

In September 1970, John Craven arrived in Honolulu to begin his new dual assignments as state of Hawaii marine affairs coordinator (MAC) and UH at Manoa dean of marine programs. Hawaii's governor, John Burns, approved the former appointment. Craven was initially appropriated the sum of \$470 K to act on several of the recommendations set forth in the document, [*Hawaii and the Sea: A Plan for State Action*](#).

The position of MAC had been established by [Act 137](#) of the Hawaii State Legislature in 1970 (approved 22 June 1970) in response to a recommendation from the 1969 report [*Hawaii and the Sea*](#). HRS chapter 218 requires the state of Hawaii MAC to "Develop plans, conduct systematic analyses, assist those departments having interests in marine affairs, coordinate those activities which involved the responsibilities of multiple state agencies, coordinate the state's involvement in national and international efforts to investigate, develop and utilize the marine resources of the Pacific Basin" – in short, to be the go to ocean person in the state!

In December 1971, the MAC filed the first of several periodic reports to Hawaii's governor and legislature on projects instituted or completed. In the [second report](#), published in December 1972, MAC Craven stated that "Hawaii is fortunate to have the sea; it is also fortunate to have *Hawaii and the Sea*. I have and shall make every attempt to implement not only its specific goals but also its spirit and intent."

Many of the various projects initiated by Craven during the first year of action were designed to provide cost sharing for other federal grants, seed monies to attract new funding opportunities for educational and research programs, and other long-range investments for marine sciences in Hawaii. For example, funding to initiate planning for a new marine research park and a proof of concept for the construction of large-scale floating platforms were two examples of the latter.

The *Aegir*, an undersea habitat operated by the Makai Range, had already supported dives to greater than 500 feet and support for up to six men for five days. The Navy was keenly interested in using this vehicle for their research but some modifications were needed before it was acceptable. Makai Range did not have the required resources and the future of the facility was in jeopardy. The MAC stepped in, providing \$55 K in State funding of a total \$200 K needed for the certification, and saved the facility. These and other "good investments" in Hawaii's ocean future were among many tangible MAC contributions over the initial years of the program.

By the time the [3rd annual report](#) appeared, in July 1975, Governor George Ariyoshi was in charge of the state and in charge of MAC Craven. The portfolio of projects had expanded significantly to include support of the developing International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management ([ICLARM](#)), the creation of the [Natural Energy Laboratory](#) at Ke-ahole Point on Hawaii, and support for a new marine technician training program at Leeward Community College. Other projects, including maintenance of Makapuu oceanographic pier (by this time, Makai Range had closed; see *Box 5.1*), 100-day charter of the vessel *Valiant Maid* for coastal marine research (see *Box 13.8*), support of the Blue Water Marine Laboratory, and structural alterations to the [SSP Kaimalino](#) (see *Box 13.7*) were all supported with these state "ocean-target" funds.

In 1977, the Hawaii State Legislature amended the original law via [Act 149](#); this new legislation deleted the provision requiring approval of the governor in the conduct of MAC duties and established a semi-annual reporting requirement. By the end of 1977, MAC had funded projects amounting to \$5.5 M in state general funds and, in so doing, had generated an additional \$7.2 in federal and private grants. By 1977, the undersea habitat *Aegir* had been given to UH and MAC had used this new asset as the seed for a new Manned Undersea Science and Technology (MUST) – NOAA program that eventually spawned the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory ([HURL](#)) at UH at Mānoa.

By 1980, 10 years after the creation of MAC, there was renewed interest in and support for an expansion of the scope of this high-level state government position. A proposal to create a "well staffed" office of ocean resources in the state's Department of Planning and Economic Development was actively under discussion. It was, however, never to emerge.

In 1982, through [Act 281](#), the legislature repealed HRS chapter 218 (effective 18 June 1982) - the "Marine Affairs Coordinator" act - thus ending this high profile advocacy for marine sciences at the level of the governor's office. Craven had been the first and the only MAC in the state of Hawai'i.