

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii

October 27, 2023

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION TO ISSUE DAY PASS ACCESS PERMITS FOR PUBLIC GAME BIRD HUNTING, ON WEDNESDAYS ONLY, IN THE KUAOKALA GAME MANAGEMENT AREA (UNIT 1) TAX MAP KEYS (1) 6-9-003:002, (1) 6-8-002:007 AND MAKUA KEA'AU PUBLIC HUNTING AREA (UNIT 2) TMK (1)8-3-001:012; 018; 009 ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU THROUGH JANUARY 2024.

AND

EXEMPT ISSUANCE OF THE DAY PASS PERMITS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 343, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES AND CHAPTER 11-200.1, HAWAI'I ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife's hunting program is seeking approval to offer additional opportunities for game bird hunting on the island of O'ahu during the upcoming game bird hunting season. Public game bird hunters have come forward requesting the addition of Wednesdays for the normal game bird hunting season. Currently, legal game bird hunting days and access are Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays from the first weekend in November through the last Sunday in January as provided in Hawaii Administrative Rule 13-122 Exhibit 9. Due to the progress and success of the Forestry and Wildlife's Game Bird Rearing Program, staff have been able to continue to establish a 'put-and-take" system of game bird species in the Kuaokala Game Management Area since 2017. The rearing program has gotten so successful that not only is there an increased amount of huntable bird species on the landscape, but there has been a rise of interested hunters in our hunting areas. Due to the limited hunting days, the majority of the time these bird hunting units are packed with hunters. In some cases, hunters choose not to go out since parking lots or hunting fields are filled with our hunters. Having an approved hunting day during the work week may allow for those with the opportunity to go during less busy times and avoid the weekend rush. Our increasing yield in raised game birds throughout the years should be able to accommodate the additional day and not have any impact on available birds during the other hunting days. A permit system has been established to allow game bird hunters to enter the Kuaokala Game Management Area and the Makua Kea'au Public Hunting Area on Wednesdays during the legal game bird hunting season and can be made available to the public if approved. The Division is also currently working

on a draft administrative rule change for HAR 13-122. One of the proposed administrative rule changes is adding Wednesdays as a legal game bird hunting day for the island of O'ahu in order to provide this ongoing opportunity.

In Summary, the Current Rules Oahu Forestry and Wildlife have in place for the Game Bird Hunting Season for FY24:

Hunting Units: 1 (Kuaokala Game Management Area) & 2 (Makua Kea'au Public Hunting Area)

Open Hunting Periods: November – January (First weekend in November to the last Sunday in January)

Open Hunting Days: Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays

In summary, Oahu Forestry and Wildlife is requesting to make the following additions to the Game Bird Hunting Season for FY24 by permit only:

Hunting Units: 1 (Kuaokala Game Management Area) & 2 (Makua Kea'au Public Hunting Area)

Open Hunting Periods: November – January (First weekend in November to the last Sunday in January)

Open Hunting Days: Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and State Holidays

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) provide the following authority to issue permits to conduct activities otherwise prohibited by the chapter.

§13-122-2.2 Permits. The Board or its authorized representative may issue permits to conduct activities otherwise prohibited by this Chapter. [Eff and comp 05/09/15] (Auth: HRS §§183D-2, 183D-3) (Imp: §§183D-2, 183D-3)

LOCATION

Oahu, Hawai'i

AREA:

Kuaokala Game Management Area and the Makua Kea'au Public Hunting Area

Chapter 343 Analysis

These are minor actions that will have no significant effects on the environment and are exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment in accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200.1-8, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, under the Department's following exemption classes (Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Reviewed and Concurred Upon by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020):

General Exemption Type 1 *Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.*

Part 1


- 4. Operation, repair, and maintenance, of existing structures and facilities, including base yards, offices, cabins, sheds, and fencing.
- 35. Law enforcement, regulation compliance, resources and environmental monitoring, debris or property removal, and other administrative measures.
- 44. Permits, licenses, registrations, and rights-of-entry issued by the Department that are routine in nature, involving negligible impacts beyond that previously existing.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board:

- 1. Authorize the division to issue day pass access permits for public game bird hunting, on Wednesdays only in the Kuaokala Game Management Area (unit 1) and Makua Kea'au Public Hunting Area (unit 2) through January 2024.
- 2. Exempt issuance of the day pass permits from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment, pursuant to chapter 343, Hawai'i revised statutes, and chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i administrative rules.

Respectfully submitted,

TA for 

 David G. Smith, Administrator
 Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



 Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson
 Board of Land and Natural Resources