

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

October 12, 2018

Board of Land  
and Natural Resources  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**SUBJECT:** Request for Approval to Amend an Existing Federally-Funded Project Agreement between the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) Research Project Entitled "Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval is sought to add \$55,000 in Federal funds and \$10,000 in State funds to the "Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey" Research Project to be conducted with RCUH in the approximate amount of \$705,000.00

Project Goals

- Collect baseline data on marine recreational catch to assist fisheries resource management decisions.
- Estimate fishing pressure and total landings of Hawaii's various marine recreational fisheries by integrating catch, effort and U.S. Census data
- Fulfill mandatory Federal requirement for all U.S. coastal states to provide recreational catch and effort data to NOAA.
- Conduct a workshop in Honolulu to certify survey design changes through NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program.

Project Partners

The State of Hawaii DLNR/RCUH Project Agreement allows DAR to secure assistance from RCUH to meet project goals and objectives in a timely manner. The project is a collaboration with federal partners to optimize data collection and processing as well as increase the accuracy of the catch and effort estimates of Hawaii's recreational fisheries.

Duration

The Project Agreement is scheduled to run from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Funding Source

Federal funds (\$605,000): \$335,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and \$270,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Program.

State funds (\$100,000): \$90,000 from LNR 153 Commercial Fisheries Special Fund as required State match and \$10,000 to support activities of the DAR Biometrician.

Total: \$705,000.00

HRS Chapter 343 - Compliance with Environmental Law:

The Project involves the use of state lands and funds, and will primarily occur in the conservation district (submerged lands in the resource subzone). The Department's analysis is that the actions undertaken by this project will have little or no significant effect on the environment and are exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment. Various agencies were consulted regarding the appropriateness of applying the exemption.

REMARKS

Fisher surveys compile marine recreational fishing catch and effort data relevant to all DAR programs. Unlike mandatory catch reporting by commercial fisheries, marine recreational fishing information has been largely unaccounted, yet believed to have a substantial impact on Hawaii's fishery resources due to its widespread popularity, cultural significance, and importance as a food source for the people of Hawaii.

By conducting routine interviews with both shoreline and private boat fishers statewide, the project provides both State and Federal agencies with baseline data that is vital to responsible management of Hawaii's fishery resources. Catch data (e.g., species, numbers, length, weight and disposition of catch), effort data (e.g., hours fished, areas fished, target species, gear types and methods used) and U.S. Census data, are to be integrated as fisheries statistics to estimate fishing pressure and total landings in Hawaii's various marine recreational fisheries for eventual public posting on a NOAA Fisheries website.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended and reauthorized, all U.S. coastal states are required to provide recreational catch and effort data to NOAA.

Approval to amend the existing Project Agreement is being requested concurrently from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance. Also, the Project Agreement Amendment is being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. DAR is aware implementation of this Project Agreement Amendment is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals as well as the availability of funds and that funding restrictions may occur at any time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above discussion, the Division of Aquatic Resources requests:

1. That the Board declare, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, 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. 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, approve, and execute the Division of Aquatic Resources Project Agreement Amendment entitled "Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey," with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, including further amendments, including extensions; subject to approval as to form and content by the Department of the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



BRIAN J. NEILSON  
Acting Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Attachment

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

March 23, 2018

Board of Land  
and Natural Resources  
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: Request for Approval for a Federally Funded Project Agreement between the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) Research Project Entitled "Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval is sought for a "Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey" Research Project contract to be conducted with RCUH in the approximate amount of \$640,000.00

Project Goals

- Collect baseline data on marine recreational catch to assist fisheries resource management decisions.
- Estimate fishing pressure and total landings of Hawaii's various marine recreational fisheries by integrating catch, effort and U.S. Census data
- Fulfill mandatory Federal requirement for all U.S. coastal states to provide recreational catch and effort data to NOAA.

Project Partners

The State of Hawaii DLNR/RCUH Project Agreement allows DAR to secure assistance from RCUH to meet project goals and objectives in a timely manner. The project is a collaboration with federal partners to optimize data collection and processing as well as increase the accuracy of the catch and effort estimates of Hawaii's recreational fisheries.

Duration

The Project Agreement is scheduled to run from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Funding Source

Federal funds (\$550,000): \$280,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and \$270,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Program.

State funds (\$90,000): from LNR 153 Commercial Fisheries Special Fund as required State match.  
Total: \$640,000.00

HRS Chapter 343 - Compliance with Environmental Law:

The Project involves the use of state lands and funds, and will primarily occur in the conservation district (submerged lands in the resource subzone). The Department's analysis is that the actions

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undertaken by this project will have little or no significant effect on the environment and are exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment. Various agencies were consulted regarding the appropriateness of applying the exemption.

### REMARKS

Fisher surveys compile marine recreational fishing catch and effort data relevant to all DAR programs. Unlike mandatory catch reporting by commercial fisheries, marine recreational fishing information has been largely unaccounted, yet believed to have a substantial impact on Hawaii's fishery resources due to its widespread popularity, cultural significance, and importance as a food source for the people of Hawaii.

By conducting routine interviews with both shoreline and private boat fishers statewide, the project provides both State and Federal agencies with baseline data that is vital to responsible management of Hawaii's fishery resources. Catch data (e.g., species, numbers, length, weight and disposition of catch), effort data (e.g., hours fished, areas fished, target species, gear types and methods used) and U.S. Census data, are to be integrated as fisheries statistics to estimate fishing pressure and total landings in Hawaii's various marine recreational fisheries for eventual public posting on a NOAA Fisheries website.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended and reauthorized, all U.S. coastal states are required to provide recreational catch and effort data to NOAA.

Approval to enter into the Project Agreement is being requested concurrently from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance. Also, the Project Agreement is being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. DAR is aware implementation of this Project Agreement is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals as well as the availability of funds and that funding restrictions may occur at any time.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above discussion, the Division of Aquatic Resources requests:

1. That the Board declare, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, 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. 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, approve, and execute the Division of Aquatic Resources Project Agreement entitled "Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey," with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, including further amendments,

including extensions; subject to approval as to form and content by the Department of the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson