

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

October 1, 2018

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A GRANT-IN-AID CONTRACT AGREEMENT
(\$100,000 STATE OPERATING BUDGET) BETWEEN THE BOARD OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (BLNR) AND MALAMA MAUNALUA (MM) TO PRODUCE AN
INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN PROVIDING CLEAR GUIDANCE FOR
CONSERVATION AND PLANNING FOR EAST HONOLULU WATERSHEDS THAT FEED
INTO MAUNALUA BAY

Submitted for your consideration and approval is a request to enter into contract agreement between the BLNR and MM, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of Hawaii to produce an Integrated and Comprehensive Regional Management Plan for Maunalua to create unifying and clear guidance for conservation and planning in the East Honolulu watersheds that feed into Maunalua Bay. Funding for the project, \$100,000 in State Operating Budget Funds, was authorized by Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, amended 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Founded in 2006, Mālama Maunalua is a community-based non-profit restoring and conserving Maunalua Bay through community kuleana. Malama Maunalua engages the public, researchers, resource managers and academic institutions to address issues confronting the Bay, from resource extraction to watershed management. By building partnerships across sectors, Malama Maunalua improves collaboration, information sharing, and community engagement, ultimately leading to a healthier Maunalua Bay.

The goal of Malama Maunalua's project, an Integrated and Comprehensive Regional Management Plan for Maunalua (Integrated Plan), is to create unifying and clear guidance for conservation and planning in the East Honolulu watersheds that feed into Maunalua Bay. The objectives for drafting such a plan are:

- a. *Synthesize and identify gaps of existing management plans covering Maunalua watersheds.* The region has numerous plans in existence, including the Ocean Resource Management Plan, the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan, Waiupe Watershed Plan, among others. Synthesizing those documents so there is a single, clear plan that residents, planners, and resource managers can follow will

strengthen the value of each individual plan and better direct and coordinate actions.

- b. *Synthesize the state of scientific knowledge and identify key gaps for future research.* Numerous researchers and University programs have independently conducted work in Maunalua. To accurately utilize existing findings, and to effectively direct new studies, it is important to synthesize what we know about the health of the Maunalua watersheds and Bay. The project will compile and analyze our current state of knowledge and use that to identify gaps in knowledge critical to effective management.
- c. *Prioritize management and scientific needs.* Once the plans and research are synthesized and assessed for coverage, Malama Maunalua will hold a series of meetings with researchers and planners to determine what projects are of the highest priority to improve watershed health and minimize runoff into the Bay, effecting Bay health.
- d. *Draft an integrated management plan.* The previous objectives will inform a new management plan that will be flexible and constantly updated as new research and plans become available. The Integrated Plan will be the basis for improved management and serve as a guide for future research, mitigation, and planning. The Integrated Plan will closely follow Environmental Protection Agency and State of Hawaii Department of Health guidance and approval.
- e. *Draft a lessons learned document.* The process by which the Integrated Plan is undertaken will be documented to provide guidance for other communities and regions looking to undertake a similar process.
- f. *Conduct outreach and education on the integrated management plan:* The resulting plan will be explained and presented to partners, researchers, and managers so the content and purpose of the document are clearly understood and utilized.

A request to allot and expend a grant pursuant to Chapter 42F-103, will be requested from Governor David Ige, through the Department of Budget and Finance. In addition, the contract agreement will be prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for approval as to form pending Board approval. 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 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Rules Sections §11-200-8 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources concurred with by the Environmental Council and dated June 5, 2015, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment because project activities do not involve either the use of State lands or waters at this time. Should this change in the future to include activities that would trigger Chapter 343 regarding environmental impacts, Malama Maunalua will need to follow through on any permits and environmental assessments that may be required for these activities.

BLNR-ITEM F-4

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board finds that the project will have a beneficial effect on the environment and is presumed to be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

Respectfully Submitted,



BRIAN J. NEILSON
Acting Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson