

Hui ‘Ōpe‘ape‘a

Hawaiian Hoary Bat Workshop

March 5 and 6, 2020

Endangered Species Recovery Committee



Goals

Guide the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) in making recommendations for the endangered Hawaiian Hoary Bat in Habitat Conservation Plan development

Receive comments on the Draft Hawaiian Hoary Bat Guidance Document 2020 update



Regulatory Status of the 'Ōpe'ape'a or Hawaiian Hoary Bat

Lasiurus cinereus semotus

‘Ōpe‘ape‘a

Over the mountains silence reigns--

...

He is equal to the blowing breeze,

The younger brother of the god

From which sprang the gods of the bats--

The hairy bats. Sprang the bat with many claws--

Sprang the bat and moved away,

That the rising surf might give it birth.

’Tis night.

The Seventh Era, The Kumulipo, translated by Queen Lili‘uokalani (1897)

Hawaiian Hoary Bat: Regulatory History

- 1970: listed as an endangered species under The Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969
- 1973: retains listing under new Endangered Species Act
- 1983: ESA species list incorporated by statute under State of Hawai'i endangered species law, Chapter 195D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
- 1997: §195D, HRS amended to include Habitat Conservation Plans
- 2012: First permitted bat take in Hawai'i

Chapter 195D, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes

Incidental Take Licenses (ITLs):

- permit take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity
- §195D-4, HRS

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs):

- to the maximum extent practicable, shall minimize and mitigate the impacts of the take
- shall increase the likelihood that the species will survive and recover
- should consider full range of cumulative impacts of take, and provide net environmental benefits
- §195D-21, HRS

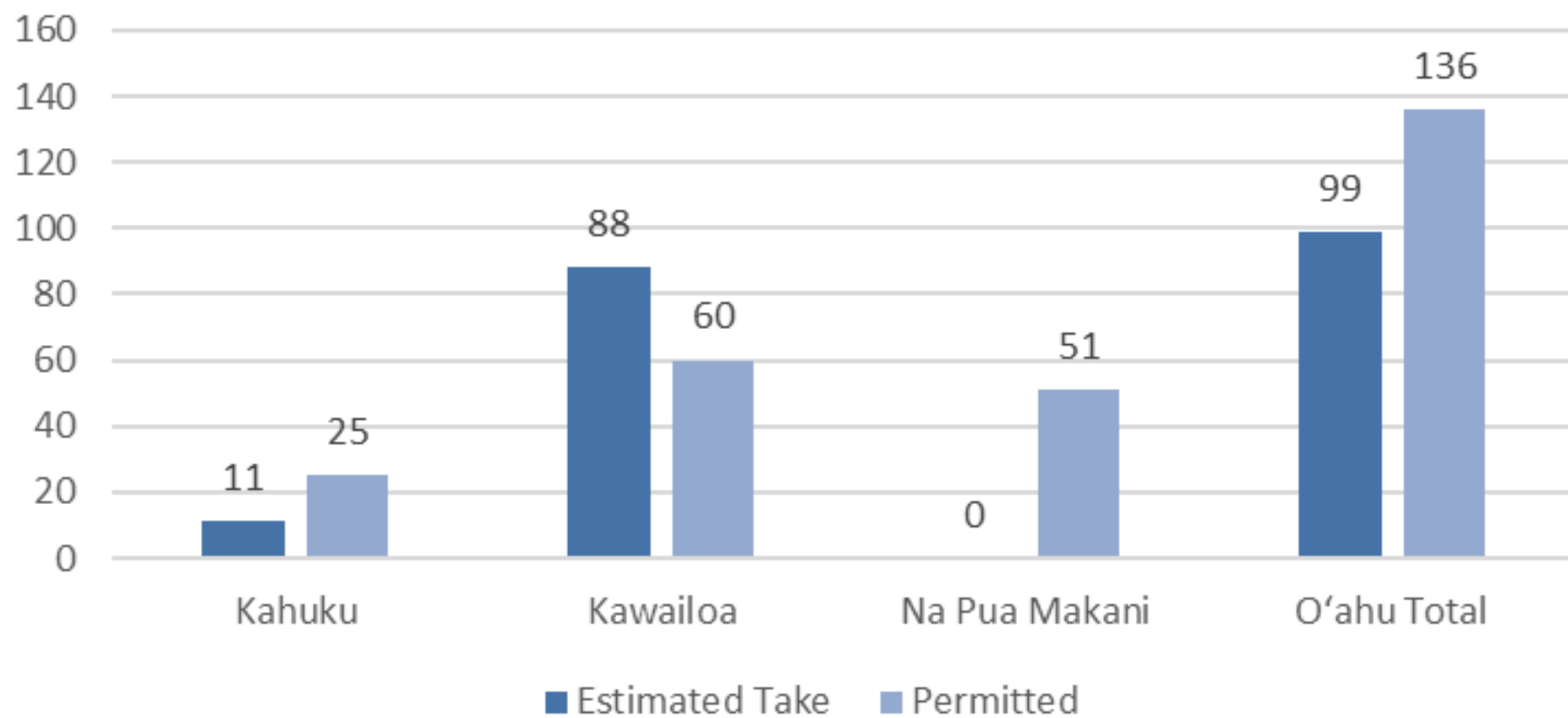
Take

- Harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect endangered or threatened species of aquatic life or wildlife... or to attempt to engage in such conduct
- §195D-2, HRS
- Currently 6 ITLs for bat take at wind energy projects: 3 on Maui and 3 on O‘ahu

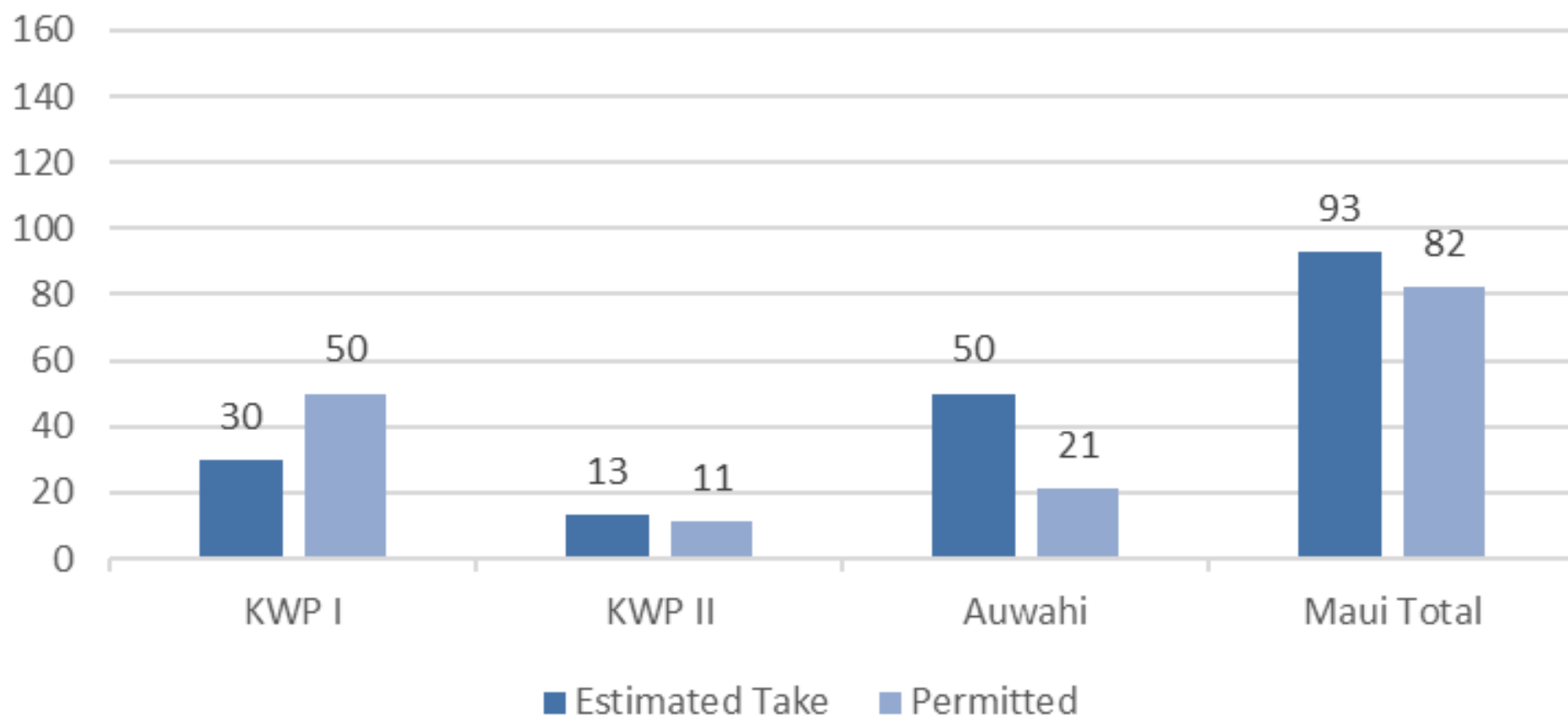
Why are HCPs Important in Hawai'i?

- Resolve conflicts between endangered species protection and legitimate use of natural resources
- Contribute to endangered species recovery efforts through partnerships and proactive planning
- Provide essential ecological information for Hawai'i's resource managers through monitoring

O'ahu Wind Projects Cumulative Bat Take through FY 19



Maui Wind Projects Cumulative Bat Take through FY 19



Chapter 195D, HRS and the ESRC

- Review all applications and proposals for HCPs and ITLs and “make recommendations, based on a full review of the best available scientific and other reliable data and in consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the recovery potential of the endangered... species, to the department and the board as to whether or not they should be approved, amended, or rejected”
- “Consult with persons possessing expertise in such areas as the committee may deem appropriate and necessary in the course of exercising its duties”
- §195D-25

A sloth is hanging upside down from a tree branch, surrounded by large, vibrant green leaves. The sloth's body is brown and furry, and its limbs are visible as it grips the branch. The background is filled with more green foliage, creating a dense, natural setting.

Questions?

Photo credit: Kristina Montoya-Aiona