

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 23, 2018

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A GRANT-IN-AID CONTRACT
AGREEMENT (\$45,000 STATE OPERATING BUDGET) BETWEEN THE BOARD OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES (BLNR) AND MALAMA PUPUKEA - WAIMEA
(MPW) FOR A PROJECT TITLED "REDUCING LAND-BASED SEDIMENT TO THE
PUPUKEA MLCD"

Submitted for your consideration and approval is a request to enter into contract agreement between the BLNR and MPW, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of Hawaii, that fund a project titled "Reducing Land-Based Sediment to the Pūpūkea MLCD". Funding for the project, \$45,000 in State Operating Budget Funds, was authorized by Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

MPW is protecting the State's coral reef-associated resources in the Pūpūkea MLCD by reducing sedimentation of the reef that occurs from erosion. Sedimentation is a major threat to the health and resilience of coral reefs. The project goal is to reduce sedimentation of coral reef habitat in the Pūpūkea MLCD that is caused by erosion through installing native plants and providing public outreach.

While the long-term outcome of this activity is a more resilient reef and nearshore fishery, the project objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: Reduce fine-silt sediment by 5% from the original pre-project baseline, using the same monitoring protocols utilized in prior phases.

Objective 2: Raise awareness among at least 4,000 residents and visitors about threats to the State's coastal and coral reef resources and about solutions to those threats.

A request to allot and expend a grant pursuant to Chapter 42F-103, has been requested from Governor David Ige, through the Department of Budget and Finance. In addition, the contract agreement is being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for approval as to form. The Department is aware implementation of the contract is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals, as well as availability of funds, and that additional funding restrictions may occur at any time.

Chapter 343 - Compliance with Environmental Law:

After reviewing §11-200-8, HAR, including the criteria used to determine significance under §§11-200-1 and 5, HAR, DLNR has concluded that the activities under this contract would have no significant effect on the environment and that approval of the contract agreement is categorically exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment. See Agency's Determination of Exemption (attached) from preparation of an environmental assessment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the attached proposed declaration of exemption prepared by the Department after consultation with and advice of those having jurisdiction and expertise for the proposed actions under the contract:

1. That the Board declare that the actions which are anticipated to be undertaken under this contract will have little or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. Upon the finding and adoption of the Department's analysis by the Board, that the Board delegate and authorize the Chairperson to sign the declaration of exemption for purposes of recordkeeping requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR.
3. That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, enter into a grant-in-aid contract agreement with MWP to protect the State's coral reef-associated resources in the Pūpūkea MLCD by reducing sedimentation of the reef that occurs from erosion.

Respectfully submitted,



BRUCE S. ANDERSON
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Attachment