

LEGISLATIVE BIENNIUM GENERAL FUND BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2023
KAHO`OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
November 2022

1. Continuation of Operating Funds established in Act 248, SLH 2022 for FY24 and FY25

- This request is contained in the initial draft Governor’s Administration Budget Request

Background: Act 248 SLH 2022 appropriated \$400,000 in general funds for FY23 to support on-island operations on Kaho`olawe. This funding was designated non-reoccurring. This request is to continue the funding authorized in Act 248, SLH 2022 as a critical, underfunded program established by Act 140 SLH 2018.

Request: Additional general funds for LNR 908/KIRC for “other current expenses” (\$400,000, FY24; \$400,000, FY25)

Justification: The purpose of these funds is to support Kaho`olawe island reserve commission to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving, and determining the appropriate uses of the Kaho`olawe island reserve for the people of Hawaii. Without the funding the KIRC will not be able to continue its innovative management regime. The Kaho`olawe island reserve commission's management and control of the Kaho`olawe is not only restoring the ecological damage on Kaho`olawe and protecting its endangered and rare flora and fauna but is also ensuring that the people of Hawaii can safely visit the Kaho`olawe island reserve. Without this funding the Kaho`olawe island reserve will not be able to support year-round field operations and thereby a consequential reduction in safety and the public access to Kaho`olawe, and a significant setback to the restoration efforts on Kaho`olawe.

2. Provide full year funding for new KIRC positions provided in Act 248, SLH 2022

- This request is contained in the initial draft Governor’s Administration Budget Request

Background: After a three-year effort to restore the Culture Resource Project Coordinator (CRPC) position, the funding and position was authorized in Act 140/SLH2018 and was authorized to be filled in 2019. We were in the process of recruiting and filling the position but many of the most viable candidates were already pre-occupied by other events occurring on Mauna Kea.

Staff was unable to find a candidate with the necessary qualifications and willing to relocate to Maui to take the unique position prior to the funding elimination for the position in the previous fiscal budget.

The CRPC position was frozen in FY21 then eliminated in the FY22 administrative budget due to the impact of COVID, but the FY23 budget added two new permanent positions. The KIRC will be restoring the eliminated CRPC and establish a Reserve Operations Manager with the other additional position.

Request: Full year funding in LNR 908/KIRC for full-year funding for new positions established in Act 248. SLH 2022 (\$144,000, FY24; \$144,000, FY25)

Justification: This request is for full year funding for new KIRC positions established in Act 248, SLH 2022. These positions are necessary to oversee the native Hawaiian cultural use of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve as well as to protect and manage the long-term care of the significant archaeological, historical, and cultural resource of the island. The additional personnel are necessary to coordinate the

critical infrastructure, logistics and vessel operations as well as overseeing the KIRC's industrial and unexploded ordnance health and safety programs.

3. Transfer KIRC personnel and operating funds from LNR906/AA to newly established LNR 908/KIRC Program ID.

- This request is contained in the initial draft Governor's Administration Budget Request

Background: The State of Hawaii Governmental Program Structure is a hierarchal, objective-based organization of programs and was designed to categorize, meaningfully, all State programs in accordance with the objectives and sub-objectives which they serve. There are 11 major State program areas that correspond with the 11 primary objectives of State Government and are designated as Level 1 programs. The KIRC falls withing Level 1: Environmental Protection Program (04) , Level II: General Support for Natural Physical Environment (03). Level III: LNR-Natural Physical Environment (02). The program structure 04 03 02 locates information regarding a specific program in the Executive Budget.

In addition to the program structure number above, the lowest level program in the structure has a program ID number used to indicate the department and program. Traditionally, KIRC has been included in Program ID LNR906/AA which includes the DLNR Chair's Office, DLNR Fiscal Office, DLNR Personnel Office, DLNR IT as well as all attached agencies. This year's State Program Memorandum updated to the State Program Structure added new Program ID's for attached DLNR agencies and created the Program ID LNR 908/KIRC for KIRC.

The creation of a separate Program ID for KIRC in a sense creates a separate authorization with the State Program Structure for the KIRC's mission and funding separate from the DLNR administration program ID.

Request: Transfer KIRC general funds for personal services and other operating cost from LNR 906/AA to LNR 908/KIRC. Add general funds to LNR 908/KIRC (\$1,037,541, FY24; \$1,037,541, FY25) and reduce general funds in LNR 906/AA (\$1,037,541, FY24; \$1,037,541, FY25).

This request is to transfer the current reoccurring funding for personnel and operating cost in Program ID LNR 906/AA to the newly establish KIRC Program ID LNR 908/KIRC.

4. Request additional funding to add three new positions for KIRC.

- This request is included in the secondary Governor's Administration Budget Request

Background: In 2017 legislative request, the KIRC initially submitted a request for general funding for 19 temporary positions. Act 49 SLH 2017 authorized 15 temporary KIRC positions, which were the currently filled positions. Those positions that where vacant were not funded.

The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialists support all KIRC field programs by operating and maintaining KIRC field assets, equipment, vehicles, and machinery as well as acts or assists as Field Team Leaders for KIRC volunteer work groups on Kaho`olawe. The positions also serve as KIRC boat crew and field escorts as needed. The positions are based at the KIRC Office on Maui and involve extensive fieldwork on Kaho`olawe requiring extended overnight stays.

In addition to protecting, restoring, and managing the resources of Kaho`olawe Island, the KIRC is also responsible for protecting the aquatic resource of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve which includes the surrounding two miles of ocean. The Ocean Resource Specialists support this effort through the objective measurement, documentation, and restoration of Kaho`olawe aquatic resources. With the current climate changes and effects of more severe weather conditions, a renewed effort is now placed within the Ocean program on coastal reclamation, rehabilitation, and protection.

Request: Add general funds to support new KIRC field personnel in LNR 908/KIRCC for two (2) Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist (KIR III and KIR II) and one (1) Ocean Resource Specialist II (\$72,500, FY24; \$145,000, FY25)

Justification: Due to the vacancy of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist II and III positions in 2016, the KIRC was not able to include these positions with those authorized in Act 49. These positions are necessary to support vital safety and logistic functions as well as on-island restoration efforts and sustainability field projects while on Kaho`olawe and act as boat crew on KIRC vessels.

The KIRC has observed a long-term increase in unpredictability and severity of the weather and ocean conditions in the waters surrounding Maui and Kaho`olawe most likely due to climate changes and global warming. The increase in weather severity has resulted in an increased need for additional manpower to operate the KIRC ocean vessel safely and effectively and to assist with handling cargo, operating lines and equipment and safety lookouts as staff have been encountering rougher weather conditions and more boat traffic between Kaho`olawe and Maui. The KIRC requesting funding to establish two (2) positions, Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist III (KIR III) and Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist II (KIR II) to support boating operations, logistical and field support as necessary.

The increasing impact of coastal erosion and severe weather along the shorelines of Kaho`olawe has increased focus on coastline stabilization and coastal wetland restoration efforts. This additional effort also needs additional field support including additional staffing. The KIRC is requesting funding to establish one (1) Ocean Resource Specialist II to support on-island coastal management, restoration, and protection.

This request is for half-year funding in FY24 and full-year funding in FY25 for the following:

Position	FY24	FY25
Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist III	\$25,000	\$50,000
Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist II	\$22,500	\$45,000
Ocean Resource Specialist II	\$25,000	\$50,000
Total	\$72,500	\$145,000