Ref. LM-GYT

Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 South King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

August 2, 1994

Subject: Negative Declaration for Proposed Issuance of a Revocable Permit to John R. Souza, Government Lands of Manawaialee and Nuipea, Hamakua, Hawai‘i - Tax Map Key:3rd/4-1-06:02 and 04

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 200 of Title 11, Administrative Rules, a Final Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the subject property.

Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project was published in the July 23, 1993 OEQC Bulletin. Comments to the proposed permit were received from your office and is addressed in the Final Environmental Assessment.

As the proposing agency, we are forwarding herewith, one copy of the OEQC Bulletin Publication form, and four copies of the Final Environmental Assessment. We have determined that there will be no significant impacts as a result of the project and, therefore, are filing the Final Environmental Assessment as a negative declaration. We respectfully request that public notice of the Final Environmental Assessment be published in the next scheduled OEQC Bulletin.

Very truly yours,

KEITH W. AHUE
Chairperson

c: Hawai‘i Land Board Member
Land Management Administrator
Hawai‘i District Land Office
I. APPLICANT

John R. Souza
P.O. Box 945
Honoka'a, HI 96727

II. APPROVING AGENCY

Division of Land Management
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 936
Hilo, HI 96721-0936

III. AGENCIES CONSULTED

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I
Planning Department
Department of Public Works
Department of Water Supply

STATE OF HAWAI'I
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Department of Health
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Office of State Planning
Department of Agriculture
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Division of Water & Land Development
State Historic Preservation Division
Office of Conservation & Environmental Affairs

IV. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Pursuant to applicable statutes, the applicant has submitted a request for issuance of a revocable permit for pasture purposes on two (2) parcels of government lands situate at Manoawaialee and Nuipea, Hamakua, Hawai'i, further described as Tax Map Key: 3rd/4-1-06:02 and 04.

The parcels were previously used for pasture purposes under Revocable Permit Nos. S-4905 and S-5404 to Kukaianu Ranch Company, Ltd. Further, the Board of Land and
Natural Resources, at its meeting of November 18, 1983, under Agenda Item F-1-g, authorized the issuance of Revocable Permit No. S-6084 to Wilbur J. and Ira M. Hensler. This permit was never signed.

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT SITE

Tax Map Key:3rd/4-1-06:02 is a 162-acre parcel with approximately 70 acres of usable pasture, about 34 acres of eucalyptus forest and the balance being a gully, rocky terrain, some 'ohia trees and tree ferns, together with other exotic weed species.

Tax Map Key:3rd/4-1-06:04 is a 66-acre parcel with approximately 33 acres of usable pasture and the balance being broom sage grass and eucalyptus forest.

The two parcels have been previously used for pasture purposes and does not appear to have any sensitive habitats and/or natural resources.

Elevation: The parcels are located between the 4160-foot elevation and the 5200-foot elevation.

Median Rainfall: 79 inches

SCS Soil Series:
   HDD - Hanaipoe silt loam (Parcel 02)
   MLD - Maile silt loam (Parcel 02)
   PUC - Pu‘u ‘O’o silt loam (Parcels 02 & 04)
   UMD - ‘Umikoa silt loam (Parcels 02 & 04)

Historic and Archaeological Information: The State Historic Preservation Division has reviewed the application and states that the "1982 aerial photographs in our records shows the properties to be cleared of native forest. Hence, the State Historic Preservation Division believes that it is unlikely that significant historic sites will still be present in the area. Thus, the subject action will have 'no effect' on historic sites."

Surrounding Land Uses: The surrounding land uses are pasture and forest.

VI. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Short term: None

Long term: None
VII. ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED

No action. If the Department of Land and Natural Resources took a no-action position, the two parcels would remain as unencumbered State lands and not derive any revenue for the State General Fund. The no-action approach would eliminate an opportunity for a part-time rancher to expand his herd and supplement his income.

VIII. MITIGATION ISSUES PROPOSED

None

IX. DETERMINATION

The proposed permit will not significantly alter the environment and impacts will be minimal. Therefore, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has determined that a Negative Declaration is appropriate, and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

X. FINDINGS AND REASONS

1. The proposed permit will not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.

2. The proposed permit will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of environment.

3. The proposed permit will not conflict with the State’s long-term environmental policies.

4. The proposed permit will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or State.

5. The proposed permit will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.

6. The proposed permit will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.

7. The proposed permit will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat. No endangered species of flora or fauna are known to exist on the permit area.
8. The proposed permit will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.

For the reasons above, the proposed project will not have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.