

Executive Director's Report

*Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission Meeting
June 28, 2021*

Budget, Finance, and Funding

FY21 Expenditure Report and Budget Variance: See the attached variance report.

Plans, Policies and Procedures

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

Administration, Staffing and Personnel

Commissioner Status Update:

Confirmation hearings and Senate floor votes were held for two new commissioners and a second term for an existing commissioner. All prospective commissioners received the Senate Water and Land Committee's approval for advise and consent and passed a full vote of the state senate. All terms commence on July 1, 2021:

- GM683 Mikiala Pescaia. Renewal for second term representing the PKO.
- GM684 Ānela Evans. New appointment for first term representing the PKO .
- GM685 Dr. Benton Pang, Ph.D. New appointment for first term representing NHO.

KIRC Staff Status Update: The newly awarded Hakioawa Watershed DOH 4 Grant from the Department of Health, Clean Water Branch includes one-year of reimbursable funding for a temporary KIR II Specialist. We are proposing to fund this new employee for one-year starting July 1, 2021 from trust funds and request quarterly reimbursements from DOH. Staff is currently in the process of recruiting and hiring a candidate to fill this position starting with the July 2021 access.

Capital Improvement, Reserve Operations and Logistics

Update on COVID procedures: Following the Governor's 19th Proclamation relating to the COVID-19 Emergency, the KIRC has removed the requirement for the wearing of face mask outdoors while on Kaho‘olawe and on the KIRC vessel ‘Ōhūa. While on Kaho‘olawe, all staff and volunteers will still have to following the current guidelines of wearing face mask while indoors in the berthing huts and the dining hall.

Additionally, following the Governor's announcement that interisland travel restrictions will end on June 14, 2021, the KIRC will no longer require volunteers to complete and submit a pre-travel health screening questionnaire and will no longer be conducting health screenings prior to boarding the KIRC vessel ‘Ōhūa.

Summary of ‘Ōhūa Accident: On April 26, 2021, while cross the channel at Kealaikahiki, a wave pushed the ‘Ōhūa onto a submerged rock and opened about a 4-inch hole on the rear

transom of the boat. The boat crew was able to bring the vessel to Honokanai`a and off load all the personnel and cargo safely to the beach. While trying to locate the hole, the boat crew decided it best to beach the 'Ōhua. They were able to locate and plug the hole with wooden bungs and sealant enough to refloat the boat and slowly return to Maui.

NOAA launched their boat and was able to extract KIRC weekend volunteers from island that afternoon and bring them safely back to Maui. The NOAA vessel then returned to Kaho'olawe to escort the 'Ōhua slowly across the channel. The 'Ōhua returned with only KIRC staff and an extra bilge pump safely back to Kīhei.

After a few weeks, the boat crew was able to get a contract welder to patch the hole and to reattach an armor plating that was torn when it hit the reef. There is still some residual damage to the boat caused by the impact and being beached on the shore, but the vessel is back in service and operating nominally.

KIRC staff conducted a series of debriefs and lessons learned sessions regarding the incident which resulted in the attached Lessons Learned document.

Government Relations

Legislative Site Visits: KIRC staff is currently working with Representative Amy Perruso and Representative Kyle Yamashita organize a possible House Finance Committee site visit to Kaho'olawe for September 7 to 8, 2021.

Senator Schatz Request for Earmark: KIRC staff is currently working with Senator Schatz staff to submit a request for a legislative earmark from the upcoming federal budget. Our proposal requests funds to rebuild the on-island field storage facility, fire harden the current base camp buildings and to conduct native out plantings and native seed dispersion to support a post fire recovery plan.

Budget Variance Report

Kaho 'olawe Island Reserve Commission Meeting

June 28, 2021

The following table identifies the programs whose actual spending has exceeded the expected spending level for the performance period. This report includes labor, materials and equipment, and other direct costs up to and including the month of May 2021. All other programs are within the expected spending levels:

Program Name	Expected Spending Level	Actual Spending Level
All Programs – Personnel (FY21 G Funds)	91.5%	94%
Root Causes		
The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for all units BU3 and BU13 took effect in May and was retroactively paid back to the beginning of the CY21. The current budget and expected expenditures reflect the CBA effective the start of FY21.		
Corrective Actions		
The current general fund allotment for KIRC employees does not include any funding for vacant positions and is based upon the FY21 CBA. The new CBA exceeds the current and next year's personnel general fund allotment by \$18,879 per year. The KIRC will have to use general funds allocated from "other direct cost" to cover the personnel shortfall.		

