

EXEMPTION NOTICE FORM

University of Hawai`i
2444 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i, 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 Coconut Island Repair Sewer Lines

DATE: 5/15/2023

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 University of Hawai`i, reviewed and concurred to by the Environmental Council on 3/14/2001.

- Exemption List Class 2.
- Item Number k.
- 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: Coconut Island Repair Sewer Lines
Anticipated Start Date: 11/4/2023
Anticipated End Date: 4/26/2026
Island and District: O`ahu Ko`olaupoko

Tax Map Key(s) and other geolocation means: TMK 1-4-6-001:001

All Necessary Permits and Approvals: (1) State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) HRS Chapter 6E-8 – An Archaeological Literature Review (ALR) was completed and will be submitted through SHPD’s HICRIS program along with preliminary design plans to fulfil HRS Chapter 6E-8 requirements. (2) Special Management Area (SMA)/Shoreline Setback Variance (SSV) – Coordinating with City and County of Honolulu (CCH), Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), Land Use Permits Division to modify the previous SMA and SSV permits approved in 2014. (3) Conservation District Use Permit/Application (CDUP/CDUA) – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), has determined that the project does not require a CDUP/CDUA. (4) U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Section 10 and Section 404 – Ongoing coordination for applicable USACE permits is occurring and only applies to work within navigable waters.

NARRATIVE

Describe the action and why it qualifies for the exemption: The project involves replacing and/or reconstructing the aging sewer infrastructure on Coconut Island and Lilipuna Pier. Approximately 900 linear feet of existing 6-inch and 8-inch diameter gravity sewer lines and 1,500 linear feet of 4-inch diameter force pressurized sewer force main will be replaced. The discharge location of the existing sewer system will be relocated to an existing sewer manhole on Lilipuna Road. Work on this project will be constructed in four separate phases. Phase 1 – South Gravity Sewer on Coconut Island, Phase 2 – Force Main on Coconut Island, Phase 3 – Force Main and Gravity Sewer at Lilipuna Pier, and Phase 4 – North Gravity Sewer on Coconut Island. This action qualifies for an exemption because the proposed new sewer infrastructures will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose as the existing sewer infrastructure being replaced.

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Describe the site, including any impacts on the receiving environment: The project is located at Lilipuna Pier and Coconut Island in Kane'ohe, O'ahu, Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) research facility is currently located on Coconut Island. The island consists of existing dirt roads, vegetative areas, and various structures for dormitories and research laboratories. The site has existing underground utilities such as water, electrical, communication, and sewer. An open trench method will be utilized to install the new sewer infrastructures, with the trenches being adjacent to the existing sewer utility as well as other various utilities. No adverse impacts on the receiving environment are anticipated since underground utilities already exist in the vicinity.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Beach Access	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources and Practices	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual/Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 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 involves the replacement or reconstruction of existing sewer utilities servicing Coconut Island. An Environmental Assessment (EA) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared for the University of Hawai`i, Hawai`i Institute of Marine Biology, in February 2014. A similar project was completed that involved the rehabilitation and replacement of existing infrastructure at Coconut Island. The project included replacing portions of the existing sewer, communications, and water lines that serve Coconut Island. This project is an extension of the previous infrastructure project, focusing on the replacement of additional existing sewer utilities.

MITIGATION

Describe all mitigation measures and best management practices planned to address impacts during the project activities and after project completion: (1) Topography and Geology: The project involves groundbreaking activities during the installation of the new sewer infrastructures. All ground disturbances will be restored to their original condition following construction and the project work is not expected to permanently alter the existing topographic and geologic conditions. (2) Soils: Groundbreaking activities will result in loose soils, which will be susceptible to erosion if heavy rains occur while work is being performed. The project will include an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to prevent soil erosion. (3) Natural Hazards: Lilipuna Pier is categorized as Zone X and defined as an area with minimal flood hazards as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Coconut Island does not have a flood designation. Ground disturbing and trenching activities may increase the potential for runoff during flooding events. Impacts during flooding events will be minimized by both temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control measures. (4) Flora and Fauna: The project will involve the removal of vegetation in various areas, including landscaping and trees. An arborist will assist with identifying any significant trees that require protection. (5) Wetlands: There are no wetlands located nearby Lilipuna Pier and Coconut Island. The project work will not result in loss or destruction of existing wetland resources. (6) Air Quality: Dust may be generated as a result of ground disturbing and trenching activities, but the air quality should not be significantly impacted. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to reduce potential impacts. (7) Noise: Noise disturbances to the surrounding area may occur due to construction activities. Noise impacts will be mitigated by complying with the Department of Health's community noise control regulations. (8) Historical and Archaeological: An archaeological literature review was prepared by an archaeologist describing historical and archaeological impacts. Potential impacts may occur on Coconut Island. An archaeological monitoring plan will be prepared and archaeological monitoring will be conducted during all ground disturbing and trenching activities. (9) Circulation and Traffic: Temporary traffic impacts are anticipated during construction activities on Lilipuna Road. Impacts will be mitigated by informing the general public about the project, avoiding peak traffic times, and implementing a traffic control plan during construction.

CONSULTATION

The following parties have been consulted about this declaration exemption (Name, affiliation, consultation date): Ongoing consultation with the CCH, DPP is occurring to modify the SMA and SSV permits approved in 2014. This EA Exemption Form is required to complete the modification process. There is also ongoing consultation with SHPD with plans to submit the ALR and preliminary design plans to fulfil the HRS Chapter 6E-8 requirements. "Public Outreach: Letters were sent to public officials, the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, nearby residences, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development – Environmental Review Program, Department of Health – Wastewater Branch, and SHPD to notify the recipients of the intended work and the minimal to no significant impact to the environment findings. No comments were received."

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.

Ross Richards Digitally signed by Ross Richards
DN: C=US, E="rossrich@hawaii.edu",
O="University of Hawaii", OU=Office of Project
Delivery, CN=Ross Richards
Date: 2023.05.22 08:17:01-10'00'

Signature of Director or Delegate

5/22/2023

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*