

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

October 9, 2015

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

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE KOKEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM, GARDEN ISLE RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT, INC., AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL AND MONITORING ON STATE LANDS ON KAUAI, TAX MAP KEYS: (4) 4-2:01:02, (4) 3-9:01:01, (4) 1-4:01:03, (4) 1-4:01:13, (4) 5-9:01:01, (4) 5-9:01:02, (4) 5-9:01:16, (4) 1-4:01:14, (4) 1-4:01:20, (4) 1-2:01:06

BACKGROUND

The Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP) is a volunteer-based invasive species control program sponsored by the Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. (GIRC&D) in collaboration with the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) State Parks Division and Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Since 1998, KRCP has involved over 27,000 volunteers, and has removed weeds across 10,000 acres across northeastern Kauai. Their work benefits watersheds and endangered species.

Previously, KRCP and GIRC&D have executed Memorandum Of Understandings (MOUs) with the Division of State Parks for shorter terms. This proposed MOU would supersede the previous MOUs, lengthen the duration, and include Division of Forestry and Wildlife lands.

This MOU will provide KRCP and GIRC&D access to federal funds to continue this work to assist the DLNR's management of these high priority areas. The 20-year term length reflects the time needed to accomplish deliverables and demonstrate longevity of this project for federal funding purposes. Exhibit 1 contains a draft of the MOU.

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200-8(6), Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources as reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on July 13, 2011 and

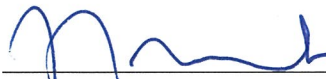
June 5, 2015, the subject project is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to the exemption classes listed in Exhibit 2.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board

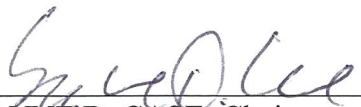
1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed project as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, this project will likely have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Kokee Resource Conservation Program, Garden Isle Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct invasive species removal and monitoring on State lands on Kauai, Tax Map Keys: (4) 4-2:01:02, (4) 3-9:01:01, (4) 1-4:01:03, (4) 1-4:01:13, (4) 5-9:01:01, (4) 5-9:01:02, (4) 5-9:01:16, (4) 1-4:01:14, (4) 1-4:01:20, (4) 1-2:01:06, subject to approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.
3. Authorize the Chairperson to negotiate, approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kokee Resource Conservation Program, Garden Isle Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct invasive species removal and monitoring on State lands on Kauai, Tax Map Keys: (4) 4-2:01:02, (4) 3-9:01:01, (4) 1-4:01:03, (4) 1-4:01:13, (4) 5-9:01:01, (4) 5-9:01:02, (4) 5-9:01:16, (4) 1-4:01:14, (4) 1-4:01:20, (4) 1-2:01:06, subject to approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.

Respectfully Submitted,



SCOTT FRETZ, Acting Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachment

Exhibit 1

Memorandum of Understanding for the Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program  
in the Kōke'e State Park, Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park, and Waimea Canyon State Parks and the Hono O  
Na Pali and Kuia Natural Area Reserves and the Na Pali-Kona and Lihue-Koloa Forest Reserves

This agreement effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, is between the following parties: Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., (GIRC&D, Inc.); Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR); and Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP). It makes possible the Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP), a volunteer-based program to assist DLNR in invasive weed control and other natural resource management projects in the Kōke'e State Park, Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park, and Waimea Canyon State Parks and the Hono O Na Pali and Kuia Natural Area Reserves and the Na Pali-Kona and Lihue-Koloa Forest Reserves.

Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development:

- Receives and deposits grant funds, keeping program-specific funds in a separate account designated "GIRC&D~KRCP"
- Pays salary, insurance, project oversight and other project expenses from grant funds received (salary to be paid through Pro Service Hawaii).
- Maintain master files of all grant documents
- With the exception of submission of grant applications, GIRC&D shall have no responsibilities hereunder unless and until said grant is awarded inclusive of all budgeted items set forth above.

Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program:

Conducts non-native invasive species removal and monitoring with interns and volunteers. Interns and volunteers are given orientation and training in plant identification, orienteering and transecting, and weed treating methods. Data is recorded including number and species of weeds treated, volunteer and staff hours, and the acreage is mapped.

Department of Land and Natural Resources:

Allows GIRC&D and Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program to remove and monitor non-native invasive species within the Kōke'e State Park, Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park, and Waimea Canyon State Parks and the Hono O Na Pali and Kuia Natural Area Reserves and the Na Pali-Kona and Lihue-Koloa Forest Reserves as delineated by attached map.

The length of the agreement shall be for twenty years.

All parties to this agreement reserve the right to withdraw from the agreement. Withdrawal from this agreement shall be in writing with two weeks advance notice. This agreement can also be superceded by subsequent more formal agreement. GIRC&D reserves the right to suspend this program and return unexpended grant funds in the case that any of the other parties withdraw.

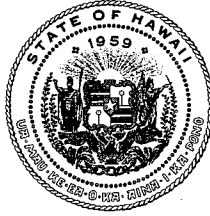
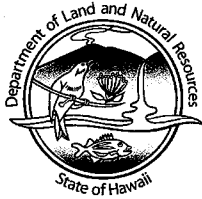
The general and specific conditions outlined in this letter of agreement are agreed to by:

GARDEN ISLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Gilbert P. Kea, Vice President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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:** Kokee Resource Conservation Program

**Project Description:** This project will occur in northwestern Kauai including portions of Tax Map Keys: (4) 4-2:01:02, (4) 3-9:01:01, (4) 1-4:01:03, (4) 1-4:01:13, (4) 5-9:01:01, (4) 5-9:01:02, (4) 5-9:01:16, (4) 1-4:01:14, (4) 1-4:01:20, (4) 1-2:01:06. This project includes removal and monitoring of invasive species.

**Exemption Class 4: Minor alteration in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.**

**Exempt Item Description:** 8. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents approved by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods.

**Date of Agency Exemption List:** June 5, 2015

*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.*

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Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

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Date