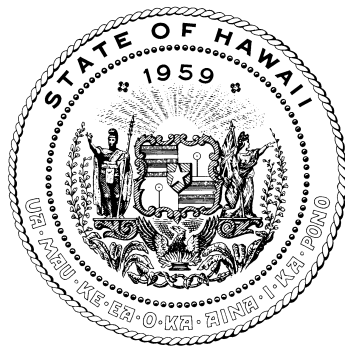


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014**

**RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND  
FISCAL YEAR 2013**



Prepared by

**THE STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

Honolulu, Hawai'i  
November 2013

## **RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND FISCAL YEAR 2013**

### **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 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.

### **FUNDS**

Section 183D-10.5 (b), HRS, provides that the following proceeds shall be retained by or transmitted to the Department for deposit 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 2013 (FY 13), the major source of revenue was hunting license sales. Sources of revenues are detailed below:

Revenue continues to be low due to 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 for special hunts. Revenue did not meet the Department's authorized budget ceiling for WRF of \$686,726. New expenditures totaled \$167,346. The cash balance at the end of FY 13 amounted to \$92,693, with outstanding encumbrances of \$8,405. Unencumbered cash available for carryover totaled \$84,288.

Additional revenues are also being requested in the 2014 legislature for enhancing and implementing Hawaii's hunting program which can also be used as match for the Pittman-Robertson Act funds as stipulated in §183D-10.5 (c)(1). Specifically, \$1.5 million are being requested that will fund both district and administrative positions and operational costs as outlined in the Wildlife Revolving Fund future plans for the

districts/administration and also the activities proposed in the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program – Game Management Program FY12-FY14. The additional State funds, if obtained, will also support streamlining a state-wide lottery system for selection of hunters in certain areas and also improving the hunting license sales system for the general public.

### **Status of S-343**

Beginning cash Balance of Fund on July 1, 2012	59,610
Revenues during FY 2013	200,429
Expenditures during FY 2013	167,345.60
Cash Balance as of June 30, 2013	92,693.40
Unpaid encumbrances as of June 30, 2013	8,405.19
Unencumbered Cash for carryover as of 06/30/2013	84,288.21
<b>Summary of Revenues FY 2013</b>	
Hunting guide license	1,925
Game bird license	8,165
Hunting license	164,777
Investment pool	279
Fees for copies	0
Hunter Ed Fees	3,568
Conservation stamp	4,215
Donations	17,500
Supplies Reimbursement	0
Criminal fines	0
<b>Total Revenue for FY 2013</b>	<b>200,429</b>
<b>Summary of Expenditures FY 2013</b>	
Personnel	83,174.30
Operations	84,147.31
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>167,345.60</b>
<b>Summary of Outstanding Claims FY 2013</b>	
Operations	8,405
<b>Total Outstanding Claims</b>	<b>8,405</b>

### **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 which benefit this user group. Presently, the 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.

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.

The allocation of operating funds to the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife's (DOFAW's) Branch Offices was done on a lump sum basis to be used on eligible projects.

With the decline in hunting fee revenue, the funding available for salaries has been reduced and all recruitment for WRF positions has been frozen. 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 fees. Discussions among wildlife staff has continued on the possible conversion of WRF-supported General Laborers to Forestry & Wildlife Technicians, but became a moot point with substantial loss of funds.

### **PROCESS USED**

1. The Department's Fiscal Office and DOFAW coordinated to determine the amount of the Fund 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 Resource 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 the 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 are identified and coded as "WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND: S-13-343" 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**

#### **Hunting Season Management**

*Objectives:* Provide hunting information to the public and other Districts through announcements and news releases. Manage public hunting seasons.

*Accomplishments:* WRF monies were not used due to the budget shortfall this year

#### **Game Operations and Maintenance (O & M)**

*Objectives:* Maintain and expand the capacity to manage water units, fences, hunter checking stations, and other infrastructure necessary for hunting. Improve game operations and maintenance through additional field staffing, adequate equipment and supplies.

