

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 31, 2015

Endangered Species Recovery Committee
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Committee Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NORTH KONA
GAME MANAGEMENT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN,
ISLAND OF HAWAI'I

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) has been developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) since 2002 for land managed primarily for maintenance of non-native game mammal populations for hunting, in addition to conservation of native habitat in the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve and the Pu'u Anahulu Game Management Area, in North Kona, on the island of Hawai'i.

The HCP is intended to consider and mitigate for the potential impacts from DOFAW's game mammal management activities on endangered species within the Pu'u Wa'awa'a and Pu'u Anahulu areas. Potential negative impacts on covered plant species are primarily due to grazing and traffic associated with the hunting program, road and fire break maintenance, as well as indirect take from competition with invasive plant species and from fire. The plan provides for avoidance and minimization measures, and mitigation which will provide net benefits to the species and environment, above and beyond any incidental take of protected species which may occur due to project actions.

The development of this HCP will provide for the incidental take of the following fifteen threatened and endangered plants and one endangered insect: *Asplenium peruvianum* var. *insulare*, Uhiuhi (*Caesalpinia kavaiensis*), Kauila (*Colubrina oppositifolia*), Honohono (*Haplostachys haplostachya*), Ma'o hau hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei* ssp. *brackenridgei*), Koki'o (*Kokia drynarioides*), *Neraudia ovata*, 'Aiea (*Nothocestrum breviflorum*), Hala pepe (*Pleomele hawaiiensis*), Po'e (*Portulaca sclerocarpa*), Hawaiian Catchfly (*Silene lanceolata*), Pōpolo kū mai (*Solanum incompletum*), *Stenogyne angustifolia*, A'e (*Zanthoxylum dipetalum* var. *tomentosum*), and A'e (*Zanthoxylum hawaiiense*) and the Blackburn's sphinx moth (*Manduca blackburni*).

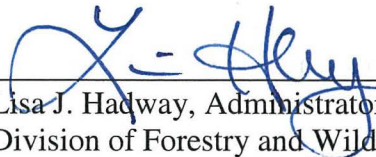
In May 2010, DOFAW staff provided information to the ESRC on the draft HCP. The purpose of the meeting was to request feedback from the ESRC on the draft regarding Covered Species take estimates that were based on 2003-2007 botanical surveys and a population model developed from the data. Additionally, feedback was requested on the methods being used to estimate Blackburn's sphinx moth populations and take in the Plan Area. Based on this meeting, HCP staff has updated the draft based on the following ESRC recommendations:

1. Further botanical surveys were recommended to ground truth the population model in order to fine tune projections for *Caesalpinia kavaiensis*, *Colubrina oppositifolia*, *Hibiscus brackenridgei*, and *Pleomele hawaiiensis*
2. The inclusion of Blackburn's sphinx moth as a Covered Species was recommended and further roadside surveys were deemed necessary to estimate potential take levels of larvae and eggs from road and fuel break clearing activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the ESRC provide comments on the current Draft North Kona Game Management Habitat Conservation Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa J. Hadway, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Attachment I: Draft North Kona Game Management Habitat Conservation Plan