

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

March 13, 2015

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Approval to Renew Volunteer Agreements at Six (6) State Parks for a 5-Year Term: Kīholo State Park Reserve, Hawai'i [TMK: (3) 7-1-02: 02 and 08 and 7-1-03: 02 and 07]; Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park [TMK: (4) 1-7-05: 03] and Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park, Kaua'i [TMK: (4) 1-4-01: por. 7]; Mākena State Park [TMK: (2) 2-1-06: 32 and 74] and 'Iao Valley State Monument [TMK: (2) 3-3-03: 12], Maui; and Diamond Head State Monument, O'ahu [TMK: (1) 3-1-42: 06, 10, 14, 15, and 21].

The Curator Program was initiated in 1987 by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and the Division of State Parks to encourage community involvement in the care and management of historic and cultural sites on State-owned properties. Over the years, the program has expanded to include natural resources in the parks and tasks such as educational programs, interpretation, and site restoration. The volunteer agreements outline the responsibilities of the volunteer organization for a 5-year term.

Six (6) volunteer agreements expired in 2014 and the volunteers have requested to continue to assist State Parks with the care, management and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources in the parks. With the exception of Project 'Io at 'Iao Valley State Monument, the volunteer organizations have their 501(c)3 status. All the organizations have proven to be valuable partners in the parks who have donated many volunteer hours to park projects.

Kīholo State Park Reserve, North Kona, Hawai'i Island

Kīholo State Park Reserve encompasses 4,356 acres between the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and the shoreline from Pu'uwa'awa'a on the south to 'Anaeho'omalū on the north. Hui Aloha Kiholo entered into a 5-year agreement with the BLNR in December 2009 to assist with the portion of the park adjacent to Kīholo Bay. This non-profit organization of community members from West Hawai'i, joined together in 2007 to help protect, enhance, and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and natural landscape of the Kīholo area through collaborative management and active caretaking. Many of the individuals have a connection to Kīholo through family history, residence, and recreational use of the area. The Hui has partnered with State Parks to address the ongoing management concerns and the growing recreation use of the wilderness area. They have received grants and donations to assist with resource management projects, educational programs, interpretive materials, sanitation facilities, and providing a park presence. They assisted State Parks with a major clean-up of the camping area in 2011 and have continued to assist in managing and maintaining the park resources.

Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park, Kaua'i

Russian Fort Elizabeth was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and the State of Hawai'i acquired the 17 acres encompassing the historic fort at the mouth of the Waimea River in 1970. The West Kaua'i Business and Professional Association (WKBPA) entered into a 5-year agreement with the BLNR in December 2009 after receiving a grant from the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) Natural Resources Program. The grant supported the removal of vegetation along the riverbank and highway to open the view corridors to and from the historic site. Additional clearing of kiawe from the fort site occurred with generous support from the Waimea community and businesses. Today, WKBPA is focused on maintaining the fort and enhancing visitor appreciation of the site through updated interpretive signs and hosting the King Kaumuali'i Festival which has been held at the park for the past 2 years.

Nu'alolo Kai, Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park, Kaua'i

The Nāpali Coast 'Ohana initially entered into a 5-year agreement with BLNR in 2003 and renewed their agreement in January 2009. This agreement has focused on Nu'alolo Kai, a coastal flat with a significant archaeological complex that includes agricultural features, housesites, walled enclosures, and a heiau. The members of the 'Ohana annually organize 4 work trips during the summer when the area is accessible by boat. They maintain the trails for visitors arriving on permitted tours, assist with archaeological research and site restoration, host cultural events and visits such as the Hokule'a, and have initiated a native plant restoration project. They work closely with State Parks, archaeologists, and the permitted boat companies to interpret the cultural history of Nu'alolo Kai and promote respect for the resources.

Maluaka Wetland, Mākena State Park, Maui

Maluaka Wetland, located on the northern side of Pu'u Ola'i, is one of 3 wetlands within Mākena State Park. The North Pu'u Ola'i Wetland Association initially entered into a 5-year agreement with BLNR in 2003 and renewed their agreement in October 2009. In the first 5-year term, they successfully restored the 3-acre wetland by removing the dense growth of kiawe, installing predator fencing, and planting native vegetation around the edges of the wetland. Today, the wetland is habitat for Hawaii's endangered waterbirds (*ae'o* and *'alae ke'oke'o*) as well as migratory shorebirds such as *ulili* (Wandering Tattler) and *'akekeke* (Ruddy Turnstone). Most of the volunteer efforts are now directed towards weeding and maintaining the native plantings, monitoring the fencing, and general management of the site area.

Botanical Garden, 'Iao Valley State Monument, Maui

Na Kanaka Maoli O Hawaii Nei was the curator of the botanical garden within 'Iao Valley State Monument when the agreement was originally signed in 1996. At the time of the renewal in April 2009, the agreement was with Project 'Io. Since 1996, the volunteers have made improvements to the garden area along 'Iao Stream and shared the cultural history of 'Iao Valley with park visitors. They have restored the lo'i kalo, replanted areas with native Hawaiian plants, constructed a thatched hale and imu, and regularly demonstrate traditional arts and crafts.

Diamond Head State Monument, O'ahu

The Diamond Head State Monument Foundation was established in 2005 for the purpose of preserving and protecting the natural condition of Diamond Head State Monument through educational, interpretive, and site improvement projects. The Foundation has a history of conducting projects in the portion of the Monument under the jurisdiction of the Division of State Parks, such as the planting of naupaka on the exterior of the crater along Diamond Head Road, repair of the irrigation system in the area, and other landscaping improvements at Muriel Flanders Reststop. When the Foundation was recognized as a formal partner through the agreement signed in January 2009, they continued these projects while also assisting with other projects. In 2013, through a generous donation of outdoor fitness equipment by Mr. Clark Hatch, the Foundation installed the Bryan Clay Exercise Park along the newly constructed Fort Ruger Pathway, a mile long multi-use path on the exterior slope of the crater.

RECOMMENDATION:

State Parks encourages community involvement and assistance with the care, management, interpretation, and restoration of the resources in the parks. The 6 volunteer organizations discussed above have successfully partnered with State Parks for 5 or more years. They have demonstrated a dedication to their park site by providing volunteer time, materials, visitor services, and park improvements with little financial support from State Parks. State Parks recommends that the Board grant approval to renew these agreements for another 5-year term subject to the following conditions:

1. Review and approval of the agreements by the Department of the Attorney General.
2. The organizations will be responsible for any required environmental and regulatory documents and obtain approvals and permits prior to conducting any restoration work.
3. Amendments and future renewals of the volunteer agreement are delegated to the Chairperson.
4. And such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

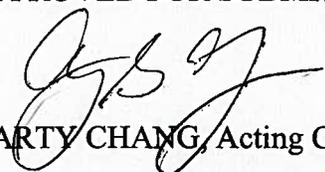
Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL S. QUINN

 State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



CARTY CHANG, Acting Chairperson