Step 3: Second Level Unit Review and Ranking (Deans/Directors/Department Heads)
Using the program review results posted on the Prioritization Process webpage, please complete the below information and submit to ovcafo@hawaii.edu as a word doc or pdf file by **March 15, 2009**. Please ensure the e-mail subject heading reflects the Department/School/College name followed by “Second Level Review.” For example: SOEST – Second Level Review.

Department/School/College: _Water Resources Research Center_and Environmental Center___

The department would fall under which of the following Vice Chancellor’s offices?

- [ ] Academic Affairs
- [x] Research and Graduate Education
- [ ] Student Services
- [ ] Administration, Finance, and Operations

Advisory Committee Members (list names and titles):

All members of the WRRC and EC faculty and staff were polled for input and comment:

**Faculty**
Roger Babcock  Assoc Prof, WRRC/CEE
John Cusick  Asst Specialist, EC
Aly El-Kadi  Prof, WRRC/G&G
Roger Fujioka  Researcher,
Clark C.K. Liu  Prof, WRRC/CEE
Philip Moravcik  Jr Spec, WRRC
Peter Rappa  County Extension Agent, Sea Grant/EC
Chittaranjan Ray  Prof, WRRC/CEE

**APT Staff**
Henry Bennett  Editor, WRRC
Patricia Hirakawa  Public. Spec., WRRC
April Kam  Public. Spec., WRRC
Joseph Lichwa  Laboratory Technician, WRRC

**CS Staff**
Barbara Guieb  Clerk Typist
Charlotte Kato  Secretary
Susan Yokouchi  Secretary
Administrative Unit Prioritization Summary

Water Resources Research Center

This form is to be used to provide a summary of program priorities within an administrative unit (e.g. college). Please list each program identified in the Summary Matrix forms and Optional Guides in a priority category. This Prioritization Summary form should be forwarded, along with all self-review materials, to ovcafo@hawaii.edu for posting on the Prioritization Process webpage by March 15th for the next level of review to take place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New/In Transition</th>
<th>Target for Growth or Investment</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Reorganize/Restructure/Merge/Consolidate</th>
<th>Reduce in Size or Scope</th>
<th>Phase Out Close Eliminate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources Research Center</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Center</td>
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<td>X</td>
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Brief Summary (no more than 2 pages)
Please include a brief narrative with an overview of the rationale for placement of the components on the Prioritization Summary form and any supportive or explanatory text or data that will assist higher levels of review in determining the relative priority of each program. You may wish to comment on the program self-reviews.

Water Resources Research Center
Although WRRC is a rather small research unit of the University, its mission remains an important area of research for Hawaii and other areas. As population and economic growth continue, water, wastewater and related concerns (e.g., wetland conservation and restoration; water supply, water and wastewater treatment technologies, and the economics and policy surrounding water use) are, and promise to be, increasingly important problems for society. Despite a decreased FTE count over the past decade or more, recent WRRC research has contributed importantly to Hawaii’s water management and related problems. Current areas of emphasis (hydrology, engineering, ecology, and socioeconomics) remain at the top of the list. The Center needs a water-supply-oriented hydrogeologist and will soon need to replace an economist.

Indicating that WRRC should be targeted for growth or investment is a way of saying that WRRC could become the basis of the proposed “Institute for Sustainability Sciences, Technology and Policy.” The traditional WRRC should remain as a component of the Institute in order to maintain access to federal funding, networking with sister institutes in other states and territories, and to participate in federal initiatives currently under consideration by Congress (e.g., recent hearings on a “National Water Research and Development Initiative Act,” and recommendations of a 2004 National Science Foundation report on federal government water research programs). As sustainability issues attract increasing importance, WRRC faculty will enjoy increased opportunities for research related to sustainability (e.g., water reuse,
desalination, treatment, conservation). WRRC, as currently organized or as part of a Sustainability Institute, should continue to facilitate and encourage water research by faculty from across the campus.

Environmental Center
The Environmental Center was created in 1970 by state legislation, with a mandate for research and service. A unique function assigned by the legislation is to marshal expertise of the UH faculty to advise and comment on proposed environment-related regulations, legislation and environmental impact assessments. At some point, EC faculty agreed to administer the Environmental Studies (EVS) degree and certificate programs (with degrees given through Liberal Studies). EC has had a positive impact with its advising function, and continues to run the EVS program to good effect with ~10-15 students graduating each year. Research, and especially external funding for research, have lately been less successful, although recent investigation of eco-tourism has garnered some external funding and shows some promise for expansion.

In about 1986, EC was transferred to the Water Resources Research Center as a sub-unit, but retained its separate budget. This arrangement gave EC an element of stability, but shrinking budgets have also left it seriously understaffed and with facilities that are barely adequate and deteriorating.

A recommendation was made some years ago that EC be formally and fully merged into WRRC. University legal counsel felt that EC should be maintained as a separate unit because the legislature created it and gave it specific duties. I repeat that recommendation at this time, with the notion that both WRRC and the EC functions can be continued under the umbrella of (perhaps as the core of) the proposed “Institute for Sustainability Science, Technology and Policy” mentioned above. Sustainability has become a much-discussed area of interest across the campus, and the current budget problems present an opportunity to recognize this as a truly multi-disciplinary area of research and instruction. Whether or not the Institute for Sustainability.... comes about, core functions of EC can be maintained within a formally merged WRRC/EC unit at some potential future savings in overhead.