Published Articles:


This paper analyzes the impact of allowing multiple votes to be cast in three candidate, six voter elections in a controlled laboratory experiment. Results show that allowing multiple votes need not eliminate the Two-party system, so long as voters are not forced to cast all of their votes.


This paper analyzes how prevention and control activities should be balanced in the case of the invasive species, the brown treesnake. The paper stresses the importance of keeping the population below the point at which the snake could reproduce.


This paper shows that when the population size of an invasive species is unknown, control efforts not only reduce the population but also provide better estimates of the population. The paper further analyzes the importance of using capture data to estimate the size of the population of an invasive species and estimates the welfare lost by not incorporating this information in the case of the brown treesnake introduction in Saipan.

Works in Progress:

Private vs. Public Strategies in a Voluntary Contributions Mechanism.

This paper is my Job Market Paper

This paper uses an experimental public goods setting where subjects write down strategies for how they will voluntarily contribute to the public good in the next period depending on how others contribute in the current period. It shows that subjects are reciprocal, are willing to contribute more when others are reciprocal, and that contributions do not decline over time when subjects send signals of their strategies to each other.

Green Research Grants.

This theory paper analyzes the problem facing government agencies in charge of awarding research grants. In this setting, the feasibility of a project is known to the applicant, but unknown to the grant agency. The agency must make a menu of
payment schedules in order for firms to reveal the feasibility of their projects. High quality projects receive more money, but are required to work harder and finish faster than lower quality projects.

Using Economics to Predict Species Movements from 1850, with Kim Burnett, Brooks Kaiser, and Fred Kraus.

This empirical project links historical socioeconomic data with data from introductions of alien reptiles and amphibians worldwide. It estimates the impact of these socioeconomic factors on introduction rates over several common vectors of introductions. It shows that human activities have very large impacts on the rates of species movements.

Estimating the Cost of Rodent Control on Islands, with Kim Burnett.

This policy project combines past research on rodent eradication campaigns with current data to better estimate the true cost of implementing a controlled eradication of rodents.

Evaluating Policy Options to Reduce the Risk of New Strains of Ohia Rust in Hawaii, with Kim Burnett.

This policy project seeks to understand the potential impacts from three policy options with respect to imported Myrtaceae (Eucalyptus, Waxflower, and Myrtle). Myrtaceae are potential hosts for new strains of puccinia psidii, a plant fungus that could devastate Hawai‘i’s natural Ohia forests.