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

October 25, 2024

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

Board Members:

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE TO

CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO SET ASIDE STATE PARCELS AS AN EXTENSION OF THE 'ĀHIHI KĪNA'U NATURAL AREA RESERVE,

TAX MAP KEYS (2) 2-1:006:076 AND (2) 2-1:004:111, MAUI

BACKGROUND:

On March 24, 2023, Item C-1, the Board approved setting aside multiple unencumbered parcels statewide to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife as Natural Area Reserves (NARS), Forest Reserves, and Wildlife Sanctuaries. This included various parcels that would extend the 'Āhihi Kīna'u NAR in Maui. However, two parcels were inadvertently left out of that proposed set aside proposal.

Pursuant to Section 195-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, public hearings must be held on proposed set-asides to Natural Area Reserves.

DISCUSSION:

A Natural Area Reserve designation would enable the long-term protection and management of the proposed parcels and provide the Division of Forestry and Wildlife the authority to manage the areas directly. While these parcels are less than an acre each, their addition to the 'Āhihi Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve would improve connectivity and make the rules and management more cohesive. Following a hearing, the Division would return to the Board to present the public testimony and seek final approval from the Board.

The Department of Accounting and General Services Survey Division will require survey maps before set aside. No subdivisions will be required.

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Pursuant to Section 343 HRS, administrative actions such as conducting a public hearing are *de minimis*, and an environmental assessment is not required. As Chapter

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343 environmental requirements apply to the Division's use of lands, the Division shall be responsible for compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, as amended.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Board:

- 1. Authorize the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to conduct a public hearing regarding the designation of Tax Map Keys (2) 2-1:006:076 and (2) 2-1:004:111 as an extension of the 'Āhihi Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve, and authorize the Chairperson to:
 - a. Set the date, location, and time of the public hearing; and

Respectfully Submitted:

b. Appoint a hearing master for the public hearing.

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David G. Smith, Administrator	

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson

Attachment





