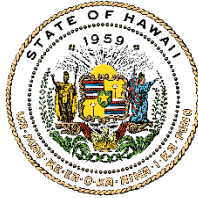


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96809

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS
LAND

REF: OCCL: TF

CDUA: MA-3942

Acceptance Date: December 5, 2023

180-Day Exp. Date: June 2, 2024

Thomas Giambelluca, Director
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Water Resources Research Center
2540 Dole Street, Holmes Hall 283
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Dec 6, 2023

Dear Thomas Giambelluca:

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION
Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3942
DEPARTMENTAL Permit

This acknowledges the receipt and acceptance for the processing of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) CDUA OA-3942 for the installation of one (1) Mesonet weather station. The proposed weather station will be installed between the Pohakea and Ukumehame watersheds. The project site lies in the Hana'ula Reservoir in the West Maui Forest Reserve, located in Waikapū, Maui within the Conservation District, Resource subzone, upon Tax Map Key: (2) 3-6-003:001.

According to your information, the Hawai'i Mesonet project is a 104-statewide network of weather and climate monitoring telemetered stations, equipped with instrumentation for temperature, humidity, rainfall, solar radiation, wind speed/direction, soil moisture, soil temperature, and soil heat flux. Data collected by Mesonet stations will be available in real-time on the centralized Hawai'i Climate Data Portal repository, and through the National Weather Service, where it can be accessed by the public.

The proposed Hana'ula Reservoir Mesonet station's 10-to-12-feet mast and instrumentation will sit on a 2-ft x 2-ft concrete pad poured into a 20.5-in-depth below grade dug hole. Three (3) J-bolts embedded into the foundation will act as mast mounting points. The proposal also involves a 1-ft x 1-ft x 18-in-deep concrete foundation installed 10-feet away from the station to place a rainfall gauge fixture. A 1.9-in ODE stainless steel

pipe will be embedded in the foundation to act as a mounting point for the rainfall gauge. A 1-ft x 2-ft trench with a 6.3-in to 14-in depth trench will be dug to house soil sensors. A 4-in x 4-in x 10-feet-long trench will be dug to run conduit and cables from the rain fall gauge and soil sensors to the station.

After reviewing the application, the Department finds that:

1. The proposed use is an identified land use within Resource subzone of the Conservation District, according to the Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) § 13-5-22, DATA COLLECTION, (C-1) *Basic data collection, research, education, and resource evaluation that involves a land use causing ground disturbance from installation of equipment (e.g., meteorological towers, radio towers, or test wells)*. This use requires a Departmental permit approved by the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Please be advised, however, that this finding does not constitute approval of the proposal;
2. Pursuant to HAR §13-5-40, a Public Hearing will not be required;
3. In conformance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 343, as amended, and HAR Chapter 11-200.1-16(a)(1), the proposed use falls under **General Exemption Type 5**, which applies to "*Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.*" and pursuant to the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated 11/10/2020, specifically: **Part 1, Item #1** "*Conduct surveys or collect data on existing environmental conditions (e.g., noise, air quality, waterflow, water quality, etc.)*", and **Item #10** "*Installation of new, small groundwater, surface water, or climatological monitoring and data collection equipment, structures that house or protect this equipment, and installation of electrical, telemetry, or communications systems to service this equipment.*" According to these findings, OCCL concludes the proposed project is exempt from the publication of an environmental assessment and the DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife concurs.
4. The project is not within the Special Management Area.

The CDUA MA-3942 for the proposed UHM WRRC Hana'ula Reservoir Mesonet weather station project will be submitted for publication in the next available issue of the Environmental Review Program (ERP) publication *The Environmental Notice*. This CDUA will be presented to the Chair for consideration after all reviews and evaluations of the proposal have been made.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, contact Trevor Fitzpatrick of our Office at (808) 798-6660 or at trevor.j.fitzpatrick@hawaii.gov .

Sincerely,



Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

mc

C: Hanaula Ranch LLC
Maui Board Member
MDLO/DOFAW/DOCARE/ENG/CWRM/OHA/DOH
Maui Planning Department
Maui Department of Water Supply
Wailuku Public Library