



## **The Oral History of Domingo Cravalho, Jr.**

April 29, 2021

Interview conducted by Cindy Uptegraft Barry

Honolulu, Hawaii



# Oral History Cover Sheet

**Domingo Cravalho, Jr.**

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**Honolulu, Hawaii**

**Interviewer: Cindy Barry**

**Approximate years worked for Fish and Wildlife Service:** 30

**Offices and Field Stations Worked and Positions Held:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist stationed in Pacific Islands, Fish and Wildlife office in Honolulu, HI, working in the Invasive Species Program as the Brown Tree snake Coordinator; Previous work experience at the State level included Plant Quarantine Inspector for the state of Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Branch, and retired as the Inspection and Compliance Section Chief after 30 years of State service.

**Most Important Projects:** Enforcing state regulations on the importation of agricultural commodities into the state of Hawaii, which included plants, nursery stock, produce, cut flowers, as well as restricted animals and microorganisms that would be allowed into the state of Hawaii under permit. As the Inspection and Compliance Section Chief had oversight over several specialists within the Department of Agriculture that were responsible for the importation of restricted articles that included plants, aquatic and invertebrate biota, land vertebrates, and microorganisms, as well an Education Specialist that was situated within the program to help with the training of new Inspectors. In addition, was also tasked with establishing an enforcement program that would investigate potential violations to the State of Hawaii quarantine laws and working with federal partners to develop law enforcement task force teams. Conducting investigations, collecting information and evidence on violations, and serving search warrants to bring violators to justice, by using a multi-agency approach to wildlife trafficking, whether it be plants or animals that were illegal either on the state or federal level. Coordinating with other federal, state, and territorial partners with Brown Tree snake interdiction and control, and research efforts including the future implementation of large landscape suppression of Brown Tree snakes on the island of Guam.

**Colleagues and Mentors:** Parents, grandparents, first boss from importing firm, Billy Kenoi, former mayor of Hawaii Island County.

**Brief Summary of Interview:** Domingo Cravalho Jr. grew up on the Island of Oahu, but spent summers in Maui, a major influence in his life. He went to the University of Hawaii at Manoa and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in general tropical agriculture. He was very interested in science, animal sciences, nature and wildlife. He worked as a Plant Quarantine Inspector for the state of Hawaii

Department of Agriculture. He worked in that position from 1980-2010, a 30-year span, enforcing state regulations on importation of agricultural items into the state of Hawaii. As the Inspection and Compliance Section Chief, his major role was to supervise several specialists at the Department of Agriculture. Upon retiring after 30 years of service for the Department of Agriculture, he started a position with Fish and Wildlife Service in the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office and was a Fish and Wildlife Biologist and his job description was the Brown Tree Snake Coordinator position under the Invasive Species Program in Hawaii. Future generations can experience what Domingo Cravalho experienced growing up as a young child experiencing nature and folks can continue to do that. The next generation of public servants are moving forward; three out of his four children have careers in public service.

## THE INTERVIEW:

CINDY BARRY: Hello, my name is Cindy Uptegraft Barry and today is April 29th, 2021, and I have the privilege of doing an oral history interview with one of my friends that I worked with out in the Pacific Islands of the Fish and Wildlife Service. His name is Domingo Cravalho and welcome, Domingo, how are you doing today?

DOMINGO CRAVALHO, JR: I'm doing fine, Cindy. I'd like to say a big, warm Aloha to everyone for taking the time to listen to my presentation today. Again, my name is Domingo Cravalho. I'm a former Fish and Wildlife biologist stationed here in the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office in Honolulu, Hawaii, retired back in April of 2018. To give you an idea of how I started my career in public service, I think I need to go back to the greatest influence in my life that moved me towards this career path and, you know, I was very fortunate to be born and raised in Hawaii, believe it or not, I was born in 1955, four years before Hawaii became a state, so we're still a U.S. territory at that time. However, my parents, my father was of Portuguese descent and my mother was a Hawaiian woman, had actually six children, I'm one of six, I am the youngest in our family and I'm very proud to have been growing up in Hawaii in my family because we had fond memories of what we did as we were growing up.

My parents were always very fortunate in a sense that they always agreed that the greatest thing in life was to do public service, and my mom used to volunteer her time with her civic groups in the community and my dad would also do a lot of activities with our church, especially fundraisers and things like that, but both of them came from civil service jobs. My dad was a truck driver for the Refuse Department in the city and county of Honolulu and my mom was a paramedic nurse working for the Department of Health in the state of Hawaii in charge of adult mentally challenged women, which she'd done for a number of years and the great thing about it, what I look over fondly is their lives together were blue-collar. We weren't the richest family in the world, but we were happy, and the happiness not only was the family spending time together, but also doing things together and I think one of the things that connected with me to be a part of nature and enjoying nature was growing up as a young child. I remember in elementary school every summer, as soon as school got over, we would catch the plane and fly over to the neighbor island of Maui and spend almost the entire summer there and we would visit relatives there, we would camp along the seashore, fishing, diving, swimming and then visiting other relatives along the way in the eastern part of Maui in Hana, Ke'anae area, where a lot of taro farms were growing so we got to work on the taro farms, swim in the freshwater streams, catching freshwater shrimp called opae and having those experience(s) were very heartwarming and being able to experience that every summer growing up all the way through to almost my high school years.

Our family was a Catholic raised family, we all went to parochial school, and I remember as a child walking for two miles a day to get to school and then walking back home. Life was pretty simple, if you needed to go fishing, you would jump on your bike, take your gear whether it be diving gear, or fishing rods or even crab nets and we would go down to the ocean, to the piers and fish and bring that home and have that as a meal. Believe it or not, the Maui trip every summer took about a two-month period which took up the better part of summer vacation, but in the month of August, we would return back to Honolulu and then we would camp out at our favorite Beach Park in Ka'a'awa, which was a lovely beach at that time that we could camp and our family would come and visit and we'd spend the entire month of August there and then in September, we returned back to school, put our nose to the grindstone and

do our studies. I graduated from an Irish Christian, all male school, Damien Memorial High School in '73 and from there, I continued my education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa taking about four and a half years and graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in general tropical agriculture.

I think my influences growing up as a child, going to Maui, then camping on the beach on Oahu, I was very interested in science, animal sciences, nature, wildlife so, it was very easy for me to go to the University of Hawaii, and I was very interested in obtaining my degree, so I was very happy with that, but like anything else, spending four and a half years working towards that advanced degree, we needed to work, and I would work part-time going to school in the morning and then working in the afternoon just to pay for my education so that my parents would not have to shoulder spending the amount of money to go to college and just working my way through college. The funny thing that I look back at graduating from college was at the time my boss and I was working as a warehouseman helping to unload goods that came in overseas into the shop, and then making orders and delivering them, he took me into his office one day and asked me, well, what are you going to do with your life after you obtain your degree? and I looked at him blank, and I said, that's a very good question, I had not thought beyond that, but I knew I needed to get a job and work somewhere. So the bit of advice that he gave me was this, that you take your degree, which is great, he thought that was the greatest thing, but to take that piece of paper, fold it up, put it in your back pocket and find a job and believe it or not, he actually gave me my first full-time job, which was being a sales rep for that company and the company was an importing firm of monkey pod products, shells, handicrafts from the Philippines and Taiwan that were imported into Hawaii for the tourist trade and I did that for three years.

At the same time, I applied for a government job working for the Department of Agriculture and I remember my first interview with one of the managers at the Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch and that individual was very straight up with me, asking me what type of degree that I was working towards and I informed him that I was working towards a Bachelor of Science degree in general tropical agriculture, which would suffice as a minimum qualification for that position as a Plant Quarantine Inspector with the Department of Ag and lo and behold, he told me, you know, that's great, he was very happy for me to get that college degree, but he informed me that at that point in time, that he was looking for someone that had a Ph.D. and that he was encouraging me to go back to college to get an advanced doctorate degree because he felt that although they may be overqualified for that particular position, he felt that their contribution there, even though it may be a short period, would be of a benefit to the program. So, I understood what he was saying, but being as young and just recently graduated, I told myself I needed to find a job, so he directed me to the Human Resources office, and I put in my application, forgot about it, and continued to work as a sales representative for that importing firm. Three years later, I got a notification letter that the Department of Agriculture was interested in providing me a government position with the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture under the Plant Quarantine Branch Program. So, I went to the interview and talked to the current branch manager which was a different fellow then I talked to three years ago and after my interview, the first thing that my future employer would have said is which island do you want to work on, did you want to work on the island of Maui, the island of Kauai, or in Kona on the island of Hawaii and I gave him my preference and lo and behold, in 1980, I started my government career with the Department of Agriculture, remained in that position and the position was based out of Maui where we were State Inspectors deputized to do federal work. In other words, any passenger that was leaving the state of Hawaii required an inspection before going back to the U.S. mainland, and that was to protect them from some of the pest species that were here in Hawaii, which would be problematic to crops on the mainland most

notably, California would not want any of our fruit flies which would impact their citrus industry or sugar cane, which had the oriental beetle that was well-established here that could impact other grasses on the mainland. Long story short, I worked in that position for three years on Maui and eventually was promoted to a permanent position.

The Maui position was a temporary one and it was subject to federal support on an annual basis, so it wasn't anything that I was afforded a stable position until I transferred back to Honolulu, where I became a full-time permanent Plant Quarantine Inspector for the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I worked in that position from 1980 to 2010, a 30-year span enforcing state regulations on importing agricultural items into the state of Hawaii, which could be plants, nursery stock, produce, cut flowers, as well as restricted animals and microorganisms that would be allowed into the state of Hawaii under permit and my last few years, about ten years into my 30-year span, I was able to be promoted into my final position that I retired in in 2010, which was the Inspection and Compliance Section Chief and that role was to supervise several specialists that the Department of Agriculture had that would regulate the importation of restricted articles and they could be a Plant Specialist, it could be an Aquatic and Invertebrate Biota Specialist, a Land Vertebrate Specialist, a Microorganism Specialist and an Education Specialist that was in the program to help with training our new Inspectors and in addition to that, I was also tasked with establishing an enforcement program that would investigate violators into violations to quarantine laws for the state of Hawaii and I think that role and that position in my final ten years with the Department of Agriculture afforded me the best opportunity for me to work with federal partners and one of them was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and we would create a task force of law enforcement, Special Agents with Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine Inspectors and we would investigate, collect information and evidence on violations and actually serve search warrants to bring violators to justice and it was a great opportunity to interact with a multi-agency approach to wildlife trafficking, whether it be plants or animals that were illegal either on the state or federal level and that was very satisfying.

So, after retiring after 30 years of state service, I decided to retire from the Department of Agriculture and lo and behold, three weeks later, I started a position with Fish and Wildlife Service in the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist and my job description was the Brown Tree Snake Coordinator under the Invasive Species Program in Hawaii. As I reflect back to my work at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I've had previous experience working at the state level with U.S. Fish and Wildlife law enforcement issues, I'm now broadening my horizon to where I am working as a biologist on the Ecological Services side, and work on regulatory compliance for Threatened and Endangered Species and as a result of that, it was very satisfying to see that my work was directed towards the continual protection of our wildlife as we know it and ensure that the benefits of our natural resources can be enjoyed for future generations to come and that's the real, and I think that's the beautiful thing about my work career is that all I've done in my work career was very satisfying, it wasn't a monetary issue. It was more of protecting our natural resources, our environment, so that our future generations can experience what I experienced growing up as a young child experiencing nature, and they can continue to do that.

The nice thing about it is I have four children that are adults at this point in time and they in turn are gainfully employed, which I am very happy for. In actuality three of them are public servants, just like their dad and their mom. In fact, my wife worked for the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation as a Motor Carrier Safety Officer and then transferred to the Federal Highways Motor Carrier Safety

Office, which she actually headed in their Honolulu office and then retired as well from that position. So, our influence on our children are now bearing the reward, or the fruits of our labor of what we did while they were growing up in this type of environment. So, my oldest son is currently working for the State of Hawaii Department of Education on the Big Island of Hawaii. My oldest daughter currently is working for Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement in the San Francisco office and I'm happy to report that she in turn will be transferring back to Honolulu and was awaiting for her final paperwork to be cleared by HR to work in Honolulu, Hawaii and on top of that, her husband just recently got hired by U.S. Fish and Wildlife as a Public Affairs Officer to be stationed out here in Honolulu, Hawaii, as well. So, the next generation is moving forward with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

My second daughter is a Transportation Security Specialist with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and she is at their headquarters office in D.C., and she works on ensuring that other foreign ports are following similar guidelines as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, TSA requirements are being met at airports throughout the world. So, you know, she's doing well currently as a federal employee and then last but not least, I have my youngest son, our youngest son, who decided that he wanted to be an architect and he is currently living in L.A. and doing successful work in designing homes and businesses and really enjoying life as he wanted it to be and studied for at the University of Hawaii, so I'm very blessed. I'm very happy to report that my life has come full circle in a sense that I am currently retired and still enjoying working with my plants around the house and the animals that I have and also helping others to mentor them along the way as I did previously and in fact, I do get calls from time to time from my previous employers to kind of pick my brain and see if there's anything I could offer them to provide any solutions to problem issues, and most of the time they've already figured it out; however, they just needed confirmation. It was great to hear that they still value the historical or institutional knowledge in the different lines of work, so it's very rewarding and enjoying life and now the next generation of public servants are moving forward and I'm happy to see that as well. Thank you and Mahalo.

CINDY: That is just so heartwarming to me as well, Domingo, because I'm the second generation in my family having worked after my father led the way, so it pulls at my heartstrings whenever you tell me that story, I just well up with pride as well. I have a couple questions for you.

DOMINGO: Okay.

CINDY: Tell us a few stories you must have being the Brown Tree snake Coordinator. You must have some fascinating history to tell to document this as far as how we're trying to eradicate the Brown Tree snake and some stories there.

DOMINGO: Well, yeah, the really nice thing about that is, even my state career, I was involved in Brown Tree snake interdiction efforts and that was to ensure that the snake would remain on the island of Guam and that there are certain quarantine measures in place that would ensure or reduce the likelihood of that snake getting off Guam to other ports of entry and basically, we were working with the government of Guam as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services to ensure that the quarantine or the methodology to prevent the snake from leaving off island was implemented properly and the good thing about it is we, when I say we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the position that I held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, you know, it gave me the opportunity to not only work within my region, my immediate community, which is the state of Hawaii, but also to branch out into the far Pacific out to Guam, to the Marianas, working with the Commonwealth of the Northern

Marianas Islands (CNMI), even touching bases with the American Samoa government to ensure that they are aware of invasive species problems and that they need to be sure that their islands are safe, but to get back to my work on the Brown Tree Snake, it was great to bring the partners together and that would include federal partners like USDA Wildlife Services, our sister agency U.S. Geological Survey, as well as working with the state governments, the state of Hawaii, the government of Guam, the government of the CNMI, and making sure that certain protocols are followed.

I mean, we want to make sure that there are what we call sterile zones around the ports of exit in Guam so that would include trapping, using modified minnow traps and baiting it with a live mouse in a separate chamber, which would draw in the Brown Tree snake to go into the trap, and be captured to prevent it from getting into the transportation system, while at the same time, USDA Wildlife Services is also using detector dog teams that are specifically trained dogs that can sniff out Brown Tree snakes in the most tight spaces. It could be in a vehicle, it could be in a container, it could be on a palletized cargo that was wrapped up with plastic wrap and all of those different methodologies helped to ensure that the snake doesn't get off island and to do quality assurance. Also, in my Fish and Wildlife Service position, I worked with the receiving entities, so the State of Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to ensure that they set up a robust type of system similar to what is done in Guam, albeit, establishing a detection zone around the ports of entry by putting up traps at high risk areas, utilizing dog teams to sniff cargo as well as aircraft in case there's any hitchhiking snakes that may have gotten onto the aircraft. I mean, believe it or not, we have had eight incidents of Brown Tree snakes arriving to the State of Hawaii, and that was since 1981 and, you know, it's true the effort of what USDA has been doing and continue to do in Guam, that leads me, as well as others in the program sleeping good at night because we're doing our best to ensure that this pest, which is highly invasive, has wiped out their native forest birds in Guam, and that most of the forest birds that exist remain in captive breeding programs just to sustain those species and that the long-term goal of the project is to eventually see these native species being released into their native lands.

The exciting part that I had with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service happened just before my separation retirement, we were poised to do what they call landscape suppression of Brown Tree snakes on the island of Guam and we, through negotiations with the Department of Defense (DOD), created these habitat management units around DOD lands on Guam as a means to see or demonstrate if large landscape scale suppression can successfully occur and in fact they developed when I say they, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, in conjunction with a private vendor developed a packing system to where they can jettison, believe it or not, jettison tubes that have flagging tape which acts like a parachute and drop dead neonatal mice into the canopy of trees and inside these neonatal mice are a single tab, 80 milligram tab of acetaminophen, which is deadly to a Brown Tree Snake.

CINDY: Aspirin. Aspirin. Right?

DOMINGO: Yeah, and, I mean, that's basically, children, I mean, if you and I don't like using the term Tylenol, but that's basically that same chemical compound.

CINDY: Ah, yes.

DOMINGO: And that has proven successful as a mechanism to get the bait into the forests, and doing it in a manner where it's mechanized and you're able to treat large areas, so that was the most exciting thing that was happening just before I retired in 2018 and we were really getting excited to move that



concept off of DOD land and I mean, still continue it and maybe expand habitat management units beyond the 55-hectare size that we're currently working on or researching and do it on a more large landscape scale over the entire island, over public lands as well, and working with the local government, but I don't believe that has progressed to that point yet, but it's really exciting times for the Brown Tree snake Program for all the interdiction efforts that have been done for the past 40 plus years, you know, it's just amazing to see things come to fruition, I'm not saying that we're going to totally get rid of Brown Tree Snakes, but get it to a point where we can manage it and see birds on the landscape, which is very exciting and yeah...

CINDY: Well, I was going to ask, when the snake ate the neonatal mouse that had the tablet inside of it, did it kill the snake or make it sterile or what was the effect?

DOMINGO: Actually, that 80 milligrams of acetaminophen is lethal to snakes.

CINDY: Oh okay.

DOMINGO: So, they ingest it and in some cases the dosage that they get from that application, they may regurgitate the dead neonatal mouse, but they have enough in their system that they will eventually die, I mean, they will die.

CINDY: Yeah, yeah.

DOMINGO: Yeah, so that's really exciting stuff.

CINDY: Mm hmm.

DOMINGO: And, you know, it's something to see that one day they may truly see native birds once again in Guam other than the occasional helicopter that goes flying by over the mountain range you know.

*Laughter together.*

CINDY: Yeah, that's exactly right, it's a strikingly beautiful island, but it's very quiet when you don't hear birds.

DOMINGO: Exactly, funny you should mention that it's pretty amazing when you have individuals working and that would be, you know, USGS Biologists or USDA Wildlife Services Technicians that travel from Guam to the neighboring Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and actually going to forests and they can hear birds just going off.

CINDY: Mmm hmm.

DOMINGO: And they don't see that in Guam, you know, I mean, granted, Guam has introduced the Eurasian Sparrow, and I believe the Philippine Dove, but other than that, there's, you know, native birds out and about are I think probably pretty much nonexistent because of the snake predation that overtook the island.

CINDY: Right. Right. Well, I'd like to ask you just one more question and that would be how do you see the future of the Pacific Islands in general having to do with extinction forecasts for the future as well as climate change challenges just from being a native out there, I'm sure you have some perspectives on that issue, it's your land and us, people who visit, you know, we think it's a Pacific gem and a wonderful place and beautiful, but those of us who work for the Fish and Wildlife Service know that there are

tremendous challenges out there, so from your perspective, your unique perspective, Domingo, how would you address some of these really challenging issues?

DOMINGO: It's funny you should mention that, I think, you know, as growing up being born and raised in the state of Hawaii, you sometimes get kind of, um, I wouldn't call it overwhelmed, but you just get like rose-colored glasses, you just kind of, you know, every day is a beautiful day and everything looks like things should be normal, but I can tell you, growing up in these islands, the whole natural ecosystem has changed quite a bit, and I think even more so working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office for the past seven and a half years before I retired in 2018, there has been a big awareness about climate change affecting our ecosystems and that even our push with economics and doing alternate energy projects like wind turbines can impact our native Hawaiian Hoary Bat, our lone endemic Hawaiian mammal species that we have here, as well as near-shore seabirds as well being impacted with that, but, um, the one issue that I remember we worked on towards the end of my career is looking at ways to mitigate the mosquito problem in impacting our last vestiges of native Hawaiian birds that are in our upper elevations.

As climate change warms up these islands that envelope where the mosquitoes that could be carrying that deadly disease can now go further heights so we need to start looking at trying to control mosquitoes that would be problematic not only through a health standpoint for humans, but for our native avifauna which are currently occupying a very small niche in the upper elevations, especially on Oahu, where we don't have really high extreme elevations as the neighboring islands may have, or the outer islands that we have, so I think, that's one of the issues where, you know, just seeing the impacts being done to our coral reefs here, overfishing, again, it's something that is man-induced by climate change with water, sea levels rising up impacting our nearshore waters, all of that is problematic and I have seen changes throughout my lifetime and like anything else, the future is always constantly moving and changing and it's not a matter of just accepting it, but how do you address it to a point where, again, you protect your natural resources and environment so that future generations can experience some semblance of what you experienced when you were growing up and those are some of the things that have kind of kept me engaged in my career in public service because of the fact that now my generation that's coming after me or the generations that are coming after me, it's now their what we call kuleana, or there's a need to take care of the land and the species that occupy them so that future generations can also enjoy the benefits that we did as in our younger times, so, yeah, it's very rewarding, very rewarding.

CINDY: Yeah. Can you tell us a little bit more about your heritage and stories that might have passed down through the generations to you and then to your kids? I find that heritage fascinating.

DOMINGO: Sure. You know, I was born and raised in the area, Honolulu proper, area called Kalihi Kai, we were always near the ocean. It was a semi-industrial area which was a mix of private homes, low-rise apartments, maybe two-story apartments and then warehouses where businesses occurred as well as the neighborhood stores and restaurants and growing up there was really simple, I mean, traffic was not bad, you could get around on a bicycle quite easily, you didn't have to worry about locking up your bike or locking up your doors and there was a lot of areas or things that you would share with your community. To give you an example, the property that our family had occupied in that area had 13 different species of mango...

CINDY: Mmm.

DOMINGO: and the funny thing about it is, as I grew up and being the youngest of a litter of six, right, (*Laughter*) you tend to, um, take on more responsibility as you age because eventually your older siblings will be moving out of house, they will either go off to college and maybe live elsewhere, they marry and start a family of their own and they may remain at home or live elsewhere so you start to learn all the different job duties and I used to do like raking the leaves of those 13 mango trees and picking up all the fruit that fell down, so we were very happy to have the community come and help themselves to mango because that's less work for me to utilize, but just growing up was very simple, very easy going. I thank my parents for providing us the opportunity to experience the island of Maui growing up because we all and I can't speak for my brothers and my sisters, but for me as a kid, I was always looking forward to traveling to Maui and we would stay in different areas.

We would stay in upcountry Maui, up in the Kula area, which was just cold and brisk, and I remember taking a bath, my uncle would start up a kerosene water heater to heat up the water to take a bath, and if you didn't, you'd be freezing when you take a shower and then traipsing through the nearby forests and farmland and the forest was really interesting because it was made up of like eucalyptus trees and island Norfolk pines and then there would be cattle running around and there's an occasional bull that might come after you and you got to climb up the trees. (*Laughter*) You know, it was fun time, fun memories, memories that I can't duplicate for my kids, but I tried, we would do our family camps and we would do our summer jaunts to the neighbor islands. It could be the islands of Kauai, or Maui, or Lanai or The Big Island of Hawaii, so they could experience all these other islands and see that Hawaii is not just the island of Oahu. Oahu is the gathering place...Honolulu is the gathering place. We have the highest concentration of the population situated on Oahu, but there are other islands that make up these Hawaiian Islands that are very different geologically and agricultural and even economics is very different. So, it was really nice experiencing those things and just going to the different zones, to go from high alpine upper elevation level down to sea level and then going to a marine environment, to a freshwater environment. It was just amazing stuff and the roads back then were not like what we have now and a jaunt or car ride that would, to today's standard would take me 30 minutes, would have taken me 2 hours to travel so it was fun times and some of the times, and you are asking me to look back at some of those experiences and again, it's not a natural resource type experience, but one of the things that I really enjoyed was we would play a game as we were driving over that two-hour period to get from point A to point B and we had to guess how many cars we would pass on the road (*Laughter together*) and whoever came the closest would get an ice cream sandwich from the store as a reward. *Laughter together.*

CINDY: Were your grandparents around for these adventures?

DOMINGO: You know, on my mom's side, unfortunately, my grandmother had passed before I was born, so I never got to know my grandmother, but my grandfather I knew really well because he was the one that took care of me, he was the one that walked me to school, up to kindergarten and then he passed, I think in the second half of my kindergarten year.

CINDY: Oh.

DOMINGO: So, it's really devastating for me because I had lost my companion to take me to school, which was about a ten, you know, about a 15-minute walk from home and I always looked forward to him meeting me outside my classroom and picking me up and taking me home and just kind of listening to stories about what he did and stuff like that. On my father's side, only my grandmother was alive,

however, I did have a lot of step-grandfathers. My grandmother on the Portuguese side was very prolific and she lived on the island of Maui, so as we went there every summer, we would visit her and every summer I would get a new grandpa (*Laughter together*) and he would be of different ethnicity, and it was just a funny thing. When we would visit her, she would say, "Go give your pappu a hug", and I would look at him, and say "Who's that man?" But she lived, I don't know how old she lived till, a ripe old age, but it was amazing, it was like we would have a grandfather every time we went to Maui, a new one and it was because she outlived them, not because of married and divorced no, no. It was simply amazing; she was an amazing woman.

CINDY: Yes. Yes. Well, any final thoughts, Domingo?

DOMINGO: Well, you know, I think the only thought that I would say is that, you know, I'm very thankful for the years that I hope I've contributed, and it was just an enjoyable time and I'm still enjoying life and sharing stories and even sharing my knowledge and experiences if people seek it out and they have been and I'm thankful for that. They're checking in to see if what they're thinking is doing right or if they should look at it as a different way of addressing issues and it's pretty amazing how things kind of come back and need to be reinvented you know, the problems arise again and needs to be addressed and in fact, I just got a call the other day from my Department of Agriculture cohorts and there's a new population of Coqui frogs that are occurring on the island of Oahu and we had a same problem with a naturalized area that was of mixed ownership. It was military, it was federal, state, county and private lands and we needed to work with different partners to get that population annihilated and it took us three years to do it and we were able to successfully do it and stop it from happening again through best management practices and this area is totally state land and it's owned by one state entity and I said, oh, this is easy-peasy, you're only dealing with one agency and if they take responsibility for it, then the issue is really easy to address. It'll take some time, it'll take some management practices that need to be instituted, but it's not, I don't think it's something that's overcoming, is out of control at this point other than, you know, not having the willpower to do it or the knowledge to develop a plan which was done previously and I said, they should start looking and reviewing some of the old notes from that particular project that we worked on and how we managed it and I don't think what they're talking about control methods now is not really warranted, I think it's a waste of resources...

CINDY: Mmm hmm.

DOMINGO: but you know, it's good that they check in and I think it's doable and I want to leave you with this saying that I learned from a colleague of mine and basically, I had met him, he passed away recently, he was the ex-mayor of the Big Island of Hawaii. His name was Billy Kenoi, very charismatic, Hawaiian professional, he was a lawyer by training and then politician, as you know, as he worked through government, again, another public servant, but he was, what I would say, the consummate local boy and this is his phrasing, he said, if can...can, if no can, how can? So, if you think about it, you can do it and if you can't do it, then you need to follow how to do it and not give up and I thought that was so appropriate.

CINDY: Well, excellent way to end the conversation and Mahalo Nui Loa, Mahalo Nui Loa, Domingo.

DOMINGO: Oh, you're welcome. I'm looking forward to reading the transcripts in another year.

(*Laughter together*).

CINDY: Well, hold on, I'm going to pause the tape now, hold on.

*End of Interview*

**Key words:** adaptive management, agriculture, amphibians, animal health, aquatic animals, aquatic environment, aquatic plants, bats, biodiversity, biological control, biologists (USFWS), birds, camping, children, climate change, climate effects, coastal restoration, coasts, conservation, conservation science, corals, ecological restoration, endangered and/or threatened species, habitat conservation, habitat fragmentation, habitat restoration, Indigenous species, insects, international affairs, international conservation, invasive species, invertebrates, islands, law enforcement, marine ecology, marine environments, marine fish, partnerships, plants, predator control, rare species, reptiles, research, seabirds, species reintroduction, transportation, wind power