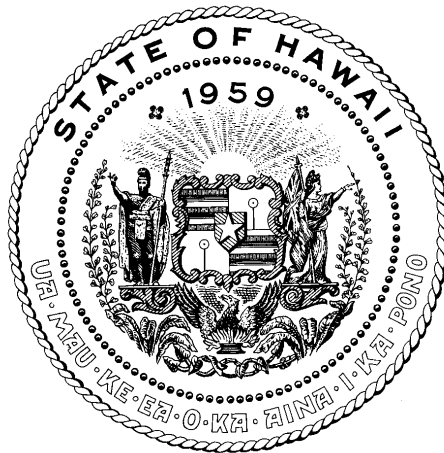


REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ELECTRONIC REPORT WRITING,  
DATA COLLECTION AND RETRIEVAL FOR FIELD INSPECTION REPORTS,  
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH AND BETWEEN OFFICERS IN THE FIELD



PREPARED BY:  
STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

in response to:  
SECTIONS 19.2 of ACT 160, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII, 2006

JUNE 2007

**RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ELECTRONIC REPORT WRITING,  
DATA COLLECTION AND RETRIEVAL FOR FIELD INSPECTION REPORTS,  
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH AND BETWEEN OFFICERS IN THE FIELD**

Section 19.2 of Act 160, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, calls for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement to submit progress reports to the Legislature on December 31, 2006, and June 30, 2007 on objectives, accomplishments, and plans to improve:

- 1) Electronic report writing, data collection, and retrieval for field inspection reports, and
- 2) Telecommunications with and between officers in the field, including the costs and benefits of utilizing other state or county agencies with dispatch services and excess radio capacity.

This second progress report is submitted to satisfy the legislative due date of June 30, 2007.

The Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) has conducted initial research on the possible purchase of rugged hand held portable computer systems and compatible software, which would meet DOCARE's requirements. Emphasis has been placed on a lightweight unit that is capable of collecting, storing and reproducing data and information for consolidation into a branch and division wide report. Besides being portable, DOCARE is looking for a system that has basic specifications for customized application, is shock/vibration resistant, waterproof, and dustproof, is operable in high and low temperatures, is rechargeable, has Global Positioning System (GPS) capability, has the capacity to complete reports in Microsoft Word format, can store report and documents internally, and can download or upload information via secured wireless connection.

A preliminary selection of the Tripod Data Systems (TDS) Recon unit has been made, but research on associated software to run the system continues. The DOCARE Data Systems Processing Analyst and the Information Technologies positions have been filled. This much needed expertise is currently being focused on DOCARE's Data Processing and Information Technology needs.

DOCARE submitted a Fiscal Biennium 2007-2009 budget request to the Legislature for \$1,178,900 to fund data processing system design, hardware, software and installation to automate DOCARE reports and forms. A portion of the funding requested (\$815,000) has been approved.

DOCARE is also currently exploring ways to improve field communications and dispatching capabilities statewide. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has hired an Information Technology Telecommunications Planner who is in the process of evaluating current systems and equipment.

DOCARE has contacted and discussed the possibility of sharing dispatching services and "excess radio capacity" with state and county agencies. At the current time, no one has excess staffing that can be redirected to takeover DLNR's complaint retrieval and dispatch duties and responsibilities. In addition, DLNR operates a separate and distinct land mobile radio communications system. This stand-alone conventional VHF system is the only system that can service DOCARE / DLNR employees in rough, isolate, undulating terrain. These frequencies are

incompatible with current with other first responder communications systems. The cost to purchase, and install the system into a state or county agency is prohibitive at this time. In addition, more dispatchers would need to be hired in order to provide DLNR's dispatching and complaints retrieval services. DLNR is in the process of exploring new technological equipment that will make possible to communicate with the many and varied communications found throughout the State.