

Hijirida, Linda M.

From: HI Office of Environmental Quality Control
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Wooley, Jessica E.; prentissc001@hawaii.rr.com; cmitchell17@hotmail.com; Quinn, Dan S; tanya.rubenstein@hawaii.gov
Cc: Hijirida, Linda M.
Subject: FW: Proposed Exemption List
Attachments: OEQC Exempt List comments.docx

Aloha All,

Please see the attached comments for DLNR's proposed exemption list.

Thank you,

Linda Hijirida
OEQC Secretary
Phone: 586-4185
Email: linda.hijirida@doh.hawaii.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Jojo Tanimoto [mailto:mumukukawaihae@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tue 5/5/2015 11:24 AM
To: HI Office of Environmental Quality Control
Subject: Proposed Exemption List

AlohaPlease see attached.

Ms. Jojo Tanimoto
P.O. Box 44337
Kawaihae, Hawaii 96743
Cell Phone No.: 808-895-5226
Email: MumukuKawaihae@yahoo.com

May 5, 2015

Chairman-Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 South Beretania Street
Suite 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Draft Proposed Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the Draft Proposed Exemption List. I live on Hawaiian Home Lands in Kawaihae, which is located in the South Kohala District of Hawaii County. Our community has interests in our historic fishing village, hunting in the forests of the ranch lands, and recreationing in the beautiful tourist hotspots of beaches and hiking trails. Our rural location with high native Hawaiian population and cultural interests is the focal interest of participating with this Exemption List.

Some issues seem redundant but here goes:

Exemption Class 1-Item 5. Maintenance dredging of small quantities of material from Existing launching ramps, navigating channels, and berthing areas...with disposal of dredged material at approved landfill sites.

- a) Kawaihae and Puako boast two boat ramp sites that have not seen the dredging efforts in years; and needs to get this done with the lower levels of ocean water at our harbor. The cumulative effects of dredging can now include the repair of the restroom and the sump area which has been fenced for years. So the original depth may pose problems to the breakwater wall and the beach head.
- b) The population of boat owners and canoe paddling participants interfere with each other; any other activity just aggravates the issues like parking especially. Comments on traffic, infrastructure upgrades, etc. can be addressed in an environmental document.

The community hopes to acquire a new boat ramp in the new South Boat Harbor that was dedicated this past year.

Item 13. Operation, repair, and maintenance of existing recreational facilities, such as campsites, cabins, shelters, and other similar structures, and the appurtenant support facilities and structures. (define appurtenant-an attachment or accessory)

In Puako, the State Parks and Recreation has a Plan to accomplish just this goal. There is a caveat that includes working with the Hawaii County to improve the Old Puako Road; which is a historic trail. It is important to the shoreline fishermen and the surfers who need this access; but this proposal was brought to the attention of the Mayor and DLNR by this residential community; without community input from the larger South Kohala community until the Plan was presented with a start and completion date. This caveat intends to limit access to this natural resource. This process could have been avoided if a notice was published in the OEQC.

Item 37 and 42. Clearing, grading, and grubbing, for which grading permits are not required. Actions that are intended to maintain or support the sustainability of those natural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department.....

The State Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife completed a fencing project in Waimea for the purpose of fencing feral animals (in/or out-not sure) away from natural forest areas to protect the forest. In doing so, the debris from the fallen trees and eroding plants along the fence line blocked the natural course of waters from entering the Waimea Ag Ditch. It is my understanding that the community got together to clear this obstruction because this issue affected the levels of potable water supply to Waimea. This obstruction was found by the hunters of this area; who are slowly losing areas to hunt because of DOFAW's policy to eradicate feral animals by fencing off areas so feral animals cannot enter. This policy is not acceptable to this community of ranch families and hunters. We would appreciate continuing this venue to communicate and receive considerations for these views.

Item 48. Subdivisions or consolidation of lots not previously subdivided.

Some developers for subdivisions in our community have applied to the County for Subdivision permits. They are not required to provide a topography map, subdivision plat plan, or future planning for the adjoining areas; at least. Therefore, it is not known if there are burials, trails, streams, watersheds, etc. It would be unknown if utilities will be underground (South Kohala is known for the mumuku-destructive Winds), plans for upgraded road systems, etc. could be incurred.

Exemption Class 2. (Duplicating)

Exemption Class 3. (Duplicating)

Item 11. Installation of automatic fish feeding devices in reservoirs, ponds, or other impoundments, rearing pens for cage culture of fishes and aquatic organisms, and fish aggregating devices within pre-approved sites.

Aquaculture is not new to our community. Fish cages are. When the discussion of fish cages in Kohala were going into the (North Kohala) community, BLNR neglected to research the historical fishing ko'a areas that culturally were "secret" but should have been listed in the SHPD inventory. BLNR neglected to consider that the fish cages "intended" to release medically treated fish food into the environment and the ocean current would take this pollution into the neighboring boundary Ko'a (fish spawning location-This is how King Kamehameha fed his army and the workers who built the historical Pu'ukohola Heiau). How to fix the problem? Rescind the lease and move it to the north side of Lapakahi State Park. The fish cages have a long-term lease and the community has been opposed from the beginning.

Exemption Class 4. Item 22. (Duplicating)

Exemption Class 5. Item 19. (Duplicating)

Item 20. Conduct assessment, survey, and removal of unexploded ordnance.

South Kohala benefited from the environmental assessment by commenting on the watershed areas, cultural interests, and traffic impacts especially. This item should not be exempted.

Exemption Class 5. Item 23. Permission to enter state lands for the purpose of conducting those activities above.

What I do not see is the inclusion of whale and dolphins; sharks and turtles; and indigenous species like the Mauna Kea species. These fall into State authority and require and Chapter 343, HRS.

Exemption Class 6. (Duplicating)

Exemption Class 7. No comment.

Exemption Class 8. No comment.

Exemption Class 9. Item 1. Application for zoning variance for use of state lands disposed to private parties or to governmental agencies, except shoreline setback variances.

Please do not exempt this item.

Exemption Class 10. No comment.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

Sincerely

Ms. Jojo Tanimoto