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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Mr. Gary Hooser, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Department of Health
State of Hawaii
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project
Draft Environmental Assessment
Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii
TMK: (1) 4-02-013: portions of 005 and 022

Dear Mr. Hooser:

The State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) serving as the Approving Agency, has reviewed the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) prepared for the subject project.

Based on the significance criteria under Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawaii Administrative Rules, we have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required, and have issued a Finding of No Significant Impact. Please publish notice of the availability of this Final EA in the September 23, 2012 issue of *The Environmental Notice*. We have enclosed a completed OEQC Publication Form, a hard copy of the Final EA, and a copy of the Final EA document in pdf format on a CD.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Smith of the State DLNR, DOFAW at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Aila, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William J. Aila, Jr.
Chairperson

Attachments

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL
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Publication Form
The Environmental Notice
Office of Environmental Quality Control

Instructions: Please submit one hardcopy of the document along with a determination letter from the agency. On a compact disk, put an electronic copy of this publication form and a PDF of the EA or EIS. Mahalo.

Name of Project: Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project
Applicable Law: Chapter 343, HRS and National Environmental Policy Act
Type of Document: Final Environmental Assessment
Island: O‘ahu
District: Kailua
TMK: (1) 4-02-013: portions of 005 and 022
Permits Required: Special Management Area Use Permit; NPDES Permit (Construction Activities) and Construction Noise Permit.

Name of Applicant or Proposing Agency: Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Address: State of Hawai‘i
City, State, Zip: 2135 Makiki Heights Drive
Contact and Phone: Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822
Telephone: (808) 973-9787
Contact: Mr. David Smith

Accepting Authority: Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Address: Department of Land and Natural Resources
City, State, Zip: State of Hawai‘i
Contact and Phone: 2135 Makiki Heights Drive
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822
Telephone: (808) 973-9787
Contact: Mr. David Smith

Consultant: Helber Hastert & Fee, Planners, Inc.
Address: 733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
City, State, Zip: Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813
Contact and Phone: Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Associate
Phone: (808) 545-2055

Project Summary: Summary of the direct, indirect, secondary, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action (less than 200 words).

The State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife is proposing to implement wetland restoration and habitat enhancement improvements to about 80 acres of Kawainui Marsh. Improvements include: 1) wetland restoration and erosion control; 2) habitat restoration

for native Hawaiian waterbirds, migratory shorebirds and waterfowl; and 3) improvements to support DOFAW's maintenance operations.

The project area consists of about 60 acres of wetland with Kahanaiki Stream extending through the site. Most of the wetland is overgrown with invasive vegetation. The 20-acre upland area consists of riparian and forest area much of which is overgrown with invasive trees and other non-native vegetation. DOFAW's management objectives for the area include: 1) control invasive vegetation; and 2) control water flow into the marsh. Objectives also involve gathering support from local organizations, businesses, schools and government agencies to integrate the wildlife sanctuary into the community and encourage further habitat restoration at this internationally recognized marsh.

The project is not expected to have significant direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the environment. Improvements would restore the wetland and its function as waterbird habitat. Best management practices and other measures would be implemented to mitigate effects.