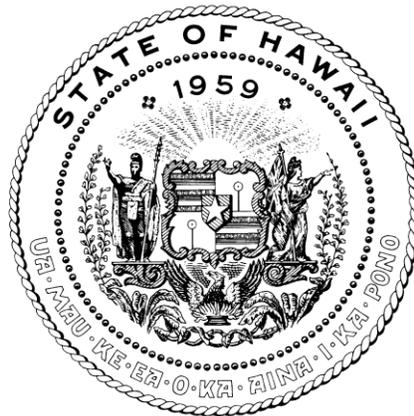


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

**RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009**



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In response to Section 183D-10.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawai'i
November 2009

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
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PURPOSE

The goal of the Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) is to provide funds to manage and enhance public hunting opportunities in Hawai‘i. Act 290, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 1991, amended Section 183D-10.5, Hawai‘i 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 Fund and to be 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 the following may be deposited in WRF: 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 related works of art. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-2009, the major source of revenue was hunting license sales. Sources of revenues are detailed below:

FY 2009 REVENUE

Hunting License Sales	\$138,617
Wildlife Conservation Stamps and Artwork (collectors)	5,185
Game Tags and Application Fees (from previous year)	13,320
Game Bird Stamp (collectors)	3,445
Game Bird Farmer and Commercial Shooting Preserve License and Fees	4,900
Hunter Education Activities	1,404
Hunting Guide License Fees	675
Court Fines	325
Interest	822
TOTAL	<u>\$168,693</u>

Revenue for FY 2009 represented an approximately \$101,386 decrease (-37.5%) from comparable revenue from the previous year. Declines in revenues and available fees are the result of an appellate court ruling on December 31, 2007 which had the effect of suspending sales of the Wildlife Conservation Stamp, the Game Bird Stamp, and all tags and application fees. Revenue did not meet the Department's authorized budget ceiling for the WRF of \$605,639. New expenditures totaled \$139,489. The cash balance at the end of FY09 amounted to \$67,225, with outstanding encumbrances of \$8,143. Unencumbered cash available for carryover totaled \$59,082.

Status of WRF During FY 09

Beginning Cash Balance of Fund on July 1, 2008:	\$ 8,757
Less: Liquidation of outstanding encumbrances from prior years:	\$ 747
Add: Revenues during FY 09:	\$168,693
Add: Cash Transfer during FY09 (includes beginning FY cash):	\$ 29,021
Less: Expenditures during FY 09:	\$130,489
Cash Balance as of June 30, 2009:	\$ 67,225
Less: Unpaid encumbrances for FY08 as of June 30, 2009:	\$ 8,143
Less: Unpaid encumbered contracts for FY08 as of June 30, 2009:	\$ 0
Unencumbered Cash for carryover as of June 30, 2008:	\$ 59,082

FUNDING PRIORITIES

WRF has been 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 sources of revenue for WRF come from direct charges to hunters, priority is given to expenditures that benefit this user group. As referred to above, an appellate court ruling has halted the sale of stamps, game tags, and application fees until a formal hunting rules change can reestablish these direct assessments to hunters by species, area, and season chosen to hunt.

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, 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 Kīpuka ‘Āinahou Nēnē Sanctuary on the Big Island, which also benefit nēnē. Predator control activities in Kuaokalā GMA on O’ahu were carried out with WRF monies to benefit game birds, and these activities also benefited pueo and mōlī.

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.

Revenues are managed and allocated so as to ensure that fees support operations in the same locations where the fees were assessed. The allocation of operating funds to the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)'s Branch Offices was done on a lump sum basis to be used on eligible projects.

PROCESS USED

1. The Department's Fiscal Office and DOFAW coordinated to determine the amount of fund available for allocation to DOFAW's Branch Offices.
2. A portion of the WRF budget was allocated to each DOFAW Branch Office and to Honolulu Administrative Staff for statewide projects. No funds were allocated to the Hunter Education Program of the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement this year due to the revenue shortfall. A portion of the funds were 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 collaborated 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 essential expenditures to provide support for public hunting opportunities.
5. All expenditures were identified and coded as "WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND: S-09-343" 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

KAUA'I BRANCH

Commission on Hunting License Sales

Objective: To pay Kaua'i hunting license vendors for their commission on the sale of the 2008-09 Hawai'i Hunting Licenses.

Accomplishments: Hunting licenses were available and sold by five vendors.

Total WRF expenditures incurred for Kaua'i: \$ 5,151

Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees and fill vacant WRF GL position on Kau‘ai Branch.
2. Provide for the administrative costs, such as printing and publishing of game tags, permits, announcements of hunting seasons and additions of new hunting areas. - \$10,000 (100% WRF)
3. Incremental development of the proposed Hanahanapuni Public Shooting/Archery Range \$15,000 (50% WRF)
4. Continue the artificial game bird release project in the Kekaha and Wailua GMAs. Plan, design, and purchase building materials, equipment and supplies for the complete construction of a game bird rearing facility - \$20,000 (100% WRF)
5. Purchase a four-wheel-drive vehicle to be added to the game program to support all aspects of operations, management, and surveys. \$15,000 (50% WRF)
6. Continue to maintain all wildlife vehicles and equipment used under the Kaua‘i Game Management Program. \$20,000 (100% WRF)
7. Purchase of construction materials and supplies to maintain existing game management facilities, including fences, gates, water units, feeding sites, restrooms, storage buildings, and hunter checking stations. \$20,000 (50% WRF)
8. Provide air logistical support to conducts surveys, operations and maintenance of the Kaua‘i Game Management Program. \$15,000 (50% WRF)

O‘AHU BRANCH

The objectives of the wildlife program segment on Oahu were as follows:

1. To maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and facilities on Oahu public hunting areas (PHA’s), GMA’s, and wildlife sanctuaries.
2. To improve game bird and game mammal hunting opportunities on Oahu.

Game Bird Enhancement on Oahu.

One GL was employed portion the first part of the year to perform operations and maintenance work on Oahu PHAs and wildlife sanctuaries.

Major Duties:

- Assist Biologists and Technicians in raising of 200 Chukar Partridges in the Kuaokala GMA
- Spread 1,000 lbs. of wild bird feed on in the Kuaokala GMA during the gamebird hunting season to attract birds into the hunting area and provide supplemental feed for released gamebirds.
- Assist in Ring-necked Pheasant propagation activities, and banding for release in GMA
- Increasing game habitat and maintaining access roads and trails in the Phase and GMA’s, by removing invasive weeds and trees using power tools, machinery, and herbicides
- Maintain and log information from hunter check stations located in the PHA’s.

- Assist in maintenance in wildlife sanctuaries using power tools, machinery and herbicides.

Total WRF expenditures incurred for Oahu: \$10,032

Future Program Plans

1. Continue funding the WRF GL position to perform tasks targeted towards ongoing management of Oahu District wildlife management areas - \$40,000 (100% WRF).
2. Purchase gamebirds from farmers and day-old chicks from mainland hatcheries to release into the GMAs. \$6,000 (100% WRF).
3. Purchase equipment and supplies needed for ongoing O & M in Oahu Wildlife Management Areas - \$15,000 (100% WRF).

MAUI BRANCH

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 CGMA was paid via WRF. This area provided hunters the opportunity to pursue Axis Deer, Mouflon Sheep, and game birds.

Contract Services-Data/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. Due to the assistance of contract services, all applications for the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts were properly processed, lotteries conducted and results compiled and disseminated in a timely manner.

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: Funding through federal grants (PR). Employee allowed to work in Unit 3 (Game bird hunting) only or work must be done that benefits game birds.

Management of the Lottery Hunts-Lanai

Objective: The processing and printing of documents for the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts on Lanai. Shipment of instruction sheets and applications for the two hunts to the outer districts. Meeting with the Lanai Company to go over current and future plans within the hunting area.

Accomplishment: Application cards, instruction sheets, and addendums were printed and distributed to all districts and lotteries conducted. Meeting with the Lanai Company was conducted at the end of September. Current and future management plans were discussed.

Game Mammal Facilities O & M-Lanai

Objective: Rental of dumpster(s) during the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep seasons for hunters to dispose of carcasses. Repairs to vehicles were needed to accomplish job requirements out in the field.

Accomplishment: The State provided dumpsters for hunters to dispose of animal carcasses during both hunting seasons. Charges were made to WRF for vehicle maintenance on Lanai.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales

Objective: WRF was used to pay commission to vendors for the sales of the 2008-2009 Hawaii hunting licenses.

Total WRF expenditures for Maui District: \$69,517

Future Program Plans

1. Fund land rental on Lanai-\$35,000 (100% WRF)
2. Fund land rental on Maui-\$2,600 (25% WRF)
3. Fund Lanai Check Station overtime for FWT 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-\$5,000 (100% WRF)
6. Fund game mammal surveys on Lanai -\$10,000 (100% WRF)
7. Fund purchase of Lanai vehicle-\$35,000 (100% WRF)
8. Fund management of lottery hunts on Lanai; document printing, data input and drawings-\$10,000 (100% WRF)
9. Fund signage for areas closed to hunt \$500 (100% WRF)
10. Fund GL I position for Lanai check station work-\$10,000 (100% WRF)

EAST HAWAI'I DISTRICT

GL Position:

Objectives: To continue to fill the half-time GL II position. Employ a former volunteer and University of Hawaii (UH) student pursuing a degree in ecological management. Duties were assigned relating to the Hilo watershed cattle removal, checking stations, nēnē habitat renewal, and endangered species recovery activities at the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo.

Accomplishments: Employment was maintained of a former volunteer and UH student pursuing a degree in ecological management. Duties were assigned relating to the Hilo watershed cattle removal, checking stations, nēnē habitat renewal, and endangered species recovery activities at the zoo. Last year's wildlife work, game and non-game, was accomplished with the continued employment of the GL.

Wildlife Habitat Management:

Objectives: To manage nēnē-occupied coastal areas.

Accomplishments: Habitat was maintained to accommodate a successful nēnē nesting season which contributed to an increase in nēnē residing in coastal wetlands. Thirty 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 various projects.

Wildlife O & M:

Objectives: To maintain the Kīpuka 'Āinahou Lease.

Accomplishments: Select portions of Kapapala and Kīpuka 'Āinahou game bird hunting areas were improved by fertilizing and renewal of bulldozed strips in the pastures and removal of noxious weeds. Little brown fire ants were controlled at Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and in game bird nesting areas.

The Kīpuka 'Āinahou Lease (lease agreement #312 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands-Department of Land and Natural Resources) annual rent was paid for primarily by WRF. Kīpuka 'Āinahou serves as a hunting area for birds and mammals and is also a nēnē sanctuary. The area was inspected for gorse infestations as prescribed by the lease. Gorse was removed before it seeded.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales:

Objective: To pay commissions to vendors on the Island of Hawai'i for sales of the 2008-2009 Hawai'i hunting licenses.

Accomplishment: Hunting licenses were available at vendors and commissions were paid.

Motor Vehicle Repairs, Maintenance, and Equipment

Objective: To maintain trucks in service for WRF purposes.

Accomplishment: Vehicles were maintained.

Total WRF expenditures incurred for East Hawai‘i: \$12,126

Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees.
2. Continue to employ a part-time GL to help expand hunter checking station coverage, remove gorse from the Kīpuka ‘Āinahou Lease: \$18,170

WEST HAWAI‘I DISTRICT

Game Operations and Maintenance

Objective: Maintain predator control, the maintenance of game related facilities such as guzzlers, and increase road maintenance and habitat management capacity for the West Hawai‘i District.

Accomplishment: Game supplement feed blocks were purchased for maintenance of game animals in GMA’s. A tool chest was purchased to support equipment maintenance projects. The GL worked in Mauna Kea, Ka‘ohe, and Pu‘uanahulu, assisting with predator trapping and control, water unit maintenance, and road maintenance.

Game Program Coordination

Objective: The District staff assisted K-Mart and Walmart stores in Kona with hunting license sales and training (these being the only outlets for the public to purchase hunting licenses in Kona other than the DOFAW office 40 miles away in Kamuela).

Accomplishment: The District’s Secretary assisted with training of K-Mart and Walmart store staff in hunting license sales. During anticipated increase in hunting license sales traffic at these establishments, the Secretary assisted with license sales and dissemination of information pertinent with upcoming seasons.

Temporary Hire of ½-Time GL

Objective: To assist the District's wildlife staff in the operations and maintenance of projects. To provide predator control at various locations.

Accomplishment: A part-time GL I position was paid for out of WRF, and assisted in predator control, trapping of mongooses, feral cats, and feral dogs, maintained water units and water supply facilities, assisted with invasive plant control. The GL’s also assisted with predator control at the Big Island Country Club and Puu Waawaa Ranch for nēnē enhancement.

Total WRF Expenditures for West Hawai‘i District: \$26,800

Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees and fill WRF GL position.
2. Continue part-time GL I position -\$32,000

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 out of WRF.

Accomplishment: Produced and distributed vendor booklets, hunting licenses, and duplicate hunting licenses. Produced wildlife conservation stamps in the event that stamp sales could be resumed. Game bird stamp production is on hold until established by new rules.

Notification of Hunting Season Openings and Changes:

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

Accomplishment: Several legal notices announcing new animal control opportunities for hunters were produced and a series of announcements and news releases were produced for hunting seasons.

WRF total expenditures incurred for Statewide Administration: \$6,864

Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees to support the statewide game program.
2. Publish notification of game bird hunting season announcement - \$700 (100% WRF)
3. Revise rules to establish fees approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) and revise and update changes to conditions that have been presented to constituents at public meetings and approved by the Board.
4. Enact legislative changes to Chapter 183D, HRS, that will allow for public participation and Department action to change conditions without a formal rule change.
5. Establish consistent guidelines to provide public input to proposed changes in hunting conditions.

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.