PROBLEM STATEMENT

When invasive species managers begin planning any type of large scale control campaign, the first question often asked is “what will this cost?” Accurate cost estimates are essential to apportion limited budgets to the most effective management strategies. The type of control method, size and scope of the control area, the duration of the project, number of necessary staff, and outreach and monitoring programs are crucial components in budgeting for a successful rodent control campaign.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this project is to provide a better estimate of rodent control campaigns in the Hawaiian Islands. We will use local sources to estimate costs of sustained control efforts in Hawaii. The primary goal is to provide managers with tools to determine the most cost effective method of suppressing a population of rats for the protection of a given species at a given location. Because conservation benefit associated with rodent control can be derived from either sustained control or eradication campaigns, knowing the cost of these long term campaigns is vital for maximizing benefit from rodent removal.

WHAT WE NEED

Data. We need more data on how managers are currently running both eradication campaigns and sustained control campaigns. We want to know what is going into these projects in terms of methodology, effort, and dollars, and what the results are. We recognize that all data is flawed and that no two situations are exactly alike. However, the more information we have, the better an estimate we will be able to generate.

While we would appreciate any information on rodent control activities, we especially appreciate when cost information can be divided into separate categories. Potential categories include:

- Total cost or Cost/area
- Personnel (salary/wage)
- Materials/equipment (e.g. bait, traps)
- Travel/transportation (persons and materials)
- Vehicle for poison broadcast (e.g. plane, helicopter)
- Administrative/overhead
- Public outreach
- Non-target species monitoring
- Post-eradication maintenance/monitoring
- Other

If you either have this type of data or know someone who does, please email us at: kburnett@hawaii.edu or cawada@hawaii.edu. Any questions or concerns about the project, about UHERO, or about specific data needs can also be sent to the above addresses.

Mahalo