

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

February 26, 2021

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO DESIGNATE THE FOLLOWING NĀ ALA HELE TRAILS AS COMMERCIAL TRAILS: 'ŌHAI LOOP TRAIL, PLUM TRAIL, THE WAIAKOA LOOP TRAIL, PU'U WA'AWA'A CONE TRAIL, 'ŌHI'A TRAIL, and PALILA FOREST DISCOVERY TRAIL

SUMMARY:

This submittal requests that the Board designate the following Maui trails: 'Ōhai Loop Trail, Plum Trail, and the Waiakoa Loop Trail and Hawai'i Island trails: Pu'u Wa'awa'a Cone Trail, 'Ōhi'a Trail, Palila Forest Discovery Trail as commercial operating trails. These trails are all under the jurisdiction of the State of Hawai'i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Nā Ala Hele (NAH) Trails and Access Program. This is a housekeeping measure to add these trails to the list of approved commercial trails. The Maui trails have been on the NAH website listed as available commercial trails since the inception of approved commercial activities with the approval of the Maui NAH Advisory Council. The Hawai'i Island trails' commercial status was inadvertently left off the October 9th Board Submittal that added them into the NAH inventory and are included here to remedy.

DISCUSSION:

HRS '198D-6) '13-130-14 Commercial activity designation. Trails and accesses that are suitable for commercial activity may be periodically designated from among the Program trails and access by the board upon recommendation by the division and NAH staff in consultation with the respective advisory council from which the particular trail and access is located. (Auth: HRS '198D-6)

DOFAW staff, in consultation with the NAH advisory councils, have selected from the current NAH inventory, public trails that are suitable for limited commercial hiking activity. The list of trails suitable for limited commercial hiking was based on the following general conditions:

1. The trail is currently managed and used by the public without any impediments to access.
2. The trail is accessible by vehicles - primarily small passenger vans.
3. The trail and adjacent resources are not considered environmentally or culturally sensitive.
4. There are no potential impacts associated with commercial hiking activities to the local residents adjacent the trailhead.
5. Commercial hiking activity would be limited to hiking and weekdays only. No commercial hiking activity will be allowed on holidays or weekends.
6. The size of the group, including the guides, is limited to 12 individuals.
7. Staff will be able to monitor the selected trails for potential impacts from increased use associated with the commercial ecotourism activity.
8. Other trails are not available currently due to staff limitations to monitor potential impact to the environment or other constraints.
9. That the one-year commercial hiking activity permit may be terminated at any time upon the determination of unacceptable negative impacts associated with the activity.

REQUIRED CONSULTATION:

Nā Ala Hele staff has consulted with all the Maui and Hawai'i Island DOFAW and Nā Ala Hele Administrative staff regarding this designation. Division staff had no objections and offered no comments. On December 9, 2020, the Maui Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council voted unanimously for adding the trails to the list of available commercial trail inventory. The Hawai'i Island Advisory Council was consulted in several meetings during 2019 and 2020 that resulted in the October 9th BLNR approval to include these trails into the NAH inventory. (The commercial status was inadvertently left off that Board submittal and is included here to remedy.)

RECOMMENDATION:


That the Board approve designating the 'Ōhai Loop Trail, Plum Trail, and the Waiakoa Loop Trail, Maui; and the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Cone Trail, 'Ōhi'a Trail, and Palila Forest Discovery Trail, Hawai'i Island as commercial trails within the Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access Program.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

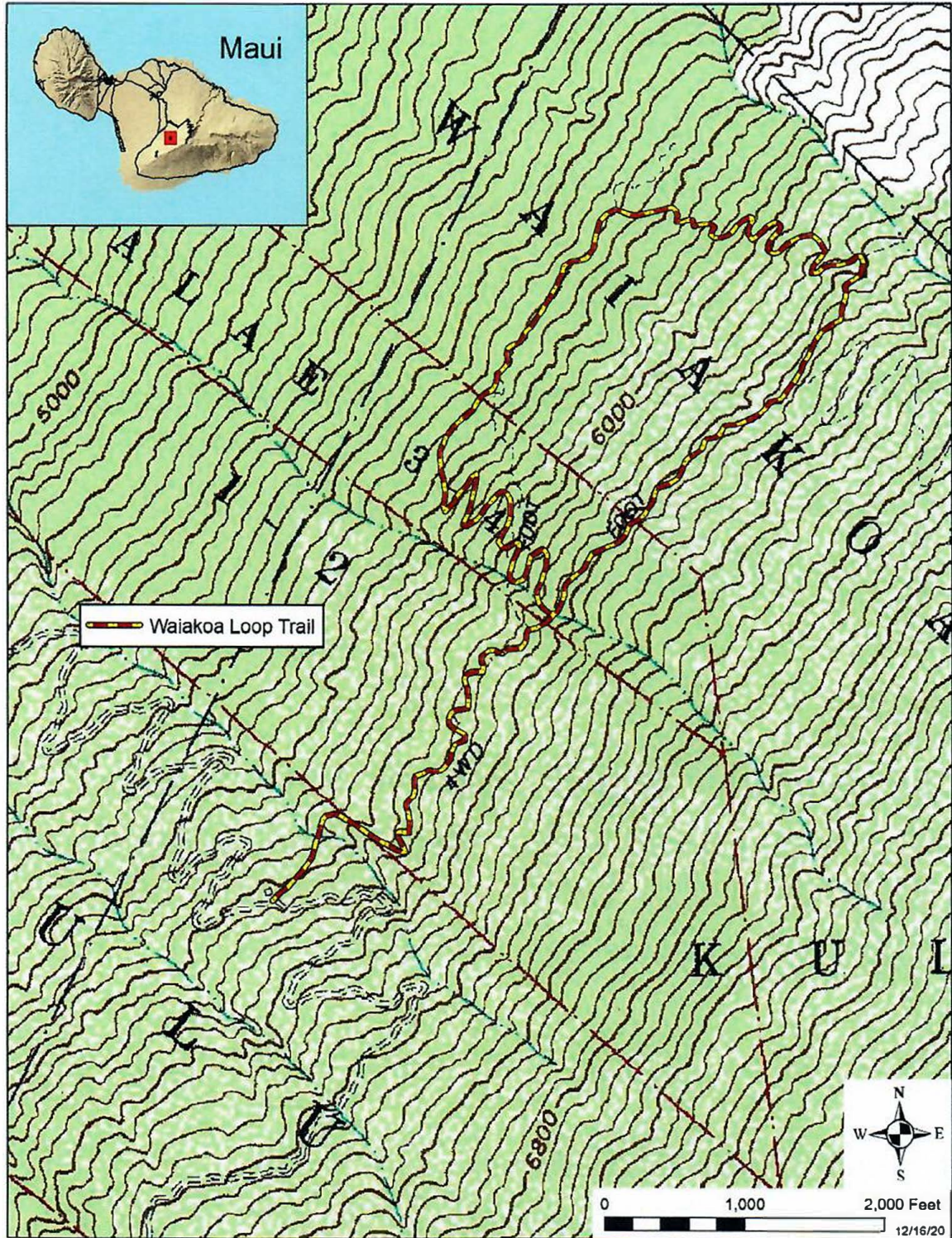
APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



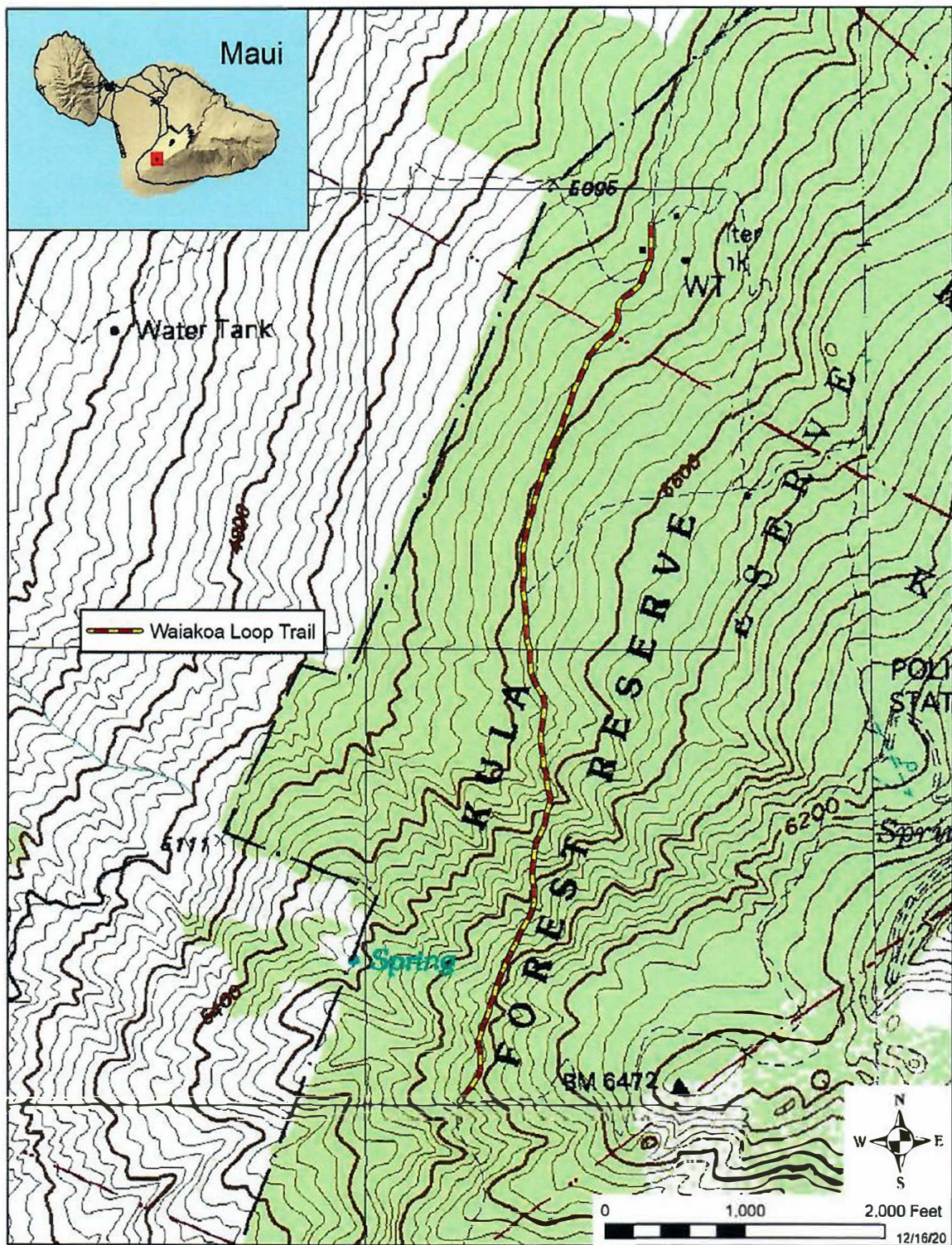
SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson

Attachments:

Waiakoa Loop Trail Map
Plum Trail Map
'Ōhai Loop Trail Map
Pu'u Wa'awa'a Cone Trail and 'Ōhi'a Trail map
Palila Forest Discovery Trail map



Waiakoa Loop Trail, Kula Forest Reserve, Maui, Hawai'i

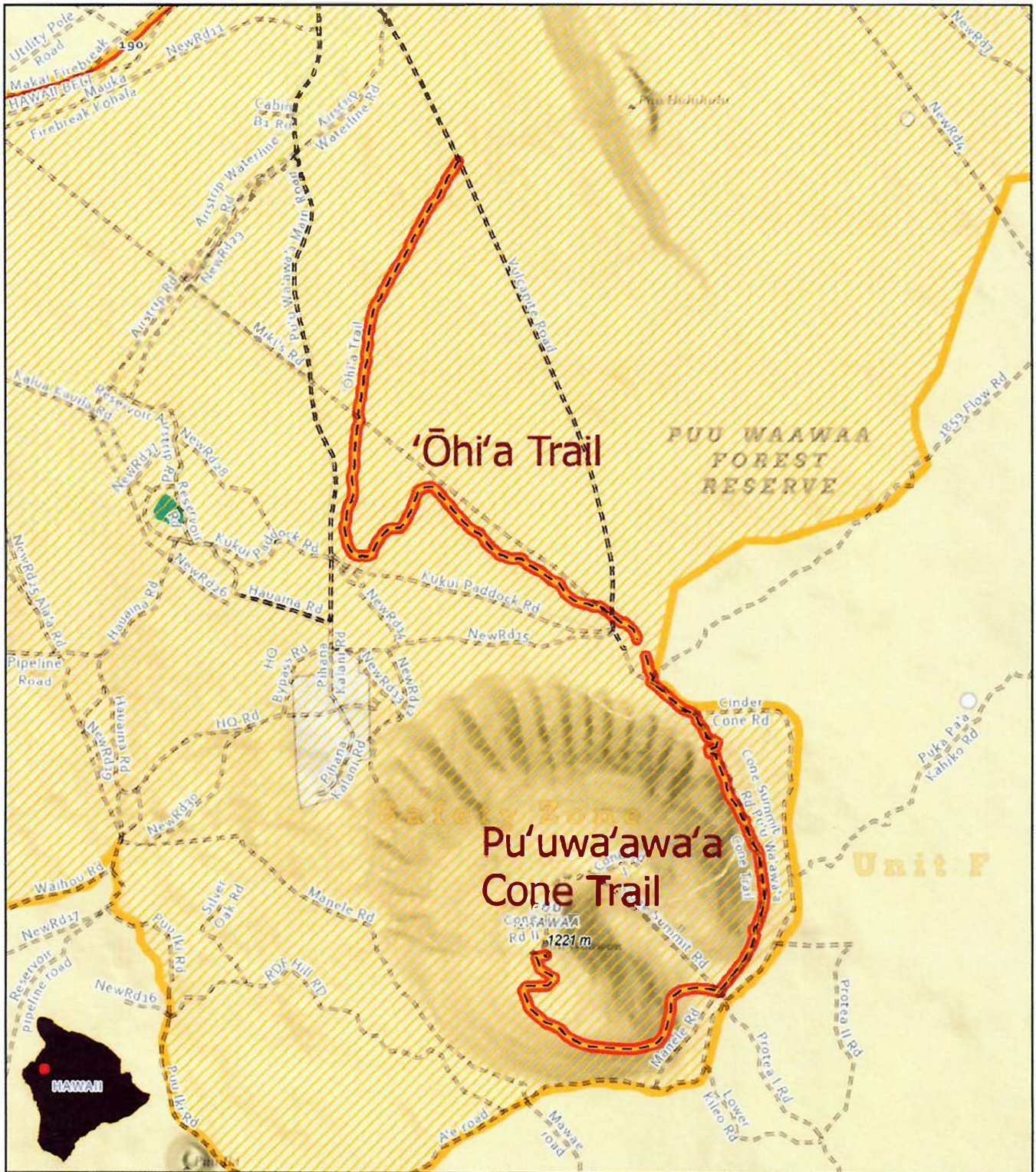


Plum Trail, Kula Forest Reserve, Maui, Hawai'i



‘Ohai Loop Trail, Kahakuloa Game Management Area, Maui, Hawai‘i

'Ōhi'a Trail and Pu'uwa'awa'a Cone Trail



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Palila Forest Discovery Trail

