

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

May 23, 2014

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

O'ahu

SUBJECT: Requesting Approval to Grant a Construction Right of Entry to the Puakea Foundation in Collaboration with Kama'aina Care, Inc., Under General Lease No. SP0067 for the Construction of a Canoe Repair and Interpretive Pavilion at He'eia State Park, Kāne'ohe, O'ahu, Tax Map Key Nos.: (1) 4-9-005:002, 004, 009

BACKGOURND INFORMATION

In May of 2010, The Department of Land and Naturel Resources (DLNR) and Kama'aina Care, Inc. (Kama'aina Kids - KK) entered into General Lease SP0067 (Lease) approved by the Board in 2007 and 2009, pursuant to RFP-001-08-DSP (RFP) for the management, maintenance and the deployment of interpretive programs at He'eia State Park. This relationship represents both an enhanced park experience through the various interpretive programs and activities now available to the public through KK management tenure and a significant cost savings for the Division of State Parks (DSP) through outsourcing the management and the utility cost of this park. This also has enabled the redeployment of limited DSP maintenance crews to other Oahu State Parks and the rent submitted by KK provides an increase in revenue for DSP operations.

The Lease, in Section 51 under "Current users" also specified that two other pre-existing uses were to remain onsite. These uses include "the unrecorded Kokua Partnership Agreement between the State and Kaneohe Canoe Club and the Special Use Permit – canoe building program issued to the Puakea Foundation (PF) – including any re-execution and reissuance of these particular documents" and confirms that the Lease is conditioned to include these pre-existing uses for its term. The He'eia State Park Master Plan includes the vision and theme of interpretation of the relationship of "man and the sea". Having both an active canoe club and a canoe building and restoration program offers vibrant and complimentary activities exemplifies this relationship of Hawaiian culture to the sea. Robert "Uncle Bobby" Puakea is considered one of Hawaii's master koa canoe builders and is sought after by canoe clubs throughout Hawaii for repairs and improvement to our valuable koa canoes.

ITEM E-2

The Lease mandates, in Section 38, that KK shall submit requests in writing to the Chairperson for approval of improvements that were included in the proposal in response to the RFP. However, Section 52 of the Lease also indicates that any additional proposed infrastructure improvements that may be planned and implemented during the times of the Lease shall be reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Proposed Park Pavilion for the Puakea Learning Center

The PF, during the past few years has been fundraising to design and construct Uncle Bobby's and the PF's vision for the "Puakea Learning Center", which would be an open-air, approximately 1,800 sf covered pavilion to replace the large capacity grey tent where the koa canoes are temporarily stored and worked on and are exposed to the elements. This tent is near the entrance to the park and visitors frequently stop and meet with Uncle Bobby while he is working on canoes and then explains the methods, tools and techniques used to restore Hawaiian koa canoes. In addition, Uncle Bobby instructs students who visit in order to perpetuate, teach and train the next generation of kalai wa'a.

The PF, during its fundraising campaign has been communication with the community and Oahu canoe clubs to generate support to replace the current large capacity tent with this covered pavilion. The design and plans for this structure are completed and have been submitted to the City and County, Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP). DPP has required a Shoreline Management Assessment Report which has been completed.

In addition to the current Special Use Permit (O14181) for conducting the programs, PF will also require a temporary construction Right of Entry once the funding is in place and they initiate the project.

Chapter 343 – Environmental Assessment

See attached Exemption Notification.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Declare that this action will probably have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment; and,

2. Authorize the Chairperson to issue a construction Right of Entry to the Puakea Foundation to be negotiated by the Chairperson and further subject to the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interest of the state and the natural and cultural resource of the subject area.

Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL S. QUINN

Division of State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

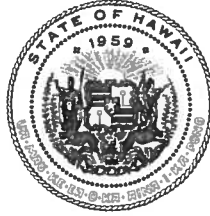


WILLIAM J. AHLA, JR.

Chairperson

Board of Land & Natural Resources

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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EXEMPTION NOTIFICATION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200, HAR.

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Project / Reference No.: N/A

Project Location: He'eia State Park, Kāne'ohe, O'ahu


Project Description: Right of Entry to Construct Pavilion

Chap. 343 Trigger(s): Use of State Land

Exemption Class No.: In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rule Section 11-200-8(a)(1), the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 3, Item 3 which exempts, "Construction of park pavilion and picnic shelters containing areas of less than 2,000 square feet [February 5, 1976]."

Consulted Parties: None.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board find that this action will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is presumed to be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.


William J. Aila Jr., Chairperson