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May 21, 2008

Dr. Dale Bonar
Chairman, NARS Commission
c/o DLNR/DOFAW
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Dr. Bonar:

RE: Requesting Delegation for Certain Productions to Film in the NAR.

The Natural Area Reserve Commission has a list of NARS Special Use Permit items that have been delegated to the Executive Secretary for signature, after consultation with Branch staff. A list is attached for your review. Filming is not part of the delegation. This is for good reason as all film productions are not the same.

There are certain situations, however, where film productions, documentary or educational in nature, are appropriate for filming in certain Natural Area Reserves and in fact, could positively contribute to the mission of the NAR. In these situations, and due to the nature of film production in general, the infrequency of Commission meetings makes it difficult if not impossible to obtain Commission approval in a timely manner for the production.

I am respectfully requesting that certain film productions, on a case-by-case basis, be added to the list of SUP items to be delegated to the Executive Secretary for signature after consultation with NARS branch staff and the Hawaii Film Office.

The following is a list of suggested general conditions for delegation to film within the NAR for specific productions as mentioned above. Since the genesis of this request stemmed from a viable documentary film project requesting to shoot lava flow within the Kahaualea NAR, I have also included some suggested conditions that would be specific to that NAR.

Dr. Dale Bonar

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. Only film projects that are considered not to be detrimental to the environment will be considered for delegation. This determination will be decided by the affected NARS Island staff, their Branch Manager and in consultation with the Hawaii Film Office.
2. The Hawaii Film Office will give adequate time for the staff to review projects, including the review of story-line and scripts. The Hawaii Film Office will notify the affected NARS staff at the earliest possible convenience.
3. The Hawaii Film Office will communicate these conditions clearly to film permit applicants, and there can be no expectation of "rushed" approvals.
4. Any requested project can be elevated to the NARS Commission at the request of the affected branch staff.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR KAHAUALEA NAR FILMING:

1. Any filming requests that relate to filming lava from the ground in Kahaualea NAR will be considered in consultation between Hawaii Island DOFAW Branch staff and HVO. HVO and Hawaii Island staff may request scripts to understand the project and its relationship to the mission of the respective programs.
2. NARS Special Use permits will require lava specialists to accompany the filming crews. HVO staff will only be able to accompany filming crews when the specific production being filmed falls within the mission of HVO. If filming is approved, it will be done in close coordination with HVO to accommodate HVO's schedule.
3. Requirements for "alternative lava specialists" are presently being developed. If the mission of the filming does not fall within that of HVO, but is deemed appropriate by NARS staff, these specialists will be required to accompany film projects in the NAR.
4. Access to Kahaualea NAR via helicopter for ground filming will only be allowed via an OAS certified helicopter and pilot.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. I am available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Donne Dawson
Manager, Hawaii Film Office