

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Honolulu, Hawaii

May 27, 2016

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Request Board Approval to Enter Into Contracts for Furnishing Helicopter Transportation Services for the State of Hawaii between the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources and Resources Enforcement, Windward Aviation, Incorporated and Manulwa Airways, Incorporated.

This submittal requests Board approval to enter into formal Contracts for Goods and Services with the above named vendors. The Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) utilizes helicopter transportation services to assist with the detection, observation, extraction, and eradication of marijuana and also to assist with criminal surveillance, apprehension, and search and rescue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program (DCE/SP) is a federal law enforcement initiative administered by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). DOCARE has been actively participating in the DCE/SP since the late 1980's. A key component of DOCARE's eradication efforts are the use of airborne assets such as helicopters. Helicopters are used to provide aerial reconnaissance and observation of illegal outdoor cultivation sites. Additionally, helicopters provide for transport of personnel and evidence, and are the primary platforms for the insertion of personnel using rappelling techniques to eradicate cultivation sites in austere locations where landing is not possible. Helicopters are also the primary platform for the spraying of herbicide into large cultivation sites, where the large volume of plants makes manual eradication impractical. Lastly, helicopters provide a necessary safety component to eradication missions with the ability to provide for helicopter medical evacuation of any injured personnel.

In 2016, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration will provide funding in the amount of \$170,690.00 to DOCARE to support the Department's marijuana eradication and suppression efforts. DOCARE intends to use the majority of this funding toward contracted helicopter services, thus having contracts with helicopter service providers is essential for success.

While DOCARE relies heavily on contracted helicopter services during marijuana eradication missions, DOCARE also uses helicopter services for other law enforcement activities. Law Enforcement activities in Kauai's Na Pali Coast rely on the use of contracted helicopter services. Helicopters are used to ferry personnel, supplies and equipment into Kalalau Valley on a regular basis. Helicopters have also been used to transport arrested persons and evidence during law enforcement sweeps of the Na Pali Coast.

In April 2016, DOCARE issued an Invitation for Bids via the Hawaii State e-Procurement System (HiePRO). The lowest, responsive bidders were identified as Windward Aviation, Incorporated and Manulwa Airways, Incorporated.

As the Department of Land and Natural Resources does not own a government-owned helicopter for DOCARE use, the use of contracted helicopter services is an essential part of managing and providing law enforcement services on lands that the Department owns and manages.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement recommends approval:

DOCARE recommends approval:

1. To authorize the Chairperson to enter and sign the Contracts for Goods and Services provided that the Attorney General's Office first approve the content of the Contracts for Goods and Services or make substantive changes to the Contracts for Goods and Services in order to meet all State requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Friel
Enforcement Chief

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Board of Land & Natural Resources

ITEM B-1