

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

March 27, 2015

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

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE
NA PUA MAKANI WIND ENERGY PROJECT DRAFT HABITAT
CONSERVATION PLAN**

AND

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION FROM
CHAPTER 343, HRS, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS ACTION**

SUMMARY:

Na Pua Makani Power Partners LLC (Na Pua Makani) proposes to construct and operate a wind farm (Project) with a net generating capacity of up to 25 megawatts, on the island of O'ahu. In addition of up to 10 wind turbine generators, the proposed Project would include an electrical collection system, an operations and maintenance facility, an approximately 0.9-mile (1.5-km) transmission line, a permanent meteorological tower, and approximately 5.2 miles (8.4 km) of permanent roads.

BACKGROUND:

Na Pua Makani proposes to construct and operate the Project with a nameplate generating capacity of up to approximately 25 megawatts (MW) on O'ahu, Hawai'i. The proposed Project would be located on state land leased from the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and from the Malaekahana Hui West, LLC. The Project is proposed to begin construction in 2015 and begin commercial operation by December 2015.

The anticipated life of the Project is 21 years. Prior to the expiration of the 21-year period, Na Pua Makani will evaluate whether to continue operation of the Project or to

decommission it. Should the period of Project operation be extended, the facility may also be upgraded and repowered with appropriate lease, permit, and approval extensions obtained.

Na Pua Makani has prepared a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) – in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife staff – for authorization and issuance of an incidental take license for incidental take of endangered species associated with wind farm operations. The draft HCP was published in the March 8, 2015 Office of Environmental Quality and Control’s Environmental Notice and is currently available for public review and comments for a sixty day period. The purpose of the draft HCP is to mitigate for potential injury and death to the threatened and endangered ‘a’o or Newell’s shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), koloa maoli or Hawaiian duck (*Anas wyvilliana*), ae’o or Hawaiian stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), ‘alae ke’oke’o or Hawaiian coot (*Fulica alai*), ‘alae ‘ula or Hawaiian moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*), pueo or Hawaiian short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*), nēnē or Hawaiian goose (*Branta sandvicensis*), and the ōpe‘ape‘a or Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) due to construction and operation of the Project. The HCP outlines provisions for net benefit to the covered species and environment, and contributes to the recovery of each of these species.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to HRS §195D-4, a public hearing on the affected island in conjunction with a 60-day public comment period is required prior to BLNR review and approval of the draft HCP.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) § 11-200-8 (A) (10) Continuing administrative activities including, but not limited to purchase of supplies and personnel-related actions, this subject action is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

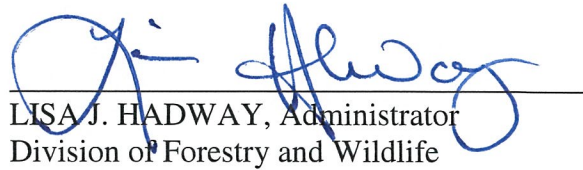
RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

- 1) Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed action as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, this action will have no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
- 2) Grant permission to conduct a public hearing on the island of O‘ahu for the Na Pua Makani Wind Energy Project Draft Habitat Conservation Plan;

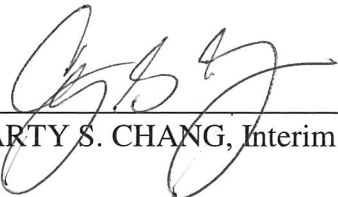
- 3) Authorize the Chairperson to set the dates and times for the public hearing and;
- 4) Authorize the Chairperson to appoint a hearing master for the public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,



LISA J. HADWAY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



CARTY S. CHANG, Interim Chairperson