

UXO Oversight Committee Blows Through \$44M

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Honolulu, Hawaii In 2004, the State of Hawaii took over management of Kaho'olawe Island from the U.S. Navy following a large scale UXO remediation effort which at the time, was the largest civilian UXO project. Along with the management, the Navy also provided approximately \$44M in funds appropriated over several years for the long-term care and management of the Island.

Management responsibilities fell onto the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), the organization that provided "oversight" for the state during the UXO clearance effort conducted by the Navy. The management efforts included tracking and recording UXO sightings for the Navy to remove on an as-needed basis.

However, over the past 12 years, with apparently no accountability program in place, the KIRC has burned through the funds and will likely not be able to continue effort beyond fiscal year 2016 without additional funding.

After an undoubtedly extensive lobbying effort by the KIRC, the organization found some friends in the Hawaii Legislature as a bill (HB 2034) was recently introduced to allocate \$600,000 for fiscal year 2016-2017. According to HB 2034, the purpose of the funds are to ensure that the KIRC can continue "innovative....modern resource-management techniques." The bill, which can be downloaded below, is pending in the Legislature.

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