

## EXEMPTION NOTICE FORM

University of Hawai'i  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI, 96822

TO: 1. Agency-Maintained Public Files for Chapter 343 HRS Exemption Determinations  
2. Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, if publication is desired  
3. University of Hawai'i

FROM: Director of University of Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Exemption Notice for Athletic Facility Relocation and Upgrades at Lower Campus

DATE: 8/25/2022

### 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 **Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities.**

As applicable, the exemption for the action described below is also supported by the Exemption List for the [name of agency], reviewed and concurred to by the Environmental Council on [date of concurrence].

- Exemption List Class 2.
- Item Number p.
- Applicable language from the exemption list: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height and dimensions as the structure replaced.

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Proposing Agency or Applicant: University of Hawai'i  
Project Name & Address/Location: Athletic Facility Relocation and Upgrades at Lower Campus, 1337 Lower Campus Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.  
Anticipated Start Date: 5/1/2023  
Anticipated End Date: 5/22/2024

Island and District: O`ahu

Honolulu

Tax Map Key(s) and other geolocation means: TMK 2-8-029:001

All Necessary Permits and Approvals: A Minor Modification of the Plan Review Use permit is in progress. A building permit application will be submitted when design is completed. A design-build Request for Proposals procurement is in progress.

### NARRATIVE

Describe the action and why it qualifies for the exemption: This exemption covers the relocation of the existing track at the Clarence T.C. Ching Complex, and the reconstruction of the soccer field at UH Mānoa. The track will be relocated to the existing Cooke Field, which includes the football practice field and soccer field at the Athletic Complex at Lower Campus. This action qualifies for the exemption because the track and soccer field are athletic fields that are being reconstructed and located generally on the same site, which is the Athletic Complex. The new track and soccer field will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, and dimensions as the existing. The soccer field will continue to be used for soccer practice. Uses of the track include the following: (1) Practice for Women's Track & Field and Women's Cross Country; (2) Conditioning for all UHM sports; (3) Classes for UHM Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science; (4) Training for ROTC (Air Force, Army, and Navy); (5) Various activities for other UHM departments; (6) Conditioning and testing for Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation; (7) Annual event for Special Olympics; and (8) Lei giving for UHM and high school graduations.

### RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Describe the site, including any impacts on the receiving environment: The site is the existing Cooke Field at the Athletic Complex at Lower Campus, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Cooke Field includes the football practice field and soccer practice field, and track and field facilities for discus and javelin. The fields are natural grass on stepped terraces at the base of the former quarry wall below Dole Street. The site will be re-graded to a single terrace, with cut and fill balanced to avoid importing or removing soil. The track will be constructed with an asphalt paving subbase and rubber track surfacing. The infield will be natural grass, similar to the existing fields. No adverse impacts on the receiving environment are anticipated, since the existing site was previously developed for similar uses.

### 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"/>

- Visual/Aesthetic
- Environmental Justice
- Rare, Threatened, and/or Endangered Species
- Surface and Ground Water Resources
- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- Riparian/Coastal Resources
- Other

Comments/summary of impact analysis: There is no cumulative impact from this project, since the project is a one-for-one replacement of existing facilities. An Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), in August 2022. The LRDP includes a description of this project. An Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared for the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Facility in 2010, which was a new building at the site of the existing track. These EAs addressed the criteria for the current project.

## MITIGATION

Describe all mitigation measures and best management practices planned to address impacts during the project activities and after project completion: (1) Geography, Topography, and Soils: Construction of the project will require grading at the project site. A grading permit will be obtained from the City and County of Honolulu, and conditions of the permit will be adhered to, minimizing construction impacts. For soil disturbance projects over 1 acre, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for storm water runoff from construction activities. (2) Surface and Ground Waters: No significant impacts are anticipated to result from the construction and operation of the proposed project. (3) Flora and Fauna: Construction of the project will require removal of much of the vegetation at the project site. However, landscaping will be restored and improved from existing conditions following completion of construction. There are no significant trees located in the project site. Two native avian species, the black-crowned night heron or 'Auku'u, and White Tern or Manu-o-Ku, have been detected on campus but not at the project site. Suitable nesting habitats for these species are not present at the project site. (4) Air Quality: Short-term impacts to air quality from fugitive dust may occur during grading and earthwork during construction. Construction related air quality impacts will be mitigated by complying with conditions of the project's grading permit and implementing appropriate Best Management Practices. (5) Historic Properties, Archeological and Cultural Resources: There are no historic properties present at the project site. The project is anticipated to have no adverse impact on archeological resources as none are likely to be present at the site due to its previous use as a quarry. The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has previously commented that no cultural resources are expected. (6) Flood and Natural Hazards: The proposed project is not prone to inordinate risk or natural hazards such as flooding. The project is not located in a flood hazard zone. (7) Noise: Ambient noise levels will increase during construction of the project. Construction related noise impacts will be mitigated by complying with the Department of Health's community noise control rules. (8) Roadways: The project is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on traffic operations on surrounding roadways or on parking because the project replaces existing facilities with no change in use. A construction management plan will be prepared to mitigate construction-related traffic impacts. (9) Drainage System: The project is not anticipated to significantly increase storm water runoff flowing off-site. The track will be sloped to drain to adjacent landscape areas and/or provided with a drainage system. The grass soccer field at the inside of the track will be provided with a drainage system similar to the existing Cooke Field.

## CONSULTATION

The following parties have been consulted about this declaration exemption (Name, affiliation, consultation date): The City and County of Honolulu will be consulted as part of the PRU permit process, and the State Historic Preservation Division will be consulted as part of the grading permit application process.

## 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.



Digitally signed by Nelson Lee  
DN: cn=Nelson Lee, o=University of Hawaii, ou=OPD,  
email=nlee7@hawaii.edu, c=US  
Date: 2022.08.25 12:24:50 -10'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director or Delegate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This document is to be kept on file in the agency's records and made available for public review

- Please check here if this document is being submitted to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development for voluntary publication in *The Environmental Notice*