



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

August 23, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3423-01 (OLAW Case 1Z)

Ms. Victoria G. Rivera  
Interim Director for Research Compliance  
Institutional Official for Animal Welfare Program  
University of Hawaii-Manoa  
2425 Campus Road, Sinclair 10  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Ms. Rivera,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 22, 2017 letter reporting an adverse event involving fish at the University of Hawaii. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that approximately 150 saltwater tilapia fish died after the electricity to the air pumps was accidentally interrupted by visiting researchers using power tools. The problem was not detected until the next day.

The corrective action consisted of restoring power and increasing seawater flow to the tanks. The facility director, manager, and visiting researchers were notified about the incident. Facilities management staff must now supervise any work being conducted which may impact the fish research facilities.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAI'I  
SYSTEM

A3423-12  
Office of Research Compliance  
Animal Welfare and Biosafety Programs

22 August 2017

Dr. Axel Wolff  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
RKL1, Suite 1050 (MSC 9782)  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

Re: University of Hawaii Animal Welfare Assurance #A3423-01  
Adverse Incident Resulting in Fish Mortalities; COMM-OLAW-2017-5

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am writing to OLAW to report an adverse incident which resulted in the death of approximately 150 saltwater tilapia, *Oreochromis mosambicus* on August 19, 2017. The fish were housed in several small tanks at the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), Coconut Island. The fish were brood stock being held and were not being used in research activities at this time. PHS, VA, or NSF funding was not being used to support these fish, nevertheless, the University desires to inform OLAW of the incident.

**Timeline and Response**

On Friday, 18 August 2017, while using power tools, it is believed that visiting researchers overloaded or accidentally shut-off an electrical circuit that provided power to the air compressor that supplied air to the fish holding tanks. The incident was not detected by facility personnel until the following mid-morning, Saturday, 19 August 2017, because the affected area was in another location from where the non-working electrical line was situated. It is estimated that the timeline of power outage was 16-17 hours (5:00 pm - 10:00 am) before discovery and restoration of electricity to the affected area.

Mortalities may have been greater if it were not for the immediate response of the research staff once the lack of air supply to the tanks was discovered. Seawater flow was increased to the holding tanks, and electrical power to the air blower was restored and brought back to operation.

This matter has been brought to the immediate attention of the HIMB Director, the HIMB Facilities Operation Manager, and the visiting researchers. As a result of this adverse incident and to prevent incidents from recurring, the HIMB Director now requires full direct supervision by facilities management personnel that are familiar with the facility layout, especially concerning electrical wiring, will be required for any work done on areas that are connected to fish research facilities.

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**IACUC**

The adverse incident will be brought to the attention of the IACUC for discussion during its September 21, 2017 business meeting.

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

Sincerely,



Victoria G. Rivera, MPA  
Interim Director, Office of Research Compliance  
Institutional Official, Animal Welfare Program

c: Manuel G. Himenes, Jr., Chair, UH IACUC  
[Secondary Individual] Program Manager, Animal Welfare and Biosafety Programs

## Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 7:42 AM  
**To:** econdary Individu  
**Subject:** RE: University of Hawaii Reports Adverse Incident

Thank you for this report, econdary Indivi We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

**From:** econdary Individu [mailto:econdary Indiv@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Victoria Rivera <riveravg@hawaii.edu>  
**Subject:** University of Hawaii Reports Adverse Incident

Good Morning Dr. Wolff and OLAW Compliance Staff:

On behalf of Ms. Victoria Rivera, Interim Director for Research Compliance, Institutional Official for the UH Animal Welfare Program, pleased find the attached report.

Sincerely,

econdary Individu  
Manager, Animal Welfare and Biosafety Programs  
Office of Research Compliance