

Conservation Biology in Hawaii Gets Initiative Support

NPS scientists Chuck Stone and Lloyd Loope were among 16 invited participants at the inaugural meeting on June 1-2 in Honolulu of the Hawaii Conservation Biology Initiative (HCBI), hosted by The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (TNCH). Initiation of this program was made possible by a \$500,000 grant to TNCH by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. As envisioned by the TNCH proposal to the MacArthur Foundation, HCBI will be a project shaped by the Hawaiian and international conservation communities, for which TNCH will serve as a "catalyst." Its aim is at fulfilling an urgent need for promoting and coordinating conservation-related research throughout Hawaii.

Meeting participants supported the concept of regarding the \$500,000 MacArthur grant as "seed money" for a much larger project that will depend on active participation of many individuals and agencies

involved in Hawaiian natural resource conservation. Initial funding will be used 1) to begin to develop a network of research stations to support conservation biology in the islands and 2) to provide seed money to initiate important research projects. One appointed committee will investigate how and where to proceed with the research station network. Another will refine a process for the program of conservation research grants, requesting proposals in September and reviewing them in January 1989. A third committee will investigate further the appropriate bureaucratic structure of HCBI.

Participants were optimistic about possibilities for obtaining funding to support greatly expanded research on Hawaiian conservation biology. Scientists within the islands and on the mainland can be recruited for this work given a reasonable amount of funding and logistical support.