

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

October 7, 2008

Chairperson and Members of the Enhancement Subcommittee
Natural Area Reserves System Commission
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

NARS Commission Enhancement Subcommittee Members:

SUBJECT: Review the first version of the NARS Enhancement Report for upcoming Subcommittee on Enhancement meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The NARS Commission has the statutory power and duty to study and recommend areas suitable for inclusion within the reserves system, and advised the governor and the department on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawai'i's unique natural resources (HRS §195-7), among other related duties. To fulfill these duties, the NARS Commission has initiated a process to systematically evaluate areas statewide for their biological and geological resources to see which most closely meet the "Representativeness" and "Scientific Value" criteria, which are two of the "Criteria for Selecting Natural Areas" (for a description of all of the Criteria, visit: <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/nars/criteria%20for%20NARS.pdf>). This "Enhancement Report" compiles biological data in a preliminary step to evaluate which natural ecosystems, and habitats containing rare, threatened and endangered species are not represented or underrepresented in the NARS, and present areas that have been suggested to fill those gaps.

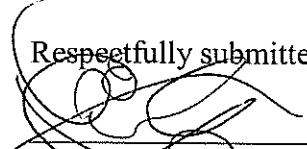
STAFF ANALYSIS:

In the upcoming meeting of the Subcommittee on Enhancement, the report will be reviewed, and items contained in the "Next Steps" section of the report will be addressed, among other issues regarding the NARS enhancement process and issues in NARS management.

RECOMMENDATION:

Evaluate this version of the Enhancement Report with special attention to the "Next Steps" section in preparation for discussion on October 7.

Respectfully submitted,



Emma Yuen, NARS Enhancement Coordinator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife