

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 25, 2014

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RESTRICT THE USE OF OR PRESENCE OF DOGS WITHIN THE PUU ALII NATURAL AREA RESERVE (NAR) AND PORTIONS OF THE HANAWI NAR AND KAHAKULO'A SECTION OF THE WEST MAUI NAR PURSUANT TO HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES § 13-209-4.5 – CLOSURE OF AREA, FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FOR SAFETY PURPOSES, TMKS (2) 6-1-001-002, POR., (2) 1-2-004-005, POR., (2) 1-2-004-007, POR., (2) 3-1-006-001, POR., MOLOKAI AND MAUI

BACKGROUND:

The Hanawi, West Maui, and Puu Alii Natural Area Reserves each contain high quality, relatively undisturbed native forests that are important watersheds and habitat for endangered species. The Division is working to protect these unique ecosystems with comprehensive management actions, including invasive species control and monitoring.

In managing non-native hooved animals (ungulates) in these Reserves, the Division has followed the strategies outlined in Technical Report No. 07-01, Review of Methods and Approach for Control of Non-Native Ungulates in Hawaii. This report recommends a step-wise, adaptive approach using a variety of techniques to reduce ungulate impacts to natural resources. These include fencing to exclude animals from sensitive areas, and a progression from incorporating public hunting where feasible to eventual staff control as a means of reducing animal numbers. Ungulate management in each of these three NARs has followed this sequence, as fences have been built incrementally, with the public assisting as feasible to reduce animal numbers before staff removed the last animals from each successive management unit. As an example, on more than 40 occasions between 1994 and 2012, the NAR program used helicopters to take volunteer hunters and dogs into remote sections of the Puu Alii NAR. Several hundred game mammals were harvested as a result. Over time, as fences were improved, the cost-effectiveness of this program declined, and a transition was made to staff control using snares. After several additional years of effort, the Reserve is now nearly ungulate free and a dramatic recovery of natural vegetation is evident.

In each of these Reserves, staff control of ungulates began in the most remote portions of the Reserves and progressed towards areas potentially accessible by the public as the

effectiveness of public control declined. This allowed game harvest opportunities to continue for as long as possible. It is a testament to the success of this program that a significant percentage of each of these three Reserves is now ungulate free. However, staff control is now in progress in most areas of these Reserves and it has now become prudent to restrict the use of hunting dogs by the public to prevent accidental harm as a result of control methods used to remove the last ungulates from inside fenced areas.

ANALYSIS:

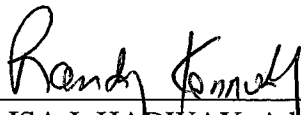
Dogs are a permitted hunting method in all three of these Reserves, pursuant Chapter 13-123, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The Puu Alii NAR is within the Molokai public hunting unit N6, and almost the entire NAR is enclosed by fences or strategic barriers of vertical cliffs. The Kahakuloa Section of the West Maui NAR is within the public hunting unit N2, and a majority of the NAR is enclosed by fences or strategic barriers of vertical cliffs. A recently completed fence has enclosed the majority of the Hanawi NAR in unit N1 as well. To prevent hazards posed by snaring and staff control to hunting dogs, this submittal requests that the Board restrict the use of or presence of dogs in the entire Puu Alii NAR, and the portions of the Hanawi and Kahakuloa Section of the West Maui NAR which are enclosed by fences or strategic barriers (see attached maps). Staff will place signs near entry points and along fences notifying the public of the dog restriction. Hunting *without* the use of dogs will continue to be an allowed use.

Closures or restrictions of up to two years are permitted pursuant to HAR §13-209-4.5. The Division's intention is to eventually remove these areas from the public hunting area as they will no longer have game mammals. The Natural Area Reserves System Commission recommended approval of this request for the Puu Alii NAR and Kahakuloa Section of the West Maui NAR during its March 10, 2014 meeting. After the meeting, the Division recognized that a similar situation exists in portions of the Hanawi NAR and is recommending adding that area to the dog restriction.


RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

- 1) Restrict the use of or presence of dogs in the Puu Alii NAR and portions of the Hanawi NAR and Kahakuloa Section of the West Maui NAR, pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-209-4.5 - Closure of Area, for a term of two years.

Respectfully Submitted,


for LISA J. HADWAY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

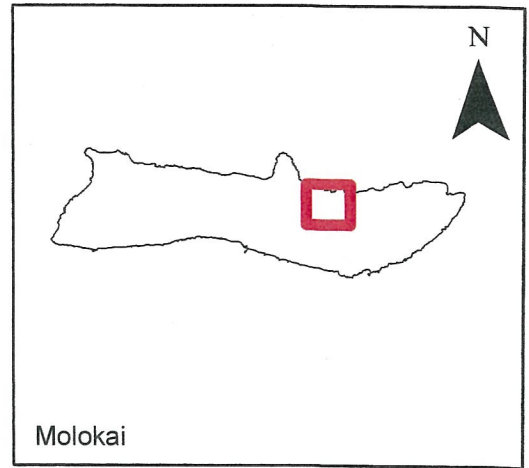

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR., Chairperson
Attachment



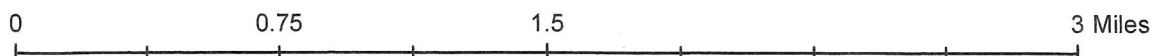
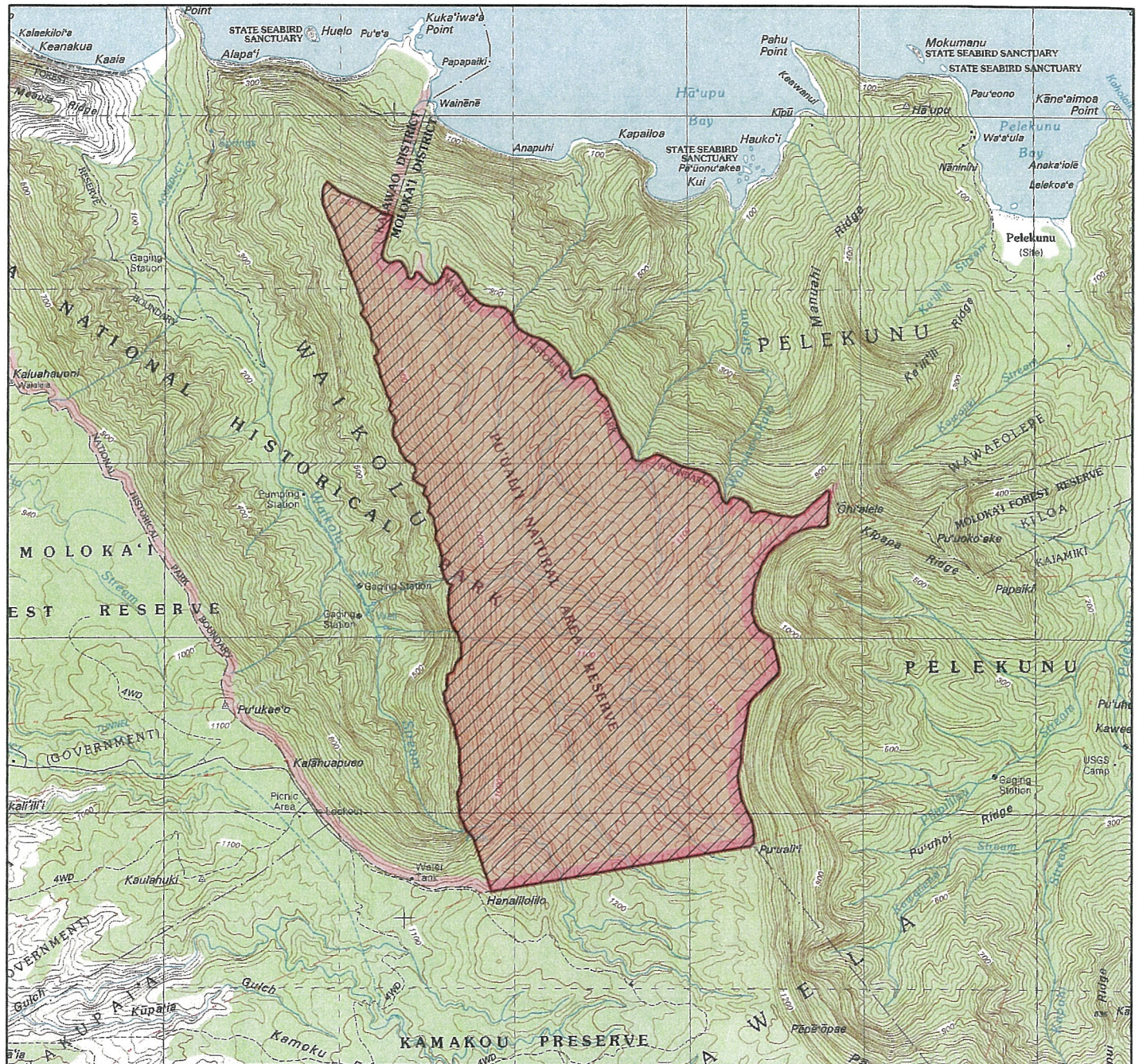
Puu Alii Natural Area Reserve

TMK: (2) 6-1-001-002, por.

-  Puu Alii Natural Area Reserve
-  Area Restricted to Dogs



Molokai

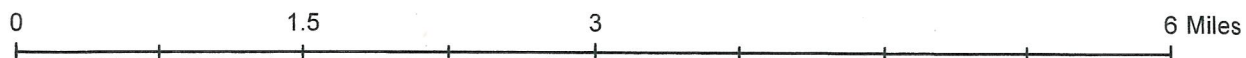
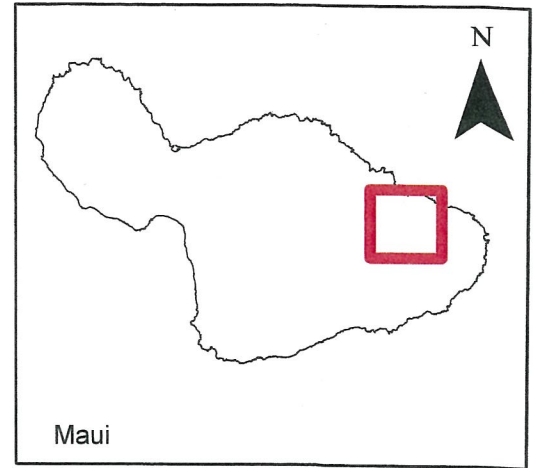




Hanawi Natural Area Reserve

TMKs: (2) 1-2-004-005, por. and (2) 1-2-004-007, por.

-  Area Restricted to Dogs
-  Hanawi Natural Area Reserve





Kahakuloa Sec. West Maui Natural Area Reserve

TMK: (2) 3-1-006-001, por.



Kahakuloa Sec. West Maui NAR



Area Restricted to Dogs

