

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

January 12, 2018

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR INTEREST FOR FEDERAL GRANT WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE WOOD INNOVATIONS GRANTS PROGRAM AND 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. Forest Service requests proposals for its Wood Innovations Grants Program (Federal Domestic Assistance Number 10.674) to substantially expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on forest lands. The grants and cooperative agreements awarded under this announcement will support the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79), Rural Revitalization Technologies (7U.S.C. 6601), and the nationwide challenge of disposing of hazardous fuels and other wood residues from forest lands in a manner that supports wood energy and wood products markets.

One of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's (DOFAW) mandates is to strengthen the State's economy through forest resource management and promote the sustainable production of forest products and services from Forest Reserves and other public and private lands. A sustainable timber, wood-based biomass, and non-timber forest industry can create local, green jobs, reduce hazardous fuel in fire-prone forests, increase the state's self-sufficiency, decrease the state's carbon footprint from imports, create critical revenue for DOFAW's activities in its Forest Reserve System such as forest restoration, and strengthen the connection between Hawai'i's residents and their local natural resources. Funding through the Wood Innovations Grant Program can support key projects aiming to expand local wood energy and wood products markets necessary for a sustainable forest industry in Hawai'i.

## 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, 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. Grant project proposals for the U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations Grants Program are to be submitted by January 22, 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 information. 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.

In order to expedite a contract for this solicitation, DOFAW requests that the Board authorize the Chairperson to execute the contract for goods and services based on the recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service, 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, approves:

- 1) The use of a request for interest for the solicitation for U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations Grants Program federal grant.
- 2) The authorization of the Chairperson to execute a contract for goods and services, subject to the availability of funds and approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.

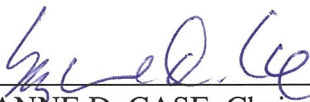
Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH  
DOFAW Administrator

Attachments

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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