May 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Section 106 Consultation for Pearl Harbor Watershed Fencing Project, Koʻolau Mountains, Oʻahu, HI

To Whom It May Concern,

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is proposing to work on the project listed above with Federal funds. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, DOFAW is consulting with Native Hawaiian Organizations and others related to historic properties or knowledge of Hawaiian practices. Historic properties include archeological sites, burial grounds, sacred landscapes or features, ceremonial areas, traditional cultural places and landscapes, plant and animal communities, and buildings and structures with significant association.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife is partnering with Federal agencies to conduct a review of this project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. We would like to invite you to be a consulting party in this review to help identify historic properties in the project area that may have religious and cultural significance to your organization or community, and if such properties exist, to help assess how the project might affect them. If the project might have an adverse effect, we would like to discuss possible ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects.

The main objective of this project is to protect and preserve irreplaceable rare and endangered plants and animals and watershed function. Pig-proof fences are proposed to be constructed to protect three fence units. Pigs are damaging the native forest in these upland areas. The native forest is important for capturing cloud moisture that recharges the threatened aquifer of Pearl Harbor, and provides many other benefits such as flooding and erosion reduction, and carbon sequestration. Step-overs and gates will be included to continue to allow public access into the fenced areas.

Once the consultation period is over, and if there are no major concerns presented, DOFAW will begin with fence construction. However, if any sites or artifacts are discovered, all work will stop, the proper authorities will be notified, and an assessment of significance will occur.
An environmental assessment exemption has been drafted for this project to declare that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the exemption types 3 and 4.

If you are interested in participating in this undertaking as a consulting party, want to provide comments on the proposed project Area of Potential Effect (APE) and any historic properties in the APE, or want to suggest additional key contacts, please respond by June 17, 2022 via email to Emma.Yuen@hawaii.gov.

We value your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/s/

Emma Yuen
Native Ecosystems Program Manager
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

TMKs affected:

Waiau
(1) 9-7-026:001
(1) 9-8-001:008

Moanalua
(1) 1-1-013:001

Halawa
(1) 9-8-001:002
(1) 9-8-001:001
(1) 9-9-011:002
(1) 9-9-011:001
Fencelines are approximate and subject to change within the listed TMKs.