorf 2009). For example, based on the Vermeer and Rahmstorf model (2009) global sea levels could rise between 0.3 m to 0.53 m by 2050, and may reach 0.75 m to 1.9 m by 2100. Managers may want to focus on the 0.5 m sea level rise scenario for 2050.

Tides

In Hawai‘i, tides are semi-diurnal with the highest tide at 0.74 m above Mean Sea Level (MSL) recorded in 1993 (Kawaihae Tidal Bench Mark- 2008, NOAA). Each sea level rise scenario was mapped under the Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) and an extreme high tide value. The MHHW datum is 0.374 m above MSL as measured at the Kawaihae Tidal Bench Mark (Table 2). The MHHW value is the average daily high tide measured during the Epoch 1983 to 2001. The value used for the extreme tide level in this study is 0.7 m above MSL. This elevation is the mean of the six most extreme annual tides observed at Kawaihae from 2001 to 2011 (NOAA 2011).

Table 2: The tidal datum from the Kawaihae Tidal Benchmark (NOAA 2011).

Station: 1617433 Kawaihae			
Epoch: 1983-2001			
Updated Nov 8, 2011			
Datum			
		meters	feet
Mean Higher High Water	MHHW	0.374	1.23
Mean High Water	MHW	0.216	0.71
Daily Tide Level	DTL	0.047	0.15
Mean Sea Level	MSL	0	0
Mean Low Water	MLW	-0.232	-0.76
Mean Lower Low Water	MLLW	-0.282	-0.92

Inundation Surfaces

Inundation surface scenarios used in this study included 0 m, 0.5 m, 1 m, 1.5 m, and 1.9 m sea level rise at MHHW and an annual extreme tide (Table 3). All elevations represent height above MSL as defined by the Local Tidal Datum. A polygon representing each sea level rise scenario was created using ESRI’s ArcGIS 10.0.

Modeling Coastal Inundation

FEMA- LiDAR data were provided in LAS, TIN, and Digital Elevation Model (DEM). The DEMs were 5 m resolution and considered to be too coarse in resolution for the purpose of this study because many features of interest such as anchialine pools fall within a 1 to 5 m² size class (Marrack 2014). The average point density of the LiDAR data is 0.9 m, therefore 1 m DEMs

were considered reasonably representative of the data. Using ArcGIS geoprocessing tools, the TIN files created from bare earth returns were converted to 1 m raster elevation surfaces using the linear interpolation method. These elevation surfaces were then projected to the NAD 83, UTM 5 North datum to match the data projections commonly used by the National Parks on the island of Hawai'i.

Because of the extremely porous nature of the basalt bedrock in the study area, this model assumed excellent subsurface hydrologic connectivity between coastal areas and the ocean (Oki 1999, Bauer 2003). Therefore, areas that became flooded in the inundation model but were not connected overland to the ocean were kept in maps as potential new anchialine pool or wetland habitats. These flooded areas may have important management implications for impacted cultural sites as well.

Once 1 m DEMs were created, ArcGIS tools were used to create polygons that would visualize each inundation scenario. Polygons represent the land surface covered by water at a sea level scenario. A set of polygons for each sea level scenario at MHHW and extreme tide were created for sections of the ALKA corridor. The location of these trail sections and the naming convention used for each file are explained in Appendix 1.

Each inundation polygon for a trail section was created using the following steps.

For each elevation raster tile within the trail section:

1. *Extract* inundation raster from the elevation raster: all cells \leq sea level rise + tide value
2. *Reclassify* extracted raster
3. *Convert* raster to polygon
4. *Merge* polygons within a trail section
5. *Dissolve* multiple polygons into one
6. *Clip* polygon deleting marine edges that are > 200 m from shore
7. *Edit* polygon to fix margins, gaps, and edges over the ocean surface that may be visually confusing.

Each polygon was visually inspected for errors and to see if predicted 0 m sea level shorelines conformed with actual shoreline features. Edits did not change inundation results over the land and were only used over known marine surfaces.

Table 3: Inundation scenarios mapped for specific park units. For this study sea level scenarios are a combination of relative sea level rise (SLR) predictions and tidal state. Mean Higher High Water and an extreme tide of 0.7 m were used in this model.

SLR scenario (m)	SLR + tide (m)	HAVO	KAHO	PUHO	PUHE	ALKA
	<i>MHHW</i>					
0.0 m	0.37	x	x	x	x	x
0.5 m	0.87	x	x	x	x	x
1.0 m	1.37	x	x	x	x	x
1.5 m	1.87	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Extreme tide</i>					
0.0 m	0.70	x	x	x	x	x
0.5 m	1.20	x	x	x	x	x
1.0 m	1.70	x	x	x	x	x
1.5 m	2.20	x	x	x	x	x
1.9 m	2.60	x	x	x	x	x

Mapping Uncertainty

The inundation polygons are not as certain as they appear because they are created from elevation surfaces that contain some error. RMSE is a measure of the error associated with collection and processing of the LiDAR data. Using the LiDAR accuracy assessment data collected by Dewberry and Davis (2007), maps and vector files were created to illustrate uncertainty using 95th percentile confidence interval bands. Uncertainty was mapped for the upper 95th percentile confidence interval (above inundation) but not the lower interval (below inundation) because of the high probability of inundation at the lower elevations (Gesch 2009, NOAA 2012; Table 4). Because inundation maps incorporate all types of terrain (open, vegetated, urban) the consolidated accuracy value (0.25 m) was used. Consolidated RMSE values have a skewed value of 0.5 which is within range to satisfy the assumption of normal distribution (ASPRS, 2004). However, to be conservative, confidence maps were created using the 95th percentile method instead of the RMSE* 1.96 method because RMSE values were not normally distributed for all terrain types (skew > ± 0.5) (Table 1). Any area within the error bands represent locations that could be expected to have the target inundation level (elevation) in 95 out of 100 sampling efforts given constant sampling variability.

Table 4: Sea level rise (SLR) scenario elevations with 95th percentile confidence intervals. The confidence interval is + 0.25 m which is the 95th percentile of error measurements from consolidated terrain types (open, vegetated and urban). Data used to create the confidence interval was collected by Dewberry and Davis (2007).

		SLR + 95 th Percentile CI (m)
SLR @MHHW	(m)	
	0	0.62
	0.5	1.12
	1	1.62
	1.5	2.12
SLR @Extreme	0	0.95
	0.5	1.45
	1	1.95
	1.5	2.45
	1.9	2.85

Accuracy Assessment of LiDAR with National Geodetic Survey Benchmarks

Analysis of FEMA- LiDAR data over ocean surfaces indicated that either LiDAR were collected at high tides or that some vertical correction may be necessary. In the 1 km area around the Kawaihae tidal benchmark, the mean elevation of LiDAR points over the ocean surface was 0.3 m above MSL. For most of the ALKA corridor including the KAHO study area, ocean surfaces were elevated by 0.5 m or more over MSL. These elevations could be explained by high tides. MHHW at the Kawaihae tidal benchmark is 0.374 m and the highest tide measured in August 2006 when the LiDAR was collected was 0.61 m above MSL. However, the LiDAR metadata does not indicate tidal stage or date and time of collection, therefore the tide height during LiDAR collection could not be confirmed. Because of uncertainty in accuracy, the LiDAR data were examined for vertical offset using independent survey data.

To assess LiDAR elevation accuracy, LiDAR elevations were compared to National Geodetic Survey (NGS) benchmark elevations using the methods described by Cooper *et al.* (2013). Benchmarks used in the accuracy assessment included the Kawaihae tidal benchmark - 1617433B (<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS-Proxy/NGSDataExplorer/>) along with five NGS benchmarks surveyed in the KAHO area in 2009 (Edward Carlson – National Geodetic Survey).

Other NGS benchmark location data available in the study region were not of high enough resolution to include in the accuracy assessment. The orthometric elevation for the Kawaihae tidal benchmark was derived using the NGS GEOID12A model, and for the 2009 benchmarks the GEOID03 was used. All benchmark orthometric elevations are relative to the Local Tidal Datum of Mean Sea Level (MSL) defined by the 1983-2001 Tidal Epoch. The LiDAR elevation data were derived using the NGS GEOID03 model and were referenced to the same NGS Local Tidal Datum, but were adjusted by + 0.16 m to account for offset detected during the survey accuracy assessments and -0.031 m to account for sea level rise (McGee Surveying Consulting, 2007). Therefore both NGS benchmark and LiDAR elevations are relative to MSL but may have differences due to the methods of derivation.

As described in Cooper *et al.* (2013) and Marrack (2014), the elevations of all LiDAR points within 2 m of each benchmark were visualized in ESRI's ArcScene 10.0 and recorded. Elevation values from points were compared with the associated NGS benchmark elevation to calculate mean elevation difference and RMSE. LiDAR DEM elevations were also compared to benchmark elevations to assess DEM accuracy. Results were used to determine if a correction factor should be applied to LiDAR DEMs prior to the next stages of analysis. Examples of sea level rise scenarios with the correction factor were created for comparison with uncorrected models.

The NGS benchmarks measurements available for the initial accuracy assessment were collected in 2009 to 2010 and were limited in number (n=6) and spatial extent. Therefore the NGS and NPS staff conducted a more extensive survey during September, 2013 to revisit the Kawaihae tidal benchmark, some of the 2009 benchmarks, and additional sites along the ALKA corridor (Appendix 2). These benchmarks provided data for an additional accuracy assessment of the FEMA-LiDAR data to determine if a correction factor should be applied to LiDAR elevation data. The results of the accuracy assessment using both survey data sets are provided.

Case Studies

To illustrate the types of analysis that can be done with the inundation layers, three case studies were included in the report. Case studies include: (1) Inundation and Future Habitat Extent of Anchialine pools; (2) Future Extent of Kaloko Fishpond; (3) Predicted Effects of Sea Level Rise on Puako and Kailua Pier.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

Inundation polygons were created for 0 m, 0.5 m, 1 m, 1.5 m, and 1.9 m sea levels at Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) and extreme tides for the entire ALKA corridor (examples in Figure 6). Error polygons were created for all scenarios at MHHW and extreme tides. Metadata was created for all shapefiles and 1m elevation rasters. Appendix 1 lists the shapefile coverages with sea level and tidal scenarios.

Inundation polygons are best viewed by overlaying them onto Quickbird or similar true color satellite imagery. Polygons showing vertical error associated with collection of LiDAR data can also be overlain on inundation polygons to give a sense of the uncertainty of the location of the leading edge of inundation. In steep areas, there is almost no uncertainty. In gradually sloped areas the band of uncertainty widens (Figure 7).

The 0 m sea level rise scenarios at MHHW (0.374 m) do a poor job of reflecting the current shoreline. This is due to the fact that the LiDAR data shows sea levels to be at or above 0.5 m elevation in most areas during the time of collection (Figure 6). Airforce One, the company that collected the LiDAR data, has not been able to confirm the tide state or times and dates of data collection. LiDAR was collected in August 2006 during which tides did reach a maximum height of 0.61 m above MSL at the Kawaihae benchmark (NOAA 2011). Because it is unclear if the LiDAR was collected during a high tide or there is an offset in the vertical datum used for the LiDAR, an accuracy assessment was conducted to check the LiDAR point elevations.

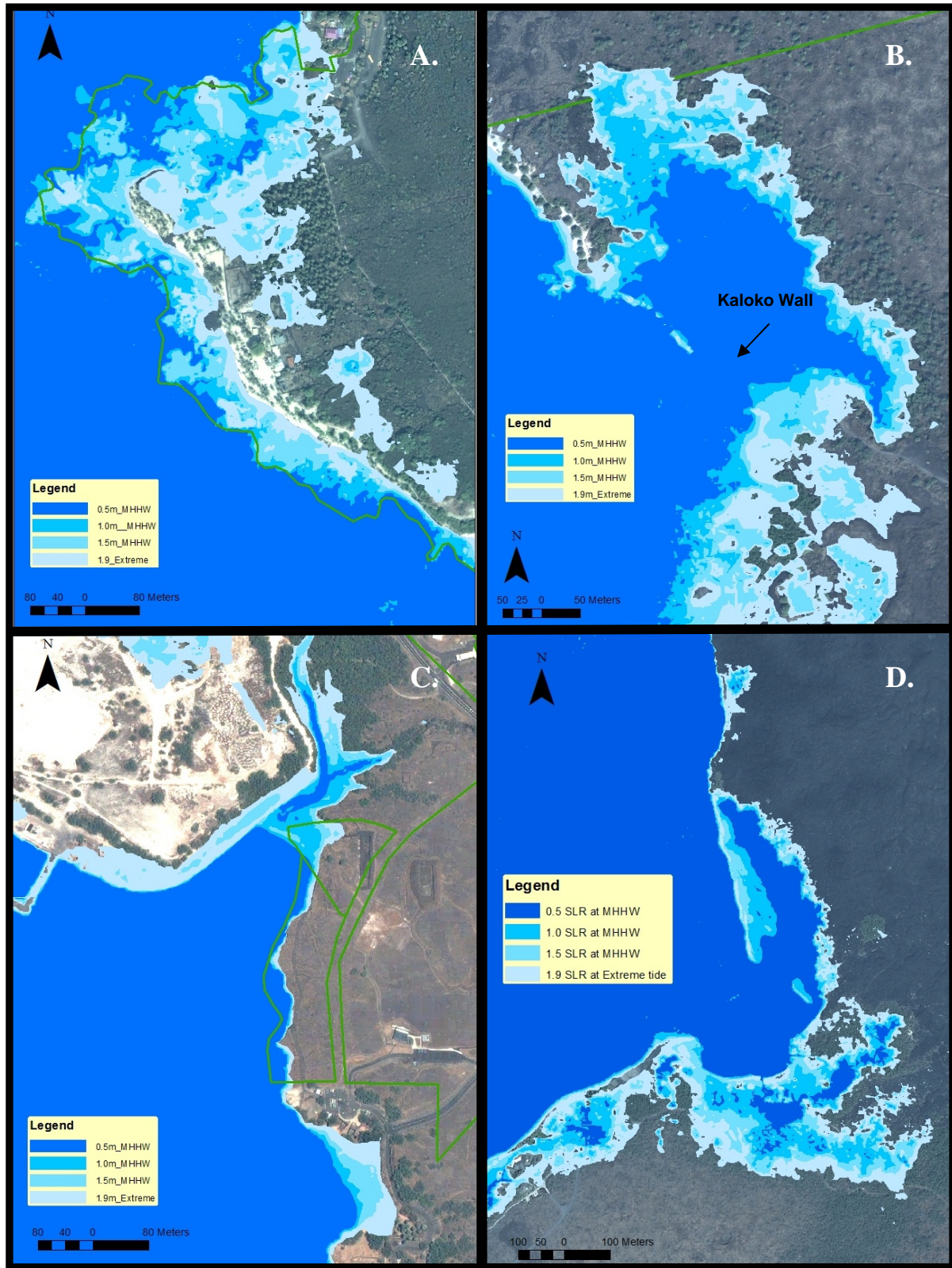


Figure 5: Multiple inundation scenarios at: A) Pu‘uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park; B) Kaloko Fishpond at Kaloko-Honokohau NHP; C) Pu‘ukohola NHP; D) Kiholo State Park. Green lines represent National Park boundaries.

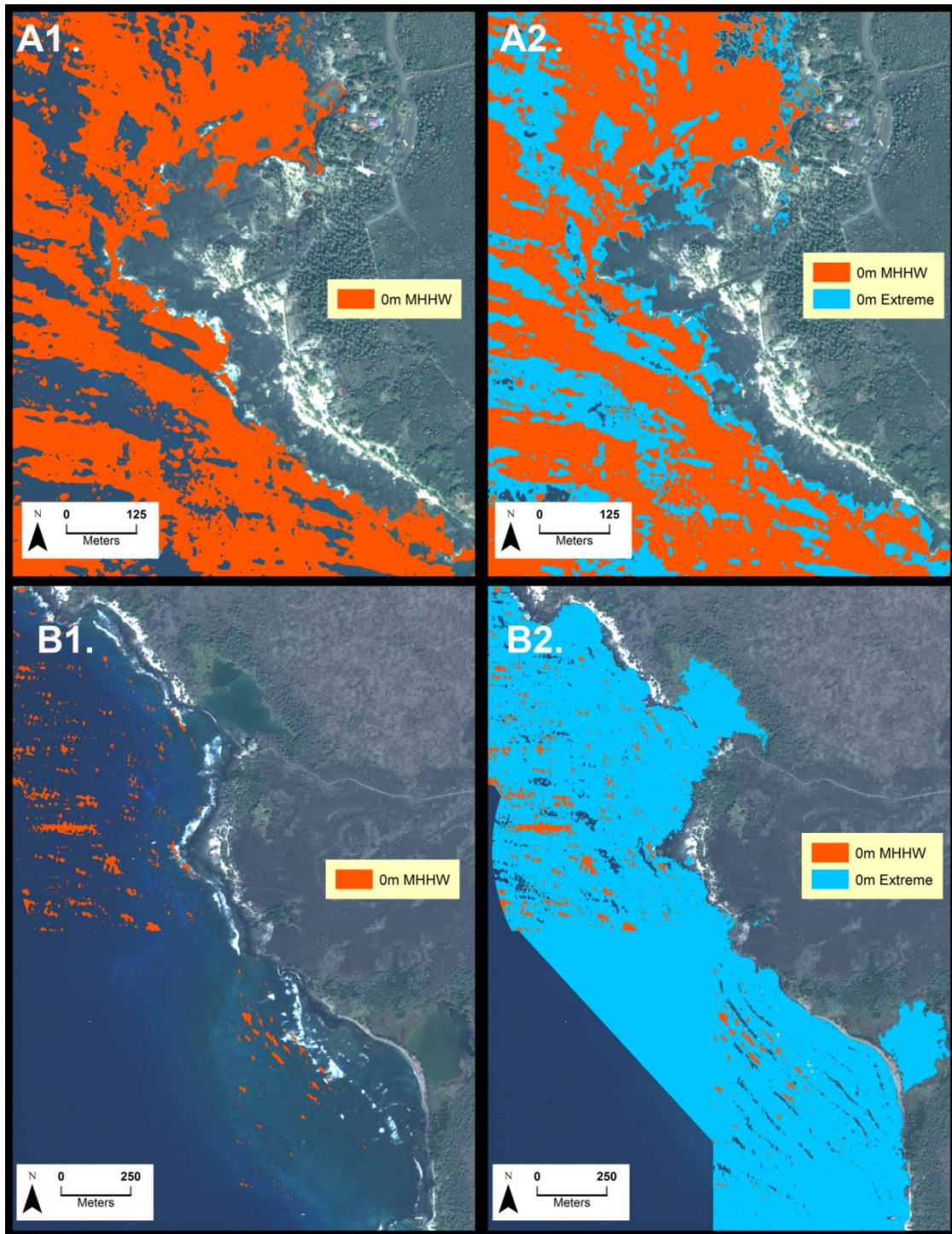


Figure 6: Comparison of Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) and Extreme tide models at current sea levels for : a) Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park and b) Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Park.. The current sea level surface at MHHW (A1 & B1) is not sufficient to incorporate most of the known water surface up to the shoreline, but the more extreme 0.7 m tide level (A2 & B2) does. LiDAR was either collected at a higher tide level or there is some vertical offset across the study area.



Figure 7: Example of map showing inundation and error polygons north of Honokohau Harbor at Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Park. There is little uncertainty in steep areas such as walled areas within the Harbor and cliffs south of the Harbor. There is greater uncertainty illustrated by wider 95th percentile confidence interval bands in areas with gradually sloping land surfaces such as the area behind Aiopio Fishtrap.

Validation of LiDAR with National Geodetic Survey Benchmarks

Because the FEMA-LiDAR data is the basis for the topographic surfaces used in the sea level rise models, uncertainty in LiDAR accuracy translates to uncertainty in sea level rise predictions. Comparison between LiDAR point elevations and six National Geodetic Survey (NGS) benchmark elevations collected in 2009 showed a mean difference of 0.27 m. The mean difference between the LiDAR DEMs and NGS benchmark elevations was 0.25 m (Table 5a). The same analysis was conducted using 20 benchmark elevations collected by the National Geodetic Survey in 2013 and results were very similar showing an offset of 0.25 m between NGS benchmarks and LIDAR points as well as the DEMs (Table 5b). Even at the Kawaihae tidal benchmark, which was used to calculate the Local Tidal Datum on the island of Hawai‘i, LiDAR

points were 0.28 m higher compared to 2009 surveys and 0.39 m compared to 2013 surveys of the benchmark height. At the time of collection the FEMA LiDAR was assessed for accuracy using independent checkpoints by Dewberry and Davis (2007) who reported that for bare earth surfaces the mean vertical error of LiDAR points was 0.03 m (RMSE = 0.08 m). The mean error for all terrain types was reported as 0.05 m (RMSE = 0.11 m). Because the mean difference between the LiDAR point data and NGS benchmark orthometric heights were an order of magnitude higher than the reported sampling error, the LiDAR data was corrected by -0.25 m for subsequent analysis.

Without an elevation correction, the sea level rise models created for this study are conservative. Revised models that utilize corrected LiDAR data show greater inundation over coastal resources. Examples of sea level rise scenarios with corrected LiDAR (-0.25 m) were created for visual comparison with scenarios created with uncorrected LiDAR (Figure 8).

