



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
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Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 480-3387

November 3, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3423-01 (OLAW Case 2G)

Ms. Victoria G. Rivera  
Director for Research Compliance  
Institutional Official for Animal Welfare Program  
University of Hawaii-Manoa  
2425 Campus Road, (b) (4)  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Ms. Rivera,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 22, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Hawaii. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on September 15, 2021, it was reported that a goat was found dead that morning. The goat was thought to have died within a couple of days of this date. However, the exact date of death could not be determined. A necropsy was not performed due to decomposition of the body. During the time of death, the caretaker for the goats was on extended leave and there were no daily records for the goats since August 25, 2021. There appeared to be a lack of communication between facility staff that led to the animals not being monitored. The SOP for Daily Observations was also not followed. It is understood that the animal activity was not PHS-funded and that this animal was not used for biomedical research.

Corrective and preventive measures: The Principal Investigator (PI) met with the farm manager and veterinarian to discuss and revise the Daily Observation SOP. The revisions to the SOP include clear instructions for communication among the staff, additional individuals as secondary, on-site leads to assume responsibility for the animals, and reassignment of duties when the scheduled staffer is unavailable. Monthly meetings will also be held to review logs and discuss the health of the herd regularly. The IACUC will assess and confirm the effectiveness of the recently implemented measures in the next semiannual facility inspection being scheduled for November 2021.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by the University of Hawaii, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this unfortunate incident and to prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse -S**

Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse -

Date: 2021.11.04 08:07:27 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

October 22, 2021

To: Dr. Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (b) (6)

From: Victoria Rivera  
Director, Office of Research Compliance  
University of Hawaii System

Re: University of Hawaii Animal Welfare Assurance #A3423-01  
Goat Mortality- Kauai Agricultural Research and Education Center (KAREC) Follow up

I am writing to OLAW to provide a follow-up to the University of Hawaii's (UH) initial report dated September 20, 2021. UH informed OLAW that an adverse incident occurred, which resulted in the death of one goat (#40) at the Kauai Agricultural Research and Education Center (KAREC). The purpose of the project is to maintain a breeding and finishing herd of meat goats for outreach and teaching programs for new and small ruminant producers, to provide research opportunities in livestock production and management, and to provide training for 4-H youth.

### Background

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021, it was reported (b) (6) that the goat was found dead that morning. The goat was thought to have died within a couple of days of this date. However, the exact date of death could not be determined. A necropsy was not performed due to decomposition of the body.

During the time of death, the caretaker for the goats was on extended leave and there were no daily records for the goats since August 25, 2021. There appeared to be a lack of communication between facility staff that led to the animals not being monitored. Pursuant to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals used in Agricultural Research*, "the institution must ensure continuity of daily animal care, to encompass weekends, holidays, unexpected absences of assigned personnel, and emergency situations." KAREC's SOP for Daily Observations was also not followed. Farm staff sent a photo of the remaining animals to (b) (6) and they all appeared to be doing well.

The adverse incident was discussed by the IACUC at the September 16, 2021 business meeting. The committee sent a memo to the Principal Investigator and required a plan within 10 days of receipt for how the KAREC facility staff will conduct and document daily observations and communicate staff schedules to ensure animal well being.

### Principal Investigator Response

The Principal Investigator (PI) met with the farm manager and veterinarian on protocol to discuss and revise the Daily Observation SOP. He provided his response to the IACUC within the requested time frame. The revisions to the SOP include clear instructions for communication among the staff, additional individuals as secondary, on-site leads to assume responsibility for the animals, and reassignment of duties when the scheduled staffer is unavailable. Monthly meetings will also be held to review logs and discuss the health of the herd regularly.

### IACUC

The adverse incident and procedural improvements made by the University of Hawaii KAREC were discussed during the committee's October 21, 2021 business meeting. The IACUC was satisfied with the response and detailed SOP from the Principal Investigator. The IACUC will assess and confirm the effectiveness of the recently implemented measures in the next semiannual facility inspection being scheduled for November 2021.

Please contact me at (b) (6) or [riveravg@hawaii.edu](mailto:riveravg@hawaii.edu) with any questions.

C: (b) (6)  
Axel Lehrer, Chair, UH Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (b) (6)

2425 Campus Road, (b) (4)  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (b) (6)

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Victoria Rivera; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: University of Hawaii Assurance #A3423-01- Adverse Event Report - Goat Death on Kauai

Thank you for sending this report. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Victoria Rivera <riveravg@hawaii.edu>; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: University of Hawaii Assurance #A3423-01- Adverse Event Report - Goat Death on Kauai

Hello Dr. Morse,

I hope this email finds you well.

On behalf of Victoria Rivera, please refer to the attached follow up report regarding the adverse event that resulted in the death of one goat.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further discussion.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

On Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 9:36 AM (b) (6) wrote:

Hello Dr. Morse,

I hope this email finds you well.

Please refer to the attached report of an adverse event resulting in the death of one goat.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further discussion. We plan to submit an update to OLAW once we hear back from the researcher with his plan.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)