

EXEMPTION NOTICE FORM

University of Hawaii at Hilo – Office of Facilities Planning and Construction
200 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

TO: 1. Agency-Maintained Public Files for Chapter 343 HRS Exemption Determinations
2. Office of Environmental Quality Control, if publication by OEQC is desired
3. General Manager, Maunakea Support Services

FROM: Director of University of Hawaii at Hilo – Office of Facilities Planning and Construction

SUBJECT: Exemption Notice for Geotechnical Borings for the UHH New Educational Telescope

DATE: 11/11/2020

AGENCY OR APPLICANT ACTION

Check applicable box

- This exempted action is an agency action as defined by Section 343-5(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and Section 11-200.1-8, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR),
- This exempted action is an applicant action as defined by Section 343-5(e), HRS, and Section 11-200.1-9, HAR

EXEMPTION TYPE:

The Exemption Notice for the action described below is based on the general types enumerated in Section 11-200.1-15(c), Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), Exemption Type 5.

As applicable, the exemption for the action described below is also supported by the Exemption List for the University of Hawaii, reviewed and concurred to by the Environmental Council on 3/14/2001.

- Exemption List Class 5.
- Item Number 1.
- Applicable language from the exemption list: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resources evaluation activities which do not result in a serious of major disturbance to an environmental resource.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Proposing Agency or Applicant: University of Hawaii

Project Name & Address/Location: UHH New Educational Telescope/Halepohaku

Anticipated Start Date: 11/16/2020

Anticipated End Date: 3/31/2021

Island and District: Hawai'i

Hamakua

Tax Map Key(s) and other geolocation means: (3) 4-4-015:012

All Necessary Permits and Approvals: Site Plan Approval

NARRATIVE

Describe the action and why it qualifies for the exemption: Drilling one geotechnical boring and obtaining adequate soil samples from that boring. Boring is to support the design for the New Educational Telescope Facility proposed at Halepohaku. Boring diameter of 4-5 inches, boring depth of up to 20 feet. A truck mounted drill rig will be used to drill the proposed boring. Material from the boring will be collected for laboratory testing. A truck mounted drill rig will access the site via an existing dirt/gravel roadway currently utilized by Maunakea Observatories Support Services (MKSS).

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Describe the site, including any impacts on the receiving environment: Work will be performed on a previously disturbed area adjacent to one of the existing dorm buildings (Dorm A) as shown in the attached project location map and boring location plan. Boring hole will be backfilled with on-site materials following sampling activities. Source of the material will be coordinated with MKSS. Estimated amount of material that will be required is up to 4 cubic feet. Visual impacts of the work after the work is completed is expected to be minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

I have considered the potential effects of the proposed project and all related activities against the criteria checked below:

	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Zoning Conformance	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic (Vehicles, Bicycles, Pedestrian)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure (Roads, Buildings, Utilities)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality Pollutant Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid, Hazardous, and Liquid Waste Management	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Beach Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources and Practices	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual/Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface and Ground Water Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Riparian/Coastal Resources

Other

Comments/summary of impact analysis:

The proposed boring site is located in the Resource subzone of the Conservation District. The proposed work is to perform an exploratory geotechnical boring and to collect samples for analysis. This work is in support of the design of the New Educational Telescope facility and will ensure that the design is appropriate for the area. Information obtained will be used to determine site-specific parameters that can be used in design. Although an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) will be prepared for the New Educational Telescope project, the boring work is exempt from HRS 343 and preparation of a CDUA. A Site Plan Approval application has been prepared and will be submitted to the Department of Land and Natural Resources – Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (DLNR-OCCL).

There are no surface water features in the project area and mean annual rainfall is approximately 25 inches. Evidence of runoff flow patterns was observed in the vicinity of the proposed boring location. However, runoff does not appear have any paths which would enable it to be directly carried to the ocean and appears to infiltrate into the ground. There would be no increase in impermeable surface area or change of existing drainage patterns due to the proposed geotechnical boring. There are no anticipated impacts on groundwater due to the low annual rainfall and the nature of the work.

The proposed boring is not anticipated to cause any substantial impact to existing natural resources within the surrounding area, community, or region. No trees will be impacted by this work and no vegetation removal is required. All work is anticipated to be performed during daylight hours.

The proposed use is not anticipated to have any significant visual impacts after the work is completed as the boring site is located in a previously disturbed location adjacent to an existing building. There is an existing dirt road currently utilized by MKSS, which will be used by the truck mounted drill rig to access the site.

The proposed boring location is not in an area typically accessed by the public and rarely occupied by users of the Halepohaku facility. Noise generated during drilling is a potentially detrimental effect as there may be people sleeping in the adjacent dorms.

MITIGATION

Describe all mitigation measures and best management practices planned to address impacts during the project activities and after project completion: The following mitigation measures will be implemented:

- The threat of invasive species introduction will be mitigated through compliance with the Invasive Species Prevention and Control Program.
- OMKM will be inspecting the drilling equipment prior to work being allowed to commence.
- Should Nene be observed within 100 feet of the work, operations will be suspended until they depart the vicinity.
- Setup and drilling will begin after 2pm daily to mitigate noise impacts to people sleeping in the adjacent dorms

CONSULTATION

The following parties have been consulted about this declaration exemption (Name, affiliation, consultation date): Michael Cain, DLNR-OCCL, 10/28/20

EXEMPT DECLARATION

The direct, cumulative, and potential impacts of the action described above have been considered pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules. I declare that the action described above will have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment.



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Signature of Director or Delegate

Date

- This document is on file in our office and is available for public review.
- This document has been submitted to the Office of Environmental Quality Control for publication in *The Environmental Notice*.