EXEMPTION NOTICE FORM

University of Hawai‘i Office of Project Delivery
2002 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI. 96822

TO: 1. Agency-Maintained Public Files for Chapter 343 HRS Exemption Determinations
   2. Office of Environmental Quality Control

FROM: Nelson Lee, Director, UH Office of Project Delivery

SUBJECT: Exemption Notice for New Photovoltaic System for UHM Lower Campus Parking Structure (Phase 1) - Bldg. ID No. 1001

DATE: 3/24/2021

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 COMPREHENSIVE EXEMPTION LIST for the UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII as allowed by Section 11-200.1-16 Exemption Lists and Chapter 343, HRS.

As applicable, the exemption for the action described below in the Exemption List for the University of Hawai‘i, reviewed and concurred to by the Environmental Council most recently on 8/9/2019 is:

- Exemption List Class 3.
- Item Number (d).
- Applicable language from the exemption list: Construction and location of single, new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of same and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of same including but not limited to: water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extensions to serve such structures or facilities.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Proposing Agency or Applicant: University of Hawai‘i
Project Name & Address/Location: UHM Lower Campus Parking Structure (Phase 1), 2520 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI. 96822
Anticipated Start Date: Summer 2021

Rev. 10/19
Anticipated End Date: Summer 2021
Island and District: O’ahu Honolulu
Tax Map Key(s) and other geolocation means: (1) 2-8-029:001
All Necessary Permits and Approvals: for PRU Minor Modification

NARRATIVE
Describe the action and why it qualifies for the exemption: The PV installation over the upper level of the Lower Campus Parking Structure (Phase 1) will not alter the use of the parking spaces below and will provide renewable energy to our existing campus grid to help the University meet state laws requiring a move to a 100% renewable energy generation portfolio to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT
Describe the site, including any impacts on the receiving environment: The proposed PV canopy will provide much appreciated shade to the existing 5th level of parking spaces.

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

☐ Land Use and Zoning Conformance ☒
☐ Traffic (Vehicles, Bicycles, Pedestrian) ☒
☐ Infrastructure (Roads, Buildings, Utilities) ☒
☐ Air Quality Pollutant Emissions ☒
☐ Noise Emissions ☒
☐ Solid, Hazardous, and Liquid Waste Management ☒
☐ Social ☒
☐ Economic ☒
☐ Health and Safety ☒
☐ Recreation ☒
☐ Public Beach Access ☒
☐ Cultural Resources and Practices ☒
☒ Visual/Aesthetic: may impact ocean views from UH Law School ☒
☐ Environmental Justice ☒
☐ Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species ☒
☐ Surface and Ground Water Resources ☒
☐ Wetlands ☒
☐ Floodplains ☒
☐ Riparian/Coastal Resources ☒
☒ Other: positive benefit toward climate change mitigation ☒

Rev. 10/19
Comments/summary of impact analysis: PV system is component of state mandate to move to 100% renewable energy production by 2045; see attached MEMO.

MITIGATION
Describe all mitigation measures and best management practices planned to address impacts during the project activities and after project completion: PV system does not appear to affect any off campus neighborhoods adversely.

CONSULTATION
The following parties have been consulted about this declaration exemption (Name, affiliation, consultation date): Click here to enter text.

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.

Signature of Director or Delegate 2021.03.24 19:40:27 -10'00'
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.

attachment: Memo RE: UH efforts to meet State laws to build 100% renewable energy production to offset fossil fuel use and support carbon neutrality by 2045.
MEMO

TO: 1. Agency-Maintained Public Files for Chapter 343 HRS Exemption 
    2. Office of Environmental Quality Control 
    4. Director, Department of Planning & Permitting, 

FROM: Nelson Lee, Director, UH Office of Project Delivery 

RE: UH efforts to meet State laws to build 100% renewable energy production to offset fossil fuel use and support carbon neutrality by 2045 

The University of Hawai‘i has contracted for the installation of renewable energy production on its campus facilities to meet state laws and University policies to help reverse the devastating impacts of climate change to our island communities. The photovoltaic (PV) system proposed for the upper level of the UHM Lower Campus Parking Structure in the attached Exemption Notice Form will help to offset an additional 2 MW of power otherwise generated by fossil fuels.

University of Hawaii Executive Policy EP4.202 directs its operations and facilities to reduce fossil fuel sourced energy through increased energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy for a combined 80% reduction by 2035. This policy brings the University into alignment with recent Hawaii State Legislative action, including but not limited to:

- 2017: Act 32 to adopt climate change goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- 2018: Act 15 and HB 2182 to make Hawaii carbon neutral by 2045.
- 2019: HB 1584 to transition away from fossil fuels toward a clean energy economy powered by 100% renewable energy and to fund a study for the implementation of a statewide carbon tax.