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

May 27, 2016  

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

Land Board Members:  

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AMEND, AND EXTEND AGREEMENT(S), CONTRACT(S), AND OTHER DOCUMENT(S) FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT-IN-AID TO THE 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER, LOCATED IN NORTH KOHALA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII, TAX MAP KEYS: 5-3-007:015  

AND  

REQUEST APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION TO CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  

BACKGROUND:  

During the Regular Session of 2015, the Twenty-eighth Legislature authorized funds to the Hawaii Wildlife Center, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, for a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) grant-in-aid (GIA) located in North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: 5-3-007:015. $100,000 was appropriated by Act 119, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, for the fabrication and installation of educational and interpretive displays within the existing Courtyard of the Hawaii Wildlife Center. This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).  

Hawaii Wildlife Center was established in 2006 and serves as a statewide native wildlife response organization that protects, conserves, and aids in the recovery of Hawaii's native wildlife through hands-on treatment, research, training, science education, and cultural programs. The CIP GIA is for $100,000, designated for fabrication and installation costs of interpretive exhibits that will contribute towards the $2,000,000 Ho’opulama combined campaign ("Ho’opulama Project"). The Ho’opulama Project (description attached) will provide: 1) Critical science-based learning opportunities to students and will give the Hawaii Wildlife Center
additional resources to bring to teachers and principals interested in increasing engagement and proficiency in the sciences; 2) An experience that can be found nowhere else in the State – the Hawaii Wildlife Center is Hawaii's only wildlife response and conservation center that has created an educational way to connect visitors to wildlife patients through webcams and technology even though the animal themselves are not currently on display; and 3) A system for effective wildlife response assistance, as well as a place for volunteerism, conservation education, and training programs.

REMARKS:

This project qualifies as a grant pursuant to Chapter 42F, HRS. As the expending agency, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife must develop the contractual documents and specifications necessary to implement the CIP GIA, including deliverable items, payment dates, and adherence to all applicable laws.

CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, and Section 11-200-8, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources as approved by the Environmental Council on June 5, 2015, the subject project is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to the exemption classes listed in Attachment 1. The Hawaii County Planning Department was consulted and concurred with the exemption (see attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

1) Delegates authority to the Chairperson to sign, execute, amend, and extend agreement(s), contract(s), and other document(s) for this CIP GIA to the Hawaii Wildlife Center subject to the release of funds, availability of funds, and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and

2) Declares, 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.
Respectfully Submitted,

DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION
from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and Chapter 11-200, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR)

Project Title: Capital Improvement Project Grant-in-aid to the Hawaii Wildlife Center for the Hoopulama Combined Campaign

Project Description: During the Regular Session of 2015, the Twenty-eighth Legislature authorized funds to the Hawaii Wildlife Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, for a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) grant-in-aid (GIA) located in North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: 5-3-007:015. $100,000 appropriated by Act 119, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, for the fabrication and installation of exhibits at the Hawaii Wildlife Center (HWC) while staff continues to develop long-term revenue sources for financial sustainability. This project qualifies as a grant, pursuant to Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Hawaii Wildlife Center was established in 2006 and serves as a statewide native wildlife response organization that protects, conserves, and aids in the recovery of Hawaii's native wildlife through hands-on treatment, research, training, science education, and cultural programs. The CIP GIA is for $100,000, designated for the fabrication and installation costs of interpretive exhibits within the pre-existing HWC courtyard that will contribute towards a $2,000,000 Hoopulama combined campaign ("Ho’opulama Project"). The Ho’opulama Project will provide: 1) Critical science-based learning opportunities to students and will give the Hawaii Wildlife Center additional resources to bring to teachers and principals interested in increasing engagement and proficiency in the sciences; 2) An experience that can be found nowhere else in the State – the Hawaii Wildlife Center is Hawaii’s only wildlife response and conservation center that has created an educational way to connect visitors to wildlife patients through webcams and technology even though the animal themselves are not on display; and 3) A system for effective wildlife response assistance, as well as a place for volunteerism, conservation education, and training programs.

Consulted Parties: A copy of the board submittal, including this attachment, in draft form was transmitted to County of Hawaii Planning Department for review and comment and returned with no objection (attachment 2).

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Class 6: Construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.
Exempt Item Number: 1
Exempt Item Description: Construction, placement or installation of signage, pavement markings, buoys, or other similar structures.

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Class 7: Interior alterations involving things such as partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances.

Exempt Item Number: 1
Exempt Item Description: Interior alterations and renovations to offices, buildings or structures that do not increase the floor area or change the maximum occupancy to include:
   a. installation of office partitions, utility outlets or connections, air conditioning, lighting, and security systems;
   b. renovations required to bring existing structures into compliance with current building codes and applicable health, safety, and access regulations;
   c. renovations that will result in energy or other operational/cost savings; or
   d. other similar interior alterations.

Exemption Class: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Class 10: Continuing administrative activities including, but not limited to, purchase of supplies and personnel-related actions.

Exempt Item Number: 1
Exempt Item Description: Purchase of supplies, equipment, materials, motor vehicles, boats, and services.

Exempt Item Number: 5
Exempt Item Description: Training, environmental interpretation, public safety efforts and other educational activities.

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.

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

______________________________
Date

Original: Agency file
Copy: Project file
MEMORANDUM

TO: County of Hawaii Planning Department

FROM: David Smith, Administrator

SUBJECT: Declaration of Exemption for Grant In Aid grant to the Hawaii Wildlife Center

LOCATION: Kapa‘au, North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: 5-3-007:015

The Office of Environmental Quality Control requires that agencies and divisions exempting projects under their respective lists of exemptions from Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), require consultation with agencies and individuals having expertise before declaring a project exempt.

Attached for your review is a copy of the Draft Declaration of Exemption for a grant $100,000 funds to the Hawaii Wildlife Center (HWC) for the fabrication and installation of educational and interpretive displays within the existing Courtyard of the Hawaii Wildlife Center in Kapa‘au on the Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: 5-3-007:015, Island of Hawaii. Please submit comments by May 11, 2016. If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. For additional information, please call Jim Cogswell, Wildlife Program Manager 587-4187.

X We have no objections.
☐ We have no comments.
☐ Comments are attached.

Signed: [Signature]
Date: 5-5-2016
MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: David Smith, Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Authorization for the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to Sign, Execute, Amend, and Extend Agreement(s), Contract(s), and Other Document(s) for the Capital Improvement Project Grant-in-aids to the Hawaii Wildlife Center & Request Approval of Declaration of Exemption to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes

LOCATION: Kapa’au, North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: 5-3-007:015

Transmitted for your review and comment the attached Board submittal and project summary of the above referenced capital improvement project grant-in-aids of $100,000 to the Hawaii Wildlife Center (HWC) for the fabrication and installation of educational and interpretive displays within the existing Courtyard of the HWC in Kapa’au on the Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: 5-3-007:015.

We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by April 12, 2016. If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Jim Cogswell at 587-4187. Thank you.

☐ We have no objections.
☐ We have no comments.
☐ Comments are attached.

Signed: _____________________________
Date: ______________________________
January 13, 2016

Mr. Galen K. Kawakami
Acting Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Re: Grant-In-Aid to Hawaii Wildlife Center

Dear Mr. Kawakami:

On September 3, 2015 you sent a Request For Review of Hawaii Wildlife Center’s application for a grant-in-aid. The application and attachments were reviewed to determine if there was compliance with the requirements under HRS Chapter 42F. Upon request, confirmation that Linda Elliott’s salary is not for board participation was sent.

This will verify that the application for grant-in-aid complies with HRS Chapter 42F.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Amanda J. Weston
Deputy Attorney General

Ajw
HO'OPŪLAMA PROJECT PLAN  
For STATE OF HAWAI'I GRANT-IN-AID

Overview

The GIA award is part of a $2,000,000 combined campaign to build the Ho'opūlama Science and Discovery Center at the Hawai'i Wildlife Center and create a three-year startup capital reserve to support the exhibits. Specifically, the $100,000 GIA award has been planned to be used to cover fabrication and installation costs of exhibits outlined in the Ho'opūlama Master Plan.

Plan and Deliverables

The Master Plan as well as all exhibit graphics are completed. Exhibits will be produced and installed on experience at a time, as funding is made available. This approach will allow the benefits of Ho'opūlama to begin more quickly, as opposed to waiting until the entire campaign cost is raised before moving ahead with implementation. Looking at the proposals recieved from contractors for the execution of the Ho'opūlama exhibits, with the $100,000 GIA HWC will be able to implement the development and production of the HWC Story graphic panels and associated activities as well as the patient exploration activity cart outlined in the master plan. More exhibits may be completed as well if GIA funds remain after the costs of these two exhibits are paid, and as fundraising continues throughout the year.

The complete Ho'opūlama plan is included with this letter for more information about all planned exhibits. The exhibits that will be funded by this grant will include:

HWC STORY WALL

As visitors enter the Courtyard, the three main panels on the wall to the left are dedicated to helping them understand the mission of the HWC, the Center’s wildlife services and programs and the work that goes on in the wildlife hospital. This is the primary location for describing the process by which the HWC rescues, treats and releases sick and injured native birds and bats.
HWC Story Wall Components:

- **Panel 1: Who’s in House:** One of the first questions many visitors ask is how many patients are currently in-house at the time of their visit. The first graphic panel will feature patient charts on clipboards so visitors can see the wildlife HWC has in care. In addition, the map of the Hawaiian Island chain can be used to mark the origins of current and previous patients, demonstrating the statewide impact of the Center.

- **Panel 2: Patient Videos:** A centerpiece for the Ho’opūlama display is an interactive video that lets visitors watch conservation in action. This is where the visitor is given the opportunity to connect with the wildlife patients that are currently at, or have been at, the Center.
  - The system is menu-driven using a touchscreen. Content includes
    - Patient videos
    - Live camera feeds to current patients in the facility
    - Virtual tour of the wildlife hospital
    - Wildlife services and conservation programs
    - Collaborations and partners
  - System also provides an opportunity to share other conservation programs being conducted throughout the state through video, photos and storytelling.

- **Panel 3: Patient Diets:** The primary goal of this exhibit is to get visitors to think about the varying dietary requirements of patients at the Center and the expertise that goes into caring for wildlife patients. The display includes a set of stainless steel food dishes with a photo of one of the animals that the Center cares for. Visitors lift the lid to see what’s in the bowl while the back of the lid describes the animal’s diet.

**PATIENT EXPLORATION CART**

This rolling cart houses a variety of interactive experiences that help visitors understand the Center’s sophisticated medical testing and intake procedures. The primary activity is a role-play experience where visitors use a touchscreen computer to evaluate a patient and determine a course of treatment.
Patient Exploration Cart Components:

- **Macro Lab**: This drawer gives the visitor an opportunity to explore feathers and bone structure. The visitor will also be able to view real wildlife x-rays on the computer screen.
  - Displays in the drawer include:
    - Normal and oiled/contaminated feathers side-by-side for comparison
    - Bird bone cross-section(s)
    - A magnifying glass is attached to allow closer observation.

- **Micro Lab**: This activity allows visitors to get up close to samples taken from actual wildlife patients, including parasites and blood. This drawer features a digital microscope that is connected to the computer screen. Visitors can hold the microscope up to the slides in the drawer to see it magnified on the screen.

**Exhibit Location**

The exhibits for the science and discovery center will be installed at the current HWC facility. The HWC Story Wall and Patient Exploration Cart will be installed in the HWC courtyard. All exhibit areas – courtyard, garden and lawn – where exhibits will be installed already exist as parts of the current Hawaii Wildlife Center facility. The science and discovery center project is not construction of a new building or development of a new site.

For more information on this project, please contact

Rae Okawa  
Development Coordinator  
Hawai‘i Wildlife Center  
(808) 884-5000  
rae@hawaiiwildlifecenter.org

*Mahalo nui!*
Hoʻopūlama Master Plan
Detailing the Public Exhibits at the Hawaiʻi Wildlife Center Wildlife Hospital
Kapaʻau, HI

Early concept rendering
Project Sponsors

This report was made possible by the generous support of

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Jason Umemoto, Umemoto Cassandro Design Corp.
  Young Brothers, Ltd.
Project Leaders

Gyroscope, Inc.
Charles Howarth
Tasha Leverette

Hawai‘i Wildlife Center
Linda Elliott, President and Center Director
Rae Okawa, Development Coordinator
Hoʻopūlama Zones

ZONE 1
APPROACH & ENTRY
1.0.0
2760sf

ZONE 2
COURTYARD
2.0.0
400sf

ZONE 3
EDUCATION PAVILION
3.0.0
600sf

ZONE 4
NATIVE HABITAT GARDEN
4.0.0
2080sf

ZONE 5
WEST LAWN
5.0.0
2035sf

ZONE 6
NEKE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT
6.0.0
940sf

MAIN BUILDING
WEST LAWN
COURTYARD
EDUCATION PAVILION
NATIVE HABITAT GARDEN
RETAIL
MAIN BUILDING
The Nēnē is Hawai‘i’s state bird. Nēnē were once close to extinction, with only 30 birds left in the wild. Captive breeding saved the species, but Nēnē remain one of the rarest species of goose in the world. They live in the wild only on Maui nui, Kaua‘i, and Hawai‘i Island. Nēnē mate for life and are almost always seen in groups.

As visitors arrive at the HWC they are greeted by a pair of Nene, Hawai‘i’s state bird. Cast in bronze, the two birds are a symbol of a native species recovery success story and a perfect welcome and representation of the mission of the Center.
Aloha and welcome to the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center, a unique nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the preservation of Hawai‘i’s wild treasures. The Hawai‘i Wildlife Center is a state and region-wide professional response organization that provides critical wildlife services, including state-of-the-art care and rehabilitation for native animals, comprehensive wildlife rescue training, public education, and outreach programs.

Neither a zoo nor a preserve, this facility exists to facilitate the Center’s work with the treatment and rehabilitation of sick, injured and oiled wildlife for release back to the wild.

The Hawaiian Islands are home to more threatened and endangered species than any other place on Earth. In the centuries since humans first arrived, some species are now extinct, but many remain. They are uniquely Hawaiian, part of our natural and cultural heritage and of imreplaceable value.

Our goal at the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center is do everything in our power to save those native species for future generations to cherish. We invite you to join us in this vital task.

This is the first graphic panel that visitors will see as they approach the courtyard. It shares the name of the public space and introduces the visitor to the HWC, the purpose of the wildlife hospital and gives a glimpse into Hawai‘i's biodiversity.
The bird track pathway will be etched into the existing concrete and connects exhibits in the Courtyard to the retail area. The pathway features the footprints of three different native birds. Bird identification resources will be available at the Bird Discovery cart in the courtyard and give the visitor an opportunity to identify the birds the footprints belong to.
As visitors enter the Courtyard, the three main panels on the wall to the left are dedicated to helping them understand the mission of the HWC, the Center’s wildlife services and programs and the work that goes on in the wildlife hospital. This is the primary location for describing the process by which the HWC rescues, treats and releases sick and injured birds and bats.
One of the first questions many visitors ask is how many patients are currently in-house at the time of their visit.

The first graphic panel will feature patient charts on clipboards so visitors can see who we have in care.

In addition, the map of the Hawaiian Island chain can be used to mark the origins of current and previous patients, demonstrating the statewide impact of the Center.
A centerpiece for the Hoʻopūlāma display is an interactive video that lets visitors watch the Center in action. This is where the visitor is given the opportunity to connect with the wildlife patients that are currently at, or have been at, the Center.

The system is menu-driven using a touchscreen. Content includes:

- Patient videos
- Live camera feeds to current patients in the facility
- Virtual tour of the wildlife hospital
- Wildlife services and conservation programs
- Collaborations and partners
Telling the HWC Story

Panel 3: What We Feed Our Patients

The primary goal of this exhibit is to get visitors to think about the varying dietary requirements of patients at the Center and the expertise that goes into caring for the wildlife patients.

The display includes a set of stainless steel food dishes with a photo of one of the animals that the Center cares for. Visitors lift the lid to see what's in the bowl while the back of the lid describes the animal's diet.

ZONE 2

Release

We feed Canada geese and nene here. The Canada geese come here during the summer and are removed at the end of the season. Nene stay here year-round and have a separate feeding program.
This rolling cart houses a variety of interactive experiences that help visitors understand the Center’s sophisticated medical testing and intake procedures. The primary activity is a role-play experience where visitors use a touchscreen computer to evaluate a patient and determine a course of treatment.
Activity Cart #1: Our Patients

Macro Lab Drawer

This drawer gives the visitor an opportunity to explore feathers and bone structure. The visitor will also be able to view real wildlife x-rays on the computer screen.

Displays in the drawer include:
- Normal and oiled/contaminated feathers side-by-side for comparison
- Bird bone cross-section(s)

A magnifying glass is attached to allow closer observation.
Activity Cart #1: Our Patients

Micro Lab Drawer

This activity allows visitors to get up (super) close to samples taken from actual wildlife patients, including parasites and blood.

This drawer features a digital microscope that is connected to the computer screen. Visitors can hold the microscope up to the slides in the drawer to see it magnified on the screen.
Activity Cart #2: Bird Discovery Cart

Cart Overview

Native or Non-Native?
Hawaii is home to a wide variety of birds found nowhere else in the world. But you have to know where to look and what to look for. All of these birds are found in our islands, but can you tell the native species from the non-native species? Take this quiz to find out.

This cart celebrates the remarkable indigenous birds that the Center works to protect and gets the visitor to think about the wildlife they see around them and how many of those species are actually native to our islands.
ZONE 2

Activity Cart #2: Bird Discovery Cart
Native or Non-Native Quiz

3-sided flip panel prototype

The primary activity on the bird discovery cart is an interactive quiz where visitors test their knowledge of native species. The 3-sided flip panel rests on an image of a bird and visitors can flip the panel to see if the animals in native or non-native and read an interesting fact about its biology or introduction.
Activity Cart #2: Bird Discovery Cart

Bird Tracks Drawer

The bird tracks drawer will house models of bird feet that visitors can look at and use to identify the birds that made the footprints in our bird track pathways in the approach and entry zone.
The Resources drawer and cabinet provides additional space to hold bird guides and teaching resources, including eggs and skeletons. These resources will be used to enhance the visitor experience when docents are present.
This full-scale model of a Laysan Albatross in flight soars overhead as the visitors walk about the courtyard. Most people do not get the opportunity to be immersed in native wildlife, so a main objective for these models is to allow the visitor to experience native species up close.

The Laysan Albatross overhead is one of the largest seabirds in the Hawaiian Islands with a wing span of over six feet. 99% of the world's population of Laysan Albatross breed in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

Scientific name: Phoebastria immutabilis
Artwork by Ralph Trethewey
The Meet the Honeycreeper trees in the Courtyard also follow the objective to get visitors up close to native species.

Each stylized tree is home to three different sculpted honeycreeper models perched on its branches. Accompanying graphics introduce visitors to the remarkable story of evolution that led to so many varieties of these uniquely Hawaiian birds.

Next to each honeycreeper will be information about how the bird has adapted to its environment.
ZONE 2

‘Aumakua

As our ‘aumakua watch over us, we must do our part to watch over the wildlife they manifest in.

Many Hawaiian families have an ‘aumakua, or guardian spirit, to watch over them. An ‘aumakua is an ancestor who can appear in the form of an animal—mano the shark, pueo the owl, or many other forms of native animals in our Islands. The ‘aumakua is just one example of Hawaiians’ close connection to nature.

This exhibit provides a connection between native species and Hawaiian culture. It explains that just as our ‘aumakua watch over us, so too must we watch over them. The display includes an array of native birds sculpted in white perched on a stylized tree and flying overhead.
The flexible wall display is designed to give the Center the ability to display a variety of different graphics, from student artwork and projects to graphic panels that are occasionally donated by state agencies.
This graphic introduces the native garden and ties in the importance of native ecosystems. The graphic panel explains the relationship between native habitats and wildlife and encourages visitors to create their own native gardens at home.
Sculptures of native birds will be placed throughout the garden for visitors to discover. Like the albatross and honeycreepers in the courtyard area, the bird models in the garden aim to continue creating an atmosphere of being surrounded by native wildlife.
If you look around our garden, you'll find five different native birds.

Often in the wild it is easier to hear birds than to see them. TURN THE CRANK on the sound box below to power it up, then SELECT ONE OF THE FOUR BUTTONS to hear the calls of the five birds in this display.

This display gives visitors a chance to hear the songs of the native birds that are modeled and displayed in the native garden.

Visitors crank the sound box then press one of the buttons corresponding to the bird they'd like to hear. The sound box is weatherproof and completely human-powered (requires no electricity).
This mural made up of 10" x 10" images of 68 indigenous Hawaiian bird species. Here visitors are able to see all in one place the remarkable variety of species in our islands and the biological diversity that the Center works to protect.
Look Up and Listen

Look up and listen is an audio experience on the West Lawn. Visitors will find comfortable hammock chairs where they can relax and observe the sky as they listen to calls of native birds played on speakers mounted to the outside of the education pavilion.
This mural is a commission designed to wrap around the water tank on the west lawn. The mural illustrates the natural ecosystems in Hawai‘i from the mountain to the sea, with representative birds from each habitat.

The goal is to encourage visitors to see how many birds they can spot while learning to make the connection between birds and their habitats.

(Artist and artwork to be determined)
The viewing blind will allow visitors to take a look into the recovery yard and see the aviaries that house the Center’s wildlife patients. It will also serve as blind for a possible future educational Nēnē exhibit as well. The goal is to provide good viewing without disturbing the birds.
The Recovery Yard
Kahalemanu

Spending time in the recovery yard is one of the last steps before an animal is released back to the wild. If you peek through the slats of the fence, you can catch a glimpse of the different aviaries in the yard.

The outdoor aviaries in the recovery yard have been custom-built for five different types of native birds: seabirds, shorebirds, waterbirds, birds of prey, and forest birds. These aviaries allow recovering birds to exercise and build their strength before they are released.

Conditioning pools are especially important to recovering seabirds, a place to bathe and regain their waterproofing. Before release, our staff makes sure the bird is waterproof and comfortable on the water.

PROTECTING OUR PATIENTS
The predator-proof fence surrounding the yard is designed to keep out dogs, cats, pigs and mongooses. Although the aviaries in the yard are secure, the fence provides an additional measure of protection for our recovering birds.

WHY SO PRIVATE?
Our birds are wild and our goal is to keep them that way. So we work hard to minimize exposure to humans. That's why we ask our visitors to stay behind the fence, where they can't see you.

This graphic explains the importance of the recovery yard, including the specialized aviaries and conditioning pools.
The Center hopes to create a future exhibit with non-releaseable Nēnē to give visitors the opportunity for viewing live native birds. Other species may be added to this exhibit as well.