

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

April 22, 2022

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 AN AGREEMENT TO SUBGRANT A UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECOVERY LAND ACQUISITION GRANT BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST D/BA HAWAII LAND TRUST, TO ACQUIRE LANDS IN MAHUKONA, NORTH KOHALA DISTRICT, HAWAI'I ISLAND, TMKs (3) 5-7-003:002, (3) 5-7-003:003, (3) 5-7-003:010, (3) 5-7-002:011, (3) 5-7-003:001, (3) 5-7-003:018, (3) 5-7-003:007, (3) 5-7-003:008, (3) 5-7-002:027, (3) 5-7-002:036, and (3) 5-7-002:037

BACKGROUND:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") and DLNR have entered into a Federal Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Agreement Number F22AP00277-00 which provides \$4,000,000 for the acquisition of fee title to real property of 642 acres in North Kohala, Hawai'i Island. Mahukona Navigational and Cultural Preserve ("Mahukona") is part of a coastal ecosystem encompassing the ancient Kohala Field System between Lapakahi State Historical Park and Kapa'a Beach Park, both properties owned by the State of Hawai'i. Mahukona contains many federal and state-listed species and is strategically important for regional invasive species control.

The proposed subgrant agreement will permit DLNR to subgrant the FWS grant funds to another state or local agency or non-profit organization ("potential recipient"), conditioned on the grant funds being used to acquire fee title to the identified real property and the potential recipient agreeing to accept the provisions and obligations outlined in the proposed subgrant agreement.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust d/b/a Hawaii Land Trust ("HILT") is that intended recipient. HILT has raised additional contributions to purchase Mahukona from the County of Hawai'i (\$8,000,000), Legacy Land Conservation Program grant (\$3,000,000; pending Board approval), and private contributions (\$1,000,000+; pending HILT private fundraising for costs for staff and operations to ensure a successful acquisition and for future stewardship).

DISCUSSION:

The proposed subgrant agreement would allow funds to be transferred to HILT to complete the purchase. It would also require HILT to grant a perpetual conservation easement to the County of Hawai'i across all TMKs.

CHAPTER 343 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

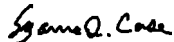
Authorize the Chairperson to negotiate, enter into, amend, extend, and terminate an agreement to subgrant a United States Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition Grant to Hawai'i Land Trust to acquire lands in Waimea, North Kohala District, Hawai'i Island, (3) 5-7-003:002, (3) 5-7-003:003, (3) 5-7-003:010, (3) 5-7-002:011, (3) 5-7-003:001, (3) 5-7-003:018, (3) 5-7-003:007, (3) 5-7-003:008, (3) 5-7-002:027, (3) 5-7-002:036, and (3) 5-7-002:037.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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