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DEPT. COMM. NO. 296

**STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI**
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
**KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
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**DAWN N.S. CHANG**
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RYAN K.P. KANAKAʻOLE**
FIRST DEPUTY

**CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE**
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

December 1, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Requiring All Departments And Agencies To Identify Their Goals, Objectives, And Policies, To Provide A Basis For Determining Priorities, And Allocating Limited Public Funds and Human Resources report, as required by Sections 6 and 7 of Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at: https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2026/LNR26-Act100-SLH99-FY25-Rpt.pdf

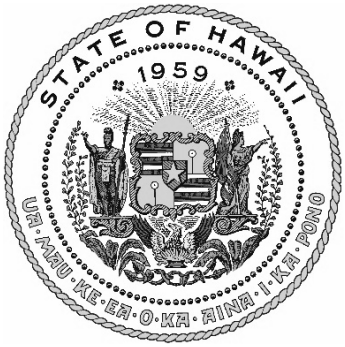
Sincerely,

Dawn N. S. Chang
Chairperson

Enclosure

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

# REQUIRING ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY THEIR GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES, TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR DETERMINING PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATING LIMITED PUBLIC FUNDS AND HUMAN RESOURCES




Prepared by

Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii

In response to Sections 6 and 7 of Act 100,
Session Laws of Hawaii 1999

December 2025

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

# REQUIRING ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY THEIR GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES, TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR DETERMINING PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATING LIMITED PUBLIC FUNDS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

## DLNR'S MISSION'S STATEMENT

Enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

## DLNR'S JURISDICTION

DLNR is responsible for managing, administering, and exercising control over public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas, minerals, and everything in between. The DLNR's jurisdiction encompasses approximately 1.3 million acres of State public lands, beaches, and 3 miles of ocean as well as 750 miles of coastline. It manages 55 state parks, historic sites, forests and forest reserves, aquatic life and marine sanctuaries, public fishing areas; ocean recreational boating, and coastal programs; game management areas, public hunting areas, natural area reserves, and an enforcement division. In addition, the Commission on Water Resource Management administers the State Water Code. The Commission's mission is to protect and manage waters of the State of Hawaii for present and future generations.

## DLNR'S ADMINISTRATION OF ITS MISSION

There are 10 Divisions under DLNR, including Aquatic Resources, Boating and Ocean Recreation, Bureau of Conveyances, Conservation and Coastal Lands, Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Engineering, Forestry and Wildlife, Historic Preservation, Land Division, and State Parks. There are numerous Boards, Commissions and Councils administratively attached to DLNR.

## COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 100

This annual report has been prepared in compliance with Sections 6 and 7 of Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1999. The purpose of this Act is to require all departments and agencies to identify their goals, objectives, and policies, to provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited public funds and human resources, therefore, addressing the following:

1. A statement of goals, including what the department or agency hopes to accomplish both short and long term;

2. Policies, objectives setting forth how each goal can and will be accomplished, and timeframe indicating how the established objectives and policies will be implemented in one, two, and five years; and

3. The process that the department or agency will use to measure effectiveness of its programs and services in meeting the stated goals, objectives, and policies.

This report serves as the strategic plan for the Department.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Bureau of Conveyances**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- To deliver valuable and reliable services through the timely, accurate and digitally accessible recording and archiving of land documents for the State of Hawaii.
- Continuation of technology and operational improvements including digitization, modernized Land Records Management System, cloud-based services, secure web accessibility and business continuity that elevate data integrity, customer service and staff productivity.
- Expand the use of web-based services such as "e-recording" (electronic filing), especially for volume clients such as the title/escrow companies and public document ordering.

## II. POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME:

**Policy A:** Continually improve on service to the public.

Objectives and Timeframe:

A.1. Work with industry representatives (Bar Association, Hawaii Land Title Association, Realtors and Lenders) to improve and facilitate Judiciary Land Court and Bureau of Conveyances processes. (ongoing)

A.2. Drive increasing public use of improved and new electronic services such as document search/order, bulk digital downloads and e-recording while maintaining appropriate security accessibility and confidentiality. (ongoing)

A.3. Continue training as needed for all staff to improve knowledge of Hawaii Revised Statutes and Hawaii Administrative Rules pertinent to the Bureau of Conveyances (Bureau) as well as latest Legislative bills impacting the Bureau. (ongoing)

**Policy B:** Continue technology and operational migration that support new or improved services to the public for the Bureau staff.

Objectives and Timeframe:

B.1. Complete the remaining phases of digitization to ensure the collection of documents, certificates and maps in the Bureau are digitized and indexed to become the building blocks for the secure Land Records Management System (LRMS) and integrated website providing reliable and secure access to archived content and a back-up data source for business continuity needs. (ongoing)

B.2. Continue to improve LRMS functionality along with new services. (ongoing)

B.3. Continue development of a unified, secure,

B.4. and user-friendly online site to access recorded documents, document certification and maps as well as practical Question and Answer scripts and future services.

**Policy C:** Expand and enhance current electronic filing functionality and usage.

Objective and Timeframe:

C.1 Continue to improve customer and staff understanding and usage of new capabilities offered by the new LRMS's electronic filing system. (ongoing)

C.2 Continue customer exposure to electronic filings to increase acceptance and use of this method along with staff training to improve e-filing productivity. (ongoing)

C.3 Continue to work with vendor WCI on enhancements to the new LRMS to reduce errors and further automate functionality of electronic filing and other workflow. (ongoing)

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Continue working plans to accelerate the elimination of the backlog of Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) certification by Land Court Assistant Registrars and other resources.
- Track increase in unit volumes or revenues related to various electronic services utilized by the public.
- Continue to assess suggestions offered by various departments and industry groups regarding Bureau operations and to make these changes where appropriate.

**Policy B:**

- Continue total technology strategy which include updating of personal computer, network hardware and other software to improve document processing workflow, faster access to data and images, improved reliability of current systems and services and a practical business continuity plan. Complete any remaining digitization and indexing tasks to ensure the entire Bureau collection of books, documents, microfilm, and remaining maps will permit increased public access to Bureau data and images online.
- Leverage digitization efforts to increase accessibility to the advanced land records management system data and integrate these services and related tools under one public platform.

**Policy C:**

- Continue improving functionality of electronic recordings to increase the volume of local and mainland documents recorded in this manner.
- Continue to highlight electronic services on the Bureau website as well as "advertising" electronic filing in all industry and association presentations to potential users.
- Work with the land records management system vendor to continue developing expanded "e-filing" services to attract larger user base.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

To strategically plan a transition towards balancing the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's (DOBOR) dual mandate of managing recreational boating and ocean recreation, as established by Chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by allocating more resources to ocean recreation management in the short and medium terms, while continuing to streamline core boating functions, including harbor management, safety, education, and enforcement.

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

As mandated by Act 100, to produce a report outlining DOBOR's policies that directly achieves the above stated goal of balancing DOBOR's dual mandate - of managing recreational boating and managing ocean recreation that occurs in State waters.

**POLICY A:** Expand Ocean Recreation (OR) Planning, Oversight, Education, and Enforcement to Equally Allocate Resources to Each of DOBOR's Mandates

Currently, only 5% of DOBOR and Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) payroll expenditures are focused on OR, versus almost 80% allocated to management and maintenance of state small boat harbors and boat launching ramps. The remaining 15% of expenditures are allocated to administration. To better balance resources allocated to each of DOBOR's mandates, DOBOR has taken steps to transition staff and resources to bolster OR management.

**Objectives and Estimated Time Frame**:

**A.1. Re-describe Position Descriptions (PDs) and optimize allocation of staff**: DOBOR is in the process of re-describing several position classes to incorporate ocean recreation management responsibilities into job duties. In FY2017, re-descriptions for all 25 Boating and Ocean Recreation Harbor Agents were completed. In FY2018, re-descriptions for all four DOBOR District Managers were completed. In FY2022 through FY2025, DOBOR re-described a number of senior management positions as employees left or retired. DOBOR continues to re-describe positions, including for clerical staff, to accurately reflect the tasks and duties that the positions perform daily.

**A.2. Policy and regulatory development for commercial ocean activities**: Develop sound management policies and a regulatory framework based on the best available information and with input from the general public for commercial ocean activities. In FY2018, DOBOR identified these areas of activity, and began or implemented public processes. In FY2019 and FY2020, DOBOR evaluated other areas to regulate similar activity. In FY2021, DOBOR implemented vessel titling with accompanying amendments to the vessel registration system and made clarifying amendments to commercial operation regulations for Kāneʻohe Bay on Oʻahu.

DOBOR will expand facilities and staff duties to include all State waters for purposes of regulating recreational and commercial use of state ocean waters. In FY2021, DOBOR issued/reissued more than 300 commercial use permits to authorize commercial use of state small boat harbors and state ocean waters and monitored state waters for use by commercial entities to improve compliance. Despite having operations limited by COVID-19 and related restrictions in CY2020, commercial operators were able to return to normal operations during CY2021. In FY2022 DOBOR continued regular monitoring for compliance. In FY2023, with commercial activity fully rebounding from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, DOBOR issued/reissued over 800 commercial use permits. In FY2024, there continues to be over 800 commercial use permits in effect, leading to over-commercialization of certain areas. In FY2025, court rulings placed limitations and restrictions on DOBOR's procedures and authority to issue commercial use permits for ocean activities. These court rulings likely will also affect the Department as a whole, and the Department is currently revising its processes to ensure compliance with the court rulings.

**A.3.** **Create new administrative rules and clarify existing administrative rules for ocean recreation activities**: DOBOR conducted rulemaking in FY2022 to clarify the intent of various rules that govern activities on state waters and in state small boat harbors, such as Kahaluʻu Bay surfing school instruction on Hawaiʻi, manta ray viewing night dives on Hawaiʻi, implementing hours of operation for small boat harbors and boating facilities, and clarifying amendments to the Ocean Recreation Management Areas rules. Due to the length of the rulemaking process, DOBOR estimates that many rule amendment projects will take at least one year to complete, with many taking multiple years.

**A.4.** **Seek community input for rulemaking**: DOBOR will provide the OR community with new mechanisms and forums to address OR user conflicts and related issues to facilitate OR rulemaking. In FY2017, DOBOR formed the Maunalua Bay Recreation Advisory Committee (MRAC). MRAC has submitted their recommendations on rules for Maunalua Bay and DOBOR is currently reviewing the proposals to determine if and what amendments to the Hawaii Administrative Rules are necessary. In FY2019, DOBOR formed the Kailua Bay working group to facilitate discussion on user conflicts and proposed solutions through rules. DOBOR has been in contact with stakeholders in FY2021 to develop draft rule amendments for surfing school and area-specific commercial activity regulations. In FY2021, DOBOR formed the Honokōhau Working Group to provide input on developing underutilized land at the Honokōhau Small Boat Harbor. In FY2022, DOBOR formed the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor Working Group to provide input regarding a public private partnership management model for the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor. DOBOR plans to continue its regular practice of engaging in informal outreach in advance of formal rulemaking to ensure stakeholders are able to provide input to rule amendments.

**A.5.** **Partner on outreach, education, and cleanup tasks for marine debris removal**: DOBOR regularly partners with community groups, such as Hawaiʻi Ocean Safety Team (HOST), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons in Hawaiʻi, and Windward Community College for outreach and education programs relating to OR issues. DOBOR plans to continue these productive partnerships indefinitely for the foreseeable future.

Since being transferred from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, DOBOR has been responsible for and facilitated marine debris removal and removal coordination. DOBOR believes a dedicated Marine Waterways Abatement Fund, similar to what is being done in California, would greatly support marine debris cleanup efforts, which would include cleanup of grounded vessels. DOBOR partners with, and will continue to partner with, federal, state, and county agencies to remove marine debris and non- natural hazards to navigation in all State waters. Because frequency of marine debris and grounded vessels is not seasonal or predictable, a dedicated funding source will ensure that agencies can respond quickly and appropriately when marine debris arrives to the State. However, all the Department's efforts to establish such a fund legislatively have been unsuccessful.

**A.6.** **Provide alternative dispute resolution for effective management of resources**: DOBOR is developing a Civil Penalty Schedule that will decriminalize certain violations currently resulting in criminal misdemeanor charges. Boaters and ocean users who commit minor offenses, such as having an expired vessel registration or ramp use sticker, will be able to resolve violations by sending a check in the mail, rather than having to appear in court and potentially having a criminal violation on their record for a violation that should be handled entirely administratively.

**A.7.** **Pursue violators of boating and ocean recreation laws and regulations via administrative enforcement actions**: Illegal boating and ocean recreation activities, namely commercial operations without a valid permit, are a pervasive problem throughout the State. With investigative assistance from DOCARE and representation from the Department of the Attorney General, DOBOR has been, and plans to continue, pursuing violators of DOBOR laws and administrative rules by bringing enforcement actions before the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). DOBOR normally seeks monetary fines, revocation of any applicable DOBOR permits, and a prohibition on DOBOR permits for a substantial period of time in order to deter future violations. Violators often request Contested Case Hearings, and DOBOR works with the Department of the Attorney General on these Contested Case Hearings.

**POLICY B:** Streamline Harbor Operations and Improve Boating Infrastructure and Safety to Provide Expanded Services to the Public and Optimize Revenue to the State.

To carry out its dual mandate more effectively, DOBOR will streamline and optimize all harbor operations, including management, repair, safety, and enforcement.

**Objectives and Estimated Time Frame**:

**B.1.** **Monetize underutilized assets**: In FY2017, two additional parking plans were finalized – one in each of the Lahaina and Ma‘alaea small boat harbors. In FY2020, DOBOR formulated parking plans to optimize its parking areas in all appropriate small boat harbors, building upon the successful plan at Ala Wai small boat harbor which now generates an average of $700,000 per year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DOBOR's original plans to revisit parking plans in FY2021 were delayed. DOBOR revisited the parking plans and determined that direct negotiation would provide the best option for its parking plans. Therefore, in the 2022 Legislative Session, DOBOR worked with the

Legislature to obtain the authority via Act 163 (2022). DOBOR has been able to generate revenue through this authority to help with necessary repairs and maintenance in the facilities.

**B.2.** **Optimize small boat harbor and boating facility fees**: DOBOR finished a statewide appraisal in FY2018, and implemented comprehensive fee increases for small boat harbors and boating facilities in FY2020. The anticipated increased revenue will be used for repairs and maintenance to small boat harbor and boating facility infrastructure. DOBOR is currently finalizing the appraisal for statewide mooring fees and hopes to implement them in 2026.

**B.3.** **Streamline harbor operations and increase efficiency**: DOBOR plans to contract harbor administrative tasks to third parties, in addition to the current concessions, such as parking control. To streamline operations, DOBOR has contracted with a vendor to automate some harbor functions and completed partial automation in FY2022 and FY2023.

**B.4.** **Seek capital funding for infrastructure projects**: DOBOR plans to seek, analyze, and prioritize capital improvement projects (CIP) for appropriations from the Legislature. In FY2018, $68 million was requested, and $4 million (+$23 million add- on) was appropriated. In FY2019, $72 million was requested, and $4.65 million was appropriated. In FY2020, $60 million was requested, and $7.3 million was appropriated. In FY2021, $4.8 million was requested, and $10.35 million was appropriated. In FY2022, DOBOR requested $54 million in CIP funds from the Legislature. In FY2023, DOBOR requested $62.5 million in CIP funds from the Legislature. In FY2024, DOBOR requested $37 million in CIP funds from the Legislature. In FY2025, DOBOR requested $200 million in CIP funds from the Legislature.

**B.5.** **Develop, streamline, and make databases accessible to support enforcement**: In FY2026, DOBOR will continue to streamline its stolen vessel database and provide easier access for DOCARE and partner law enforcement agencies in the field where real time data is essential. DOBOR will continue to gather information for a registry of certified vessel operators to allow enforcement personnel to query and verify an individual's certification status at any time via a secure connection over the internet. DOBOR has provided access to the Vessel Registration and Titling System to help enforcement of vessels on state ocean waters.

**B.6.** **Innovate and support boating safety education**: DOBOR continues to innovate in increasing accessibility to boating safety courses, to support vessel mandatory programs, and host training by national level programs. In FY2017 and FY2018, DOBOR was engaged in a program to provide course materials to its boating safety partners that resulted in more affordable and accessible classes. In FY2019 through FY2021, DOBOR continued to offer telephone proctored boating certification tests for individuals living in remote areas and hired interpreters for the hearing impaired to facilitate learning. DOBOR hoped to provide foreign language boating safety courses by the end of FY2022 but encountered delays because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Near the end of FY2023, DOBOR released a thrill craft certification class in an online environment to allow Neighbor Island operators to obtain certifications through a more

convenient method. DOBOR is working with a few national partners to possibly create an in person/hands on and interactive boating education course.

**B.7.** **Enhance boating safety through administrative rule changes**: Through rule changes, DOBOR will continue to support development and refinement of classroom, online, and home-study boating safety courses that are economical, accessible, and satisfy State requirements. In FY2019, DOBOR repealed its rule requiring boating and thrill craft certification classes to be offered through an institute of higher education (a college), and now allows for third party internet and classroom courses to be developed and approved for use in Hawai‘i by DOBOR. The availability of thrill craft certification classes is expected to rapidly multiply, leading to a corresponding decrease in cost, which would provide access to a larger portion of the boating public. In FY2025, DOBOR plans to make rule amendments to address emerging boating and ocean recreation technologies, such as electric hydrofoils, other electric watercraft, and lower powered watercraft that would not be categorized as boats.

**POLICY C:** Optimize Revenue From Fast Lands to Support Division Priorities, Keeping Within the Public Trust Management and Resource Sustainability Mission of DLNR**.**

Optimization of fast lands revenue will allow DOBOR to support its priorities in boating and ocean recreation management.

**Objectives and Time Frame**:

**C.1.** **Plan and establish priorities for fast lands**: To optimize revenue from fast lands, DOBOR hired three Property Managers in FY2018 to help set and execute planning priorities for FY2019. As mandated by BLNR, these priorities include: converting the disposition of as many properties as possible from short-term Revocable Permits (RPs) to long-term disposition, such as leases; and redeveloping the Ala Wai small boat harbor. The conversion of fast land dispositions from RPs to leases has the potential to provide DOBOR with a revenue stream that can support its dual mandate of managing boating and ocean recreation management.

**C.2.** **Streamline procedures**: DOBOR's procedures for lease of state lands were streamlined in FY2017. These procedures were made more transparent by displaying application forms and awards on DOBOR's website. To assist in making these procedures more efficient, in FY2019, DOBOR Property Managers compiled a working manual of procedures and forms, both in hardcopy and more importantly, electronically.

**C.3.** **Automate billing and collection**: A significant portion of DOBOR's resources are spent on billing and collection of fees. To optimize utility billing and collection from all properties, in FY2017, DOBOR contracted with a vendor to automate all billing and collection. In FY2018, the vendor began detailing the scope of work, and the system went live in FY2021.

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

The measures below provide indicators that DOBOR believes will quantitatively show progress towards its stated goal.

**Policy A: Expand Ocean Recreation planning, oversight, education, and enforcement to more accurately reflect DOBOR's dual mandate.**

i. Re-describing PDs, and identifying all tasks for staff
ii. Accurately tracking the number of commercial permits issued for state waters
iii. Implementing priority rulemaking packages
iv. Increased participation in various community and outreach events

**Policy B: Streamline harbor operations and improve boating infrastructure and safety to provide expanded services to the public and optimize revenue to the State.**

i. Optimizing revenue-generating assets
ii. Ensuring regular monitoring of vessels in small boat harbors and ensuring that only regularly navigated vessels in good condition are allowed to continue to moor in small boat harbors for public safety
iii. Entering into public-private partnerships for harbor administration management
iv. Improving and increasing the number of boating safety education classes and boater certifications

**Policy C: Optimize revenue from fast lands to support Division priorities, keeping within the public trust and resource sustainability mission of the DLNR.**

i. Converting RPs to long-term leases
ii. Providing online access to applications for fast land disposition
iii. Utilizing and improving DOBOR's automated billing process

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- To protect and conserve Conservation District lands and beaches within the State of Hawai‘i for the benefit of present and future generations, pursuant to Article Xl, Section 1, of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. These lands encompass our State’s terrestrial and marine environments with special emphasis on coastal areas and beaches.

- To balance the conservation of the State’s unique and fragile natural resources with development of these resources for the good of the State. This will be accomplished through superior management of regulatory functions, efficient use of staff resources and technology, use of science, permit streamlining, development of agency networks (interagency coordination), administrative consistency, innovative program financing, and promotion of climate resiliency.

- To improve the State’s resiliency to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing climate change adaptation measures to reduce the State’s exposure to climate change impacts and to promote ambitious, climate neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable, and resilient.

## II. POLICES, OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME (not in order of priority):

**Policy A:** Improve regulation of all Conservation District lands by balancing resource conservation and use.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1. Continue internal/external employee training efforts (ongoing).
A.2. Continue to promote understanding of case issues and natural resources and require site inspections where feasible on all major applications (ongoing).
A.3. Promote public participation and transparency in regulatory process (ongoing).
A.4 Continue to provide efficient/effective public service.
A.5. Partner with other state, federal and county agencies to improve resource management and reduce regulatory redundancy (ongoing).
A.6 Continue to integrate cultural and environmental considerations into the review of Conservation District Use Applications (CDUAs).
A.7 Continue to streamline regulatory processes for cultural and ecological restoration work such as Hawaiian fishpond restoration and small-scale beach restoration projects. (Competed Fishpond restoration, and working on small-scale beach restoration and dune restoration program, 2years).
A.9 Continue to review status of all expired approvals for coastal erosion structures issued by the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) and determine proper disposition (on-going).

A.10. Continue to maintain and update OCCL website.
A.11. Conduct public hearings regarding proposed amendments and compilation to Title 13-5, Hawaii Administrative Rules (1 year).

**Policy B:** Reduce Conservation District violations.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.1. Actively implement penalty schedule for Conservation District violations (on-going) and aggressively apply penalty schedule to shoreline vegetation encroachments (Chapters 115/183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)).
B.2. Expedite processing of enforcement cases so that violations can be swiftly resolved. This will allow staff to process more cases, which should deter violators, resulting in a reduction in violations in the long run (ongoing).
B.3. Improve coordination of intradepartmental enforcement efforts – e.g., Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Division of Aquatic Resources, Land Division, etc., by promoting use of Civil Resource Violation (CRV) penalty system (ongoing).
B.4. Conduct more outreach in order to educate all those parties who handle conservation lands (websites, brochures, videos, meetings, press) (ongoing).
B.5. Provide for internal/external training needs for staff to enable them to expedite enforcement cases (ongoing).
B.6. Focus on prevention (ongoing).

**Policy C:** Reduce beach loss and narrowing.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

C.1. Continue enforcement on illegal seawalls (ongoing).
C.2. Recommend actions to fill in resource gaps - e.g., additional erosion hazard data, sand budget analysis, staffing and funding, Regional Sediment Management, legislative initiatives, and policies.
C.3. Promote and where appropriate, fund beach restoration efforts, with a focus on rural and under-served communities (on-going).
C.4. Develop and promote alternatives to shoreline hardening (e.g. beach restoration, beach management plans, relocation, engineered structures such as breakwaters) (5 years).
C.5. Streamline permitting process for beach restoration projects (2 years).
C.6. Disseminate planning guidelines for appropriate coastal development, so that new structures are located with enough distance from the shoreline — e.g., Coastal Construction Guidebook (ongoing).
C.7. Seek cooperation of county agencies to resolve existing erosion problems and establish mutually agreeable guidelines on enforcement, planning, and remedial erosion solutions (2 years).
C.8. Develop and disseminate educational materials including a hazards guidebook, brochures, and press (ongoing).

C.9. Continue Coastal Lands Manager functions (ongoing).
C.10. Pursue enforcement of unauthorized vegetation along beach corridors (ongoing).
C.11. Continue to support Sea Level Rise/shoreline change research and beach vulnerability (ongoing).
C.12. Administer Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) funds to conduct beach and dune restoration projects in underserved communities statewide (ongoing).

**Policy D:** Implement Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative (Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017).

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

D.1 Seek grant funds for catalytic projects that reinforce the intertwined nature of climate change resilience and economic recovery (ongoing);
D.2 Assemble a third year of Climate Ready Corps that supports key departments in implementing climate goals. The ten-member VISTA AmeriCorps cohort will continue to work on climate “readiness” and equity (Dec 2021-2022);
D.3 Initiate development of critical climate change policy tools for departments to incorporate into their daily operations (2021-2023);
D.4 Strengthen and expand international, regional, national, state and local partnerships to motivate and move forward on climate action (ongoing);
D.5 Continue to provide support for transportation decarbonization strategies for state and county agencies; and
D.6 Compile, analyze and disseminate Hawai‘i-relevant climate change information to the local, national and global communities (ongoing).

**Policy E:** Produce educational guidance materials for conservation and/or coastal landowners.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

F.1. Disseminate Hawai‘i Coastal Construction Guidebook (ongoing).
F.2. Disseminate Conservation District Lands Guidance Manual (ongoing).
F.3. Disseminate Hawai‘i Real Estate Handbook (ongoing).
F.4. Disseminate Ho‘āla Loko I‘a Permit Application Guidebook (ongoing).

**Policy F:** Continue to work with coastal communities to deal with the impact of unauthorized and induced vegetation (Chapter 115, HRS)

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

G.1. Document cases around the State (ongoing).
G.2. Enforce cases of obvious illegal actions (plantings, irrigation, and fertilization) (ongoing).

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- **Improve regulation of all Conservation District lands by balancing resource conservation and use.**

- Measure how well staff is responding to training and feedback on their case work utilizing the Performance Appraisal System.
- Document number of site visits for CDUAs or enforcement and query whether the experience facilitated the regulatory process and rational decision-making.
- Try to obtain feedback from the public and other interest groups on how they are finding out about public meetings on conservation cases. Query the public on how they feel decision-makers are using their input.
- Consider if the public is satisfied with the level of public service provided by OCCL. A short questionnaire could be posted on website to obtain input.
- Evaluate how well or to what extent partner agencies are willing to streamline or consolidate permit process.
- For fishponds, establish benchmarks or milepost for processing the necessary state and federal approvals.
- How many temporary sandbag permits are terminated and removed.
- Set time frame for rule amendment and use this as a measure of performance.
- Fine tune contested case hearing process.
- Success at maintaining an updated website with meeting notices, pending applications, etc.
- Extent of public outreach, performance on timing of proposed amendments.

**Policy B:**

- **Reduce Violations**
  - Document number of reductions in the time necessary to process violation cases.
  - Document number of cases processed via annual reporting.
  - Make application process easier in order to encourage landowners to submit to application process.
  - Success rate of stopping illegal shoreline armoring.

**Policy C:**

- **Reduce beach loss and narrowing.**
  - Training/networking with other agencies should result in a reduction in unauthorized seawalls. Monitor incidence of unauthorized shoreline improvements.
  - Document number of meetings, mapping benchmarks, and plan formulation status.
  - Plan and implement five beach or dune restoration projects in Hawai‘i over the next five years to reduce the need for shoreline hardening.
  - Document implementation of other erosion management solutions to replace seawalls such as beach restoration, shoreline retreat, purchase, and softer erosion management methods.
  - Document increase in the number of privately funded beach restoration efforts due to streamlined permit process.
  - Siting decisions by county and state agencies should begin to reflect avoidance of coastal erosion rather than confrontation.
  - Actions by individuals should be affected by outreach and education to result in overall improvement in erosion problems.
  - Continue to promote and fund shoreline erosion change research and data gathering.
  - Measure effectiveness of shoreline locator in identifying the legal shoreline.
  - Document number of Act 160, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, cases processed.
  - Monitor performance of UH science team and consultant.
  - Document how TAT funds are being utilized for their intended purpose to improve visitor amenities.

**Policy D:**

- **Implement Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative (Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017).**
  - Describe a framework for resilience and adaptation
  - Develop a communications strategy for key climate change messages; and expand the web portal to contain information and policy tools for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
  - Initiate discussions on internalizing the costs of greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Initiate work and discussions on climate change induced risk to physical and financial infrastructure
  - Seek funding for pilots and demonstrations that align with Commission priorities;
  - Provide context and input into sub-national, and international forums for climatechange;
  - Success in the 2021 Legislature with passage of legislation addressing sea level rise adaption and active transportation priorities.

**Policy E:**

- **Produce educational/guidance materials for conservation and/or coastal landowners.**
  - Popularity of publications.
  - Total number of landowners reached with some form of education.
  - Number of public presentations given by staff.
  - Number of times a consultant refers to a DLNR publication.
  - Number of times an applicant chooses to do something other than build a seawall due to DLNR education.

**Policy F:**

- **Continue to work with coastal communities to deal with the impact of unauthorized and induced vegetation.**
  - How many cases can be documented?
  - How many coastal communities can we develop partnerships with?
  - What will be the measurable effect of the effort in terms of areas of induced vegetation cleared from public beaches?

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Commission on Water Resource Management**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- To protect the freshwater resources of the State and provide for maximum beneficial use of water by present and future generations.
- Prioritize and protect public trust uses of water.
- Develop comprehensive, long-range plans for the protection, conservation and management of the State's water resources, including the development and updating of the Hawaii Water Plan in accordance with the Hawaii Water Plan Framework.
- Collect and analyze hydrologic data and assess water resource availability and use.
- Designate water management areas and regulate water use where water resources may be threatened.
- Establish instream flow standards on a stream-by-stream or regional basis whenever necessary to protect the public interest in waters of the State.
- Protect stream channels from alteration whenever practicable to provide for fishery, wildlife, recreational, aesthetic, scenic, and other beneficial instream uses.
- Administer a statewide permitting system for well construction, pump installation, stream channel alteration, and stream diversion works.
- Administer water use permitting system in designated water management areas.
- Investigate and arbitrate water-related complaints/disputes.

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Data collection, monitoring, and studies. Develop the best available information on water resources, including: current and future water uses; surface water and ground water quantity and quality (i.e., chlorides); instream uses; hydrologic resource monitoring and data collection; water availability and occurrence; modeling, planning, and other activities to make informed decisions about reasonable and beneficial use and to protect the resource.

Objectives and Time Frame:

A.1. Continue to do public outreach to train well and stream diversion owners and operators including government agencies, community organizations, and private entities to utilize an online reporting system to input their monthly water use reports (ongoing).

A.2. Continue to coordinate, update, and integrate information in the Hawai‘i Water Plan, including the development and refinement of water demand forecasts and sustainable yield estimates with consideration to climate change, and the identification of strategies to meet existing and future demands for state water projects, agricultural lands, municipal water systems, and other water uses within each county (ongoing).

A.3. Continue to amend, as needed, interim instream flow standards (IIFS) for the State.

A.4. Implement processes and tasks related to the designation of the Lahaina Aquifer

Sector Area on Maui as a ground and surface water management area (ongoing).

A.5. Implement and monitor interim instream flow standards (interim IFS) established through mediated agreement for Waimea River, Kauaʻi (ongoing).

A.6. Monitor IIFS established for ʻUkumehame, Olowalu, Launiupoko, Kauaʻula, Honolua, Honakohau, and Kahoma Streams in West Maui (ongoing).

A.7. Continue to partner with the University of Hawaiʻi Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) to install Mesonet climate stations statewide for the purpose of collecting important data about changing climate conditions.

A.8. Continue to implement and improve surface water data collection network including the installation of continuous gaging stations and development of an online interface for data dissemination to the public (ongoing).

A.8. Conduct field investigations to inventory and verify surface water uses and stream diversions; update existing surface water information (a pre-condition to establish IFS) (ongoing).

A.9. Continue to make improvements to the Commission's Water Resource Information Management System (WRIMS), a comprehensive database to manage permits, regulatory processes, field investigations, complaints, gaging records, water use reports, and other water-related information in support of long-range planning, IFS, ground water protection programs, and water audit program (ongoing).

A.10. Identify priority areas for new ground and surface water monitoring. Submit funding requests as needed to support monitoring programs (e.g., deep monitor wells, water level observation wells, chloride analysis, spring flow measurements, rain gage data, fog drip analysis, stream gaging, stream surveys) (ongoing).

A.11. Complete construction of new deep monitor wells (DMWs):

- Kaloko, Hawaiʻi Island (DMW) (1 year)
- Waimea, Hawaiʻi Island (DMW) (2 years)
- Waiʻanae, Oʻahu (DMW) (3 years)
- Honolua, Maui (DMW) (3 years)
- Paia, Maui Island (DMW) (3 years)

A.12. Organize cooperative agreements and partnerships with other state agencies, divisions, county water supply departments, and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to enhance collaboration, knowledge exchange, and increase collection of hydrologic data statewide (ongoing).

A.13. Continue to review and update:

- Geographic Information System (GIS) coverage for the State:
  - Rainfall
  - Evapotranspiration
  - Recharge (including fog-drip)
  - Surface and Ground Hydrologic Units and related water availability;
- Data standards for ground and surface water models;
- Data standards for water user reporting requirements;
- Verify/reestablish elevation benchmarks for all wells in the Commission's ground water observation well network (ongoing);
- Data on existing well pumpage, water level, and salinity from all production and long-term observation wells statewide (ongoing);
- Recharge estimates (2 years).

A.14. Continue to study and refine hydrologic unit boundaries (For ground water: Anaehoʻomalu/Waimea, Big Island; Central Aquifer Sector, Maui; Moanalua/Waimalu, Oʻahu; and Waialua/ Mokulēʻia, Oʻahu) and estimates of ground water sustainable yields and surface water IFS (ongoing).

A.15. Continue to increase compliance of well and stream diversion water use reporting across the State (ongoing).

A.16. Investigate the link between changes in land uses and land cover, including watershed management, and ground and surface water resource availability (ongoing).

A.17. Implement Supreme Court directive to designate windward Oʻahu surface water management related to Waiahole Ditch (ongoing).

A.17 Consult and coordinate with the Aha Moku Advisory Committee to incorporate cultural knowledge and protect traditional and customary rights in planning and permitting activities (ongoing).

A.18 Investigate the science of coastal freshwater discharge impacts on ground water dependent ecosystems for consideration in setting or adjusting ground water sustainable yields (ongoing).

A.19 Investigate opportunities to convert un-used or abandoned wells into index/monitoring wells in priority areas (ongoing).

**Policy B**: Reporting, enforcement, and permitting. Provide the regulatory and internal framework, including best use of information technology, for efficient ground and surface water management.

Objectives and Time Frame:

B.1. Continue to streamline the processing of permit applications and petitions, including Surface Water Use Permits, Stream Channel Alteration Permits, Stream Diversion Works Permits, Well Construction Permits, Pump Installation Permits, Ground Water Use Permits, Petitions to Amend IFS, and Petitions for Water Management Area Designation (ongoing).

B.2. Continue to modernize internal processes for permits, including the development of electronic checklists, merge-files for form letters, permits, and GIS services (ongoing).

B.3. Establish web-based permit applications (where appropriate) and water use reporting (2-4 years).

- Water use reporting for all well operators/owners (ongoing).
- Water use reporting for all surface water diversion operators/owners (ongoing).
- Permit application/processing (2 years).
- Automated email notice for status of permit applications and water use reporting compliance (2-4 years).

B.4. Update application fees (done for Well Construction and Pump Installation ).

B.5. Update penalty and enforcement policies (maximum of $5,000 per violation in rules done - 1-2 years for further updates including daily fines).

B.6 Issue surface water use permits and appurtenant water rights certificates for Nā Wai ʻEhā (Central), Maui (ongoing).

B.7 Update and amend various sections in the Commission's Hawaiʻi Administrative Rules (HAR) (ongoing).

B.8 Process water use permit applications in the Lahaina Ground- and Surface-Water

Management Area for Commission action (ongoing).

B.9 Seal abandoned wells that pose a threat to drinking water aquifers (in process for two wells on O‘ahu).

**Policy C:** Long-range planning. Promote comprehensive and integrated water resource planning for the development, use, protection, conservation, and augmentation of water resources and protection of public trust uses and water rights through systematic and regular updating of the Hawai‘i Water Plan (HWP) and other relevant water plans.

Objectives and Time Frame:

C.1. Update the “Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawai‘i Water Plan” based on the experience gained by the various responsible agencies and to address emerging issues and new directives (anticipated to be complete within 1 year).

C.2. Refine and update various components of the Hawai‘i Water Plan, including various county Water Use and Development Plans in accordance with the Updated Hawai‘i Water Plan Framework (ongoing).

C.3. Coordinate critical studies and assessments pertinent to the Hawai‘i Water Plan component plans (ongoing).

C.4 Outreach to the State Land Use Commission (LUC), Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), and county planning departments to better coordinate water and land use planning and to ensure the county Water Use and Development plans align with their respective county general, island, development, and sustainable community plans (ongoing).

C.5. Conduct outreach sessions with each county and relevant stakeholders to vet the new county Water Use Development Plan requirements in accordance with the Updated Hawai‘i Water Plan Framework (in process).

C.6. Coordinate outreach meetings with the Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Land and Natural Resources (Engineering Division) and other plan preparers to update the Water Quality Plan, Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan, and State Water Projects Plan, in accordance with the Updated Hawai‘i Water Plan Framework (next 1 to 2 years).

C.7. Ensure proper consideration is given to the protection of public trust uses and water rights in the refinement and updating of the Hawai‘i Water Plan (ongoing).

C.8. Promote and encourage conservation, reuse, and recharge as strategies for meeting future demands (ongoing).

C.9. Solicit public input and conduct educational outreach, including presentations on the status and importance of completing the various inter-agency components of the Hawai‘i Water Plan and the value of long-range planning in accordance with the Updated Hawai‘i Water Plan Framework (ongoing).

C.10. Implement the Hawai‘i Drought Program (pursuant to the Hawai‘i Drought Plan) including updating the Hawai‘i Drought Plan and county drought mitigation strategies, promoting drought preparedness and mitigation, and identification of drought assistance opportunities (ongoing).

C.11. Continue to implement priority measures identified in the 2013 Hawai‘i Water Conservation Plan, including agricultural irrigation metering outreach and education,

municipal water loss auditing training, policy changes to improve water use efficiency via the State and county building codes, and technical assistance and support. (ongoing).

C.12. Update the Hawai‘i Water Conservation Plan.

C.13. Develop policies and programs respective of the water-energy nexus to cost-effectively optimize water and wastewater systems. Identify both opportunities as well as barriers/constraints to co-implementation of water and energy efficiency programs (ongoing).

C.14. Develop water shortage plans for priority areas, including Lahaina, Maui, to ensure water resources are protected during water shortage through a reasonable and equitable system of water use reductions (ongoing).

C.15. Study the means and methods to augment natural supplies including, but not limited to wastewater and gray water reuse, storm water reclamation and reuse, aquifer storage and recovery, and desalination. Promote and implement recommendations in previous studies (ongoing).

C.16. Complete the Statewide Water Reuse Study (within the next year).

C.17. Study potential impacts of climate change on the hydrologic cycle and implications for ground and surface water availability as part of the assessment for revising Sustainable Yields statewide.

C.18. Develop adaptive policies and strategies to ensure resource protection and provide for current and future water needs (ongoing) including completion of the first generation Keauhou Aquifer System Groundwater Adaptive Management Plan (within the next year).

C.19. Continue participation in the Red Hill Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) and engage with the Department of Health (DOH), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Navy, and others to remediate Red Hill fuel leak and recovery of the aquifer.

**Policy D:** Community engagement. Support community-based management of water resources; engage in collaborative partnerships and public outreach and education; encourage holistic and community-based management approach.

Objectives and Time Frame:

D.1. Work with stakeholders and community groups to assist the Commission in resource stewardship; address water-related issues, develop outreach and educational programs and materials about water resource conservation, protection and management, and disseminate information (ongoing).

D.2. Provide information and support stakeholders and community groups to manage water resources and resolve disputes. Develop and provide timely, accessible information to the public (ongoing).

D.3. Provide technical support to the watershed partnerships and the Department’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife’s (DOFAW) watershed management programs to enhance the quality and quantity of water resources (ongoing).

D.4. Support efforts with ‘Aha Moku Advisory Council (AMAC) to establish and facilitate communications with traditional and customary practitioners (ongoing).

**Policy E:** Funding, staff, and programmatic improvements. Enhance and improve current stream protection and ground water protection programs for future generations.

Objectives and Time Frame:

E.1. Apply for funding (private and public grants) to meet program objectives (ongoing).

E.2. Continue work of Pearl Harbor Ground Water Monitoring Group; finalize draft Ground Water Monitoring Phase I Plan (on hold).

E.3. Work with federal, state, county agencies, and the private sector to promote reuse and safe and appropriate use of reclaimed water as part of the Statewide Water Reuse Study (ongoing).

E.4. Develop procedures to seal abandoned wells on timely basis; adopt administrative rules to support this program (2-3 years).

E.5. Update 2004 Hawai‘i Well Construction and Pump Installation Standards (ongoing).

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

- Percentage of complete application permits processed within time limits.
- Percentage of complaints satisfactorily resolved, as a percentage of complaints registered.
- Amount of State funding leveraged to attract non-State dollars.
- Number of hydrologic units with at least one monitoring well.
- Timely updates to Hawai‘i Water Plan components (every 5 years).
- Number of hydrologic studies completed.
- Number of notices of violations for over pumping or other water related infractions.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Division of Aquatic Resources**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- Protect and restore native aquatic species and their habitats for Hawaii's people and visitors through active and effective restoration, conservation, and management
- Support and assist in the sustainable use of Hawaii's aquatic resources for Hawaii's fishing public, whether commercial or non-commercial in nature, by appropriate regulatory frameworks, licensing, management, outreach, collaboration, and research
- Effectively manage the aquatic resources of each county, recognizing that different moku are unique, and integrating the importance of community input and cultural knowledge into resource management

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Protect and restore native aquatic species and their habitats for Hawaii's people and visitors through active and effective restoration, conservation and adaptive management

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1. Statutory amendments and administrative rule making (ongoing)
A.2. Environmental review and impact evaluations, technical guidance (ongoing)
A.3 Collaborative marine management planning for the Holomua Initiative (ongoing)
A.4. Artificial reef and habitat restoration development and surveys (ongoing)
A.5. Investigate and respond to natural and human-caused events, such as fish kills, coral bleaching, vessel groundings, and other environmental disturbances (ongoing)
A.6. Stream and estuarine surveys (ongoing)
A.7. Native species biological and habitat investigations (ongoing)
A.8. Aquatic protected species monitoring and response (ongoing)
A.9. Mitigate and reduce harmful interactions between the public and aquatic protected species (ongoing)
A.10. Protect or improve coral and estuarine ecosystems through mitigation of land-based pollution, user education, and habitat restoration (ongoing)
A.11. Increase capacity for aquatic ecosystem research and management by developing partnerships with academic institutions, federal and state agencies, and non-governmental organizations (ongoing)
A.12. Invasive species prevention, rapid response, and control (ongoing)

**Policy B:** Support and assist in the sustainable use of Hawaii's aquatic resources for Hawaii's fishing public, whether commercial or non-commercial in nature, by appropriate regulatory frameworks, licensing, management, outreach, collaboration, and research

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.1. Licenses and permits issued (ongoing)
B.2. Collect and analyze fisheries and market data - catch and dealer reports received and processed (ongoing)
B.3. Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish vessel and laynet gear registrations (ongoing)
B.4. Data dissemination - internal and external data requests (ongoing)
B.5. Active two-way communication and collaboration with management agencies, NGO's, community groups, fishing groups, and the public (ongoing)
B.6. Aquatic areas managed (ongoing)
B.7. Regulations and other measures to manage aquatic species, their habitats, and the trade in such species (ongoing)
B.8. Fishing community surveys (ongoing)
B.9. User surveys within fishing areas (ongoing)
B.10. Collaborative marine management planning associated with the Holomua Inititative (ongoing)

**Policy C:** To effectively manage the aquatic resources of each county, recognizing that different moku are unique, and integrating the importance of community input and cultural knowledge into resource management.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

C.1. Statutory measures and administrative rule making (ongoing)
C.2. Environmental review and impact evaluations, technical guidance (ongoing)
C.4. Collabortive marine management planning for the Holomua Initiative (ongoing)
C.5. Artificial reef development and surveys (ongoing)
C.6. Stream and estuarine surveys (ongoing)
C.7. Native species biological and habitat investigations (ongoing)
C.8. Protected species monitoring and assessments (ongoing)
C.9. Collect and analyze data on regulatory effectiveness (ongoing)
C.10. Data dissemination - internal and external data requests (ongoing)
C.11. Conduct meetings and make contacts with other management agencies (ongoing)
C.12. Conduct meetings and make contacts with community groups, members and organizations (ongoing)
C.13. Outreach, campaigns, school visits, events (ongoing)
C.14. Increase community participation in stewardship activities through collaborative research and planning, community-based subsistence fishing area designation, and Makai Watch program implementation (ongoing)

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Number of endangered species recovery projects (number)
- Actively managed freshwater, estuarine, and marine areas and artificial reefs newly created or enlarged (acres)
- Net changes in biomass or biodiversity at actively managed aquatic areas, restoration sites, and artificial reefs (thousands of pounds, number of species)
- New or amended internal policies that further management of marine, estuarine & stream species (number)
- Technical guidance provided in permit or statutorily-required reviews (number reviewed)
- Number of fishing tournaments and outreach events held where aquatic education and conservation outreach was provided
- Provide coordinated response to monk seal pupping events, unusual haulouts, and injuries (number per island)
- Acres of invasive species controlled
- Number of Marine Managed Areas Designated
- Number of methods developed and used to manage aquatic invasive species
- Number reports and publication produced from West Hawaii monitoring data
- Number of watershed restoration practices used in West Maui
- Number of places considering enhanced management of aquatic resources
- Number of facilities with capacity to propagate native fish, invertebrates, and plants
- Number of environmental reviews effectively processed

**Policy B:**

- Number of licenses and permits issued
- Fishing reports collected and processed as percentage of total reports due
- Online commercial marine fishing license issued/renew, adoption rate
- Online commercial fish report filing, adoption rate
- Fishing success (fish/trip)
- Number of fishery management areas
- Number of new/amended rules to sustain important species
- Number of fishers interviewed (thousands)
- Planned new or expansion of existing artificial reefs
- Number of recreational boater intercepts (thousands)
- Number of shoreline fishermen intercepts (thousands)
- Freshwater sport fish species reared

**Policy C:**

- Number of communities consulted
- Aquatic managed areas and artificial reefs newly created, enlarged or under improved management (acres)
- Net changes in biomass or biodiversity at actively managed aquatic areas, restoration sites, and artificial reefs (thousands of pounds, number of species)
- New or amended regulations that further manage marine, estuarine & stream species (number added)

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- To restructure the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) to reflect its priority for natural, cultural, and historic resources protection.
- To actively uphold the laws that serve to protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources.
- To promote the safe and responsible use of Hawaii's natural resources through public education, community outreach and the establishment of meaningful partnerships.

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Expand the enforcement and administrative capacity of the Division by filling all vacant positions, particularly the vacant Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officer entry level positions authorized by the 2021 Legislative Session.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1 Hire and train the employees who fill these positions, provide necessary equipment to outfit these employees (6-8 months)

A.2 With the fielding of the newly hired and trained Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officers, initiate increased law enforcement operations on all islands (1 year)

**Policy B**: To develop and implement a staffing structure to improve efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and officer safety.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.1 Identify immediate actions that need to be taken to begin process. (ongoing)

B.2 Develop a well-planned reorganization of Division staffing. (1 year)

B.3 Develop a blueprint for future improvements as resources become available. (1 year)

B.4 Create a formula to share with other Divisions and offices within the Department so they can better determine how their decisions impact DOCARE. (2 years)

B.5 Work with the Department of Human Resources Development to implement changes in staffing structure. (3 years)

**Policy C:** Identify, develop, and initiate a plan for operational infrastructure to improve efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and officer safety.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

C.1 Identify immediate actions that need to be taken to begin the process. (ongoing)

C.2 Review other models, locally and nationally, to determine how their operational infrastructure is organized and whether these models might meet the DOCARE's needs. (ongoing)

C.3 Assess needs at the local level and determine minimum operational standards for every Branch, working within current and projected budgetary constraints. (1 year)

C4 Assess and expand interoperability of voice and data communications. (ongoing)

C.5 Develop an implementation plan to reach identified minimum operational standards. (2 years)

C.6 Secure the budgetary resources needed to implement the plan. (2 years)

**Policy D:** Continue to initiate a successful data collection model for use by the Departmentto improve administrative effectiveness and efficiency and more effective resource protection and management.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

D.1 Identify critical gaps in information or under-utilized information that could be added and/or deleted to aid in the development of an objective workload analysis that measures the demand for service. (1 year)

D.2 Incorporate Geographic Information System (GIS) into EMIS to map and analyze data by geographical area. (2 years)

D.3 Identify and manage workload priorities throughout the State to ensure that employee workload is consistent with needs, available work time and financial resources. (2 years)

**Policy E**: Improve recruitment and retention by creating incentive standards and providing standardized training and education for officers' professional development.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

E.1 Establish a new recruitment and standardized interview process across all Branches. (2 years)

E.2 Provide a standardized ongoing education and training program that fosters professionalism, employee satisfaction, and personal growth. (ongoing)

E.3 Encourage officers to develop areas of expertise and provide backup resources to allow them to develop these interests and put their special talents to work in areas that benefit the Division. (ongoing)

E.4 Develop and implement a statewide employee recognition program. (ongoing)

E.5 Garner Department and legislative support to modify the current 30-year retirement to a 25-year retirement to help attract the interest of quality law enforcement officers from other agencies to work for the Division. (ongoing)

**Policy F**: Formally redefine relationships with all partners to rationalize the Division's responsibilities in these jurisdictions.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

F.1 Identify key partners, internal and external, and develop a game plan for engagement with each based on what role they play in the Division's mission. (ongoing)

F.2 Exchange relevant information with internal partners to optimize the Department's approach to enforcement and management activities such as rule changes, decriminalization of rules, civil penalties, etc. (ongoing)

F.3 Formalize agreements with external partners through memorandums of agreement or understanding to maximize return on investment that agreements provide. (ongoing)

**Policy G:** Engage, educate, and empower local communities to share in the responsibility, with the Division, of protecting Hawaii's natural, cultural and historic resources.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

G.1 Establish formal public relations training for all officers to develop basic effective presentation skills. Develop materials and curriculum specifically tailored to reach resource users as well as resource protectors. (ongoing)

G.2 Through formal solicitation from conservation-based entities, private individuals, and corporate donors, obtain financial support for specific resource protection projects. (ongoing)

G.3 Research and submit applications for federal grants that support the enforcement needs and goals of the Division in line with appropriate conservation and environmental objectives. (ongoing)

## II. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Number of positions filled, and comparison of enforcement statistics in all of the operational areas prior to filling of vacancies and after.

**Policy B**:

- The number of Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) best practices and standards relating to staffing structure that have been developed and implemented. More in-depth measures of effectiveness will be established once restructuring is complete.

**Policy C:**

- The number of CALEA best practices and standards relating to operational infrastructure that have been developed and implemented. More in-depth measures of effectiveness will be established once the objectives have been met.

**Policy D**

- Completion of all phases of the CODY RMS implementation project by the projected go-live date. More in-depth measures of effectiveness will be established once the electronic system is fully operational and utilized.

**Policy E:**

- Number of education and training opportunities offered.
- Number of officers attending educational/training programs.

**Policy F**

- Number of plans developed for key partners.
- Number of formal agreements (memorandums of agreement or memorandums of understand) successfully executed.
- Number of coordinated joint operations conducted with key partners.

**Policy G:**

- Number of information and educational presentations provided to target audiences.
- Number of funding sources identified.
- Number of grant sources identified, and applications submitted.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Engineering Division**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- Provide engineering services to other divisions of the Department and other state agencies to execute Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and/or operating, maintenance and repair projects.
- Protect people, property, and natural resources from natural hazards through planning, management, mitigative efforts, and regulatory programs.
- Effective management of geothermal resources and development to protect the health and safety, and to ensure continued viability of the resource for the future.
- Promote economic development and enhance public welfare by developing water supplies and state lands. Provide support to the programs which are designed to achieve the State's economic, agricultural, environmental, and social goals, with priority given to state-sponsored projects. Investigate and develop traditional and alternative water sources to augment and conserve existing supplies while meeting the increasing demands of state-sponsored projects.

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Administer contracts for planning, design or construction of departmental projects; provide engineering services provided to other agencies or departmental divisions.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1 Increase efficiency of project execution through project management tracking and clearly defined results to be provided by user divisions or agencies (ongoing).

**Policy B:** Retain consultants or contractors to assess conditions and/or implement projects to address rockfall hazards and/or flood damage located on or due to departmental lands.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.1 Provide engineering services to the Department in addressing post rockfall/landslide incidences. Provide services for known potential rockfall hazards sites that have funds appropriated to address and mitigate those hazards (ongoing).

B.2 Provide engineering services to the Department in addressing drainage and flooding issues (ongoing).

B.3 Provide engineering services through partnerships and task forces to implement projects that address various watershed restoration or flooding issues (ongoing).

B.4 Participate in partnerships with the United States Army Corps of Engineers or other applicable federal agencies and the local counties to facilitate the implementation of watershed flood studies and flood control projects (ongoing).

**Policy C:** Perform dam inspections; review and/or issue dam permits; develop or implement dam safety projects; prepare dam-related reports or maps; provide dam-related technical assistance; enter dam-related cooperative agreements.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

C.1 Enforce revised administrative rules effectuated February 20, 2012 (ongoing).

C.2 Maintain an inventory of dams in the State for compilation into the National Inventory of Dams (ongoing).

C.3 Develop and oversee a dam inspection program for regulatory dams in the State to ensure compliance with the State's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program regulations (ongoing).

C.4 Oversee the issuance of permits for the construction, alteration, and removal of regulatory dams in the State. Develop a program to incorporate the dam permit review into the existing various county permit approval processes (ongoing).

C.5 Develop a dams and reservoirs Geographic Information System (GIS) database for use in managing and regulating dams and reservoirs in the State (ongoing).

C.6 Assist dam owners in developing and maintaining emergency action response plans for their dams (ongoing).

C.7 Develop and/or adopt dam guidelines for use in assisting dam owners and professionals establish minimum guidelines for the proper design, construction and inspection of dams (ongoing).

C.8 Provide technical assistance to dam owners and the public on dam safety issues and concerns (ongoing).

C.9 Oversee and monitor dam owners' compliance to current dam safety regulations and ongoing maintenance and operations of dam facilities (ongoing).

C.10 Provide technical and remedial assistance to the appropriate civil defense agency when a threat or potential threat to a dam(s) is detected (as needed).

**Policy D:** Review flood control and prevention plans; facilitate the implementation of flood control projects; coordinate flood-related cooperative agreements; provide flood-related technical assistance; perform flood control research; studies or investigations.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

D.1 Develop and obtain FEMA approval of a state floodplain management program to enable state departments tocomply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (ongoing).

D.2 Goals and objectives of the Hawaii NFIP include but not limited to:

- Conducting community assistance visits/follow-up visits and/or contact with participating communities.
- Providing technical assistance to the communities as it relates to NFIP.
- Increasing public awareness and outreach by publishing an internet blog newsletter, via social media, workshops and seminars.
- Developing and maintaining a website dedicated to floodplain management, including the Flood Hazard Assessment Tool.

- Reviewing each community's local floodplain ordinance for compliance with NFIP regulations.
- Encouraging communities to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS).

**Policy E:** Review and/or issue geothermal permits; monitor geothermal development activities; engage in resource monitoring; provide regulatory oversight to geothermal operations.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

E.1 Perform geothermal resource management functions pursuant to Chapter 183, Hawaii Administrative Rules (continuous).

**Policy F:** Implement and/or coordinate projects to develop ground or surface water sources in support of state projects.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

F.1 Maintain close coordination with various county water departments to ensure that state agencies' water needs can be met and, if needed, identify problematic areas for further attention (ongoing).

F.2 Water projects requested for funding must be reviewed for applicability and priority (ongoing).

F.3 State agencies' water needs must be continually assessed as focus changes due to fiscal constraints, public demands and/or court orders (ongoing).

F.4 Seek water and land development project funding as early as practical, as evidenced by projected demands of state projects (continuous).

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Performance is measured by the completion of authorized funded projects, including non-water projects implemented for other divisions of the Department and other agencies, and adherence to original project completion schedules.

**Policy B:**

- Performance is measured by the number projects assisted on and passage of an executive order for floodplain management.

**Policy C:**

- Performance is measured by the number of permit applications, inspections, and dam safety related inquires processed, the maintenance of the inventory of dams database, and related dam safety guidelines.

**Policy D:**

- Performance is measured by completing the tasks outlined in the annual cooperative agreement, which include community assistance visits, Hawaii Floodplain Management newsletters, and providing technical assistance as it relates to NFIP.

Completion of the required tasks, benefit the State by:
  - Availability of low-cost flood insurance in Hawaii; and
  - Community eligibility to participate in CRS, by which flood insurance premiums are reduced for each participating community's policy holders.

**Policy E**

- Performance is measured by the continued viability of geothermal resources for the future and protection of public health and safety.

**Policy F:**

- Performance is measured by the identification, coordination, and completion of jointly funded projects involving public and/or private entities.
- Performance is measured by the ongoing prioritization and update of water development requirements for the provision of water to state agencies to meet agencies' development schedules.
- Performance is measured by the ongoing prioritization and update of water development requirements for the provision of water to state agencies to meet agencies' development schedules.
- Performance is measured by program's ability to provide water credits to various state agencies when requested, normally at the building permit stage.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Division of Forestry and Wildlife**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- Protect and manage Hawaii's forested watersheds to produce fresh water.
- Protect and manage Hawaii's native species and ecosystems by maintaining a system of forest reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and natural area reserves.
- Manage threatened and endangered species for recovery.
- Protect forests from insects, diseases, invasive species, and wildfires.
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote ecosystem resilience by initiating projects to sequester carbon and manage natural systems to adapt to changing conditions.
- Manage a multi-use forest and outdoor recreation program for the public, including, but not limited to, hiking, hunting, mountain biking, and off-road vehicle use.

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Protection and management of Hawaii's forested watersheds specific to the threats of feral ungulates, fire, insects, diseases, and invasive plants to ensure a sustainable water supply for the islands.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1 Protect forests from damage from hooved animals through protective fencing to reach the goal to have 30 percent of priority watershed forests protected by 2030.

- Control livestock and non-native animal populations in state forests and natural area reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and other watershed areas at levels that provide for healthy watershed function.

A.2 Develop forest management plans for lands in the Forest Reserve System to promote effective long-term land management, including watershed and biodiversity protection and sustainable forest product development. (ongoing, three plans per year)

- Administer the Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest program in Laupāhoehoe and Puu Waawaa on Hawaii Island. (ongoing)

A.3 Lead the statewide response to Rapid Ohia Death through research activities, surveys, on-the-ground control work, and outreach. (ongoing)

- Support implementation of the Rapid Ōhia Death Strategic Response Plan that outlines inter-agency research, prevention, outreach, and control efforts. (ongoing).

- Provide incentives to encourage the maintenance and enhancement of key watersheds on public and private lands and expand participation in public and private watershed partnerships on each island.
- Expand funding and logistical support for the network of watershed partnerships statewide.
- Seek federal, state, county, and private funds to support a major water sustainability and watershed restoration initiative to protect Hawaii's source of water and continue ongoing management activities in watershed forests. (ongoing)
- Provide funding under the competitive Watershed Partnerships Program grant to statewide watershed partnership initiatives and increase funding support from non-state sources. (ongoing)
- Administer the Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP) and Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) to encourage private forest owners to manage their natural resources sustainably and provide funding to continue NAPP and FSP contracts.
- Monitor NAPP agreements.
- Coordinate management initiatives within existing watershed partnership areas. (ongoing)

A.4 Maintain a coordinated approach to invasive species management and control through integrated prevention, response, control, and public outreach programs.

- Provide administrative support to implement the objectives of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). (ongoing)
- Expand invasive species management capacity on each island through the implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. (1 year)
- Implement monitoring and control programs for coqui frog, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and *Miconia*, as appropriate per island.
- Establish a program to suppress mosquito populations in forest bird habitat areas. (ongoing)
- Prevent the establishment of mongooses on Kauai.
- Continue supporting biocontrol efforts for invasive species to control priority weeds and pests. (ongoing)
- Manage a state/federal program to upgrade and enhance Hawaii's biocontrol capacity. (5 years)

A.5 Prevent and suppress wildfires across the State, including forest reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and natural area reserves. Strategically reduce high-risk fuels and maintain fire response readiness. Cooperate with other fire agencies not within departmental protection areas to the extent needed to provide for public safety and environmental protection. (ongoing)

- Seek federal funding to help communities with wildland urban interface planning and wildfire prevention. (ongoing)

- Collaborate with partners to develop cross-boundary hazardous fuel reduction priorities, maps, and projects statewide through a grant pursuant to Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). (1 year)
- Collaborate with partners to educate and inform residents about the threat of wildfires in Hawai‘i through risk reduction initiatives, including the annual statewide unified multi-agency *Wildfire LOOKOUT!* campaign, national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, and *Firewise USA* program. (ongoing)
- Implement strategic fuel reduction for the Puu Waawaa Forest Reserve on Hawaii Island which includes some of Hawaii's most endangered tropical dry forests. (ongoing)

A.6. Provide administrative support for the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) to protect watershed forests and other lands having conservation value to the state. (ongoing)

**Policy B:** Manage habitats to protect, maintain, and enhance the biological integrity of native ecosystems and native species populations, and recover threatened and endangered species. Conduct monitoring and evaluation to guide the development of recovery and management plans and ensure cost-effective adaptive management of implementation actions and tasks. Control invasive species posing a threat to native ecosystems. Protect significant cultural and geological features.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.1. Protect native species and increase populations of endangered species by protecting and managing natural habitats via a system of wildlife sanctuaries, forest reserves, natural area reserves, and cooperative management areas.

- Expand habitat restoration efforts and predator and invasive species removal. (ongoing)
- Develop and/or update management plans for Natural Area Reserves to maintain, restore, protect, and enhance native ecosystems and species habitats. (ongoing)
    - Nominate areas to be added to the Natural Area Reserve System to preserve representative samples of Hawaii's unique ecosystems and geological features. (ongoing)
- Administer the Hawaii Plant Extinction Prevention Program to protect Hawaii's rarest plants, in imminent danger of extinction, through management actions to monitor plant health and fruit production.
    - Collect seeds, cuttings, and air layers; cross-pollinate between isolated populations.
    - Contain insect outbreaks, establish ungulate exclosures, control rats and slugs, eliminate alien weeds, and outplant individual at-risk plants.

    - Support activities include retrofitting and expanding plant nurseries and seed storage facilities. (ongoing)
- Continue implementation of an integrated resource management plan at Napuu designed to protect and restore the area's rare lowland dry forest and endangered plant species. (ongoing)
- Manage the State Seabird Sanctuary System and other seabird nesting colonies by controlling predators, enhancing nesting habitat, salvaging and rehabilitating grounded seabirds, and enforcing wildlife sanctuary rules. (ongoing)
    - Continue Lehua rat eradication and ecosystem restoration project. (ongoing)
    - Maintain year-round field camp at Kure Atoll for restoration and management of seabird and Hawaiian monk seal habitat, and near-shore atoll waters/reef protection.
    - Manage offshore island seabird sanctuaries in the main Hawaiian Islands as seabird and Hawaiian monk seal habitat.
    - Maintain a predator-proof fence at Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve (NAR) (Oahu) to protect nesting seabird and plant populations and implement a monitoring project to document the recovery of the flora and fauna. (ongoing)
    - Manage the alpine seabird sanctuary at Haleakalā for the endangered Hawaiian petrel. (ongoing)
- Manage the State Wildlife Sanctuary System for waterbirds and wetlands by controlling predators, vegetation management, and enforcing wildlife sanctuary rules. (ongoing)
    - Maintain and enhance habitats enhancements in wetlands at the Kawainui, Hamakua, Pouhala, Paiko, Mānā, and Kanaha wildlife sanctuaries. (ongoing)
    - Develop a new series of ponds at the Mānā Plains wildlife sanctuary and wetland habitat complex at (Kauai). (4 years)
    - Design, implement, and maintain a predator-proof fence at Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, to protect Maui's largest wetland from small predators and deer, and enhance native vegetation cover to improve wildlife habitat. (5 years)
    - Design and implement habitat management for a new nēnē sanctuary in Wailua in Kauai. (5 years)
    - Establish and maintain nēnē sanctuaries on Kauai, Maui, Molokai,and Hawaii Island to assure suitable habitat for foraging and breeding while reducing human/nēnē conflicts. (ongoing)
- Continue to support rapid response efforts for brown tree snakes and other alien species control, such as mongooses on Kauai, by expanding the network of volunteers working on invasive species programs and updating training and equipment for effective rapid response capacity. (ongoing)

B.2 Conserve native forest birds, many of which are on the brink of extinction due to avian disease, habitat degradation, and introduced predators, through management actions to monitor populations, collect research data on breeding and survival, control rats, mongooses, and feral cats, control alien weeds, and develop solutions to control disease vectors including mosquitos. (ongoing)

- Continue captive rearing and release of rare, threatened, and endangered federally protected birds at the Maui Bird Conservation Center (Olinda, Maui), and Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (Volcano, Hawaii Island). (ongoing)
- Continue reintroduction efforts of the endangered Alala (Hawaiian crow). (ongoing)
- Consider adaptive management options for the endangered Palila on Hawai‘i, and the Maui Parrotbill on Maui. (ongoing)
- Capture remaining critically endangered Kauai Akikiki for captive propagation, and leave Akeke`e in the field due to captive incompatibility, due to the encroachment of mosquitos carrying lethal avian diseases to the upper elevations of Kauai. (3years)
- Continue restoration projects on Mauna Kea, Hualalai, and Haleakalā to reforest degraded land to expand the native forest bird range.
    - Finish construction of a boundary fence on Mauna Kea and complete the removal of feral sheep and goats. (1 year)
    - Protect and manage forest bird habitat in Puu Waawaa Forest Bird Sanctuary through the removal of feral ungulates. (ongoing)
    - Monitor forest bird populations to gauge management efficacy/impact. (ongoing)
- Research and implement mosquito control strategies to curb the spread of introduced avian diseases which kill Hawaii’s native forest birds. (4 years)

B.3 Implement conservation and management of invertebrate species in the State with particular emphasis on federally listed endangered species. (ongoing)

- Survey and monitor rare invertebrate species which may require conservation or management action. (ongoing)
- Construct storm hardening structures for the invertebrate facility in Waimano, Oahu to improve captive propagation facilities. (2 years)
- Establish captive populations of 30 species of rare and endangered terrestrial snails to prevent extinction. (ongoing)
- Construct 10 additional predator-proof fence structures across Oahu, Molokai, Lānai, Maui, and Hawaii to protect wild populations of rare and endangered terrestrial snails from extinction. (ongoing)
- Build a predator-proof fence in the Northern Ko‘olau mountains and one on East Maui to restore endangered snails to their original habitat range. (1 year)
- Continue reintroduction efforts of various endangered tree snail species endemic to Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lānai, and Hawai‘i. (ongoing)

- Reintroduce the endangered orange-black damselfly, to establish new breeding populations on Oahu. (2 years).
- Reintroduce the state insect, the Kamehameha butterfly, and the mamaki plants on which it depends, to areas it has disappeared from across its native range. (ongoing)
- Restore populations of native, yellow-faced bees, ecologically important pollinator species, by creating nest habitats and controlling predators on Oahu, Maui Nui, and Hawaii Island. (2 years)

B.4 Develop conservation incentives, such as safe harbor agreements and habitat conservation plans to provide regulatory coverage to state and private landowners that reintroduce endangered species, improve habitats for endangered species on their lands, or require incidental take permits for taking of listed species while engaged in otherwise legal activities.

- Develop and/or provide technical assistance for new habitat conservation plans throughout the State where the take of threatened or endangered species is anticipated.
- Develop and/or provide technical assistance for new Safe Harbor Agreements throughout the State where public/private partnerships increase the recovery potential for threatened or endangered species.
- Provide technical assistance for amendments to existing habitat conservation plans and Safe Harbor Agreements throughout the State. (ongoing)
- Monitor existing habitat conservation plans and safe harbor agreements to assure compliance with minimization, mitigation, monitoring, and adaptive management, as needed. (ongoing)

B.5 Create administrative rules to improve the implementation of Hawaii's endangered species law, Chapter l95D, HRS. (5 years)

**Policy C:** Strengthen the State's economy through forest resource management. Promote the sustainable production of forest products and services from forest reserves and other public and private lands. Promote resource restoration and conservation through outreach and education.

<u>Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:</u>

C.1 Encourage new private investment in forest management via commercial forestry and ecosystem services development. (ongoing)

- Provide private landowners and processors of forest products with technical forestry assistance. (ongoing)
- Continue the wood products development program. (ongoing)
- Administer the Landowner Assistance program to assist landowners in the protection and restoration of private forest lands, management of woodlands and working forests, and the protection and enhancement of native species. (ongoing)

- Incentivize private and community stewardship of Hawaii's forests.
    - Administer state and federal cost-sharing programs, including Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Legacy, Forest Stewardship, and Conservation Reserve Enhancement. (ongoing)
    - Engage private landowners to promote sustainable, environmentally sound development such as sustainable forest management, smart urban forest planning, renewable energy, and opportunities to acquire fee simple title and conservation easements on important forest lands statewide.
- Assist in the development of forest product and ecosystem-services markets (biomass, carbon sequestration, water replenishment, clean air, public health) to ensure Hawaii's forests and Hawaiian-grown products can participate in new revenue opportunities that support the state and our local communities. (5 years)
- Research potential reforestation project sites to develop carbon offset credits in various areas throughout the State. (ongoing)
- Work with partners on tree improvement and sustainable forestry practices for economically, ecologically, and socially important species, including koa and iliahi. (4 years)
- Update information on the Department's forest products and services including resource inventories, species growth, and yield models, carbon sequestration, and water contributions. (4 years)
- Increase the available lands for forest production and management through acquisitions and public/private partnerships. (ongoing).
- Support, as appropriate, the development of a biomass-to-energy industry to help Hawaii reach its renewable energy goals. Explore opportunities of wood-based biofuel production in Hawaii by supporting research and local industry networks. (4 years)
- Produce high quality tree and plant seedlings for forest management projects on public and private lands via the State Tree Nursery and district nurseries, statewide. (1 year)
- Develop environmentally responsible standard operating procedures for commercial timber harvesting and salvage activities. (1 year).
- Provide opportunities for commercial forest production in the designated Timber Management Areas (Waiakea Timber Management Area on Hawaii Island, and the East Kauai and Kokee Timber Management Areas on Kauai). (5 years)

C.2 Provide sustainable forest products from State Forest Reserves

- Supply high-quality hardwoods and other lumber products to local woodworkers through the sustainable harvest of trees from state

forest reserves, and from salvage trees removed from the urban landscape. (1 year)
- Supply cultural and non-timber forest products from state forest reserves via permitting for sustainable harvest. (5 years)

C.3 Monitor long-term forest trends
- Participate in the U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis program. (2 years)

C.4 Collaborate with organizations throughout the Pacific Islands to identify, address, and support forest and watershed management, prevent the spread of invasive species, and build capacity in this region. (5 years)
- Work with the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition/Council of Western State Foresters' Pacific Islands Forestry Committee to build capacity and expertise in the Pacific Islands.

C.5 Promote outreach and foster partnerships to improve public understanding, responsibility, and participation in forest protection and management. (ongoing)
- Develop volunteer and information programs that allow meaningful and productive community involvement in the stewardship of natural resources on public lands. (ongoing)
- Construct facilities and infrastructure to promote experiential learning opportunities. (ongoing)
- Provide training and employment for youth in natural resource management by administering the Youth Conservation Corps Program.
- Maintain Hawai'i's involvement in educational development programs, such as Project Learning Tree, to provide training opportunities for educators.
- Develop informational and educational materials for various audiences to promote awareness and engagement relating to natural resources and/or conservation activities.

**Policy D:** Administer an outdoor recreation program to include authorized recreational trail activities and public hunting on state-owned and other lands, utilizing the principles relating to multiple-use, public safety, and sustained yield, in a manner that will sustain environmental and cultural resources.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

D.1 Inventory and document ownership of historic trails and roads statewide and restore them for public use where feasible and appropriate.
- Protect ancient and historic trails and access routes.

- Expand historic trails to link adjoining ahupuaa to the Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park (Hawaii Island).
- Work with United States National Park Service staff to develop a plan to restore the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (Hawaii Island). (ongoing)
- Plan and complete legal and environmental requirements to acquire new public land and develop and maintain access agreements and permitting systems to increase public access and recreational opportunities. (ongoing)

D.2 Provide opportunities for the public to engage in outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and camping, while also providing access for resource management activities.

- Maintain and create roads and trails to allow for public recreational use and natural resource management access.
  - Develop new nature trails along the Saddle Road, Kīpuka 21, Kaena Point, Moanalua, and Kawainui. (5 years)
  - Develop an integrated natural resource management area in Kanaio in collaboration with local stakeholders. (ongoing)
- Work with off-highway vehicle clubs to develop and manage off-highway vehicle recreational routes and areas statewide.
  - Continue to maintain the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve, Mauna Kea Access Roads, and the Kuaokala road system (Oahu) as off-highway 4x4 recreational driving areas.
  - Provide trail management expertise and/or funding to Kahuku Motocross Park and Maui Motocross Track.
  - Identify additional off-highway vehicle opportunities statewide.(ongoing)
- Operate and maintain recreational facilities, such as trail shelters, arboreta, picnic grounds, viewpoints, signs, bridges, and campgrounds. (ongoing)
  - Install signs on departmental trails and recreational areas that identify objective hazards to the public to reduce risk. (ongoing)
  - Develop new partnerships to support user experience and enjoyment at high-use visitor facilities on each island. (ongoing)
  - Develop and improve camping facilities at wilderness campgrounds on Hawaii and Oahu. (5 years)
  - Develop and improve vehicle access and parking at recreational facilities statewide. (5 years)
- Improve the trail program website by adding GPS directional tools, mobile-responsiveness, and trail closure message management.
  - Update website content, including providing links to online permits, online incident reporting system, and current weather.

    - Respond to trail hazard reports and post trail closures and weather warnings via social media. (ongoing)
    - Provide hiking safety information and resources to the public.
- Develop mechanisms to manage commercial uses of DOFAW lands, such as encouraging ecotourism in ways that protect and enhance natural resources while providing benefits to the local community.
    - Establish commercial use fees in forest reserves. (ongoing)

D.3 Maintain and enhance a public hunting program to provide a source of food and outdoor recreation for the public, and to provide for animal damage control on public and private lands.

- Administer the public hunting program.
    - Update administrative rules regulating the hunting of wildlife. (2 years)
    - Provide administrative support to the Game Management Advisory Commission. (ongoing)
    - Develop and maintain a user-friendly suite of tools (website, apps) to facilitate public access to hunter education, license application, hunting lotteries, hunting rules, real-time maps, notices, and outreach materials. (ongoing)
    - Work with hunting and shooting clubs and the Department's Hunter Education Program to develop and open recreational public shooting ranges on Hawaii and Kauai for hunter safety training and recreation. (ongoing)
- Maintain public hunting areas, survey game birds and mammals, evaluate hunter harvest, and manage public hunts, to provide recreational and subsistence hunting opportunities and minimize negative impacts of game species on native ecosystems and species (ongoing)
    - Improve gamebird populations and habitats by planting food crops, controlling vegetation, conducting predator control, installing and/or maintaining gamebird water units and feeding sites, and restocking game birds where appropriate. (ongoing)
    - Construct and maintain hunter-checking stations, and informational, boundary and safety zone signs. (ongoing)
    - Provide additional hunting opportunities by developing new public hunting areas and creating incentive programs to encourage more hunting on private lands.
- Develop hunting and ungulate control plans that integrate with the forest reserve, NARS, and watershed partnership plans to facilitate and utilize public hunting in an integrated natural resource management strategy while providing the public with recreational and substance opportunities. (ongoing)

- Investigate and take appropriate action to control wildlife causing a nuisance, risk to human health and safety, or damage to agricultural crops. (ongoing)
- Pursue and update cooperative game management agreements with state agencies and private partners statewide to increase recreational and subsistence hunting opportunities and reduce environmental degradation of native species and habitats. (ongoing)
- Support youth initiatives to provide opportunities and experience for young people in outdoor field skills and competency. (ongoing)
- Complete integrated management plans for the Kanaio recreation area and the Lanai cooperative game management area to increase recreational opportunities and assure environmental compliance, sound land management practice, and the protection and restoration of native ecosystems. (2 years)

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Number of projects and number of acres of watershed forests protected and actively managed.
- Number of forest reserve management plans underway and completed, by island.
- Miles of fence constructed and maintained.
- Total number of projects and acres protected by NAPP contracts.
- Number of acres enrolled in watershed partnerships.
- Watershed Partnership Program funding secured.
- Statewide Watershed Initiative projects implemented.
- Total projects/funding supported by HISC for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research projects.
- Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan accomplishments.
- Biosecurity plan accomplishments.
- Status of biocontrol facility planning/design/construction/operation.
- Number of native trees and shrubs planted.
- Number of acres of invasive plants controlled or monitored.
- Hawaii Tropical Experimental Forest accomplishments.
- Status of *Miconia*, Little fire ant, and Coqui frog, by island.
- Number of acres of hazardous fuels treated.
- Number of miles of firebreak constructed and maintained.
- Number of fires responded to, and total acres burned in those incidents.
- Fire and emergency response training conducted, and the number of DOFAW- certified wildland firefighters statewide.
- Acres and number of awards for fee land and conservation easement acquisitions.

**Policy B:**

- Number/acres of forest reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and natural area reserves managed.
- Population estimates of forest birds (5-year rotation), nēnē (annual), seabirds (annual), and waterbirds (annual).
- Status of landscape-scale mosquito control.
- Annual seabird nesting effort and success.
- Lehua restoration program accomplishments.
- Kure Atoll accomplishments.
- Annual waterbird nesting effort and success by wetland.
- Number of rare or threatened and endangered plant species managed/protected.
- Number of rare plant species in a captive propagation or seed bank facility.
- Number of rare plants reared and out-planted.
- Number and acreage of predator-proof fence exclosures planned, constructed, and maintained.
- Invertebrate facility status/capacity.
- Number of species of snails in captive propagation.
- East Maui and Northern Koʻolau predator-proof fence status.
- Snail predator assessment update.
- Yellow-faced bee status.
- Orange-black damselfly status.
- Number of threatened and endangered species with active recovery implementation programs.
- Status of Mauna Kea fence and associated conservation impacts.
- Napuu program accomplishments.
- Number of species listed, down-listed, or recovered from the threatened and endangered species list.
- Number of safe harbor agreements and habitat conservation plans in the planning phase, approved, and managed by the division.

**Policy C:**

- Number of landowners involved in forestry partner programs, and total acreage.
- Wood products development program accomplishments.
- Number of seedlings distributed to agencies, landowners, and individuals, and income from such distribution.
- Number of acres/number of trees planted for reforestation.
- Management activity within timber management areas.
- Board-feet of lumber supplied to the market, by island.
- Non-timber forest products harvested, by island.
- State funds leveraged as match: total match ratio.
- Forest Inventory and Analysis activity.
- Pacific islands forestry activity, assistance rendered, and accomplishments.
- Acres of lands managed as working forest.
- Revenues from forest products sales on state lands.

- Number of students and interns working on agency projects.
- Number of volunteer service hours in resource management projects by category.
- Number of youths employed as Youth Conservation Corps members, and hours contributed.
- Number of educational outreach events.
- Estimated number of people engaged through outreach events.
- Number of educational training events (e.g., Project Learning Tree training).
- Public education facilities/infrastructure by island.
- Number of pageviews on Forestry and Wildlife web pages.
- Number of social media impressions on Forestry and Wildlife accounts

**Policy D:**

- Number of ancient and historic trail abstracts underway/completed by island.
- Recreation land acquisitions proposed/underway/completed.
- Status of trails and access strategic plan update.
- Status of hiking/hunting app; online trail use tracking.
- Number of hiker surveys administered.
- Percentage of trails and access roads maintained annually (includes miles deemed adequate) compared to total mileage.
- Number of recreational facilities maintained annually compared to total.
- Commercial trail use activity by trail by island, and income produced.
- Total number of unique trail users and trail trips, by island.
- Status of Kealekekua Bay historic trails linkage.
- Ala Kahakai National Historic trail accomplishments.
- Status of partnerships with hiking and off-road vehicle clubs.
- Number of active off-road vehicle parks.
- Total number and miles of roads open to off-road vehicle driving, by island.
- Camping facilities by island (planned/existing).
- Status of Kanaio integrated natural resource management plan.
- Acres and number of public hunting areas.
- Hunting success per unit effort – mammals/birds
    - Total number of hunter trips.
    - Total number of game animals harvested (mammals and birds), by species.
- Number of hunting permits, stamps, and tags issued annually, and income from each.
- Gamebirds released by species by island.
- Gamebird water units operational by island.
- Hunter satisfaction (by island).
- Status of hunting rules update.
- Status of Lanai Cooperative Game Management Area plan.
- Number of Game Management Advisory Council meetings and accomplishments.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Land Division**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- Improve records management (operational)
- Establish and implement policies and procedures (processes/operational)
- Increase staff accountability and skill levels (people)
- Streamline operations and improve internal controls utilizing current technology (technology)
- Continued self-sufficiency (operational)

## II. POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Improve records management

Objectives and Estimated Timeframe:

A.1. Audit all public records, and if necessary, redact public records to comply with personal information laws. (Done weekly by Central Processing staff)

A.2 Scan and digitally archive executed land documents. (Done weekly by Central Processing staff)

**Policy B:** Establish and implement policies and procedures

Objectives and Estimated Timeframe:

B.1. Establish policies to ensure fair and consistent treatment across matters handled by Land Division (ongoing)

**Policy C:** Increase accountability and skill levels

Objectives and Estimated Timeframe:

C.1. Implement Performance Appraisal System (ongoing)

C.2. Require reporting on status of assignments (ongoing)

C.3. Conduct training on operations/goals of the division (ongoing)

**Policy D:** Streamline operations and improve internal controls through current technology

Objectives and Estimated Timeframe:

D.1. Fill existing vacancies. Focus on filling the Administrator and Assistant Administrator position permanently. Also, the Land Agent positions for the Hawaii Island, Maui, and Kauai District Offices (ongoing)

**Policy E:** Self-sufficiency

Background:

All operational expenses (including, but not limited to payroll and fringe benefits) and land maintenance costs are funded solely by the Department's Special Land and Development Fund. The Special Land and Development Fund also pays for other operational costs of the Department. The Department's Land Division does not receive any general funds, except for capital improvement projects for the mitigation of hazardous conditions on lands owned by the Department to protect public health and safety.

Objectives and Estimated Timeframe:

E.1. Continue to work on increasing revenues for the Special Land and Development Fund (ongoing)

E.2. Continue to look out for opportunities for the development and leasing of public lands, for income generating purposes (ongoing)

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

- Ongoing monitoring of specific projects to accomplish the objectives will be conducted, including self-reporting requirements and establishment of performance measures, with incorporation into the performance appraisal system where appropriate.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**State Historic Preservation Division**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- Increase protection and management of Hawaii's historic and cultural resources
- Promote effective land use planning that incorporates historic preservation
- Promote community and economic revitalization through historic preservation
- Promote federal historic preservation fund grant and tax credit programs
- Increase public knowledge of Hawaii's historic properties and the benefits of historic preservation
- Protect Hawaiian Burials

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Provide timely and effective historic preservation reviews conducted in compliance with state and federal laws.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1. Increase qualified professional and clerical staffing to address workload resulting from development growth in the State. (on-going)

A.2 Increase qualified professional and clerical staff to address workload resulting from increased federal undertakings. (on-going)

A.3. Improve facility infrastructure at all satellite offices to support staff and operations. (on-going)

A.4. Computerize and update the statewide inventory of historic places. The updated inventory will include traditional cultural places, archaeological sites, architectural sites, and burial sites. The process includes integrating existing databases, upgrading network, and linking all databases to Geographic Information System layers. (on-going)

A.5. Update standards concerning assignment of site numbers and Global Positioning System recording and reporting. (on-going)

A.6 Digitize all paper records and preservation reports. (on-going)

A.7 Establish programmatic agreements with County, State, and Federal agencies to streamline state and federal historic preservation review processes.

**Policy B:** Support the perpetuation and preservation of sites associated with the Native Hawaiian culture.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.l. Identify all historic properties under the State Historic Preservation Division's (SHPD) management and develop written management plans for these properties. (on-going)

B.2. Encourage the acquisition, development, and maintenance of historic preserves on public and private lands. (on-going)

B.3. Collaborate with and train community and private organizations on the care and management of historic sites. (on-going)

B.4. Work with Burial Councils and other Native Hawaiian groups on updating rules and laws regarding the protection of burial sites. (on-going)

B.5. Develop educational plans and programs to encourage Native Hawaiians to participate in burial councils and review boards. (on-going)

**Policy C:** Expand SHPD's funding base.

Objectives and Estimate Time Frame:

C.1. Apply for appropriate grants and other outside sources of revenues. (on-going)
C.2. Better manage and spend all federal funds. (on-going)
C.3. Pursue violations of Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and deposit fines in the Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund to defray costs of oversightand investigations. (on-going)
C.4. Draft and submit for approval a new fee schedule for review work to support program requirements by way of legislative authorization. (on-going)
C.5. Develop databases and pools of data that can be accessed by private consultant firms on a fee basis. (on-going)

**Policy D:** Promote the State's overall economic development through historic preservation.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

D.1. Collaborate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Hawaii Tourism Authority, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and county preservation commissions to develop a plan that will promote and sustain tourism through historic preservation. (on-going)
D.2. Collaborate with the Department of Human Services, and the Hawaii Community Development Housing Authority to identify historic sites that may be restored to provide affordable housing to low-income residents in Hawaii. Develop and implement pilot restoration project to meet this purpose. (on-going)
D.3. Develop and disseminate materials to inform visitors of historic properties in Hawaii in coordination with other department divisions, the State Tourism Office and county agencies. (on-going)
D.4. Provide information on historic properties open to the public on the Division's website. (on-going)
D.5. Promote ongoing rehabilitation of historic properties through agreements and tax credits to preserve the few remaining plantation settlements. (on-going)

**Policy E:** Encourage local government participation in historic preservation activities.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

E.1. Work with Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to encourage their participation in the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program. (on-going)
E.2. Work with Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to develop programmatic agreements to streamline projects requiring Chapter 6E, HRS historic preservation review. (ongoing)
E.3. Encourage local governments to develop inventory of historic properties from the recent past. (on-going)
E.4. Encourage local area groups to develop inventories of historic properties in their area (i.e. Kailua, on-going).

**Policy F:** Support the Island Burial Councils and the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board to ensure the protection of historic sites.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

F.1. Provide basic training and orientation to all new Island Burial Council and Hawaii Historic Places Review Board members that includes their duties/responsibilities as outlined in Chapter 6E, HRS, as well as requirements set forth in the Sunshine and Ethics Laws. (on-going)

F.2. Ensure staff support of both the Island Burial Councils and the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board. Include providing report summaries and recommendations. (on-going)

F.3. Collaborate with native Hawaiian organizations and other ethnic groups to identify and prepare cultural nominations for the State and National Registers. (on-going)

**Policy G:** Respond to the discovery of burial sites in a timely and sensitive manner that takes into consideration cultural concerns and promotes timely reburial.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

G.1. Provide sufficient staffing to respond to inadvertent burial discoveries within required timeframes. (on-going, dependent on funding)

G.2. Promote public education to inform the public on the sensitivity of burials and the need to notify the Department when human skeletal remains are discovered. (on-going)

G.3. Identify landowners willing to establish burial preserves and collaborate with these individuals to reinter skeletal remains currently in the SHPD's custody. (on-going)

G.4. Record burial sites as encumbrances on land with the Department's Bureau of Conveyances. (on-going)

**Policy H:** Increase and improve the enforcement of Chapter 6E, HRS, to encourage compliance with historic preservation laws and ensure the protection of historic properties and burial sites.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

H.1. Provide training sessions for those responsible for enforcing historic preservation laws. Training to include modules for division staff, the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, and county police departments. (on-going)

H.2. Educate construction community of legal responsibilities under Chapter 6E, HRS. (on-going)

H.3. Improve signage at historic sites to raise public awareness of penalties resulting from violations of Chapter 6E, HRS. (on-going)

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Measure progress by tracking percentage of established positions filled, aiming for 100%
- Eliminate the backlog of archaeological reviews.
- Respond to 95% of reviews within required timeframes to avoid triggering the automatic approval provision under administrative rules.
- At least *75%* of all known historic sites in the State will be listed on the State's inventory database.

**Policy B:**

- Track the number of management plans for historic sites managed by SHPD, with a target of 100%.
- Increase the number of programmatic and covenant agreements.
- Participants in restoration projects will sustain the Hawaiian culture and be capable of ongoing management of project sites.

**Policy C:**

- Increased Division funding level.
- Increased number of outside grants received.
- Increased revenues for the Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund.

**Policy D:**

- Living historic districts will increase by *5%.*
- Economically deprived areas will be rejuvenated.
- The State will experience an increase in visitors seeking a cultural experience.

**Policy E:**

- Island historic property inventories will be updated.

**Policy F:**

- 100% of all Burial Council and Hawaii Historic Places Review Board staff will be provided with training.
- At least five cultural sites will be nominated for the State and National Registers each year.

**Policy G:**

- Cultural program staff will respond to 95% of all inadvertent burials within required timeframes.
- 95% of all burials currently in the SHPD's custody will be reinterred.

**Policy H:**

- The number of historic preservation violations will decrease over time in response to greater enforcement presence.

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
**Division of State Parks**
**Act 100, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999**
**Report to the 2026 Legislature**

## I. GOALS:

- Preserve, protect and prudently develop the natural, cultural, and scenic resources in the Hawai‘i State Park System for current and future park users.
- Provide a safe, sanitary, well-managed, maintained, and quality infrastructure and park environment for all visitors.
- Provide interpretive services and devices for parks using a variety of methods to enhance visitor experience, develop public awareness of Hawai‘i’s cultural and natural heritage, and promote resource protection and safety and compliance by park users.
- Optimize park operations to ensure the best use of new income and spending to address the deferred maintenance of park infrastructure.
- Continue to expand sources of new and additional revenue to support basic park operations, programs and special park needs and potential parks expansion, and reduce the need for CIP.
- Develop realistic and sustainable partnerships/agreements with both private sector and non-profit organizations, volunteer curator groups, and cultural/community groups to provide both educational opportunities and augment fundamental maintenance and management needs at various and appropriate state park sites.
- Improve monitoring and management of natural and cultural resources in the Hawai‘i State Park System.
- Continue to develop a distinct and improved “identity” for Hawai‘i’s state parks via the installation of quality entrance signage and other interpretive amenities.

## II. POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

**Policy A:** Construct and maintain park facilities, including recreational structures, comfort stations, parking areas, landscaping, and other park improvements through reconstruction and replacement of deteriorated facilities and infrastructure. Retrofit existing facilities for energy and water use efficiency.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

A.1. Determine how to devise a management system to assess condition of park facilities, establish reconstruction and maintenance priorities, and implement preventive and replacement programs. (June 30, 2026)

A.1.a – Establishing a Prequalified Small Contractors (PSC) contract to enable the Division to address regular repairs and maintenance such as paving, plumbing, electrical. *RFP to be established and posted for solicitation by December 31, 2025.*

A.1.b – Establishing an Asset Management Program – ~~in progress~~. (June 30, 2027) Project is currently on hold as we focus on repair and maintenance and CIP projects.

A.2. Comply with current environmental and safety requirements and needs. (ongoing)

A.3. Update reconstruction plans and periodic maintenance schedule and related budget requirements.

- HAWAIʻI: Hulihe‘e Palace SM – *Palace seawall improvements – design completed, construction phase in progress. (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED*

- HAWAIʻI: Hulihe‘e Palace SM – *Palace drainage improvements – design and permitting phase in progress. (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED*

- HAWAIʻI: Hulihe‘e Palace SM – *Palace improvements – plans/design and construction and permitting phase in progress (June 30, 2026)*

- HAWAIʻI: Hulihe‘e Palace SM – *Palace improvements – repair and improvements set to begin FY24 Quarter 4 pending plans/permitting. (June 30, 2026) COMPLETED*

- MAUI: Makena SP – *new comfort station and parking improvements – design completed and permitting phase is completed. (Project on hold)*

- MAUI: Waiʻanapanapa SP – *Comfort station and parking improvements – design completed, permitting in progress with construction contract in place. (June 30, 2026)*

- MAUI: Waiʻanapanapa SP – *Cabin(s) electric repair in progress. (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED*

- MAUI: Waiʻanapanapa SP – *Plans/design and permitting phase in progress for new entrance road improvements. (June 30, 2026)*

- KAUAʻI: Koke‘e/Waimea Canyon SP complex- *Phase II slope stabilization construction in progress. (June 30, 2026)*

- KAUAʻI: Koke‘e/Waimea Canyon SP complex- Construction in progress. (*June 30, 2026*)

- KAUAʻI: Fort Elizabeth/Paʻulaʻula SHP complex- *P Construction in progress. (June 30, 2026)*

- OʻAHU: Diamond Head SM – *Picnic pavilion and food truck area design completed, with permits in progress and construction contract in place. (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED*

- O‘AHU: Iolani Palace SM –*construction in progress. (June 30, 2026)*
- O‘AHU: Iolani Palace SM – *Palace complex Electrical Assessment in progress. (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED*
- O‘AHU: Royal Mausoleum – *Plans, repair and improvements to Curator residence in progress (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED*
- O‘AHU: Sand Island SRA – *Phase II sewer improvements – construction in progress. (June 30, 2026)*
- O‘AHU: Sand Island SRA – *Phase VI park improvements (shoreline remediation) – planning, design and permitting in progress. (June 30, 2026)*
- O‘AHU: Malaekahana SRA – *Kahuku Section park improvements – construction in progress. (June 30, 2026)*
- O‘AHU: Wahiawa FWSRA – *Phase 1 park improvements (parking improvements) –, construction in progress. (June 30, 2026)*
- O‘AHU: Wahiawa FWSRA – *Phase 2 park improvements – planning and design in progress. (June 30, 2026)*

**Policy B:** Continue to generate operational funding through the implementation and collection of park user fees and implement other revenue options in order to establish reliable park funding that augments general funding. Identify specific park venues to expand opportunities for concessionaires to provide services, value, and quality to the park user’s experience. Implement concession, development and/or management agreements through a public process and competitive bidding.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

B.1. Manage parking and entry fee concession agreements at state park units and determine other park units eligible for parking and entry fees. Currently 10 state park units collect parking and entry fees (9 parking and entry fees and 1 parking fees only) and identify other eligible park units. (June 30, 2025) COMPLETED

Currently, 10 state park units collect parking and entry fees, with four additional units identified for consideration. Once approved by the board, the collection of parking and entry fees at these additional units will commence on January 1st, 2026. (June 30, 2026)

B.2. Implement parking and access reservation systems at a variety of parks statewide. Currently 4 state park units have a parking and entry reservation system, one additional park unit will be added to the system next year. (June 30, 2026)

B.3. Implement appropriate mobile food concessions at a variety of state parks statewide. Currently, two state park units have mobile food concessions, 7 parks statewide are in progress. (June 30, 2026)

B.4. Establish a public lottery system for long-term lease of recreation-residence cabins at Kokee-Waimea Canyon State Parks and identify cabins eligible for the public lottery. (June 30, 2026)

B.5. Issue a twenty (20) year general lease for the development and operation of a commercial campground and public day use beach park at Malaekahana State Recreation Area – Kahuku Section. (February 1, 2026).

B.6. Issue a concession contract for the operations and management of the Banquet Hall and Ancillary Facilities and Grounds at He'eia State Park. (June 30, 2026).

B.7 Establish fees, timeline, procedures, and policies for registration of rental vessels transiting the navigable waters of State Parks. (January 1, 2026).

**Policy C:** Continue to develop and implement interpretive programs, devices, and digital media in selected parks to promote visitor awareness, respect and understanding of Hawai'i's unique natural resources and cultural heritage.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

C.1 Install wayside interpretive exhibits at Pa'ula'ula (formally Fort Elizabeth) State Historic Site, Kaua'i, Wai'anapanapa State Park, Maui and Wailoa River State Park, Hawai'i. Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area is completed. (June 30, 2026)

C.2 Develop virtual tours at selected parks, starting with Lapakahi State Historical Park, Hawai'i and Diamond Head State Monument, O'ahu. Diamond Head virtual tour completed and posted on State Parks website. (June 30, 2026)

C.3 Install new park name signs at Palaau State Park, Moloka'i; Kalopa State Recreation Area, Hawai'i Island; and Pa'ula'ula State Historic Site, Kaua'i. Installation in progress. (June 30, 2026)

**Policy D:** Develop and implement resource management programs within the Hawai'i State Parks System.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

D.1. Develop a monitoring schedule for sensitive cultural and natural resources. Preservation Plan for Kealakekua Bay State Historic Park. (*June 30, 2026*)

D.2 Inventory of Historic Properties at Keolonahihi State Historical Park and Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park. (*June 30, 2026)*

D.3 Inventory of Historic Properties at Diamond Head State Monument, Oʻahu. (*June 30, 2026*)

D.4. Develop database of resources and interpretive themes within the Hawaiʻi State Parks System focusing on natural and cultural resources. (*June 30, 2026*)

D.5 Database of archaeological resources in progress. (*June 30, 2026*)

**Policy E:** Maintain over 30 current and enter into new agreements as warranted with community and cultural representatives and based on public interest with private non-profit organizations to further educational and management opportunities at specific state parks based on the resource, interpretive and cultural/community needs.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

E.1. Currently 13 agreements for 5-year term; 25 adopt-a-park agreements (1-year term), and 2 agreements under 10-year memorandum of agreement.

E.2 Continue to enter into agreements with private non-profit organizations to further educational and stewardship opportunities across the State, and 3 new adopt-a-park agreements in 2026.

**Policy F:** Continue with and complete master planning and environmental impact statements (EIS) for specific parks and park reserves to determine sustainable current and future uses based on public needs that are compatible with natural and cultural resource values and that allow for a robust State Parks system.

Objectives and Estimated Time Frame:

F.1. Continue working on current, ongoing planning efforts. Upon completion, may require additional funds and staffing to implement recommendations and plans for quality management.

- MAUI: DLNR Lipoa Pt property –*ongoing management plan completion to support DLNR management of Lipoa. (June 30, 2026)*
- KAUAʻI: Polihale State Park – *ongoing, start of management plan for the management of the park's cultural, environmental, and recreational resources. (June 30, 2026)*
- OʻAHU: Sand Island State Recreation Area – *start of new master plan for the management of the park's cultural, environmental, and recreational resources. (June 30, 2026)*

## III. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS:

**Policy A:**

- Performance in addressing condition of facilities to be measured through number of parks/facilities inventoried, evaluated, managed, and improved.

**Policy B:**

- Increase in sustainable revenue realized through expanded concession services, leases, and user fees.

**Policy C:**

- Number of interpretive and information signs installed and maintained for educational purposes.

**Policy D:**

- Completion of database of resources and implementation of monitoring program of park resources and infrastructure and number of permitting applications.

**Policy E:**

- Number of agreements completed with non-profit and community organizations.

**Policy F:**

- Number of completed management plans, master plans/EIS documents prepared and completed annually.