Opportunity Zones

A New Economic Development Tool

Mark J. Ritchie

Branch Chief

Business Development and Support Division

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism



Disclaimer: This presentation is for general guidance on a new tool to promote equitable development in economically disadvantaged communities. This presentation under no circumstances is intended to be used as or considered legal, financial or investment advice.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Opportunity Zone Program is an economic development tool that uses federal tax incentives to direct investment capital to underserved low income areas, that is, targeted communities called opportunity zones. This program was established as part of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.



DBEDT'S ROLE IN THE OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROGRAM:

- 1) Designate the Opportunity Zones for Hawaii (in collaboration with the counties)
- 2) Provide Information on the OZ Program to Stakeholders (HI OZ Website)
- 3) Promote Hawaii's Opportunity Zones (GIS Mapping Tools, Factsheets, etc.)
- 4) Facilitate Interaction Among Stakeholders (Hawaii OZ Network)
- 5) Promote Community-Based Projects to OZ Fund Investors (HCRC)



CREATING THE OPPORTUNITY ZONES

Hawaii was authorized to designate 25 census tracts as opportunity zones.

Hawaii has 99 census tracks that meet the low-income eligibility requirement from which the state can designate not more than 25 percent as qualified opportunity zones according to the program.

Census tracts that are contiguous with low-income communities may also be designated as qualified opportunity zones if they are below 125% of the medium family income of the qualifying census tract. Only 5% of the census tracts nominated can be from contiguous tracts. Two (2) of the 25 zones nominated are qualified contiguous census tracts (Maui and Hawaii Island got these).

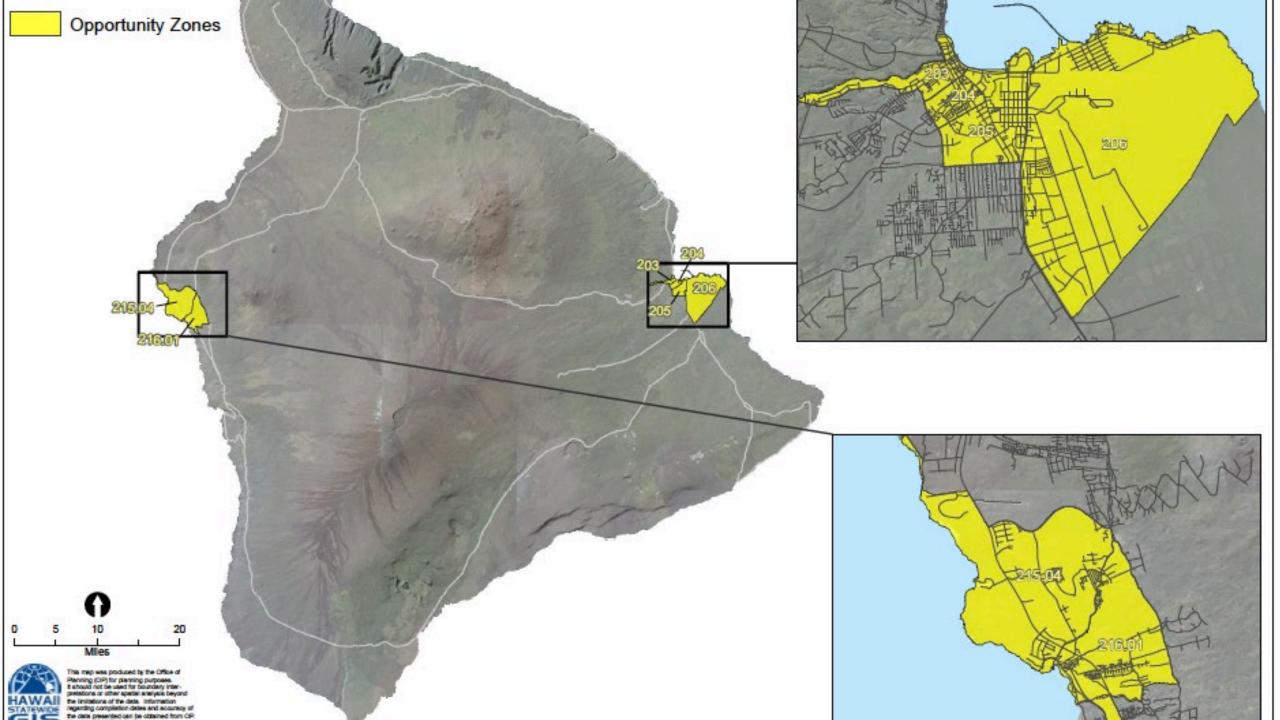


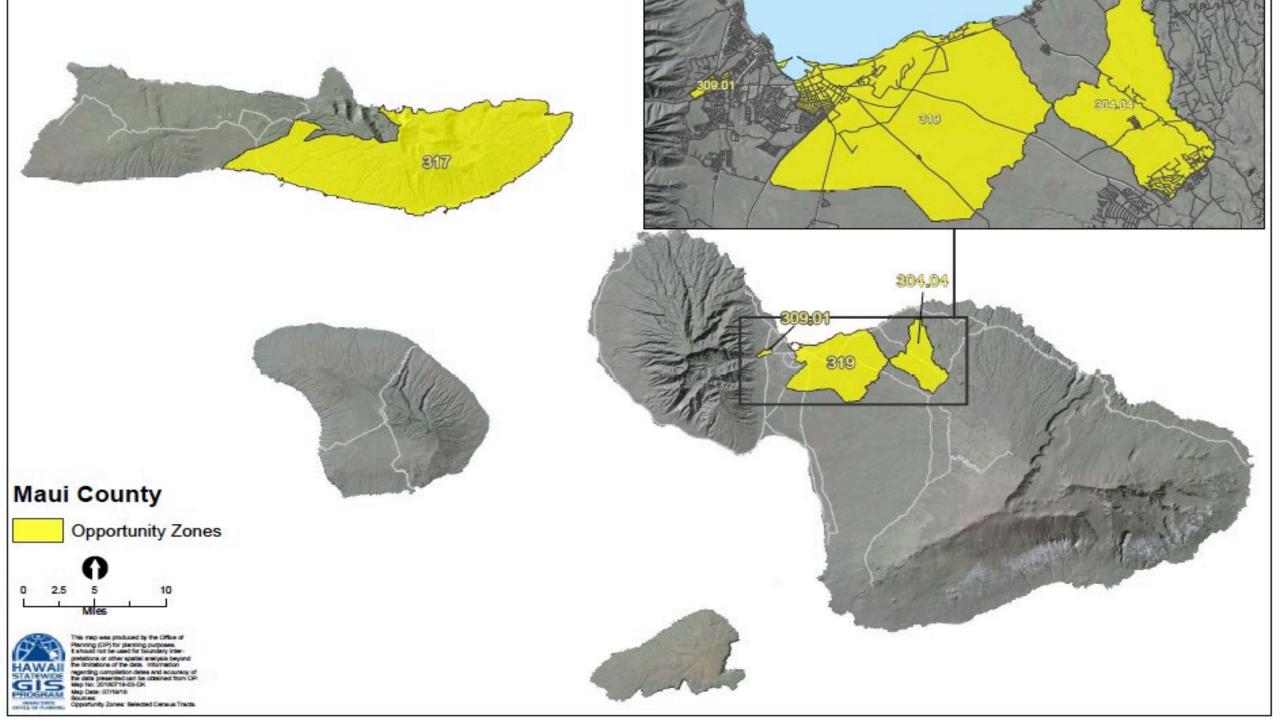
GUIDANCE GIVEN IN SELECTING THE ZONES

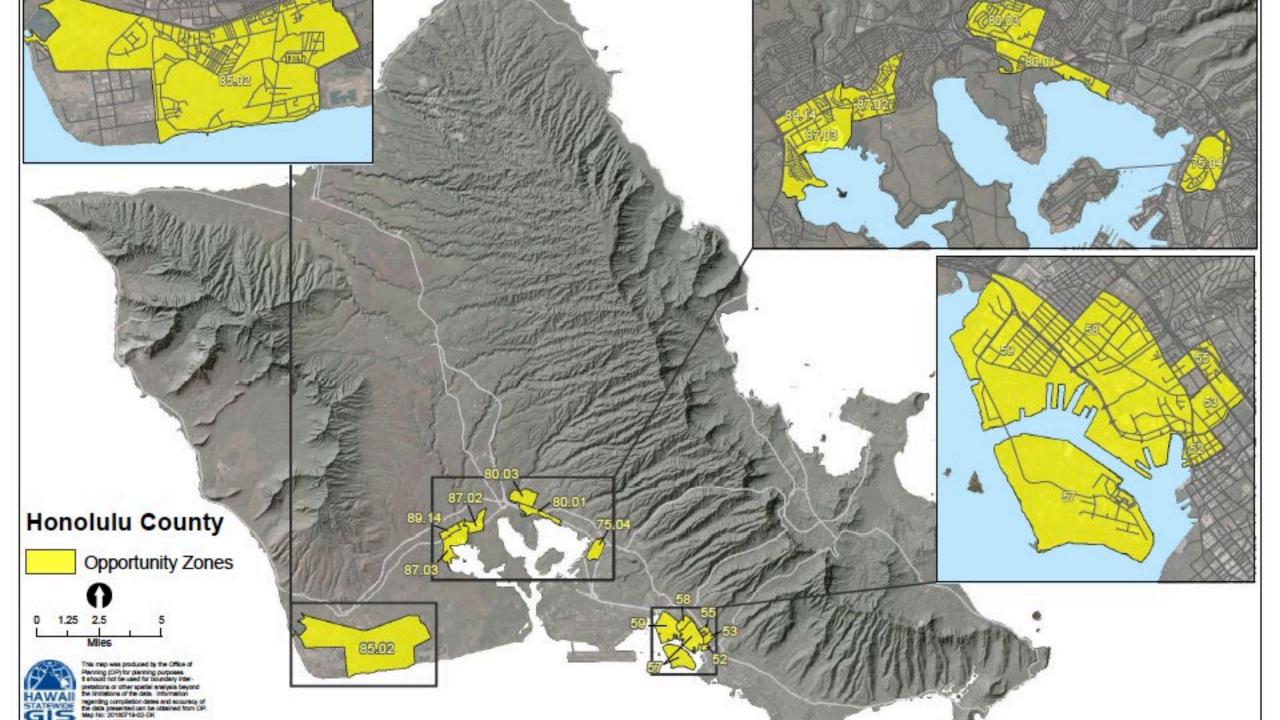
The Treasury Department, the National Governor's Association and several nonprofits involved with opportunity zones offered the states guidance in selecting their zones:

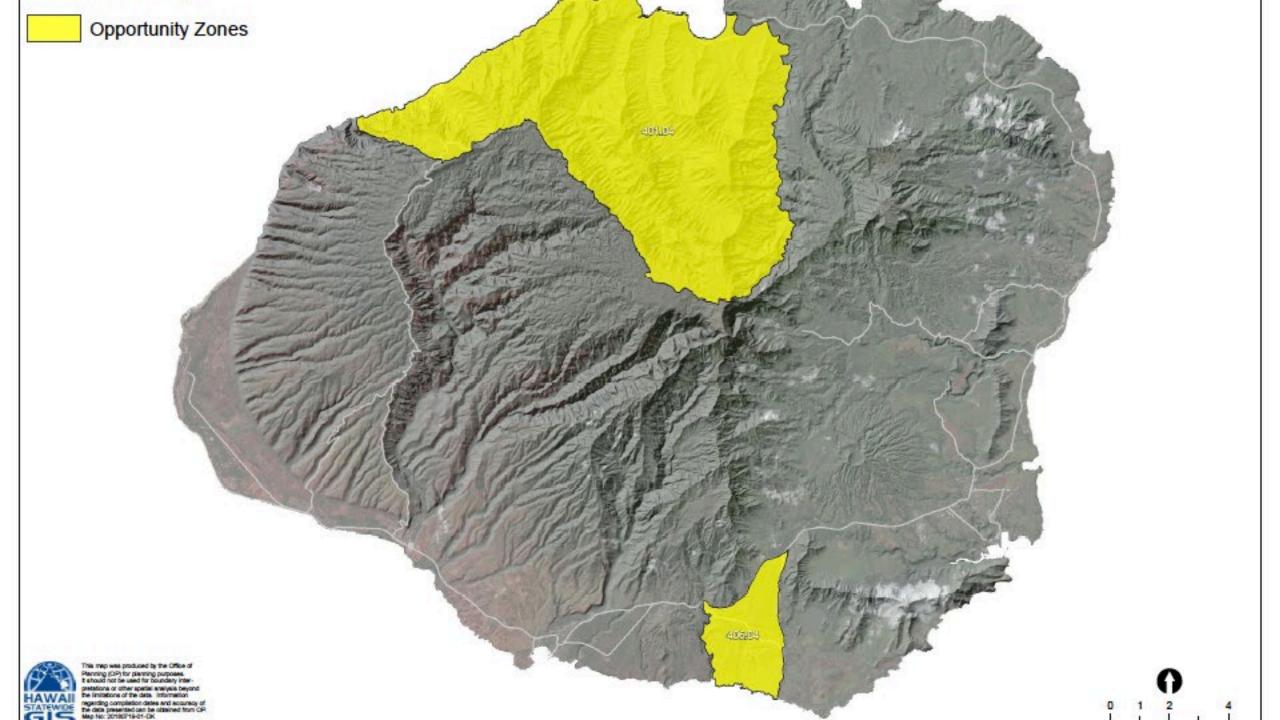
- ✓ Eligible census tracts that have a lot of "investable assets" also assets that could meet the substantial improvement criteria noted in the statute;
- ✓ Overlap with other economic and community development programs. DBEDT and the counties considered overlap with:
 - New Market Tax Credits (NMTC)
 - Enterprise Zones
 - State Land Use Designations and Zoning
 - Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
 - County Economic and Community Development Plans



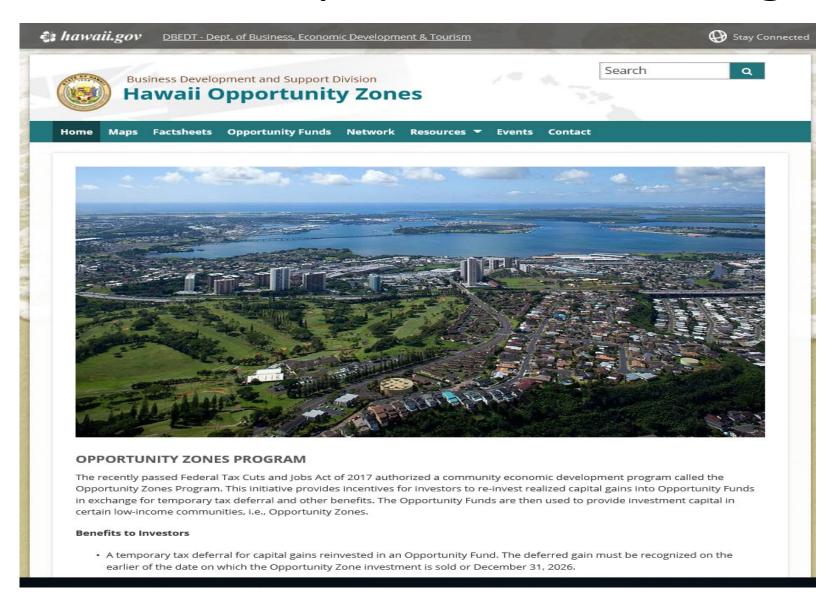




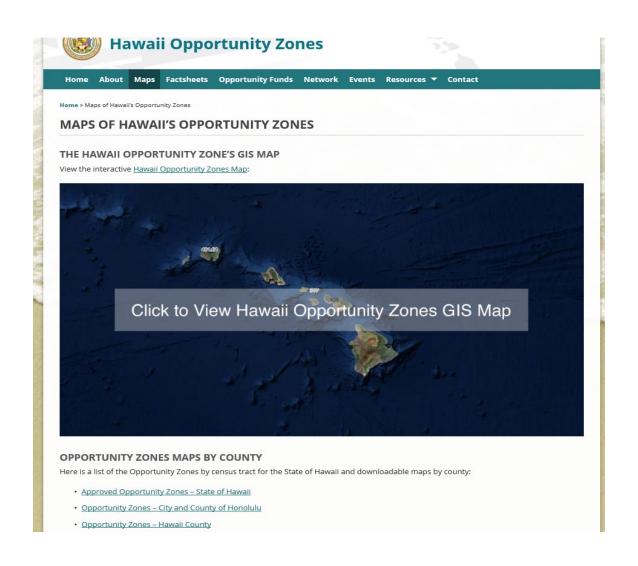




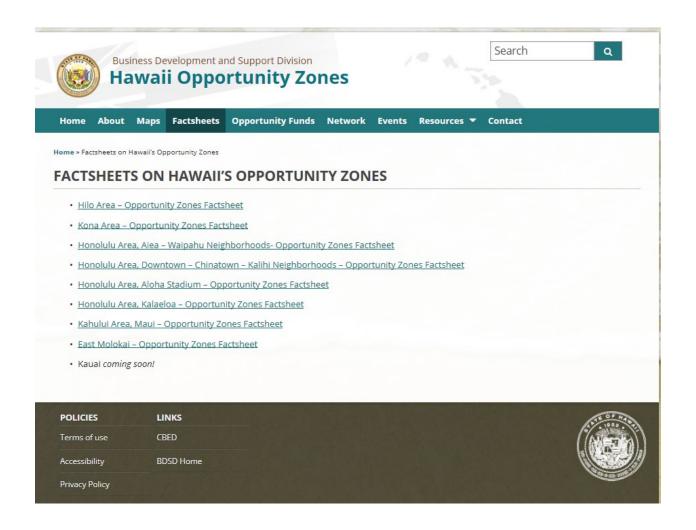
Resource – https://invest.hawaii.gov/oz



Maps of Hawaii's OZs



Fact Sheets of Hawaii's OZs



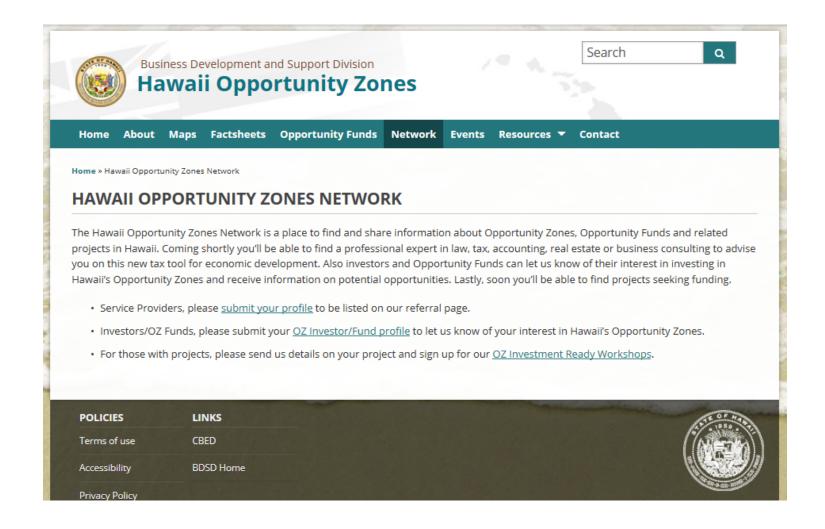
Fact Sheets





An overview of the potential opportunities for industrial, commercial, and residential investment

Creating Hawaii Opportunity Zone Network



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