

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

February 28, 2020

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO NEGOTIATE, ENTER INTO, AMEND, EXTEND, AND TERMINATE A TRAIL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN NA ALA HELE, HAWAII'S STATEWIDE TRAILS AND ACCESS PROGRAM, AND JAPAN'S KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT'S AMAMI ISLAND TRAILS PROGRAM.

SUMMARY

Purpose of this agreement between Na Ala Hele and Amami Islands trails program is to:

- 1) Exchange information concerning the establishment and management of trails.
 - Coordination with various related parties such as land managing agencies, and exchange information on the formation of regional networks.
 - Exchange information on opinions on how to promote residents' participation in the maintenance and management of trails.
- 2) Share and disseminate agency managed publications and online resources.
 - Cooperation in the dissemination of information such as agency managed website content, hiking safety and etiquette brochures, and invasive species prevention.
- 3) Youth involvement through mutual information exchange.
 - Cultural exchange between elementary or junior high school students utilizing the internet.

Administratively, Amami Islands belong to the Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan. They are in a subtropical zone, and the islands support one of the largest broadleaf forests in Japan. Rich and diverse natural environments remain on the island which are surrounded by a beautiful ocean with coral reef. The unique biodiversity of the Amami Islands has developed in isolation for millions of years, not unlike Hawaii. As a reflection of its distinctive natural environmental history, many globally precious and endemic species have evolved on the islands. For these reasons, the region has applied for registration as a World Natural Heritage Site.

Amami Islands are establishing walking trails throughout the islands. They are targeting select existing paths that showcase nature and culture and eventually link them into a single trail

network. The purpose is to disperse visitors throughout the islands by establishing and island-to-island long walking trail that allows them to experience the nature and culture endemic to that region. It will also promote regional vitalization of the Amami Islands and strengthen the inter-island links.

Both Hawaiian and Amami Islands share unique tropical environments full of rich culture. We share similarities of managing very sensitive ecosystems while balancing acceptable use for public access into our forests for public enjoyment. Hawaii's unique natural beauty draws in millions of visitors are drawn to the islands, creating a thriving tourism industry. Japanese tourists comprising the highest number of foreign visitors. In Hawaii, forming a trail partnership with Amami Japan's trail program would allow our programs to mutually exchange information about each other's trail networks while disseminating agency managed content informing visitors of managed trail opportunities. Hiking safety and etiquette materials and exchange of information regarding biosecurity and invasive species prevention would be shared.

CHAPTER 343 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

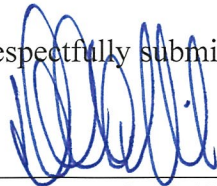
In accordance with the requirements of chapter 343, HRS, an environmental assessment is not required as this request does not include approval of an action, pursuant to §343-2 and 343-5(a), HRS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:


1. Approve in concept that the Department enter into a Trails Partnership Agreement with Hawaii's statewide trails and access program, and Japan's Kagoshima Prefectural Governments, Amami Island trails program
2. Authorize the Chairperson to negotiate, amend, finalize, and execute the draft Partnership Agreement, subject to approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.
3. Authorize the Chairperson to amend or terminate the Partnership Agreement as may be appropriate, subject to the terms of the Partnership Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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