

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

September 12, 2014

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND AMEND CONTRACT(S), FOR THE MAKAHA VALLEY WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT, TMKS 8-4:002:001 AND 8-4:002:014, MAKAHA, OAHU

AND

REQUEST APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION TO CHAPTER 343, HRS, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTIONS OF THE PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

The Makaha valley watershed restoration project is meant to protect the native forest in Makaha, a critical component to providing a self sustaining resource of drinking water for that region. Installing a protective fence line through the valley will protect native plant and wildlife species from feral pigs and invasive weeds. This project also will restore loi in Makaha stream.

A Grant-In-Aid appropriation for \$500,000 to Hawaii Maoli, a non-profit, for the Makaha valley watershed restoration project was appropriated by Act 134, SLH 2014, Section 39 as amended. Funds are pending release by the Governor.

ANALYSIS:

In order to provide funds to Hawaii Maoli for the project, the Department needs to finalize a contract.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200-8(6), HAR, the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources as reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on June 12, 2008, and July 18, 2011, the fence construction, maintenance, and native forest restoration section of the project is exempt from the preparation

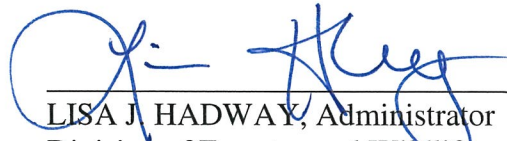
of an environmental assessment pursuant to the exemption classes listed in Attachment 1. The loi restoration portion of the project will require an environmental assessment.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:


- 1) Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed project as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, the fence construction, maintenance, and native forest restoration section of the project will likely have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment;
- 2) Delegates authority to the Chairperson to: sign, execute, and amend contract(s) to Hawaii Maoli, for the Makaha valley restoration project, subject to release of funds by the Governor, the availability of funds and approval by the Department of the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



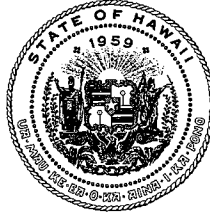
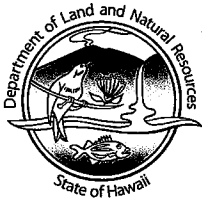
LISA J. HADWAY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of Chapter 343, HRS
and Chapter 11-200, HAR

Project Title: Makaha Valley Watershed Restoration Project

Project Description: Makaha valley is located in the Waianae District of Oahu (TMKs 8-4:002:001, 8-4:002:014). This project includes fence construction and native forest restoration and is anticipated to benefit the natural resources of the area. Makaha valley includes the Protective, General, and Resource subzones of the Conservation District.

Exemption Class: DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Class 1

Exempt Item Number: 8

Exempt Item Description: Weed, brush and noxious tree control using hand tools, small motorized equipment (chainsaws and weed eaters), and approved herbicides on DOFAW program areas, campsites, picnic grounds, viewpoints, baseyards, wildlife water units, trails, captive propagation facilities, arboreta, plant nurseries, checking stations, and public use facilities.

Exemption Class: DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Class 1

Exempt Item Number: 17

Exempt Item Description: Animal damage control actions, when needed to maintain resource values, in Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) program areas, including application of approved rodenticides, and ungulate removal.

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources Class 3

Exempt Item Number: 1

Exempt Item Description: Fences around or to manage threatened or endangered plants; covered and open areas for endangered species, game birds and mammals; auxiliary buildings for food storage, equipment storage, incubators and brooders; open-top breeding and release pens, field aviaries and hacking boxes; and for watershed and native forest management and restoration. Fences shall contain step-overs or other features that permit pedestrian access for cultural and recreational use.

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources Class 4

Exempt Item Number: 1

Exempt Item Description: Establishment of helispots.

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources Class 4

Exempt Item Number: 7

Exempt Item Description: Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs and grasses for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, and wildlife habitat.

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources Class 5

Exempt Item Number: 2

Exempt Item Description: Game and non-game wildlife surveys, inventory studies, new transect lines, photographing, recording, sampling, collection and captive propagation (involves walking, driving, and flying in the field (helicopters, light aircraft), use of nets and firearms, temporary traps including snares, mist nets, corral traps, drop door traps or leg hold traps.

Date of Agency Exemption List: July 18, 2011, June 12, 2008

I have considered the potential effects of the above listed project as provided by Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200 HAR. I declare that this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.

William J. Aila, Jr., Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Date

Original: Agency file
Copy: Project file