*Accomplishments:* WRF monies were used for equipment and supplies.

#### **Motor Vehicle Repairs and Purchase**

*Objectives:* To maintain the District's Wildlife Management Section motor vehicle fleet in good running condition and expand transportation backup and capacity.

*Accomplishments:* Due to budget shortfall this year, expenditures to repair and maintain the Kauai motor vehicle fleet was reduced. No vehicles purchases were made during the project period.

#### **Commission on Hunting License Sales**

*Objective:* To pay the Kaua'i hunting license vendors for their commission on the sale of the 2012-13 Hawai'i Hunting Licenses.

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

#### **Future Program Plans**

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees and fill vacant WRF General Laborer position on Kaua'i 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. Continue incremental development of the proposed Hanahanapuni public shooting/archery range \$20,000 (50% WRF)
4. Continue the game bird release project in the Kekaha and Wailua Game Management Areas. 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-wheeled 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 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 conduct surveys, operations and maintenance of the Kaua'i game management program. \$15,000 (50% WRF)

## **O'AHU BRANCH**

### Game Management

*Objectives:* To maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and facilities on O'ahu Public Hunting Areas (PHA's), Game Management Areas (GMA's), and Wildlife Sanctuaries; and to improve game bird and game mammal hunting opportunities on O'ahu.

*Accomplishments:* Funding was used to provide game birds and manage habitat for game bird hunting on O'ahu.

- Facilitated the game bird release program, which provided 350 Ring-Necked Pheasants and 52 Erkel's Francolins
- Spread 1,500 pounds of wild bird feed on in the Kuaoakalā GMA during the game bird hunting season to attract birds into the hunting area and provide supplemental feed for released game birds.

### Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees and fill vacant WRF General Laborer position on O'ahu Branch.
2. Fund a WRF Wildlife Technician position to perform tasks targeted towards ongoing management of O'ahu District wildlife management areas - \$45,000 (100% WRF).
3. Purchase game birds from farmers and day-old chicks from mainland hatcheries to release into GMA's - \$6,000 (100% WRF).
4. Purchase equipment and supplies needed for ongoing O & M in O'ahu wildlife management Areas - \$15,000 (100% WRF).

## **MAUI BRANCH**

### Lease of Cooperative Game Management Area-Lāna'i

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

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

Game Mammal Aerial Survey:

*Objective:* Annual game mammal survey of the Lānaʻi CGMA and private portions of Lānaʻi Island.

*Accomplishments:* An aerial survey of the Lānaʻi CGMA was conducted on September 6, 2012 and September 7, 2012. WRF monies were used to cover staff expenses.

Contract Services-Data/Lanai Hunts

*Objective:* With the shortage of clerical staff, coupled with high interest and participation in the Lānaʻi Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts, 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 6,000 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-Lānaʻi

*Objective:* To assist the Lānaʻi Forestry and Wildlife Technician with the upkeep and maintenance of 30 miles of water unit pipeline and 54 miles of access roads in the Cooperative Game Management Area.

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

Management of the Lottery Hunts-Lānaʻi

*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 other districts. Staff was also sent to Lānaʻi to assist with hunter check in for both the Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts.

*Accomplishment:* Application cards, instruction sheets, and addendums were printed and distributed to all districts and lotteries conducted. Staff assisted in hunter check in for both hunts.

### Game Mammal Facilities O & M-Lānaʻi

*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. Materials needed to ensure that the lottery can be accomplished properly and in a timely fashion.

*Accomplishment:* The State provided dumpsters for hunters to dispose of animal carcasses during both hunting seasons. Charges were made to the Wildlife Revolving Fund for vehicle maintenance on Lānaʻi. Also purchased were new lottery coins and game tags that ensured hunt and lottery was done in a timely fashion.

### Overtime costs for manning Lānaʻi hunter check station:

*Objective:* Hunting activities and hunter check in on Lanai occurs after normal operating hours. Overtime is paid to the Lānaʻi technician to accommodate hunters.

*Accomplishments:* Staff on Lanai received overtime during the Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts on Lanaʻi. Hunters checking in after normal working hours were allowed to check in and participate in both hunts.

### Commissions on Hunting License Sales

*Objective:* The Wildlife Revolving Fund was used to pay commission to Vendors for the sales of the 2012-2013 Hawaii hunting licenses.

### Future Program Plans

1. Fund land rental on Lanai-\$35,000.00 (100% WRF)
2. Fund Lanai Check Station overtime for FWT V position-\$10,000.00 (100% WRF)
3. Fund GL I position for Lanai for facility upkeep and maintenance-\$45,000.00 (100% WRF)
4. Fund game mammal facilities development and O & M on Lanai-\$35,000.00 (100% WRF)
5. Fund game mammal surveys on Lanai -\$15,000.00 (100% WRF)
6. Fund purchase of Lanai vehicle-\$50,000.00 (100% WRF)
7. Fund Management of Lottery Hunts on Lanai; document printing, data input and drawings-\$15,000.00 (100% WRF)
8. Fund signage for hunt \$1,000 (100% WRF)
9. Fund GL I position for Lanai Check Station work-\$20,000.00 (100% WRF)
10. Develop online application system for Lanai hunts- \$40,000.00

## **EAST HAWAIʻI DISTRICT**

### General Laborer Position:

*Objectives:* Pursue duties pertaining to Hilo watershed wild cattle control, hunter checking stations, and nēnē habitat renewal.

*Accomplishments:* This section's work, game and non-game, was accomplished with reduced WRF budget.



Wildlife O & M:

*Objectives:* To maintain the Kīpuka ‘Āinahou Lease.

*Accomplishments:* The lease for Kīpuka ‘Āinahou with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands was maintained. Due to ongoing negotiations to extend the lease, no payment was made to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands for Fiscal Year 2013.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales:

*Objective:* To pay commissions to vendors on the island of Hawai‘i for sales of the 2012-2013 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 remained functional with no debts to WRF for maintenance.

Future Program Plans

1. Remove gorse from Kīpuka ‘Āinahou lease area
2. Continue to employ a part-time general laborer to help expand hunter checking station coverage, remove gorse from the Kīpuka ‘Āinahou lease.

**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. Maintained more than 60 miles of hunter access roads.

*Accomplishment:* All O & M activities were accomplished without use of WRF monies.

Game Program Coordination

*Objective:* The district staff assisted K-Mart and Wal-Mart 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 Wal-Mart 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 General Laborer

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

*Accomplishment:* A part-time General Labor I position was paid for out of this special fund, 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.

Motor Vehicle Repairs, Maintenance, and Equipment

*Objective:* To maintain trucks in service for WRF purposes.

*Accomplishment:* Vehicles remained functional with no debts to WRF for maintenance.

Future Program Plans

1. Restore equipment purchase, vehicle purchase and maintenance, and facilities construction functions from the WRF, as funds accrue from the sale of hunting licenses, stamps, tags and fees. \$35,000 (100% WRF)
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. Once funding is available, improve game habitat projects in GMAs and appropriate areas by installing water units, food plots and improving cover. \$50,000 (100% WRF)
4. Continue part-time General Laborer I position.
5. Fund a full time Wildlife Biologist III position. \$55,000 (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.

*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.

Future Program Plans

1. Produce and distribute required hunting licenses, duplicate licenses, stamps, and vendor booklets.
2. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees to support the statewide game program.
3. Publish notification of game bird hunting season announcement - \$700 (100% WRF)]
4. Hire Wildlife Biologists for the game mammal, upland game bird, and outreach/education sections at the administrative level to address Statewide issues.
5. Develop statewide lottery system for selection of hunters in certain areas.
6. Streamline hunting license sales for processing for the Department and vendors.

## 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.