

**LEGISLATIVE BIENNIUM GENERAL FUND BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2021**  
**KAHO`OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**  
**September 2020**

**1. Restore funding to the Culture Resource Project Coordinator position.**

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**Background:** After a three-year effort to restore the Culture Resource Project Coordinator (CRCP) position, the funding and position was authorized in Act 140/SLH2018 and was authorized to be filled in 2019. We have been 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 current fiscal budget.

Staff will be seeking legislative support to add the funds back in and authorization to immediately fill the position.

**Request: Restore funding for the previously vacant Culture Resource Project Coordinator position.**

**Justification:** HRS 6K-3 sets aside the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve for four specific purposes. One of the most significant and a key distinction between the KIRC and other conservation organization is the island and its waters were set aside for the "Preservation and practices of all rights customarily and traditionally exercised by native Hawaiians for cultural, spiritual, and subsistence purposes." The Cultural Project Coordinator assists the KIRC in its management of the historic and cultural resources in the Reserve by instilling traditional Native Hawaiian practices and knowledge in its day-to-day program management activities and tasks; oversees multiple preservation projects of cultural sites in the Reserve and coordinates the various request for cultural use of the Reserve.

**LEGISLATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) FUND BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2021**

**1. Continuation of CIP funding for the Kaho`olawe Dryland Forest Restoration Project**

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**Background:** Act 49/SLH2017 appropriated \$1,500,000 for FY18/19 for the initial Kaho`olawe Dryland Forest Restoration Project. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds were used to conduct native dryland forest replanting on the upland slopes of Kaho`olawe to reestablish native forest watersheds; increase ground water recharge; reduce surface water runoff; and reduce coral reef sedimentation.

The project included dedicated field staff to prepare the planting areas, integration of the KIRC volunteer program and support services to facilitate the on-island requirements of the project. Legislative site visits to the project noted the remarkable work of the KIRC in planting in the most desolate and unforgiving landscapes.

This request is to continue the project into its next phase.

**Request: Request \$1,500,000 in CIP Funding for FY22 and FY23 for continuation of the Kaho`olawe Dryland Native Forest Restoration Project.**

**Justification:** Since the end of the Navy's unexploded ordnance cleanup in 2004, the KIRC has begun a race against time to stem erosion and further degradation. A comprehensive strategy for the restoration of native-land based habitats and watersheds began that consisted of regeneration of soils, native plant and animal life, control and eradication of invasive species and replenishment of natural water systems. Strategies addressing erosion control, botanical and faunal restoration and the control of invasive alien

species are underway but are restricted by the technical limitations of past unexploded ordnance clearances which has created an island-wide patchwork of land use restrictions that hamper restoration activities. The combined effect has driven our restoration team to develop creative and innovative solutions to restoring the island's natural environment.

The KIRC has the unique opportunity to make a major leap forward in its long-term goal of restoring the Island of Kaho`olawe. Historically, forest restoration work on Kaho`olawe has been hampered by the lack of rainfall and surface water and the limited infrastructure. The future restoration efforts on Kaho`olawe will be enhanced by the water systems that will be built by this project. The dryland forest areas established during this project can be leveraged to support future restoration efforts. The results of this project will allow the State to return the natural environment of Kaho`olawe back to its former existence prior to the centuries of abuse, misuse and neglect from modern societies.

When completed, native dryland forest will cover the selected area on Kaho`olawe that will significantly reduce surface water runoff and erosion, reduce alien invasive species encroachment, allow for groundwater recharge thereby enhancing the natural water pathways and creating native habitats for the flourishing of native wildlife and endemic species. Increased water collection, generation and distribution capacity will allow for the greater ability to reestablish native ground cover in the damaged hardpan areas. These restored areas will become the nucleus for native dryland forest habitats to expand and flourish thereby building an interconnected network of thriving native biota that can stabilize devastated landscapes, reduce surface water runoff and minimize coral reef siltation.

## **2. Request Capital Improvement Funding for Phase II of the KIRC Kihei Education/Operation Center**

**Background:** Act 119, SLH 2015, Item D-14 as amended by Act 124, SLH 2016 and corrected by Act 49, SLH 2017 authorized \$500,000 in general obligation bonds for the planning and design of an education center, exhibit area/visitor center and administration building for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in Kihei, Maui.

This new facility will be located on an 8.261-acre property controlled by the KIRC, situated on South Kihei Road. The new office/information center facility will replace currently leased office space to house KIRC's full-time Maui-based employees. Another portion of the new facility will be devoted to the KIRC's historic and interactive exhibits about Kaho`olawe, with a community center, archive, kitchen, café, retail spaces, visitor center and workshops/classrooms.

During 2018, the KIRC finalized the conceptual drawings for this new facility and completed all the entitlement work needed to take this project to the next phase. The work completed included: reaffirming the existing Environmental Assessment, completing new shoreline assessment and traffic studies and making an application for a Special Management Area permit from the Maui Planning Commission.

The next phase of the project is to develop the detailed drawings and plans necessary to build this project. This includes final construction drawings and specifications, planning and development of exhibits and archive storage, final planning, design for office layout, and final design of the building infrastructure (HVAC, network).

**Request: Request \$3,500,000 in general obligation bond funds to complete final designs and planning for KIRC Education and Operations Center**

**Justification:** The KIRC is looking beyond the pandemic. The present conditions are the most

appropriate to begin the final design and eventual construction of the Center as it would be ready to welcome the return of visitors to Maui when the pandemic crisis is over. The influx of funding to start construction would help revitalize jobs on Maui and the rising of the new Center will become a beacon of hope to the community that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

The KIRC's Education and Operations Center can become the State's showpiece on sustainable environmental management that features the efforts of state, county and non-profit organizations to develop sustainable and innovative resource management. The facility will house and exhibit important Kaho`olawe artifacts and documents, help perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices and honor those that fought to return Kaho`olawe to the people. Lastly, the facility will create revenue generation opportunities and help the restoration efforts by creating financial self-sustainability.

When completed, the KIRC Operations/Education will become the central location for all operations and support for the long-term management and restoration of the island of Kaho`olawe. The Kihei Operation/Education Center is necessary to consolidate all of the KIRC's operations to a single State-owned facility that will eliminate the need for leased office space in Wailuku, provide the KIRC with a revenue generating opportunities unavailable on Kaho`olawe and provide a community outreach site to increase the public awareness on the efforts to restore Kaho'olawe. If the project is deferred, the KIRC operations will be scattered across Maui, the KIRC will have to continue leasing office space in Wailuku and it will not be able to develop revenue generating opportunities that could lead to financial self-sustainability.

**STATUS OF BILLS RELATING TO KAHO`OLAWE  
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE – 2019 REGULAR SESSION**

September 11, 2020

**DIRECT KAHO`OLAWE FUNDING**

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**HB1880 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (DID NOT PASS)**

**Submitted by:** Yamane, Aquino, Cullen, Decoite, Eli, Hashimoto, Holt, Takayama, Tarnas, Todd, Toioka, Yamashita, Woodson

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the operations of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission and for 2 full-time equivalent positions on the Commission

**HD1:** Blanks amount and defect the date.

**SD1:** Inserts emergency funding for Kaho`olawe Fire Recovery (\$1.4M)

**Status:** Measure on hold

01/21/20 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/23/20 Referred to WLH, FIN  
01/29/20 Hearing by WLH, measure passed with amendments  
01/31/20 Passed second reading and referred to FIN  
02/19/20 Hearing by FIN, measure passed unamended  
02/28/20 Passed third reading, transmitted to Senate  
03/03/20 Passed first reading and referred to WTL, WAM  
03/09/20 Hearing by WTL, measure passed with amendments  
06/26/20 Passed second reading as amended as SD1, referred to WAM

**SB3094 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (DID NOT PASS)**

**Submitted by:** Shimabukuro, S. Chang, English, Kanuha, Keohukalole, Rudderman, Baker, Favella, Gabbard, Moriwaki, Riviere, Thielen

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the operations of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission and for 2 full-time equivalent positions on the Commission

**Status:** Bill Dead

01/23/20 Introduced  
01/27/20 Passed first reading and assigned to WTL, WAM  
02/03/20 Hearing by WTL, measure passed unamended  
02/07/20 Passed second reading and referred to WAM

**STATE BUDGET**

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**HB2200 Relating to the State Budget (PASSED AS ACT 007)**

**Submitted by:** Saiki

**Purpose:** To adjust and request appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2019-21 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs and to include

appropriations from other departmental budget acts deemed necessary for program operations and capital improvements.

