

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

February 12, 2016

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  
NĀPU'U CONSERVATION PROJECT: DRAFT HABITAT  
CONSERVATION PLAN FOR GAME MANAGEMENT AT PU'U  
WA'AWA'A AND PU'U ANAHULU**

**SUMMARY:**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) has been developing a Habitat Conservation Plan for management activities focused on maintenance of non-native game mammal populations for hunting in the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve and the Pu'u Anahulu Game Management Area, in North Kona, on the island of Hawai'i. The development of this HCP will provide for the incidental take of fifteen threatened and endangered plants and one endangered insect.

**BACKGROUND:**

DOFAW manages lands in the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve and the Pu'u Anahulu Game Management Area, in North Kona, on the island of Hawai'i. Current land management in the Pu'u Anahulu Game Management Area is primarily for maintenance of non-native game mammal populations for hunting, in addition to conservation of native habitat. Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve is a multi-use area where management includes game population maintenance for hunting, natural resource conservation and restoration, and other activities such as cattle grazing and trail use. The Habitat Conservation Plan is intended to consider and mitigate for the potential impacts from game mammal management activities on endangered species within the Pu'u Wa'awa'a and Pu'u Anahulu areas.

The anticipated life of the Project is 25 years. Prior to the expiration of the 25-year period, DOFAW will evaluate whether to pursue an extension of the incidental take license.

DOFAW has prepared a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) – in consultation with staff and local experts, – for authorization and issuance of an incidental take license for incidental take of endangered species associated with game management activities. The draft HCP was published in the November 8, 2015 Office of Environmental Quality and Control’s Environmental Notice and is currently available for public review and comments for a one hundred and twenty day period. The purpose of the draft HCP is to mitigate for potential impacts to the threatened and endangered species found in the project area. It is anticipated that game management activities have the potential to result in the incidental take of one animal species, Blackburn’s sphinx moth (*Manduca blackburni*), and 15 state and federally listed plant species: *Asplenium peruvianum* var. *insulare*, Hala pepe (*Chrysodracon hawaiiensis*), Kauila (*Colubrina oppositifolia*), Honohono (*Haplostachys haplostachya*), Ma’o hau hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei* ssp. *brackenridgei*), Koki’o (*Kokia drynarioides*), *Neraudia ovata*, ‘Aiea (*Nothocestrum breviflorum*), Uhiuhi (*Mezoneuron kavaiense*) Po’e (*Portulaca sclerocarpa*), Hawaiian Catchfly (*Silene lanceolata*), Pōpolo kū mai (*Solanum incompletum*), Creeping Mint (*Stenogyne angustifolia*), A’e (*Zanthoxylum dipetalum* var. *tomentosum*), and A’e (*Zanthoxylum hawaiiense*). Potential negative impacts on these listed plant species are primarily in the form of take from grazing, browsing, and trampling associated with the management of game mammals and cattle in the project area. Potential impacts to Blackburn’s sphinx moth larvae and eggs are from the clearing and maintenance of fuel breaks and four-wheel drive access roads. No other listed, proposed, or candidate plant or animal species are anticipated to be taken by project activities. 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 comment period of no less than 60 days is required prior to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) review and approval of the draft HCP.

#### CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This action before the Board requests approval to conduct a public hearing and does not constitute a use of State lands or funds, and therefore, this action is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 343, HRS, relating to environmental impact statements.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Grant permission to conduct public hearings on the island of Hawai’i for the Nāpu’u Conservation Project: Draft Habitat Conservation Plan for Game Management at Pu’u Wa’awa’a and Pu’u Anahulu
2. Authorize the Chairperson to set the dates and times for the public hearing and;

3. Authorize the Chairperson to appoint a hearing master for the public hearing.

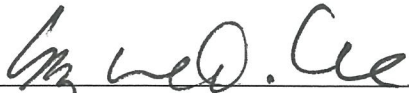
Respectfully Submitted,



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Sheri Mann, Acting Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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Suzanne Case, Chairperson