

**MINTUES OF THE APRIL 6, 2009 NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM
COMMISSION (NARSC) MEETING, HONOLULU**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DRAFT Subject to approval

Dr. Dale Bonar, Chair
Dr. James Jacobi
Mr. Richard Hoeflinger
Mr. Trae Menard
Dr. R. Flint Hughes
Ms. Rebecca Alaka`i
Dr. Scott Rowland, Vice Chair
Mr. Scott Derrickson, for Director, Office of Planning (OP)
Mr. Darcy Oishi, for Director, Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Mr. Ken Kawahara, for Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Ms. Colleen Murakami, for Superintendent, Department of Education

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ms. Sylvianne Yee
Dr. Sheila Conant, for President, University of Hawai`i

STAFF:

Ms. Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (AG)
Ms. Betsy Gagné, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)
Mr. Randy Kennedy, DOFAW
Ms. Lisa Hadway, DOFAW
Mr. William Evanson, DOFAW
Mr. Brent Liesemeyer, DOFAW
Ms. Marigold Zoll, DOFAW
Ms. Emma Yuen, DOFAW
Mr. Matt Ramsey, DOFAW
Dr. Fern P. Duvall, II, DOFAW
Mr. Peter Landon, DOFAW,
Mr. Chris Miller, DOFAW
Mr. Talbert Takahama, DOFAW
Ms. Vickie Caraway, DOFAW
Ms. Charmian Dang, DOFAW
Ms. Susan Ching, Plant Extinction Prevention Program

VISITORS:

Ms. Teresa Dawson, Environment Hawai`i
Ms. Stephanie Lu Tom, The Nature Conservancy
Ms. Francis Kinslow, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, USDA Forest Service
Mr. Jay Nelson, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ms. Kapua Kawelo, Army Natural Resources

ITEM 1. Call to order. Chair Bonar called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m., followed by Commissioners introducing themselves. Chair Bonar asked if there were any items requiring decision-making now, while quorum is present.

MOTION: Jacobi/Murakami moved that the NARS Commission move up Item 5.b. i. Status of current volcanic activity at Kahauale`a: Discussion and Action

Recommending Continued Closure of the Reserve. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Hadway projected a map showing current eruption. The Reserve was closed for two years, due to the 2007 eruption within the Reserve, at the recommendation of Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory (HVO) and Civil Defense (CD). Current eruption status is being monitored by Virginia Aragon, Na Ala Hele program staff member with geological training. Current activity is in "TEB Vent Site" within the NAR, and is an extremely unstable area. HVO staff supports the continued closure of the Reserve due to unpredictability of eruption as well as hazardous fumes; but also agreed to consider re-opening it if the eruption ceases within the NAR. Staff Hadway and HVO are still getting film and other permit requests; all being handled in conjunction with HVO.

Member Kawahara asked if more residents than visitors went into the Reserve. Staff Hadway said that visitors regard the well-publicized guide book Hawai`i Revealed to be more correct, so tend to ignore all the signage leading up to and in the Reserve.

Member Hoeflinger asked what portion of the 16,000 plus acre reserve was actually affected where the volcano is venting, because surrounding private properties still have people living there, and hunters are being denied access to a very large area; two thirds of the reserve is prime hunting area.

Staff Hadway said a partial closure was not acceptable to HVO; they would not draw a line on a map and say it was safe on one side; therefore full closure was still recommended. Member Rowland recommended wording request to include safety of staff as part of the reasoning to close the Reserve, along with enforcement concerns.

Discussion continued on safety issues, access, full versus partial closure, but also consider permits for hunters; possibly like dog running permits; staff to work on wording for streamlined special permit with Member Hoeflinger. More discussion ensued, then Chair Bonar called for entertainment of a motion.

MOTION: KAWAHARA/JACOBI moved that the NARSC Recommend continued closure of Kahauale`a NAR for up to two more years, or to revisit closure if eruption no longer poses a threat to the Reserve.

More discussion followed the motion; AG Chow recommended working on a streamlined application for hunters; staff Hadway agreed and felt this could be handled at Hilo DOFAW office. Chair Bonar remarked that there was hunting allowed in the NARS. Member Hoeflinger said that hunters were helping to do staff jobs, so why all the banging of heads.

Chair Bonar called for the question. Motion carried, with one "no" vote by Member Hoeflinger.

Chair Bonar called a recess at 9:35 a.m.; reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

MOTION: Alaka'i/Hoefflinger moved that the NARSC move up Item 6.b. Permit Report: Hawai'i Tropical Experimental Forest at Laupahoehoe. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bonar requested, while presentation was being loaded, to first take up the Minutes (Items 2 and 3)

ITEM 2. Approval of Minutes of the September 15, 2008 Meeting.

MOTION: Rowland/Murakami moved that the NARSC accept and approve the September 15, 2008 Minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes of the October 7, 2008 NARSC Subcommittee on Enhancement.

MOTION: Rowland/Derrickson moved that the NARSC accept and approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. b. Permit Report: Hawai'i Tropical Experimental Forest at Laupahoehoe.

Ms. Francis Kinslow, Administrative Coordinator for the Hawai'i Tropical Experimental Forest (HETF), Institute of Pacific Island Forestry (IPIF), USDA Forest Service, gave a power point presentation on behalf of Boone Kauffmann, IPIF Director, who was unable to attend the meeting. She summarized events leading up to creation of the HETF, and referred to the website www.HETF.us for the permit application form and guidelines for filling out an application as well as an explanation of other permits that might be needed in the application process (such as T&E species).

Applications are received by her, checked for completeness, then sent to the Research and Technology Committee (RTC) for their review and input (Lisa Hadway, Mike Donoho, Steve Bergfeld, Susan Cordell, Christian Giardina, Boone Kauffmann, and Roger Imoto; there is also a placé for a UH staff member). Final decision rests with Boone as IPIF Director and ultimate permit sign-off by Roger Imoto, Hawai'i Island DOFAW Administrator.

Permit application outcomes: 1) accepted; 2) conditional (seeking more clarification or having additional conditions); or 3) rejected (major problems with methods, need T&E species permit, experimental design); allow 120 days for review; researchers are notified whether accepted or not. Research conducted by IPIF staff is subject to the same level of review. This is the first year; getting slowly up to speed, working out the wrinkles before widening publicity on the area; including adding conditions such as GPS points for all plots to be provided within 30 days of project start-up; this will ensure keeping accurate data of each plot and then be able to follow up at end of project that all equipment, and leavings are removed, also a permit condition.

The proposed Research and Education Center going through Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) is located **outside** the NAR, on unencumbered land (zoned Ag),

leased from the Land Division of DLNR; submittal to OEQC was handled through the Land Division.

Discussion continued on permit review process. Staff Hadway said that part of review is to make sure they fall within the delegation list and “assigns” are **not** co-investigators. Staff Caraway pointed out that people need to get their T&E permits **first**. Questions about on-site managers to keep an eye out; Mike Donoho is on-site at Pu`u Wa`awa`a EF; plan is to have a person on-site at Laupahoehoe EF in conjunction with the Center.

Chair Bonar asked about annual reports. Ms. Kinslow replied that there is just one renewal, since this is the first year, with a total of 14 permits have been approved for Laupahoehoe. Others will begin to go through the renewal process in the next few months. She left her cards for further contact/information. Chair Bonar thanked her on behalf of the Commission.

ITEM 4. Legislative Update. Staff Kennedy handed out several spread sheets that show this year and the stark contrast to the following year with all categories virtually zeroed out. House Bill 1741 is being heard at the same time as this meeting; Leah Hong (Trust for Public Lands) is holding a press conference at the Capitol. Our partners have initiated an Outreach component to get the message across about how important all these programs are to the watershed, among other things.

Chair Bonar said that the hardest hits would be the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and Watershed Partnerships. He asked about the Natural Area Partnership Program and whether we would be penalized if we could not honor NAPP contracts. AG Chow said there are provisions that if we do not have sufficient funding, the contracts will be cancelled. Staff Kennedy questioned what would happen with Conservation Easements. AG Chow said that they are perpetual, no matter what; they are statutorily ratified, so different from contracts. Staff Kennedy said that the Forest Stewardship Program would also have zero funding and contracts would also be rewritten to zero funding from the State. Staff Constantinides said there were dramatic reductions across the board.

Chair Bonar wanted to continue discussion of this dismal topic after lunch, to accommodate other items; Staff Kennedy to provide more details then.

ITEM 5. NARS Staff Updates. Chair Bonar led off by saying the NARS Strategic Plan (SP) was approved at the February 27, 2009 BLNR Meeting; an despite the present dismal picture, the SP still serves as an overarching set of goals from which to base Operational Plans, to keep things moving. He called on Staff Hadway to make the first presentation; asking first for motion to move up agenda item.

MOTION: Jacobi/Derrickson moved that the NARSC move up Item 5.b. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5.b. Hawai`i Operational Plan: Staff Hadway gave a breakdown of her budget for this year, followed by an even more chilling scenario for FY10. This year she has

\$110K from General Funds, 95K in Section 6 Federal Funds, while \$1million plus in NAR Funds went to Mauna Kea Archaeological Survey, Manuka Boundary Survey, PCSU staff (\$292K), vehicles (\$80K), NARS Management (\$124K), section 6 match (\$32k cash), and TMA (\$60K combined in and out of NARS program for \$1,273,500. That is for FY09; for FY10 there will only be **\$95K** in Federal money (Section 6 via FWS), there will be **no** General Funds...**everything else will be zeroed out!** Another big concern: Hilo DOFAW does **not** fall in the DAGS overhead charges, each program pitches in to cover electricity, cleaning; the NARS share is \$77K for last year, paid out of General Funds; however will not have any such funds next year and **cannot** use Section 6 (Federal) funds for next year; so that is essentially 93% of budget gone, and makes it difficult to leverage other federal grants. Vehicle overhead for the Branch is about \$100K per year and \$185K for fuel. She developed her first Operational Plan in June 2008, then reviewed it in January 2009 for a few changes. The new Operational Plan to be developed by May 2009 will likely show PCSU staff out of a job by the end of the calendar year and without the NARF next year, grim indeed.

Big Island NARS staff participated in the outreach program this year, and handed out magnets with Big Is NARS design on them, along with flyers for a juried art exhibit patterned after the East Maui Watershed Partnership annual event, to raise awareness of natural areas, native ecosystems and watersheds. Staff is hoping that Michelle Jones can salvage the outreach program next year through federal funding; however it will be difficult to support staff at minimum wage and with no vehicles or gas.

Staff Liesemeyer asked if she had been able to spend what she budgeted, or were her items waiting for Governor's approval; he was finding he could not encumber funds due to this slow down. Staff Hadway agreed, using the important contract for the archaeological survey of Mauna Kea Ice Age, as an important part of the development of a Management Plan. That has been long planned but short of funds; also mentioned in the Mauna Kea Audit, so we would be complying with the Audit as well as being able to manage and protect the natural and cultural resources of the NAR in the face of all the pressures mounting in the Science Reserve; it is **very important** complete this; we have all approvals including BLNR, but it has been sitting in Budget and Finance since November 2008!

Chair Bonar said that barring retaining funding, such cutbacks would mean this would not be completed. Staff Hadway agreed, saying they would only be able to work in near reserves; remote areas accessible by helicopter of lengthy 4 x 4 driving would be out of the question, which might put fountain grass control at Manuka in jeopardy.

ITEM 5.a. Maui Operational Update. Staff Evanson said that he followed Staff Hadway's plan; similar scenario. Maui NARS receives 75 – 85% of what Big Is gets, based on total acres; receive no Section 6 money: on Maui Branch it goes to Forestry program and is handled in a different way. His handout is based on last year's money and follows two program tracks: 1) `Ahihi-Kina`u with its unique marine component, closed areas and high visitation/staff interactions with Matt Ramsey and Rangers Joe Fell-McDonald, Judy Edwards, `Iokepa Meno, and Danielle Korn; 2) Terrestrial,

featuring Bryon Stevens, David Quisenberry, Peter Landon and two AmeriCorps staff (with one located on Moloka'i). Miconia money is helping crew to keep Miconia out of Hanawi NAR. With the decrease in funding, next year it will pretty much be himself and Bryon Stevens, and will lose most of the Rangers. `Ahihi-Kina`u is more labor-intensive than the other Reserves. The repeater is still not near delivery or installation; cannot to start up a volunteer program without communication.

Moloka'i: a second wing fence is almost built in Pu`u Ali`i; hunters are being flown in to work in sections to remove ungulates; going to ask to resume snaring in remote areas. Aerial shooting has kept ungulates from reaching the summit of Oloku`i; however it is a very expensive program, though effective to keep the summit ungulate-free. Maui Nui staff (Fern Duvall, Hank Oppenheimer/PEPP, Bryon Stevens and others) are planning an operation to revisit Oloku`i to determine status of the summit plateau.

West Maui: all four sections (Kahakuloa, Panaewa, Honokowai, and Lihau) have strategic fences and are ungulate-free; Lihau had a fire, staff currently working on restoration of pili grasslands.

East Maui, Hanawi: crew is replacing sections of aging fence in the upper fenced unit; also working on line in lower section following East Maui Watershed Partnership Plan; however heavy rain has made work more difficult than usual. Kanaio: waiting for archaeological survey to re-route phase two of the boundary fence; may have to finish fencing with a volunteer crew. Matt Ramsey will give update on `Ahihi-Kina`u.

Chair Bonar asked about funding for FY09; can that be extended, not have funding lost in the process of paperwork. Staff Evanson said there are no General Funds available; just like Big Is, without Special Fund completely tapped out. Chair Bonar asked if he had looked into what to trim; Staff Evanson replied that he just planned for the worst and hoped for the best. Member Jacobi asked if it would be a zero budget in FY10; he said yes; however management of natural resources is goal 1 for us as well as the Strategic Plan; he said he held off doing an Operational Plan because the SP was not done yet.

Staff Hadway pointed out that even subsistence per diem can add up to a large amount, along with conference attendance (travel and per diem). Member Menard: scale down so do not lose ground. Member Jacobi: but also have closure at `Ahihi-Kina`u; Staff Evanson agreed that they could use volunteers there, but need to wait until the repeater is installed. Currently about half of the Maui NARS budget goes to `Ahihi-Kina`u. member Jacobi asked how far banked ahead programs were. Staff Hadway said that most PCSU techs were hired through April 15, 2010; but in reality when staff leave and pay off leave that could cause a serious drop by December 2009 or January 2010.

Staff Evanson said he was looking at possible scenarios with respect especially to `Ahihi-Kina`u and considering cutbacks. Member Jacobi asked whether he had seriously considered re-opening the Reserve; Staff Evanson said no, not yet.

MOTION: Derrickson/Rowland moved that the NARSC change the agenda to take rest of Branch reports, before taking Item 5.a. i. and ii. with Staff Ramsey. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5.c. O`ahu Update: Staff Liesemeyer said he was behind in the planning process; just recently Staff Miller developed a format in Access database, but without cost figures; however it is set up to see if we do what we set out to do (i.e. get Pahole fenced, and remove ungulates. Staff Miller is working on an ungulate removal program including public hunting twice a month and developing different trapping techniques. Fence maintenance is a key part of program; there is some fence cutting when Kuaokala game Management Area is open. His major plan is for re-doing Ka`ala Boardwalk and working on Poamoho remote cabin to support the future NAR; however the public hearing has been pushed back due to Ceded Lands decision. Meanwhile the 5 year management plan for the area will be developed by Staff Miller as a Masters thesis. Operations will be crippled with the cuts.

Chair Bonar asked who was on PCSU staff (and therefore at immediate risk): Chris Miller, Marigold Zoll and Dave Anderson. Only General Funded positions are Brent Liesemeyer, Talbert Takahama and Reuben Mateo. He said he is looking for other funding; the coastal grant program through NOAA could be done at Ka`ena (unlike other areas); working as part of the Ka`ena Stewardship Group for both State Parks and NARS portions. Staff Yuen, who coordinated preparation of the grant proposal said they asked for \$1.7 million with a match of \$150K; with \$900K of the total going to upgrade the road, mostly all on State Parks side. Staff Zoll said they would have 18 months to spend the money; very tight turnaround. Staff Liesemeyer is also looking at the MOA with the Army as a way to alternative funding.

ITEM 5.c. Kaua`i Update. Staff Gagné said that Kaua`i staff were unable to attend, had worked on an Operational Plan, but would be deferred until the next meeting. Chair Bonar asked staff Kennedy what the possible scenario would be: Watershed partners and Kaua`i Invasive Species Committee would take the biggest hit, and they would be in the same zero General Fund boat.

Chair Bonar called for a lunch recess at 12:00 noon. Chair Bonar reconvened meeting at 12:55 p.m. to pick up on Item 5.a. i.

ITEM 5.a. i. Progress on `Ahihi-Kina`u Closure. Staff Ramsey summarized the entire operation from planning ahead of the August 1, 2008 closure to present time via a power point presentation to track measures of success; most everything is on track although restructuring and startup of a volunteer program is on hold until installation of the repeater to allow for communication. Chair Bonar expressed concern at the delay and asked that this be followed up on. Member Rowland asked about buoys. Staff Ramsey said that there is a new concern about buoys as a whole with the Ocean Recreation Management Plan (ORMP) and having standards that apply to all other classes of marine protected areas. Staff Evanson added that the Corps of Engineers permit still needs to be worked on so that it is ready to go if the funding materializes. Staff Ramsey said in the

meantime, there are signs in the boat harbors delineating the marine boundaries; most boats have GPS capability. Maintaining visiting hours with gate open/closure will be harder with reduced staff. Chair Bonar felt a good volunteer crew could help, and asked who heads up the volunteer segment for the April 15 Management Plan Sub Group Meetings, and asked who is lead on this. Staff Evanson replied that he was lead followed by Staff Ramsey and the ORMP group. Chair Bonar emphasized that this was a high priority; also said that questions need to be asked of whether to keep the reserve open, create another Hanauma Bay, drop it from the Reserve, or other options. Staff Ramsey said that they also get help with the gate from State Parks.

ITEM 5. a. ii. Possible removal of Roi (*Cephalopholis argus*) from `Ahihi-Kina`u. Chair Bonar requested a brief discussion to direct staff to look into what is being done in other areas to address invasive fish species such as Roi and others using special hunts. This issue needs to be carefully considered before any action is taken within the Reserve. There is a researcher that is beginning to look at Roi and their overall population status that might benefit the Reserve; staff will pursue this matter further. Chair Bonar felt that perhaps Emily Fielding could help with this as part of the Management Plan, to also look for marine program opportunities; also re-emphasizing management out of the box and an increased focus on a volunteer program: we can choose to take care or we can let it go.

ITEM 6. a. Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP). Staff Caraway said that the PEPP is in good shape through the next fiscal year with grants from Fish and Wildlife Service (Section 6, Recovery, and Discretionary , Forest Service, Watershed Partnerships, and private landowner grants. Staffing is now complete: Susan Ching (recently hired for O`ahu), Ane Bakutis (half-time on Moloka`i), Hank Oppenheimer (Maui Nui), Wendy McDowell (Kaua`i), Kealii Baio (Big Island) and Joan Yoshioka as overall PEPP Coordinator (located on Big Island). Staff Kennedy added that Staff Caraway was DLNR Employee of the Year, especially for development of the PEPP.

ITEM 6. c. Special Use Permit Application Summary. Item deferred until next meeting for decision-making on additional permit delegation authority and to address hunting permit for Kahauale`a.

ITEM 6. d. Special Use Permit Application: Dr. Michael Hadfield, University of Hawai`i. MOTION: Derrickson/Jacobi moved that the NARS Commission approve renewal of Dr. Hadfield's Special Use Permit for work with the endangered O`ahu tree snails in the genus *Achatinella*. Staff Gagné explained that this was a permit renewal for continuing work with the endangered O`ahu tree snails in the genus *Achatinella* in Pahole and Ka`ala, to continue field surveys, mark and recapture work, small samples of tissue (snipped from tip of foot) for genetic analyses, and to continue to hold living snails in a special laboratory at University of Hawai`i Manoa, as well as to be accompanied by laboratory classes on one or more site visits during the permit period.
Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6.e. Special Use Permit Application: Army Natural Resources, to continue specific actions for the stabilization of 29 rare plant species in Ka`ena, Ka`ala, and

Pahole Natural Area Reserves, as well as monitoring and surveying for endangered O`ahu tree snails in the genus *Achatinella* in Ka`ala and Pahole Natural Area Reserves, O`ahu. Army Natural Resources staff Kapua Kawelo summarized their renewal request, expanding their actions to include weed control, focused on areas within fenced units, so the attached action forms appear to be larger, they will continue to work with O`ahu NARS staff, notifying them well in advance of planned work, particularly for rat trapping.

Chair Bonar asked O`ahu staff for their comments. Staff Takahama replied that he felt they had finally achieved cruising speed with communication, and supports the permit renewal request. Member Murakami asked about seed storage. Ms Kawelo said that they have their own seed storage facilities; however they are still the property of the state and staff Takahama approves withdrawals for propagation purposes.

MOTION: Rowland/Murakami moved that the NARS Commission approve the renewal of the Army Natural Resources, to continue specific actions for the stabilization of 29 rare plant species in Ka`ena, Ka`ala, and Pahole Natural Area Reserves, as well as monitoring and surveying for endangered O`ahu tree snails in the genus *Achatinella*. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6.f. Current status of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Army and Department of Land and Natural Resources for Actions on lands Under State Jurisdiction. AG Chow said that it is on her desk, and depending on what other fires she has to put out, DOFAW does not have further issues; however still need to review further and await further input from the Army. Chair Bonar asked about management implications. Staff Zoll said she is coordinating everything between AG Chow, O`ahu Branch, DOFAW Admin. Staff Caraway pointed out, however, that there is still a lack of an overall State Permit for T&E species.

ITEM 6.g. Permit Application: Richard Pender, University of Hawai`i, to conduct research on the following endangered species in Pahole Natural Area Reserve, O`ahu (*Delissea subcordata* and *Cyanea superba* subsp. *Superba*) and Pu`u O`Umi Natural Area Reserve, Hawai`i (*Clermontia drepanomorpha*), as well as other non-listed lobeliads. Staff Gagné said that the applicant was unable to attend the meeting. Staff Takahama had concerns about monitoring seedlings, how much time staff would need to be involved, or whether he should concentrate on working with Army staff. Ms. Kawelo said that he was very thorough when searching for seedlings; in fact found some that staff missed. Staff Caraway said that his T&E permit, which needs to precede the Special Use Permit is not complete, due to additions that were received after permit was being processed, and it was felt that one permit application to spell out everything be completed, along with the T&E Permit. Member Rowland said he would feel uneasy voting without seeing the T&E Plant Permit.

Chair Bonar suggested tabling this item until the next meeting.

MOTION: Jacobi/Alaka`i moved to that the NARS Commission move up the portion of Item 8. Announcements: update on *Myoporum* (naio) thrips. Motion carried unanimously. Since Member P. Conant was unable to attend as DOA representative, as he was in the field surveying for this new pest, so his Plant Pest Control, Biological Control Section Chief (and boss) Mr. Darcy Oishi substituted since he is based on O`ahu, as yet not invaded by this new pest. His presentation, entitled "Gall Wars" is destined to become a classic once the technological bugs are worked out, as it illuminates some of the challenges that DOA faces with the arrival of new pests and trying to conduct rapid field surveys to detect the spread of this new invader from California that former Commission Member Lloyd Loope warned everyone about at the February 2008 NARSC meeting, when he learned that naio plants imported from New Zealand to California were being attacked by a small insect called *Klambothrips*, which turned out to be a new species described as *K. myopori*. The unusual thing was that this both the plant and insect are native to New Zealand, but something must be keeping it under control in its home country, because it has not been detected in New Zealand. New leaves are attacked and feeding damage produces galls and twisting of leaves (much like the twisted leaf you see on Chinese banyan trees around town which are infested with another species), then the naio are defoliated and a 6 to 8 foot tree can die within 4 to 6 months. This is curious because there is no record of naio coming in from California or New Zealand through Plant Quarantine; current speculation includes the possibility that it hitchhiked from the resort communities of California to resort communities from Kona to Hawi on the Big Island. Many of these resorts are landscaped in and ground-hugging form of naio that is only known from the Kamilo and other areas in the vicinity of South Point. Unfortunately it is already too widespread, so pulling up all plants is not feasible. Big Island Invasive Species Committee staff has also participated in the search. The pests are now showing up in private homes as well as resorts. The alert is on to survey retail outlets, natural areas, nurseries, wild stands, and to bag any infected plants for removal. Mauna Lani appears to be the hot zone, and another possible vector is infested leaves coming in containers of construction or landscaping material or golf equipment.

Chair Bonar remarked that it appears to kill like the wiliwili gall wasp. Mr. Oishi agreed but said that their funding is so bad that it is not a priority right now. Chair Bonar was concerned about interisland transport. Mr. Oishi anticipates finding it in the upright forms of naio, and while it is currently only in the Kona area, there is still a concern that there is insufficient funding to purchase pesticides that could be used. Meanwhile folks in New Zealand are searching to see if they can find whatever is keeping them in check in their home country, as was done for wiliwili gall wasp. Chair Bonar asked if there was value in writing a letter to the DLNR Director.

MOTION: Hoeflinger/Menard moved that the NARS Commission, via its Chair, provide a letter to the Department of Agriculture via the Department of Land and Natural Resources supporting the control of this new pest which threatens a very important native plant, *Myoporum sandwicense* (naio). Member Jacobi agreed and said that really, it is not just this species, but the dominant native species need more protection. Motion carried unanimously

MOTION: Jacobi/Alaka'i moved that the NARS Commission move up Item 7.c. 'Ilio Point, under Enhancement, so that Staff Duvall could provide input. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7.c. 'Ilio Point NAR/Wildlife Sanctuary, Moloka'i: proposal for discussion and referral to DOFAW for further review as per modified process. Staff Yuen said that due to time constraints, this would be discussed first; there is also a Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) proposal by Staff Duvall, and that this is a follow up from an informal meeting with NARSC Members and Maui Branch staff to discuss the pros and cons for both designations, which were added to the meeting packet. 'Ilio forms the north west tip of Moloka'i, and its lithified dunes produced some of the first fossil bird bones that helped to inform past natural history of the islands.

Threats include trash, former military use, cattle, deer, goats, weeds, feral cats, and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Management issues include long time use of the area by fishers; however they primarily utilize the foot path that follows the edge of the cliffs. 'Ilio is comprised largely of lithified sand dunes, with a different assemblage of rare coastal vegetation, but also forms a contiguous area with Mo'omomi (part of which is enrolled in the Natural Area Partnership Program and has still-moving sand dunes). Discussion focused on whether NAR or WLS designation was more appropriate. Staff Duvall said that the area is a re-establishing seabird nesting site; however it would need predator control for management. Endangered Hawaiian Monk seals have been known to utilize the coastline.

Public access is an issue due to the UXO (which is probably why those using the area stay on the road or along the coastal trail, which in turn protects the fragile native vegetation. Land Division staff on Maui said that the military is trying to get a right of entry to train there; another reason to have this proposal to show that what they are proposing is not appropriate. This proposal is being presented today for discussion and to refer it to DOFAW for further review and comment, along with Tract 22 (Island of Hawai'i). Staff Duvall felt the proposal is good; he has tried to get protection for bird and plant resources, and feels it could be like Ka'ena NAR or Mo'omomi Preserve.

Staff Kennedy replied to Member Menard's question about whether the UXO has been mapped, that there had been no certain "sign off"; Staff Duvall said that Land Division posted "no entry" signs with warning about UXO. Chair Bonar felt this was an opportunity to find funding to de-dud the area. Staff Constantinides asked if this was a preliminary proposal that would go to DOFAW for consideration. Staff Yuen said yes. Staff Constantinides felt there were some small technicalities, because it is currently unencumbered State land and so this should be discussed with the Maui Land Agent. Staff Yuen replied that was part of the process, to add more information.

Staff Evanson felt that with the WLS, there is the option to close the area for a longer period of time than is currently allowed under existing NARS Rules. Staff Duvall agreed that the process was being re-opened to include the WLS option; because they can be

closed for much longer (such as Manana and other off-shore islets); the biological justification is there.

AG Chow pointed out that currently it is public land under the Land Division; need to make sure that UXO is taken care of; but how much habitat will be destroyed if you explode them? She suggested mitigation as has been done on Kaho`olawe. Member Rowland suggested closing the terrestrial/mauka part but leave the coastal area open to fishers. AG Chow replied that there is a legal access issue, because the area is landlocked by the Moloka`i Land Trust, which they are leasing from Moloka`i Ranch; and staff cannot do management if they do not have legal access.

Chair Bonar suggested checking in with the Moloka`i community to see what they thought of the two proposals. Staff Landon said that though we are in the business of protecting native ecosystems, there is no real closing of the land; people go anyway. Chair Bonar suggested trying to manage anyway. Staff Langdon said it is supposed to be resource first then people. Member Jacobi wondered whether to pursue `Ilio as a NAR or WLS. Chair Bonar felt that some sort of partnership could help with managing the area. Staff Landon pointed out that Pu`u Ali`i NAR is within Kalaupapa National Historical Park's boundary and National Park Service (NPS) staff help to manage the NAR, so perhaps `Ilio could be both a NAR and a WLS. Staff Kennedy felt that NARS has strong rules. AG Chow raised the point that if terms are inconsistent with language there could be a problem. Chair Bonar: partner with whomever to protect an area! Member Hoeflinger suggested Game Management Areas.

Staff Constantinides pointed out that WLS does not have the same designation process, so need to decide whether a NAR or WLS. Member Menard asked what the next step was from here. Staff Yuen suggested the NARSC refer it to DOFAW, get their recommendations and weigh in on the pros and cons, following the NARS process for designation. Member Menard asked if this was then an official nomination. Staff Duvall agreed that it was that biologically it meets the standards for a NAR **and** a WLS; it is more a process question for DOFAW staff to consider.

Member Jacobi asked who in DOFAW receives this next step; Staff Yuen said that Administrator Paul Conry and then Staff Constantinides and Branch Managers. Staff Duvall said that the same people that access/use the shoreline are not heavy users; the area is remote. Chair Bonar wanted to see more information before sending this to DOFAW, or let the DOFAW process also collect information.

MOTION: Jacobi/Rowland moved that the NARS Commission accepts the `Ilio Point proposal and forward it to the DOFAW Administrator for staff review and comments for it as a NAR proposal, or "something else". Member Jacobi also requested that DOFAW talk about a variety of vehicles in their review. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM 7. a. Extension of Kahauale`a NAR Hawai`i: proposal for discussion and referral to DOFAW for further review. Staff Yuen reviewed the NARS statute and

NARSC duties and enhancement as a state-wide issue and reiterated the enhancement overview. Member Jacobi and others are working on a conservation management strategy, and dealing with the question of what "NARS standard of management" means.

The specific parcel of Kahauale`a, Tract 22, is currently under the Land Division of DLNR; it was somehow not included in the land swap between the State and Campbell Estate.

[Historical note for those not familiar: when Wao O Kele O Puna NAR was swapped for some of Campbell's Kahauale`a lands where a proposed geothermal development which was heavily protested by many, was derailed by a flank eruption of Kilauea (site of current eruptive activity and the reason the NAR continues to be closed to public access). Because the State had been pushing for economic diversification and energy self-sufficiency, they pushed ahead with the land swap, amid even louder protests, resulting in the legislation that now requires a lengthy public process to either add to or remove lands from the NARS. And now, Wao Kele O Puna has been purchased back from Campbell, coming back as Forest Reserve with title held by Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) who in turn hired DLNR to help train OHA staff in natural area management.]

Member Murakami was concerned that as a candidate NAR it was not different from what already was under management. Member Jacobi replied that the larger landscape is important to have under protective management. Staff Yuen said that birds need a larger area and that the habitat in this area is considered to be important. Member Murakami felt that according to the report it was not a higher priority.

Staff Hadway explained that it was part of the complexity due to the aftermath of the land exchange. The area is sandwiched in between Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO) and the current NAR, and the Park has expressed interest in helping to manage the area in partnership. Member Menard asked about pig movement in the area. Staff Hadway felt it would be better open under Unit K (hunting unit that NARs are part of, for legal purposes in hunting rules).

Member Hoeflinger disagreed, saying it was managing for ease of job, and is taking over 5,000 acres of not huntable land. AG Chow said that it is currently unencumbered land and no hunting is legally allowed. Member Jacobi said that the larger landscape is important because volcanic activity may cover an entire area, as happened with Royal Gardens and the loss of a large tract of dryland forest. Member Murakami felt there was no immediate urgency, and adding this could reduce natural area goals over the long term; would rather see other areas take a higher priority.

Staff Hadway said that though the NAR is currently closed, Tract 22 has been a discussion point in the past, and she also brought it back to the Commission to reconsider 4 years ago. Member Rowland asked if there was a problem for management. Staff Hadway replied that staff has access to the area via the Park; it is a non-permitted research haven. Member Rowland felt this was a low-hanging fruit, better to go for higher value areas they we do not have yet.

Staff Yuen felt that Tract 22 is not in a management area and if it was in the NARS it could be managed as part of the Watershed Partnership. Member Jacobi said that the Park did try to acquire it but stopped because it was too difficult to add to Park lands. Staff Yuen said that is why it is best to add now while we have the capacity. Member Murakami felt that because of limited resources that it was better to have a place not already represented, to go for that; `Ilio is a higher priority than Tract 22.

Member Menard asked about criteria to standardize the process. Staff Yuen replied that it was identified as a high priority area. Member Rowland said in that case it would be alright to add to Kahauale`a, but not to spend an exhaustive amount of time on it. Chair Bonar felt that the purpose of having the Subcommittee was to have them review areas in more depth, now these recommendations go to DOFAW, then we can revisit and reprioritize them all or in part. After more discussion back and forth, Staff Hadway said that Big Island DOFAW Branch all agrees that it is important, that it is “hanging” and should be resolved; they are also concerned about any unencumbered lands, because these are being looked at for future biofuel production.

MOTION: Jacobi/Rowland moved that the NARS Commission accept and refer Tract 22, as an extension of Kahauale`a NAR, to the DOFAW Administrator for their review, discussion, and recommendations. Motion carried with six in favor and two opposed (Murakami and Hoeflinger).

ITEM 7. b. Kaluanui NAR, O`ahu: Proposal for discussion and referral to DOFAW for further review. Staff Yuen gave an overview of the area, which is along the summit above Sacred Falls, comprised of open `ohi`a forest, wet cliff, and undiverted stream communities. The area is important habitat for a number of rare plants and insects, including damsel flies being proposed for listing as endangered, and endangered land snail species. State Parks, which the area is currently under, has included this upper portion of the Park as a future NAR, as part of the Master Management Plan that has been developed since the park was closed due to a landslide years ago, and currently closed to any access. Member Jacobi felt it was an opportunity and also a priority.

MOTION: Murakami/Alaka`i moved that the NARS Commission refer the proposed Kaluanui NAR to the DOFAW Administrator for their review, discussion, and recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. d. Recommend opportunities or strategies for conservation management and designation of Biologically Important Areas statewide (Namolokama, Kalalau Back Pali, North of Kui`a, Upper Koa`ie, Blue Hole, Kaluanui, Back of Wailau and South Slope, `Ilio Point, East of Wailau, Lana`ihale, Hanawi West/East, Kahikinui/Nakula, Kanaio Coast, Kauaula/Puehuhunui, Northwest of Pu`u O`Umi NAR, Kamilo, Kahauale`a Extension/Tract 22, Pohakuloa Gulch, Ka`u, Waiea, Cliff above Pebble Beach, Mauna Loa, Waimanu, Hamakua, Puna Lowland Wet Forests). A very general discussion followed, across the landscape, with Chair Bonar saying the Commission was depending on the Subcommittee to look at proposals, have detailed discussions and make sure that recommendations are uniform; and that this

should be as a full day, not part of a regular meeting, but to focus on 1 -2 things that the Commission can take a stand on. Member Jacobi felt that there was limited discussion opportunity at the Branch level, and that they should come to the Commission as a whole. Member Rowland said it was too intractable to deal with all of them at a regular meeting, suggesting the top four should be selected for the next Commission Meeting.

Member Jacobi said it comes down to 1) issues, such as rules and 2) the land itself. Member Menard said that Kaua'i is a complex place and just to address top priorities takes a very long time. Chair Bonar said that it is difficult to get together due to travel costs and other concerns. Staff Yuen asked Staff Constantinides if he had any further comments on the matrix that evaluates potential nominations, including some added columns for current designations and current level of management of areas. Staff Constantinides said that a lot of Branch staff had reasoning for support or not of each area; perhaps that should be summarized from Branch meetings.

Chair Bonar suggested prioritizing before the next meeting to come up with a, b, and c lists, and set a date for the next Subcommittee meeting. Members Jacobi and Menard agreed. Member Rowland was pleased that three proposals were on the move, plus Poamoho.

ITEM 7. e. Discussion and recommendations for acquisition opportunity at Honouliuli, O'ahu. Staff Sheri Mann was unavailable to give a presentation, so item deferred to be discussed at Subcommittee level.

ITEM 7. f. Discussion and recommendations for conservation in the Department from an organizational standpoint. Member Jacobi talked about his general concept of different land use designations for broader management across the landscape. Staff Constantinides expressed concern and suggested focusing on a practical and functional level; do not meet into the ground, it is very difficult for him and staff to attend meetings.

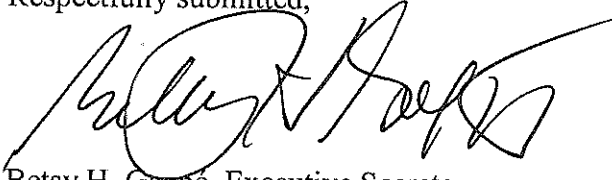
ITEM 4. Budget Update. Staff Kennedy continued on with this portion of Item 4 which was deferred until later in the meeting, passing out spreadsheets and focusing first on HB 1741 with details of what the consequences would be for the Department if it passed. He also mentioned that staff is working on NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Federal Department of Commerce) stimulus grants, AmeriCorps, and that a significant amount of funding that keeps the Division going is through a state grants program, and the. Funding for the Natural Area Partnership, Forest Stewardship and Watershed Partnership Programs could all go away. Member Derrickson said that all special funds are subject to raids, not just the Natural Area Fund (NARF). The Governor is saying no tax increases, yet trying to preserve jobs. As member Hoeflinger aptly expressed it, everyone wants to go to heaven but no one wants to die.

ITEM 8. Announcements. Set next meeting date. After discussion with calendars at the ready, next Enhancement Subcommittee Meeting (Members Derrickson, Jacobi, Menard, and Hughes) to be held May 4, 2009 in DOFAW Conference Room 323 and

next NARS Commission Meeting to be held on May 26, 2009, exact room to be determined, subject to availability.

ITEM 9. Adjournment. Chair Bonar adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betsy H. Gagné", written in a cursive style.

Betsy H. Gagné, Executive Secretary
Natural Area Reserves System Commission