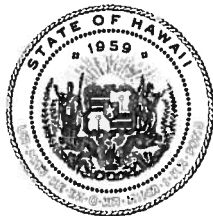


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Board of Land and Natural Resources
Commission on Water Resource Management

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Aquatic Resources
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Conservation and Coastal Lands
Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Engineering
Forestry and Wildlife
Historic Preservation
Kahoohawe Island Reserve Commission
Land
State Parks

January 8, 2010

Natural Area Reserves System Commission
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Natural Area Reserves System Commission:

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) has received the proposal for the extension of Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve, into undeveloped portions of TMK (3) 2-4-008-009, currently set aside as the Kulani Correctional Facility.

NARS staff have partnered with the Three Mountain Alliance to fence and remove ungulates from the entire parcel, as well as monitor, outplant, and control weeds in native forest areas. A successful educational program has also introduced inmates as well as the general public to natural resource conservation needs and management activities. These significant investments in Kulani reflect its high-quality ecosystems and its importance for regional conservation efforts. Inclusion of this area into the NARS would enhance protection of the existing Puu Makaala NAR and protect natural communities and features that are unrepresented in the NARS, consistent with HRS §195-1.

After closure of the correctional facility, plans were announced to use the area as a Youth Challenge Academy for at-risk youth, run by the State Department of Defense (DOD). NARS staff have met with the Chairperson and the Youth Challenge Academy/DOD staff to develop access logistics, partnerships to develop natural resource curriculum for the Academy, and propose NAR designation for the undeveloped areas. Staff also conducted a site visit with the Chairperson, DOD, the Three Mountain Alliance, and a NARS Commissioner to survey resources and existing infrastructure and plan for access arrangements. The Chairperson has also met with the DOD and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to determine the administrative process for approving additional uses on the parcel.

However, these discussions have not yet determined whether the facility will be set aside to DOD or remain under DPS. DOFAW will need to consult with the agency with the jurisdiction over the parcel about the recommended boundaries and timeline for NAR designation. Please defer a final recommendation and allow DOFAW additional time to make our recommendation until the agency with jurisdiction is determined. Decision-making on the set aside is scheduled to occur in January 2010. In the NARS Commission meeting on January 20, 2010, please establish

a timeline for milestones when the Commission will be requesting DOFAW's final recommendation for the NAR Extension.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Paul Conry, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife