

**MINUTES  
TEMPORARY HAWAII INTER-ISLAND  
FERRY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE MEETING  
HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
INTER-ISLAND TERMINAL, 7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
CONFERENCE ROOM C**

July 10, 2008

**Members Present**

Michael Formby (DOT designee)  
Sandra Kunimoto (Chair DOA)  
Russell Tsuji (Chair DLNR designee)  
John Garibaldi (President, large capacity ferry vessel company, designee)  
Randy Awo (Maui county)  
Colette Machado (Maui county)  
Sara Peck (Hawaii county)  
Michael Matsukawa (Hawaii county)  
Michael Q. Y. Lau (AG designee)  
Dennis Chun (Kauai county)  
Lynn McCrory (Kauai county)  
William Aila, Jr. (Oahu county)

**Members excused**

Kauila Clark (Oahu county)

**Other Attendees**

Margaret Ahn (Deputy AG)  
Napua Brown (Mayor Kim's office)  
Neil Reimer (DOA)

**Call to Order**

Member Formby, as Oversight Task Force (OTF) facilitator, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Twelve members were present representing a quorum. Members Machado and Aila arrived at 1:10 p.m.

**Adoption of Minutes for June 13, 2008**

Member Garibaldi moved that the minutes of June 13, 2008 be adopted. Member Machado seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Hawaii Superferry (HSF) update by Terry O'Halloran.**  
**Copy of powerpoint attached.**

Alakai Voyage Statistics

June 2008 traffic: 26,175 PAX and 6,843 vehicles carried  
Average PAX load from Oahu to Maui = 271 pax/voyage  
Average PAX load from Maui to Oahu = 275 pax/voyage  
Average vehicle load from Oahu to Maui = 70/voyage  
Average vehicle load from Maui to Oahu = 72/voyage

Member Peck asked HSF if they are seeing other mammals or sea turtles on their voyages. Mr. O'Halloran responded "no." Whale lookouts are posted on HSF but they are not seeing other types of mammals.

Member McCrory questioned if additional inspectors were added when HSF had additional vehicles. Mr. O'Halloran stated that their current staff is able to handle increased passenger and vehicle loads. Discussion followed on whether HSF staff is capable of handling increased large passenger loads.

Member Tsuji asked how long the current tariff rate is going to run. HSF has the regular tariff rate in place now and they now have promotional fares at \$49 per passenger, \$55 per vehicle in effect until September 30, 2008. Mr. O'Halloran said that one should expect to see increasing fares due to rising fuel costs. HSF's goal is to be competitive.

Mr. O'Halloran reported that passengers traveling are 85% local residents with a lesser percentage of tourists. Almost all rental cars are able to travel to Maui via Hawaii Superferry. Mr. O'Halloran also reported that hotels are now starting to advertise package deals using the Superferry.

Member Chun questioned whether HSF takes the southern route and if it is the normal route taken outside of whale season. Member Garibaldi stated that the preferred route is south of Molokai going to Maui in the non-whale season and the return would be the northern route. Mr. O'Halloran stated that the master of the ship makes the decision as to the route on the day of the sail depending on sea conditions and weather. The goal is to give the customers the most comfortable ride as possible.

**DOCARE update on inspections/findings**

The DOCARE update was deferred to the next meeting scheduled on August 20, 2008. The next DOCARE update will include Randy Awo's presentation on inspections.

**Status Regarding the OTF Letter to the Judiciary.**

Member Awo stated that there was a meeting scheduled with Judge Rhonda Loo on

July 3, 2008 but, due to a trial, the meeting was rescheduled to August. Member Formby asked Member Awo to advise when he was ready to report on the Judiciary issue and it would be put on the agenda. Member Awo agreed.

Member Kunimoto arrived at 1:40 p.m.

**Discussion Regarding Proposed Resolution for the Establishment of a Fire Ant Study Group.**

Member Kunimoto stated that since the Department of Agriculture (DOA) is part of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, they would recommend this issue involving fire ants be integrated in with their ongoing efforts.

Neil Reimer from the DOA spoke to the group on fire ants. He reported that fire ants were present in the Hilo area, moving to the Kona area and Kauai. They are working with nurseries to educate and help to work on prevention. The DOA is working on protocols for shipping plants to other islands as they are trying to develop a pro-active program.

Member Machado requested that DOA correspondence and information be sent to the individual who offered the public concern regarding the transmission of fire ants via Superferry at the Maui meeting. Member Kunimoto said that DOA would make that outreach and contact her directly to make sure she receives all information.

Discussion continued on coqui frogs and varroa mites/bees and the ways to prevent their transmission from island to island. Member Peck asked if vehicle radiators can be sprayed to eliminate the varroa mites. Mr. Reimer explained that the risk of the varroa mites being transferred via car radiators is very miniscule. According to Neil Reimer, the chance of a mite dropping off the radiator is not likely. Because the radiator is very hot, mites would not be able to survive the heat. If a mite survived, the chance of it finding a bee is pretty miniscule. If you were to have a mite travel to Maui from another island on a vehicle, the bee on Maui would have to fly into the car, land where the mite existed and this is very unlikely if not impossible. Thus, the risk from mites in vehicles is very miniscule.

To prevent the transfer of varroa mites, the Department of Agriculture is currently working on the following:

DOA is conducting surveys on all islands.  
They have swarm traps placed at all ports statewide.  
Working with bee keepers on other islands to survey for mites.  
Conducting research and trying to find a chemical means to control the bees.  
Quarantines in place that restrict movement of bees (live or dead) and bee equipment.

Member Aila suggested that a flier be given to HSF personnel to educate passengers on fire ants.

## **Department of Agriculture (DOA) Update. Copy of the Handout Attached.**

### June 2008 Operations

- 48 roundtrips between Oahu and Maui
- Monitored vehicle and passenger departures

Reports include statistics from the Honolulu Harbor Monitoring and Kahului Harbor Monitoring.

### **Community Input**

Member Matsukawa said that he received a concern from farmers in Kona about the need to plan their crops and they requested a formal announcement or lead as to the Kawaihae service so they can be better prepared. HSF indicated they will probably commence service in May 2009.

Mr. O'Halloran commented that HSF is working on a program with the Farm Bureau and offering a 30% discount for groups that carry locally grown products. Farmers will need to file an application with HSF to see if they qualify for the program. The Farm Bureau will review to see if each applicant meets the criteria to qualify for the discount.

### **OTF Findings and Recommendations per Act 2 Mandate (Act 2, Pages 44 and 45)**

Member Garibaldi wanted to clarify HSF's inspection process: The primary responsibility for inspections is by HSF personnel with the assistance of DOA and DOCARE. Member Awo stated that in previous meetings he mentioned there is a partnership with DOCARE and HSF and he also acknowledged that DOA is a partner as well as the Maui Police Department. Member Kunimoto suggested that the term "screeners" be used to identify personnel from HSF and the term "inspectors" be used to identify DOA and DOCARE personnel.

Member McCrory raised a concern about using 9 DOCARE officers for HSF inspections on a holiday. Lengthy discussion followed. Member Awo stated that while the OTF is in existence under Act 2, Maui DOCARE needs to dedicate the resources necessary so they are able to do a proper assessment and provide the OTF with data. He said that in certain situations, such as major holidays including Memorial Day, additional staff is needed due to the increased number of vehicles traveling on the vessel. Member Awo stated that DLNR's kuleana is to provide this service as a government agency to protect the resources held in public trust. Member McCrory's concern is that a private entity is using a lot of government resources. Member Awo stated that it is his personal belief that Maui DOCARE be committed until December 2008. He said that if Maui DOCARE scales back prematurely, a lot of information will be lost. Even though it is difficult for the Maui DOCARE staff, Member Awo's personal hope is for Maui DOCARE to continue to gather information that will be valuable to the OTF members through December 2008.

Member Chun observed the inspection process on Oahu and Maui and noted that it is important to have an inspector on site to deter potential violators. Member Awo again emphasized, for the record, that it is his personal belief that the effectiveness of this partnership (DOCARE, DOA and HSF) remain in place through December 2008. Member Awo stated that standing down DOCARE prematurely before December 2008, when there is a willingness to collect a body of information that will be beneficial to the entire state, would be a mistake.

Member Chun said that if the state put so much effort into getting HSF going, then they should equally put their efforts into addressing other HSF concerns. Conversely if the State is not going to put money into the HSF operation, then they shouldn't have put money in to get it going. Member Chun also questioned how come there wasn't a special session to bail out Aloha Airlines.

Member McCrory said that the RRA will tell us more with respect to what's working and what's not working and if it is still not working, the OTF needs to make a recommendation to see what HSF needs to do to make it work because it is HSF's responsibility. Other members expressed some disagreement as to what responsibility falls on HSF versus HSF and the State. Member Machado stated that she does not think a stand down of DOCARE inspectors should be done now.

In the end, members requested the opportunity to review the RRA before the topic is continued for discussion at the next meeting. Member Formby will request that the RRA, if available, be forwarded to members in advanced of the next meeting.

Member Machado was excused at 3:00 p.m.

John Garibaldi submitted a response to an incident report that Member Awo reported regarding Failure by Inter-Island Ferry to Detect Vessel in Waters Three Miles Seaward of Maunaloa Bay, Island of Oahu attached to May 9, 2008 minutes. Response is attached hereto.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

DOA update  
HSF update  
DOCARE update  
Fire ants  
RRA Presentation  
HSF Screener/Inspection Process

#### **NEXT MEETING/LOCATION/DATE/TIME**

1:00 p.m., August 20, 2008, Honolulu International Airport, Inter-Island Terminal, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room C

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Member McCrory made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Peck seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



---

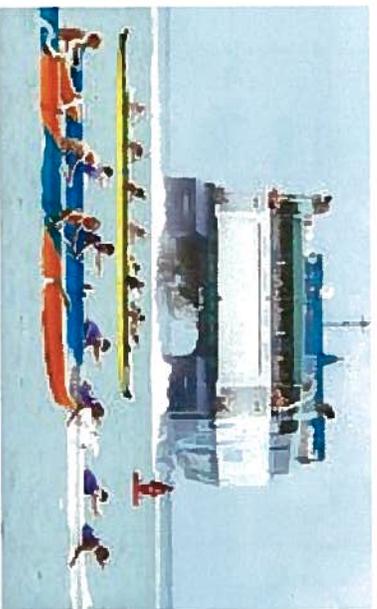
**Oversight Task Force  
June 2008 Status Update**

*July 10, 2008*



# Alakai Voyage Statistics

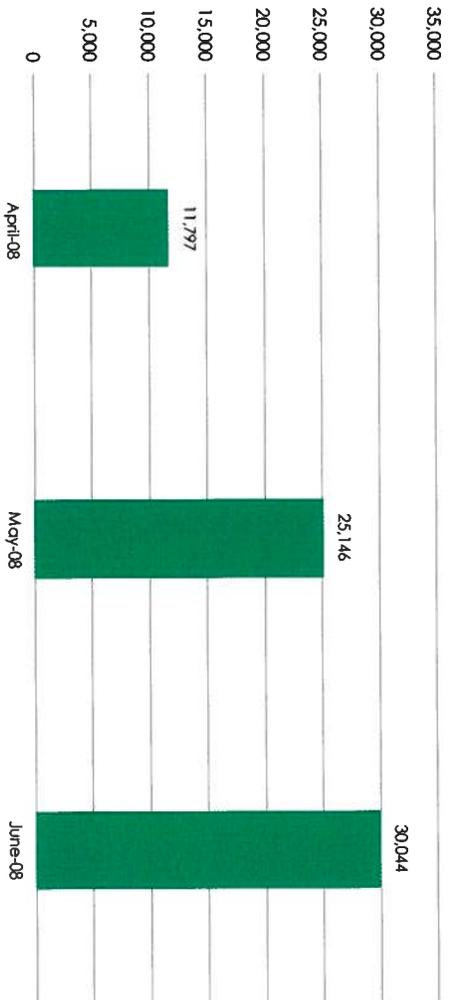
- June 2008 traffic: 26,175 PAX and 6,843 vehicles carried
- Average PAX load from O'ahu to Maui = 271 PAX / voyage
- Average PAX load from Maui to O'ahu = 275 PAX / voyage
- Average vehicle load from O'ahu to Maui = 70 / voyage
- Average vehicle load from Maui to O'ahu = 72 / voyage



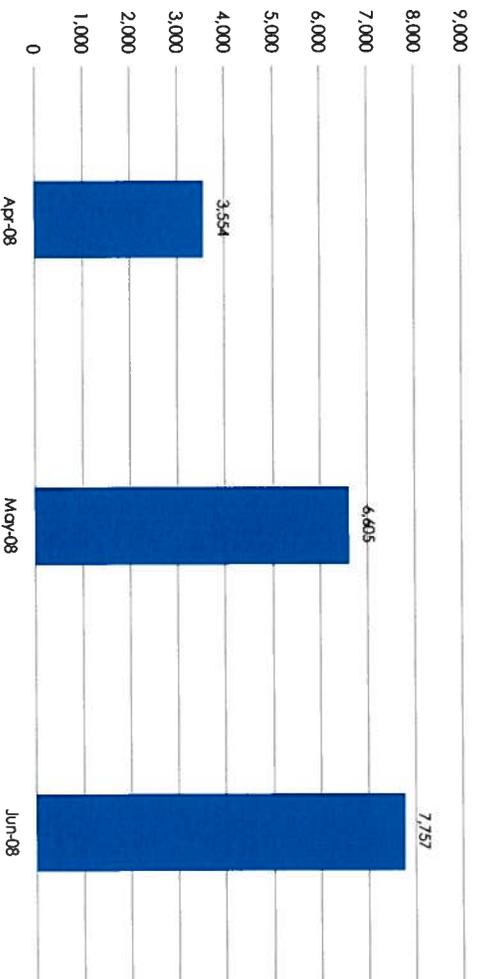


# Advance Bookings

Passengers Booked per Month



Vehicles Booked per Month



# Hawaiii Superferry Operations June 2008 Update

Oversight Task Force Meeting

July 10, 2008

Honolulu, Oahu



Department  
of Agriculture  
STATE OF HAWAII

# June 2008 Operations

- 48 roundtrips between Oahu and Maui
- Monitored vehicle and passenger departures

*Ensuring the requirements of Act 2 SLH, 2007 Second Special Session and Executive Order 07-10 are met*

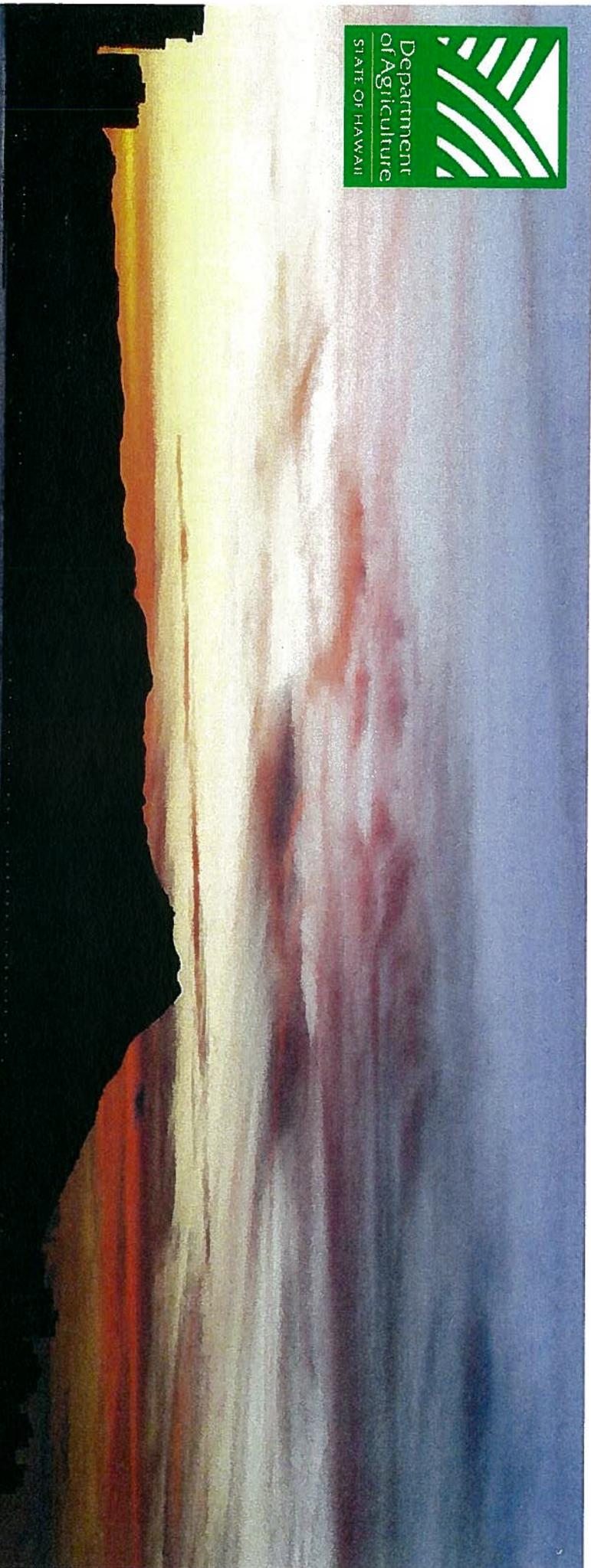


# Honolulu Harbor Monitoring

- 12,655 passengers / 3,375 vehicles
- 254 equipment – camping, hiking, hunting, snorkeling, diving, fishing, boating
- 64 off-road vehicles – (54) 4x4s, (6) dirt bikes, (4) ATVs
- 22 dirty / muddy vehicles – Treated and Released
- 120 propagative plants – (102) Inspect/Release, (18) Refused
- 241 non-propagative – cut flowers, fruits, vegetables
- 16 bees (dead) – Refused
- 5 cats / 71 dogs
- 12 fishing nets – (1) throw, (2) crab, (9) hand
- 4 natural resources – (3) sand, (1) dirt
- 14 aquatic life – (1) opihi, (11) crustacean, (2) fish
- 1 cut log

# Kahului Harbor Monitoring

- 12,994 passengers / 3,545 vehicles
- 67 equipment – camping, hiking, snorkeling, diving, fishing, boating
- 17 off-road vehicles – (5) 4X4s, (10) dirt bikes, (2) ATVs
- 33 dirty / muddy vehicles – **Treated and Released**
- 94 propagative plants – (50) Inspect/Release, (44) Refused
- 3,798 non-propagative – cut flowers, foliage, fruits, vegetables
- 12 bees (dead) – **Refused**
- 4 other animals – (1) guinea pig, (3) freshwater clams
- 2 cats / 65 dogs / 1 rabbit
- 4 hand nets
- 21 natural resources – (12) rock, (3) sand, (6) coral
- 480 aquatic life – (61) opihī, (33) crustacean, (269) fish, (117) algae
- 10 cut logs



# PROTECT HAWAII

It takes all of us!

Mahalo



Date: 12 June 2008

To: Inter-island Ferry Oversight Task Force Committee

From: J. Adam Parsons, Master *HSV Alakai*

**Subj: Randy Awo report regarding failure by inter-island ferry to detect vessel in waters three miles seaward of Maunalua Bay, Island of O'ahu.**

In the area east of Maunalua Bay, the *Alakai* frequently encounters significant numbers of fishing and recreational boats. As operators, we always navigate and maneuver the vessel in accordance with the International and Inland Rules of the Road (as appropriate) and the practices of good seamanship. While I do not specifically remember the vessel in question, I do know that there were no close-quarters situations during the passage.

At the time listed in the statement, the *Alakai* had three licensed officers on the Bridge, two of which were licensed radar observers, with two dedicated lookouts (one on each Bridge Wing). On May 5<sup>th</sup>, both radars were operational as were the lookout's stabilized binoculars. In my experience in operating the *Alakai*, we have never had an undetected vessel passing us close-aboard. .

Respectfully,

J. Adam Parsons, Master, *HSV Alakai*