**KIRC Impact:** Measure contains second year funding of \$100,000 authorized in current biennium budget

**HD1:** Additions to the budget, KIRC's appropriation passes

**SD1:** Significant reductions in budget, eliminates funding for vacant positions, eliminates KIRC Cultural Project Coordinator and UXO Safety Specialist positions for FY21 and eliminates second year funding of \$100,000

**Status:** Became law without Governor signature

01/23/20 Introduced and Passed First Reading

01/27/20 Referred to FIN

01/30/20 Hearing by FIN, measure deferred

02/05/20 Decision making by FIN, measure passes with amendments

02/14/20 Passed Second Reading

02/18/20 Passed Third Reading, transmitted to Senate

02/19/20 Passed First Reading and referred to WAM

05/13/20 Hearing by WAM, measure passed with amendments

05/15/20 Passed second reading

05/18/20 Passes third reading

05/21/20 House agrees to Senate amendments and transmitted to Governor

07/14/20 Became law without Governor signature, Act 007, GM1108

### **HB2500 Relating to the State Budget (PASSED AS ACT 003)**

**Submitted by:** Saiki

**Purpose:** Adjusts and makes additional appropriations for fiscal biennium 2019-2021 to fund the operations of executive branch agencies and programs.

**KIRC Impact:** Backup State budget contains second year funding of \$100,000 authorized in current biennium budget

**SD1:** Gut and replace to authorize issuance of GO bond, authorize borrowing moneys from Municipal Liquidity Facility

**Status:** Passed as Act 003, GM1104

01/23/20 Introduced and Passed First Reading

01/27/20 Referred to FIN

01/31/20 Hearing by FIN, measure deferred

02/05/20 Decision making by FIN, measure passes unamended

02/13/20 Passed Second Reading

02/18/20 Passed Third Reading, transmitted to Senate

02/19/20 Passed First Reading and referred to WAM

03/16/20 Hearings on this measure has been cancelled until further notice

06/22/20 Decision making by WAM, measure passed with amendments

07/01/20 Measure passed final reading and received House agreement  
07/02/20 Transmitted to Governor  
07/06/20 Signed into Law as Act 003 (GM1104)

**HB2725 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects (PASSED AS ACT 006)**

**Submitted by:** Yamashita

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for supplemental capital improvement projects for fiscal biennium

**KIRC Impact:** Adds CIP funding for KIRC fire recovery actions (removed in final amendment)

**HD1:** Makes adjustment to CIP budget

**SD1 prop:** Makes adjustment to CIP budget, adds in \$1,000,000 for KIRC Fire Recovery

**SD1:** No funds were added in final amendment

**Status:** Passed as Act 006, GM1107

01/23/20 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/27/20 Referred to FIN  
02/26/20 Hearing by FIN, measure passed with amendments  
02/27/20 Passed Second Reading  
03/03/20 Passed Third Reading, transmitted to Senate  
03/05/20 Passed First Reading and referred to WAM  
05/13/20 Hearing by WAM, measure passed with amendments  
05/15/20 Passed Second Reading  
05/18/20 Passed Third Reading, returned to House with SD1  
05/21/18 House agrees to Senate amendments, passed Final Reading and transmitted to Governor  
07/14/20 Became law without Governor signature, Act 006, GM1107

**COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

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**GM773 Appointment of Carmen Hulu Lindsey (CONFIRMED)**

**Status:** Confirmed

03/30/20 Received from Governor  
05/11/20 Referred to WTL  
05/18/20 Hearing by WTL, recommendation to Advise and Consent to nomination  
05/21/20 Hearing by Senate, recommendation confirmed for term expire 06/30/23

**GM774 Appointment of Michelle Pescaia (CONFIRMED)**

**Status:** Confirmed

03/30/20 Received from Governor  
05/11/20 Referred to WTL  
05/18/20 Hearing by WTL, recommendation to Advise and Consent to nomination  
05/21/20 Hearing by Senate, recommendation confirmed for term expire 06/30/21

**GM775 Appointment of Saumalu Mataafa (CONFIRMED)**

**Status:** Confirmed

03/30/20 Received from Governor  
05/11/20 Referred to WTL  
05/18/20 Hearing by WTL, recommendation to Advise and Consent to nomination  
05/21/20 Hearing by Senate, recommendation confirmed for term expiring 06/30/23

### **RESOLUTIONS (WERE NOT HEARD)**

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**HR90 ENCOURAGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION WITH TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING, OR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN HELPING THE ISLAND OF KAHO‘OLAWE TO RECOVER FROM THE DEVASTATING FIRE THAT BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 22, 2020.**

**Submitted by:** DECOITE, AQUINO, BELATTI, BROWER, CABANILLA ARAKAWA, HASHIMOTO, HOLT, LOWEN, MCKELVEY, OHNO, QUINLAN, SAY, TAKAYAMA, TARNAS, TOKIOKA, WILDBERGER, WOODSON, YAMANE, YAMASHITA, Saiki

**Purpose:** Resolution supporting KIRC Fire Recovery

**Status:** Pending Hearing by WLH  
03/11/20 Referred to WLH, FIN

**HCR109 ENCOURAGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION WITH TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING, OR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN HELPING THE ISLAND OF KAHO‘OLAWE TO RECOVER FROM THE DEVASTATING FIRE THAT BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 22, 2020.**

**Submitted by:** DECOITE, AQUINO, BELATTI, CABANILLA ARAKAWA, HAR, HASHIMOTO, HOLT, LOWEN, MCKELVEY, OHNO, QUINLAN, SAY, TAKAYAMA, TARNAS, TOKIOKA, WILDBERGER, WOODSON, YAMANE, YAMASHITA, Brower, Saiki

**Purpose:** Resolution supporting KIRC Fire Recovery

**Status:** Pending Hearing by WLH  
03/11/20 Referred to WLH, FIN

### **CARRYOVER LEGISLATION (NONE PICKED UP FOR SLH2020)**

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**HB454 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve (Dryland Forest Funding) (NOT PICKED UP FOR SLH2020)**

**Submitted by:** Yamane, Aquino, Cullen, Decoite, Hashimoto, McKelvey, Wildberger, Yamashita, Woodson

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support native dryland forest restoration, management, and maintenance on Kaho`olawe Island Reserve.

**SD1:** Moves language detailing appropriation from purpose to appropriation section  
**HD1:** Defects the date and blank the funding  
**Status:** Pending Hearing by WAM

01/22/19 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/22/19 Referred to WLH/EEP, FIN  
02/06/19 Hearing by WLH/EEP, measure passed with amendments  
02/15/19 Passed second reading and referred to FIN  
02/20/19 Hearing by FIN, measure passed unamended  
02/28/19 Passed third reading and transmitted to Senate  
03/01/19 Passed first reading in House  
03/05/19 Referred to WTL, WAM  
03/11/19 Hearing by WTL, measure passed with amendments  
03/15/19 Passed second reading and referred to WAM

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### **KIR SPECIALIST AND OPS FUNDING**

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#### **HB455 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIR and Ops Funding) (NOT PICKED UP FOR SLH2020)**

**Submitted by:** Yamane, Cullen, Decoite, Har, Wildberger, Woodson

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for support of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, including 2 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions.

**HD1:** Defects the date and blanks the funding

**Status:** Pending hearing by WAM

01/22/19 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/22/19 Referred to WLH, FIN  
01/30/19 Hearing by WLH, measure passed with amendments  
02/08/19 Passed second reading and referred to FIN  
02/26/19 Hearing by FIN, measure passed unamended  
03/01/19 Passed third reading and transmitted to Senate  
03/05/19 Passed first reading in House  
03/05/19 Referred to WTL, WAM  
03/11/19 Hearing by WTL, measure passed unamended  
03/15/19 Passed second reading and refereed to WAM

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#### **SB1296 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIR and Ops Funding) (NOT PICKED UP FOR SLH2020)**

**Submitted by:** Shimabukuro, Inouye,

**Purpose** Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for support of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, including 2 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions.

**SD1:** Defects the date and blanks the funding

**Status:** Pending hearing by WLH

01/24/19 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/28/19 Referred to WTL, WAM  
02/06/19 Hearing by WTL, measure passed with amendments



02/13/19 Passed second reading and referred to WAM  
02/25/19 Hearing by WAM, measure passed unamended  
03/01/19 Passed third reading  
03/07/19 Passed first reading in House, referred to WLH, FIN