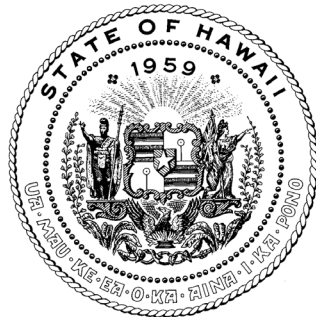


Progress Report to the Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2022

**PROGRESS REPORT ON
THE BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY
State Fiscal Year 2022**



Prepared by the
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii

In response to
Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021

November 2021

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BLACK CINDER CONE QUARRY SITE SURVEY State Fiscal Year 2022

This progress report is prepared pursuant to Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2021, and covers the period July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

INTRODUCTION

Black cinder (BC) is used in horticulture industry to improve agricultural production and stimulates decorative and floral plant growth. BC use in the horticulture industry is gaining popularity and with new uses putting stress on the limited supply. BC sites are also generally difficult to access.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), in collaboration with the County of Hawaii (County) is tasked with the responsibility of conducting research and identifying new BC cone quarry sites to increase the supply and accessibility for the horticulture industry with includes the plant nurseries, coffee farms, flower farms, ornamental plant farms, landscape industry, residential and commercial construction and merchants and wholesalers who assist the horticulture industry. The BC study will address the following:

- (1) Conduct specialized geological surveys to identify the most suitable locations for new BC cone quarries on the island of Hawaii;
- (2) Identify land ownership for each parcel of land of interest;
- (3) Discuss accessibility barriers associated with each parcel;
- (4) Discuss legislative solutions, if any, to minimize or remove potential barriers associated with each parcel;
- (5) Any matters that the Department and County deem relative to access this resource.

Additionally, the Act requires that the Department submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022. As of the writing of this report, the Department is seeking an extension to the report and recommendations deadline to perform the required surveys, analyze potential barriers and provide legislative recommendations, if any.

INVESTIGATION AND STATUS

The Department has met with Representative Greggor Ilagan, to identify preliminary issues and goals for the BC study. Based on the discussions at this meeting, the Department is considering contracting with the University of Hawaii Hilo's Geology Department to facilitate this effort.

Act 191, SLH 2021, authorizes the expenditure of \$150,000 of 2021 American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds for these services. The implementation of this project will comply with Budget Execution Policies issued by the Governor through the Department of Budget and Finance.

Once funding is released and partnerships developed, the Department will proceed to contract to perform the surveys, conduct the site investigations, identify potential barriers and solutions for their removal, and provide the findings and recommendations noted above.