

Executive Director's Report

Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission Meeting

July 1, 2022

Budget, Finance, and Funding

FY22 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: None

KIRC Staff Status Update:

Ocean Program: The Ocean Program is currently interviewing to fill two Ocean Resource Specialist II positions. The first position is the general funded, full-time position that is currently vacant upon the departure of Courtney Kerr. Courtney departed the KIRC in April 2022 to move to Hawai'i Island. The second position is the grant funded, two-year, temporary US Fish and Wildlife's National Coastal Wetland Conservation (CWC) Grant funded position.

New Staff Positions: Two new general funded, permanent positions were authorized by the legislature in HB1600. We had asked for one Cultural Resource Specialist II position and the House Finance Committee expanded it to two new positions. One position is a Cultural Resource Specialist III position to replace the Culture Resource Project Specialist that was eliminated last year.

For the second position, staff is planning to redescribe and restore the Operations Manager position previously eliminated when KIRC personnel were converted from trust to general funds. The Operations Manager will manage the Reserve Operations personnel, manage all logistics and oversee all boat, vehicle, equipment and base camp operations and maintenance programs. Staff is planning to promote from within the current KIRC staff.

Capital Improvement, Reserve Operations and Logistics

Base Camp CIP Projects: HB1600 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 and added on as the camp was built and expanded. All the old piping and 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.

Government Relations

House Finance Members Access: During the May 2022 access, staff had planned to host four members of the House Finance Committee and their staff for a regular four-day access coordinated by Representative Amy Perusso. The original group included Representatives Perusso, Gandagan, Kapela and Clark, but due to the increase in the Omicron virus variant, only Perusso and staff were able to make it. Plans have already been made to schedule another House Finance Committee trip immediately after the legislative session ends in 2023.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Access: Staff is currently coordinating an overnight access for members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee for August. The plan is to open the base camp the day before bringing the senators over on 'Ōhūa. The first day will be spent on a walking tour of the camp, to explain the upgrades planned with the new CIP funding. After lunch the group will head mauka to show the committee the desolate hard pan and the various restoration efforts being implemented. Lastly, the group will tour the current upland infrastructure including roads, water catchment, tanks and irrigation systems. The group will return to Maui via 'Ōhūa the following morning.

GRANT STATUS UPDATE

Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (Updated June 16, 2022)

STATE FUNDED PROJECTS

IN PROGRESS:

Project: Hakoawa Watershed DOH 5 - Operations and Maintenance
Funder: Hawai'i State Department of Health
Term: 3/29/2021 - 9/30/2022 (\$80,665.12)
Notes: Start date was pushed to FY22; new hire is working out well

UNDER REVIEW:

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



IN PROGRESS:

Project: KIRC Virtual Museum Stage 3
Funder: IMLS, Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services
Term: 8/1/2018 - 7/31/2022 (\$75,000)
Notes: In final stages of closeout

Project: Marine Debris Removal from Kanapou on Kaho'olawe
Funder: NOAA / NFWF / Fishing for Energy 2019 Initiative
Term: 10/1/2019 - 12/30/2022 (\$76,025)
Notes: Final project activities scheduled for end of 2022

Project: Coastal and Upland Wetland Restoration on Kahoolawe, HI
Funder: NAWCA U.S. Small Grants
Term: July 2021 - August 2023 (\$100,000)
Notes: Work is continuing in project areas

Project: KIRC Live-Stream and VR Expedition Project
Funder: IMLS, Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services
Term: August 2021 - July 2023 (\$98,405)
Notes: Web page development in progress

Project: Enhancing Wetland Soils Using Biochar
Funder: Pacific Birds Joint Venture
Term: August 2021 - July 2023 (\$10,000)
Notes: Soil samples from biochar plots are being analyzed

Project: Coastal Wetland Enhancement in Honokanai'a
Funder: USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Restoration Program
Term: January 2022 - December 2024 (~\$355,531)
Notes: Work has begun in the project area

Project: Spreading Aloha 'Āina through Community Engagement
Funder: HTA Aloha 'Āina Program
Term: January 2022 - December 2022 (\$40,000)
Notes: Funded at half the request

Project: Going Mobile: Upgrading the Technological Infrastructure of Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
Funder: IMLS, Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services
Term: July 2022 - June 2024 (\$99,042)
Notes: Project funds hardware upgrade for KIRC offices

GRANT APPLICATIONS

SUBMITTED / UNDER REVIEW:

Project: Wildfire Fuel Management On Kaho'olawe
Funder: DOI Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Program
Term: January 2022 - June 2024 (\$855,233)
Notes: Submitted 9/10/2021; assuming we were not awarded but have not received an official notice

IN PROGRESS:

Project: Feral Cat Eradication
Funder: America the Beautiful Program (NFWF)
Term: January 2023 - December 2026 (~\$4 million)
Notes: Proposal due 7/21/22

Project: Kanaloa Conversations: The Kaho'olawe Podcast
Funder: National Endowment for the Humanities
Term: May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2026 (~\$700,000)
Notes: Proposal due 8/10/22

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.