

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawaii

August 8, 2025

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

O'AHU

Request for Approval to Conduct a One Day Community Event "Day at Lake Wilson" that will Include Boat Rides, Commercial Vendors and Educational Booths to be Held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area, O'ahu, Hawai'i, TMK: (1) 7-6-001:006

LEGAL REFERENCE:

In accordance with

- 1) the Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-146-68 Commercial activities: No person shall engage in commercial activities of any kind, without a written permit from the board or its authorized representative; and
- 2) Hawaii Administrative Rules Sections §11-200-8 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources concurred with by the Environmental Council and dated June 5, 2015, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 1, item 53, "Granting to a person the privilege to conduct operations involving the provision of goods, wares, merchandise, or services to the general public including, but not limited to, boat tours, food and beverage operations, retail operations, rental operations, or communications and telecommunications services in or on an existing building, facility, or area." **See Exhibit A.**

LOCATION:

This parcel of land [TMK: (1) 7-6-001:006] is in Wahiawa, Oahu.

BACKGROUND:

The Division of State Parks is proposing a Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) sponsored community event at Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area (SRA) in partnership with the Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization (Wahiawa CBDO) themed "A Day at the Lake" to highlight recently proposed park improvements that will expand the recreational opportunities offered in the Wahiawa community. Other DLNR divisions participating in this event are Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), and Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR). There have been three previous "Day at the Lake" events with DLNR participation, the most recent being held in 2024, and all these events have been very successful. The intent of this 4th event is to once again, build up community awareness of Wahiawa Freshwater SRA and all the recreational activities that it has to offer. The goal is to use this event as a platform for the Wahiawa CBDO, who is willing to take the lead, and sponsor this as an annual event for Wahiawa to showcase unique aspects of their community.

Wahiawa Freshwater SRA, a prominent and treasured resource has been a very popular recreational site for both community and visitors. The park features recreational fishing in Lake Wilson and passive recreational activities such as picnicking and walking. The event will feature educational booths, as well as vendors who will be selling their specialty goods and food at the park. Wahiawa CBDO will provide insurance for this event.

Wahiawa CBDO, in partnership with State Parks and other community organizations, has been working collaboratively over the past few years on the planning and future development of Wahiawa Freshwater SRA. DLNR and the community thought the timing was appropriate to continue the "Day at the Lake" event.

All proceeds from sales and donations will go into an escrow account to support future "Day at the Lake" events, community activities, and management of Wahiawa Freshwater SRA. Additional sponsors are covering event costs. This event helps raise public awareness about enhancing the park and the recreational use of Lake Wilson, promoting environmental stewardship, and supporting DLNR's efforts to educate and manage lake usage.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Division of State Parks is requesting the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve the request for Wahiawa CBDO to coordinate the sales from vendors (for various items) from this event on September 27, 2025 at Wahiawa Freshwater SRA, as a fundraiser for Wahiawa CBDO to put into escrow for future events and activities for Wahiawa Freshwater SRA. In addition, a request to close the public boat ramp for this event is also requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



CURT A. COTTRELL
Administrator
Division of State Parks

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A-Chapter 343 Exemption Notification

EXHIBIT A

EXEMPTION NOTIFICATION

Regarding the preparing of an environmental assessment pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200, HAR

Project Title:	Request for Approval to Conduct a One Day Community Event "Day at Lake Wilson" that will include Commercial Vendors and Educational Booths to be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area.
Project/Reference:	Not applicable.
Project Location:	Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area, Wahiawa, Oahu [TMK: (1) 7-6-001:006]
Project Description	Community event to highlight recreational opportunities at Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreation Area.
Chapter 343 Triggers Exemption Class No.:	<p>Use of State Land.</p> <p>In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-146-68 Commercial activities. No person shall engage in commercial activities of any kind, without a written permit from the board or its authorized representative; and</p> <p>Hawaii Administrative Rules 11-200-8 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources concurred with by the Environmental Council and dated June 5, 2015, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 1, item 53, "Granting to a person the privilege to conduct operations involving the provision of goods, wares, merchandise, or services to the general public including, but not limited to, tours, food and beverage operations, retail operations, rental operations, or communications and telecommunications services in or on an existing building, facility, or area."</p> <p>The subject request is necessary to allow commercial vendors and educational booths to conduct activities on state lands.</p>
Consulted Parties:	Division of Aquatic Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Wahiawa residents, Wahiawa organization.

Recommendation:

The Board finds that the project will have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and will provide a variety of benefits for the Wahiawa community. Therefore, this request is presumed exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.