

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

December 11, 2015

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A 6 MONTH SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS OF GENOMIC DATA, AND TO PROVIDE AN EXPERT DETERMINATION OF THE LEVEL OF HYBRIDIZATION OF HAWAIIAN DUCKS ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU.

AND

REQUEST APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION TO CHAPTER 343, HRS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROJECT.

This Board Submittal approves entering into a contractual relationship to analyze data from a sample of >200 birds to determine the level of hybridization of Hawaiian ducks on Oahu with the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, University of California, Davis CA, and authorizes the Chairperson to enter into a contract for these services, subject to the necessary procurement approvals.

BACKGROUND:

The Koloa Maoli or Hawaiian Duck (*Anas wyvilliana*) is a small, shy, duck endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. Koloa are among the world's most threatened waterfowl, with a total estimated population of approximately 2,200 birds, the vast majority of which survive on Kauai and Ni'ihau. Captive propagation and reintroduction of the Hawaiian duck in the 1950s through the 1990s to Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii allowed the populations to increase; however, although populations of Hawaiian ducks still exist on each of these islands, these populations are threatened by hybridization with feral mallards.

While the Koloa, like most of Hawaii's waterbirds, is confronted with habitat loss and predation by cats, dogs, and mongoose, it the only native Hawaiian bird facing extinction from hybridization with invasive species, the feral Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos domesticus*)

CONTRACT PROVISIONS

The proposed service agreement will provide \$12,200 of federal funds to the University of California, Davis to provide data analysis through genomic sequencing of over 200 Koloa blood samples collected by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The university has a dataset of morphological measurements taken

from museum specimens and the birds sampled on Kauai. In concert with the genomic analysis, we will be able to use this dataset to investigate links between morphological characteristics and hybrid status, ideally to identify characteristics that managers can use to discriminate mallards from Hawaiian ducks and hybrids. This service agreement will be effective for the period Nov. 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The \$12,200 is composed entirely of Federal funding provided to the state through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Division has processed the necessary procurement documentation for the purchase of these services from The Regents of the University of California. The Division will submit draft agreement for review and approval as to form by the Attorney General, and process the document for signature by the Chairperson.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, Hawaii Administrative Rule Section 11-200-8(b), the Exemption List for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources as reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on June 05, 2015, and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources as reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on December 4, 1991 (Docket No. 91-EX-2), The subject project is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to the following exemption class:

From the DOFAW Exemption List:

Exemption Class 5 “Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.”

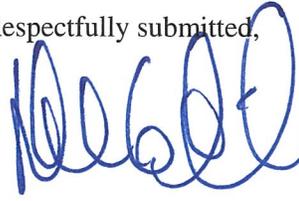
This project implements the recommendations of the Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Waterbirds, the Koloa Maoli Outreach and Communication Plan and the State of Hawaii’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan while working under the auspices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with Professor Dr. Bruce Dugger and Christopher Malachowski of Oregon State University.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

- 1) Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed project as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, & Chapter 11-200, HAR, this project will have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
- 2) Delegates authority to the Chairperson to negotiate and execute a service agreement for 6 months in the amount not to exceed \$12,200 with The Regents of the University of California subject to:
 - a) The receipt of Federal grants and availability of Federal funds for the agreement,
 - b) Approval as to form by the Attorney General’s Office.

Respectfully submitted,



David Smith, Acting Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources