Coastal Engineering and Climate Change-Planning for Uncertainty

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Abstract
Modern coastal and civil engineering design is heavily based on historical probability of events. In light of new information regarding climate change we may be forced to rethink some of the design specifications for marine water levels, storm water volume and elevations. Projected estimates for global sea level rise may have tremendous impact on coastal design and effectiveness as well as may severely impact large areas of the world including several low-lying mega-delta cities. This talk will review some of the recent science behind climate change with an emphasis on sea level rise. We will also discuss some of the research, planning and policy initiatives occurring right here in Hawaii to address these issues. The presentation will provide a broad overview of some of the technical, policy and political repercussions of climate change in the face of scientific uncertainty.