RESponsibility Of The Water Resources Research Center

The Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) was established by the Board of Regents as a University of Hawaii organized research unit in 1964, to carry out the Federal mandates of the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 (PL 88-379). Over the years, the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 has been periodically amended. The most recent amendment took place on May 24, 1996 when the Water Resources Research Act Reauthorization (H.R. 1743) was signed by President Clinton. Under its current mandates, it is the responsibility of the WRRC (the only one of its kind in Hawaii), to plan and conduct “water” research together with and in coordination with various other related agencies throughout Hawaii. To provide classroom, field instructions and training for water scientists and engineers through research. To interpret, disseminate and transfer research information for the solution to the continually changing water problems of the State of Hawaii. Assistance to the Pacific Island nations’ water management problems through research is also encouraged and performed.

The WRRC identifies the water problems in Hawaii and conducts research to successfully manage these problems.

The WRRC is the water research center of Hawaii and serves as the State’s principal agency on all matters with the Federal agencies administering PL 101-397. As such, WRRC coordinates and promotes water related research between the University, the State and Counties, and the private agencies in the State of Hawaii. The WRRC represents the State of Hawaii on national issues of water resources.

The WRRC assists in University instructional and service programs through research and joint faculty appointments with instructional departments.

The WRRC trains undergraduates and graduate students in water related research to encourage them to become the water scientists required to address the water problems of the future.

The WRRC maintains a public information service and communicates the findings of WRRC to relevant groups/agencies by the most appropriate means of communication (technical reports, books, manuals, bulletins, newsletters, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.).

The WRRC administers the Environmental Center and as such coordinates environmental research (e.g., ecological assessment of the environment), environmental services (e.g., environmental impact statements and evaluations), and environmental education (e.g., Certificate in Environmental Studies).

The WRRC operates and maintains a number of research facilities including laboratories and field stations to carry out its objectives.

The WRRC’s basic approach is multidisciplinary and the research projects are grouped into five divisions: Hydrology (1.50 FTE), Engineering (1.50 FTE), Ecology (0.75 FTE), Socio-Economics (1.00 FTE), and the Environmental Center (3.00 FTE). All of the divisions are directed by WRRC faculty, and led and coordinated by the Director of WRRC (0.50 FTE) and supported by a staff of research associates, secretary and clerk-steno (4.50 FTE), and the Information and Technology Transfer Office (3.00 FTE) for a total of 15.75 FTE positions.