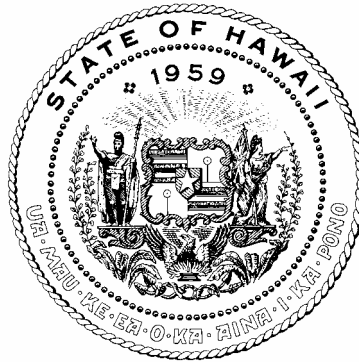


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE**  
**REGULAR SESSION OF 2004**  
**HAWAII STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS SYSTEM**  
**Known as Na Ala Hele**



**Prepared by:**

**THE STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE**  
**Outdoor Recreation Section - Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Program**

**In response to Section 198D-9(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes**

**Honolulu, Hawaii**  
**November 2003**

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
HAWAII STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS SYSTEM  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2004**

**PURPOSE**

Chapter 198D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which established the Hawaii Trail and Access System, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) under Section 198D-9(7), HRS, to submit an annual report on activities engaged in this Chapter. This report covers activities and revenue during Fiscal Year (FY) 02-03 and other specific activities from December 2002 to November 2003.

**INTRODUCTION**

Na Ala Hele (NAH), The Hawaii Statewide Trails and Access Program, was established through legislation in 1988. Section 198D-2, HRS, directs DLNR to plan, develop, acquire land or rights for public use of land, construct, and engage in coordination activities to implement a trail and access system. The program is administered through DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). This report covers activities implemented by DOFAW that are pursuant to Chapter 198D, HRS. Specifically, this report contains the following subjects:

1. **Summary**
2. **Funding**
3. **Commercial Trail Tour Activity and Revenue**
4. **Historic Trails**
5. **Environmental Risk Assessment and Management**
6. **Advisory Councils**
7. **Statewide Trail and Access Projects and Accomplishments**

1. **SUMMARY**

**Trails in Hawaii are important management features that serve multiple access functions:**

- Access and firebreaks to combat and control wildland fire
- Facilitating search and rescue efforts
- Hunting of environmentally damaging game species
- Monitoring and restoration of native flora and fauna
- Conducting watershed resource management
- Experiencing and observing cultural history via historic Hawaiian trails and features
- Recreational opportunities: hunting, hiking, bicycling, equestrian riding, and off-road vehicle use
- Economic and ecotourism opportunities through casual and commercial trail excursions

**The Primary NAH goals are to:**

- 1) Improve and maintain the conditions of all appropriate public trails and access roads to specific management standards and specifications, respond to the ancillary natural and cultural resource management issues associated with trail and access road corridors, and manage multiple public and commercial recreational activities.
- 2) Research, document, and when feasible, restore ancient and historic trails for managed public access, and
- 3) Engage in efforts to resolve specific public access disputes and initiate planning and development efforts for trails or accesses that may be suitable for inclusion into NAH, comment on development that may affect trails and accesses, or provide NAH technical or developmental support to other organizations or agencies.

The long-term effectiveness of NAH continues to be challenged due to an increasing amount of trail and access issues and use, coupled with the resulting impact on specific features without commensurate increase in staffing and funding. However, the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) funds via Act 250, Session Laws of Hawaii 2002, and commercial tour revenue are a significant funding improvement and augment NAH's effectiveness. Conversely, this particular revenue source forces NAH to become directly reliant on a specific threshold of tourism revenue and ancillary commercial activity to maintain this particular funding source. Reconciling NAH's increased regulatory and management role with the recreational public's perception of a duty to increase multiple use trail opportunities, such as off-road vehicles, is also problematic and challenging.

• **Positions & Funding**

1. The 10 NAH staff positions (Program Manager, Abstracter, four Trail and Access Specialists and Technicians) are funded through a combination of Land and Natural Resources (LNR) 804 General Funds and the State Fuel Tax (SFT) allocation. The portion of SFT transferred to staff salary was a result of previous LNR 804 restrictions.
2. For FY02-03, NAH received approximately \$227,000 from SFT.
3. NAH's share of the Federal Recreational Trail Program funds: \$530, 847. This is a slight decrease from the FY02 allocation.
4. Commercial Trail Tour Activity (CTTA) gross revenues collected from fees was @ \$78, 891, less 20% to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, leaving a net revenue of \$65,743. This is a \$19,980 increase from the previous fiscal year.
5. Act 250 SLH 2002, earmarks \$1,000,000 from the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), in consultation with the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) for DLNR's Division of State Parks, with 10% (\$100,000) allocated to NAH for trail maintenance and improvements.

<b>FY02-03 NAH Funding Source Table</b>	
State Fuel Tax Revenue	\$227, 370
Hawaii's Federal RTP Allocation	\$530,847
Commercial Trail Tour Activity Revenue	\$65,743
TAT- HTA Allocation	\$100,000
Interest, Donation, T-Shirt sales	\$13,596
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$937,556</b>

- Historic Trail Abstracts:** The Abstract Section of NAH provides technical support in locating and determining governmental jurisdiction to ancient or historic non-vehicular roads and trails throughout the State. In FY02-03, there were a total of 40 abstracts performed to determine title and/or public access for historic trails, old government roads, and lateral shoreline access routes. In FY02-03, NAH Abstract Staff worked approximately 1,560 hours @ \$25, 386 on abstracting historic trail issues. Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail is a congressionally approved project of the National Park Service (NPS), and NAH has been engaged in initial discussion with NPS on determining collaborative methods to implement the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Historic trail issues continue to create litigious and complicated situations requiring careful negotiations relating to development on the Big Island, and to a smaller degree on Maui and Molokai, fostering continued vigilance and action as development pressure increases.
- Environmental Risk Assessment and Management:** This activity is being conducted on NAH trails and in various State Parks, and is resulting in a management response that incorporates new warning signage and a monitoring program. Act 82, SLH 2003, provides greater legal protection to the State and Counties that install hazard warning signs approved by the process established in Act 82, SLH 2003.
- NAH Trail and Access Advisory Councils:** The Advisory Councils (AC) meet with a frequency based upon the needs and issues of their particular islands. The Statewide AC meets at least once per calendar year to report on island activities, to go over policy and administrative issues affecting NAH in general.
- Statewide Projects and Accomplishments:** Various recreational trails and access roads managed by DOFAW are included and regulated under NAH. In addition, NAH administers trails on other state land and trails traversing private land. Currently, there are approximately 675 miles of DOFAW recreational and management trails and access roads, with direct management support and federal funds provided through NAH. Improvements and projects are conducted through staff, community volunteers, interns, and contracts.
- DLNR is investigating the feasibility of incorporating all appropriate recreational State Park trails under the Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program. Currently, there are DLNR trails that are administered and managed by either the Division of State Parks or Forestry and Wildlife – Na Ala Hele Program. Placing all appropriate recreational trails eventually under Na Ala Hele would provide a consolidated information source for the public and more uniform management and regulatory ability for the department.

## **2. FUNDING**

### **State Fuel Tax (SFT) Allocation**

0.3 percent of the SFT collected under Chapter 243, HRS, is allocated each fiscal year to the Special Land and Development Fund (Section 171-19, HRS) of DLNR. This Fund is codified as S306 in LNR 804 of the Budget. The allocation is for the purposes of management, maintenance, and development of NAH trails and trail accesses established under Chapter 198D, HRS. Legislation established a limit of \$250,000 that may be allocated to DLNR from SFT revenue. In FY03, 227,370 was collected with 7% overhead to the Department of Budget and Finance @ \$28,469. 3.5 NAH positions are funded by SFT @ \$170,000, leaving a balance of \$28,900 for operations. This is the only purely discretionary funding source directly appropriated to NAH for trail management.

### **Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Allocation**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA 21) authorizes RTP as a Federal-aid Highway Program and is codified in 23 U.S.C. 206 (RTP replaced the National Recreational Trails Funding Program). DLNR, through NAH, is qualified by the Federal Highways Administration as eligible to receive Hawaii's allocation of RTP funds. Criteria for eligibility mandates that the states have trail councils that include representation by the motorized recreational vehicle constituency, which NAH established at its inception. RTP is a state-administered, Federal-aid program, and provides funds to states for trails and trail-related projects that fulfill the goals of a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In utilizing RTP funds, the state must comply with the Assured Access to Funds requirement: a minimum of 30% of the funding must be used for motorized trail use, 30% for non-motorized trail use, and 40% for diversified (multiple) trail use. The current RTP establishes an 80/20 matching requirement. Due to the limited amount of funds from SFT providing the state RTP match is challenging. DOFAW labor constitutes 100% of the state 20% matching requirement, but because of the need of other DOFAW programs to rely on staff labor as match, this is becoming increasingly more difficult. RTP represents the most significant trail-funding source. In 2003, NAH obligated Hawaii's allocation of the Federal FY02 allocation of RTP funds: \$530,847.

### **Transient Accommodation Tax Allocation via the Hawaii Tourism Authority**

Act 250, SLH 2002, established the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) Trust Fund, and caps amount of TAT allocated to the Tourism Special Fund at \$63,292,000. It also requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) to spend \$1,000,000 on support of natural resources. Act 250, SLH 2002 also reallocates 5.3% of TAT from the Tourism Special Fund to the General Fund and earmarks \$1,000,000 for State Parks, of which 10% (\$100,000) is allocated to NAH.

Sections 171-19 HRS, was amended during the 2003 Legislative Session for NAH to expend the funds.

*Act 250, SLH 2002 is significant, in that it acknowledges the relationship between tourism and its impact on recreational features under DLNR jurisdiction, and that revenue from TAT*

*is appropriate to be used to defray the cost of managing State Parks and NAH trails.*

Per Act 250, SLH 2002, the use of the funds is subject to the approval of HTA. The \$100,000 allocated to NAH was distributed evenly between Kauai, Oahu, and Maui – locations with a high percentage of trails used by visitors, to fund 3 temporary positions per island to improve the condition of trails frequented by visitors. There has been a gradual, but steady increase in interest by the visitor industry in ecotourism activities, as trails are an attractive venue for visitors. ***The market growth over the past several years illustrates the visiting consumer’s increased interest in hiking.*** There are very compelling reasons to use TAT funds on improving the quality of maintenance on specific trails on these 3 islands:

- Improved maintenance enhances both visitor and resident safety and facilitates ease of hiking.
- Vegetation trimming in a manner that favors distribution of native plant species along with trail surface repairs, such as the installation of boardwalks and/or applying gravel in poorly drained or habitually wet trail sections, or the installation of amenities such as benches and interpretive signage, improves aesthetic quality of the trail experience. Reducing the quantity of non-native plant species and amount of soil erosion along a trail corridor is a natural resource management goal that has direct ecotourism market applications.

Ideally, NAH would utilize the Act 250, SLH 2002 funds to hire 3 permanent General Laborer positions for the 3 islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Maui to specifically improve the maintenance of trails that are frequented by visitors. The positions would be assigned directly to NAH Trails and Access Specialist on each of the 3 islands. Annual cost for a General Labor I, (BC02) with fringe included is, \$32,478. Total annual cost for three temporary general laborers is \$97,434. Due to the potential ephemeral nature of this funding source, this option is not currently tenable. Instead, 3 temporary field worker positions through the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit are being created.

### **List of Projected Trails**

Kauai: Awaaawpuhi, Nualolo, Pihea, Kukui, Alakai Swamp, Nounou Complex  
Oahu: Maunawili, Manoa Falls, Wiliwilinui, Honolulu Mauka Trail System  
Maui: Lahaina Pali, Waihee Ridge, Waikamoi Ridge, Mamane

### **3. COMMERCIAL TRAIL TOUR ACTIVITY (CTTA) AND REVENUE**

Act 106, SLH 1997, allows for user fees from commercial use of NAH trails and access routes to go directly into the Special Land and Development Fund. This provision affords the opportunity to defray the costs to NAH in the management, trail maintenance, and regulating and monitoring of the commercial trail tour operations. There is general consensus between NAH staff and the private sector that it is in the commercial trail tour industry’s best interest to protect trails and access roads used by the industry through some form of intervening regulation. Regulation via a permit is codified in Chapter 13-130, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), for NAH.

A significant component is the method by which the commercial tour vendors reserve and utilize a limited number of commercial patron slots per trail and access road. This has been accomplished in a manner that meets the needs of the tour industry and minimizes NAH staff time spent in managing the process. A scheduling method is in place to insure that commercial

activities by multiple vendors do not exceed the daily capacities and/or number of groups established for CTTA trails and roads. After an application for a commercial trail tour is processed and accepted, a permit is issued. The approved vendor is provided instructions on the CTTA Internet reservation system and issued confidential codes for accessing the reservation system. The system records the reservation, date, and calculates the fee. Current fees are imposed per unit and based upon the potential trail impact of the mode of transport:

<b>Hike</b>	<b>Bike &amp; Horse</b>	<b>Motorcycle</b>	<b>4WD (5)</b>	<b>4WD (8)</b>	<b>4WD (12)</b>	<b>4WD (15)</b>
<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

Payments are required after reservations are made, and vendors receive monthly invoices for the total amount of patron slots reserved, less any cancellations due to inclement weather. NAH has determined that inclement weather, such as high precipitation, may reduce public safety and increase trail or access road impact. Therefore, the operators are encouraged, through a waiving or the fee, not to use the feature during inclement weather. An incentive for trail tour operators to participate via a CTTA permit is that their companies are listed on the NAH public informational portion of the NAH Internet site, which provides linkages to potential global customers.

FY02-03, gross revenue from commercial fees was @ \$78,891, of which 20 percent of the total revenue has been allocated to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Net revenue was \$65,743. Staff labor managing and monitoring this activity was 647 hours at a cost of \$13,702. Staff time spent managing CTTA was 38% less than in FY01-02, indicating that the process and management activity is becoming more efficient. As of November of 2003, NAH has processed and permitted 30 commercial trail tour operators to use specific trails and access roads selected for commercial tours across the state.

NAH staff continues to examine and monitor commercial tour operations to determine the long-term feasibility and impacts associated with allowing this activity. To date, there has been no detrimental impact to trail surfaces associated with commercial activity. However, managing this activity continues to be challenging, primarily in enforcing against illegal tour operators. These operators do not follow reasonable group size restrictions, and their operations can impact on public hikers and have social impacts – resulting in a loss of enjoyment for public hikers. The illegal tour operators can undercut the authorized tour operators who pay all of the various government fees, taxes, etc. associated with business requirements, and therefore must charge a higher fee per patron. As compared to regulated and legitimate tour operators, the large group sizes associated with the illicit operators reduces the overall quality of an ecotourism experience. This may have negative impact on Hawaii’s global reputation as an ecotourism destination. This problem is the most acute on Oahu, because of the ability for unauthorized vendors to solicit the potential patron base of Waikiki, making illicit operations profitable

<b>FY 02-03 CTTA</b>
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<b>Net Revenue</b>	
<b>Kauai</b>	<b>\$33,232</b>
<b>Oahu</b>	<b>\$6,119</b>
<b>Maui</b>	<b>\$ 640</b>
<b>Hawaii</b>	<b>\$25,752</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 65,743</b>

#### **4. HISTORIC TRAILS AND ABSTRACTS**

Section 198D-3, HRS, requires that an inventory of trails and accesses shall be established, maintained and amended as required. Abstracts of ancient and historic trails constitute virtually all of the inventory work currently being conducted. Over the past several years, NAH has identified several differing historic trail scenarios and potential responses to address the State’s interest. These scenarios are determined by Chapters 6E, 171, 264, and 198D, HRS, and are specifically associated with trails and non-vehicular roads that are subject to the Highways Act of 1892. Section 264-1, HRS, contains the following provision: “(b) All trails, and other non-vehicular rights-of-way in the State declared to be public rights-of-way by the Highways Act of 1892, or opened, laid out, or built by the government or otherwise created or vested as non-vehicular rights-of-way at any time thereafter, or in the future, are declared to be public trails. A public trail is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) unless it was created by or dedicated to a particular county, in which case it shall be under the jurisdiction of that county.”

These historic trail scenarios require coordination, and agreement on procedure among DOFAW, DLNR’s Land and the Historic Preservation Division. The Abstract Section of NAH provides technical support in locating and determining governmental jurisdiction to historic roads and trails throughout the State. The abstract research is dictated by discussion among the various island ACs and NAH staff, resulting in specific requests for information, and plays an integral role in assessing current and future options for developing and restoring trail and access road systems. Abstracts of title are accomplished through historical research of documents, maps and other media together with interpretation of applicable statutes and laws.

This issue is currently very pertinent and there has been precedent setting litigation associated with historic trails on the Island of Hawaii. For example, in Civil No. 00-1-01-0192K, Kelly vs. Oceanside 1250 Partners (the Hokulia case) the Court determined that a portion of ancient trail is state owned, after the NAH Abstract Section could not find any record of the trail. The Court based its decision upon testimony of cultural representatives and archeologists. This decision is under appeal by Oceanside 1250. If the Lower Court’s decision is upheld, the precedent would provide an additional legal tool for NAH to claim historic trails as public trust resources.

The NAH Abstract Section also assists the Department of the Attorney General in identifying possible interest the State may claim in roads and/or trails situate within the boundaries of lands that are the subject of Quiet Title Actions or Land Court Applications. If ownership is confirmed, public access via these road or trail features bounded by private land is documented. Affirmation of ownership provides future options for recreational development and/or access.



NAH staff met with NPS on the implementation of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail in 2003 to discuss how the State of Hawaii and NPS should collaborate on this project. Due to land tenure and various federal, state and county mandates, there is a need for consensus, in the form of a written agreement, between the affected agencies in order to avoid duplication of effort or conflicting actions. Based on NAH abstract work, sections of the proposed alignment are state owned. Staff introduced the NPS Trail Superintendent and Planner for Ala Kahakai to the Hawaii Trail and Access Advisory Council, which agreed to provide a venue for future public discussion on the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. NPS staff now regularly attend the AC meetings. NPS has been engaged in a series of public forums and is preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.

The following table provides a statewide breakdown of NAH abstract of title requests that have been initiated since 1992. A total of 161 abstract requests have been initiated through the 4 DOFAW Branches to determine title and/or public access for ancient or historic trails, old government roads and lateral shoreline access routes.

Table: NAH Title Requests Since 1992

<b>ABSTRACTS</b>	<b>FY02-03</b>	<b>TO DATE</b>	<b>STATE OWNED</b>	<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>	<b>OTHER OWNERSHIP</b>
<b>Kauai</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Oahu</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Maui</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hawaii</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>51</b>

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

An integral component of environmental risk assessment and management is establishing the rationale behind the assessment and subsequent action - resulting in a management response that incorporates either physical mitigation or appropriate uniform warning signage and a monitoring program. In 2002, DLNR and the United States Forest Service (USFS) entered into an Interagency Agreement to provide assistance in assessment and management of risk at various DLNR recreation sites – NAH and State Park trails. The initial agreement authorized DLNR to spend up to \$50,000 (funded by a portion of the planning money in the 2001 DLNR Risk Assessment Capital Improvement Project (CIP) In the summer and fall of 2002, USFS assembled a team of 7 that surveyed 52 trail features on the Islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and Hawaii. NAH and State Park staff identified features to be studied, and NAH staff provided logistical support. DLNR goals for the team were to:

- Establish a management protocol for identifying, responding to, signing and/or mitigating potential environmental hazards. In addition, identify other management or public use

conditions that could be improved.

- Develop standardized, universal pictograph and textual warning signs, (modeled on the Act 190 SLH 1996 - beach liability signage) for select trail and park features that delineate recurring hazardous environmental conditions and management issues.
- Assist with mapping of identified hazards for the purposes of producing maps showing locations of potentially hazardous features.

USFS has performed surveys and has submitted a report that identified re-occurring environmental hazards and that also contained ancillary draft warning and management sign designs. This project has direct application to the implementation of Act 82, SLH 2002, by providing a model for the design of uniform environmental hazard warning signs and a method to identify where they should be placed.

## **6. NAH ADVISORY COUNCILS**

AC's meet as staff and AC members determine is necessary based upon their respective island's trail and access issues. In FY02-03, AC's met as follows: Hawaii – 11, Kauai – 0, Oahu - 4, Maui – 11, Molokai – 10, and Lanai – 5. The range in frequency of meeting indicates the difference in islands that are engaged in trail development versus a more static regulatory and management mode.

The agendas and minutes of the meetings are on file at DOFAW Branch offices. Many of the issues and subjects covered by AC's are reflected in the following statewide trail and access projects. The Statewide NAH AC meets at least once a year and is comprised of the chairpersons (or their representatives) of the 6 Island ACs and a representative of the off-road vehicle user group. The Statewide NAH AC meets annually to provide continuity of NAH implementation among the Island ACs and to discuss and resolve issues that affect NAH statewide, such as sharing trail and access issues that are both statewide or island specific, and to discuss administrative and budgetary issues.

## **7. STATEWIDE PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Appropriate public trails managed by DOFAW are included as part of NAH trail system. In addition, NAH administers trails on other state land and trails on private land through Memorandum of Agreements. Currently, there are approximately 675 miles of trails and accesses that are managed by DOFAW/NAH. Primary NAH goals are to:

- Improve and maintain the conditions of all appropriate trails and access to the standards and specifications of NAH.
- Document and when feasible, develop historic trails for managed public access.
- Attempt to resolve various access and management disputes and initiate planning and development efforts for trails or accesses that may be suitable for inclusion into NAH, or receive NAH technical or developmental support.

**In FY02-03, DOFAW/NAH staff engaged in:**

- 8,789 hours of trail maintenance labor, at a cost of \$178,490 (\$59,498 of LNR 804 salary, and \$118,992 of Federal RTP funds).
- 764 hours of trail construction labor at a cost of \$2,904
- 7,404 hours of labor at a cost of \$176,368 on maintenance of access roads.

(These figures exclude certain DOFAW Wildlife program staff labor)

Branch staff on each island attempt to provide routine maintenance and service, ranging from at least once per year, to quarterly, based upon amount of public use, vegetation growth cycles, erosion damage, storms, and availability of volunteers.

<p><b>Division of Forestry and Wildlife Trail and Access Road Table</b></p>
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<b>Island</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	<b>Access Roads</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
<b>Kauai</b>	20	108	12	72
<b>Oahu</b>	39	65	4	20
<b>Maui (includes Lanai and Molokai)</b>	22	71	54	157
<b>Hawaii</b>	16	65	15	118
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>367</b>

The following is a status report for NAH administrative and island trail and access projects, planning efforts and other management activities for the 2003 calendar year. The island reports contain descriptions of select trail and access activities that NAH has undertaken due to program, DOFAW or DLNR directives, or in response to public interest, land development or changes in ownership and access situations.

**NAH Administration Initiatives and Projects**

- Tracked and testified on legislation which eventually became Act 113, SLH 2003, which rectified a flaw in Act 250, SLH 2002, by enabling TAT revenues for the NAH to be deposited into the Special Land and Development Fund, from which expenditures for the trails and access program can be made.
- Participated as a member of the Kahaolawe Island Reserve Warning Signage Task Force Pursuant to Act 218, SLH 2002, to design and determine the appropriate location of specific warning signs related to unexploded ordinance.
- Submitted the obligation plan for the 2003 Federal RTP funds to the Federal Highways Administration for approval.

- Submitted a prospectus for HTA approval on the use of the Act 250, SLH 2002 TAT funds and participated as a member of the HTA Natural Resources Working Group on reviewing applications for allocation of the additional proviso funds for use on natural resources.
- Edited and evaluated the Environmental Risk Assessment and Recreational Feature Study, Phase 1, performed by USFS, and executed a modification of the Interagency Agreement between USFS and DLNR for future trail assessments and study.
- Represented the DLNR Chairperson as a member of the Risk Assessment Working Group pursuant to Act 82 SLH 2003. Assisted with draft language on sign design and the placement of uniform environmental warning and management signs.
- Acted as the DOFAW - DLNR liaison on compliance with the 1997 American's With Disability Act (ADA) Consent Decree and Order. Submitted DOFAW features and programs for the final DLNR Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. Circulated and explained to staff pertinent sections of the document that had the most significant application to DOFAW programs with explanations on how to achieve ADA compliance. Reviewed certain plans for architectural barrier removal.
- Assisted Hawaii NAH staff in negotiation with Keauhou Resort Partners (KRP) for relinquishing the State's interest for a section of the Keauhou Trail in Bayview Estates, with the confirmation that perpetual public access will occur on their proposed trail system. BLNR approval of the sale required that a memorandum of agreement between DLNR and KRP be consummated to insure that NAH has input over time on the proposed trail system, including the location of public parking areas
- Completed a series of tasks associated with an outstanding Conservation District Use violation adjudicated by BLNR in 1994 at Puakea Bay on the Island of Hawaii that had resulted in litigation (Civil No. 01-1-0069). The required action included subdividing 2 parcels of land into a linear parcel and thus creating a shoreline trail, pursuant to BLNR directive. This action required shoreline certification, metes and bounds survey, subdivision application and county approval, and due to the litigation, the concurrence of several parties and their legal counsel. This action establishes a new NAH trail. Next steps include trail improvements and sign installation.
- Met with private landowners, and both state and city and county elected officials, to support Oahu NAH staff efforts on restoring critical public hunting and hiking access to the Poamoho Trail in the Ewa Forest Reserve. Preliminary discussion indicates the potential for entering into an access agreement, pending approval of the private landowners and the military. The only access to the forest reserve and trail is across private and military property. Access was eliminated when the private landowner installed a gate at the entrance to a pineapple access road entrance that provided mauka

vehicular access.

- After responding to numerous phone conversations and email discussions relating to trails in Halawa Valley, Molokai; wrote and circulated a letter to a Molokai resident, with copies sent to Maui County Department of Public Works, NAH and other DLNR staff and the Molokai AC chair to clarify a long standing issue related to the trail leading up to the falls in Halawa Valley. The letter clarified the role of NAH and the Molokai Trail and Access AC and associated issues, unresolved tasks associated with potential DLNR trail development, commercial tour activity in Halawa, and speculation about Halawa's future within this context.

## **Kauai Branch**

### **1. Volunteer Support:**

- Continued the Kauai Adopt-A-Trail Program with the Kauai Sierra Club, Charlie Cobb-Adams and the Kokee Resource Conservation Program totaling over 992 hours of volunteer work.
- Awarded all individual volunteers with official "Kauai DOFAW Volunteer" T-Shirts.

### **2. AC Activity:**

- Because of the lack of a consistent AC quorum, there were no scheduled meetings in 2003. The Kauai AC members were notified to provide comments to NAH regarding issues via email and regular mail if issues arise.

### **3. Special Events:**

- Assisted the Kauai County Water Department in the 1st annual "Project Wet" to help educate the Island's 5th graders in water conservation and preservation of Hawaii unique ecosystem.
- Participated in the 2003 Western Society of Weed Science that held in Poipu, Kauai. NAH staff coordinated trail tours to participants to discuss invasive weed problems in Kauai's Trails.

### **4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Staff continued required first aid, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and firefighting training.
- Staff participated in DLNR firefighting efforts on state forest reserve lands.
- Responded to numerous public inquires regarding hiking in Hawaii.
- Escorted USFS Risk Assessment Team to NAH features.
- Assisted Kauai Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) with maintenance of the Kokee Field Station and Kalalau Rim Project.
- Staff was actively involved with the Kokee State Park Master Plan. Participated in all of the associated DLNR Task Force and BLNR meetings.
- Coordinated the 2003 Youth Conservation Corp. (YCC) Directly working with YCC coordinators - Pono Pacific, to schedule work projects for 15 youths for DOFAW projects.

YCC maintained the Kalalau Rim out-planting site, did trail improvements on Moalepe Trail, worked with DOFAW Wildlife section on wildlife restorations and maintained cages for endangered seabirds.

- Staff assisted with Smokey Bear and to spread the message about forest fire prevention at the Kauai County Farm Fair.
- Staff assisted with construction of fenced enclosures of native endangered plants under the guidance of NARS.

**5. Trail and Access Management Issues:**

- Manage CTTA permit process. The commercial trail tours continues to be very active on Kauai with 7 hiking tours, 2 four-wheel drive tours and 3 equestrian tours. NAH continues to monitor trail usage on an annual basis.
- Working on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the re-route of the Pihea Trail that includes construction of a boardwalk that will connect with the Alakai Trail.
- Involved with the Kauai County in the development of the Kealia Bike/Pedestrian Trail.
- Revised the Kauai Camping and Mountain Biking Brochure.

**6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Completed trash removal from Waimea Canyon and Waialae Camp sites.
- Maintained routine maintenance of 108 miles of trails, 72 miles of roads, 34 trail shelters and benches, 45 field gates, 11 composting toilets, 66 acres of arboreta.
- Repair and assessment of Kuamoo Equestrian Bridge.
- Installation and repairs to trail and cautionary signs.
- Installed a new 4 feet high by 990 feet fence at Nounou Mountain West Trail.
- Installed over 300 tons of gravel for trail thread improvements to the Moalepe Trail.
- Installed over 1,200 tons of gravel and reconstructed portions of the Wailua Forest Management Road.
- Installed new gate and fence along Kawaikoi Picnic Area.
- Continued research on herbicide field trails in collaboration with the University of Hawaii Extension Service. Projects include the Nualolo Trail and Koaie Trail.

**Oahu Branch**

**1. Volunteer Support:**

- Coordinated and supervised trail service work of 698 individual volunteers for a total of 2,792 hours on various trails and access projects.
- Awarded outstanding volunteers with shirts and hats.

**2. AC Activity:**

- Conducted 4 AC meetings.
- Conducted one inspection hike of the Makiki WAI project.

**3. Major Accomplishments and Special Events:**

- Grand opening of the “Makiki WAI” Project on June 7, 2003 National Trails Day. The Project took 3 years to accomplish. The Project is a forest restoration, trail reroute and watershed education project all tied into one. The restoration area along the new trail has been cleared of invasive vegetation and out-planted with over 300 native Hawaiian plants. The new section of trails traverses along turn-of-the-century carriage road and bridge remnants. Installed 1 24ft. and 1-36ft. bridges made of fiberglass and redwood that now cross over the Moleka and Kanealole Streams. The work continues by volunteers once a month. The Makiki WAI Project was awarded \$40,000.00 in grant monies from the Environmental Protection Agency for Ali Wai Watershed restoration projects. The monies were awarded to continue restoration of the forest and to support a comprehensive watershed interpretive sign program.
  - Installed information sign written in Korean on the Makiki Valley Loop in order to educate the Korean Community about trail edict and watershed management issues.
  - Organized 140 military and civilian volunteers to move 20 tons of gravel 1/4 mile on to the Kanealole Trail for National Make-A-Difference day.
  - Attended the Western Trail Builders Conference in Reno, Nevada. Participated in the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) Training. Took part in new, innovated, trail management equipment demonstrations. Attended presentations on trail construction materials in wet areas, Mountain bike trail construction, and the use of explosives for trail construction.
4. **NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**
- Helped organize and support required first aid, CPR and fire fighting training.
  - Staff participated in four wildland forest fires.
  - Continued Logistical support branch incidents and activities.
  - Continued computer support and equipment inventory accountability support.
5. **Trail and Access Administration:**
- Participated in NAH Core Group meeting.
  - Responded to more than 300 phone and e-mail inquires regarding hiking in Hawaii.
  - Provided guidance to the Down Hill Mountain Bike Club for access and management of lower Waahila Ridge area.
  - Escorted USFS Risk Assessment Team to State Parks and NAH features.
  - Assisted and advised DOFAW, NARS, State Parks, Land Division, City& County, and federal agencies in trail related issues and logistical support when requested.
  - Issued 3 Commercial Trail Tour Activity Permits.
  - Reviewed and recommended for approval 8 film permits.
  - Issued 3 Trail and Access Activity (T&AA) Permits for the Manoa Falls Trail.
  - Issued 2 T&AA Permits to the Hawaii Ultra Running Team (HURT) for 2 separate events, one a 100 mile race on trails within the Honolulu mauka Trail system that involved 60 runners from around the World, the second, a 10-mile race involving 160 runners.
  - Participated in meeting with BLNR Chairperson and commercial tour operators to solve illegal commercial tours on Manoa Falls Trail.

- Continued negotiations with Army Department of Public Works (DPW) and Dole Foods for the realigning and reopening of the Poamoho Trail access.
  - Established 2 labor positions through the University of Hawaii accomplish trail intensive maintenance schedule and implement trail monitoring program.
  - Continued recruiting 4-wheel drive volunteers for planning and implementing Oahu off-road motorized riding area.
- 6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**
- Installed approximately 150 safety steps on the Wiliwili Nui Trail.
  - Continued maintenance of 42 trails and 4-wheel drive access roads, at approximately 92 miles.
  - Maintained 252 trail signs.
  - Implemented CO2 herbicide weed spraying system on 12 different trails.

### **Maui Branch (Includes Lanai and Molokai)**

**1. Volunteer Support:**

- Coordinated and supervised trail service work of 90 individual volunteers for a total of 1,887 hours on various trails and access projects.
- Awarded outstanding volunteers with plaques and an appreciation party for all volunteers.

**2. AC Activity:**

- Maintained connection to council and filled all vacancies.
- Participated in 11 Maui AC meetings.

**3. Special Events:**

- Helped organized and participated in the 1st annual “Maui Earth Day Celebration.
- Participated in the Universal Trail Assessment Process Training.

**4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Staff continued required, first aid, CPR and firefighting training.
- Staff participated in DLNR firefighting efforts on state forest reserve lands.
- Participated in NAH Core Group meeting.
- Responded to numerous public inquires regarding hiking in Hawaii.
- Assisted with identification, location and removal of an illegal bicycle trail in the Makawao Forest Reserve.
- Escorted Risk Assessment Team to State Parks and NAH features.
- Participated in DLNR Succession Workshop.
- Assisted and advised DOFAW, NARS, State Parks, Land Division, Maui County and federal agencies in trail related issues and logistical support when requested.

**5. Trail and Access Management Issues:**

- Continued monitoring and management of CTTA Permit process.
- Continued monitoring and managing with the assistance of DLNR’s Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), a personal guide identification



number for commercial tour operators. This is for safety precautions and to insure only legal operators are utilizing NAH trails.

- Continued monitoring trail bed stability, non-native plant invasion and the condition of archaeological resources on the Mamane, Waihee Ridge, and Old Lahaina Pali Trails, utilizing a photo-point management system.
- Completed Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to create the Kahakapao Loop Trail in the Makawao Forest Reserve.
- Participated in the Keoneoio-Kanaloa Working Group Meetings.
- Continued to investigate the possibility of developing the Old Haleakala Bridal Trail (Kalialinui).
- Continued working with Maui Land and Pineapple Co. to complete the necessary improvements to the ADA parking at the Mokuleia Stairway.
- Continued Draft EA to create the Ohai Trail and Over Look within the Kahakuloa Forest Reserve.

#### **6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Maintained a fence enclosure for Sesbania tomentosa, Ohai, with the help of DOFAW, the Maui AC, the Native Plant Society and NAH volunteers.
- Propagated native species within the Ohai fence enclosure in celebration of Year of the Hawaiian Forest.
- Continued maintenance of 150 feet of stepped walkway with handrails and scenic lookout for the mobility impaired at Mokuleia Bay in Napili for public access to the shoreline.
- Continued to reconstruct the Upper Waiakoa Trail with volunteer labor within state-owned lands of the Kula Forest Reserve.
- Worked with DOFAW Field Crews and volunteers to maintain in the Kula, West Maui, Koolau, and Waihou Springs Forest Reserves, and on the Old Lahaina Pali Trail, a total of 42 miles of recreational trails.
- Continued planning and implementing the full development of the Waikamoi Ridge Trail to accommodate 2 lane foot traffic with an imported hardened surface and boardwalk with the use of volunteer labor.
- Continued planning and implementing a recycled rubber matting design to be installed on the Waiakoa Loop Trail and the Mamane Trail to maintain tread stability damaged by bicycle use with the use of volunteer labor.
- Identified and mapped portions of the historic Piilani Trail (King's Highway) in Kanaio, Kaapahu, Pilali, and Makaiwa.
- Maintained plant identification signs in Keanae Arboretum Walk.
- Continue construction efforts on the Waipoli Road in the Kula Forest Reserve.

### **Molokai**

#### **1. Volunteer Support:**

- 17 Volunteers contributed 136 hours of labor to install place identification signs along the Maunahui Road.

**2. AC Activities:**

- Maintained connection to the Molokai AC and filled vacant seats.
- Participated in 10 Molokai AC meetings.

**3. Special Events:**

- Conducted hiking event for National Trails Day and Year of the Hawaiian Forest.

**4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Continued re-negotiations with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the license agreement of the Maunahui/Makakupaia Road.

**5. Trail and Access Management Issues:**

- Continued to respond to community concerns related to reestablishing the Halawa Valley/Moanalua Falls Trails for public use.

**6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Continued improvements to the Waikolu Lookout and Campsite by reconstruction of overlook facilities, clearing rubble and debris from the campsite area, and construction of a fence utilizing recycled materials. A covered pavilion, rest room facilities and picnic tables are currently being replaced

**Lanai**

**1. Volunteer Support:**

- 45 Volunteers contributed 700 hours of trail maintenance work

**2. AC Activity:**

- Maintained connection to the Lanai AC.
- Participated in 5 Lanai AC meetings.

**3. Special Events:**

- Conducted a National Trails Day and Year of the Hawaiian Forest hike.

**4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Supported the maintenance of hunter access roads via RTP funds

**5. Trail and Access Management Issues:**

None

**6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Maintained Lanai Fisherman's Trail.
- Monitored and visited historic trails and sites.

**Hawaii Branch**

**1. Volunteer Support:**

- Supervised approximately 400 hours of volunteer trail service projects; which included maintenance, location, reconstruction as well as mapping and reconnaissance.

## **2. AC Activity:**

- A total of eleven 11 public meetings were held throughout the Big Island.
- Participated on numerous field trips relating to trail identification, realignment, construction, and reconstruction advise.
- Worked on the Puakea Bay coastal trail regarding access, construction, and maintenance as well as starting dates pending resolution of issues with the owners of the former Isaac's property.
- Worked on the Judd Trail in the vicinity of Holualoa Estates with not providing adequate access and proper signage.
- Worked on NAH Management Plan that needed to be revisited with the incorporation of new issues like risk management, commercial use, ADA compliance and meeting the requirements posed by cultural and historical concerns.
- Reviewed a draft memorandum of agreement with Keauhou Resort Development Corporation for the realignment of the Keauhou Trail.
- Worked with landowners requiring trail realignments:  
4-wheel drive trespass on the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail in South Kohala.
- Coordinated with Oceanside 1250 on the Old Government Road (OGR - Keauhou-Napopo Trail) traversing the development. Working out details pertaining to signage, public easements, and entry areas for the OGR.

## **3. Special Events:**

- None.

## **4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Staff assisted with fire suppression activities in the Kapapala Forest Reserve in February.
- Staff attended Critical Fire and Strike Team Leader training.
- Constructed a temporary water structure in Ainapo.
- Installing a composting bathroom facility at the Puu Oo Saddle House.
- Eviction at Puu Oo cabin, due to unauthorized use, storage and residence at the state facility.

## **5. Trail and Access Management Issues:**

- Completed a survey of OGR along the shoreline at Kealia Bay.
- Realigning a portion of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail through archeological sites at the Kamalani Estates development.
- Researched and confirmed a trespass violation on the OGR in Hookena.
- Processed 3 commercial tour applications for trail use.

## **6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Installing new signs along trails and replacing old and vandalized signs.

- The Muliwai Trail was closed for safety precautions on 7/26/03 due to the beached whale at Waimanu Valley.
- Worked with DOFAW Field Crews and volunteers to develop, maintain and reconstruct trails which include Muliwai, Ala Kahakai, Pololu, Onomea, Puu Huluhulu, Kaumana, Puu Oo, Ainapo, and the Kiholo-Huehue Trails as well as maintenance of campsites, campgrounds, composting toilet units, and trash pickup and removal.