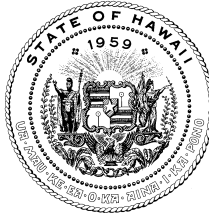


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
2135 MAKIKI HEIGHTS DRIVE
HONOLULU, HI 96822

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

30 August 2021

Aloha kāua,

I am writing to endorse an application for HISC funding submitted by USDA-APHIS to conduct the research required to register a toxicant for mongoose control with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Having a registered toxicant for mongoose would transform our ability to manage habitat for three species of federally endangered waterbirds (Ae'o, 'Alae 'ula, and 'Alae ke'oke'o). Currently despite intensive trapping at Kawainui Marsh (the largest freshwater wetland in Hawai'i), mongoose are still responsible for the failure of nearly 30% of endangered waterbird nests. Toxicants have the advantage over traps in that they allow managers to target trap-shy mongoose and they save personnel time that normally would be spent baiting and checking traps several times per week. Wildlife managers in Hawai'i absolutely need a toxicant approved for mongoose.

Please consider the USDA-APHIS project for funding at the full amount they requested. Funding their proposal will dramatically improve the nesting and fledging success of endangered waterbirds across the state.

With aloha,

Lindsey Nietmann
Wildlife Biologist
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife