

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Land Division  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 25, 2025

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

24OD-027

Oahu

Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From June 6, 2025 through May 29, 2026, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

APPLICANT:

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc., a Hawaii profit corporation.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Section 171-55, and Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as amended. Chapter 11-200.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules, as amended.

LOCATION:

Portion of Government lands situated at Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, identified by Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021, as shown on the map attached as **Exhibit A**.

AREA:

Staging area (approximate)	500	square feet
<u>Safety zone (approximate)</u>	<u>173, 494</u>	<u>square feet</u>
<b>Total area</b>	<b>173, 994</b>	<b>square feet</b>

ZONING:

State Land Use District:	Urban
City and County of Honolulu LUO:	Public Precinct

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Section 5(a) lands of the Hawaii Admission Act  
DHHL 30% entitlement lands pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution: No

CURRENT USE STATUS:

Requested area is vacant and unencumbered.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Set up and conduct of weekly aerial fireworks display.

TERM:

Between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on 52 successive Fridays, June 6, 2025 – May 29, 2026, as shown in **Exhibit B**.

RENTAL:

\$775.00 per event day for set-up, firing site area, and safety zone:

Rental per event day	\$775.00
<u>Number of event days</u>	<u>x 52</u>
<b>Total annual rental amount</b>	<b>\$40,300.00</b>

COLLATERAL SECURITY DEPOSIT:

None.

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) §§11-200.1-15 and -16, and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, reviewed and concurred on by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to General Exemption Type 1, which applies to “[o]perations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.” Specifically, the subject request is exempt under Part 1, Item 44, which exempts “[p]ermits, licenses, registrations, and rights-of-entry issued by the Department that are routine in nature, involving negligible impacts beyond that previously existing.” The subject request is expected to have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and should be declared exempt from

the preparation of an environmental assessment. (**Exhibit C**)

DCCA VERIFICATION:

Place of business registration confirmed:	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u>  </u>
Registered business name confirmed:	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u>  </u>
Applicant in good standing confirmed:	YES <u>X</u>	NO <u>  </u>

REMARKS:

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. (HE) has been contracted by the Hilton Hawaiian Village (HHV) to continue conducting aerial fireworks displays every Friday evening for a period of 12 months from June 6, 2025, through May 29, 2026, at Duke Kahanamoku Beach. The present request is for issuance of a right-of-entry permit to continue the firework display that has been held at the same location every Friday night since 1991, with the exception of the statewide Covid shutdown period from March 2020 to March 2022.

By its letter dated January 29, 2025, HE is requesting the issuance of a right-of-entry permit (ROE) for aerial fireworks display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach occurring every Friday from June 6, 2025, through May 29, 2025, with the dates shown in **Exhibit B**.

When the Board has considered this Applicant's request for annual fireworks permits, at its meetings in the past two years, <sup>1</sup> the Board has requested that the Applicant provide information on its on-going efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of its fireworks shows and to give back to the community that supports the shows and the Applicant has done so. At those meetings, several Board members expressed that their assenting vote to the Applicant's request was based, at least in part, on the information presented by the Applicant. Several Board members, including the Chairperson, also commented that they expect to see continuing progress toward mitigation and community outreach and partnerships.

As of the writing of this submittal, the Applicant has not presented Staff with written information on its on-going efforts. However, the Applicant has expressed to Staff that it plans to present this information directly to the Board at the time the Board considers the present submittal. Staff has informed the Applicant that this Staff submittal and recommendation will not include discussion of the Applicant's mitigation and community efforts. Staff notes that all recommendations contained in the present submittal are contingent on a finding by the Board, in its discretion, that the Applicant has satisfactorily complied with the conditions and directions imposed by the Board at its May 12, 2023, meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> May 12, 2023, Agenda Item D-6 and April 26, 2024, Agenda Item D-9

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) has been consulted on Staff's recommendation for approval and request for exemption pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS. OCCL had no objections to the subject request and concurred with the proposed exemption. (**Exhibit D**)

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources submitted comments on this submittal. (**Exhibit E**) DAR concurred with the exemption and with approval of the requested permit, provided that the Applicant maintains the standards outlined in the Applicant's 2023-2024 Sustainability Report, which the Applicant submitted to the Board at the April 26, 2024, meeting when the Board considered the Applicant's 2024-2025 annual permit under agenda item D-9. However, DAR also noted that, since the Applicant did not provide any such report prior to the 2025 Board meeting to consider the current application, DAR was not able to review and comment on the Applicant's on-going debris removal activities. DAR requested that in the future, the Applicant provide such information along with the annual permit application to allow for agency review.

Comments were also requested from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Commission on Water Resource Management, and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks & Recreation. These agencies did not respond timely for inclusion in the present submittal.

The Applicant has not had a lease, permit, easement, or other disposition of State lands terminated within the past five years due to non-compliance with such terms and conditions.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board, contingent upon a finding that the Applicant has satisfactorily complied with the conditions and directions imposed by the Board at its May 12, 2023, meeting under Agenda Item D-6:

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and section 11-200.1-15, HAR, this project is expected to 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 a right-of-entry permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. on specified dates mentioned above covering the subject area for aerial fireworks display 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 right-of-entry permit form for regular Friday fireworks show, 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.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Rebecca L. Anderson  
Shoreline Specialist

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson



## Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037:portion of 021



**EXHIBIT A-1**



**Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037:portion of 021  
Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon**



## Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc.

P.O. Box 1244  
Keeau, HI 96749-1244  
[hepinc@hipyro.com](mailto:hepinc@hipyro.com)  
(808) 968-0600



January 29, 2025

Dawn N. S. Chang, Esq.  
BLNR Chairperson  
Department of Land & Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809

Dear Ms. Chang,

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. (HEP) is requesting renewal of a Right-of-Entry for Duke Kahanamoku Beach to provide fireworks display services in conjunction with the weekly Hilton Hawaiian Village Friday Night Fireworks. Details are as follows:

Event: Hilton Hawaiian Village Friday Night Fireworks, Duke Kahanamoku Beach  
Dates: Friday Nights June 6, 2025 through May 29, 2026 = 52 Fridays

### 2025 - 2026

MONTH	FRIDAYS				
June	6	13	20	27	
July	4	11	18	25	
August	1	8	15	22	29
September	5	12	19	26	
October	3	10	17	24	31
November	7	14	21	28	
December	5	12	19	26	
January	2	9	16	23	30
February	6	13	20	27	
March	6	13	20	27	
April	3	10	17	24	
May	1	8	15	22	29

Display Firing Time: 8:00 p.m. (approximately) – June through August  
7:45 p.m. (approximately) – September through May  
Hours of Operation: Between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. (each date)



### EXEMPTION NOTIFICATION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200.1-15, HAR

Project Title:	Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From June 6, 2025 to May 29, 2026, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.
Reference No.:	PSF# 25OD-027
Project Locations:	Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.
Project Description:	Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon.
Chap. 343 Trigger(s): Exemption Class No.:	Use of State Land  In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) sections 11-200.1-15 and -16 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources reviewed and concurred on by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to General Exemption Type 1 for "[o]perations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing." Specifically, the subject request is exempt under Part 1, Item 44, which applies to "[p]ermits, licenses, registrations, and rights-of entry issued by the Department that are routine in nature, involving negligible impacts beyond that previously existing."
Cumulative Impact of Planned Successive Actions in Same Place Significant?	No. Similar events occur at the same location from time to time. However, based on the multiple environmental clean-ups conducted after each display to remove debris from the lagoon area, staff believes that there would be no significant cumulative impact.

Action May Have  
Significant Impact  
on Particularly  
Sensitive  
Environment?

The requested area is a portion of State beach visited by tourists and residents and is heavily impacted by human activity. Public access across the requested area is maintained by the Hilton Hawaiian Village staff. In addition, based on the analysis below, staff believes there would be no significant impact to sensitive environmental or ecological receptors.

Consulted Parties:

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands and the Division of Aquatic Resources concurred with the proposed exemption.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Commission on Water Resource Management, and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks & Recreation did not timely respond to a request for comment.

Analysis:

The Board has permitted similar events in the past. The proposed activity is of a similar type and scope of beach activities that have periodically occurred and continue to occur on this and other beach areas across the State. Such activities have resulted in no known significant impacts, whether immediate or cumulative, to the natural, environmental and/or cultural resources in the area. Staff also believes that the request would involve negligible or no expansion or change in use of the subject area beyond that previously existing.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board find that this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is presumed to be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KUA'AINA  
SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'AINA



DAWN N. S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
AND COASTAL LANDS

COR. DA - 153

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'AINA 'O  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'AINA  
LAND DIVISION

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DEPT. OF LAND &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

March 6, 2025

Ref. No.: 25OD-027

MEMORANDUM

TO:

**State Agencies:**

- ☐ DOH
- ☐ DHHL
- ☒ DLNR-Aquatic Resources
- ☒ DLNR-Forestry & Wildlife
- ☐ DLNR-Historic Preservation
- ☐ DLNR-State Parks
- ☒ DLNR-Conservation and Coastal Lands
- ☒ DLNR-Water Resource Management
- ☐ DOT

**County Agencies:**

- ☐ Planning
- ☒ Parks & Recreation
- ☐ Public Works
- ☐ Water Department

FROM: Rebecca L. Anderson, Shoreline Specialist  
SUBJECT: Request for Comment, Annual Aerial Fireworks Permit  
LOCATION: Waikiki, Oahu; TMK (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021  
APPLICANT: Hawaii Explosive & Pyrotechnics, Inc.

Transmitted for your review and comment is a copy of the above referenced request involving State lands. We would appreciate your comments on this application. Please submit any comments by **March 31, 2025**. If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at rebecca.l.anderson@hawaii.gov. Thank you.

**Attachments**

OCUL has no objections  
to the subject request  
& concurs with the  
exemption of a  
environmental assessment

- ☒ We have no objections.
- ☐ We have no comments.
- ☐ Comments are attached.

Signed:

Date: 3-12-25

cc: Central Files

**EXHIBIT D**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA ĀINA



DAWN N. S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA  
LAND DIVISION

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

March 6, 2025

Ref. No.: 25OD-027

MEMORANDUM

TO:

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☐ DOH  
☒ DHHL  
☒ DLNR-Aquatic Resources  
☒ DLNR-Forestry & Wildlife  
☐ DLNR-Historic Preservation  
☐ DLNR-State Parks  
☒ DLNR-Conservation and Coastal Lands  
☒ DLNR-Water Resource Management  
☐ DOT

**County Agencies:**

☐ Planning  
☒ Parks & Recreation  
☐ Public Works  
☐ Water Department

RECEIVED

MAR 07 2025

Division of Aquatic Resources

FROM: Rebecca L. Anderson, Shoreline Specialist  
SUBJECT: Request for Comment, Annual Aerial Fireworks Permit  
LOCATION: Waikiki, Oahu; TMK (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021  
APPLICANT: Hawaii Explosive & Pyrotechnics, Inc.

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Attachments

- ( ) We have no objections.  
( ) We have no comments.  
☒ Comments are attached.

Signed: 

Date: 04/01/2025

cc: Central Files

**EXHIBIT E**



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KĀʻĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KĀʻĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUAĀINA 'O HAWAII'**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL**  
**RESOURCES DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES**  
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 330  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Date: 3/31/2025

DAR # AR6858

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU  
OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian J. Neilson  
DAR Administrator

FROM: Kendall Tucker, Aquatic Biologist

SUBJECT: Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc.  
for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday

Request Submitted by: Rebecca Anderson-Shoreline Specialist- Land Division

Location of Project: Waikiki, Oahu; TMK (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021

Brief Description of Project:

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. (HE) has been contracted by the Hilton Hawaiian Village (HHV) to continue conducting aerial fireworks displays every Friday evening for a period of 12 months from June 6, 2025, through May 29, 2026, at Duke Kahanamoku Beach. The present request is for issuance of a right-of-entry permit to continue the firework display that has been held at the same location every Friday night since 1991, with the exception of the statewide Covid shutdown period from March 2020 to March 2022.

Comments:

☐ No Comments ☒ Comments Attached

Thank you for providing DAR the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. Should there be any changes to the project plan, DAR requests the opportunity to review and comment on those changes.

Comments Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Brian J. Neilson  
DAR Administrator

DAR# AR6858

Brief Description of Project

When the Board has considered this Applicant's request for annual fireworks permits, at its meetings in the past two years, 1 the Board has requested that the Applicant provide information on its on-going efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of its fireworks shows and to give back to the community that supports the shows and the Applicant has done so. At those meetings, several Board members expressed that their assenting vote to the Applicant's request was based, at least in part, on the information presented by the Applicant. Several Board members, including the Chairperson, also commented that they expect to see continuing progress toward mitigation and community outreach and partnerships.

As of the writing of this submittal, the Applicant has not presented Staff with written information on its on-going efforts. However, the Applicant has expressed to Staff that it plans to present this information directly to the Board at the time the Board considers the present submittal. Staff has informed the Applicant that this Staff submittal and recommendation will not include discussion of the Applicant's mitigation and community efforts. Staff notes that all recommendations contained in the present submittal are contingent on a finding by the Board, in its discretion, that the Applicant has satisfactorily complied with the conditions and directions imposed by the Board at its May 12, 2023, meeting.

DAR# AR6858

Comments

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) would like to request a similar report for the 2024 -2025 firework season similar to the 2023-2024 report provided to the BLNR in April of 2024. Given that DAR does not have the numbers for last years debris removal at this time we are using the 2023-2024 report for comments. DAR concurs with the exemption and the approval of the permit if the standards outlined in the 2023-2024 report for community outreach, and debris removal assessments are continued to be maintained for this year permit requirements. Given that this is an annual permit that is presented to the BLNR, DAR would like to request that the amount of debris removed at the time of application be included for agency review in the future.