



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793  
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885  
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

COMMISSION MEMBERS

JOSHUA KAAKUA, Ed.D  
*Chairperson*  
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY  
*Vice-Chair*

SUZANNE CASE  
‘ĀNELA EVANS  
SAUMALU MATAAFA  
BENTON KEALII PANG, Ph.D  
MICHELLE PESCAIA

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

## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 30, 2021**

1:30 pm

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

**PRESENT:** Josh Kaakua, E.D., Chairperson; Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Vice-Chair; Suzanne Case; Jon Ching (checked in at 1:55 pm); Hōkūlani Holt; Saumalu Mataafa; Michelle Pescaia (checked in at 2:10 pm)

**KIRC STAFF:** Michael Nāho‘opi‘i, Executive Director (ED); Matthew Hatakeyama, Administrative Officer (AO); Daniel Morris, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Terri Gavagan, Commission Coordinator (CC); Margaret Pulver, Public Information Specialist (PIS); James Bruch, Natural Resources Specialist (NRS); Courtney Kerr, Ocean Resources Specialist (ORS); Dean Tokishi, Ocean Resources Program Manager (ORPM); Paul Higashino, Restoration Program Manager (RPM)

**GUESTS:** ‘Ānela Evans; Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm. Roll call was conducted, and quorum was established with five Commissioners.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. Minutes of April 30, 2021 Regular Mission Meeting

**MOTION:** Commissioner Mataafa moved to approve the minutes of April 30, 2021 regular mission meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Lindsey.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by the majority of Commissioners present via roll call: Commissioner Case-aye; Commissioner Holt-abstain; Chair Kaakua-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Review and Approve FY 2022 KIRC Operating Budget

ED Nāho‘opi‘i provided KIRC FY22 Budget Presentation. Staff was requesting that the Commission:

- 1) Accept general fund appropriation budget of \$961,296.05
- 2) Approve trust fund expenditures of \$837,208.41 resulting in
- 3) A total FY22 operating budget of \$1,798,504.46

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed the proposed budget spreadsheet included in the Commission packet in which four funding sources were tracked: 1) general funds for FY22, 2) general funds carried over from FY21, 3) reimbursable trust fund spending, and 4) trust fund expenditures which were not reimbursable. The KIRC received approximately \$7000 less in general funds than in the previous year. The carry-over amount was less than anticipated. There was a 150% increase in reimbursable trust fund monies. The significant increase in non-reimbursable trust fund spending was due to the end of the CIP project which was funding most Base Camp operations.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i summarized the planned budget for each program in comparison to the previous year’s budget:

- Commission: the budget is smaller and includes two in-person Commission meetings most likely to be held on O‘ahu
- Administration: the budget was increased slightly mostly due to the collective bargaining agreement which was approved this year resulting in an increase in payroll
- Operations: the budget was significantly increased due to the return of both the Base Camp and communications contracts back to KIRC funding
- Ocean Program: the budget remains approximately the same
- Restoration Program: its budget significantly increased because Restoration staff has a large grant project they will be executing this year
- Culture: there is no significant budget due to the loss of the Cultural Resources Project Coordinator (CRPC) position as part of the elimination of all state vacancies, resulting in the Cultural Program’s responsibilities being delegated to existing staff

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that administration and operations are the largest part of the budget with funding being almost equally coming from general funds and non-general funds. The budget is roughly equally divided between personnel and non-personnel costs.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reviewed current and upcoming grant projects which will require that trust funds be initially expended and then recovered via reimbursements. An IMLS grant which was just awarded will help the KIRC maintain communications and outreach efforts. A grant from the Department of Health (DOH IV) will help the KIRC continue planting and provide funding for a KIRC Specialist II for one year to assist with the grant project.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated there would be some expenses which would be non-reimbursable and would have to come out of the KIRC trust fund.

Commissioner Case asked if Base Camp overhead was included in grant proposals. PIS Pulver responded that Base Camp costs were included as much as possible in appropriate subsections but there are parts of the contract which the federal government does not wish to fund.

Commissioner Case expressed concern about the spend-down of the KIRC trust fund. She stated she understood that it could be a temporary measure but that it was not sustainable.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i commented that staff have been pursuing additional general funds for operations for the last six years and would continue do so next year.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that there are two potential grant opportunities which could help to cover future base camp expenses which is the largest expense in the non-reimbursable trust fund category.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that the projected balance of the KIRC trust fund at the beginning of FY22 was roughly \$1.5 million. Given the estimated incoming revenue and estimated expenditures, the estimated balance of the trust fund at the end of FY22 would be around \$1.1 million. He provided a chart of KIRC Trust Fund projections with varied operations cost reductions for FY22 to FY29. He anticipated that the KIRC trust fund could last until FY24 with no changes in grants and spending. Staff was looking at grant opportunities which would allow the trust fund to last longer.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i also commented that the legislature wanted the KIRC to spend down its trust fund before approaching the legislature for funding, so the staff was doing its best to show it is utilizing all possible means to fund its operations.

Commissioner Case commented that previously the trust fund balance was \$500,000 and asked how staff increased the trust fund to \$1.5 million. ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained that figure included the \$800,000 from the Monsanto settlement and that the CIP Dryland Forest Project covered most of the island operation cost. These resulted in the KIRC being net positive for four years. He noted that this was the first time in four years that there would be negative revenue generation.

Commissioner Case stated this was a good use of the Monsanto settlement since the base camp was necessary to execute most grant projects and its costs were the most difficult to fund. ED Nāho‘opi‘i added that staff would be returning to the legislature and demonstrate that the base camp was essential to restoring the island and that it was the most difficult to fund through grants since it a core function.

Commissioner Mataafa agreed with Commissioner Case. This was a huge hit for the trust fund to take. He suggested looking at the cost of running Base Camp with only the most necessary services and then building from there. He was also concerned that

the legislature was unwilling to fund Base Camp in the last 6-7 years, so he urged the staff to look for other revenue sources.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded that staff had tried to apply for revenue generation in the past including OHA funding. The Base Camp contract was reduced from last year; the reduction may be even greater than anticipated due to purchases made under the CIP Project. Staff used historical data to determine costs. The staff will be able to determine the cost of a more restrictive Base Camp contract as the year progresses. Staff was also looking at making other changes to further decrease base camp costs such as utilizing a 10-month contract rather than a 12-month contract.

Vice-Chair Lindsey encouraged staff to apply for a grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) since OHA increased its grant funding and suggested that the KIRC emphasize the educational component of its proposed grant project. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded staff would do so.

Commissioner Ching suggested that staff compensate for the increase in material costs due to COVID-19. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded many items were purchased during the CIP Dryland Forest Project period. He also noted that staff contacted US Senator Schatz’s office and requested funding for construction materials to rebuild the LZ Squid storage area and to restock building materials for the island as well as operating costs.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Lindsey moved to accept \$961,296.05 general appropriation budget, as detailed, to fund KIRC staff positions and program expenses as approved in the State Administration’s budget. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was a discussion regarding the payroll shortfall. ED Nāho‘opi‘i explained there was a collective bargaining contract approved this year. The new actual salary expense was \$843,420. However, the KIRC was only receiving general funds for the old salary amount of \$824,541. General funds for salaries are generally two years behind any increases since it takes a year to analyze the cost and then the increase has to be put into an appropriation budget. Staff was also anticipating an 8.5% restriction on the KIRC’s general funds. This resulted in a payroll shortfall of \$88,965. In the past, the KIRC did not have a problem with the restriction because of its two open staff vacancies. However, all vacancies have been eliminated. The KIRC also received \$212,000 in general funds for operating expenses. However, staff is also anticipating an 8.5% restriction on that funding. This restriction in addition to the payroll shortfall means that the KIRC will start the fiscal year with roughly half of its general fund allotment for operations (\$105,015).

Commissioner Case commented that the legislature does not like departments to hold vacancies to help make up for payroll shortfalls. She understood departments have been doing that and now that all the vacancies have been eliminated everyone was having a more difficult time addressing the shortfall. She asked how staff determined an 8.5 % restriction because typically it was 5% or 10% for this year. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded that it was a risk average.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously by roll call: Commissioner Case-aye; Commissioner Ching-aye; Commissioner Holt-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Lindsey moved to approve the expenditure of approximately \$837,208.41 from the Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund to fund reimbursable grants projects and non-reimbursable operations. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously by roll call: Commissioner Case-aye; Commissioner Ching-aye; Commissioner Holt-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye

**B. Adopt Resolution for Hōkūlani Holt -In Recognition of Her Contributions Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho‘olawe**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated that staff was still determining how to get the Commissioners’ signatures on the resolutions. ED Nāho‘opi‘i read the following resolution for the record:

**Recognizing the Outstanding Contributions and Dedication of Commissioner Hokulani Holt Towards the Healing and Restoration of Kaho‘olawe**

**WHEREAS**, the term of Hōkūlani Holt as a Commissioner and the Native Hawaiian Organization representative on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) will come to an end on June 30, 2021 after eight noteworthy years; and

**WHEREAS**, Commission Holt is a graduate of the Kamehameha School and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and has served the Maui community in the capacity of Hawaiian culture and language specialist since 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, also in 1976, she founded her halau hula, Pā‘ū O Hi‘iaka. She is considered a master kumu hula as and is respected composer of mele and oli; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Holt’s relationship with Kaho‘olawe began as an advocate during the movement to stop the Navy bombing practice on the island and has had a long history with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO); and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Holt previously was employed by the KIRC as the KIRC’s cultural manager in 1997, tasked with designing a Native Hawaiian

cultural orientation program for all workers involved with the Navy's unexploded ordnance cleanup project, where she remained until accepting the position of Cultural Program Director at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center and later as Director of Ka Hikina O Ka Lā, Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao, University of Hawaii Maui College; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving on the KIRC staff, developed many of the cultural protocols currently in use on Kaho'olawe including the Kaholokalani Rain Ceremony; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Holt was first appointed to the KIRC on October 22, 2013, by the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai'i and reappointed to the KIRC on March 30, 2017, by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving as a KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Holt worked with the cultural advisory working group and helped foster community input for protection and preservation of Kaho'olawe's cultural resources as well as provided oral history testimony relating to the cultural protocols of Kaho'olawe; and

**WHEREAS**, while serving as a KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Holt supported KIRC staff by providing sound advice and context relating to Native Hawaiian cultural understanding of the work on Kaho'olawe and providing direction, support and guidance to the KIRC's Culture Program's projects and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Holt has served faithfully for eight years as a commissioner, with passion, commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, with Commissioner Holt's term of service coming to an end, the KIRC will lose a visionary commission and cultural leader with deep knowledge and expertise; and

**WHEREAS**, though Commissioner Holt will leave her seat on the KIRC, it is clear that her work on Kaho'olawe is not over and that she will continue as a cultural practitioner, advisor and supporter of the rebirth, healing and restoration of Kaho'olawe for years to come; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, on this day, the twenty-eighth day of June in the year 2021, on the island of Oahu,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the KIRC that a significant record of achievement has been accomplished by Hōkūlani Holt in the areas of leadership, cultural resources protection and expanding the cultural use of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, all in the spirit of healing Kaho'olawe; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, through the leadership of Hōkūlani Holt, Kaho'olawe will be restored as a rich cultural and environmental resource for Hawai'i's people, and through her actions and support, Kaho'olawe has become a model of native Hawaiian stewardship and management; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Hōkūlani Holt has served the KIRC with dignity and dedication; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the

Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, the Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Chairperson and Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Lindsey moved to adopt resolution for Hōkūlani Holt - In Recognition of Her Contributions Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho‘olawe. Commissioner Mataafa seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Ms. Evans extended mahalo on the behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana to Commissioner Holt for providing a beacon of light as well as perpetuating Hawaiian culture and hula as well as sharing her ike on Kaho‘olawe. She added that while Commissioner Holt’s time at the KIRC was ending she was sure Commissioner Holt would continue to be part of the larger ‘ohana dedicated to the healing of Kaho‘olawe. Mahalo ia oe.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by roll call: Commissioner Case-aye; Commissioner Ching-aye; Commissioner Holt-abstain; Chair Kaakua-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Commissioner Pescaia-aye.

Commissioner Holt stated that she had the opportunity to do whatever she could to assist with Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe and that it was a true honor to work with so many wonderful people, some of whom are no longer with us but whose influence continues to this very day. It was a pleasure for her and her family to have been able to assist in the healing of Kaho‘olawe. She extended her mahalo and stated that it has been wonderful.

Vice Chair Lindsey, Chair Kaakua and ED Nāho‘opi‘i also thanked Commissioner Holt for her service.

**C. Adopt Resolution for Jonathan Ching -In Recognition of His Contributions Toward the Healing of Kanaloa, Kaho‘olawe**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i read the following resolution into the record:

**Recognizing the Outstanding Contributions and Dedication of Commissioner Jonathan Ching Towards the Healing and Restoration of Kaho‘olawe**

**WHEREAS**, the term of Jonathan Ching as a Commissioner and the representative of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) will come to an end on June 30, 2021 after five noteworthy years; and

**WHEREAS**, Commission Ching is a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with a degree in Fine Arts and a Doctorate of Architecture; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Ching previously was the Land and Property Manager for the Land Assets Division of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and **WHEREAS**, Commissioner Ching's relationship with Kaho'olawe began as a teaching assistant, while in college, under the supervision of University of Hawaii ethnic studies professor and long-time Kaho'olawe advocate, Dr. Davianna McGregor; and **WHEREAS**, Commissioner Ching has been a long-time member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and has served in many leadership positions within the organization and has trained as a cultural practitioner responsible for the perpetuating the annual makahiki ceremonies on Kaho'olawe; and **WHEREAS**, while working for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs was part of the joint working group that created, *I OLA KANALOA!* the current long-term community planning document for Kaho'olawe; and **WHEREAS**, Commissioner Ching was appointed to the KIRC on April 16, 2016, by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai'i; and **WHEREAS**, while serving as a KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Ching's training as architect and experience with native Hawaiian land management issues has been critical in supporting the commission's capital improvement projects including the installation of alternative energy systems on Kaho'olawe, the development and planning of the Kaho'olawe Operations and Education Center at Kihei and the continuing restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural and cultural resources; and **WHEREAS**, Commissioner Ching has served faithfully for five years as a commissioner, with passion, commitment; and **WHEREAS**, with the completion of Commissioner Ching's term of service, the KIRC will lose a visionary commissioner and planner with deep knowledge and expertise; and **WHEREAS**, though Commissioner Ching will leave his seat on the KIRC, his work on Kaho'olawe is not over and that he will continue as an advisor and supporter of the rebirth, healing and restoration of Kaho'olawe for years to come; and **NOW THEREFORE**, on this day, the twenty-eighth day of June in the year 2021, on the island of Oahu, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the KIRC that a significant record of achievement has been accomplished by Jonathan Ching in the areas of leadership, land management and expanding the infrastructure of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, all in the spirit of healing Kaho'olawe; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, through the leadership of Jonathan Ching, Kaho'olawe will be restored as a rich cultural and environmental resource for Hawai'i's people, and through his actions and support, Kaho'olawe has become a model of native Hawaiian stewardship and management; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Jonathan Ching has served the KIRC with dignity and dedication; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, the Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Chairperson and Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



Ms. Evans speaking on behalf of the PKO noted a misspelling in the original resolution. She also extended mahalo to Commissioner Ching for his service. He was a mentor to many of the younger generation in the ‘Ohana. He was always an example of a dedicated and hardworking kua, Commissioner, and leader. She knew that it was not always easy for Commissioner Ching and his family since he moved to the continent to serve Kaho‘olawe. Mahalo nui ia oe.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Lindsey moved to adopt resolution for Jonathan Ching in Recognition of his contributions toward the healing of Kanaloa, Kaho‘olawe. Commissioner Pescaia seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by roll call: Commissioner Case-aye; Commissioner Ching-abstain; Commissioner Holt-aye; Chair Kaakua-aye; Vice-Chair Lindsey-aye; Commissioner Mataafa-aye; Commissioner Pescaia-aye.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Holt stated she remembered when Commission Ching was young and went to Kaho‘olawe and was front and center when things needed to be done such as hiking, working, packing, and driving. She thanked him for his hard work.

Commissioner Ching commented it was difficult to be away and that he would be back soon. He noted the leadership he was exposed to early on changed his life. If it were not for Auntie Hōkū, Auntie Davie, Uncle Emmett, Craig, and Mike the fire would not have been there. He thanked those all who came before and those who are still here. He added it was cool that he was able to recruit some of the younger generation such as Chair Kaakua while a teaching assistant to Dr. Davianna McGregor. It was a wonderful experience to serve in this capacity in bridging the worlds of the cultural practitioner and the on-island logistics. It was also a great experience to serve in the political realm. He hoped to serve on the Commission again. He wanted everyone to know that he and his family would always be there for the KIRC and the ‘Ohana.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i thanked Commissioner Ching for all their shared adventures including working on the Hakioawa Hale Working Group which was a major accomplishment. He noted that Commissioner Ching was instrumental in getting a lot of the infrastructure established on Kaho‘olawe.

Chair Kaakua commented that Commissioner Ching was a strong mentor and taught him how to practice Hawaiian culture including how to tie a malo as well as to how to advocate, do one’s homework and learning to advance the vision. Commissioner

Ching taught him how to drive the Zodiac. He extended his mahalo to Commissioner Ching.

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**A. Executive Director's Report**

ED Nāho'opi'i reported there was a budget variance of \$18,879 in personnel costs due to the new bargaining contract agreement which went into effect in May but was retroactive to January. Staff unencumbered purchase orders so that the money could be used for the anticipated shortfall in personnel funds.

ED Nāho'opi'i referred the Commission to the long-range schedule provided in the Commission packets. He noted the Hōkūle'a may visit Kaho'olawe in the fall.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that the two new Commissioners were sworn in and that their terms would start on July 1. Commissioner Pescaia was also confirmed and will start her second term on July 1.

ED Nāho'opi'i reported that staff was in the process of hiring a temporary KIR Specialist II to be funded by the newly awarded Hakioawa Watershed DOH 4 project grant project.

ED Nāho'opi'i updated the Commission on COVID-19 procedural changes on island which included no longer requiring the wearing of masks while outdoors on Kaho'olawe and while on the 'Ōhua. Masks are still required to be worn while indoors in the huts and dining hall. Additionally, the KIRC would no longer require volunteers to complete and submit a pre-travel health screening questionnaire nor conduct health screenings prior to boarding the 'Ōhua. This is due to the Governor's ending of interisland travel restrictions.

ED Nāho'opi'i provided a summary of the 'Ōhua accident on April 26, 2021, during which the 'Ōhua was pushed onto a submerged rock by a wave while crossing the channel at Kealaikahiki. The incident resulted in a 4-inch hole on the boat's rear transom. Crew was able to locate the hole and temporarily plug the hole and sail the boat back to Kīhei Boat Ramp. NOAA sent its boat to Kaho'olawe to extract the KIRC weekend volunteers. Repairs were made to the 'Ōhua and the boat is now operating. The cost of repairs was covered by CIP funding. Staff conducted debriefings and compiled a list of lessons learned from the incident which was included in the Commission packet. ED Nāho'opi'i expressed the KIRC's gratitude for NOAA's assistance during this time. Staff was working on compiling plug repair kits as well as dealing with the stress from the incident.

Commissioner Ching commended staff and boat crew. He also asked if volunteers were being asked to show proof of vaccination to access the boat and Kaho'olawe considering the possibility of potential lawsuits. ED Nāho'opi'i responded that the KIRC was not asking for proof of vaccination. KIRC's guidelines mirror those of the governor's guidelines for interisland travel as well as indoor and outdoor

requirements. Currently the indoor facilities at Base Camp are sanitized in the morning and cleaned by the volunteers in the evening.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i stated there might be a visit to Kaho‘olawe by State Representatives Amy Perruso and Kyle Yamashita from September 7-8, 2021.

ED Nāho‘opi‘i reported that staff was working with US Senator Brian Schatz’s staff to submit a request for a legislative earmark of \$1 million in the upcoming federal budget, specifically for the construction of an on-island field storage facility, fire harden the current base camp buildings and conduct plantings and seed dispersal of native species to support the KIRC’s fire recovery plan.

**B. Review Expenditures as of May 31, 2021**

ED Nāho‘opi‘i noted that the expenditure report was included in the Commission packet and that the highlight was the personnel shortfall which was discussed earlier in the meeting. All programs are under budget in the non-personnel area. Staff was trying to conserve as much money as possible, including deferring execution of grant projects until FY22.

Commissioner Mataafa asked about the source of the \$101,000 balance as of May 2021 for Reserve Operations. ED Nāho‘opi‘i responded all General Funds were spent; whatever trust fund monies have not been spent returns to the trust fund.

**VI. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES**

**A. Status Update on Current and Planned Restoration Projects: Dry Forest Capital Improvement Project; DOH 5 Project**

RPM Higashino reported that the Dry Forest Capital Improvement Project was completed in May with fifty acres planted using twenty-five native plant species, totaling approximately 30,000 plants over the past two years. The plantings, both on irrigation and off irrigation, were very successful. Staff and volunteers had to utilize no-dig techniques due to COVID-19 protocols which in some instances was more successful than when holes were dug. Very heavy rains earlier this year damaged a good section of the road from K-2/Kanapou cutoff junction to the Lelehune/LZ-1 landing area. Volunteers have been working on improving the road. Staff were collecting native seeds on island. They were also preparing the DOH V project planting area including photo points and developing an alien plant species plan.

**B. Status Update on Current Ocean Program Projects: Marine Science Education and Training from a Hawaiian Perspective on Kaho‘olawe: A Pilot Project for Maui Youth (NOAA PIRO Marine Educational Training [MET] Grant); Removal of Derelict Fishing Gear from Keoneuli Beach in Kanapou Bay on Kaho‘olawe, Hawai‘i (NOAA NFWF Nets to Energy Marine Debris Removal Grant); Engaging Hawai‘i Communities through Kaho‘olawe Culture, History and Restoration (Cooke Foundation Grant)**

ORMP Tokishi reported there was one access to Kaho‘olawe with Maui High School students in conjunction with the PIRO mini grant to try to encourage local students to

pursue marine science. There would be accesses in June and July with students from Maui High, Lahainaluna, King Kekaulike and Baldwin. These accesses will focus on curriculum which integrates Native Hawaiian knowledge and traditional practices into science-based approaches to marine resource conservation and management.

Staff will also be conducting marine debris cleanup now that the helicopter contract was processed, these services will be used to monitor pre and post marine debris removal in addition to the actual removal of the debris. A minimum of five tons will be removed from Kanapou. The debris will be either used for soil erosion control on Kaho‘olawe or transported to H-Power plant on O‘ahu for energy.

The Ocean Resources Program staff also planted 2000 ‘aki‘aki grass along the shorelines of Honokanai‘a and Honokanaenae in the execution of the Cooke grant.

ORMP Tokishi thanked Commissioners Holt and Ching for their commitment and work on Kaho‘olawe. He was very appreciative how approachable they both have been for staff. He stated that people view legacy as what they actually do such as plants that have been put in or structures erected on Kaho‘olawe. He felt that their legacy was much more than that. It was the influence they have had on others and how it travels to later generations. They certainly inspired him.

### **C. Status Update on Current Commission Projects: Kahoolawe Virtual Museum Stage 3: Collaborations & Special Collections**

CC Gavagan reported that a no-cost extension for this project was approved. The new completion date is July 31, 2022. Staff was in the process of cataloging samples for the project into the new PastPerfect database as well as linking digital images of the samples to the PastPerfect object records.

PIS Pulver reported ED Nāho‘opi‘i participated in a live-streamed panel discussion hosted by the Historic Hawai‘i Foundation which focused on the establishment of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve. This was viewed on YouTube 140 times. The KIRC partnered with Papahana Kualola during June. The KIRC provided a host site at the Kīhei Boat House for one of its summer programs. The students are learning about kilo, mauka to makai environmental relationships, and mo‘olelo related to place. This partnership served as a pilot for the proposed BWET project the KIRC submitted in April.

The KIRC and PKO worked with VOX in the production of a short film, “How Native Hawaiians fought the US Navy and Won.” The video has been viewed more than 130,000 times on the VOX website.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FYI**

Commissioner Holt extended her aloha and mahalo to the staff and Commissioners, past and present. She noted that the work being done was amazing and done without fanfare and was greatly appreciated. She also thanked the Commissioners and noted they are smart people.

Commissioner Mataafa thanked the staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Ching commended the PKO and staff for working in such a harsh environment like Kaho'olawe. From his early days he always said that the hammers of the pae 'aina gravitated to Kaho'olawe since the days of George Helm and Kimo Mitchell. It is evident through the work of the KIRC. He compared the staff to the opihi on the rocks which gets hammered but is still there and striving to get the momona of what is the value of Kaho'olawe. This rubs off on all who go to Kaho'olawe. The ones who stay are steadfast. He really appreciated the staff for staying the course, especially in light of the pay cuts, uncertainty, and personnel cuts but the work continues to be done as seen in planting, grant projects, ocean safety, and the library. He felt that the staff was not only smart but also brave. He stated that he learned to be brave from staff. He was also happy that the relationship between the PKO and the KIRC has blossomed with the evolution of time. He believed that the KIRC was in good hands with the incoming Commissioners. He wanted the 'Ohana to know that he will be part of them until the synapses stop firing.

The Commission and KIRC staff thanked Commissioners Holt and Ching for their service.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING AND FOLLOW UPS**

The next Commission meeting will be determined at a later date. There were no follow ups.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.