KIRC Calendar FY 2021

3-MONTHS

6-MONTHS

9-MONTHS

2-MONTHS

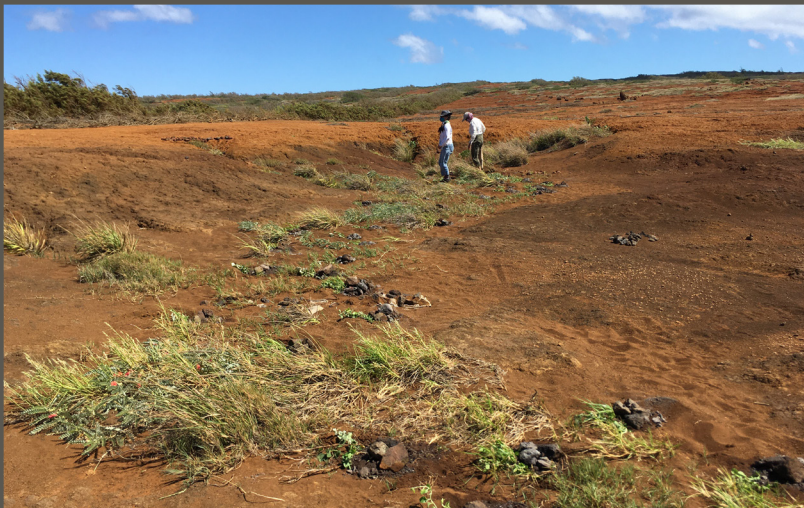
STATE FUNDED PROJECTS

AWARDED:

Project: Hakioawa Watershed DOH 4 - Operations and Maintenance
Funder: Hawaiʻi State Department of Health
Term: 3/29/2021 - 5/28/2022 (\$80,665.12)
Notes: Inquiring if grant start date can be pushed to FY22

UNDER REVIEW:

Project: Reducing Excessive Sedimentation and Habitat Restoration in the Kamōhio Watershed of Kahoʻolawe
Funder: Hawaiʻi State Department of Health
Term: 3 years
Notes: Submitted management plan to DOH for review and approval



GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

IN PROGRESS:

Project: KIRC Virtual Museum Stage 3: Collaborations and Special Collections
Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services, Native American/ Native Hawaiian Museum Services
Term: 8/1/2018 - 7/31/2022 (\$75,000)
Notes: Awarded to rehouse Navy collection and expand Living Library

Project: Marine Science Education and Training from a Hawaiian Perspective on Kahoʻolawe: A Pilot Program for Maui Youth
Funder: NOAA Marine Education and Training Mini-Grant Program
Term: 11/1/2019 - 10/31/2021 (\$15,000)
Notes: First student access occurred in March 2021; second one to be completed over the summer

Project: Marine Debris Removal from Kanapou on Kahoʻolawe
Funder: NOAA / The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Fishing for Energy 2019 Initiative
Term: 10/1/2019 - 12/30/2022 (\$76,025)
Notes: Recently able to secure helo bids and will be adding the first of three accesses to the long-range schedule for 2021

Project: Engaging Hawaiʻi communities through Kahoʻolawe's culture, history and coastal restoration.
Funder: Cooke Foundation - Maui
Term: 1/1/2021 - 12/30/2021 (\$18,000)
Notes: Recently able to secure bids for plant purchase.

Note: The KIRC applies for grants as either a 170(c)1 nonprofit government entity, (authorized to receive tax-deductible contributions to programs that exclusively serve a public purpose), or via 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor Tri-Isle or Pacific American Foundation.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

AWARDED:

Project: Coastal and Upland Wetland Restoration on Kahoolawe, HI
Funder: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) U.S. Small Grants
Term: July 2021 - August 2023 (\$100,000)
Notes: Have accepted the offer and awaiting the formal contract

Project: KIRC Live-Stream and VR Expedition Project
Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services, Native American/ Native Hawaiian Museum Services
Term: August 2021 - July 2023 (\$98,405)
Notes: Awarded June 2021; awaiting contract

SUBMITTED:

Project: Improving Water Reliability through Infrastructure: Modernization of the Honokanai'a Base Camp Distribution System
Funder: WaterSMART Small Scale Efficiency Projects - Bureau of Reclamation
Term: January 2022- December 2022 (\$75,000)
Notes: Submitted March 2021; awaiting notice of acceptance/rejection

Project: Increasing Safe, Meaningful Access To Kahoʻolawe Through Physically Distanced Outdoor Learning
Funder: BWET Hawaiʻi
Term: 8/1/2021 - 7/31/2023 (\$150,000)
Notes: Submitted April; notice of award/rejection expected in July

Project: Coastal Wetland Restoration in Honokanai'a
Funder: National Coastal Wetlands Restoration Program
Term: January 2022 - December 2024 (~\$32,021)
Notes: Being submitted June 25, 2021

IN PROGRESS:

Project: Upland Mauka Wetland Restoration
Funder: North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants
Term: 2022-2024 (~\$325,000)
Notes: Application due June 2021. Establishing partners, determining the project site and developing the budget.

‘Ōhūa Grounding Incident

What went well:

- Dividing roles between key staff leadership streamlined information flow and assisted support to ‘Ōhūa. This helped prevent duplication of effort and information gaps.
- Rapid coordination with NOAA to extract outbound group and NOAA’s overall support.
- Excellent recognition of safety concerns throughout the reaction.

What could have gone better:

- Volunteers and excess staff should have been moved off the beach and out of the way faster.
- Lack of handheld radio on boat hampered communications between boat and shore support.
- Lack of pre-planned procedures/organization slowed initial response and division of duties.

Going Forward:

- Develop Incident Response Plan that expands on “Code Red” procedures. Establish a structure to handle incident response for on-island as well as KIRC Base.
 - o Designate key individuals – Incident Coordinator/OSC (BCM or KIRC ED), Volunteer Supervisor (Senior KIRC staff), On-island Communications Coordinator (2d senior KIRC Staff), KIRC Base Coordinator, KIRC Base Communication Support (phone workers)
 - o Establish communications rules, restrictions, and processes
 - o Establish key individual notification checklist
 - o Establish list of emergency contact numbers (US Coast Guard, Air Rescue, Maui FD, DOCARE, etc.)
 - o Establishment of Incident Log to supplement regular KIRC Base Log
- Pre-planned and coordinated volunteer and staff extraction capability. Prepare vendor/support call list and designate transportation coordinator and alternate(s).
- Prepare a damage control kit for use on board ‘Ōhūa to include wooden bungs, rubber sheeting, repairs kits, bracing and other materials to make at sea repairs and handle damage control.

STATUS OF BILLS RELATING TO KAHO`OLAWÉ
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE – 2021 REGULAR SESSION

June 18, 2021

KAHO`OLAWÉ RELATED

SB691 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission

Submitted by: INOUE, Fevella, Kidani

Purpose: Transfers administrative duties of the department of land and natural resources for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Status: Measure deferred

01/25/21 Introduced and Passed First Reading

01/27/21 Referred to WTL/HWN, JDC

02/05/21 Hearing by WTL/HWN, measure deferred

STATE FUNDING

HB200 Relating to the State Budget

Submitted by: SAIKI

Purpose: Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Implements Program Review findings reducing all general funds by 20%. KIRC's impact includes elimination of all vacant positions, reduction of staffing by 2.0 FTE and reduction in operating general funds.

HD1: Restores two KIRC positions eliminated program review.

SD1: Eliminated two KIRC positions identified on program review.

CD1: Restores the two KIRC positions eliminated in the program review and associated operating expenses

Status: Pending signing by Governor

01/22/21 Introduced and Passed First Reading

01/27/21 Referred to FIN

03/17/21 Hearing by FIN, measure passed with amendments

03/22/21 Passed second reading

03/24/21 Passed third reading and transmitted to Senate

03/25/21 Passed first reading and referred to WAM

04/01/21 Hearing by WAM, measure passed with amendments

04/07/21 Passed second reading

04/09/21 Passed third reading and returned from Senate

04/13/21 House disagrees with Senate amendment

04/15/21 House conferees appointed: LUKE, Branco, Cullen, Eli, Holt, Ilagan, Kobayashi, Marten, Nishimoto, Perruso, Sayama, Tam, Wildberger, Yamashita, McDermott

04/15/21	Senate conferees appointed: DELA CRUZ, Keith-Agaran, English, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Morikawa, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi, Waikai, Fevella
04/19/21	Conference Committee recommend the measure pass with amendments.
04/27/21	Pass reading in House and Senate, transmitted to Governor.

OTHER RELATED

HB620 Relating to Legal Personhood Status

Submitted by: GANADEN, KAPELA, D. KOBAYASHI, MORIKAWA, WILDBERGER, LoPresti

Purpose: Establishes a means of determining which physical sites, geographical features, and natural resources having historical, cultural, or religious significance to native Hawaiians should be granted special protection by securing legal personhood status for these places and resources. Designates the aha moku advisory committee as the lead agency to coordinate this effort. Requires the department of land and natural resources to adopt rules no later than 12/31/2023.

Status: Pending Hearing by WAL
01/25/21 Introduced and Passed First Reading
01/27/21 Referred to WAL, JHA, FIN

HB1200 Relating to Government

Submitted by: SAIKI

Purpose: Prohibits the appointment of state officers and employees to boards and commissions unless otherwise provided

Status: Measure deferred
01/27/21 Introduced and Passed First Reading
02/01/21 Referred to JHA
03/03/21 Hearing by JHA, measure deferred

GM6 Proposed Changes to Executive Budget

Purpose: Letter dated April 1, 2021, transmitting proposed changes to the FB 2021-23 Executive Budget for various departments and requests for emergency and specific FY 2021-23 appropriations. Restores two LNR906 KIRC position to biennium budget.

Status:
04/05/21 Received from Governor and filed

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

GM683 Appointment of Michelle Pescaia

Status: Pending Senate vote
03/04/21 Received from Governor, referred to WTL
04/14/21 Hearing by WTL, recommendation to Advise and Consent
04/29/21 Confirmed by Senate

GM684 Appointment of Anela Evans

Status: Pending Senate vote

03/04/21 Received from Governor, referred to WTL

04/14/21 Hearing by WTL, recommendation to Advise and Consent

04/29/21 Confirmed by Senate

GM685 Appointment of Benton Pang

Status: Pending Senate vote

03/04/21 Received from Governor, referred to WTL

04/14/21 Hearing by WTL, recommendation to Advise and Consent

04/29/21 Confirmed by Senate

PROPOSAL FOR FEDERAL FUNDING
ENDANGERED AND NATIVE SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION
KAHO`OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
June 2021

BACKGROUND:

Kaho`olawe is the smallest of the eight main Hawaiian Islands. It is comprised of approximately 28,800 acres and is located six miles southwest of Maui. The island and its surrounding waters extending two nautical miles seaward comprise the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve, which is currently managed by the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission, a State of Hawaii government agency administratively attached to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Kaho`olawe has a long history of human use and habitat modifications. The island was once inhabited by Native Hawaiian subsistence farmers and fisherman. After the arrival of Europeans, Kaho`olawe was used as a penal colony and a ranch. From 1947-1990, the U.S. Navy used Kaho`olawe for military training and bombing exercises. Following the 2003 completion of a ten-year clean-up of unexploded ordnance (UXO), ten percent of the island was subsurface-cleared to a depth of four feet and 65 percent of the island was surface-cleared, leaving 25 percent of the island, plus all its waters, uncleared of UXO. Therefore, much of the island is off-limits or has controlled and limited access.

On February 22, 2020, a large brush fire started on the western end of Kaho`olawe and burned for six days. Due to the presence of residual unexploded ordnance, firefighting crew were unable to actively fight the blaze. When the weather changed and the fire burned out, about 9,000 acres or one-third of the island was burned.

Most of the fire burned the invasive, non-native grasses that have invaded the bulk of Kaho`olawe's low elevation landscape. The main base camp facilities on the western end of the island was spared major damage, but the KIRC's main upland restoration facility was completely lost in the fire. The upland restoration facility consisted of several outbuildings housing all the KIRC's planting and erosion control equipment, materials and supplies, several vehicles, and the bulk of KIRC's stockpile of planting and building supplies and construction equipment. Immediate recovery actions are needed to assess the fire damage and restore lost equipment and facilities to prevent any further aggregated environmental impacts caused by the fire.

REQUEST:

The KIRC seeks federal funding to recover and rebuild the infrastructure and capabilities necessary to restore the KIRC's ability to continue long term habitat restoration on Kaho`olawe. Because the island of Kaho`olawe is uninhabited and, therefore, not subject to pressures of human use and development, the island has great potential to be a center for environmental restoration. Providing and enhancing terrestrial habitat for listed and native species will increase ecosystem resiliency and buffer against species extinctions when such species are particularly threatened by climate change. Additionally, in the event of rising sea levels, Kaho`olawe would serve as an island sanctuary for endangered coastal species.

The KIRC is requesting \$1,100,000 to be used for response and recovery efforts and to restore the KIRC's native habitat restoration capabilities as follows:

1. \$800,000 for planning, design and construction of a replacement field storage facility. This includes site preparation and clearance which may require unexploded ordnance clearance from the proposed construction site; designing a work and storage facility adequate to our needs and is constructable in the remote location of Kaho`olawe using minimal heavy equipment and construction support; delivery of all construction materials to the worksite; supporting a field camp and facilities to support on-island construction crews and to services construction equipment; workforce necessary to build this facility;
2. \$100,000 for building and restoration materials, supplies and services for increased fire protection of current KIRC facilities and to begin large scale fire recovery efforts of the burnt grasslands. This includes hardening all current wooden buildings with a fire retardant roof and siding, increasing firefighting water storage that can also be used for irrigation to increase native plant restoration plantings in and around our base camp that will also reduce dry tinder conditions, and lastly to begin large scale native seed broadcast in the previously fire burnt areas to initiate native ecosystem regrowth and recovery ;

JUSTIFICATION:

Despite human impacts, remnant native habitats and wildlife persist in some areas on Kaho`olawe and on two offshore islets, `Ale`ale and Pu`u Koa`e, and the surrounding waters support one of the most valued marine ecosystems in the state. Five native terrestrial communities have been identified; the sea cliffs and islets are significant nesting areas for listed seabirds and rare plants; the beaches and Reserve waters support a variety of listed species as well as some of the healthiest fish populations in the main Hawaiian Islands; and listed and migratory shorebirds use the island as a stopover site. Destructive ungulates have been eradicated and efforts have been made to restore native vegetation and habitats, reduce erosion, control invasive species and remove marine debris. Federal funding would allow these efforts to continue.

Two principal factors believed to be preventing re-establishment of seabirds, waterbirds and other listed and native wildlife on Kaho`olawe are the lack of suitable habitat for nesting and foraging and the presence of introduced predators. Efforts are currently underway to develop an eradication plan for invasive mammals, but considerable habitat improvements must also be made before reintroduction and reestablishment of listed and rare Hawaiian species can occur.

Regarding habitat, loss of wetlands and the ecosystem functions they provide is a leading cause of species declines and extinctions worldwide. In the marine environment, increased sedimentation and nutrient loads caused by fewer, degraded wetlands and expanding coastal development threaten coral reefs and the entire suite of organisms that they support. In Hawai`i, an estimated 12 to 31 percent of wetlands have been destroyed by development or changes in land use patterns, and 75 percent of those remaining are severely degraded by invasive species and altered hydrologic regimes. Impacts to wetlands have been especially damaging to Hawai`i's native wildlife. For example, loss of wetland habitat was identified as a major contributing factor in the endangered status of six species of endemic waterbirds, including Nēnē, the state bird. In addition, other endangered endemic bird species that could return to restored coastal, wetland and marine habitats, for nesting and foraging, include the Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel and Newell's Shearwater, as well as native migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Marine species that would benefit from an enhanced marine environment include the

endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal, Humpback Whale and Hawksbill Sea Turtle, and the threatened Green Sea Turtle.

Coastal, wetland and marine habitat restoration efforts would include the removal of invasive vegetation that starves native plants of water and nutrients, planting of native vegetation to provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging, and removal of marine debris to remove the threats posed by ingestion and entanglement. Maintenance and monitoring of these efforts must also occur for them to remain effective in the long-term.

Reduced quality and quantity of its dryland forest habitat have also been linked to the endangered status of Blackburn's Sphinx Moth that is found on Kaho`olawe. Habitat restoration efforts are similar as those for coastal, wetland and marine habitats: controlling invasive vegetation, and planting with native dryland forest species, larval host plants and nectar-providing plants.

Regarding introduced predators, these invasive species are widely recognized as a major threat to Hawai'i's biodiversity and have been implicated in the decline or extinction of many native plants and animals.

In Hawai'i, feral cats are among the most significant predators of native seabirds and landbirds and are also known to take hatchling sea turtles. Consequently, control of feral cats is viewed as an important conservation measure to protect sensitive nesting areas and to enhance recovery efforts. In addition to feral cats, Kaho`olawe also hosts introduced rats and mice. Eradication of these introduced mammals remains the future and ultimate goal, and KIRC is working toward the development of a comprehensive, island-wide eradication program. The large size and rugged terrain of Kaho`olawe, combined with restrictions on access to much of the island due to UXO, suggest that eradication will be a long and difficult process.

A variety of seabird species, including the endangered Band-rumped Storm-petrel, have recently been documented on presumed mammal-reduced sites like `Ale`ale and Pu`u Koa`e and nearby cliffs but are absent from the rest of Kaho`olawe. (They are nonetheless still vulnerable to cat predation: `Ale`ale is a sea stack joined to Kaho`olawe by a partial land bridge, providing access for foraging cats; cat sign and cat-killed seabird carcasses have been observed there.) Additional endangered species may also be present but undetected due to lack of monitoring and the difficulty in accessing nesting areas. Even if currently absent, these species could benefit from predator control on Kaho`olawe if it leads to re-colonization or expansion of nesting areas.

Feral cats have been observed in all habitats on Kaho`olawe, but cat sign is particularly noticeable in coastal regions. Scat samples collected near the coast indicate high consumption of Ghost crabs, suggesting that turtle hatchlings may also be at great risk of cat predation on Kaho`olawe's beaches. In addition to collecting data on feral cats, monitoring of rat and mouse populations has begun under the guidance of Island Conservation, an organization with a strong record of introduced mammal eradications on islands.

Continued monitoring and data collection on the population cycles and locations of these introduced predators, and continued monitoring efforts of seabird populations, will assist in the development of an island-wide control and eradication plan, whose ultimate implementation will be key to faunal restoration efforts.

These habitat restoration and predator control efforts would be consistent with the USFWS Recovery Plan (2003), Hawai'i's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (2005) and the Strategic Plan for Wetland Conservation in Hawai'i.

SPECIES TO BENEFIT:

Endangered species that would benefit from KIRC's restoration efforts include the Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Common Moorhen, Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Duck, Laysan Duck, Hawaiian Goose (Nēnē), Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel, Newell's Shearwater, Nihoa Finch, Nihoa Millerbird, Laysan Finch, Blackburn's Sphinx Moth, Hawaiian Monk Seal, Humpback Whale and Hawksbill Sea Turtle; threatened species include the Green Sea Turtle.

Hawai'i Species of Greatest Conservation Need that would benefit from KIRC's restoration efforts include the Band-rumped Storm-petrel, Laysan Albatross, Black-footed Albatross, Tristram's Storm-petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Bulwer's Petrel, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Black Noddy, Brown Noddy, Brown Booby, Masked Booby, Red-footed Booby, Great Frigatebird, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, American Wigeon, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Wandering Tattler, Bristle-thighed Curlew and Pacific Golden Plover.

FEDERAL EFFORTS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

The KIRC has been undertaking natural and cultural resource restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe since the U.S. Navy finished their unexploded clearance projects in 2004.

Our longest running restoration project has been in support of reducing surface water runoff and reducing sedimentation loading into the nearby marine ecosystem. In support of the Federal Clean Water Act, the KIRC has been partnering with the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Clean Water Branch and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act to reduce non-point source pollution in the various watersheds on Kaho'olawe. Through Best Management Practices (BMP) that includes planting of native tree, shrubs, vines and grasses; soil amendments and erosion controls such as check dams, swales, and contour berms, the KIRC was able to achieve significant reduction in bare covered soil and significant increase in native plant cover in the project areas.

Another of the KIRC's current projects are the restoration of coastal wetlands. These projects include the removal of invasive species, planting native wetland seedlings and the long-term removal of introduced feral mammals including mice, rats and cats. The goal of these projects is to reduce coastal erosion, increase flood control, improve local water quality, and recharge groundwater. One of these projects is being done in partnership with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services in support of the North American Conservation Act (NAWCA) increase bird populations and wetland habitats. Other projects in this area of wetland restoration are in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (16 USC 3951-3956).

All KIRC Restoration projects relies on a dedicated volunteer workforce that provide the necessary manpower to accomplish these many restoration efforts. Our volunteer program incorporates the initiatives of the Department of Interior's "America the Beautiful" Initiative to pursue locally led and voluntary efforts to conserve, connect and restore the lands, water and wildlife upon which we all depend; specific action include: pursuing a collaborative challenge and inclusive approach to

conservation; conserving America's lands and waters for the benefit of all people ; supporting locally led and locally designed conservation efforts and honoring sovereignty.

Lastly our ocean management and restoration efforts have been in support of the Endangered Species Act, specifically NOAA's Species in the Spotlight: Priority Actions 2021-2025 Hawaiian Monk Seals.

JOBS CREATION RELATING TO THIS REQUEST

We are estimating a one-year construction effort to include planning, mobilization of materials and supplies to Kaho`olawe, on site construction and demobilization. Based upon previous major construction projects accomplished on Kaho`olawe, a dedicated crew of 8-10 workers will be employed for the full year relating to the construction effort while an additional 8-10 workers will be employed for up to four months on the design, mobilization and demobilization efforts.

Additionally, this request will keep our 4-man base camp workers employed as they support the restoration and construction efforts. Our KIRC staff of 14 workers will be necessary to provide logistic support, ocean transport of people and equipment and safety function for support of this request.

PIS Outreach and Media Update

May 2021 – June 2021

Over the last two months, KIRC staff participated in two virtual outreach events. The E.D. participated in a live-streamed panel discussion hosted by the Historic Hawai'i Foundation that focused on the Establishment of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. The video has been viewed on YouTube 140 times. The Public Information Specialist participated in an event hosted by the Maui Huliau Foundation, presenting her work in conservation to Maui Youth and then being available for a Q and A after the presentation. Nearly 60 students were in attendance.

The KIRC also partnered with Papahana Kuaola for the month of June, providing a host site for one of the organization's summer programs. Papahana's Maui lead is hosting a youth summer program at the Kihei boat house facility that runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. The students are learning about kilo, mauka to makai environmental relationships, and mo'olelo related to the place. This partnership is serving as a pilot for the proposed BWET project the KIRC submitted for funding in April.

With regards to media updates, there was an article published in the Maui News for Earth Day, discussing the continuation of restoration efforts on island despite COVID. A press release for the upcoming DOH O and M project was also released in May as a project deliverable and got picked up by the Star Advertiser for a full article. Hawaii News Now, also inspired by the press release, called for an interview with the ED and did a small piece on Kaho'olawe at the beginning of June. The KIRC and PKO also worked with VOX in the production of a short film that aired on their video channel at the end of May. The video, "How Native Hawaiians fought the US Navy and Won" has been viewed more than 130,000 times.