

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

March 31, 2017

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

NARS Commission Members:

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A RENEWAL PERMIT TO SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL TO CONTINUE THE REINTRODUCTION OF 'ALALĀ (*CORVUS HAWAIIENSIS*) INTO THE KŪLANI SECTION OF PU'U MAKA'ALA NATURAL AREA RESERVE, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I; FOR YEAR TWO OF A MULTI-YEAR PROJECT TO REINTRODUCE THESE ICONIC BIRDS BACK INTO THE WILD.

Background and Discussion:

The 'alalā, once a common sight and sound in the forests of the island of Hawai'i, was one of the first birds added to the Endangered Species List from Hawai'i, as its numbers dramatically declined due to a variety of reasons from habitat alteration to disease, to predation, and it was declared extirpated from the wild in 2000.

Various attempts have been made to bring this raven-sized bird back from the brink, and the San Diego Zoo, working as a Cooperator with the State and other partners, has built up a captive flock from with the ultimate goal of re-introducing them back into the wild.

After careful consideration of numerous localities, it was determined that the Kūlani Section of Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) was the best site due to ongoing management of habitat and predator control. The birds will be released in small numbers over time. This action has been long anticipated by the Forest Bird Recovery team, as well as other groups and individuals; now a focus of the Working Group that is helping to guide actions over the life of the project.

Their calls were varied and quite noisy in the wild (according to Pukui: 'alalā means to caw or make noise). Fortunately, their wild vocalizations were tape recorded and it is hoped that the young will pick up and re-learn these sounds. Although Hawai'i has lost so many of its native birds, efforts to restore this unique, iconic bird, restore its sights, sounds, and connections back to the wild. Many forest plants have been reliant on these birds as important dispersers of seeds, so their restoration will help others as well. The proposed actions have the continued support of Working Group, DOFAW staff as well as other agencies and organizations.

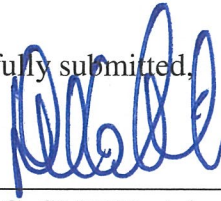
Item 4. a.

One of the conditions placed on approval of the first year (approved at the April 6, 2016 NARSC Meeting) was that SDZ return to the NARSC to request a second year permit; to review what worked and did not in the first year, and how changes to the original plan were altered accordingly.

Recommendation:

That the NARS Commission approve and recommend, to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, approval for a Special Use Permit for the proposed reintroduction of 'ālalā (*Corvus hawaiiensis*) into Kūlani Section of Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve, island of Hawai'i, for a second year to run from May 23, 2017 to May 22, 2018, on this multi-year project.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Attachments: Application from SDZG.
New Outreach Flyer for 'Io developed by DOFAW Hawai'i staff.

ALL ABOUT HAWAI'I 'IO

GETTING TO KNOW THE 'IO

The 'io is a hawk **ENDEMIC** to Hawai'i, meaning that it is found here and nowhere else in the *world!* This *graceful* bird-of-prey was listed as an **ENDANGERED** species in 1967 under the Federal Endangered Species Act because this *species* were experiencing significant declines.



WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

'Io feed on *rodents, insects* and *small birds*. One of the ways they **HUNT** is by spotting their prey from a stationary position, then **DIVES** to catch their prey.

HOME IS WHERE THE FOREST IS

'Io nest from **MARCH** through *September*, and usually lay only one egg. The female sits on the *egg* for most of the **38 DAYS** of *incubation*, while the male does the majority of the hunting. After the egg is hatched, the female only allows the male to visit when delivering food to the nest. The chick **LEAVES** its nest at *seven* or *eight* weeks of age.

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