

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

July 27, 2018

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIRPERSON TO SOLICIT OFFERS, AWARD, EXECUTE, AMEND, AND EXTEND A CONTRACT(S) FOR THE COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL PROCESS FOR CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS WRITTEN FOR STATEWIDE FIELD RELEASES OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS *SYPHRAEA UBERABENSIS*, *PSEUDOPHILOTHRIPS ICHINI*, AND *EUSELASIA CHRYSIPPE*

This board submittal requests approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) under the competitive seal proposal process for the purposes of contracting a vendor to conduct three (3) Cultural Impact Assessments for inclusion in separate Environmental Assessments for the state-wide field releases of biological control agents *Syphraea uberabensis* for control of *Tibouchina spp.*, *Pseudophilothrips ichini* for control of *Schinus terebinthifolia*, and *Euselasia chrysippe* for control of *Miconia calvescens*, pursuant to Chapter 103D-303 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and Chapter 3-122 subchapter 6 Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), and to sign and extend the resulting contract.

BACKGROUND

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is working in close partnership with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to establish the necessary permits needed for release of biological control agents into the State of Hawaii. For each release, an Environmental Assessment is required in accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, to evaluate if the agent is suitable for release into the state. The purpose of a biocontrol release is to help control a targeted invasive species in the state through introduction of a natural enemy, which is thoroughly tested to ensure host specificity and evaluated to determine any potential impacts on Hawaii's environment as part of the approval process.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for each biological control agent is needed to acquire the necessary state and federal permits for release. An environmental assessment of cultural resources is among the requirements for the EA to meet all regulations of Chapter 343, HRS. DOFAW would like to contract a vendor to create a framework template and conduct three (3) Cultural Impact Assessments (CIA) for inclusion in respective EAs.

The nature of biological control is unique in that release of an agent must take into consideration the potential effects of the agent spreading throughout the entire state. Areas of focus for the CIAs will be places with widespread establishment of the target weed but must consider all areas where the weed is present in the Hawaiian Islands.

There are currently three priority biological control projects targeted for release by 2020: control of weedy melastomes (*Tibouchina spp.*) using a small beetle (*Syphraea uberabensis*), control of Christmas berry (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) using a thrips insect (*Pseudophilothrips ichini*), and control of miconia (*Miconia calvescens*) with a butterfly (*Euselasia chrysippe*). All of these insects were found through exploratory expeditions in countries where the targeted weed originated and have completed testing for impacts to Hawaii's environment.

## DISCUSSION

As this type of Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) differs from typical CIAs in that the assessment must be made assuming state-wide impact rather than one specific site, the Division is recommending a competitive seal proposal process to solicit interest in this type of partnership, allow for competition, and ensure the State's interests are maintained.

Based on the requirements and special conditions of this procurement, DOFAW recommends that a competitive sealed proposal process be used for source selection. Such an approach will be the most advantageous procurement process for the solicitation because:

1. The primary consideration for the determination of the award for the RFP is not price.
2. Oral and written discussion may need to be conducted with the Applicants concerning technical and price aspects of their proposals.
3. Applicants may need to be afforded the opportunity to revise their proposals, including price.
4. Awards may need to be based upon a comparative evaluation as stated in the RFPs of differing price, quality, services and other contractual factors in order to determine the most advantageous offering to the State.

Pursuant to HAR § 3-122-43, a determination by the Department procurement officer must be made for the use of the competitive sealed proposal process over the competitive sealed bidding process when the competitive sealed bidding process is neither practicable nor advantageous to the State. Additionally, pursuant to HAR § 3-122-45, a determination must be made by the procurement officer that an evaluation committee, selected in writing by the procurement officer, shall evaluate the competitive sealed proposals.

The Division recommends the use of an evaluation committee for the selection of the proposals because an evaluation committee will allow for a subjective choice of the most appropriate proposal for the project. Further the evaluation committee must consist of at least three government employees with sufficient qualifications in the area of the goods or services to be procured. The Division recommends the following individuals to be on the evaluation committee:

Robert Hauff, DOFAW, Protection Forester  
Tanya Rubenstein, DOFAW, Cooperative Resource Management Forester

Joshua Atwood, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Coordinator  
Kylee Wideman, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Hawaii Island Forestry Associate

Additionally, should any of the committee members above be unable to participate, alternates with similar knowledge will be substituted and any changes and final make-up of the evaluation committee kept in the contract file. We are also requesting delegation from the Board to the Chairperson to sign and extend any contract resulting from this RFP.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rule Section 11-200-8, DOFAW has reviewed this action and determined it falls under the Exemption Class 5, “Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.” This action is anticipated to have minimal or no significant negative impact on the environment.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board, as the Department of Land and Natural Resources, approves:

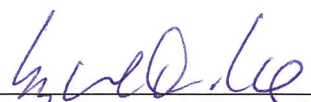
- 1) The use of a competitive sealed proposal for a solicitation for Cultural Impact Assessments for release of biological control agents.
- 2) The use of an evaluation committee comprised of the individuals identified above to serve, evaluate and select the competitive sealed proposals.
- 3) The authorization of the Chairperson to appoint evaluation committee alternates or recommend that the committee be reduced by one member should the need arise.
- 4) Authorization for the Chairperson to sign and extend any final contract from this RFP.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Smith, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



---

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