Table 5: Elevation differences in meters between National Geodetic Survey (NGS) benchmarks, FEMA LiDAR point data and 1m resolution DEMs created from FEMA LiDAR: (a) 2009 survey data including Kawaihae tidal benchmark (1617433B) and 5 NGS benchmarks recorded proximal to the KAHO study site (Ed Carlson, NGS); (b) 2013 survey data from areas on the west coast of Hawaii with revisited benchmarks highlighted. All LiDAR points within a 2 m radius of each benchmark were examined (n = 6 to 15 points). Z_{min} and Z_{max} represent the minimum and maximum LiDAR point elevation. Z_{mean} represents the mean elevation of LiDAR points. Z_{DEM} is the DEM elevation. Z_{BM} is the benchmark orthogonal elevation. $Z_{pts} - Z_{BM}$ is the elevation difference between the mean elevation of LiDAR points and the benchmark. $Z_{DEM} - Z_{BM}$ is the elevation difference between the DEM and the benchmark in meters. RMSE is the root mean square error.

a).

Benchmarks	Date	LiDAR Points				Z_{DEM}	Z_{BM}	$Z_{pts} - Z_{BM}$	$Z_{DEM} - Z_{BM}$
		Z_{mean}	Z_{min}	Z_{max}	Z_{stdev}				
1617433B	2010	2.33	2.24	2.40	0.04	2.28	2.05	0.28	0.23
KAHO Bound	2009	5.35	5.24	5.54	0.12	5.45	5.23	0.12	0.22
McKaskill	2009	11.67	11.50	11.72	0.06	11.57	11.32	0.35	0.25
Visitor Center	2009	12.90	12.83	12.94	0.04	12.90	12.57	0.33	0.33
Honokohau HB	2009	2.40	2.34	2.49	0.04	2.45	2.11	0.29	0.34
Well-MW	2009	21.99	21.90	22.12	0.07	21.90	21.75	0.24	0.15
Mean								0.27	0.25
RMSE								0.21	0.19

TABLE 5b).

Benchmarks	Date	LiDAR Points				Z _{DEM}	Z _{BM}	Z _{pts} -	Z _{DEM} -
		Z _{mean}	Z _{min}	Z _{max}	Z _{stdev}			Z _{BM}	Z _{BM}
1617433B	2013	2.35	2.30	2.40	0.04	2.28	1.96	0.39	0.33
Lower Kaloko	2013	6.92	6.86	6.99	0.05	6.91	6.38	0.54	0.53
Gateway	2013					30.07	29.82		0.25
BehindFishpond	2013	2.31	2.21	2.43	0.09	2.41	2.09	0.22	0.32
Honokohau HB	2013	2.40	2.32	2.48	0.05	2.45	2.12	0.28	0.33
KAHO_13X	2013	0.80	0.77	0.82	0.02	0.80	0.65	0.15	0.15
Kaloko1995	2013	5.62	5.58	5.67	0.03	5.64	5.40	0.22	0.24
KalokoWallNthX	2013	0.77	0.71	0.90	0.08	0.75	0.61	0.16	0.14
Kona Airport	2013	18.24	18.23	18.25	0.01	18.23	17.90	0.34	0.33
PoolA1	2013	2.17	1.86	2.40	0.21	2.05	1.89	0.28	0.16
PoolA2	2013	2.11	1.99	2.17	0.07	2.06	1.85	0.26	0.21
PumpSth	2013	2.83	2.82	2.84	0.01	2.83	2.51	0.32	0.32
PumpNth4028	2013	2.67	2.63	2.72	0.04	2.71	2.47	0.20	0.24
RebarKaloko12	2013	1.15	1.12	1.18	0.03	1.11	0.98	0.17	0.13
RbrKalokoWall	2013	2.45	2.43	2.47	0.01	2.47	2.22	0.23	0.25
TNCpond	2013	2.64	2.37	2.99	0.24	2.58	2.63	0.01	-0.05
Visitor Center	2013	12.92	12.89	12.96	0.02	12.93	12.57	0.35	0.36
WellSet09	2013	9.67	9.59	9.73	0.06	9.68	9.48	0.19	0.20
WellSet10	2013	2.83	2.80	2.85	0.02	2.83	2.54	0.29	0.29
WellSet11	2013	3.59	3.58	3.60	0.01	3.58	3.38	0.21	0.20
Mean								0.25	0.25
RMSE								0.11	0.12

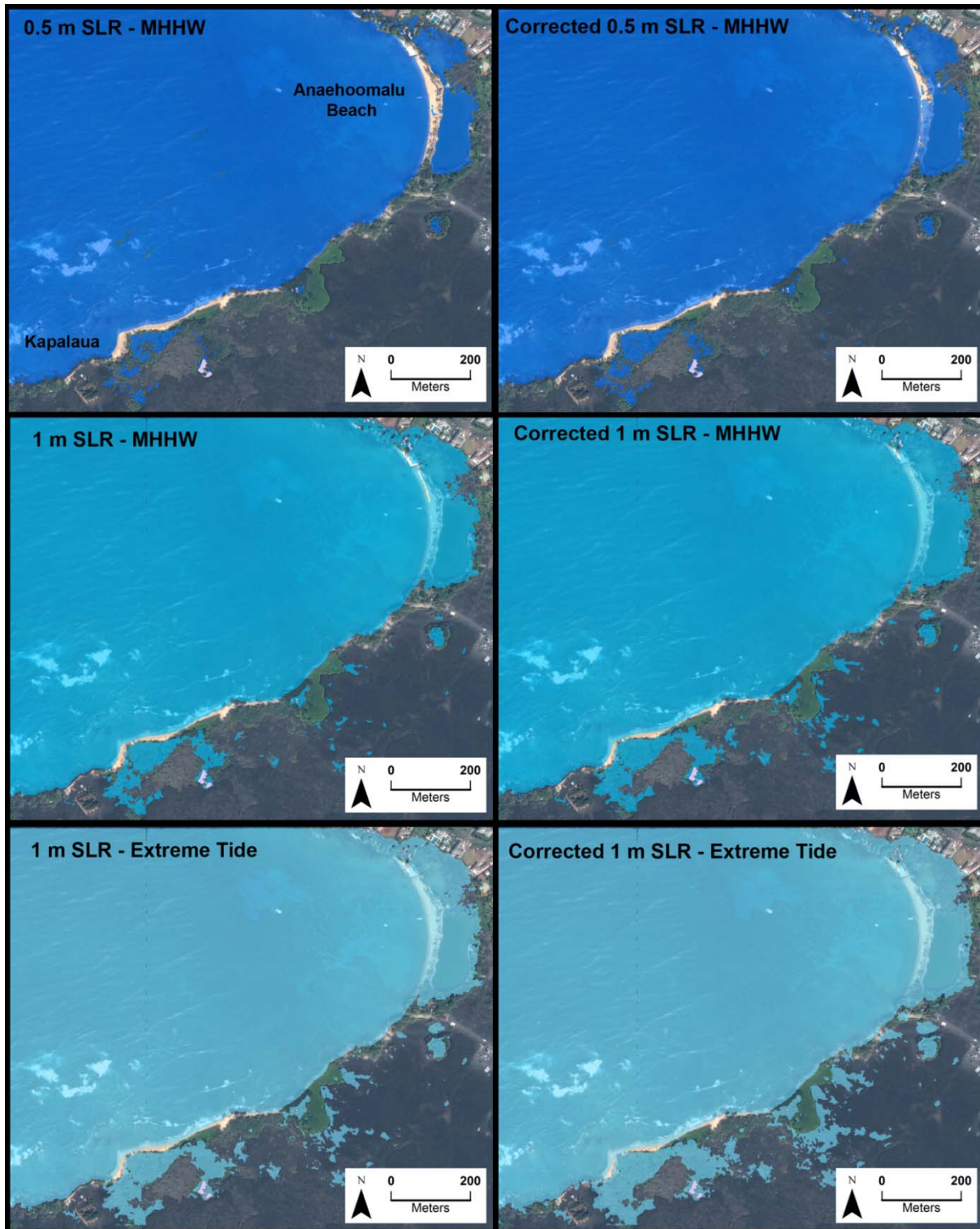


Figure 8: Comparison of sea level rise models created with uncorrected and corrected LiDAR elevation data for the coastal area between Anaehoomalu Beach and Kapalaua. Corrected LiDAR elevations are 0.25 m lower than uncorrected LiDAR based on accuracy assessment using National Geodetic Survey Benchmarks. Models include 0.5 m at MHHW, 1m at MHHW, and 1 m at Extreme tides.

Fine Scale Data Gaps and Uncertainty

In some cases, rock features such as Kaloko Fishpond Wall are not completely included in the bare earth portion of the LiDAR data that were used to create the DEMs (Figure 5b). LiDAR data for the Kaloko Fishpond Wall feature is partially in the extracted features portion of the LiDAR data set which is meant to include trees and buildings. The data can be removed and added to maps, but park resource staff may decide that they would rather include more recent survey data. The wall has been fully restored since 2006 and the elevation over the northern section will have changed since the 2006 LiDAR data was collected. It is likely other cultural features such as heiau (temples) may be in the extracted features dataset as well. Analysts will need to work with park staff to decide the best method for including Kaloko Fishpond Wall and other missing features in maps.

Because the laser spectrum used for the LiDAR collection was not intended to be water penetrating, elevations only exist at or above water surfaces. As a result, features and topography that would be exposed near the shoreline at lower tides and Mean Sea Level (MSL) are not visible and cannot be mapped. Anchialine pools, fishponds, and other water features are also mapped at the height of the water surface above MSL at the time of LiDAR collection.

Elevation maps created from LiDAR data inherently have lower resolution than the actual earth surface. For example, the average point cover for the LiDAR data is 1 m therefore features smaller than 1 m may be missed. In addition to error introduced during LiDAR measurements, geoprocessing may also introduce small amounts of uncertainty during data point interpolation and conversion from raster to polygon formats. Initial analysis indicates most of the uncertainty comes from simplification of the topography. Within several small study areas, we hope to compare the FEMA LiDAR data to maps created with a Leica C10 Scanstation which is capable of sub-centimeter vertical and horizontal resolution. Comparison of these high resolution maps to the FEMA data set will give us another measure of data accuracy and precision. Although resolution for the FEMA dataset may be limited by point spacing and processing, it is still clearly useful for high resolution inundation modeling and features larger than 1 m.

CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1: Inundation and Future Habitat Extent of Anchialine pools

Anchialine pools are brackish coastal ecosystems without surface connection to the ocean, where groundwater and saltwater derived from the ocean mix (Holthius 1973). In Hawai‘i, groundwater flows through pools and out to wetlands and coral reefs making pools valuable indicators of broad-scale groundwater recharge and contamination (Knee *et al.* 2008). Hawaiian anchialine pools are tidally influenced, range in size from less than 1 to over 3000 m² and support diverse endemic biota (Maciolek and Brock 1974), including seven species listed as Candidate Threatened or Endangered Species (USFWS 2011). A total of 193 anchialine pools have been mapped at KAHO, 14 at PUHO, and 16 at HAVO.

When the pool locations are overlain on inundation scenarios, the extent of inundation can be calculated. At the 0.5 m sea level rise scenario at MHHW within all three parks, current pools become larger but none of them are inundated or connected overland to the ocean. In KAHO at a 1 m scenario at MHHW, 53% of pools are inundated and become connected to the ocean. For the 1.5 m scenario at MHHW, 95% become connected to the ocean. For the 1.9 m scenario at the extreme tide only 6 pools continue to be isolated while 97% become inundated (Figure 9). Inundation of current pools is expected at all three parks (Table 6).

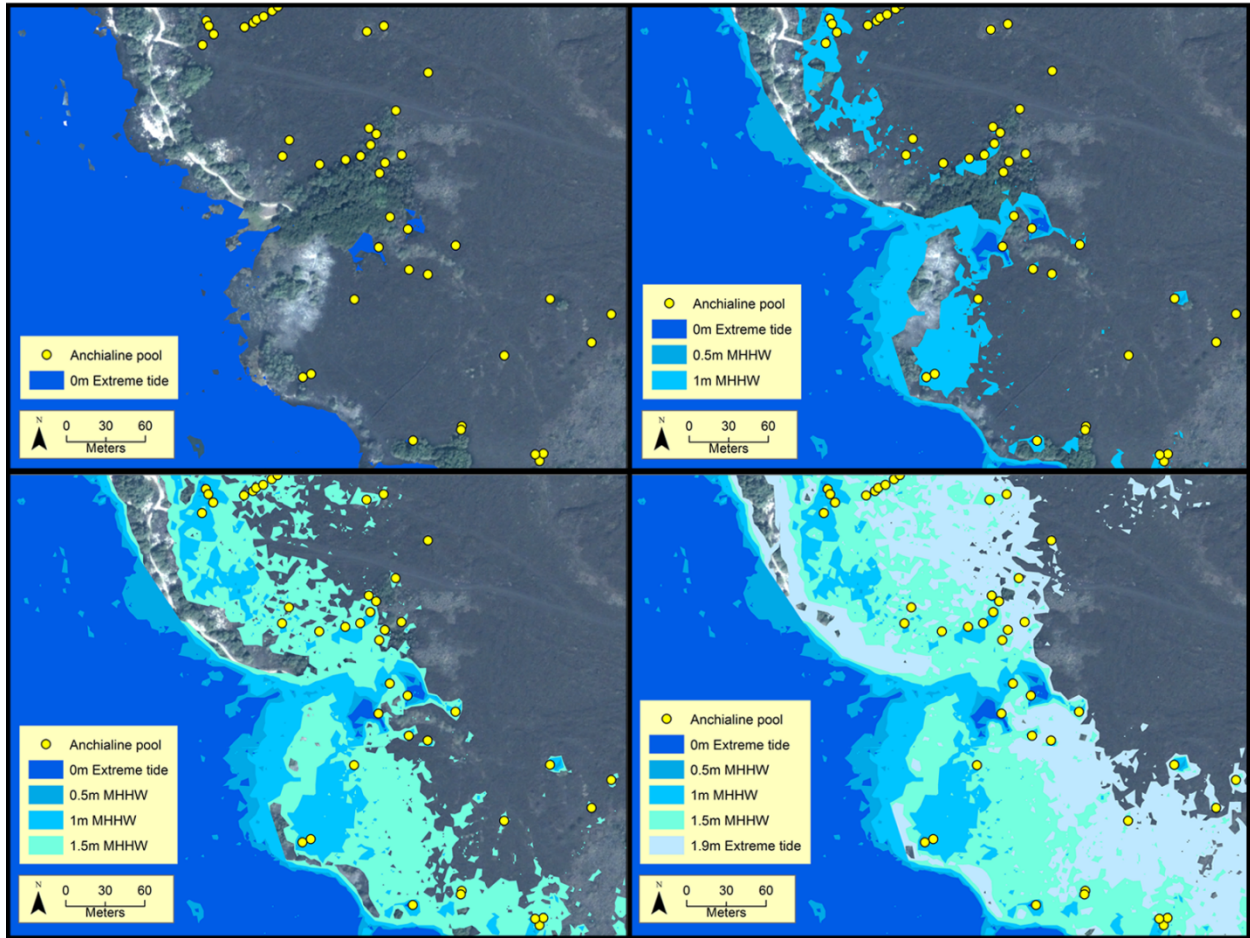


Figure 9: Present and future anchialine pool locations at various sea level rise scenarios. Maps represent varying sea level rise scenarios at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in relation to current anchialine pools. Blue polygons independent of current pool locations (yellow) represent areas where sea level rise will create new pools.

Table 6: The percentage of pools inundated at various sea level rise scenarios within three national parks.

Park	#Pools	% Pools Inundated at Sea Level Rise Scenarios			
		0.5m + MHHW	1.0m + MHHW	1.5m + MHHW	1.9m + Extreme
KAHO	193	0	53	95	97
PUHO	15	0	50	57	71
HAVO	16	0	0	31	31

Although pools will become inundated, new pools will emerge in the porous basalt substrate. Future anchialine pool habitat locations within KAHO and PUHO were identified at different sea level rise scenarios using the inundation vector files. Any inundation surface that was not connected to the ocean surface was counted as a pool. These were placed in size categories (<10 m², 10-100 m², 101-1000 m², >1000 m²) and enumerated. Pool detection underestimates pools in fissures or those smaller than 1m² due to fact that the mean LiDAR point spacing is 1 m (Marrack 2014). However, potential pool numbers may be elevated because some predicted future pools might be in areas that will become marsh habitat at the edge of fishponds. It is also important to consider that some areas that may appear disconnected to the ocean at a MHHW may become connected during high wave events or extreme annual tides.

Table 7: Number of potential pools by size category created under different sea level rise and tidal scenarios at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park and Pu’uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park. New pool formation was examined for 1m sea level rise at Mean Higher High Water (MHHW), 1.5m sea level rise at MHHW, and 1.9m sea level rise at the measured extreme tide.

		Pool size (m ²)				
		<10	10-100	100-1000	>1000	Total
KAHO	1m+MHHW	420	81	15	1	517
	1.5+MHHW	416	90	23	2	531
	1.9+Extreme	238	47	10	0	295
PUHO	1m+MHHW	161	30	4	0	195
	1.5+MHHW	92	13	8	2	115
	1.9+Extreme	62	16	2	3	83

Anchialine pools will be inundated as sea levels rise. However, if future open space is undisturbed, new anchialine pool habitats will emerge (Table 7). Along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, ongoing studies are mapping current anchialine pool habitats and modeling where new habitat are expected to occur under future sea level rise scenarios.

Case Study 2: Kaloko Fishpond Expansion

Fishponds and wetlands will expand inland as sea levels rise. Predicted changes in the surface area of Kaloko Fishpond within Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park were calculated

between current sea level and various sea level rise scenarios using ArcGIS (10.0) Spatial Analyst tools. Kaloko Fishpond currently covers approximately 5.03 hectares at an extreme tide (0.7 m). The pond will expand by an additional 2.25 hectares with a 1.0 m sea level rise at Mean Higher High Water (MHHW), 4.25 hectares with 1.5 m sea level rise at MHHW, and 6.48 hectares at 1.9 m sea level rise at a more extreme tide (Figure 10). The fishpond edges will move over the park boundary at 1m sea level rise at higher tides. This habitat was chosen as an example, but similar land surface change can be calculated for other areas of interest.

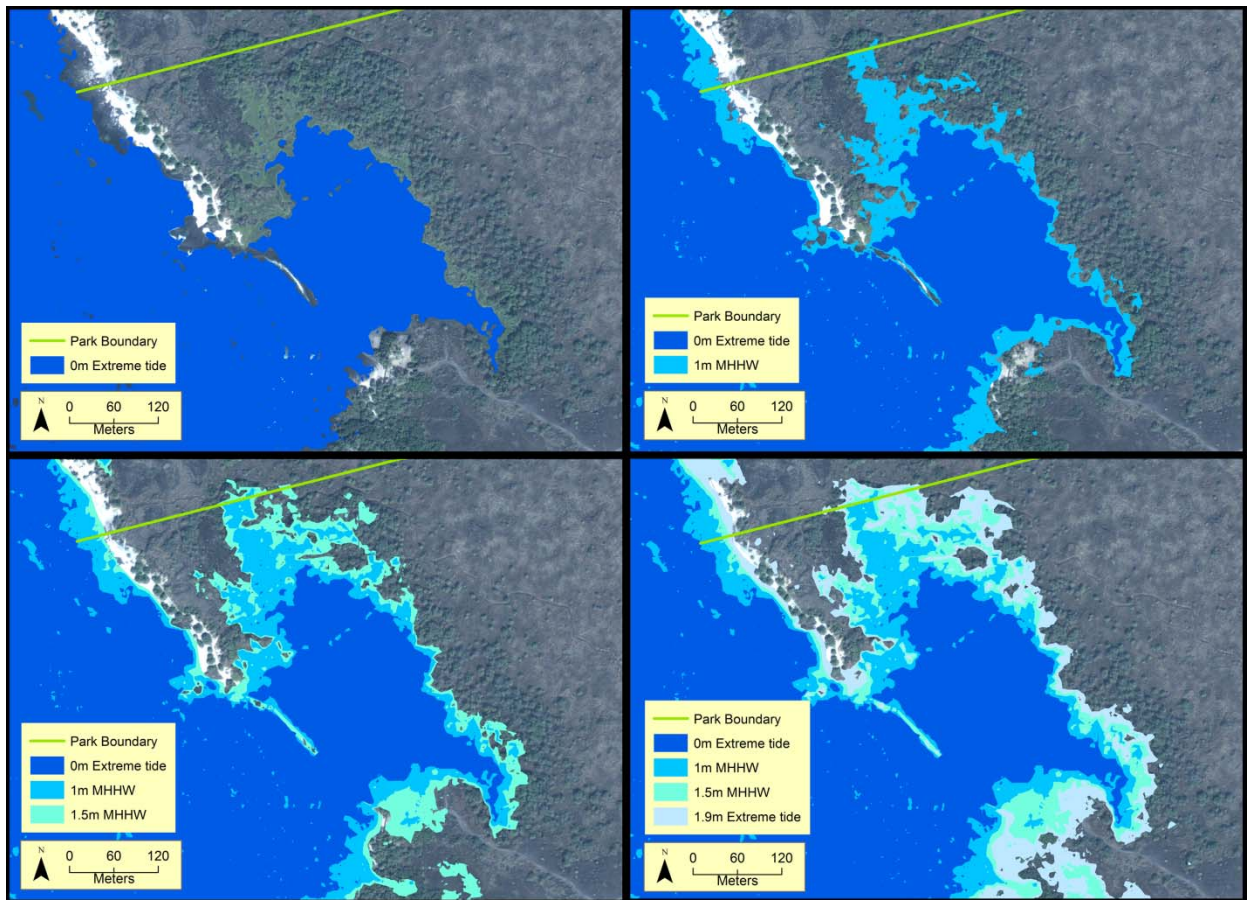


Figure 10: Predicted changes in the surface area of Kaloko Fishpond within Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park with various sea level rise scenarios. Note that the northern section of the pond crosses the park boundary at 1m high tides.

Case Study 3: Predicted Effects of Sea Level Rise on Puako and Kailua Pier

Sea level rise scenario overlays show progressive inundation of low elevation areas along the ALKA trail corridor. Within the neighborhood community of Puako, the Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) at the current sea level model does not cover the entire ocean surface and swells are evident (Figure 11). The 0.5 m, 1 m, and 1.5 m at MHHW models along with the 1.9 m at Extreme tide model show progressively more inundation of the Puako area. The areas surrounding the Kailua-Kona Pier also become progressively more inundated with rising sea level scenarios (Figure 12). Other low lying coastal neighborhoods and infrastructure can be expected to be similarly inundated. It is important to note that these models are conservative, because they do not include storm wave run up, erosion, or groundwater heights above sea level. The sea level rise polygons created during this project can be used to create similar maps for planning purposes.

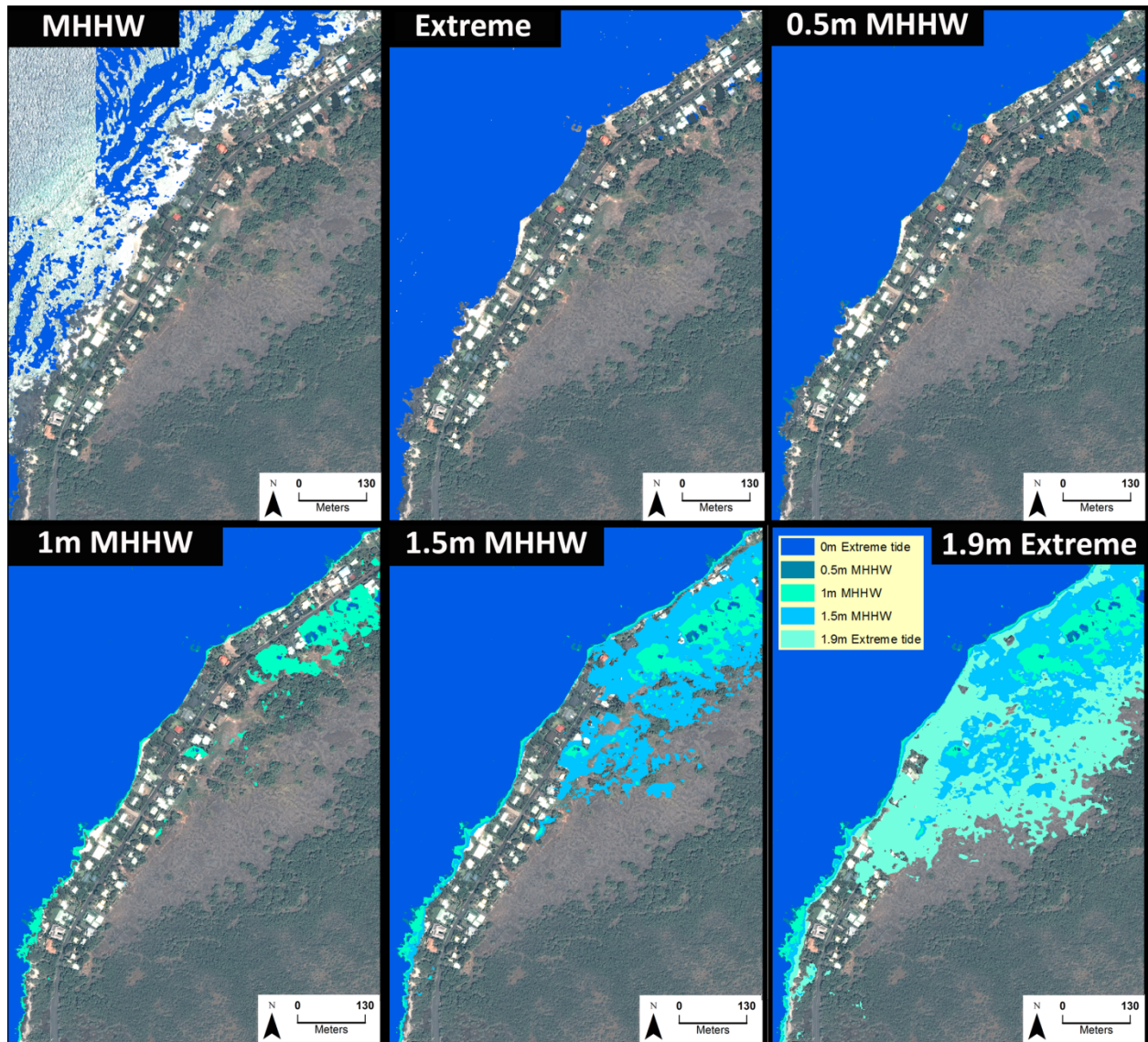


Figure 11: Sea level rise scenarios at Puako where blue represents water surfaces. Note that the Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) model at current sea levels does not cover all of the ocean surface and swells are evident. The 0.5 m, 1 m, and 1.5 m at MHHW models along with the 1.9 m at Extreme tide model show progressively more inundation of the Puako area.

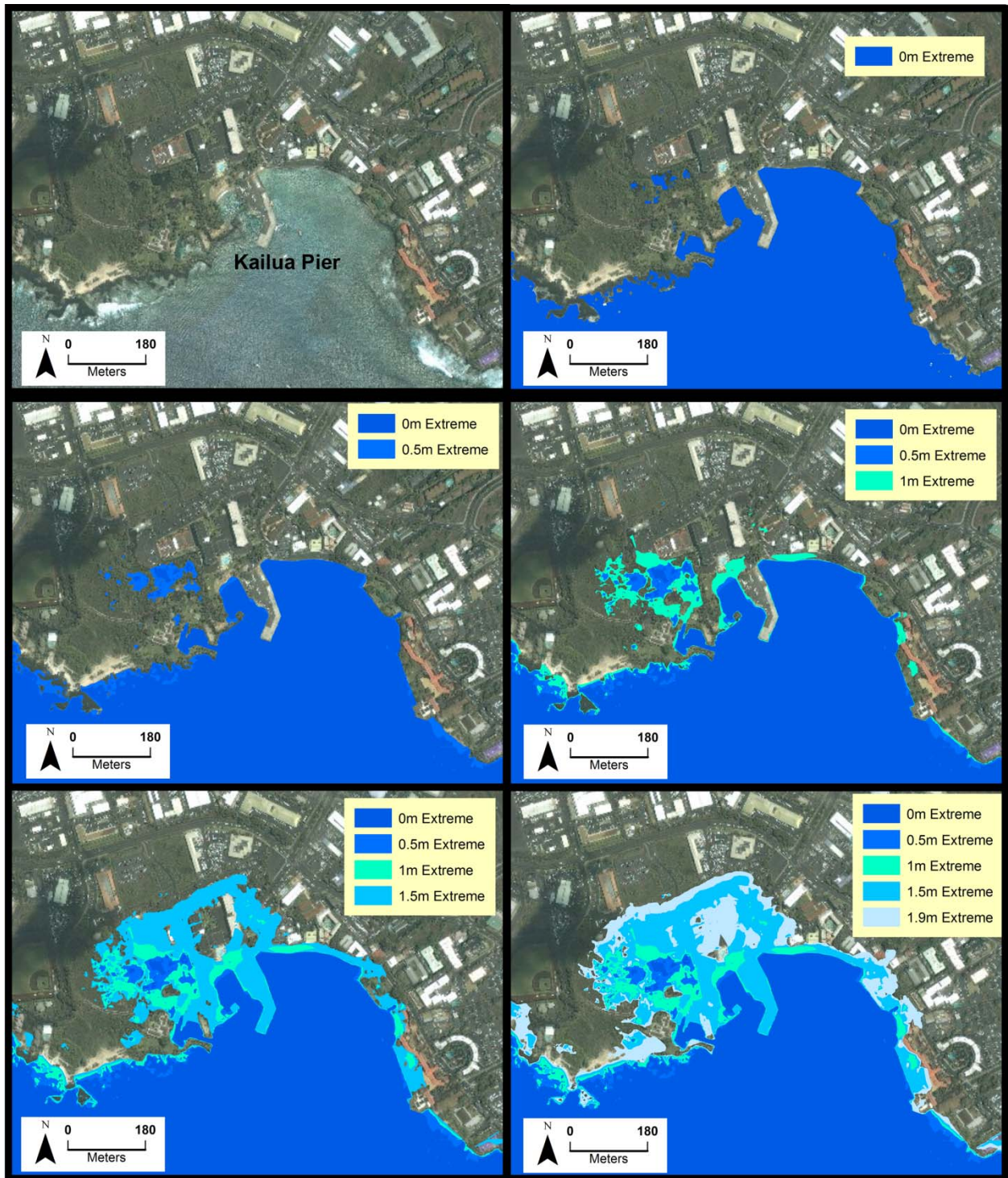


Figure 12: Inundation at Kailua-Kona Pier and surrounding areas under various sea level rise scenarios. All scenarios are at Extreme high tide.

CONCLUSION

Incorporating detailed elevation data and sea level rise predictions in coastal planning should aid in long-term management of both developed and natural areas. In particular this project aims to identify key areas to preserve for maintaining environmental and cultural integrity in the future. For example, while some features such as individual anchialine pools will be inundated, anchialine pool, fishpond and wetland habitats will emerge or shift in the landscape. Protecting future inundation areas from development will conserve valuable habitat and will eliminate the need to repair or relocate infrastructure placed in these areas.

The models used here are a conservative method for estimating inundation and do not include storm run up, erosion, changes in sediment deposition, and geologic activities which will have additional effects on Hawaii's future shorelines. Recently Marrack (2014) has developed methods to incorporate observed groundwater levels into geospatial models. Models that incorporate groundwater into sea level rise scenarios are available for the Kawaihae to South Kona section of the ALKA corridor.

The goal of this project is to share sea level rise inundation and error polygons with NPS staff as well as various public and private partners so that they can plan for future conditions. This visualization tool will also be helpful in educating the public about the effects of global warming and resulting sea level rise. GIS data are available through the National Park Service at ALKA.

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Appendix 1: Key for GIS shapefiles produced to visualize various sea level rise scenarios under various high tides. Table indicates shapefile name, spatial coverage, sea level rise scenario and tide state. Error polygons can be used in conjunction with the associated scenario files and represent the 95th percentile confidence due to LiDAR measurement error. Sea level rise scenarios with groundwater incorporate groundwater into flooding models (Marrack 2014). Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is identified as HAVO in the table.

Type	File Name	Location	SLR Scenario	Tide
Sea Level Rise Scenarios				
	Nth_Koh_0.5mMHHW	North Kohala	0.5 meters	MHHW
	Nth_Koh_0.5mExt	North Kohala	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Nth_Koh_1mMHHW	North Kohala	1 meters	MHHW
	Nth_Koh_1mExt	North Kohala	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Nth_Koh_1.5mMHHW	North Kohala	1.5 meters	MHHW
	Nth_Koh_1.5mExt	North Kohala	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Nth_Koh_1.9mMHHW	North Kohala	1.5 meters	MHHW
	Nth_Koh_1.9mExt	North Kohala	1.9 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Kona_0.5m_MHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	0.5 meters	MHHW
	Kona_0.5m_Ext	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Kona_1m_MHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1 meters	MHHW
	Kona_1m_Ext	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Kona_1.5m_MHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.5 meters	MHHW
	Kona_1.5m_Ext	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Kona_1.9m_MHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.9 meters	MHHW
	Kona_1.9m_Ext	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.9 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Sth_0.5m_MHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	0.5 meters	MHHW
	Sth_0.5m_Ext	Kahauloa to HAVO	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Sth_1m_MHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	1 meters	MHHW
	Sth_1m_Ext	Kahauloa to HAVO	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Sth_1.5m_MHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.5 meters	MHHW
	Sth_1.5m_Ext	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
	Sth_1.9m_MHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.9 meters	MHHW
	Sth_1.9m_Ext	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.9 meters	Extreme annual tide

Appendix 1 : continued

Error Polygons (95th percentile confidence : + 0.25m)

er_Koh_0.5mMHHW	North Kohala	0.5 meters	MHHW
er_Koh_0.5mEXT	North Kohala	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Koh_1mMHHW	North Kohala	1 meters	MHHW
er_Koh_1mEXT	North Kohala	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Koh_1.5mMHHW	North Kohala	1.5 meters	MHHW
er_Koh_1.5mEXT	North Kohala	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Koh_1.9mMHHW	North Kohala	1.5 meters	MHHW
er_Koh_1.9mEXT	North Kohala	1.9 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Kona_0.5mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	0.5 meters	MHHW
er_Kona_0.5mEXT	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Kona_1mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1 meters	MHHW
er_Kona_1mEXT	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Kona_1.5mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.5 meters	MHHW
er_Kona_1.5mEXT	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Kona_1.9mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.9 meters	MHHW
er_Kona_1.9mEXT	Kawaihae to Kahauloa	1.9 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Sth_0.5mMHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	0.5 meters	MHHW
er_Sth_0.5mEXT	Kahauloa to HAVO	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Sth_1mMHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	1 meters	MHHW
er_Sth_1mEXT	Kahauloa to HAVO	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Sth_1.5mMHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.5 meters	MHHW
er_Sth_1.5mEXT	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
er_Sth_1.9mMHHW	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.9 meters	MHHW
er_Sth_1.9mEXT	Kahauloa to HAVO	1.9 meters	Extreme annual tide

Sea Level Rise Scenarios with Groundwater

GWKona_0.5mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kailua Bay	0.5 meters	MHHW
GWKona_0.5mEXT	Kawaihae to Kailua Bay	0.5 meters	Extreme annual tide
GWKona_1mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kailua Bay	1 meters	MHHW
GWKona_1mEXT	Kawaihae to Kailua Bay	1 meters	Extreme annual tide
GWKona_1.5mMHHW	Kawaihae to Kailua Bay	1.5 meters	MHHW
GWKona_1.5mEXT	Kawaihae to Kailua Bay	1.5 meters	Extreme annual tide

Appendix 2: Location of National Geodetic Survey benchmarks used for vertical accuracy assessments of FEMA LiDAR data. Tidal benchmark #1617433B is located at Kawaihae. Both 2009 and 2013 surveys were conducted by Ed Carlson from the National Geodetic Survey.

