Report of Sabbatical Activities

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From August 27 – Sept 10, 2012, I traveled to Knoxville Tennessee, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Ithaca, New York. In Knoxville, I visited Ms. Riley Bernard and Dr. Gary McCracken, Professor of Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Riley Bernard was a TCBES MS degree graduate student at UHH under my supervision, and she is now is a Ph.D. graduate student in Dr. McCracken’s laboratory. I discussed with Ms. Bernard plans for her to prepare her MS thesis as a manuscript for publication. She subsequently sent me a draft, on which I made further editorial suggestions for submission. It has not yet been published. Dr. McCracken is a bat biologist and colleague. We discussed aspects of bioacoustics, which I am learning in relation to my research interests in coqui frog call acoustics. In Portsmouth I attended a reunion of colleagues from Cornell University. I was particularly interested in discussing developments in teaching of human anatomy and physiology with Dr. J.B. Heiser and Dr. Fredrick Martini, and we continued these discussions in Ithaca. Both of these colleagues and I have a long history of teaching comparative anatomy and physiology, and Dr. Martini wrote the Human Anatomy and Physiology textbook we use at UH Hilo and is in use throughout the USA. These discussions with colleagues served to assist me in incorporating revisions to teaching my courses in both Human Anatomy and Physiology (Biol 243, 243L, 244, and 244L) and Biol 443 Ecological Animal Physiology, and CBES 655 Ecological Physiology.

In July-September, 2012, I organized data and prepared a preliminary version of a proposal for a co-operative agreement grant/contract with the US Army and Navy for monitoring studies of the island night lizard on San Clemente Island, California. When the submission period opened after a delay, the proposal was submitted in June, 2013 through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units between UH and the DOD. The co-operative agreement (Island Night Lizard Trap Maintenance, Habitat Evaluation, and Status Surveys at the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field) was subsequently awarded to me for 9/30/13 – 9/29/15.

Throughout the sabbatical months, I was engaged in fieldwork with my colleague, Dr. Francis Benevides making acoustical recordings of coqui frog calls for a project modeling the nighttime chorus behavior of the frogs in relation to frog population density. We have continued to gather and analyze these data, and Francis is currently drafting a manuscript for publication of this work.

In July, 2012, I hosted a National Geographic Society film crew (Pangolin Pictures) who came to Hilo to make a film about coqui frogs as part of a larger film project on invasive species for National Geographic. I was the subject of the coqui frog part, and
subsequently, they wanted to film coqui frog mating and brooding behavior in the laboratory. In the fall during my sabbatical, I advised them on how to maintain coqui frogs in the laboratory such that they would exhibit breeding behavior and I collected and shipped frogs for them to film on the mainland. The film has not yet been released.