

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 13, 2017 Meeting

Endangered Species Recovery Committee
State of Hawai‘i

Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF THE SAFE
HARBOR AGREEMENT FOR KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS KEAUHOU
AND KĪLAUEA FOREST LANDS, HAWAI‘I ISLAND, HAWAI‘I**

BACKGROUND

The Agreement between Kamehameha Schools (KS), USFWS and DLNR is a cooperative effort that provides KS with a way to manage their enrolled lands to support the conservation of listed species while conducting certain land-use practices. The Agreement establishes baselines for designated Covered Species that are either numbers of individuals or amount and type of habitat and the proposed land-use practices are intended to increase those baselines. It authorizes incidental take of covered species that may result from the land-use practices and allows KS to return the enrolled property back to its original baseline under specific conditions. Without this cooperative government/private effort, the enrolled property would be less valuable to the recovery of endangered or threatened species in the foreseeable future.

Key aspects of the Agreement are:

- Enrolled property would be 32,280 acres in the Keauhou, Ka‘ū area on Hawai‘i Island;
- Term is 50 years;
- Termination is possible after five years;
- Includes eight wildlife and 25 plant species; and
- Requires a net benefit for the species

Activities covered under the Agreement are:

- Removal of predators;
- Restoration outplanting;
- Koa silviculture, with benefits to forest structure;
- Fences and ungulate control;
- Weed control;
- Fire threat management; and
- Response to Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death.

Wildlife baselines that must be maintained:

| Species | Baseline |
|---|---|
| ‘Akiapōlā‘au (<i>Hemignathus wilsoni</i>) Hawai‘i Creeper (<i>Loxops mana</i>) Hawai‘i ‘Ākepa (<i>Loxops coccineus</i>) ‘Iwi (<i>Vestiaria coccinea</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,162 acres of occupied habitat in designated Forest Bird Stratum 1 baseline area |
| Hawaiian Hawk, ‘Io (<i>Buteo solitarius</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 18,517 acres on enrolled property 4,530 acres of closed and 13,987 of open canopy tree cover habitat |
| Hawaiian Crow, ‘Alalā (<i>Corvus hawaiiensis</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero individuals |
| Hawaiian Goose, Nēnē (<i>Branta sandvicensis</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero individuals |
| Hawaiian Hoary Bat, ‘Ōpe‘ape‘a (<i>Lasiurus cinereus semotus</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 18,517 acres on enrolled property 4,530 acres of closed and 13,987 of open canopy tree cover habitat |

Plant baselines that must be maintained:

| Plant Species | Final SHA Baseline Numbers |
|--|----------------------------|
| <i>Asplenium peruvianum</i> var. <i>insulare</i> | 128 |
| <i>Clermontia lindseyana</i> , ‘Ōhā wai | 24 |
| <i>Cyanea shipmanii</i> , Hāhā | 474 |
| <i>Cyanea stictophylla</i> , Hāhā* | 104 |
| <i>Phyllostegia racemosa</i> , Kīponapona* | 24 |
| <i>Phyllostegia velutina</i> | 38 |
| <i>Plantago hawaiiensis</i> | 1 |
| <i>Vicia menziesii</i> * | 33 |

*Species requiring special protective measures due to rarity

DOFAW released the Draft Agreement for a 60-day public comment period in the October 23, 2016 Office of Environmental Quality Control Environmental Notice. Two comments were received. Jackie Gaudioso of the ‘Alalā Recovery Project submitted comments updating the current population of ‘Alalā and clarifying its status. Staff from DOFAW and the U.S. National Park Service submitted information for the Baseline Determination section for the Nēnē that

included additional information and detail on Nēnē on the enrolled property and suggested revised language for supporting the establishment of a baseline number for Nēnē. All suggested changes have been incorporated in the Revised Draft being considered at this meeting.

The draft HCP was reviewed by the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) at an on-site meeting and site visit on November 14, 2016. There were no requested changes to the draft HCP at this meeting. Subsequent to the meeting one ESRC member requested a clarification of language in the draft on procedures to amend the Agreement and changes have been incorporated in the Revised Draft.

Discussion of the public hearing is provided below.

MASTERS REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Notice of Public Hearing published in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* and *Hawaii Tribune Herald* on November 6, 2016 and the press release November 14, 2016, DLNR has conducted a public hearing relative to the proposed Kamehameha Schools Safe Harbor Agreement at Keahou and Kīlauea Forest Land. The hearing was held on November 16, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Volcano School of Art & Science, Keakealani Campus 19-4024 Haunani Road, Volcano, Hawai'i 96785. DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) staff in attendance were Afsheen Siddiqi, Kate Cullison, Glenn Metzler, John Vetter, Joey Mello, and Emma Gosliner.

Afsheen Siddiqi, DOFAW Wildlife Biologist, called the hearing to order and provided some general information on the proceedings. A presentation on the proposed Project was provided by G. Metzler, Habitat Conservation Planning Associate. The meeting procedure was then described by A. Siddiqi, and the floor was opened to public testimony.

Public Testimony

Colleen Cole: I am Colleen Cole, member of the public and also the coordinator for the Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership. I just wanted to say, my comment would be that as a member of the public and also as the coordinator of Three Mountain Alliance, we are very much in support of this Safe Harbor Agreement. This has been in the works for a very long time and this is a great culmination of years and years of hard work especially in part of Kamehameha Schools' commitment and dedication to their land over and over again focusing on forest restoration and monitoring and protection of forest health and forest species. I think this is going to be the next phase of another 50 years of great partnering with state and federal partners, and I also think that this serves a level of trust and commitment that happens with all of the partners that have been a part of this Safe Harbor Agreement. Three Mountain Alliance of course has been very involved in this and we are in full support of this Safe Harbor Agreement going forward.

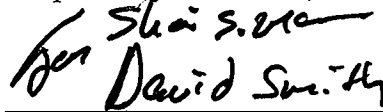
Rick Warshauer: I am thoroughly delighted to see that it has come to this level. I've known the landscape for 55 years, and I have come and gone in different points in time and have watched changes over the years and know that it is one of the richest places in the island for biological resources. It's one of the ones that so many people have identified with for so many years and to see the commitment to protection that the landowners are providing now really makes me feel

good even though I don't know which way it's going to go over time. None of us know because of the challenge that is ahead of us in the direction and the interest, and the commitment is there and am just really glad to see this happening and I hope it goes through. Thank you.

ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

DOFAW staff has worked closely with KS and USFWS through numerous rounds of revisions of the draft SHA. Few public comments were received on the draft Agreement. Comments received were updates of information and clarifications and appropriate revisions were made in response. Complimentary comments were also received at the public hearing on November 16, 2016. The Staff have no concerns with the current Revised Draft version of the document.

Respectfully Submitted,

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "David Smith". There is a horizontal line drawn across the signature.

David Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife