

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Amendment and Compilation of Chapter 13-209
Hawaii Administrative Rules

SUMMARY

1. §13-209-2 is amended.
2. §13-209-4 is amended.
3. A new § 13-209-4.1 is added.
4. A new § 13-209-4.2 is added.
5. §§13-209-4.5 to 13-209-5 are amended.
6. §13-209-5.6 is amended.
7. §§13-209-5.8 to 13-209-5.9 are amended.

HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TITLE 13

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE 9 NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM

CHAPTER 209

RULES REGULATING ACTIVITIES WITHIN NATURAL AREA RESERVES

- § 13-209-1 Purpose and applicability
- § 13-209-2 Definitions
- § 13-209-3 Permitted activities
- § 13-209-4 Prohibited activities
 - § 13-209-4.1. Animals
 - § 13-209-4.2 Restricted entry
 - § 13-209-4.3 Closing of areas
 - § 13-209-4.4 Visiting hours
 - § 13-209-4.5 - 13-209-4.9 (Reserved)
- § 13-209-5 Special-use permits
 - § 13-209-5.1 - 13-209-5.4 (Reserved)
 - § 13-209-5.5 Applications for special-use permits
 - § 13-209-5.6 Parking fees
 - § 13-209-5.7 Public parking closure hours
 - § 13-209-5.8 Public parking
 - § 13-209-5.9 Removal of vehicles
- § 13-209-6 Penalty

Historical Note: Chapter 209 of Title 13, Administrative Rules, is based substantially upon Regulation 10 of the Administration of the Department of Land and Natural Resources entitled "Regulating and Prohibiting Activities within Natural Area Reserves Including Provisions for Excepted-Use Activities by Permit and Penalties for Violation of the Regulation." [Eff 5/20/79; R 6/29/81; comp JUL 19 2025]

§13-209-1 Purpose and applicability. (a) The purpose of these rules is to regulate activity within natural area reserves established pursuant to section 195-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes. (b) These rules shall apply to all persons entering the boundaries of a natural area reserve. [Eff 6/29/81; comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§13-209-2 Definitions. As used in these rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Board" means the board of land and natural resources.

"Chairperson" means the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources.

"Commission" means the natural area reserves system commission.

"Department" means the department of land and natural resources.

“Game mammals and birds” means those animals that have been designated as such by sections 191-8 and 191-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and by administrative rules of the department.

“Natural area reserve” means those State lands that have been designated as part of the Hawaii natural area reserves system by the department pursuant to section 183D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

“Commercial activity” means to engage in any action or attempt to engage in any action designed for profit, which includes, but is not limited to, the exchange or buying and selling of commodities; the providing of services relating to or connected with trade, traffic, or commerce in general; any activity performed by the commercial operator or its employees or agents in connection with the delivery of such commodities or services; and the soliciting of business, including the display or distribution of notices, business cards, or advertisements for commercial promotional purposes, or the use of liability waivers to provide goods or services. Commercial activity includes activities whose base of operations is outside the boundaries of the program trail or access, but that rent equipment or livestock for use in a natural area reserve or provide transportation to or from a natural area reserve. Commercial activity includes the operation of vehicles licensed or permitted as motor carriers of passengers or property for compensation by the Public Utilities Commission to, from, or within a natural area reserve except for delivery or other service vehicles contracted by the state.

“Compensation” includes but is not limited to, monetary fees, barter, or services in-kind.

"Motorized vehicle" means a motor vehicle of any type, including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, off-highway vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, motorbikes, go-carts, motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, electric bicycles, and dune buggies.

"Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a roadway or highway, including mopeds, but excluding bicycles and devices other than bicycles moved by human power.

[Eff 6/29/81; am 12/9/02; am 7/3/03; am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS § 195-5)
(Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§13-209-3 Permitted activities. Hiking and nature study of group size of ten or less are permitted except where restricted pursuant to sections 13-209-4.5 and 13-209-4.6. Hunting is a permitted activity pursuant to hunting rules of the department. [Eff 6/29/81; am 1/26/07; comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§13-209-4 Prohibited activities. The following activities are prohibited within a natural area reserve:

- (1) To remove, injure, or kill any form of plant or animal life, except game mammals and birds hunted according to department rules;
- (2) To introduce any form of plant or animal life; except dogs when permitted by hunting rules of the department, leashed dogs on designated trails in Pahole natural area reserve, and trained guide dogs accompanying their handlers;
- (3) To remove, damage, or disturb any geological or paleontological features or substances, including but not limited to drilling, placement or installation of hardware or fasteners;
- (4) To remove, damage, or disturb any historic or prehistoric remains;
- (5) To remove, damage, or disturb any notice, marker, or structure;
- (6) To engage in any construction or improvement;

- (7) To engage in any camping activity or to establish a temporary or permanent residence;
- (8) To start or maintain a fire, including cigarettes;
- (9) To litter, or to deposit refuse or any other substance;
- (10) To operate any motorized or unmotorized land vehicle or air conveyance of any shape or form in any area, including roads or trails, not designated for its use;
- (11) To operate any motorized water vehicle of any shape or form in freshwater environments, including bogs, ponds, and streams, except as otherwise provided in the boating rules of the department. In Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve, no person shall operate, anchor or moor any vessel equipped with mechanical means of propulsion on or in the Ahihi-Kinau ocean waters unless (1) the person is engaged in rescue or law enforcement operations; (2) an emergency arises which requires that such action be taken to prevent loss of life, injury to persons or damage to property; or (3) the person is operating, anchoring or mooring a vessel equipped with mechanical means of propulsion in or on the waters in accordance with the provisions of a permit issued by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Notwithstanding any boating rules of the department, it is prohibited to launch or land any boats, including sail boats, row boats, canoes and kayaks within portions of Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve as shown in Exhibit 1, located at the end of this chapter and by reference made a part hereof. This section shall not apply to surfboards and bodyboards;
- (12) To enter into, place any vessel or material in or on, or otherwise disturb a lake or pond;
- (13) To engage in commercial activities of any kind in a natural area reserve without a written special-use permit from the board or its authorized representative;
- (14) To have or possess the following tools, equipment, or implements: fishing gear or devices within portions of Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve as shown in Exhibit 1, located at the end of this chapter and by reference made a part hereof, including but not limited to any hook-and-line, rod, reel, spear, trap, net, crowbar, or other device that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of marine life; cutting or harvesting tools or gear, including but not limited to chainsaws, axes, loppers, any mechanized or manual sawtooth tool, seed pickers, or machete, that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of plant life; and hunting gear or tools that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of wildlife, except as permitted by the hunting rules of the department;
- (15) To hike, conduct nature study, or conduct any activity with a group larger than ten in size;
- (16) To be present in an area closed pursuant to section 13-209-4.5 or after visiting hours established pursuant to section 13-209-4.6;
- (17) To anchor any motorized or nonmotorized water vehicle of any shape or form in the marine waters of Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve;
- (18) To enter into any cave, as defined in section 6D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or any portion thereof;
- (19) To conduct any other activity inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the natural area reserves system;

- (20) To use or possess narcotics or drugs except as provided by Federal or State laws. No person shall enter or remain within the premises when under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics or drugs;
- (21) To use or possess alcohol, except with the written permission of the board or its authorized representative- ;
- (22) To feed animals or leave any food that may be consumed by animals;
- (23) For an owner to allow the owner's dog, cat, or other domestic animal to become a stray;
- (24) To operate an unmanned aircraft in or above natural area reserves.
- (25) To enter into any solid-walled enclosures with signage indicating that the area is protected for snails.

[Eff 6/29/81; am 12/9/02; am 7/3/03; am 1/26/07; am and comp JUL 19 2025](Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-4.1 Animals. Any stray dog, cat, or other animal may be seized by officers and employees of the department, or by any other person authorized by law, and shall be disposed of as provided in section 183D-65, Hawaii Revised Statutes. [Eff and comp JUL 19 2025]

§13-209-4.2 Restricted entry. It is prohibited for any person to land upon, enter or attempt to enter, or remain in any natural area reserve identified in Exhibit 2, located at the end of this chapter and by reference made a part hereof, except as authorized by permit by the board or its authorized representative. [Eff and comp JUL 19 2025]

§ 13-209-4.3 Closing of areas. (a) The board or its authorized representative may close or restrict the public use of all or any portion of a natural area reserve in the event of an emergency or when deemed necessary for:

- (1) The protection of the biological, geological, or cultural resources of the area;
- (2) Health, safety, or welfare reasons;
- (3) Management activities, by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the duration, extent, and scope of closure.

(b) The chairperson is authorized to effect a given closure or restriction under subsection (a) for a period of not more than ninety days. The board is authorized to affect a closure or restriction for any period as deemed necessary to accommodate the condition or conditions indicated under subsection (a).

[Eff 1/26/07; am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§ 13-209-4.4 Visiting hours. The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission, may establish a reasonable schedule of visiting hours for all or portions of a natural area reserve by posting appropriate signs indicating the hours during which the natural area reserve may be accessed. All persons shall observe and abide by the officially posted signs designating visiting hours. [Eff: 1/26/07; am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§§ 13-209-4.5 - 13-209-4.9 (Reserved) [Eff and comp JUL 19 2025]

§ 13-209-5 Special use permits. (a) The board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the commission or its authorized representative, may issue permits to conduct activities otherwise prohibited by section 13-209-4 for research, education, management, or for any other purpose consistent with chapter 195, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

(b) Unless a special use permit includes a specific duration, the special use permit shall expire one year from the date of issuance.

(c) All special-use permits shall be subject to standard conditions, as approved by the board, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The permittee shall adhere to specifications given in the permit application;
- (2) Disturbance of vegetation and wildlife shall be avoided as much as possible;
- (3) Precautions shall be taken to prevent introductions of plants or animals not naturally present in the area. The permittee is responsible for making sure that participants' clothes, equipment, and vehicles are free of seeds or dirt to lessen the chance of introducing any non-native plants or soil animals. Should an infestation develop attributable to the permittee, the permittee is responsible for eradication by methods specified by the department;
- (4) This permit is not transferable;
- (5) This permit does not exempt the permittee from complying with any other applicable rule or statute;
- (6) The State of Hawaii shall be released and held harmless from any and all liability for injuries or death, or damage or loss of property however occurring during any activity related to this permit.

(d) The board or its authorized representative may attach special conditions on the special-use permit, including but not limited to reporting requirements, limitations on the size of groups or the length of time for which the permit is valid. Failure to comply with any of these conditions shall render a permit void.

(e) All permittees shall carry the permit with them at all times while in the reserve and shall, upon request, show the permit to any law enforcement officer or the board or its authorized representative.

(f) Permits are not transferable. If the permittee is a partnership, joint venture, or corporation, the sale or transfer of 25 percent or more of ownership interest or stocks by dissolution, merger, or any other means, shall be deemed a transfer for purposes of this subsection and subject to the right of the department to terminate this permit effective the date of the sale or transfer.

(g) The board or its authorized representative may revoke or cancel a permit without prior notice when an emergency is declared by the department or other proper authority or when the special-use poses an immediate threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public or natural, geological, or cultural resources of the reserve.

(h) The board or its authorized representative may revoke or cancel any permit with thirty days written notice:

- (1) For any infraction of the terms and conditions of the permit;
- (2) Upon a finding that the special-use threatens to damage the integrity or condition of the natural, geological, or cultural resources in the reserve;
- (3) Upon a finding that the special-use poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public or otherwise negatively impacts the general public's use and enjoyment of the reserve; or

(4) Upon closure of a reserve pursuant to section 13-209-4.5.

(i) The provisions of this section shall not exempt the applicant from complying with any other applicable rule or statute.

[Eff 6/29/81; am 1/26/07; am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS § 195-5)(Imp: HRS § 195-5)

§§ 13-209-5.1 - 13-209-5.4 (Reserved) [Eff and comp JUL 19 2025]

§ 13-209-5.5 Applications for special-use permits. (a) All applications for special-use permits shall be submitted in writing to the board or its authorized representative on the form prescribed by the department. The application shall contain the following information:

- (1) Name of applicant, and if relevant, affiliation and title;
- (2) Contact information, including name of primary contact, mailing address, phone number, and if available, email address;
- (3) The period of time for which the permit is requested, not to exceed one year unless seeking a waiver pursuant to section 13-209-5(b);
- (4) The reserve(s) involved;
- (5) A map illustrating the reserve and the location within the reserve of the proposed special-use;
- (6) A description of the proposed special-use;
- (7) A discussion of how the proposed special-use satisfies subsections (b)(1) through (b)(6);
- (8) An assessment of the potential environmental impact the special-use may have on the reserve or the surrounding area;
- (9) Signature of the applicant;
- (10) Any other information as determined by the department.

(b) In evaluating the merits of an application for a special-use permit, the board or its authorized representative shall apply the following criteria:

- (1) The proposed special-use cannot be conducted elsewhere;
- (2) The proposed special-use is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the natural area reserve system;
- (3) The proposed special-use is consistent with the management plan developed for the reserve;
- (4) The proposed special-use provides a benefit (direct or indirect) to the natural area reserve system or to the individual reserve(s) or both;
- (5) The proposed special-use will not damage or threaten to damage the integrity or condition of the natural, geological, or cultural resources in the natural area reserve and adjacent area or region;
- (6) The proposed special-use complies with provisions and guidelines contained in Chapter 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, entitled "Coastal Zone Management", where applicable; and
- (7) The applicant shall have complied with, or be in compliance with, the conditions of any previously approved permit.

(c) The applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the proposed special-use is consistent with the criteria in subsection (b).

(d) The board or its authorized representative may hold a public hearing on an application where determined by the chairperson that the scope of the proposed special-use or the public

interest requires a public hearing on the application. Notice of the hearing shall be given not less than twenty days prior to the date set for the hearing. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be published at least once in a newspaper in the county where the natural area reserve is located.

(e) If within two hundred seventy days after the department's acceptance of a completed application, the board or its authorized representative shall fail to render a decision thereon, the application for a special-use permit shall be automatically approved with the standard conditions outlined in section 13-209-5(c), provided that the board may revoke this approval pursuant to section 13-209-5(g) and (h). The two-hundred-seventy-day time period provided shall not commence until a completed application is accepted by the department. Physical receipt of an application by the department does not constitute acceptance. The two-hundred-seventy-day time period for decision may be extended for another one hundred eighty days at the request of the applicant to give the board additional time to review and make a decision on the application. [Eff 1/26/07; am] (Auth: HRS §§ 195-5, 91-13.5) (Imp: HRS §§ 195-5, 91-13.5) JUL 19 2025

§13-209-5.6 Parking fees. (a) The fee for parking a vehicle in the Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve at the Kanahena lot, shown in Exhibit "1", in a space designated for such use shall be:

Nonresidents: \$10.00 per vehicle

Residents: No charge

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "resident" means a resident of the State with a valid State of Hawaii identification card or State of Hawaii driver's license.

(c) All fees collected shall be deposited into the Endangered Species Trust Fund. [Eff 9/8/17, am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS §§ 195-5, 195-9) (Imp: HRS §§ 195-5, 195-9)

§ 13-209-5.7 Public parking closure hours. Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve parking areas will be closed daily between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., including State holidays. [Eff 9/8/17] (Auth: HRS §§ 195-5) (Imp: HRS §§ 195-5) JUL 19 2025

§ 13-209-5.8 Public parking. No vehicle shall enter the Kanahena lot, shown in Exhibit "1", without payment of parking fees and charges and may only park in areas designated by the department. Within the Kanahena lot, all vehicles, resident and non-resident, must have and clearly display a parking pass on the driver's side dashboard area so that it can be read from the outside of the vehicle. No vehicle shall be in a parking area within the Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve when the parking area is closed, except as expressly permitted in writing by the department. [Eff 9/8/17, am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS §§ 195-5) (Imp: HRS §§ 195-5)

§ 13-209-5.9 Removal of vehicles. (a) The department may detain, tow, move, or cause to be moved to an impounding area, at the owner's risk and expense and without liability for any damage that may result, any motor vehicle:

- (1) For nonpayment of parking charges, or failure to clearly display a parking permit on the driver's side dashboard when a vehicle is parked in a vehicular parking area operated by the department or authorized representative in the Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve; or

- (2) Which has been parked continuously anywhere in the Ahihi-Kinau natural area reserve for a period exceeding the posted time limits, except where prior arrangements have been made therefor.

(b) The department shall have the authority to detain, tow, move, or cause to be moved any vehicle when the position or location of the vehicle in a parking lot creates a nuisance or a hazard; provided, that any detention, towing, or moving, done or caused to be done by the department or authorized representative, of any vehicle legally parked, shall not be at the owner's risk and expense. [Eff 9/8/17, am and comp JUL 19 2025] (Auth: HRS §§ 195-5) (Imp: HRS §§ 195-5)

§ 13-209-6 Penalty. Any person violating any of the provisions of these rules shall be penalized as provided in section 195-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes. [Eff 6/29/81] (Auth: HRS § 195-5) (Imp: HRS § 195-8) JUL 19 2025

Exhibit 1: Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve

Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve, Maui
Chapter 209, Exhibit 1

State of Hawaii
DLNR, DOFAW

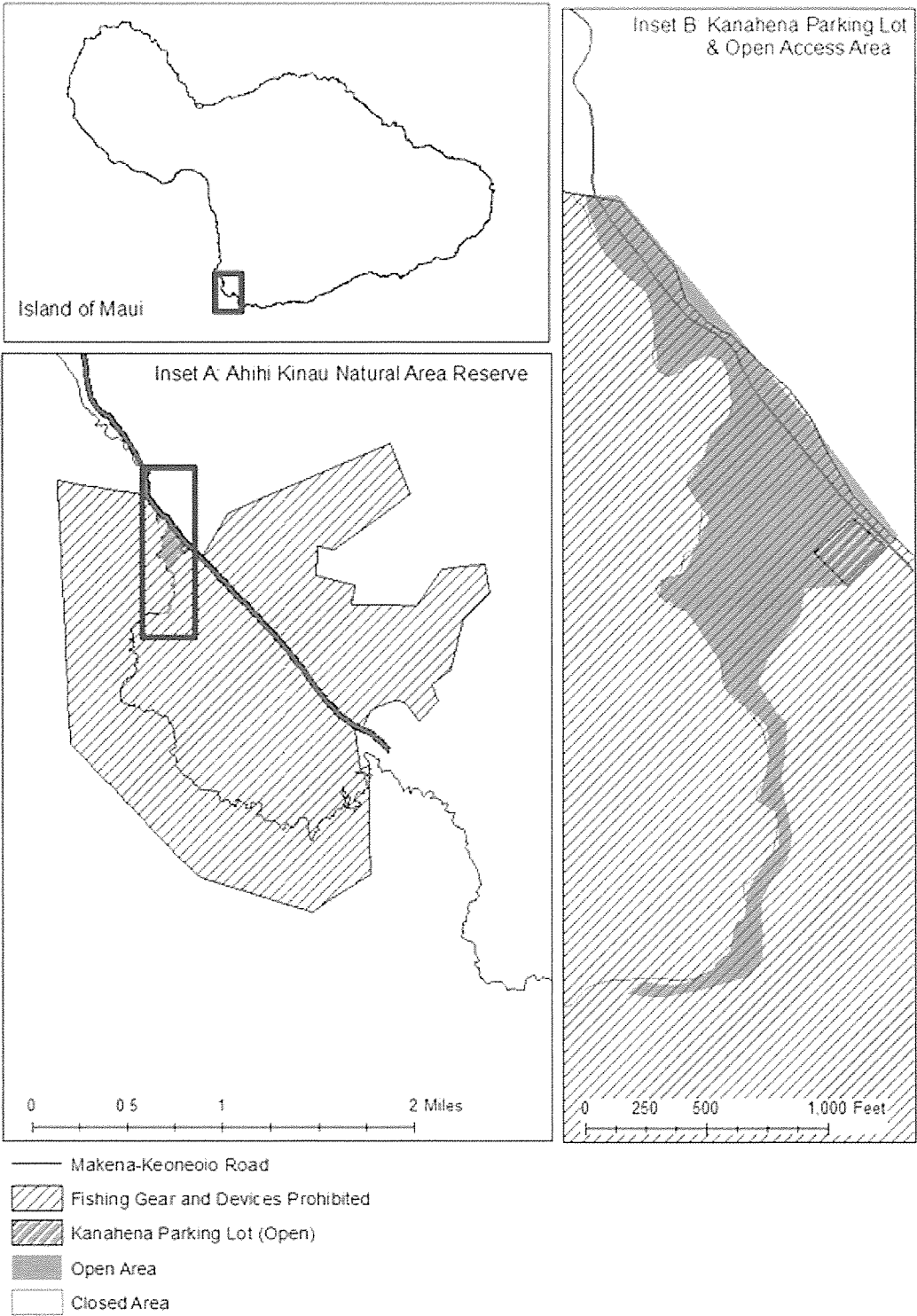


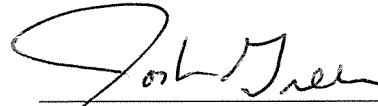
Exhibit 2: List of Restricted Natural Area Reserves

Name	County	Island	Tax Map Key	Restrictions
Ahihi	Maui	Maui	2-1-4:073	See map in Exhibit 1.
Kinau			(Portions) and 2-1-004:113	

Amendments to and compilation of chapter 13-209, , Hawaii Administrative Rules, on Summary page dated October 25, 2024, were adopted on October 25, 2024, following a public hearing on July 15, 2024, after public notices were given in the Star Advertiser on June 17, 2024.



DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson, Board of
Land and Natural Resources



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor
State of Hawaii

Dated: July 9, 2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy Attorney General

JUL - 9 2025

Filed

15984