REQUEST APPROVAL TO SEEK THE GOVERNOR’S APPROVAL TO INDEMNIFY THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE USE OF THE KOKO HEAD SHOOTING COMPLEX ON SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2016 FOR NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY CELEBRATION

SUMMARY:

Hawaii’s 26th annual National Hunting and Fishing Day (“NHFD”) will be held at the Koko Head Shooting Complex on September 17 and 18, 2016. The facility/property is owned by the City and County of Honolulu (“County”). In order to use the facility, the County will require the State to agree to indemnify the County. The Hawaii Hunter Education Program requests that the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve its request to seek the Governor’s approval to indemnify the Department of Parks and Recreation, City and County of Honolulu for the event.

BACKGROUND:

Hawaii has celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day for the past twenty-six years. The nation has observed National Hunting and Fishing Day since May 2, 1972 when President Richard M. Nixon signed the inaugural declaration for this annual event. The national and Hawaii’s National Hunting and Fishing Day recognize the contributions of sportsmen and women to wildlife conservation, restoration, hunter education in safety, responsibility and the shooting sports. The Pittman/Robertson Act of 1937 imposes a 10.5% to 11.0% tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition, archery equipment and accessories. Since 1937 the total contribution from shooters and hunters has been over twenty-two billion dollars for wildlife restoration. Nationally, U.S. sportsmen generate over four million dollars a day for hunting, shooting and conservation.

Hawaii’s NHFD is unique in that monetary and food donations to the Hawaii Food Bank garner coupons that can be redeemed for hands on activities in archery, .22 rifle, muzzle
loading, action pistol, shotgun, surf and fly casting. There are mandatory safety briefs, 
eye and ear protection and age restrictions for all shooters. This family-friendly event 
focuses on providing safe and free hands-on education on firearms, archery, and fishing. 
Additionally, there are wildlife and marine exhibits and displays.

The 2016 NHFD has partnerships with twenty outdoor clubs and organizations, in 
addition to DLNR’s DOCARE, DOFAW, DAR, DOBOR, and the Hawaii Hunter 
Education Program. The Hawaii NHFD event is published on the national NHFD 
website and publicized in the local media. Seven hundred eighty participants attended the 
2015 NHFD contributing, 1,114 pounds of canned food and $2,991.00 in monetary donations. 
With the increased publicity of the 2016 NHFD, donations to the Hawaii Food Bank are 
eXpected to set new benchmarks.

The 2016 Hawaii NHFD will be held at the Koko Head Shooting Complex on September 
17 and 18, 2016. The facility is owned by the County. In order to use the facility, the 
County will require the State to agree to the following indemnification provision:

The State shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Department of Parks and 
Recreation, of the City and County of Honolulu its officers, employees, and 
agents, from any and all claims of liability for any damage to real or personal 
property or injury to or death of any persons when such damage, injury or death 
arises out of the action or omission of the State, its officers, employees agents, 
consultants, contractors, or invitees in conjunction with the 2016 National 
Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration to be held at the Koko Head Shooting 
Complex, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 17 and 18, 2016 
from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; provided that the State shall not be required to 
indemnify, defend, or hold harmless, the Department of Parks and Recreation, 
City and County of Honolulu, its officers, employees, and agents, consultants, 
contractors, or invitees, regarding the maintenance and repair of the above 
mentioned facility/property. This provision shall not be read or interpreted to 
create any liability of the State or any person or entity to any person or entity, 
except for the duties to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless set forth herein. 
This provision is not intended to and shall not be interpreted to benefit any third 
person, or to benefit or create any third-party beneficiary.

Under §46-71.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), the State may agree to indemnify, 
defend, and hold harmless a county agency if certain preconditions are satisfied: 1) The 
Governor approves the State’s proposed indemnification; and (2) The Comptroller, 
pursuant to Section 41D-8.5, HRS, has (a) obtained an insurance policy in an amount 
sufficient to cover reasonably anticipated liability of the State that may arise or (b) 
determined that the obtaining such a policy is not in the best interest of the State. Due to 
timing constraints, the Hunter Education Program is requesting Governor’s approval for 
the event while concurrently presenting this matter to the Board. Accordingly, the 
Governor’s approval will be contingent upon the Board’s approval of the proposed 
request.
RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1) That the Board approves the request to seek the Governor’s approval to indemnify the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the 2016 National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration to be held at the Koko Head Shooting Complex on September 17 and 18, 2016.

2) That the Board authorizes the Chairperson to seek all necessary approvals and execute all documents related to the indemnification, subject to review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS H. FRIEL, Enforcement Chief
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources