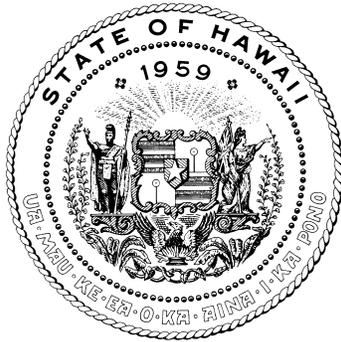


REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008
RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In response to Section 183D-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawaii
November 2007

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
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PURPOSE

Act 290, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, amended Section 183D-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by adding a requirement for an annual report to be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) on the status of the Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) and transmitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to each regular session. The report is to include:

1. The source and application of monies deposited into the fund, including a description of the criteria and process used to determine funding priorities;
2. A description of programs and activities supported by the fund;
3. A summary of program highlights and accomplishments; and
4. A description of future program plans, including specific goals and objectives.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Section 183D-10.5 (b), HRS, provides that proceeds from fees for hunting licenses; game bird farmer and commercial hunting preserve licenses and fees; hunting guide licenses; hunter education training programs and use of public target ranges; fines collected for hunting or wildlife law violations; bail forfeitures; sale of articles required before hunting; and works of art may be deposited into WRF. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007, the major sources of revenue were hunting license sales, wildlife stamp sales, and game tags and application fees. Sources of revenues are detailed below:

FY 2007 REVENUE

Hunting License Sales	\$160,913
Wildlife Conservation Stamps and Artwork	67,305
Game Tags and Application Fees	102,735
Game Bird Stamp	34,293
Commercial Shooting Preserve Shooting Permits	1,092
Game Bird Farmer and Commercial Hunting Preserve License and Fees	625
Hunter Education Activities	6,980
Hunting Guide License Fees	1,015
Court Fines	2,300
Interest	10,657
Miscellaneous	<u>3,009</u>
TOTAL	\$390,924

Revenue for FY 07 represented an approximately \$4,150 decrease (-1%) from comparable revenue from the previous year. No changes were made from last year in costs or categories of fees for any hunting program. Revenue did not meet the Department's authorized budget ceiling for WRF of \$614,820. New expenditures totaled \$520,513. The cash balance at the end of FY07 amounted to \$115,910, with outstanding encumbrances of \$106,336. Unencumbered cash available for carryover totaled \$9,574.

Status of WRF During FY 07 (S-06-343-C & S-06-344-C)

Beginning Cash Balance of Fund on July 1, 2007:	\$330,077
Less: Liquidation of outstanding encumbrances from prior years:	\$ 84,578
Add: Revenues during FY 07:	\$390,924
Less: Expenditures during FY 07:	\$520,513
Cash Balance as of June 30, 2007:	\$115,910

Less: Unpaid encumbrances for FY06 as of June 30, 2007:	\$ 34,528
Less: Unpaid encumbered contracts for FY06 as of June 30, 2007:	\$ 71,808
Unencumbered Cash for carryover as of June 30, 2007:	\$ 9,574

FUNDING PRIORITIES

WRF continues to be an important portion of the overall budget to meet obligations of state match and operating and salary expenses for game and wildlife projects. Because the major source of revenue for WRF comes from the sale of hunting licenses, wildlife stamps used to validate hunting licenses, and game tags and fees, priority is given to expenditures which benefit this user group.

In budgeting for WRF, a policy of allotting at least 85% of the budget for the hunting program has been in place and followed. Up to 15% of the budget may be used for nongame and wildlife sanctuary management, and for projects that may have dual benefits to game species and nongame species. Typical examples are the predator and weed control efforts to benefit game birds in the Kapapala Cooperative Game Management Area (CGMA) and the Kipuka Ainahou Nene Sanctuary on the Big Island, which also benefit nene. Predator control activities in Kuaokala CGMA on Oahu were carried out with WRF monies to benefit game birds, and these activities also benefited pueo and albatross.

Section 183D-10.5(e), HRS, also requires that the State first use WRF monies to "maximize the State's participation to secure federal funds under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act." Consequently, a priority was given to those expenditures that provided the state match for Pittman-Robertson (PR) projects.

Additionally, a major source of revenue during FY07 was game tag and application fees for specific hunts. The Department made a commitment to the hunting public to use those fees to support operations in the same locations where the fees were assessed. Revenue from tag and application fees was allocated to the branch offices of

the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), for the areas each Branch manages for hunting.

The allocation of operating funds to DOFAW's Branch Offices was done on a lump sum basis to be used on eligible projects. Salary funds were divided among the Branches to provide each Branch a full time or part time General Laborer (GL) position and to provide a Clerk Typist to manage the hunting license database. The operating funds were allotted to the Branches based on the respective Branch wildlife program size and complexity, and amount of revenue generated from license, stamp, tag, and application fees. This allotment process puts the decision on where and how to use WRF monies at the branch-operational level, and where funds can be used on the most appropriate and pressing local needs. Discussions among wildlife staff continue on the possible conversion of WRF-supported GL's to Forestry & Wildlife Worker II's. This would allow greater flexibility and independence in work assignment.

PROCESS USED

1. The Department's Fiscal Office and DOFAW coordinated to determine the amount of the funding available for allocation to DOFAW's Branch Offices.
2. At the beginning of each fiscal year, a portion of the WRF budget is allocated to each DOFAW Branch Office, to Honolulu administrative staff for statewide projects and to the Hunter Education Program of the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. A portion of the funds are allocated for temporary personnel to maintain wildlife program functions, and to pay budgeted add-on salary costs to assist with wildlife projects.
3. Each Branch Office collaborates in the development of the overall annual WRF budget, to benefit the resources and resource users, all within the criteria of compliance with the purpose of WRF and the necessity to provide state-match requirements for PR projects.
4. An emphasis was placed on using WRF for expenditures that provided needed infrastructure and improvements to public hunting areas, maintained existing or provided new public hunting opportunities, or addressed other high priority initiatives.
5. Purchase orders and p-card payments were identified and coded as "WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND: S-07-343" to facilitate tracking and accountability.
6. Expenditures complied with approved categories of expenditures for WRF as established by The Board of Land and Natural Resources on August 13, 1993 (see Attachment 1, appended).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

KAUAI DISTRICT

Hunting Season Management

Objective: Produce necessary hunting materials, make them available to the public and the other Districts, announce repetitive and new hunting seasons, and produce and publish legal notices as required by administrative rules. Maintain the Waimea Heights and Puu Opae Sugar Cane Lands (5,500 acres) open for game bird hunting.

Accomplishment: Monies from WRF were used to purchase bulk postage mailing, game tag materials, the printing of game tags and instructions sheets, and the publication of legal notices regarding game bird and game mammal hunting seasons. The new Waimea Heights and Puu Opae Sugar Cane Lands (5,500 acres) were again opened for game bird hunting.

Game Operations and Maintenance (O & M)

Objective: To maintain and expand the capacity to manage water units, fences, hunter checking stations, and other infrastructure necessary for hunting. In general, to improve game operations and maintenance through better tools, equipment and field staffing.

Accomplishment: Funds were used to purchase various tools and equipment such as cordless power tools, construction materials for water units, fences and hunter checking stations. A contractor was hired with a portion of WRF monies to conduct vegetation mowing operations in the Kekaha GMA, and to keep game habitat in good condition. A 15' rotary cutter was purchased with WRF monies to be used in future mowing Operation & Maintenance (O&M) work. Funds were also used to continue the full-time, temporary employment of a GL I to assist in all game management operations on Kauai.

Motor Vehicle Repairs and Purchase

Objective: To maintain the District's Wildlife Section motor vehicles in good running condition and expand transportation backup and capacity.

Accomplishment: The motor vehicle fleet was kept in good running condition. Funds were also used to purchase a used 4 wheel drive truck for backup and for expanded game O & M. A 6x6 utility vehicle was also purchased, for game management activities requiring towing and hauling equipment and materials where off-road driving is required.

18 Wheeler and trailer purchase (Partial)

Objective: To provide the equipment needed to transport bulldozers, tractor-mowers and other heavy equipment which the Kauai District lacked.

Accomplishment: Partial funding of the purchase of a used 18-wheeler and low boy trailer from the Department of Transportation's Highways Division, which provided the needed link.

Travel and Subsistence

Accomplishment: A 4x4 Gator utility vehicle was purchased and used by volunteers for maintenance of game-bird watering stations and other habitat enhancement work.

Objective: To facilitate game operations in Oahu wildlife management areas.

Accomplishment: Two surplus federal vehicles were purchased and utilized.

Objective: To repair and refurbish the Forestry Building at the Oahu District Baseyard to accommodate the Oahu District Wildlife Management crew.

Accomplishment: The Forestry Building at the Oahu District Baseyard was repaired and refurbished.

Objective: To create additional equipment and supplies storage space.

Accomplishment: Footings were installed for a new storage building at Kuaokala GMA.

Objective: To control predators in Kuaokala GMA.

Accomplishment: United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services Branch was contracted to perform year-round predator control services in the GMA to remove mongooses, feral cats and feral dogs. A portion of the work was funded by WRF to protect game birds in the area.

Objective: To continue to perform operations and maintenance work on Oahu public hunting areas and wildlife sanctuaries.

Accomplishment: Two Wildlife Assistants were hired and deployed.

Total WRF Expenditures for Oahu - \$77,351

Outstanding Encumbered Balances \$14,415

\$91,766

Future Program Plans

1. Continue with WRF temporary personnel to perform tasks targeted towards the ongoing management of Oahu District wildlife management areas - \$40,000
2. Contract the USDA's Wildlife Services Branch to control predators at Kuaokala GMA - \$6,000
3. Purchase equipment and supplies needed for ongoing O&M in Oahu wildlife management areas - \$15,000
4. Continue operations and management facilities planning and development - \$20,000

MAUI DISTRICT

Lease of Cooperative Game Management Area-Lanai

Objective: Provide 30,000 acres of land on Lanai for sport hunting and wildlife management.

Accomplishment: The entire annual lease rental for the Lanai Cooperative Game Management Area was paid via WRF monies. This area provided hunters the opportunity to pursue Axis deer, Mouflon sheep, and game birds.

Lease of Lands for Hunting Unit “C”-Maui

Objective: To maintain a lease of 1,000 acres of ranch lands lying between portions of the Kula Forest Reserve Hunting Unit “C” for sport hunting and wildlife management.

Accomplishment: The lease rental for the Kaonoulu Ranch CGMA was paid, in part, with WRF monies, providing for an additional 1,000 acres for sport hunting and wildlife management on Maui.

Game Mammal Aerial Survey:

Objective: Annual survey of the Lanai CGMA and private portions of Lanai Island.

Accomplishment: Aerial surveys of the area provide information on the dynamics of Axis deer and Mouflon sheep herds within the hunting area. This information is used to establish hunting seasons and bag limits.

Contract Services-Lotteries for Lanai Hunts

Objective: With the shortage of clerical staff, coupled with high interest and participation in the Lanai Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts on Lanai, it became necessary to contract outside support to assure all lottery and non-lottery hunt applications were processed in a timely manner.

Accomplishment: A total of 5,000 hunter applications were received for the two Lanai hunts. All applicant data was entered and duplicate applications identified and deleted. Lottery drawings were conducted for both the muzzle loading and general rifle hunts for the Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts, with results compiled and disseminated in a timely manner.

Management of the Lottery Hunts-Lanai

Objective: To complete document printing and drawing work for the Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts on Lanai.

Accomplishment: Application cards, instruction sheets, and addendums were printed and distributed to other districts. Legal notices were published, and the lotteries were conducted.

Utilize a Full time/ Temporary General Laborer-Lanai

Objective: To assist the Lanai Forestry and Wildlife Technician with the upkeep and maintenance of 30 miles of water unit pipeline and 54 miles of access roads in the CGMA.

Accomplishment: Access roads and pipeline water units were maintained and kept functional during the entire time period.

Utilize a Temporary-Full Time Wildlife Assistant-Maui (Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH))

Objective: To continue to maintain a temporary full time position originally funded via Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP) funds.

Accomplishment: The Wildlife Assistant functioned as part of the management scheme for the East Maui Watershed Partnership area to assist in the hunter access program, maintenance of the access road system, signage replacement, transect monitoring, and

gathering and collating hunter harvest data. A portion of this position was funded via WRF.

Game Mammal Facilities O & M-Lanai

Objective: Operational expenses to upkeep and maintain pipeline water units along some 27 miles of pipeline. To remodel the Lanai hunter check station due to the relocation of the office. To dispose of carcasses during the Axis deer and Mouflon sheep seasons for hunters.

Accomplishment: Waterlines were maintained throughout the year. An expanded deck was constructed at the new hunter check station location to better serve the hunting community. Dumpsters were provided for hunters to dispose of animal carcasses.

Game Operation and Maintenance (Maui-Molokai)

Objective: To fund unanticipated costs within the District including supplies and services to maintain hunter accesses and equipment necessary for the continued operation of game facilities.

Accomplishment: A new sign maker was purchased for the District of Maui. Vehicle repairs were completed with WRF monies.

Game Bird Release Program

Objective: To restore and enhance pheasant populations in the Maui District's public hunting areas.

Accomplishment: 1,000 ring neck pheasants were purchased (95% hens) and released on public hunting areas on Maui. 500 pheasants were released in the Kula Forest Reserve and 500 pheasants were released in the Kahakuloa GMA.

Vehicle Purchase

Objective: To provide personnel on Lanai with a heavy duty vehicle that would enable them to perform the day to day operations of running the hunting program on Lanai.

Accomplishment: A 2007 heavy duty one ton diesel truck was purchased for the Lanai game program.

Overtime costs for manning Lanai hunter check station:

Objective: Provide personnel to service hunting related activities and hunter check in on Lanai which occur after normal operating hours.

Accomplishment: Overtime was paid to the Lanai Technician and hunters were accommodated.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales

Objective: Pay the commission to vendors as required by law for the sale of the 2006-2007 Hawaii hunting licenses.

Accomplishment: Vendors were paid and services continued.

Total WRF expenditures for Maui District:	\$ 57,860
Outstanding Encumbered Balances:	\$ 9,840
Outstanding Contract Balances:	<u>\$ 35,608</u>
	\$103,308

Future Program Plans

1. Fund land lease on Lanai-\$35,000 (100% WRF)
2. Fund land lease on Maui-\$2,600 (25% WRF)
3. Fund Lanai Check Station overtime for Technician V position-\$6,000 (100% WRF)
4. Fund GL I position for Lanai for facility upkeep and maintenance-\$42,000 (100% WRF)
5. Fund game mammal facilities development and O&M on Lanai-\$5000 (100% WRF)
6. Fund game mammal surveys on Lanai -\$10,000 (100% WRF)
7. Fund Koolau Ungulate Monitoring Project-\$40,000 (10% WRF)
8. Fund Repair & Maintenance of Lanai vehicles-\$5,000 (25% WRF)
9. Fund Management of lottery hunts on Lanai; document printing, data input and drawings-\$10,000 (100% WRF)
10. Fund signage for areas closed to hunt-\$500 (100% WRF)
11. Fund GL I position for Lanai Check Station work-\$10,000 (100% WRF)

EAST HAWAII DISTRICT

General Laborer Position:

Objective: Continue to assign duties pertaining to management of the cattle hunt, checking stations, and nene habitat renewal.

Accomplishment: Last year's Wildlife Section work; game and non-game, was accomplished with the hiring of a GL.

Wildlife Habitat Management:

Objective: Maintain Keaau Cooperative Nene Release Site and adjacent coastline for nene occupation.

Accomplishment: 25 traps and seven feed stations were maintained. In-kind matching contributions using volunteer and prison labor qualified for PR cost sharing. The GL II led volunteers on weekends and holidays. Six nene brooder pens served in the rearing of goslings during the critical post-hatch era. 19 goslings hatched out. Habitat was maintained to accommodate a successful nene nesting season, which contributed to a 4% increase in nene residing at this coastal wetland.

Wildlife O&M:

Objective: Provide hunter access for the special feral cattle hunt, pay for special area of Kipuka Ainahou hunting area and nene sanctuary, contain gorse infestations, improve game bird habitat, and control little brown fire ants.

Accomplishment: Seven miles of roadway and five miles of trails serving the Hilo Forest Reserve and Watershed were maintained to accommodate the success of feral cattle hunters in the area. The cattle hunt was continued for another year on all 64,514 acres of wetland forest. 22 feral cattle were taken by hunters this year.

The 11,234 acre Kipuka Ainahou annual lease was paid for entirely by WRF monies. The area was inspected for gorse infestations as prescribed by the lease, and gorse was removed before it seeded. Selected portions of Kapapala and Kipuka Ainahou game bird

Outstanding Encumbered Balances: \$ 896
 Outstanding Contract Balances: \$36,200
 \$75,801

Future Program Plans

1. Purchase a used truck for O&M on water units, water systems, and other facilities in GMA's - \$10,000 (100% WRF)
2. Build two new water units in the Puu Waawaa CGMA - \$12,000 (100% WRF)
3. Hire a full-time GL for O&M - \$32,000 (100% WRF)
4. Pay for legal notices of hunting announcements - \$3,000 (100% WRF)
5. Contract helicopter services for game surveys - \$10,000 (100% WRF)
6. Rent portable toilets for use in high demand hunting areas-\$600 (100% WRF)

STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SEGMENT

Hunting License, Wildlife Conservation Stamp, and Game Bird Stamp Production, Program Sales, and Management:

Objective: To produce and distribute required hunting licenses, duplicate licenses, stamps, and vendor booklets. A portion of the production costs were paid with WRF monies to begin the transition to electronic hunting license purchase and record keeping.

Notification of Hunting Season Openings and Changes:

Objective: Communicate any changes in repetitive hunting seasons and announce new or special hunts as required by rules.

Accomplishment: The game bird season announcement, with some bag limit adjustments and new weekday hunting additions in some areas, was published as a legal notice.

Materials for the Puu Anahulu Shooting Range Plan Working Group – Big Island

Objective: To supply necessary information and materials to the Working Group.

Accomplishment: Purchased four copies of the National Rifle Association's guide to planning and construction of ranges, and distributed them to DOFAW, Hunter Education, and the Department's Engineering Division.

WRF total expenditures incurred for statewide administration: \$13,534
 Outstanding Encumbered Balances: \$ 1,412
 \$14,946

Future Program Plans

1. Publish notification of game bird hunting season announcement - \$1,400 (100% WRF)
2. Provide for the costs of producing the FY08 hunting license, duplicate license, wildlife conservation stamp, and game bird stamp - \$7,700 (75% WRF)
3. Contract with RCUH for a half-time position to assist with statewide game coordination and management-\$18,000 (50% WRF)
4. Provide new computers, printers, and ink for on-line license sales for vendors- \$8,000 (50% WRF)

ATTACHMENT I, WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

1. Development, improvement and management of existing and new public hunting and game management facilities including installing or maintaining hunter access roads, checking stations, fences, gates, stiles, cattle guards, entry/safety/boundary signs and markers, parking lots, sanitary facilities, water tanks, and campsites.
2. Development, improvement and management of existing and new wildlife sanctuary facilities including fences, moats, water control structures, pumps, ditches, nesting sites, holding pens, boardwalks, viewing kiosks, watering devices, parking lots, sanitary facilities and entry and interpretive signs.
3. Wildlife habitat improvements including game bird and mammal watering units, food plots, vegetation clearing and mowing; non-game/endangered species enclosures, exclosures, noxious weed control, mowing and nest sites; and wildlife predator control, water quality testing and rehabilitation.
4. Personnel hires for wildlife management and hunter education including Wildlife Management Assistants and General Laborers (for hunter checking station operation, public hunting area management, pest plant control, predator control, habitat development, and posting signs and markers) computer technicians (for public hunting lotteries) and hunter education specialists.
5. Wildlife management equipment including tractors, bulldozers, all-terrain vehicles, collecting arms, radios, outboard motors, small boats, binoculars, trucks and 4-wheel drive vehicles.
6. Development and operation of public shooting ranges in conjunction with the Hunter Education Program.
7. Research, surveys and inventories for game and non-game/endangered species, including rental of helicopters, infrared technology, temporary hires, equipment rental, materials and supplies, and contracts for studies (game birds, forest birds, waterbirds, seabirds, Hawaiian bat, owls, disease, genetics, food habits, ungulates, limiting factors, etc.).
8. Public education on wildlife management including development of the "Wilderness Watch" program, providing maps and area informational leaflets, interpretive facilities at game management areas and wildlife sanctuaries, and technical assistance to the public on wildlife management.
9. Rental of land for public hunting and wildlife management.
10. Law enforcement.