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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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JAN 30 1992

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

WILLIAM W. PATY, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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In reply, please refer to:
REF: DOFAW

DOFAW

Mr. Brian J.J. Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 South King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Negative Declaration for the Renovation and Construction of Facilities at the
Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility, Phase III, Forest Birds (TMK 2-
4-13:4 and 53)

Enclosed are four copies of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of
Forestry and Wildlife agency action Determination of Negative Declaration. The project is for
the construction of a new nene caretaker's residence and the renovation of existing structures into
a forest bird aviary and hatching and incubation facilities to service and support captive rearing of
endangered bird species at Olinda, Maui.

We are submitting this declaration for action as required in Environmental Quality
Commission-Environmental Impact Statement Regulations. Please contact Mr. Paul Conry at
587-0166 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM W. PATY

Enclosures (4)

cc: Honolulu, DOFAW
Maui District, DOFAW

1992-02-08 MA-NEA - Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility Phase III, Forest Birds - Renovation & Construction

Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

AGENCY ACTION

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Renovation and Construction of Facilities at the
Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility,
Phase III, Forest Birds

January 1992

Determination Notice of Negative Declaration
for the
Renovation and Construction of Facilities at the
Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility,
Phase III, Forest Birds

- I. Proposing Agency: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- II. Approving Agency: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- III. Agencies Consulted: DLNR Divisions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- IV. Summary of Proposed Action:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife is proposing the continued development of captive propagation facilities at the Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility, Maui (TMK 2-4-13:4 and 53). The proposed project is the third in a series of construction and renovation projects at the site of the former Honor Prison Camp at Olinda and utilizes previously developed buildings, utilities and grounds. Phase III developments will include renovation of the existing cafeteria into an incubation and rearing unit, renovation of one dormitory into a forest bird aviary, new construction of a Nene Caretaker's residence, completion of the perimeter fence, upgrading the existing sewage system and asbestos removal. This new phase of the project will address the urgent need to provide modern incubation and rearing facilities for the Alala and Nene and will enable expansion of the captive propagation program to accommodate other imminently endangered forest birds. Assessments were conducted on the two previous phases of this project and resulted in the filing of a Determination Notice of Negative Declaration for Phase I in October 1985 and for Phase II in April 1988. Land use zoning on the site is for Agriculture.

A. Project Description

1. Project Environment

The intended project is located on Maui at the Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility (OESPF), formerly the Olinda Correctional Facility complex, on a 46 acre parcel of land zoned for

Agriculture (TMK: 2-4-13: 4 and 53). Figure 1 shows project location and a site map of developed facilities. Site characteristics are as follows:

a. Climate

The Olinda Complex lies at elevations between 3,520' and 3,600' on the northwest slope of Haleakala. Rainfall is approximately 45-60 inches a year with good year-round distribution. Daytime temperatures average in the 70s 'F; night time temperatures in the 50s 'F.

b. Physiography

These lands for the most part slope moderately northwest, dissected by small gullies. Much of the ridgetop lands were terraced for truck farming, pasturing, vocational/correctional training uses. Gully slopes are gentle with the exception of one 50-foot deep gully with steep, rocky outcrops which cuts through the middle of the project.

c. Soils

The soil of the entire area is Olinda loam; derived from volcanic ash. It is deep, well drained, high in organic material and relatively fertile. It is capable of supporting excellent farming, pasturage, roadways, and structures. The area is well vegetated exhibiting no erosion problems.

d. Vegetation

A small portion of the project area, i.e., the former pasture lands and vocational training complex, have a solid cover of grasses: kikuyu grass (Pennisetum clandestinum), rattail grass (Sporobolus africanus), velvet grass (Holcus lanatus), carpet grass (Axonopus compressus), sweet vernal grass (Anthoxanthus odoratum); and broadleaf plants such as gorse (Ulex europaeus). The majority of the 46 acre site is covered by tree plantations consisting of trees such as Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus spp.); Black wattle (Acacia decurrens); and Pines (Pinus spp.).

Gorse, which was introduced in the late 1800s as a pasture hedgerow plant, has been a continuous weed problem in the Olinda area for over 80 years. It is a prolific and aggressive,

non-palatable, thorny plant that invades and takes over pasture lands in a short time. Its natural oils make it an extreme fire hazard especially during dry periods. Inmates controlled gorse effectively. However, since the discontinuation of the corrections program in 1971, gorse has reinfested and begun once more to take over these lands.

Black wattle is also an aggressive colonizer. Combined with the threat of gorse, it too can render parcels of land unusable.

e. Wildlife

Two endangered birds are currently being maintained and bred at the facility, the Alala (Corvus hawaiiensis) and the Nene (Nesochen sandvicensis). These two species are kept in specially designed aviaries/pens and provided with all daily needs by the crew of caretakers. Other native birds known from the site include the golden plover (Pluvialis dominica), which uses the grassy areas around buildings, the Pueo (Asio flammeus sandwichensis), which occasionally flies over the area, and on very rare occasion an Amakihi (Hemignathus virens) will be seen moving through the area.

Small numbers of common introduced birds such as barred dove (Geopelia striata), spotted dove (Streptopelia chinensis), pigeon (Columba livia), ring-necked pheasant (Phasianus colchichus), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), house finch (Carpodacus mexicanus), common mynah (Acridotheres tristis), house sparrow (Passer domesticus) and japanese white-eye (Zosterops japonicus) inhabit or transit through the area.

Of the mammals, the native Hawaiian bat (Lasiurus cinereus) is frequently seen flying over open areas in the vicinity and small populations of the roof rat (Rattus rattus), norway rat (Rattus norvegicus), Polynesian rat (Rattus exulans), house mouse (Mus musculus) and mongoose (Herpestes auropunctatus) are found on the site. Feral cats and dogs also occasionally move into the area and are trapped.

f. Facilities

The facilities include those developed for the former Olinda Correctional Facility Complex and Phase I and II improvements at OESPF. A sizeable portion of the project area is occupied

by structures, service/access roads, and landscaping (See Figure II). They include:

<u>Main Building</u>	15,283 Sq. Ft.
Administration dispensary, kitchen and mess hall, laundry, dormitories, lavatories, showers and storage.	
<u>Garage</u>	4,212 Sq. Ft.
Vehicle and equipment parking and storage.	
<u>Gymnasium</u>	4,059 Sq. Ft.
Basketball court, stage and changing rooms.	
<u>Caretaker's Cottage</u>	896 Sq. Ft.
Small living facility.	
<u>Wood Shop</u>	1,000 Sq. Ft.
Power tools, work space and materials storage.	
<u>Alala Aviaries</u>	9,984 Sq. Ft.
Two aviaries for breeding Alala.	
<u>Nene Breeding Complex</u>	5,145 Sq. Ft.
A low, barn-like building of 10 pen units each housing a pair of Nene.	
<u>Brooding/Foster Development Complex</u>	1,456 Sq. Ft.
A similar building of three pen units.	
<u>Injured/Noninfectious Complex</u>	624 Sq. Ft.
A building of 4 pen units for temporarily housing Nene.	

Isolation/Infectious Complex

1,000 Sq. Ft.

A quarantine facility to treat all birds entering the facility and birds with infectious disease contracted at the facility; 6 rooms.

TOTAL

43,659 Sq. Ft.

These buildings are centrally clustered on the 46 acre site and interconnected by roads, sidewalks and landscaping. The original correctional facility was a self-contained, permanent residential, low security, detention complex accommodating 60 inmates plus approximately 10 administration and staff personnel. The present facility has 8 permanent staff and houses approximately 50 endangered birds.

2. Project Renovation/Construction

The scope of the project entails the following elements (Figure II).

Asbestos Removal

Approximately 500 cu. ft. of building materials containing asbestos will be removed from existing buildings at the facility. Asbestos materials will be removed and disposed of at the Maui County Municipal Land Fill in accordance with all applicable EPA, DOSH, OSHA and local rules and regulations.

Upgrade of Sewage System

A new 1,000 gallon capacity septic tank and 1,000 sq. ft. leaching field will be installed to meet Maui County Building Code Regulations to handle current and future sewage disposal.

Renovation of Cafeteria Into Incubation and Rearing Unit

Renovate the existing cafeteria building into incubation and rearing facilities with separate incubation (600 sq. ft.), hatching/rearing (400 sq. ft.), and preparation (720 sq. ft.) rooms.

Renovation of Dormitory Into A Forest Bird Aviary 1,700 Sq. Ft.

Renovate one dormitory into a forest bird aviary consisting of 1,750 sq. ft. of indoor cage space and 1,700 sq. ft. of outdoor cage space. Aviary will accommodate up to 39 separate cage units require a 1700 sq. ft.

will accommodate up to 39 separate cage units require a 1700 sq. ft. addition to the existing building. Addition will extend into the grassy area between dormitories.

Completion of Perimeter Fence

Erect 1400 linear feet of 6 ft chainlink fence to complete the perimeter fence along the northwest boundary of the Olinda project site.

Construction of Nene Caretaker's Residence 1,300 Sq. Ft.

A small, prefabricated-kit, two bedroom, one bath residence (800 sq. ft.) with covered gravel driveway (500 sq. ft.), exterior restroom, septic-tank sewage system and utilities. The building will be constructed on concrete footing and located off an existing gravel road.

Total Area of New Structures 3,000 Sq. Ft.

B. Environmental Impact of Proposed Renovation/Construction

1. Immediate Impact

Repair and renovation of the support facility fall under provisions of the "exempt" category of the State's Environmental Laws (Chapter 343, HRS).

Construction of the new Nene Caretaker's Residence, Aviary and Sewage System predominantly involves the removal of grass, trees and debris from previously farmed lands and from around landscaped buildings/structures during the site preparation phase. By locating new structures in previously developed and landscaped sites and following the existing level topography of the area, a minimal amount of grading will be necessary. Very minimal soil erosion is expected because of the small amount of grading.

Activities common to construction projects are expected. As the nearest residence is less than a quarter mile away, "sight" and "sounds" of the construction effort will be obvious, but somewhat masked by surrounding tree plantations.

Construction activity could also disturb the endangered birds currently maintained at the facility, particularly the Alala. A major portion of the planned work will involve renovation of existing structures. These activities will, for the most part, be restricted to the inside of buildings.

New structures that will be constructed will be located away from the immediate vicinity of the both the crow pens and nene breeding pens and will be visually screened by buildings or vegetation. In addition, new construction will be scheduled so as not to coincide with the crow breeding season.

No significant habitat loss and impact on the resident and transitory wild birds and mammals is expected because of the small size of new structures being constructed.

Approximately 500 cubic feet of building materials containing asbestos products will be removed and disposed of in the Maui County Municipal land fill. Standard containment procedures such as tenting, filtering and bagging will be used to minimize air borne dispersal of asbestos particles. Properly bagged and processed materials will be buried at a designated disposal site at the Maui landfill.

2. Long-Range Effects

The major long-term effect of the project will be to increase human and bird activity in the area. Pens and support facilities are necessary to keep the complex operating at all times. Staff members, cooperators, and consultants must be available at all times on-site to insure the safety and welfare of the captive birds.

Another long-term effect is the vocalizing of the birds. These are normal behavior patterns essential to their life cycle, i.e., territoriality, mating, etc. Because of the limited number of birds in captivity and screening effect of surrounding tree plantations, these vocalizations are not expected to be a nuisance.

Disposal of waste from the aviary could be of concern; however, effluent from pens will be piped into the septic tank.

The additional care and attention given to these endangered birds as a result of the improvements will more than offset any minor negative impact on the environment.

The captive birds will not pose a health threat to wild or captive birds in the neighborhood because of high health standards to be maintained at the facility. The veterinary program will include a quarantine facility, veterinary hospital and scheduled and emergency health care conducted by a contract veterinarian.

3. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

- a. The removal of grass, trees, and other plants during site preparation for the Nene Caretaker's Residence, sewage system, Forest Bird Aviary, and perimeter fence is unavoidable, but will be kept to a minimum. These facilities are being located in areas that have previously had topography modifications for the development of structures, landscaping, and farming. Site preparation will require minor grading and removal of debris, trees and invasive vegetation to allow construction.
- b. The addition of the new Caretaker's Residence, Forest Bird Aviary and perimeter fence will have a visual impact. The visual impact of the developments from the road and for the closest neighbors will be minor because the new structures will be located among the many existing buildings and or screened from view by the rows of trees previously planted in the area. The segment of fence being added is interior to that already fronting roadways and will be out of sight.
- c. The disposal of asbestos containing building materials will require approximately 500 cubic feet of landfill space that could otherwise be used for other refuse.

4. Relationship of Project to State Management Goals

The proposed activities are consistent with our management goals of propagating endangered birds for the restoration of these species. Several plans at all levels of government recognize the need for a facility such as this. These plans include (1) the Hawaii Threatened and Endangered Species Plan (2) the Hawaii Wildlife Plan (3) the State Conservation Lands Plan, and (4) Recovery Plans approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

V. Alternatives

A "no action" alternative is unacceptable for it will prevent the upgrading of care given to the birds currently held and prevent expansion of the program to accommodate additional birds that require captive propagation.

An alternative to this project is to develop these facilities at another site. This is not an acceptable approach for a captive propagation program of this size because it would create two simultaneous operations that would require a

duplication of facilities, staffing, and effort. This would be far costlier and not make efficient use of existing facilities. The Olinda Facility is the primary captive propagation unit in the State and needs to be fully developed and equipped before initiating a second alternate facility.

VI. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Labor and capital are the only retrievable resources involved. This project is not irreversible since the structures could be removed, the birds housed elsewhere, and the area revegetated.

VII. Proposed Mitigation

The placement of new buildings and renovation of facilities in and around the existing correctional complex decreases the impact on the surrounding environment.

Tree plantings and existing structures reduce the intrusiveness of the proposed action. The use of former pasture land and vocational/training facilities for captive rearing of birds is a far less intensive and intrusive activity than those activities conducted during active use of the complex in the 60s and early 70s.

Containment procedures will be used as appropriate in the removal and disposal of asbestos to prevent airborne particles. All applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations pertaining to asbestos removal and disposal will be adhered to.

New structures will be located away from the immediate vicinity of the crow and raven pens. Construction activities will be visually screened from the pens by buildings or vegetation so as to reduce disturbance to the captive individuals. Construction will be timed so as not to coincide with the crows breeding season.

VIII. Significance of Project Impacts and Determination

- A. The proposed project should have no long-lasting significant impact upon the environment.
 - 1. Vegetation, wildlife populations, soil, and natural drainage will not be substantially affected by the proposed project. The

removal of "invasive" plants and subsequent landscaping should improve the appearance of the area substantially.

2. The design and size of the aviary and new building are such that they are not intrusive to the Olinda "setting." The existence of the former correctional facility and plantings of pine trees in adjacent areas have the overall effect of screening the facilities from any visual intrusions.
 3. The quantity of asbestos containing materials buried at the landfill will not significantly decrease the life of the landfill. The quantity of materials deposited there falls within the quantity normally produced by the facility and is less than would be expected if the facility were utilized for some other purpose such as dormitories.
 4. Benefits will accrue to the endangered species restoration program due to increased care and attention given to captive birds and enable expansion of the program to accommodate additional forest birds.
- B. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife foresees no substantial change to environmental quality from this project. Therefore, a negative declaration is appropriate.

IX. Determination support

The reasons for support of the Negative Declaration are stated above.