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Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

1151 Punchbowl St., Room 325; Honolulu, HI96813
(808) 587-0063, (808) 587-0064 (Fax)

Application for NARS Special Use Permit

Name: Douglas G. Myers
Title of Proposed Activity: ʻAlalā Reintroduction Project (permit renewal application)

The following activities require a Special Use Permit under HAR §13-209-5. If your work in the Natural Area Reserve (NAR) will involve one or more of the following, please indicate with an 'X' below:

X remove, injure, or kill any form of plant or animal life, except game mammals and birds hunted according to department rules*
__ introduce any form of plant or animal life*
__ remove, damage, or disturb any geological or paleontological features or substances*
__ remove, damage or disturb any historic or prehistoric remains*
X engage in any construction or improvement*
X engage in any camping activity
X establish a temporary or permanent residence
__ start or maintain a fire
__ litter, or to deposit refuse or any other substance
__ operate any motorized or nonmotorized land vehicle or air conveyance in any area (including roads and trails) not designated for its use
__ operate any motorized water vehicle of any shape or form in freshwater environments or marine waters, except as otherwise provided by DLNR's boating rules
__ enter into, place any vessel or material on, or otherwise disturb a lake or pond
__ engage in commercial activities, defined as "the use of or activity on state lands for which compensation is received by any person for goods or services or both rendered to customers or participants in that use or activity"
__ have or possess the following tools, equipments or implements: fishing gear or devices (in `Ahihi-Kina`u NAR), cutting or harvesting gear (in any NAR), and hunting gear or tools (except as permitted by the hunting rules of the department)
__ hike or conduct nature study **with a group larger than 10**
X presence in an area closed pursuant to HAR §13-209-4.5 or after visiting hours established by §13-209-4.6
__ anchor any motorized or non-motorized water vehicle in the marine waters of `Ahihi-Kina`u NAR
__ other (please explain): _____

*** May require additional State or Federal permits. Applicants are responsible for identifying and securing all approvals that may be required.**

**** The NARS rules and recent rule amendments can be viewed on-line at http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/Unofficial%20compilation%20HAR%2013.209.pdf**

***** Please allow for a minimum permit processing time of three months*****

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All permits will have the following standard conditions, pursuant to HAR § 13-209-5. Additional conditions may apply.

1) The permittee shall adhere to the 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' clothing, 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) Once approved, the permit is not transferable
5) Once approved, the 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 the permit

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct.

DocuSigned by:
Douglas S. Myers
B3E0F8C2530043C...

Applicant's Signature

If approved, copies of the permit will be provided to:

- *Applicant*
- *NARS Commission Executive Secretary*
- *NARS Branch staff*
- *DLNR-DOCARE*

For internal use only:

Application received on: _____
Distributed to District staff for review on: _____
Approval ( ) recommended ( ) not recommended by NARS Commission or authorized representative on: _____ ( ) with the attached special conditions.

( ) Approved **( ) Not Approved**

_____ _____
Chairperson, DLNR **Date**

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

Applicant Contact Information

You may either enter the information directly onto this form; if you need more space or need to attach additional pages, please indicate that there are attachments.

Name:
Douglas G. Myers

If you are applying on behalf of an organization, the organization and your title:
Zoological Society of San Diego dba San Diego Zoo Global, President/CEO

Title of Proposed Activity:
ʻAlalā Reintroduction Project

Primary contact person for this permit application:
Christina Jordan

Mailing Address:
15600 San Pasqual Valley Road
Escondido CA 92027

Phone: (760) 796-5681
Fax:-
E-mail: cjordan@sandiegozoo.org

Principal local contact, reference, or collaborator:
Bryce Masuda, Conservation Program Manager (local contact)

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 39, Volcano, HI 96785

Phone: 808-985-7218
Fax: none
E-mail: bmasuda@sandiegozoo.org

Supporting Information

Please provide the following information about your proposed activity that requires a special-use permit ("proposed special-use"). Failure to provide responses to the following questions may result in your application being rejected or taking longer to review and process.

1. **What is the period of time for which the permit is requested (e.g., the date of a proposed single event or an ongoing research project, from beginning time or date until end of the event or project, for group hikes the number of hikers and leaders)?**

   * *Please note:* ***permits are limited to one year in length****, except where waived for permits to other governmental agencies where the board determines the waiver to be in the best interest of the State. Proposals for multi-year projects are advised of the need to apply for a new permit EACH year*.

This permit application is requested for one year.

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

2. **List the individual Natural Area Reserve(s) involved:** *Please note that Laupahoehoe is now has an overlay under the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service as part of the Hawai`i Experimental Tropical Forest (HETF). Applicants wishing to work in this Natural Area Reserve will need to apply for a separate permit by going to* http://www.hetf.us/page/conducting_research/ *You will* ***not*** *need to submit an additional application fee, but you will have to have it pass thorough the HETF review process. Permits are issued off of the Big Island DOFAW Branch.*

   Kahauale`a is currently closed due to continuing volcanic activity; entry is prohibited, but may be granted under special use request made directly to the Big Island NARS Manager and issued off of the Big Island DOFAW Branch (also subject to approval of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory to insure safety).

   The majority of `Ahihi-Kina`u is closed to public access; entry for research or other purposes may be made under a Special Use Permit.

The NAR involved in this permit is Puʻu Makaʻala NAR.

3. **Attach a map that illustrates where in the Natural Area Reserve(s) you propose to conduct your special-use.** *The map should be legible and reproducible in black and white. The map should also be at the appropriate scale for the type of activity proposed and of sufficient detail to allow the Division to identify activity sites within 10 meters. For any activity off established trails, entry and exit routes should be marked.*

