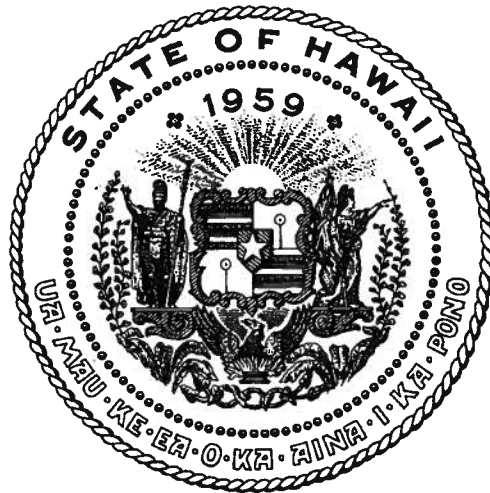


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
2009 REGULAR SESSION**

ON

**EXPENDITURES TO FUND POSITIONS
USED FOR PROTECTION OF MONK SEALS AND TURTLE POPULATION**



**PREPARED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
IN RESPONSE TO SECTION 27.1 OF
ACT 158, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2008,**

**HONOLULU, HAWAII
OCTOBER 2008**

EXPENDITURES TO FUND POSITIONS USED FOR PROTECTION OF MONK SEALS AND TURTLE POPULATION

Introduction

In response to Section 27.1, Act 158, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008 (Act 158), this report provides an expenditure summary of State Fiscal Year 2009 general funds allocated for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) staff positions devoted to the protection of Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles.

Expenditure of these funds is proceeding in full compliance with this Act and all other applicable laws and policies. Some funds remain unexpended at this time because it is important to first expend existing federal funds and because this report is being submitted well before the end of the fiscal year.

Expenditure Summary

As specified in Act 158, the Legislature allocated \$97,780 to cover costs associated with four DLNR staff positions dedicated to the conservation of Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles. The table below indicates the expenditure of these funds as of the date of this report (October 2008) and the anticipated expenditure of the funds up to the end of the 2009 State Fiscal Year.

The costs for salary and fringe benefits for Kauai Monk Seal Response Coordinator are being fully covered via Act 158 funds as of October 1, 2008. These costs were previously covered by a federal grant, which was unfortunately not re-awarded for another annual funding cycle due to federal budgetary constraints.

The costs for salary and benefits for the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Program Coordinator and ITP Program Assistant positions are currently being funded at a rate of 50% state general funds and 50% federal grant funds. The ITP Program Coordinator was hired on April 1, 2008, and the ITP Program Assistant was expected to be hired in October 2008. The fourth and last position funded via Act 158, the ITP Implementation Specialist, is not expected to be filled due to a hiring freeze imposed by the Administration in response to anticipated severe declines in state revenue.

Until approximately April 2009, the 50% state general funding associated with the ITP positions will not be sourced out of funds specified in Section 27.1 of Act 158, but rather via the regular base budget of DLNR, Division of Aquatic Resources. The Section 27.1 funds (i.e., the supplemental \$97,780) are not expected to be expended on the ITP positions until the federal grant funds used to provide the 50% matching support are near depletion in around April 2009. Although not expended at the time of this report, these supplemental funds will be very important to keep the positions funded in the interim when the current federal funds have been depleted and new federal funds have yet to be secured.

A federal grant application to fund all four positions was submitted in September 2008, and the award decision should be made in or around March 2009, with new funding becoming available on July 1, 2008, should the grant be awarded. Other sources of federal and non-government funds are also being actively pursued.

Position Title	Expended (\$) as of Dec 31, 2008	Projected Expended (\$) as of June 30, 2009
Kauai Monk Seal Response Coordinator	18,083	54,250
ITP Program Coordinator	-	9,405
ITP Program Assistant	-	6,375
ITP Implementation Specialist	-	-
Total Expended	18,083	70,030
Total Allocated	97,780	97,780
Total Remaining / Unexpended	79,697	27,750