

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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TP4/14-580474R

December 9, 2014

Ms. Jessica Wooley
Director
State of Hawaii
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Department of Health
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Wooley:

SUBJECT: Status of Department of Transportation Services (DTS) Exemption List

In response to your letter dated September 10, 2014, we have the following comments:

1. The Office of Environmental Quality Control website indicates a DTS Exemption List dated July 16, 1986. The list should be replaced with the DTS Exemption List dated May 30, 2009.
2. As required, an updated version of the DTS exemption list is attached for approval.

For your convenience, we have attached a CD with our proposed revisions in Word. Below is our designated point of contact, which you requested in your letter:

Michael A. Murphy, AICP
Environmental Planner
City and County of Honolulu, Department of Transportation Services
Transportation Planning Division, Regional Planning Section
650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 768-8359
Email: mmurphy@honolulu.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter. Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Murphy.

Very truly yours,


Michael D. Formby
Director

Attachments

mls (M. Murphy)



COMPREHENSIVE EXEMPTION LIST FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
Submitted: December 2014

According to section 11-200-8, Hawaii Revised Rules, the Department of Transportation Services may declare exempt the following types of actions from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment.

The Department of Transportation Services shall not make exemption declarations when the cumulative impact of planned successive actions in the same place, over time, is significant, or when an action that is normally insignificant in its impact on the environment may be significant, in a particularly sensitive environment. Sensitive areas may include, but are not limited to significant historical, archaeological, and cultural sites, flood plains, wetlands, beaches, coastal areas, erosion-prone areas, geologically hazardous land, critical habitats, and estuaries.

EXEMPTION CLASS # 1: Operation, repairs, or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment or topographic features involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing:

1. Grooving of existing pavements to improve skid resistance and safety.
2. Repairs to existing manholes, waterlines, meters, hydrants, valves, sewer lines and utility lines along and across existing roads and streets.

EXEMPTION CLASS #2: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.

1. Modernization of an existing highway or roadway by resurfacing, widening less than a single lane width, adding shoulders, adding auxiliary lanes for localized purposes (weaving, climbing, speed changes, turning lanes or turning pockets) and correcting substandard curves and intersections.
2. Reconstruction of existing cross road and existing stream crossings.
3. Replacement of existing manholes, waterlines, meters, hydrants, valves, sewer lines and utility lines along and across roads and streets.
4. Repair, alteration or replacement of existing bus shelters.

EXEMPTION CLASS # 3: Construction and location of single, new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of the same and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of same, including, but not limited to: (A) Single-family residences less than 3,500 square feet not in conjunction with the building of two or more such units; (B) Multi-unit structures designed for not more than four dwelling units if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; (C) Stores, offices, and restaurants designed for total occupant load of 20 persons or less per structure, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; and (D) Water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extension to serve such structure or facilities; accessory or appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences; and, acquisition of utility easements.

1. Construction or installation of transit shelters, transit information kiosks, telephone booths, sidewalks, covered and uncovered walkways, and fare vending kiosks.
2. Alterations to existing buildings to provide noise attenuation and installation of noise barriers.
3. Installation of manholes, waterlines, meters, hydrants, valves, sewer lines and utility lines along and across roads and streets.
4. Construction of the following minor structures, which include:
 - a. Grooving to improve driver awareness to drift;
 - b. Temporary traffic engineering devices used to simulate/test impacts of devices such as traffic cones and lane delineators;
 - c. Guard rails;
 - d. Driveways;
 - e. Access ramps for persons using mobility aids;
 - f. Berms;
 - g. Bike paths, bike lanes, protected bike lanes, cycle tracks, and other bikeways and bicycle facilities;
 - h. Traffic calming devices, such as roundabouts, traffic circles, medians, bulbouts, chicanes, speedhumps, rumble strips and 3D visual technology.
 - i. Pedestrian safety devices, such as in-road pavement lighting, pedestrian crossing signals and devices and delineators.

EXEMPTION CLASS #4: Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.

1. Landscaping of highway or roadway, rights-of-way, embankments, and medial strips, and installation of accessory sprinkler and/or electrical systems.

EXEMPTION CLASS #5: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

1. Mechanical and electronic traffic data collection and traffic surveys (i.e., volume, speed, classification).

EXEMPTION CLASS # 6: Construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.

1. Land acquisition, subdivision, and consolidation with existing roadways involving total land area of no more than 3,500 square feet for:
 - a. rounding corners; and
 - b. minor widening of less than a single lane at intersections;

where displacement of residences or businesses will not occur.

2. Installation of glare screens, safety barriers, and energy attenuators (i.e., crash cushions, sand barrels) to protect the motoring public.
3. Installation of street lights; directional, informational, and regulatory signs; pavement marks; parking meters, multispace parking meters, and inroad sensors; parklets; traffic signals; and traffic surveillance and control systems, and traffic cameras.
4. Installation of chain-link fencing.
5. Accessory facilities for bicycles (e.g., bike racks, bike corrals, secure bike storage/parking and bike share stations).
6. Accessory facilities for the public transit system, including trash receptacles, seating (e.g., benches, stools), shelters, electronic information signage, and lighting.

EXEMPTION CLASS # 7: Interior alterations involving things such as partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances.

1. Interior renovations and remodeling of existing facilities (e.g., traffic control centers and transit centers).

EXEMPTION CLASS #8: Demolition of structures, except those structures located on any historic site as designated in the national register or Hawaii register as provided for in the

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Public Law 89-665, 16 U.S. C. Sec. 470, as amended, or Chapter 6E, HRS.

1. Demolition work to existing: curbs, sidewalks, pavement, driveways, and buildings.

EXEMPTION CLASS #9: Zoning variances except shoreline setback variances.

EXEMPTION CLASS # 10: Continuing administrative activities including, but not limited to, purchase of supplies and personnel-related actions.

1. Buying of equipment and materials related to existing operations and maintenance.