

Executive Director's Report

*Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission Meeting
November 9, 2022*

Budget, Finance, and Funding

FY23 Expenditure Report and Budget Variance: See attached.

Plans, Policies and Procedures

Long-range Scheduling: See the attached long-range schedule.

Administration, Staffing and Personnel

Commissioner Status Update: The following KIRC Commissioners' current terms will be expiring by the end of FY23. See also attached Commissioner Terms:

Commissioner Case (DLNR Seat): Term expires December 30, 2022, with the departure of the current administration.

Commissioner Lindsey (OHA Seat): Term expires June 30, 2023. This will be the completion of a second term and will be term limited.

Commissioner Mataafa (Maui Seat): Term expires June 30, 2023. This is the completion of a first term and still able to reappointment for a second term.

Commissioner Kaakua (PKO Seat): Term expires June 30, 2023. This will be the completion of a second term and will be term limited.

KIRC Staff Status Update:

Ocean Program: The Ocean Program filled two Ocean Resource Specialist II (ORS II) positions. Filling the first general funded position is Caroline Sabharwal. Caroline is originally from Kentucky and has been a resident of Maui for the last seven years. She has a degree in biology from Denison University in Ohio and is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i, Maui Campus Marine Option Programs (MOP). She is a certified scientific diver through the UH Scientific Diver Qualification programs.

The second ORS II position is being funded by the CWC grant for two-years and is filled by Christina Wine. Christina is from Wailuku, Maui. Christina has a degree in Marine Science from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and has also completed the UHMC MOP Program, UH's Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques (QUEST) program and is also a UH certified scientific diver.

New Staff Positions: Act 248 SLH 2022 also authorized a second full-time generally funded position in addition to the Cultural Resource Specialist III. Staff is in the process of redescribing the Reserve Operations Manager to oversee the Reserve Operations Program including boat operations, base camp contract management, supply, logistics and safety.

Capital Improvement, Reserve Operations and Logistics

Status of On-island Freshwater System: The on-island freshwater system uses a seawater intake line to pump saltwater into an on shore holding tank and then uses a reverse osmosis (RO) unit to extract fresh water from the seawater. This year, the freshwater system was hit with two major challenges. The first, from earlier in the year, was the failure of the high-pressure pump within the RO unit. The high-pressure pump forces the seawater through permeable membranes that only allow freshwater to pass. KIRC and Base Camp staff ran into supply chain issues in replacing the pump and eventually was able to contact the owner of the company to custom build a new pump for the KIRC. Base Camp staff have installed the new pump but have not been able to completely test its capabilities due to damage to the seawater intake line.

The seawater intake line consists of a 300-foot, two-inch pipe that is attached to an intake pipe fastened to a large metal anchor system built from bulldozer roll cage. This summer, the south-facing base camp was hit with enormous south swells that actually ripped the shoreside seawater tanks and pumps from its base and tore the seawater intake anchor and washed it ashore. Without a seawater intake line, we are not able to pump seawater to convert to fresh drinking water for camp use.

Since September, water has been trucked from water catchments in Luamakika back to Honokanai'a. The water is run through the RO unit and chlorinated to clean any residual contaminants and to kill any micro-organisms, then pumped into base camp freshwater holding tanks. The current process is extremely labor intensive and requires a four-hour drive to get the water truck up to Luamakika and back to camp. Until the seawater system is repaired, freshwater use in Honokanai'a is restricted.

Staff is currently planning to attach new piping to the currently kinked pipe, move the intake cage and a new concrete weight block back out to sea to get the seawater system up and running. Staff planned to start the work in October, but problems with the KIRC landing craft, 'Ōhua is delaying repairs until the November access.

'Ōhua Repair Status: Recently, the KIRC landing craft, 'Ōhua has been having jet drive problems with its drive shaft and water seals which has been causing excess vibration in the engines. The October access and part of the November access were canceled while the jet drive repair tech assessed the problem. Staff is currently waiting for replacement parts and for the availability of the repair tech on November 11 to make all repairs and bring the 'Ōhua back to full operational status.

Base Camp CIP Projects: Act 248 SLH 2022 also authorized \$500,000 in CIP funding for on-island base camp improvements. Staff is currently working on a list of projects for a CIP construction solicitation that would include the following improvements:

- New roofing on all camp buildings except for Hut 10, the dining hall and the galley that have been recently replaced. This project will include gutters and relocating water tanks currently on island to expand the rainwater catchment system in camp.
- Replacement of the current freshwater distribution piping system in camp. The current piping is a mishmash of various piping sizes which were added on as the camp was built and expanded. All old piping will be replaced with standard piping and valves.

- Replacement of current camp boardwalks with a rot resistant, composite-based material. The current boardwalk has been deteriorating for years and has become a trip hazard.
- Replacement of current window-mounted air-conditioners and heat pumps. Current window AC units are in the KIRC and Base Camp staff huts. These would be replaced with wall-mounted, high efficiency split AC units that are properly sized for the buildings and located to maximize efficiency. These wall units would be tied to high efficiency heat pumps that would significantly reduce energy consumption.
- Replacement of the LZ-1 shelter. The current shelter would either be replaced with a new shelter, or an additional shelter would be installed at LZ-1 for volunteer use. The current shelter was built in the later '80's and is severely deteriorating. The shelter is used by volunteers and the PKO to escape the sun during their lunch breaks as well as to store water for PKO volunteers on their hikes to Pu'u 'O Moa'ula Iki.