

**STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
Honolulu, Hawai'i**

March 28, 2014

**Board of Land and
Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i**

REGARDING: Authorization to Contract Qualified Professionals for Development of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Small-Scale Beach Restoration Projects Statewide

BY: DLNR, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

DESCRIPTION AND NEED:

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) wishes to engage a consultant to provide services for the development of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Small-Scale Beach Restoration (SSBR) projects statewide.

The loss of Hawai'i's beaches is a major social, economic, and environmental problem. The majority, or 70%, of Hawai'i beaches are undergoing chronic erosion or shoreline retreat. Historically, the typical response to beach erosion in Hawai'i has been construction of coastal armoring, such as seawalls and revetments, to protect coastal properties from erosion damage and inundation. Coastal armoring has contributed to narrowing and loss of chronically eroding beaches in Hawai'i. Over 13 miles of Hawai'i beaches was completely lost to erosion over the past century. When beaches erode, shoreline access is lost, recreation and cultural activities are limited, coastal habitat is impacted, and our visitor economy suffers.

The State of Hawai'i must facilitate alternatives to coastal armoring for beach erosion management if our community wishes to protect coastal ecosystems and conserve beaches for the next generation. Restoration of beaches and dunes through sand nourishment offers a "soft" alternative to coastal armoring in locations where it is environmentally and economically feasible. Beach restoration can provide improved protection for beachfront properties as a buffer to large waves and high tides and improves degraded beach ecosystems and public shoreline access.

The DLNR currently authorizes small scale beach and dune restoration projects under its Small Scale Beach Nourishment program. However, due to regulatory issues, applicants are currently limited to placing sand above the high water line. Proper restoration of a degraded beach system requires placement of sand across the entire beach profile, above and below the water line. A streamlined application program under DLNR will facilitate timely review of SSBR projects and ensure compliance with best management practices and guidelines developed through the PEA process and interagency consultation.

PROPOSED ACTION:

The DLNR wishes to implement a State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP) for Small Scale Beach Restoration (SSBR) projects through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, similar to an SPGP that expired in 2010. The SPGP will streamline the permitting process for both private and government applicants by consolidating permitting and environmental review oversight under DLNR. This will require agreement with other agencies with jurisdiction in the Hawai'i coastal zone, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Health, and the Coastal Zone Management Office.

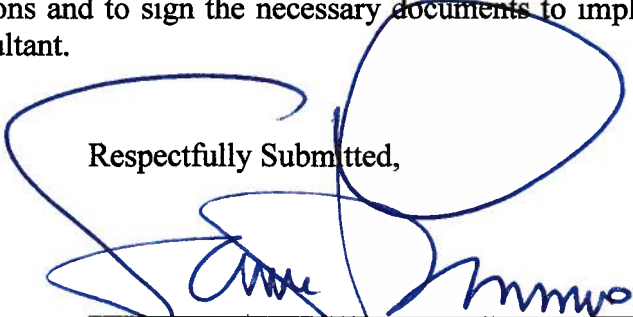
Through this project, the consultant and OCCL will evaluate the significance of potential environmental impacts that could result from SSBR projects statewide. The PEA is the first of a two-step approach to reestablish a beach restoration SPGP. The second step, which will include interagency consultation and development and establishment of the SPGP agreement, will be covered under a separate contract following completion and acceptance of the PEA.

OCCL would like to allocate approximately \$75,000 in special funds from the OCCL "Beach Fund" for the development of the PEA through a consultant.

RECOMMENDATION:


1. That the Board of Land and Natural Resources authorize the contracting of the work indicated and authorize the Chairperson to sign the necessary documents pertaining to the project, subject to the Governor's approval, and review and approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.
2. Recommend that the Board authorize the Chairperson, subject to review and approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General, to enter into supplemental contracts to address unforeseen conditions and to sign the necessary documents to implement the additional work with the consultant.

Respectfully Submitted,



SAMUEL J. LEMMO, Administrator
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR., Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources