

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
Honolulu, Hawaii

June 9, 2016

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

OAHU

Request to Close A Portion of the Ala Wai Canal Waters between Kalakaua Avenue and Ala Moana Boulevard from September 1 to 10, 2016 to Support Security Requirements of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature-World Conservation Congress to be held in Honolulu, Oahu.

BACKGROUND:

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature-World Conservation Congress (IUCN-WCC) will be held in Honolulu from September 1 to 10, 2016, and a majority of the activities will be convened at the Hawaii Convention Center. Various Federal, State and City law enforcement and emergency services partners have been meeting to plan law enforcement and security operations in support of this event.

This event is significant for several reasons:

- The convening of the IUCN-WCC in Honolulu is the first time the event is being held in the United States in the history of the IUCN-WCC organization.
- Expected attendance at the IUCN-WCC events in Honolulu is expected to be between 8,000-10,000 people, which include attendees from 160 different countries from around the world.
- The event will generate worldwide media interest and it is expected that over 1250 media personnel will be in Honolulu to cover the event.
- It is expected that attendance will include Heads of State, Ministerial and Cabinet Level Officials and other dignitaries.

The IUCN-WCC is a large scale, significant event for law enforcement and emergency services partners have been planning operations and establishing security requirements. One major requirement is the closure of a portion of the Ala Wai Canal waters to the public during dates and times that the event is in progress at the Hawaii Convention Center. A map depicting the subject location is attached as **Exhibit A**.

CLOSURE JUSTIFICATION:

Security and safety threats associated with this event are constantly being evaluated and assessed. While there currently is no credible threat toward this event known at this time, it is

imperative that security measures be implemented to ensure the safety of the public and the attendees.

The use of waterborne vessels to facilitate attacks is not without historical precedent. In 2008, vessels were used by terrorists to infiltrate the shoreline and initiate the attacks in various locations in Mumbai, India.

In November 2011, the US Coast Guard established security zones that included the entire Ala Wai Canal waters as part of security requirements for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference held in Honolulu. Currently, while the US Coast Guard is aware of the IUCN-WCC meeting, no determination has yet been made to establish security zones under US Coast Guard authority. Absent any federal authority for closure at the current time, the event is drawing near, and timely planning, implementation and public notice of a closure is necessary. The Department is requesting to close a portion of the canal waters under Board Authority to meet the security requirements of the IUCN-WCC meeting.

The closure of the segment of Ala Wai Canal waters extending from the Ala Moana Boulevard Bridge to the Kalakaua Avenue Bridge is being requested for consideration by the Board. The closure requirement is necessary for several reasons:

- To maintain an area that provides for standoff distance whereby any safety and security threat that seeks to enter the vicinity of the event venue using the canal can be detected and dealt with away from the event venue.
- To maintain surveillance and have positive control of the Ala Moana Boulevard Bridge and the Kalakaua Avenue Bridge, as these bridges span the width of the canal closest to the event venue, and are crucial transportation routes that the public and attendees will use to access the Hawaii Convention Center and area hotels.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLOSURE:

The implementation of the closure encompasses the physical closure of the portion of canal waters, surveillance of the area, and public information.

The Department via the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) will implement the physical closure of the canal waters. DOCARE, working with the State Harbor Police intends to use vessels and floating booms to physically close the waters. Additionally, DOCARE personnel will be posted in areas adjacent to the closed area to conduct surveillance and monitor for breaches into the closed area.

Public notice is also a necessary part of implementing the closure. Should the Board approve the subject request, the Department will provide public notice in the form of a media release. Additionally, the Department will provide outreach to canal users such as Canoe Clubs to make them aware of the closure. Signage will also be created and posted in the vicinity of the closed area to provide closure notice and awareness.

The portion of the Ala Wai Canal that is the subject of this request consists of unencumbered public lands. Pursuant to §13-221-4, Hawaii Administrative Rules regarding Unencumbered

Public Lands (cited below), staff recommends the Board authorize the closure of the portion of Ala Wai Canal as described above.

“Closing of areas. The board or its authorized representative may establish a reasonable schedule of visiting hours for all or portions of the premises and close or restrict the public use of all or any portion thereof, when necessary for the protection of the area or for the safety and welfare of persons or property, by the posting or appropriate signs indicating the extent and scope of closure. All persons shall observe and abide by the officially posted signs designating closed areas and visiting hours.”

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rule Sections 11-200-8 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources concurred with by the Environmental Council and dated June 5, 2015, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 1, item 42, “actions that are intended to maintain or support the sustainability of those natural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department, including law enforcement, regulation compliance, resources and environmental monitoring, debris or property removal, and other administrative and management measures.” See **Exhibit B**.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the requested direct lease as provided by Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Chapter 11-200, Hawaii Administrative Rules, this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. To authorize the closure of a portion of the Ala Wai Canal Waters extending from the Ala Moana Boulevard Bridge to the Kalakaua Avenue Bridge, at certain times to be determined from September 1st to 10th, 2016, pursuant to the Board’s authority in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules, §13-221-4.

Respectfully Submitted,

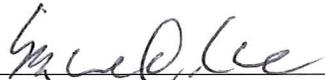


Russell Y. Tsuji
Land Administrator



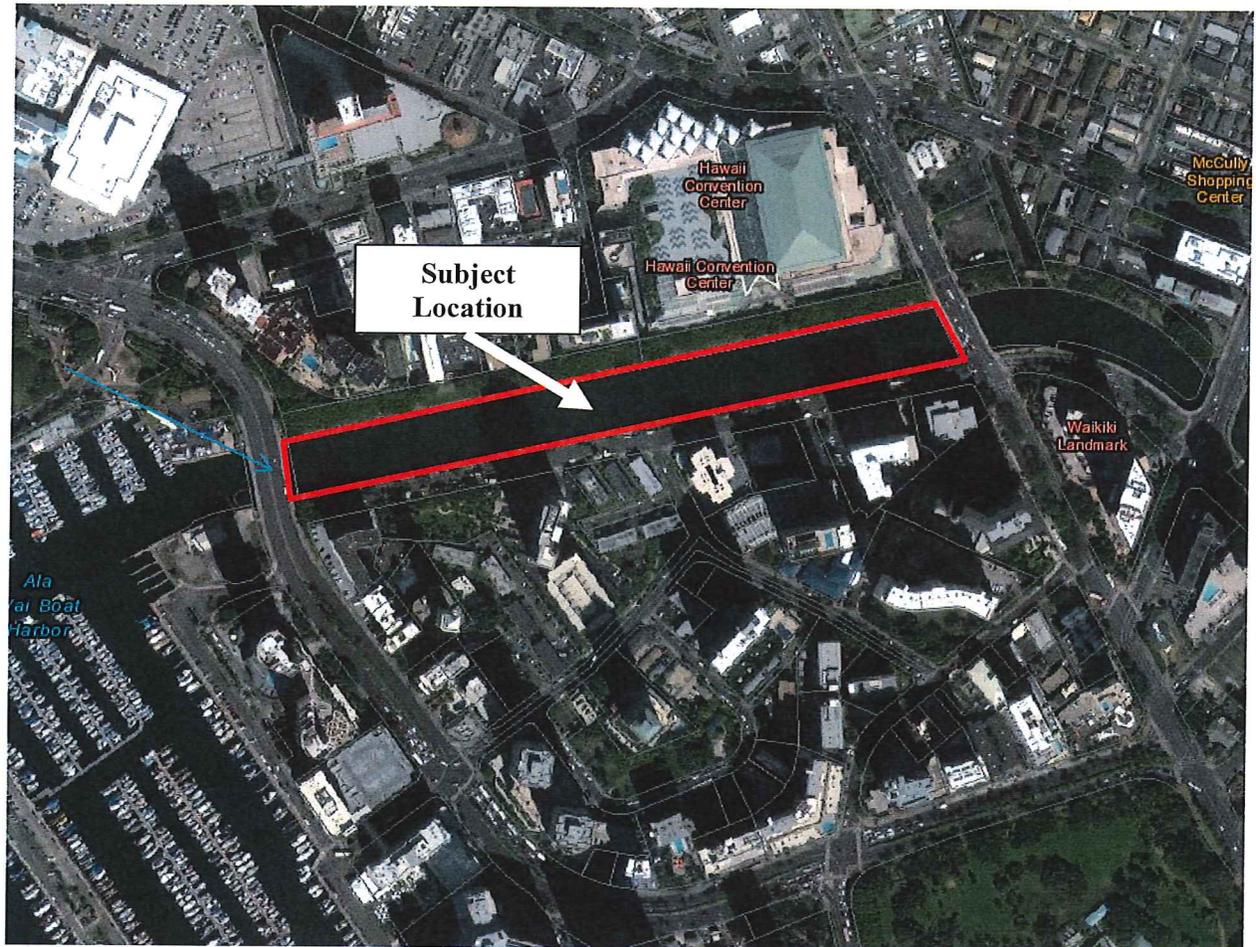
Thomas H. Friel
Enforcement Chief

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson





Portion of Ala Wai Canal

EXHIBIT A

EXEMPTION NOTIFICATION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200, HAR

Project Title: Closure of a Portion of Ala Wai Canal Waters from September 1st to 10th, 2016.

Project / Reference No.: Not applicable

Project Location: Portion of Ala Wai Canal between Ala Moana Boulevard Bridge and Kalakaua Avenue Bridge, Honolulu, Oahu, Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-036

Project Description: Support Security Requirements of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature-World Conservation Congress.

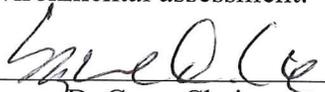
Chap. 343 Trigger(s): Use of State Land

Exemption Class No.: In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rule Sections 11-200-8 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources concurred with by the Environmental Council and dated June 5, 2015, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 1, item 42, "actions that are intended to maintain or support the sustainability of those natural resources under the jurisdiction of the Department, including law enforcement, regulation compliance, resources and environmental monitoring, debris or property removal, and other administrative and management measures."

The subject request is necessary to allow the law enforcement perform the law enforcement activities during the event.

Consulted Parties Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation.

Recommendation: That the Board finds this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is presumed to be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.



Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Date 5/17/16

EXHIBIT B