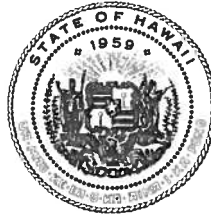


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

August 2, 2010

Ms. Kate Stanley, Chair
Legislative Federal Economic Stimulus
Program Oversight Commission
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 206
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Stanley:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is the recipient of three Federal Stimulus Funds grants in the subject areas of Water and Environmental Infrastructure from the U.S. Forest Service and deal with forest health and invasive species control and wildland fire and fuels management. The Department's written response to the Commission's June 22, 2010 request for information is provided below.

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Please provide the Commission with a written response updating the status and progress of each project your Department has undertaken utilizing ARRA funds.

1. For each project:

(a) A brief project description;

Project 1. US Forest Service Forest Health – Invasive Plant Control and Monitoring
This project funds DOFAW programs and partnerships in continuing the monitoring and the controlling of invasive plants on state and private forest lands throughout the state. The grant supports existing projects that would have suffered personnel cuts due to state budget shortfalls. These projects include the Forest Reserves, Natural Area Reserve System, Wildlife Management on Mauna Kea, Watershed Partnerships, and Invasive Species Committees.

All of the funded projects continued or began controlling and monitoring of invasive plants throughout the state. The island-based invasive species committees worked on survey and control of priority target species such as miconia. Natural Area Reserve System staff on the big island and Maui continued on-going weed management activities. Eight of nine Watershed Partnership contracts were finalized and on-the-ground work controlling invasive plants began on the island of Lanai. On Mauna Kea, DOFAW Wildlife staff delayed control efforts due to the on-going

drought, but they developed a plan with University of Hawaii scientists for utilizing most effective herbicides for treating pasture grasses and German Ivy.

Project 2. US Forest Service Wildland Fire Management – Fuels Hazard Reduction
This project focuses on fuels hazard reduction along existing fire break roads and adjoining properties within and adjacent to forest reserves, and other state lands under the jurisdiction of DOFAW.

On Oahu, maintenance on the Waianae Kai firebreak is continuing. During the previous quarter, a crew of two conducted herbicide spraying and manual fuel reduction on 2 miles of the existing firebreak. Fencing material has been purchased for the Waianae Kai Forest Reserve Grazed Fuel Break. Plans are underway to hire a contractor to construct the fence. On Maui, the Lahainaluna firebreak project has been completed and nine miles of firebreak road have been constructed. A mechanic has been hired and working on repair and maintenance of fire pumps, fire trucks and other equipment. Planning for firebreak improvement and hazardous fuel removal projects continue on Molokai and Lanai. Work on other project related jobs on Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Maui will be scheduled and continued in future segments.

Project 3. US Forest Service Forest Health – Insect and Disease Early Detection in Urban Forests and Development of Koa Disease Resistance

These are two separate projects. The first project is for the development of disease resistant koa (*Acacia koa*) for commercial plantations and reforestation projects and is being carried out by the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center. The second project surveys urban forests for pests to detect them before they reach watershed forests and will be carried out in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Agriculture Research Center continued its work developing new techniques for propagating koa to expedite the breeding of genetic resistance to wilt disease. ARRA-funded staff set up a new mist cooling system that allows for the regulation of temperature which is a crucial factor in the success rate of vegetative cuttings. They also continued assessing disease resistant families for success using vegetative techniques. The pest detection in urban areas project was successfully set up with the University of Hawaii's Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, and the hiring of a survey entomologist is underway.

- (b) Information on the amount of funds secured, encumbered and/or expended to date:

Project 1 Invasive Plant Control

Funding secured: \$4,383,000
Encumbered (as of 5/31/10): \$1,562,008
Expended (as of 5/31/10): \$741,837
Outstanding Encumbrances: \$820,171

Project 2 Wildland Fire Management

Funding secured: \$897,000
Encumbered (as of 5/31/10): \$287,322

Expended (as of 5/31/10): \$109,838
Outstanding Encumbrances: \$177,484

Project 3 Insect and Disease Detection

Funding secured: \$140,000
Encumbered (as of 5/31/10): \$45,297
Expended (as of 5/31/10): \$27,271
Outstanding Encumbrances: \$18,026

- (c) Information on any competitive grants for which the Department has applied, lost, and/or obtained and, if applicable, any explanation as to the reason for the failure to secure such funds:

Seven ARRA funding opportunities known to the Department were applied for but not funded. Unfunded projects were denied either because the proposed projects did not match federal program mandates/requirements or proposed projects were not selected because they did not rank high enough in competitive rankings on a national basis.

The Department did apply for and was awarded additional funding under project 1 and 2 from unused ARRA funds. The U.S. Forest Service recognized the need and effectiveness of Department projects and provided additional funding.

- (d) Information on any funds that have been returned to the federal government and, if so, why:

No ARRA federal funds have been returned.

2. Information on whether the Department's plans for ARRA funded projects are available on the State's ARRA website and, if not, why and/or when such information will be made available:

Information on the projects is posted on the State's ARRA website.

3. Information on any problems or concerns the Department has encountered in securing and/or expending ARRA funds or with satisfying any reporting requirements:

None

Please contact Mr. Paul J. Conry, Administrator with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 587-4181 if you have any questions or require any additional information about this report.

Sincerely



Laura H. Thielen
Chairperson