

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

June 14, 2024

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson to: (1) Approve, Procure, Award, Sign, Execute, Amend, and Extend Contracts for Axis Deer Projects and a Maui Nui Snail Assessment; (2) Declare a Construction Project Exempt from the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Approve an Environmental Assessment and Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, if Appropriate

BACKGROUND

The Board has delegated the Chair the ability to enter into contracts under \$500,000.00, per Item C-2 of the January 10, 2020, board meeting.

There are two types of procurements that the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is seeking to receive board approval to conduct because the proposed contract award amount exceeds \$500,000.00.

The first type is for axis deer fencing. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife's (DOFAW) has received funding to address threats from axis deer on Maui. The Governor has also signed an emergency proclamation due to drought and the populations of axis deer, which has been extended multiple times. There are various procurements for fence construction projects that will exceed the \$500,000.00 delegated limit. These include large boundary fences to contain deer populations in strategic locations, as explained in the 2022 briefing on Axis Deer to the Board. Examples of areas where the Division is planning on installing fences include Ukumehame and Kapalua in West Maui, as well as Waiopae in Leeward Haleakala.

The Division also seeks delegation for the Chair to enter into a contract for a Maui Nui Snail Assessment. This large study of snail populations will support locating and planning for the protection of critically endangered snails across the district.

DISCUSSION

Funding, as authorized by the FY24-25 Biennium State Budget, will be provided for management actions that address axis deer populations. Approximately \$6.165 million dollars per year in the FY24 to 25 biennium from the State General Funds has been provided for this purpose.

ITEM C-2

The Division has also received funding for the FY24-25 Biennium State budget to support and improve the management of forest resources. The snail assessment will be funded from this source.

In order to expedite the contracts for this axis deer procurement, DOFAW requests that the Board delegate authority to the Chairperson to award, execute and extend contracts for goods and services and other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interest of the State including extending contracts as appropriate.

CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Projects awarded funding through this competitive sealed proposal process will seek Land Board approval for a Declaration of Exemption from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR. Activities and actions associated with each project are presumed to fall under the Exemption Classes and Descriptions included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (concurring by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020). An environmental assessment or impact statement will be prepared if any action does not fall within the exemption list.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

- 1) Delegate authority to the Chairperson to:
 - (1) Approve, procure, award, sign, execute, amend, and extend contracts for Axis Deer Projects and the Maui Nui Snail Assessment.
 - (2) Declare a construction project exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment or approve an environmental assessment and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, if appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted

for DGS *Robert Hauff*

DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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