

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

November 8, 2024

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

Oahu

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF A REVOCABLE PERMIT AND IMMEDIATE
MANAGEMENT RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO SCOUTING
AMERICA, ALOHA COUNCIL (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BOY
SCOUTS OF AMERICA, ALOHA COUNCIL) FOR EDUCATIONAL
AND TRAINING PURPOSES IN THE ROUND TOP FOREST
RESERVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII, TAX MAP KEY: 1-2-5-019:003

APPLICANT:
Scouting America, Aloha Council, 501c3

LEGAL REFERENCE:
Sections 171-55, 183-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended.

LOCATION:
A portion of government lands situated in Round Top Forest Reserve, Honolulu, Hawaii,
Tax Map Key: 1-2-5-019 portion of 003 as shown on the attached map labeled Exhibit 1

AREA:
1/3 acre, more or less

ZONING:
State Land Use District: Conservation
City and County of Honolulu LUO: P-1 Restricted Preservation

TRUST LAND STATUS:
Section 5(b) Lands of the Hawaii Admission Act
DHHL 30% entitlement lands pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution: NO

CURRENT USE STATUS:
Scouting America maintains the subject area for conservation, forest recreation, and education. Rustic facilities on site include a cement block storage and bathroom, a shed with two rooms and an open pavilion, a covered BBQ area, an open lawn for tent camping, and a parking area. The area is fenced off, and access is controlled by a locked gate.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Educational and training purposes through conservation and forest recreation education programs.

MONTHLY RENT:

Gratis

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Per the Exemption List of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) reviewed and concurred on by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment per

General Exemption Type 1, "Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing. "

Part 1, Item 4. "Operation, repair, and maintenance of existing structures and facilities, including base yards, offices, cabins, sheds, and fencing."

Part 1, Item 10. "Operation, repair, and maintenance of existing recreational facilities, such as campsites, cabins, shelters, and other similar structures, and the appurtenant support facilities and structures."

Part 1, Item 27. "Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass, and other unwanted vegetation."

REMARKS:

In 1916, Governor Lucius Pinkham of the Territory of Hawaii set aside private and public lands in the Tantalus area as forest reserves through the Governor's Proclamation of 1916. The public portion of this land now exists as the Round Top Forest Reserve under the management of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division). Within the Round Top Forest Reserve sits Camp Ehrhorn.

For over 60 years, Scouting America, formerly known as the Boy Scouts of America, has been utilizing Camp Ehrhorn to promote youth development and education and support conservation efforts. Camp attendees are educated through a well-prepared curriculum that requires workbooks and instructors. Study topics include outdoor recreation such as camping, hiking, backpacking, first aid, and wilderness survival and environmental subjects such as forestry, environmental science, nature, plant science, soil and water conservation, fish and wildlife management, and insect study. Through scouting, youth develop strong personal values, leadership skills, and a sense of civic duty, which benefits the broader community by creating responsible, engaged citizens. Scouting America's focus on teaching youth about environmental responsibility,

sustainability, and conservation aligns well with Forestry and Wildlife's mission of protecting Hawaii's natural resources for future generations.

Other benefits of Scouting America's continued utilization of Camp Ehrhorn include:

- Conservation Projects: Scouts often participate in service projects that directly benefit the environment, such as trail maintenance, reforestation, and invasive species removal. These projects help maintain the health of the forest reserve and reduce the burden on DOFAW staff.
- Education on Sustainability: Scouting America uses the site to help educate young people about the importance of conservation and responsible land use, which can contribute to long-term public support for environmental protection.
- Site Upkeep: Scouting America has maintained the Camp Ehrhorn facilities since the 1960s, including primitive structures and amenities like bathrooms and grill areas. This relieves the Division of the responsibility of maintaining this area and ensuring the site remains in good condition for use by other groups.
- Preservation of Primitive Nature: Scouting America's commitment to keeping the site primitive ensures that the area's natural integrity is preserved, supporting the Division's goals of minimizing the environmental footprint in sensitive areas like the Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserve.
- Safe, Structured Use of the Area: Allowing Scouting America to continue using Camp Ehrhorn ensures that the public benefits from safe and structured access to the site, with clear guidelines for use. This reduces the likelihood of unsanctioned or harmful activities, such as illegal camping or unregulated resource use.
- Community Involvement: Scouting events often unite families and community members, fostering a sense of community around shared values of outdoor activity and environmental stewardship.
- Stewardship Opportunities: Scouting America can partner with the Division on stewardship projects within the forest reserve, further integrating Scouting into the conservation efforts at Tantalus.

Recognizing the benefits of collaborating with Scouting America, the staff recommends that the Board permit continued management and use of the area via a Revocable Permit. This authorization will allow the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to provide public access to the area without incurring the costs of active management. This action is an interim measure designed to address an immediate need and in no way suggests that the Division of Forestry and Wildlife is interested in giving up the property's management as a forest reserve.

Staff also recommends that the Board authorize the issuance of an immediate management right-of-entry to the applicant, which shall expire upon executing the requested revocable permit.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. Authorize the issuance of immediate management right-of-entry permit covering the subject area for educational and training purposes, subject to the following:
 - a) The standard terms and conditions of the most current right-of-entry permit form, as may be amended from time to time; and
 - b) Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.
3. Authorize the issuance of a Revocable Permit covering the subject area for educational and training purposes under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by this reference incorporated herein and further subject to the following:
 - a) The standard terms and conditions of the most current revocable permit form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - b) Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
 - c) Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

Respectfully Submitted:



David G. Smith, Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson

Exhibit 1 – Location Map

BLNR: ISSUANCE OF A REVOCABLE PERMIT AND IMMEDIATE MANAGEMENT RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO SCOUTING AMERICA, ALOHA COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PURPOSES IN THE ROUND TOP FOREST RESERVE, HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAII, TAX MAP KEY 1-2-5-019 PORTION OF 003

Camp Ehrhorn

