

# Executive Director's Report

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*Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission Meeting*

*February 24, 2022*

## **Budget, Finance, and Funding**

**FY22 Expenditure Report and Budget Variance:** None.

## **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:** US Fish and Wildlife's national Coastal Wetland Conservation (CWC) Grant includes two-years funding for an Ocean Resource Specialist II position. Staff is planning to include funding for this new position in the next fiscal year's budget but will be starting the recruitment and hiring process now.

## **Capital Improvement, Reserve Operations and Logistics**

**Update on COVID Procedures:** Working with the Base Camp Manager and after reviewing the latest CDC guidelines about berthing accommodations, staff has been able to revise our COVID sanitation policy regarding the on-island berthing facilities. The current guidance does not require sanitation of the beds, or a seven-day wait period between usage so we will be using both berthing huts during all on-island accesses. Previously, we would leave a hut vacant for a month before reuse. The guidelines state that changing the linen and airing out the facilities are sufficient to reuse the beds. Staff will still be maintaining the bed separation in each of the huts and thereby still limit the numbers accommodated in each hut. With this new COVID guidance staff can house five people in Hut 10 and eight people in Hut 11 during all accesses.

## **Government Relations**

**Meeting with Representative Ryan Yamane:** ED Nāho'opi'i spoke with Representative Yamane before the holiday break to request he introduce a KIRC funding bill. Working with his staff, he introduced HB1577 which includes \$500,000 in general funds for KIRC operations and request an additional two support workers for field operations.

**Meeting with Senator Mike Gabbard:** Senator Gabbard had made an announcement to DLNR asking if the department had any bills it wished to introduce outside of the Administration's legislative package. ED Nāho'opi'i responded to this request and ask if he would submit a companion bill to Representative Yamane's KIRC funding bill. Senator Gabbard introduced SB3013 as a senate companion to HB1577.

**Meeting with Representative David Tarnas:** Meet with Representative Tarnas on a Zoom call to brief him on the HB1577 KIRC funding bill and how important it is to the KIRC's financial future. He was fully supportive of the measure and stated that he will be moving the bill forward and request the House Finance Committee fully fund the bill.