

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

June 13, 2025

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

PSF No. 25OD-054

Oahu

Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit for One (1) Day to Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc. for the 52nd Annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim Finish Line Area on September 1, 2025, at Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

APPLICANT:

Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc., a Hawaii 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with the primary mission of organizing and running the annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim race.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Section 171-55, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as amended.

LOCATION:

Portion of Government lands of Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, identified as tax map key: (1) 2-3-037: portions of 021, as shown on the attached **Exhibits A-1** and **A-2**.

AREA:

2,000 square feet, approximately.

ZONING:

State Land Use District:
City & County LUO:

Conservation
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 unencumbered.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Finish area for ocean swim race event.

TERM:

From 5:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Monday, September 1, 2025.

RENTAL:

\$200.00 (based on 10¢ per square foot).

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 a de minimis action that is expected to have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and should be declared exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

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:

The Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc. (WRSC) is requesting a permit to conduct beach activities on State-owned lands in conjunction with an ocean swim race event. The Waikiki Roughwater Swim is annually named one of America's Top 100 Open Water Swims by The World Open Water Swimming Association. The event has its roots in the famed swimming and ocean sports competitions of the early 1900s, through which Duke Kahanamoku and other local ocean athletes turned Waikiki into a world-renowned ocean destination. The founders of the Waikiki Roughwater Swim include Ellen "Ma Leo" Fullard-Leo, who supported Duke as a young athlete and later managed his swimming career. Fullard-Leo also founded Honolulu's first women's swimming club, was a primary organizer of the Hawaiian Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), and helped launch the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Pan-American Games.

The Waikiki Roughwater Swim ocean swim race has taken place annually since 1970, with a few exceptions. The race begins at Kaimana Beach, near the Natatorium at the east end of Waikiki, follows a 2.384-mile ocean racecourse, and ends at Duke Kahanamoku Beach, at the west end of Waikiki near the Hilton Hawaiian Village hotel. **(Exhibit B)** The Applicant reports that appropriate permits for the use of Kaimana Beach will be pursued through the City & County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation, which has jurisdiction over the public land in that area.

The Applicant is requesting a right-of-entry permit at the finish area for race day, September 1, 2025, beginning at 5:30 AM and ending at around 1:30 PM to cover early morning set-up, finish line, and post-race breakdown and cleanup activities. The race begins at 8:30 AM, with staggered starts depending on participants' seeding, and ends approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes after the latest start. The awards ceremony at the finish line begins at 11:30 AM.

The Applicant requests that the Board approve a right-of-entry permit for its use of an approximately 2,000 square foot area at Duke Kahanamoku Beach. The requested area will include a finish line area with rope delineators for swimmers to exit the water, crowd control barriers, two tables, two 10' x 10' tents, and six chairs for race timers and announcers, a finish chute for swimmers to leave the finish line area, and a station for removing race chips. Volunteers will also be present in this area to assist swimmers. Outside of the finish line area, there will be seven 10' x 10' tents as follows: one medical tent with a doctor, one first aid tent with two first

aid assistants, one information tent with volunteers, one bag tent with volunteers, one t-shirt tent with volunteers to distribute pre-ordered race participant t-shirts, one ice tent with volunteers to distribute ice to participants, one water/ Gatorade tent to distribute drinks to participants, and several trash cans for use by participants. Tents will be spaced out in the area to allow access through the area. Off-duty Honolulu Police Department officers will be present for site security. In total, there will be approximately sixty-three volunteers, one doctor, two first aid assistants, two announcers, two timers, and two police officers on site. **Exhibit C.**

The Applicant will not conduct any commercial activities at any site for this event. T-shirts distributed will be pre-paid as part of the race registration fee and ice and drinks will be distributed at no charge to race participants and volunteers.

The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) was consulted on this submittal and had no objections to the issuance of the requested ROE permit, provided that the Applicant takes all measures necessary to ensure public safety and protection of natural resources.

DOBOR confirmed that it has received an application for a Marine Ocean Water Event Permit (MEP) for this event from the Applicant. The MEP application indicates that the Applicant expects approximately 800 participants and will have water safety personnel on surfboards and jet skis along the ocean racecourse. DOBOR also noted that the Applicant will be required to notify the U.S. Coast Guard of this event and obtain a Coast Guard permit, if required by that agency.

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) was consulted on this submittal. OCCL had no objections to this submittal and concurred with the proposed Environmental Assessment exemption.

The City & County of Honolulu's Department of Parks & Recreation did not respond timely to a request for comments.

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.

There are no other pertinent issues or concerns regarding the subject request.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Section 11-200.1, HAR, this activity is a de minimis action that will likely 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 Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc. covering the subject area for the Waikiki Roughwater Swim finish area under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by this reference incorporated herein and further subject to the following:
 - a. Payment of the rental amount stated above;
 - b. The standard terms and conditions of the most current right-of-entry form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - c. The Applicant shall conduct no sales or other commercial activities in the area subject to this right-of-entry;
 - d. The Applicant shall maintain lateral public access across the beach transit corridor at all times during the period of the right-of-entry permit;
 - e. The Applicant shall notify the U.S. Coast Guard of this event and shall obtain any permits that the Coast Guard may require; and
 - f. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca L. Anderson
Shoreline Specialist

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson

TMK (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021



EXHIBIT A1

TMK (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021





