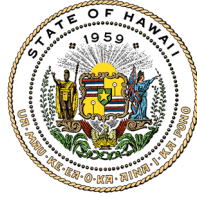


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

May 29, 2026

Ms. Mary Alice Evans, Director
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804-2359

Dear Ms. Evans:

SUBJECT: **Environmental Assessment Exemption Notice**
FY 26 Grant in Aid Rescue Tube Foundation Project
Various TMKs Statewide

Pursuant to administrative rules promulgated under the authority of Section 343-6(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and under sections 11-200.1-15, 11-200.1-16, and 11-200.1-17, Hawaii Administrative Rules, this letter serves as notification and a request for publication that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has declared this Project exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

The Rescue Tube Foundation Project plans to install rescue tubes in various locations Statewide to increase public safety for distressed swimmers. The installation of these rescue tubes will be minimal on beaches and rocky areas where it is easily accessible. The footprint will maintain the existing topography and will result in no material change to the beach or shoreline environment.

After careful analysis outlined in the attachment, DLNR has evaluated the Project's cumulative impacts, and concluded that it is not anticipated to have significant environmental effects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dawn N. S. Chang".

Dawn N. S. Chang
Chair

Attachment

EXEMPTION NOTICE FORM

Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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 DLNR’s comprehensive exemption list, reviewed and concurred by the Environmental Council on 11/10/2020.

- Exemption List Class 3.
- Part 1. Item Number 10.

The subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to General Exemption Type 3 that states, “Construction and location of single new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of the facilities or structures and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of the equipment or facilities, including but not limited to: (A) Single family residence less than 3,500 square feet, as measured by the controlling law under which the proposed action is being considered, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such units; (B) Multi-unit structures designed for not more than four dwelling units if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; (C) Stores, offices and restaurants designed for total occupant load of twenty individuals or fewer per structure, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; and (D) Water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extensions to serve such structures of facilities; accessory or appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences; and acquisition of utility easements” and Part 1, Item 10 that states, “Construction, placement or installation of signage, pavement markings, buoys, or other similar structures.”

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Proposing Agency or Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Project Name & Address/Location: 1151 Punchbowl St. Honolulu, HI 96813
Anticipated Start Date: 7/1/2026
Anticipated End Date: 6/30/2028
Island and District: Statewide

Tax Map Key(s) and other geolocation means: Various

All Necessary Permits and Approvals: May need permits from individual Counties

NARRATIVE

Describe the action and why it qualifies for the exemption: The Rescue Tube Foundation Project plans to install rescue tubes in various locations Statewide to increase public safety for distressed swimmers. The installation of these rescue tubes will be minimal on beaches and rocky areas where it is easily accessible. The footprint will maintain the existing topography and will result in no material change to the beach or shoreline environment.

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Describe the site, including any impacts on the receiving environment: Various sites near the shore but impacts will be minimal as it will just be a rescue tube holder that will not impact the environment.

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"/>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riparian/Coastal Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments/summary of impact analysis: The rescue tube will be placed on beaches and shoreline areas where swimmers may be at risk of drowning. There will be minimal environmental impact.

MITIGATION

Describe all mitigation measures and best management practices planned to address impacts during the project activities and after project completion: The Rescue Tube Foundation will comply with all permit conditions required to mitigate impacts.

CONSULTATION

The following parties have been consulted about this declaration exemption (Name, affiliation, consultation date): DLNR's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands – In agreement with the exemption and expects the project to have negligible impacts to the State's natural and cultural resources.

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

May 29, 2026

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*

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARK

REF:OCCL:MK

COR ST 26-185

Jun 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Ryan K.P. Kanakaole, Deputy Director
Department of Land and Natural Resources

FROM: S. Michael Cain, Administrator *S Michael Cain*
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

SUBJECT: Correspondence ST 26-185 Request for Comments Regarding Exemption
Declaration of Rescue Tube Foundation Project
Located on the islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands is in receipt of your letter regarding the subject matter. The Department of Land and Natural Resources is proposing to procure and install public rescue tubes and associated equipment throughout the state. The project intends to reduce loss of life due to drowning by increasing the availability of public rescue tubes at Hawai'i beaches and ensuring continued maintenance of the equipment.

The rescue tube is an approximately 50-inch-long floatation device intended to be used as a lifesaving device for an individual needing to assist a swimmer in distress. It is intended to keep two people afloat until rescue services respond to the scene. The tube is mounted to an approximately two-inch diameter PVC pole via two Velcro straps for the ease of removal in an emergency situation. The pole is fitted with a yellow flag at its uppermost end to ensure maximum visibility (**Exhibit 1**).

The PVC support pole can be mounted using various methods, the most common of which entails the placement of a concrete footing, typically no larger than two' x two' x two', to which a threaded metal sleeve is affixed via a galvanized flange and concrete fasteners. In some locations, the PVC pole can be mounted to existing concrete slabs via a similar flange, or where there is a prevalence of sand, the pole can be direct-buried a minimum of 24 inches (depending on site specific conditions).

The Department believes the project to be exempt from Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 and the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) 11-200.1 EXEMPTION LIST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- **General Exemption Type 3** *Operations, repairs, or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing, Part 1:*
 - o #8: *Construction and location of new, small facilities or structures necessary to support or enhance safe and effective management of lands and waters... ;*
 - o #9: *Construction of new, small facilities or structures necessary to support or enhance public recreational use of lands and waters, such as outdoor showers, signage, interpretive kiosks, viewing platforms, tables, grills, lifeguard stations, improvements necessary for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other similar structures; and*
 - o #10: *Construction, placement or installation of signage, pavement markings, buoys, or other similar structures.*

The OCCL concurs that the project is an HRS Chapter 343 exempt action.

Based on the information you have provided, it appears the proposed public rescue tubes and associated equipment project may be an identified land use within the Conservation District, pursuant to HAR §13-5-22 P-9 STRUCTURES, ACCESSORY (B-1) *Construction or placement of structures accessory to existing facilities or uses*. This requires the filing of a Site Plan Approval (SPA) application.

Applications may be found on our website at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/application-process/>.

At this time, it is unclear which proposed rescue tube locations out of the provided list are located within the Conservation District. Please identify within the SPA application where work is being proposed within the Conservation District.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mari Kurosawa of our office at mari.i.kurosawa@hawaii.gov or at (808) 587-0381.

CC: *Land Division*

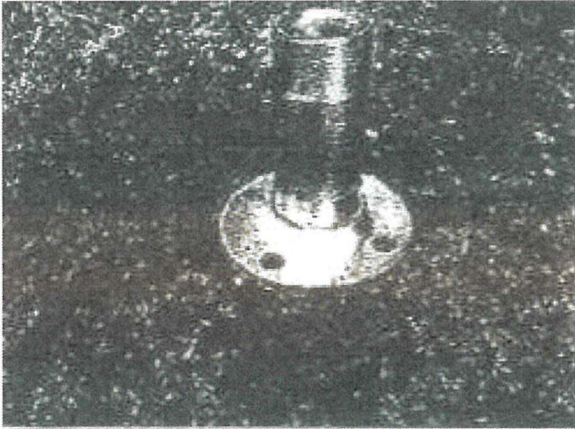
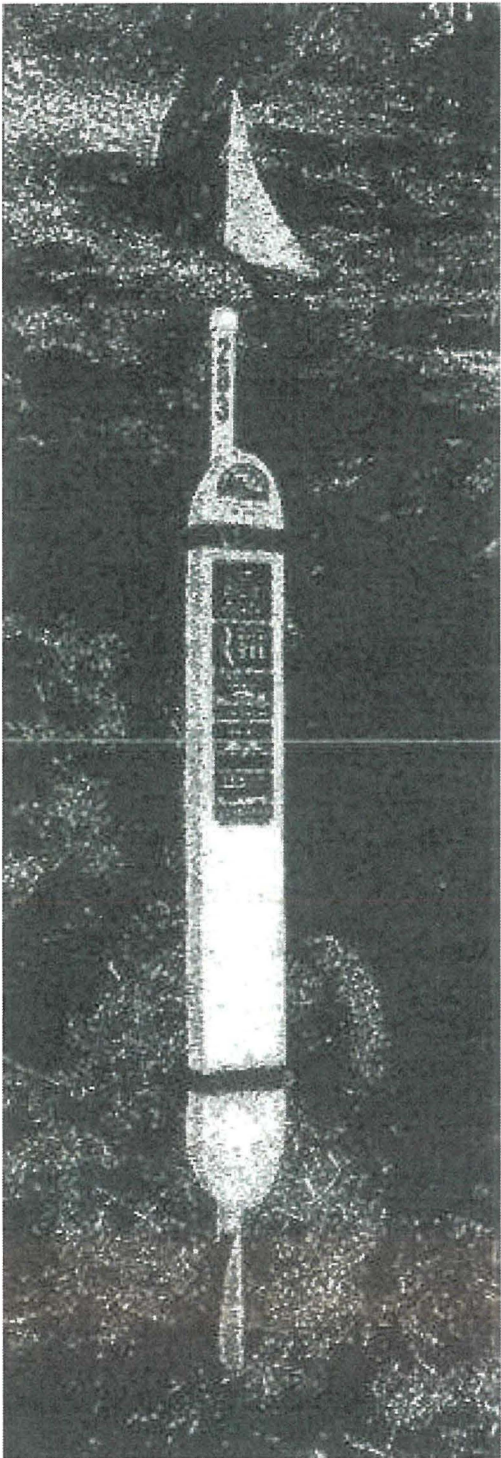


Exhibit 1: Safety Tube and Footing