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

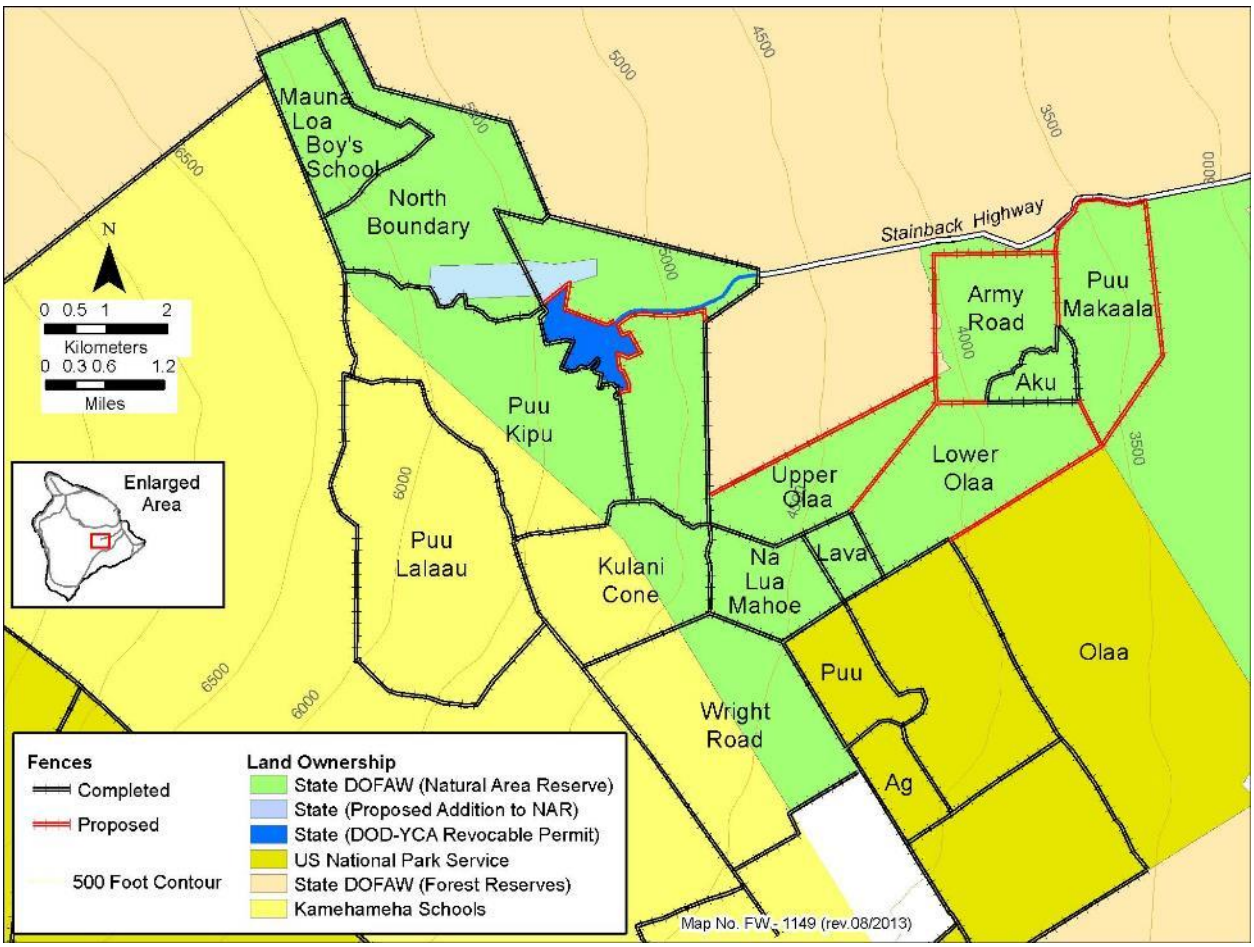

Figure 1. Map of Puʻu Makaʻala NAR. The exact location of the new, proposed release site for the 2018 release(s) will be agreed upon with the ʻAlalā Working Group and Hawaiʻi Island NARS Manager.

4. **Provide a thorough and detailed description of the proposed special use, including names of field assistants and other collaborators**. *The description should be detailed enough so that those reviewing your application understand what you propose to do and the scope of your proposal. As part of your description, please include: a) a description of the planned method of transportation to and within the Natural Area Reserve, and b) if other people than you will participate in the proposed special-use, please note how many people, and whether they are volunteers, students, research assistants, paying customers, etc.*

   For research proposals,
   a) *please explain your objectives, your methods, and why the proposed special-use is necessary to your research;*
   b) *if the research is part of your undergraduate or graduate studies, please include the name and affiliation of your major professor;*
   c) *if you are seeking permission to remove or introduce any form of plant or animal life, please list all species involved and specifically identify which are threatened, endangered, or candidate species.*

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

d) if you are seeking permission for the collection of any specimens, please note type of specimen (species and parts collected, if less than entire specimen), quantities to be collected, storage methods, and ultimate disposition.

Failure to provide sufficient information may result in your application being returned for additional information or rejected. Please feel free to attach additional sheets as necessary.

a) Objectives, methods, and necessity of the proposed special use:
The overall, long-term objective of this project is to establish a self-sustaining wild population of ʻAlalā in the Puʻu Makaʻala NAR.

b) Academic Affiliation:
Not applicable

c) Removal of species:
Similar to our previous permit, we would like to request permission to remove ʻAlalā only if they become sick or injured or if the removal will be beneficial to the well-being of the bird. If any birds become sick or injured, we request permission for them to be recaptured and returned to Keauhou Bird Conservation Center to undergo rehabilitation and evaluation, prior to being returned to the wild if possible.

d) Collection of specimens:
Similar to our previous permit, we would like to request permission to collect deceased ʻAlalā. If and when there are mortalities, we request permission for the carcass to be collected and sent to San Diego Zoo for complete necropsy analysis to determine the cause of mortality to the fullest extent possible. The carcass will then be deposited with the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, following existing USFWS and State Collection and access permits.

We would like to request the special conditions listed below. The previous Executive Secretary of the NARS Commission requested in past years that wording is written such that it could be copied directly into the permit. That is, each bullet point below does not explicitly ask for permission, although permission is being requested for all conditions. The wording below originated from the existing NARS Special Use Permit (including bold font identical to the previous permit), and has been modified slightly for this renewal application.

- The 2018 release site is located in the Kūlani Tract of Puʻu Makaʻala Natural Area Reserve either within the North Boundary or Mauna Loa Boys School units; access will either be through Kūlani Correctional Facility or, preferably (and regularly) on a new gated access road created on existing roads, but bypassing the correctional facility; transportation into the NAR will be by 4 x 4 vehicles accessed on the North Boundary or South Boundary access roads that provide access to both the field aviary and release aviary.

- The site being requested for the 2018 release will be in the same general area as the 2017 site. The addition of another release site for 2018 has been approved by the Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands, through a request for authorization to SPA# HA16-57. Continued use of the existing, abandoned Mauna Loa Boy's Home structure as a temporary field camp

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

site, allows staff to be on site, without needing to traverse in and out each day. A temporary weather port in a previously disturbed site will continued to be used for accommodation, office, and equipment storage. A contained sanitation system (such as a cleanwaste portable toilet) will continue to be used, as well as a water filtration system for uses other than drinking water, and a solar panel array will continue to be utilized as the primary power source, with a gas-powered generator as a backup power source, as needed. All of the infrastructure associated with these field camp amenities have been placed in previously disturbed sites only, as directed by the Hawai‘i Island NARS Manager.

- The release and post-release monitoring of ‘Alalā in Pu’u Maka’ala NAR will be overseen by Bryce Masuda, Conservation Program Manager, Alison Greggor, Post-Doctoral Associate, and Joshua Pang-Ching, Research Coordinator, with major project activities coordinated with the ‘Alalā Project Coordinator, Jackie Gaudioso-Levita of Hawai’i Island DOFAW. The monitoring crew will consist of 3-6 research assistants and 2-4 interns to be hired. Names of any new crew members will be provided to the NARS Manager as soon as that information becomes available. This is also a collaborative effort funded by San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), in collaboration with the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS), National Park Service (NPS), Kamehameha Schools (KS), and Three Mountain Alliance (TMA), U.S. Geological Survey, and other partners as part of the ‘Alalā Working Group.

- This permit allows a **maximum** of 10 field staff, interns, and/or volunteer interns to conduct this project; and special site visits may accommodate up to 10 people, with approval of the Hawai’i Island NARS Manager. All volunteers must sign appropriate waivers.

- **Permit Holder will provide a written schedule in the form of a weekly memo to the Hawai‘i Island NARS Manager of who will be on site, and any planned visitors who will be visiting during the day only, as well as contact information should an emergency arise necessitating contact with field staff.**

- A temporary flight conditioning aviary is currently located in a formerly disturbed area which was approved by the Hawai‘i Island NARS Manager; it is a greenhouse-style building with metal framing covered in vinyl coated wire; installed by a private contractor; the same flight conditioning field aviary used for first releases, and will be used again. The 2016 release aviary has been dismantled, but the wooden platform of that structure remains as per agreement with the Hawaii Island NARS Manager. The primary chamber of the 2017 release aviary will be dismantled. The secondary chamber of the 2017 release aviary will remain for the purposes of recapturing birds as necessary. A 2018 release aviary will be constructed in a location determined by the ‘Alalā Working Group and with approval by the Hawai‘i Island NARS Manager.

- The 2018 release cohort ‘Alalā will be held in the flight conditioning field aviary for several months, and will be released into the wild in 2018.

- Approximately 12 young birds will be released every year for five years; these details are - subject to change depending on the number and dates of hatching (and subject to satisfactory veterinarian examinations). Post-release monitoring will be on-going.

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

- One or more release aviaries hack towers may be placed in other previously disturbed locations for possible supplemental feeding or recapture, or research activities including taking blood samples; subject to approval by the NARS Manager. Supplemental feeding will occur outside of the release aviary as needed. Dimensions will follow those approved by the Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands.

- All birds released will have VHF transmitters weighing no more than 3%-5% of the birds' body weight, to monitor post-release behavior and movements; the majority of monitoring will be done remotely to lessen disturbance to the birds or visible human presence. Installation of automated VHF towers, approximately 15 ft. tall with attached antennae and guy lines, will be placed in strategic locations surrounding the release site, as approved by the NARS Manager.

- On the ground monitoring will be conducted only as needed and following fence lines, roads, transect lines, and other existing paths as much as possible to limit the impact in the NAR.

- If any birds become sick, they may be recaptured and returned to Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) to undergo rehabilitation and evaluation, prior to being returned to the wild.

- **If there is a death, the carcass will be sent to San Diego Zoo for necropsy and the final necropsy report(s) will be reviewed by Dr. Thierry Work, U.S. Geological Survey Wildlife Disease Specialist. After the necropsy has been completed, the carcass will then be deposited into Bishop Museum, Honolulu or other repositories following USFWS and/or State permits.**

- **Decontaminate boots/footwear, backpacks and equipment before and after each trip into the Reserve to prevent spread of weed seed and/or pathogens. All vehicles should be clean of weed seeds and mud before each entry of the NAR. It is also recommended by the Hawai'i Island NARS manager that when 4wd vehicles are not in use, they be parked in sanitized areas during after hours, overnight such as concrete or black top surfaces or carport, all free of surrounding vegetation to prevent invasive species from accessing the vehicle. Do not park project vehicles outside the NAR under trees at any time.**

- **For the protection of the forest areas from transmission of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD), no clothing, gear, equipment, or tools used on Hawai'i Island will be permitted for use on Maui Nui, O'ahu, or Kaua'i. Prior to conducting any work under this permit, Permit Holder is required to contact and receive approval of the Branch Manager or designee. Permit Holder is responsible for ensuring that all clothing, gear, equipment, tools or vehicles is cleaned and may be subject to inspection pursuant to compliance with this condition. Please see specific recommendations below under Condition #26 and refer to the Phytosanitation protocol attached to this permit in Appendix I**

- **Here are some basic recommendations for preventing spread of *Ceratocystis* Wilt of 'Ōhi'a (aka Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death):**

- Do not move any wood from areas where ROD is present.

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

- Clean all tools (saws, pruners, shovels, etc.) with Lysol or a 70% rubbing alcohol solution before re-using at another site. Cutting of any ʻōhiʻa will be avoided as much as possible.
- Off-road vehicles should be thoroughly cleaned using pressurized water. This should be done daily or several times per week at a minimum. The vehicle must be cleaned thoroughly underneath to prevent transport of contaminated soil.
- Shoes, clothing, and backpacks should also be cleaned before being worn in healthy forests. Shoes soles should be sprayed with Lysol or alcohol solution after removing mud and dirt. It is further recommended that gear that comes into contact with soil used that is used in the NAR be designated for the NAR only and left on-site.
- So far the pathogen has been isolated from ʻōhiʻa wood (internal), soil, and insect frass. Such material collected from sites where ROD is present should be destroyed, following research or other use and not moved to other forest sites.
- When visiting multiple sites, visit sites where ROD has been detected last to prevent spread.
- The above sanitation precautions should be closely followed, especially for researchers moving interisland.

For more information including updates on where the disease has been found, please see www.ohiawilt.org

- Photos taken by Permit Holder, Sub-Permit Holders and Volunteers of rare and endangered wildlife and plants, encountered during research activities described in this endorsement shall not be posted on social media outlets with location information, except in the broadest of terms (i.e. island and mountain range). An example of an acceptable location tag for a site on Oʻahu would be "Northern Koʻolau Mountains". Failure to comply will result in revocation of this permit and the denial of further permit. If Principal Permit Holder, Sub-Permit Holders, or Volunteers encounter rare and endangered wildlife and plants while conducting research activities outlined in this endorsement, said Permit Holder, staff and volunteers will not visit the given rare or endangered wildlife or plant again except if absolutely necessary for conducting the research outlined in this endorsement. Similarly, Permit Holders, Sub-Permit Holders, and Volunteers will not provide directions or location information of rare and endangered wildlife and plants to non-agency or non-permitted individuals. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of this permit and the denial of further permits.

- Permits are issued on an annual basis; if a **renewal** is required, please submit a report detailing progress to date (not just species lists) six weeks **prior** to permit expiration date, before submitting an application form detailing future plan; renewals may be delayed or denied without prior reporting. In the case of single year permits, submit a report following the permit expiration date that details what was accomplished during the permit period. Annual reports will include GPS data for all specimen collection/observation localities and track logs for the trails that Permit Holder used to access these areas (i.e., shape files must include point data of animal/plant location by species, track of surveyed area, or estimated polygon if Permit Holder did not take a track, and polygon of desired survey area); or as per agreement with NARS staff. The information provided may be used for management purposes.

    - Upon completion of the project, all infrastructure will be removed from the area; however, if this new release site proves to be a better alternative; then with staff approval, the site may be continued to be used for the life of the project or until another alternative is identified, with

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

removal upon completion of the release project.

5. **Please answer the following questions about your proposed special use:**
    a. **Can your proposed special use be conducted elsewhere? If not, why not?**

The proposed special use was chosen by the ʻAlalā Working Group (which includes representatives from the NARS and DOFAW) to be conducted at the Puʻu Makaʻala NAR after an in-depth analysis of all proposed release sites. This site was chosen to ultimately give ʻAlalā the greatest chance of success at establishing a wild population, while accounting for logistical constraints for the implementation of this project.

    b. **Is your proposed special-use consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Natural Area Reserves System (the purpose and objective of the NARS is to protect in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna of Hawai`i)? If so, how?**

The proposed special-use is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the NARS, because it involves reintroducing and restoring a currently extinct in the wild endemic Hawaiian bird to the NARS. The ʻAlalā reintroduction itself is consistent with the purpose and objective of the NARS, as it is a disperser of native fruiting plants, and therefore considered a keystone species to native Hawaiian ecosystems.

    c. **Is your proposed special-use consistent with the management plan developed for the individual Reserve(s) (*Management plans are available for review at www.dofaw.net/nars or by contacting the NARS office*)?**

The proposed special-use of reintroducing ʻAlalā to Puʻu Makaʻala NAR is consistent with the management plan, which explains that the "overall management goal is to protect, maintain, and enhance Puʻu Makaʻala's unique natural, cultural, and geological resources." The proposed activities are consistent with the management plan, as reintroducing ʻAlalā will protect natural resources (e.g. trapping of introduced mammalian predators), enhance natural resources (e.g. the release of ʻAlalā as an endemic species), and enhance cultural resources (e.g. the release of the culturally important ʻAlalā).

    d. **Does your proposed special-use provide a benefit (direct or indirect) to the Natural Area Reserves System or to the individual Reserve(s) or both? (*For research, please note whether any studies have previously been made similar to the one proposed and how you will convey your research findings to the Department*).**

The proposed reintroduction of ʻAlalā will benefit the NARS by bringing attention to the importance of the NARS in general. It will also benefit the Puʻu Makaʻala NAR specifically, as ʻAlalā are important seed dispersers of endemic Hawaiian plants.

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

e. Will the proposed special-use damage or threaten to damage the integrity or condition of the natural, geological, or cultural resources in the individual Natural Area Reserve(s) and adjacent area or region? If so, how? If not, why not?

The proposed special use will be conducted in a manner to minimize impacts to the NAR as much as possible. Potential impacts from proposed activities have been discussed with the Hawai‘i Island NARS manager, and planning has been designed based on the manager's recommendations. The flight conditioning aviary has already been constructed on a disturbed site. The release aviary will be constructed in an area approved by the Hawai‘i Island NARS Manager. Browse and perching will be obtained from NARS staff when they clear fencelines and dirt roads. If additional browse and perching for the birds are necessary, SDZG staff will consult with NAR staff prior to doing any vegetation collections. Vehicles will be cleaned prior to being driven in the NAR and boots and all other gear will also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to being transported to the NAR. As much as possible, brand new equipment and supplies will be used and stored at the living facilities and office space to limit unwanted organisms from entering the NAR. Driving will be done slowly along dirt roads in the NAR. Remote monitoring (e.g. towers) will be preferentially used and off-trail work will be kept to a minimum. On the ground monitoring will be conducted only as needed and following fence lines, roads, transect lines, and other existing paths as much as possible to limit the impact in the NAR.

f. Does the proposed special-use comply with the provisions and guidelines contained in HRS Chapter 205A, entitled 'Coastal Zone Management,' where applicable? ***HRS Chapter 205A can be accessed at:http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol04_Ch0201-0257/HRS0205A/***

Not applicable.

g. Have you (the applicant) previously received a NARS Special Use Permit? If so, did you comply with the conditions of any previously approved permit (including providing a final report as requested)?

Yes, we have previously received a NARS Special Use Permit and complied with the conditions.

h. Do you (the applicant) have any other current NARS special-use permits? If so, please list and state whether you are currently in compliance with the conditions of those permits.

We do not currently have any other NARS special use permits.

6. Is the proposed special-use expected to have an environmental impact on the Natural Area Reserve(s) or the surrounding area? If, so please elaborate. If not, why not? ***Please include discussion of any off-trail work, such as mist-netting, setting of traps, removal of vegetation, etc. and any measures planned to mitigate any short and long-term damage.***

The proposed special use will be conducted in a manner to minimize impacts to the NAR as much as possible. Potential impacts from proposed activities have been discussed with the

DocuSign Envelope ID: D8FFA40A-EA7D-4269-9BC8-E90DEADE374D

Hawai‘i Island NARS manager, and planning has been designed based on the manager’s recommendations. The flight conditioning aviary has already been constructed on a disturbed site. The release aviary will be constructed in an area approved by the Hawai‘i Island NARS Manager. Browse and perching will be obtained from NARS staff when they clear fencelines and dirt roads. If additional browse and perching for the birds are necessary, SDZG staff will consult with NAR staff prior to doing any vegetation collections. Vehicles will be cleaned prior to being driven in the NAR and boots and all other gear will also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to being transported to the NAR. As much as possible, brand new equipment and supplies will be used and stored at the living facilities and office space to limit unwanted organisms from entering the NAR. Driving will be done slowly along dirt roads in the NAR. Remote monitoring (e.g. towers) will be preferentially used and off-trail work will be kept to a minimum. On the ground monitoring will be conducted only as needed and following fence lines, roads, transect lines, and other existing paths as much as possible to limit the impact in the NAR.

7. **There is an application fee of $50 to cover the cost of processing; please attach a check made out to: *Department of Land and Natural Resources*. Please mail a hard copy of the application with original signature (students must also have the signature of their Advisor. This should be mailed to the attention of: Executive Secretary, Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325, Honolulu, HI96813. An electronic version of the application (signed or unsigned) may be e-mailed to betsy.h.gagne@hawaii.gov so that it may be sent out for review to appropriate staff and others.**

Check is no longer required.

8. **For research proposals, please list any local collaborators or contacts (if any).**

This reintroduction is being conducted in collaboration with the Hawai‘i Natural Area Reserve System, Hawai‘i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Three Mountain Alliance, Kamehameha Schools, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, and the U.S. Geological Survey.