

**STATUS OF BILLS RELATING TO KAHO`OLAWE  
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE – 2023 REGULAR SESSION**

June 14, 2023

**KAHO`OLAWE RELATED**

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**HB354 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (No hearings)**

**Submitted by:** Hashimoto, Amato, Cochran, Poepoe

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the Kaho`olawe island reserve commission and to fund three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent positions for the Kaho`olawe island reserve commission.

**Status:** Pending hearing  
01/20/23 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/25/23 Referred to WAL, FIN

**HB571 HD1 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (Not heard by FIN)**

**Submitted by:** Perruso, Amato, Ganaden, Gates, Hashimoto, Holt, Ichiyama, Kahaloa, Lamosao, Lowen, Marten, Moriwaka, Onishi, Quinlan, Sayama, Tam, Tarnas, Todd, Ward

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the Kaho`olawe island reserve commission and to fund three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent positions for the Kaho`olawe island reserve commission.

**HD1:** Defects date, blank funding

**Status:** Pending FIN hearing  
01/23/23 Introduced and Passed First Reading  
01/27/23 Referred to WAL, FIN  
02/02/23 Hearing by WAL, measure passed with amendments, KIRC submits testimony in support of HB571  
02/09/23 Measure passed second reading and referred to FIN

**SB100 SD1 Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (Not heard by WAM)**

**Submitted by:** Inouye, Elefante, Keohokalole, McKelvey, Shimabukuro, Keith-Agaran

**Purpose:** Appropriates funds for the Kaho`olawe island reserve commission and to fund three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent positions for the Kaho`olawe island reserve commission.

**SD1:** Defect date, blank funding, recommend to WAM to include in state budget

**Status:** Pending WAM hearing  
01/18/23 Introduced and passed first reading  
01/20/23 Referred to WTL/HWN, WAM  
01/31/23 Hearing by WTL/HWN, measure passes with amendments, KIRC submits testimony in support of SB100  
02/03/23 Measure passed second hearing and referred to WAM

## STATE FUNDING

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### HB300 Relating to the State Budget (Additional funding in SB100 and HB571 adopted)

Submitted by: SAIKI

**Purpose:** Appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Transfers KIRC funding to a new program ID LNR908 and provides second year funding for new positions

**CD1:** WAM and FIN agree to new additional funding for KIRC

**SD1:** Additional operating funds and 2 perm FTE added to KIRC

FY24: 16 FTE, \$1,803,789A; FY25: 16 FTE, \$1,840,658A

**HD1:** KIRC funding moved to new Program ID LNR908, no additional funds.

FY24: 14 FTE, \$1,331,791A; FY25: 14 FTE, \$1,368,660A

**Status:** Pending hearing

01/20/23	Introduced and Passed First Reading 06/14/23	Governor intent to veto GM1175
01/25/23	Referred to FIN	
03/08/23	Hearing by FIN, measure passed with amendments, <u>KIRC submits testimony in support of HB300</u>	
03/15/23	Passed second and third reading, referred to WAM 05/04/23	Final reading in House and Senate, transmitted to Governor
03/30/23	Hearing by WAM, measure passed with amendments, <u>KIRC submits testimony in opposition of HD1 amendment and request adopt GM, KIRC submits letter directly to WAM Chair and Vice Chair to support KIRC additional Funds</u>	
04/14/23	Senate conferees appointed: Dela-Cruz Chair, Keith-Agaran Co-Chair, Aquino, Decoite, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Kim, Lee, Moriwaki, Shimabukuro, Wakai, Fevella	
04/17/23	House conferees appointed: Yamashita Chair, Aiu, Chun, Cochran, Garrett, Kahaloa, Kila, Kitagawa, Kobayashi, Lamosao, Moriwaki, Nishimoto, Poepoe, Takenouchi, Alcos, Ward	
04/25/23	Hearing by conference committee, measure passes with amendments. <u>KIRC submits conference letters to Reps Yamashita, Poepoe and Senators Dela Cruz and Keith-Agaran</u>	
05/04/23	Passed final reading and transmitted to Governor	
06/14/23	Governor's notice of intent to veto (GM1175)	

### SB354 Relating to the State Budget

Submitted by: KOUCHI

**Purpose:** Appropriate funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Transfers KIRC funding to a new program ID LNR908 and provides second year funding for new positions

**Status:** Pending hearing  
01/25/23 Referred to WAM  
01/20/23 Introduced and Passed First Reading

**OTHER RELATED**

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**Governor Green's Proposed Changes to FB2023-25 Executive Budget "Huliau"**

**Purpose:** Request changes to State Executive Budget by the Green administration

Adds in request for \$400,000 in operating funds for both years of biennium and corrects KIRC staffing counts from 14 FTE to 16 FTE.



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*

**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**  
**KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE**

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*Chairperson*  
CARMEN HULLU LINDSEY  
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MICHELLE PESCAIA

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i  
*Executive Director*

**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPTI**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on**

**WATER AND LAND**

**Thursday, February 2, 2023**  
**9:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 571**  
**RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

House Bill 571 appropriates funds for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and to fund three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure.

The KIRC is the single government agency responsible to provide and maintain on-island infrastructure and services on Kaho'olawe. Our on-island responsibilities include operating and maintaining an OSHA standard, field workcamp to support staff and a volunteer workforce while restoring the devastated landscape of Kahoolawe.

The general funds provided in Act 248/SLH2022 was a significant one-time contribution to the operations and support needed to continue the KIRC's innovative and effective Kaho'olawe Island restoration and management efforts. The KIRC seeks, through this measure, to make this appropriation permanent to ensure that the KIRC can continue the long-term operations and maintenance of the Honokanai'a Base Camp, on-island facilities and infrastructure, and the KIRC ocean going vessel, 'Ōhua. Without our base of operations, the well-maintained equipment and facilities on Kaho'olawe, and our means of getting to and from Kahoolawe, safe public access as well as the continuing management and restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe would be impossible. This funding is crucial to the long-term stability and continuation of the KIRC's on-island restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The additional KIRC positions are critically vital as the KIRC has observed a long-term increase in unpredictability and severity of weather and ocean conditions in the waters surrounding Maui and Kaho'olawe, most likely due to climate change and global warming, which has resulted in an increased need for additional manpower to safely and effectively operate the KIRC ocean vessel.

Additionally, our Kaho`olawe field teams also needs additional field support as we increased our focus to coastline stabilization and coastal wetland restoration efforts.

The KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work, restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many here in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.



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Michael K. Nāho`opi`i  
*Executive Director*

**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO`OPT`I**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the Senate Committee on**

**WATER AND LAND**  
**And**  
**HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2023**  
**1:00 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 100**  
**RELATING TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

Senate Bill 100 appropriates funds for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission and to fund three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure.

The KIRC is the single government agency responsible to provide and maintain on-island infrastructure and services on Kaho`olawe. Our on-island responsibilities include operating and maintaining an OSHA standard, field workcamp to support staff and a volunteer workforce while restoring the devastated landscape of Kahoolawe.

The general funds provided in Act 248/SLH2022 was a significant one-time contribution to the operations and support needed to continue the KIRC's innovative and effective Kaho`olawe Island restoration and management efforts. The KIRC seeks, through this measure, to make this appropriation permanent to ensure that the KIRC can continue the long-term operations and maintenance of the Honokanai`a Base Camp, on-island facilities and infrastructure, and the KIRC ocean going vessel, `Ōhua. Without our base of operations, the well-maintained equipment and facilities on Kaho`olawe, and our means of getting to and from Kahoolawe, safe public access as well as the continuing management and restoration efforts on Kaho`olawe would be impossible. This funding is crucial to the long-term stability and continuation of the KIRC's on-island restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The additional KIRC positions are critically vital as the KIRC has observed a long-term increase in unpredictability and severity of weather and ocean conditions in the waters surrounding Maui and Kaho`olawe, most likely due to climate change and global warming, which has resulted in an increased need for additional manpower to safely and effectively operate the KIRC ocean vessel.

Additionally, our Kaho`olawe field teams also needs additional field support as we increased our focus to coastline stabilization and coastal wetland restoration efforts.

The KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work, restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many here in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.



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**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPĪ**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on**

**FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 300**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

House Bill 300 appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-204 and 2024-2025. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure and respectfully request the committee adopts Governor Green's budget amendments with regards to additional funding for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

The KIRC is the single government agency responsible to provide and maintain on-island infrastructure and services on Kaho'olawe. Our on-island responsibilities include operating and maintaining an OSHA standard, field workcamp to support staff and a volunteer workforce while restoring the devastated landscape of Kahoolawe.

The measure as currently written transfers current KIRC allotted personnel and funding from the Office of the DLNR Chairperson (LNR 906) to a new, dedicated program identification for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (LNR 908) to establish a dedicated funding requirement for the KIRC. Additionally, the measure provides full-year funding for two new KIRC positions (2.0 FTE) previously funded for half a year in fiscal year 2023.

On February 13, 2023, the Honorable Josh Green, Governor of the State of Hawaii, submitted to the legislature for its consideration, proposed changes to the FB2023-2025 Executive Budget. This submittal includes the continuation of operating funding provided to the KIRC in Act 248/SLH2022.

The general funds provided in Act 248/SLH2022 was a significant one-time contribution to the operations and support needed to continue the KIRC's innovative and effective Kaho'olawe Island restoration and management efforts. The KIRC seeks, through this amendment, to make



this funding permanent to ensure that the KIRC can continue the long-term operations and maintenance of the Honokanai`a Base Camp, on-island facilities and infrastructure, and the KIRC ocean going vessel, `Ōhua. Without our base of operations, the well-maintained equipment and facilities on Kaho`olawe, and our means of getting to and from Kahoolawe, safe public access as well as the continuing management and restoration efforts on Kaho`olawe would be impossible. This funding is crucial to the long-term stability and continuation of the KIRC's on-island restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work, restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many here in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.



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**Testimony of**

**MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPT'I**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the Senate Committee on**

**WAYS & MEANS**

**Thursday, March 23, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 221**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 300 HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

House Bill 300 HD1 appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2023-204 and 2024-2025. The Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) **opposes this measure** in its current form and respectfully **request the committee adopts the Governor's Message (02/13/23)** with regards to addition of funds for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002.

Senate WAM support for the KIRC in last year's State Budget bill, Act 248 SLH2022, was a critical one-time infusion of general funds so that the KIRC can keep its base camp facilities on Kahoolawe open and continue bringing volunteers to carry-on the important island restoration work. For over a decade, the KIRC has been coming to the legislature seeking the State's financial support to keep Kahoolawe facilities operating to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate uses of Kahoolawe.

The KIRC seeks to make this funding permanent, to ensure that the KIRC can continue the long-term operations and maintenance of the Honokanai'a Base Camp, on-island facilities and infrastructure, and the KIRC ocean going vessel, 'Ōhua. Without our base of operations, the well-maintained equipment and facilities on Kahoolawe, and our means of getting to and from Kahoolawe, safe public access as well as the continuing management and restoration efforts on Kahoolawe would be impossible. This funding is crucial to the long-term stability and continuation of the KIRC's on-island restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The success and relevance of KIRC's management of Kaho`olawe is evident as several of today's current issues such as the Navy/State environmental relationships, unexploded ordnance on State lands and recognition of native Hawaiian traditional practices on State lands utilize the KIRC's model of land management and its expertise and experience to help solve their own management issues.

KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work, restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. This has only been possible because of the countless volunteers we have brought to Kaho`olawe over the past two-decades and the many more that are waiting years to get to Kaho`olawe. This additional funding is critical to ensure the KIRC can continue bringing volunteers to restore Kaho`olawe and learn of Aloha `Āina through hard work and dedication.

The KIRC is a very cost-effective program with little controversy; able to accomplish much with limited resources; a model for future community-based land management and well regarded by native Hawaiians, environmental organizations, the scientific community, and the general public. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.

**Please amend House Bill 300 HD1 and support the Governor's Message requesting additional funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002.**



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Log No: 23:03:006

March 20, 2023

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Request Support for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Funding  
House Bill 300 HD1, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Senator Keith-Agaran,

Senate WAM support for the KIRC in last year's State Budget bill, Act 248 SLH2022, was a critical infusion of general funds so that the KIRC can keep its base camp facilities on Kaho'olawe open and continue bringing volunteers to carry-on the important island restoration work. For over a decade, the KIRC has been coming to the legislature seeking the State's financial support to keep Kaho'olawe facilities operating in support of volunteers and the island-wide restoration effort.

This year, the KIRC has come the closest to establishing that funding by gaining supporters in both the House and Senate to introduce separate KIRC funding measures (HB354, HB571 HD1, and SB100 SD1) as well as gaining Governor Green's support in his Governor's Message (02/13/2023).

On behalf of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I respectfully request your support and assistance to concur with the Governor's Message (02/13/2023) request to add funds for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC, SEQ 213-002. These funds are critical at this time to ensure the continuation of the Kaho'olawe base camp operations and transportation of volunteers to the island.

We would very much appreciate your consideration of this request and for any support that you can provide. Should you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at [michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov](mailto:michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov) or at (808) 256-3083 (cell).

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
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'ĀNELA EVANS

SAUMALU MATAAFA

BENTON KEALII PANG, Ph.D

MICHELLE PESCAIA

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i

*Executive Director*

Log No: 23:03:007

March 20, 2023

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Request Support for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Funding  
House Bill 300 HD1, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz,

On behalf of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I respectfully request your support in the upcoming Senate WAM hearing on House Bill 300 HD1 relating to the State Budget, specifically supporting the Governor's Message (02/13/2023) addition of funds for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002.

Why should the KIRC continue to receive state funding? When the island of Kaho'olawe was returned to the State of Hawaii in 1994, the legislature found that the island of Kaho'olawe is of significant cultural and historical importance to the people of Hawai'i. Due to extensive erosion and other ecological problems from the introduction of goats in 1793, a new management regime was needed to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and determining the appropriate use of Kaho'olawe. The legislature established the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to meet those challenges.

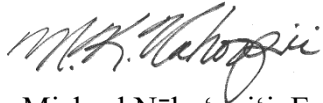
The KIRC was initially funded in 1994 from a portion of the federal cleanup funding for Kaho'olawe and has used those funds, until its depletion in 2016, to establish many innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and traditional knowledge, utilizing cultural respect for and connectivity to the environment and integrating ancient and modern resource management techniques. The success of the KIRC's management of Kaho'olawe is evident as several current issues such as Navy/State environmental relationships, unexploded ordnance on State lands and recognition of native Hawaiian traditional practices on State lands utilize the KIRC's model of land management and expertise to help solve their own management issues.

Until such time that a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity has been recognized by the state and the federal governments, the island of Kaho'olawe still remains the responsibility and in the care of the State of Hawai'i. There has been no movement in recent years for any federal recognition of Native Hawaiians.

The KIRC has been able for the last two decades to effectively restore a portion of Kaho`olawe with volunteer labor from the public without major incident or injuries. We are a very cost-effective program with little controversy; able to accomplish much with limited resources; and well regarded by native Hawaiian, environmental, scientific, and public organizations. We are asking for some long-term financial stability so we can make Kaho`olawe a better place than what was received from the Navy.

We would very much appreciate your consideration of this request and for any support that you can provide. Should you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at [michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov](mailto:michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov) or at (808) 256-3083 (cell).

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.K. Nahoopii". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
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Log No: 23:04:009

April 21, 2023

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Mahalo for Supporting for Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Funding  
House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz,

On behalf of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), I want to send our deepest appreciation and thanks for providing additional operating funding for the KIRC in the Senate Draft 1 amendment for House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, relating to the State Budget, specifically for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002 (\$400,000/FY24, \$400,000/FY25). These funds will have a critical impact on the KIRC's sustaining the long-term management and restoration of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve.

We have also written to the House Finance Committee leadership encouraging them to support your senate committee's amendment and hope you and the House will be able to support this much needed funding through the upcoming conference hearing.

Mahalo for your support and we look forward to the upcoming conference hearing. Should you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at [michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov](mailto:michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov) or at (808) 256-3083 (cell).

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
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Log No: 23:04:010

April 22, 2023

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Vice Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Mahalo for Supporting for Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Funding  
House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Senator Keith-Agaran,

On behalf of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), I want to send our deepest appreciation and thanks for your support in providing additional operating funding for the KIRC in the Senate Draft 1 amendment for House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, relating to the State Budget, specifically for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002. This funding will have a critical impact on the KIRC's sustaining the long-term management and restoration of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve.

We have also written to the House Finance Committee leadership encouraging them to support the senate committee's amendment and hope you and the House will be able to support this much needed funding through the upcoming conference meetings.

Mahalo for your support and we look forward to the upcoming conference meeting. Should you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at [michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov](mailto:michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov) or at (808) 256-3083 (cell).

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director





*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
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BENTON KEALII PANG, Ph.D  
MICHELLE PESCAIA

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i  
*Executive Director*

Log No: 23:04:011

April 22, 2023

The Honorable Mahina Poepoe  
Vice Chair, House Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 331  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Request for Support for Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Funding  
House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, Relating to the State Budget, Conference Meetings

Aloha Representative Poepoe,

On behalf of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), I want to send our appreciation and thanks for your support during this legislative session, especially for hearing and supporting House Bill 571 HD1 (Relating to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission) during the House Water and Land Committee hearings and later during its inclusion in House Bill 300 HD1 SD1 (Relating to the State Budget).

The Senate SD1 amendment to HB300 includes additional operating funds for Kaho`olawe, specifically for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002 for FY24/25. This funding will have a critical impact on the KIRC's sustaining the long-term management and restoration of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve.

We have also written to the House Finance Committee chair encouraging him to support the senate committee's amendment and hope you and the rest of the House conference members will be able to support this much needed funding through the upcoming conference meetings.

Mahalo for your support and we look forward to the upcoming conference meeting. Should you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at [michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov](mailto:michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov) or at (808) 256-3083 (cell).

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**  
**KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE**

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Michael K. Nāho'opi'i  
*Executive Director*

Log No: 23:04:008

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Request Support for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Funding  
House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Representative Yamashita,

On behalf of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I respectfully request your support in the upcoming legislative conference hearings on House Bill 300 HD1 SD1, relating to the State Budget, specifically supporting the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Draft 1 amendment that added additional funds for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission in LNR908/AC Ser 213-002 (\$400,000/FY24, \$400,000/FY25).

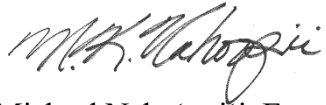
The funds your committee provided last year, in Act 248/SLH2022, was a significant contribution to the KIRC's innovative and effective Kaho'olawe restoration and management efforts. The KIRC seeks to make this funding permanent to ensure that the KIRC can continue the long-term operations and maintenance of the Honokanai'a Base Camp, on-island infrastructure, and the KIRC ocean vessel, 'Ōhua.

For over a decade, the KIRC has sought the State's financial support to keep Kaho'olawe facilities operating so that it can support volunteers and island-wide restoration efforts. This year, the KIRC has come the closest to establishing that funding by gaining supporters in both the House and Senate who introduced separate KIRC funding measures (HB354, HB571 HD1, and SB100 SD1) as well as gaining Governor Green's support in his Governor's Message (02/13/2023).

The KIRC has been able for the last two decades to effectively restore portions of Kaho'olawe with volunteer labor without major incidents or injuries. The KIRC is cost-effective; has accomplished much with limited resources; and is well regarded by native Hawaiian, environmental, scientific, and community organizations.

We would very much appreciate your consideration of this request and for any support that you can provide. Should you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at [michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov](mailto:michael.k.nahoopii@hawaii.gov) or at (808) 256-3083 (cell).

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.K. Nahoopii". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director