

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

March 24, 2017

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: "REQUEST FOR INTEREST" FOR THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COASTAL WETLANDS PROJECT USING FEDERAL GRANT WITH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM, DIVISION OF HABITAT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION THROUGH THE COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT, NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM, AND UPON SELECTION, AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH SUCCESSFUL PROVIDERS.

This Board Submittal requests approval to issue a Request for Interest (RFI) as provided under Chapter 3-122 Section 4.5 and authorize the Chairperson to execute a contract with successful providers, if any.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and the National Wildlife Refuge System, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Section 305, Title III, Public Law 101-646, 16 U.S.C. 3954) established the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant (NCWCG) Program to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal States through competitive matching grants to State agencies. The primary goal of the NCWCG Program is the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) does not manage all wetlands and their resources through the State. DOFAW is interested in allowing opportunities for providers to participate in this federal process and if selected, to be incorporated into the proposal request from DOFAW. The selected provider(s) will be responsible for the management and coordination of the NCWCG through a close working relationship with the DOFAW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to implement the grant program.

DISCUSSION

Based on the nature of this competitive federal funding, DOFAW is recommending that a request for interest be used for soliciting interest in providing the goods, services, land acquisition or construction under the federal grant. A request for interest for this solicitation will be the most advantageous procurement process, because time and economic situations preclude the use of other source selection methods. The National Coastal Wetland Conservation federal grant award is expected to begin January 2018. Pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §3-122-16.30, a determination by the Department procurement officer must be made for the use of the request for interest. A public notice will be publicized for this opportunity in accordance with 3-122-16.03(d), and selection of a provider or providers will be based on criteria established in the request for interest.

DOFAW recommends the use of an evaluation committee for the selection of the proposals which will allow for an objective review, evaluation, ranking and selection of the most qualified proposals for the program. The evaluation committee must consist of at least three government employees with sufficient qualification in the area of the goods or services to be procured. DOFAW recommends the following individuals:

Afshen Siddiqi, DOFAW Wildlife Biologist
James Cogswell, DOFAW Wildlife Program Manager
Jason Misaki, DOFAW Oahu District Wildlife Manager

In order to expedite the contracts for this procurement, DOFAW requests that the Board delegate authority to the Chairperson to award, execute and extend contracts for goods and services based on the recommendations of the evaluation committee and other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interest of the State including extending contracts as appropriate. Should any of the committee members be unable to serve, alternates with similar knowledge will be substituted and any changes and final make-up of the evaluation committee kept in the contract file.

DOFAW requests that the Board authorize the Chairperson to execute the contract for goods, services or construction, approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General, and other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interest of the State.

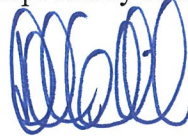
RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board, as the Department Procurement Officer:

- 1) Approve the use of:
 - a. A request for interest for the solicitation for the National Coastal Wetland Conservation federal grant program.
 - b. An evaluation committee comprised of the individuals identified above (or alternates with similar knowledge) to serve, evaluate and select the competitive proposals.

- 2) Delegate authority to the Chairperson to:
- a. Award, execute and extend contracts for goods and services or construction, subject to the availability of funds and approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH,
DOFAW Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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