

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

November 14, 2025

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIRPERSON  
TO DECLARE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN FOREST STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM AGREEMENTS EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IF THE ACTIONS ARE  
INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT-WIDE EXEMPTION LIST

BACKGROUND:

Governing Authorities Cited

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)  
Chapter 195F Forest Stewardship  
Chapter 171-6 Public Lands, Management and Disposition of  
Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements  
Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR)  
Chapter 109 Rules for Establishing Forest Stewardship  
Chapter 11.200.1 Environmental Impact Statement Rules

The Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), established under Chapter 195F-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to offer technical and financial support to approved Forest Stewardship projects. These projects assist private landowners and managers in managing, protecting, and restoring vital natural resources on forested and previously forested lands. The FSP is carried out by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division) in accordance with Chapter 195F, HRS, and Chapter 109, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR). The program offers cost-sharing reimbursements for developing long-term forest management plans and executing approved Forest Stewardship management plans.

To participate in FSP, interested landowners and managers follow a series of application steps to create a ten-year Forest Stewardship management plan.

1. Project proposals are submitted for review by the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (FSAC). They evaluate the projects based on program eligibility requirements and ensure they align with the program's goals of conservation,

restoration, and forest production. The FSAC approves project proposals and recommends developing Forest Stewardship management plans.

2. The Forest Stewardship management plan is created by landowners working with natural resource experts, reviewed and approved by the FSAC and Division, and may be recommended for approval by the Department.
3. The FSP may then offer funding (cost-share support) to implement management actions in an approved Forest Stewardship management plan through a Forest Stewardship Agreement, depending on available funding.

Pursuant to Chapter 171-6, HRS, the Board has the powers and functions granted to department heads under Chapter 26-15, HRS. The Board may delegate these powers and duties to the Chairperson or department employees. Previous delegations to the Chairperson for the FSP (August 11, 2023, item C-4) <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/C-4.pdf> include: 1) Approving any further amendments to the Forest Stewardship Program handbook and hold-down rates for cost-sharing related to forest management practices, as permitted by law; 2) Approving Forest Stewardship management plans and cost-share reimbursements for plan development, as recommended by the FSAC; 3) Approving, administering, modifying, and/or extending Forest Stewardship Agreements valued under \$500,000; and 4) Approving members to serve on the FSAC and authorizing their membership and terms.

The Division has partnered with the Department of the Attorney General to create a cost-share agreement (Forest Stewardship Agreement), awarded through a Procurement Exemption from Chapter 103D (reference number PE14-026K, expiring on June 30, 2028). The contracting process for Forest Stewardship Agreements involves the administrative release of funds, certification of funds by the Comptroller, approval of the agreement's legal form by the Attorney General, and final approval by the Chairperson. This process also ensures compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, before landowners are notified to proceed with the Forest Stewardship Agreement.

Funding for Forest Stewardship Agreements comes from various state and federal sources, including, but not limited to, funds allocated under Section 195F-4, HRS; annual legislative appropriations of state general and special funds; and USDA Forest Service grant awards.

## DISCUSSION:

The Division suggests authorizing the Chairperson to approve management actions in Forest Stewardship Agreements that are exempt under the Department-wide Exemption List, dated November 11, 2020, and any future updates to this list. Similar delegations of authority to the Chairperson to exempt actions from environmental assessments have been previously approved by the Board for activities involving state lands and/or state funds (e.g., Conservation District projects, Capital Improvement Projects, actions on state lands, and contracts awarded under Chapter 42F, HRS). Since the FSP has its own statutory procurement process, the prior delegation for contracts under Chapter

42F, HRS does not apply to the FSP; therefore, we are currently requesting this delegation (see Exhibit A for a summary of past delegations).

There is extensive public and agency review of FSP projects. FSP management plans are thoroughly examined by the FSAC and Division and are approved during FSAC meetings, which follow Sunshine Law requirements and are open to the public. The FSAC has 13 members who advise the Division, representing private forest landowners, federal, state, and county resource agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), consulting foresters, forest industry, conservation groups, and native Hawaiian interests. Approved management plans are carefully evaluated and include detailed consideration of environmental concerns and measures to prevent any negative environmental impacts.

FSP projects are environmentally friendly management practices designed to manage, protect, and restore private forest lands. These projects offer public benefits such as safeguarding and enhancing important watersheds, increasing native biodiversity, improving native plant and wildlife habitats, reducing wildfire risks, and providing recreational and educational opportunities. Actions included in these plans are common, routine practices used throughout the state to effectively manage both public and private forest lands.

- Fencing to safeguard forests from feral ungulates (deer, pigs, sheep, goats, cattle)
- Fuel breaks to protect forests from wildfires
- Removal of invasive weeds
- Tree, shrub, and groundcover site preparation and planting
- Trail and access installation and maintenance
- Forest health and conservation
- Monitoring and maintaining the established management practices

These activities and similar actions essential for effectively managing forest lands for environmental benefits are considered routine repair, maintenance, and management practices. They are included in Part 1 and Part 2 activities on the Department List (approved by the Environmental Council on Nov 10, 2020), listed in Exhibit B attached to this submission.

Since these are standard management practices for all FSP projects, authorizing the Chairperson or her designee to review and approve these exemptions at the Department level will improve the efficiency of the exemption and contracting process and speed up the essential management work for these forest lands. In the past, the FSP brought all projects to the Board for approval of Forest Stewardship Agreements and to declare them exempt from preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). This year, the program is awarding eight projects for cost-share assistance (see Exhibit C). The program expects a similar number of project awards (8-10) each year. This proposed delegation will enable the Chairperson to approve FSP project exemptions, in addition to approving Forest Stewardship Agreements under \$500,000 (as previously delegated in 2023).

Exemption declarations for FSP projects will follow the standard procedures outlined in Title 11, Chapter 200.1-17, HAR. The Division will send exemption notices to partner organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, and USFWS, for consultation. Declarations of exemptions will be publicly disseminated, as required, by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development through publication in the Environmental Notice.

Draft declarations of exemptions for pending Forest Stewardship Agreements are included as Exhibit D to show the types of management actions that would be delegated to the Chairperson for approval. The Division is currently working on the required partner consultation for these Agreements, but responses from federal partners are delayed due to the federal government shutdown.

FSP projects that require an EA or environmental impact statement (EIS) will be submitted to the Board for approval.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Authorize the Chairperson to exempt management actions in Forest Stewardship Program Agreements from environmental assessment requirements when they are listed on the department-wide exemption list.

Respectfully Submitted,



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David G. Smith, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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

- Exhibit A: List of past BLNR delegations to the Chairperson  
Exhibit B: List of Exemptions for Forest Stewardship Agreements  
Exhibit C: FY26 Forest Stewardship Agreement Information  
Exhibit D: Draft Declarations of Exemption for FY26 Forest Stewardship Agreements

### Exhibit A. List of Past BLNR Delegations to the Chairperson

Date and BLNR Item No.	Delegation	Notes
November 13, 2015, C-6	<p>1) Delegate authority to the Chairperson to issue Findings of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessments submitted for Department actions when the Board of Land and Natural Resources has delegated the authority to conduct those actions; and</p> <p>2) Delegate authority to the Chairperson or their authorized representative to declare exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment those Department actions which are included in the Department-wide exemption list when the Board of Land and Natural Resources has delegated the authority to conduct those actions.</p>	
August 12, 2016, L-6	<p>Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson to: (1) Procure, Award and Enter Into Professional Service Consultant Contracts for Capital Improvement Program Projects Listed in Exhibit 1 or Projects Funded with Operating Funds Appropriated by Legislature; (2) Declare a Construction Project Exempt from the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Approve an Environmental Assessment and Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, if Appropriate; and (3) Approve, Procure and Enter Construction Contracts, for Capital Improvement Program Projects Listed in Exhibit 1 or Projects Funded with Operating Funds Appropriated by the Legislature.</p>	
April 13, 2017, C-5	<p>Delegation of Authority to the Chairperson to: 1) Approve, Procure, Award, Sign, Execute, Amend, and Extend Contracts Awarded Under Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); 2) Declare these Contracts Exempt from the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Approve an Environmental Assessment and Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, if Appropriate.</p>	<p>This delegation does not apply to projects with their own statutory procurement process outside of Chapter 42F, such as the FSP.</p>

## **Exhibit B: List of Exemptions for Forest Stewardship Agreements**

Part 1 and Part 2 exemptions from the Department-wide list, approved by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020, that apply to Forest Stewardship projects, include but are not limited to the following practices:

### **Type 1**

#### **Part 1**

1. Removal of boulders, rocks, hazardous trees, marine debris, and other similar hazards necessary to maintain lands and waters in a safe condition.
11. Operation, repair, or maintenance of existing fire tool caches, fuel breaks, and helispots.
12. Repair and maintenance of existing bollards, walls, gates, fences, lighting, and other similar items necessary for the security or continued operation of a facility or structure
23. Maintenance of existing boardwalks, trails, and unpaved roads.
26. Maintenance of existing landscaping, including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation.
27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass, and other unwanted vegetation.
28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning, and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging

### **Type 2**

#### **Part 1**

5. Replacement or reconstruction of existing bollards, walls, gates, fences, lighting and other similar items necessary for the security or continued operation of a facility or structure.
17. Replacement or reconstruction of existing boardwalks, trails, and unpaved roads.
19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.
20. Re-vegetate burned or eroded areas to encourage the succession of selected plant species to prevent soil erosion and promote the goals of the Department.

### **Type 3**

#### **Part 1**

1. Improvement of existing trails and construction or improvement of boardwalks on existing trails for recreation, education, and management.
6. Installation and removal of irrigation systems.
18. Installation of water catchment systems, lines, and faucets.

#### **Part 2**

1. Natural resource management actions that the Department declares are designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance the status of native species' habitats, such as fences around or to manage rare, threatened or

endangered plants. Fence shall contain step-overs or other features that permit pedestrian access for cultural and recreational use.

#### Type 4

##### Part 1

2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.
3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.
5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.
6. Gathering plant seed, cuttings, or other vegetative matter for propagation.
9. Control of pests utilizing federal and state approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and toxicants in conformance with label instructions; traps, snares, lures, and repellents; and other approved methods.
14. Fire management activities, including prevention and restoration measure, when conducted in accordance with Departmental and Division procedures.

##### Part 2

2. Clearing of new fuel breaks and other similar fire pre-suppression actions to reduce fire potential and minimize fire severity.
7. Construction of walkways and pathways and other similar items.

## Exhibit C. FY26 Forest Stewardship Agreements

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Location, TMK</b>	<b>Project Type</b>
Waimea Valley Native Forest Restoration	Hi'ipaka LLC	Waimea, O'ahu, (1)6-1-002:002	Native forest restoration and management
Parker Ranch Mauna Kea Reforestation Plan	Parker Ranch Inc.	Kamuela, Hawai'i, (3)4-4-015:003	Native forest restoration and management
Waikōloa Dry Forest Management Plan	Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative, Inc.	Waikōloa, Hawai'i, (3)6-8-002:033, (3)6-8-002:015	Native dry forest restoration and management, community engagement
Pia Valley Forest Stewardship Plan	Protect & Preserve Hawai'i, Inc.	Niu, O'ahu, (1)3-7-003:076	Native forest restoration
Pūlehu 2 Management Plan	Nahele Hou Foundation	Kula, Maui, (2)2-3-001:072	Native forest restoration, erosion control
Punahoa Heritage Forest Managment Plan	Pū'ā Foundation	Punahoa, Hawai'i, (3) 2-5-001:011, (3) 2-5-001:012, (3) 2-5-001:004	Native forest restoration, community engagement
Kahanu Preserve Long Range Management Plan	National Tropical Botanical Garden	Hana, Maui, (2)1-3-002:039, (2)1-3-002:004, (2) 1-3-002:037, (2)1-3-002:001	Native coastal forest restoration
Pāpā Forest Management Plan	Farm and Forest Hawaii LLC	Pāpā, Hawai'i, (3)8-8-003:011	Native forest restoration, agroforestry, community engagement



**Exhibit D. Draft Declarations of Exemption for FY 26 Forest Stewardship Agreements**

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

October XX, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Waimea Valley Native Forest Restoration, Forest Stewardship Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with Hi'ipaka LLC.
<b>Project Location:</b>	Waimea, O'ahu Tax Map Key(TMK): (1) 6-1-002:002
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds, Conservation District lands
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Waimea Valley Native Forest Restoration project proposes to conserve and rehabilitate rare plant and animal communities in the mesic native forests of Waimea Valley in the Ko'olau Watershed. This project expands on the successful implementation of a 10-year Forest Stewardship management plan completed in July 2025. The 1,875 acre project area is designated as Conservation District General and Limited zoned lands by the State of Hawai'i.</p> <p>Over the course of the 10-year management plan, Hi'ipaka LLC intends to restore and protect the existing native forest through the exclusion and removal of ungulates, the removal of invasive species, and the establishment of native species across the project area.</p> <p>The vegetation on the property is dominated by non-native and invasive species, except for areas up mauka where native species persist. Common native tree species include koa (<i>Acacia koa</i>), 'ōhi'ā (<i>Metrosideros polymorpha</i>), 'iliahi (<i>Santalum freycinetianum</i>), alahe'e (<i>Psychradax odoratum</i>), and hō'awa (<i>Pittosporum confertiflorum</i>). Common shrub and ground-cover species include uluhe (<i>Dicranopteris linearis</i>), <i>Carex meyenii</i>, and maile (<i>Alyxia oliviformis</i>). Non-native species persist throughout the project area including ironwood (<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>), formosan koa (<i>Acacia confusa</i>), silk oak (<i>Grivelliea robusta</i>), strawberry guava (<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>), albizia (<i>Falcataria falcata</i>), java plum (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), african tulip (<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>), gunpowder (<i>Trema orientalis</i>), and clidemia (<i>Miconia crenata</i>). Threatened and</p>

endangered species found on the property include ni'oi (*Eugenia koolauensis*), 'alae 'ula (*Gallinula galeata sandvicensis*), and 'ōpe'ape'a (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*). The project management activities will take measures to avoid major disturbance to these species while restoring habitat through restoration efforts.

Pressure from ungulates and invasive weed species threaten restoration efforts by disrupting natural forest regeneration and contributing to the spread of invasive plants and disease. Mitigation efforts include the removal of feral ungulates, weed control, and integrated pest management.

### **Fencing**

Fencing construction was completed during the implementation of the previous 10-year management plan. Fence inspection and maintenance will be conducted annually throughout this 10-year management plan and Agreement.

### **Fuel break**

Fuel breaks will be maintained around project units that become dry on a seasonal basis. Breaks will be cleared of vegetation through manual and chemical methods.

### **Tree & Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment**

Planting sites will be prepared for planting primarily through manual and chemical weed control methods. Invasive trees and brush debris will be removed, and brush will be controlled with herbicide application. Planting holes will be prepared with hand tools, or with a motorized auger in areas of harder, compacted soils.

Native plant establishment will occur through out planting by staff and volunteers. Plant propagation, including seed collection, accession tracking, germination, and nursery production, will occur on site using existing facilities and trained staff. All propagation will follow Waimea Valley Plant Collections Policy also in use at the botanical garden.

### **Weed Control**

Weed control will ensure the success of the restoration project by targeting fast-growing, invasive and non-native species which outcompete native vegetation and out plantings. Manual (i.e. trimming and clearing) and chemical weed control methods will be used. The use of a mini excavator with a forestry mulcher attachment will be used in addition to chainsaw removal. State or federal-approved herbicides will be applied, following label instructions, carefully to avoid ground and surface water contamination and non-target effects.

	<p>To avoid and minimize impacts to the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, disturbance, removal, or trimming of woody plants greater than 15 feet tall will not take place during bat pupping season (June 1st to September 15th).</p> <p><b>Trails and Access</b> Access trails will be established to facilitate land management activities and accessibility for ongoing educational activities and community access.</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Maintenance</b> Ongoing monitoring and maintenance, will occur regularly after the initial planting and throughout the 15-year management dedication term of the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of fencing and access routes, weed control, monitoring native plant establishment, and integrated pest management.</p>
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b>	<p>The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chair to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment at the XXXX meeting.</p>
<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b> <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal of boulders, rocks, hazardous trees, marine debris, and other similar hazards necessary to maintain lands and waters in a safe condition.</li> <li>11. Operation, repair or maintenance of existing fire tool caches, fuel breaks, and helispots.</li> <li>12. Repair and maintenance of existing bollards, walls, gates, fences, lighting, and other similar items necessary for the security or continued operation of a facility or structure.</li> <li>23. Maintenance of existing boardwalks, trails and unpaved roads.</li> <li>25. Repair and maintenance of existing roadways, roadway shoulders, road structures and signage, parking areas, walkways, bikeways, multi-use pathways, driveways, and boat launch ramps (includes grading, resurfacing, infilling, sealing, grooving, cleaning, chipping, painting and patching).</li> <li>26. Maintenance of existing landscaping including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation.</li> <li>27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation.</li> </ol>

28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.

**General Exemption Type 2**

*Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.*

**Part 1**

5. Replacement or reconstruction of existing bollards, walls, gates, fences, lighting and other similar items necessary for the security of continued operation of a facility or structure.

17. Replacement or reconstruction of existing boardwalks, trails, and unpaved roads.

19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.

**General Exemption Type 3**

*Construction and location of single new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of the facilities or structures and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of the equipment or facilities, including but not limited to: (A) Single family residences less than 3,500 square feet, as measured by the controlling law under which the proposed action is being considered, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such units; (B) Multi-unit structures designed for not more than four dwelling units if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; (C) Stores, offices and restaurants designed for total occupant load of twenty individuals or fewer per structure, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; and (D) Water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extensions to serve such structures or facilities; accessory or appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences; and acquisition of utility easements.*

**Part 1:**

1. Improvement of existing trails and construction or improvement of boardwalks on existing trails for recreation, education, and management.

**General Exemption Type 4**

*Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.*

**Part 1**

2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.

	<p>3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.</p> <p>5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.</p> <p>6. Gathering plant seed, cuttings, or other vegetative matter for propagation.</p> <p>9. Control of pests utilizing federal and state-approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and toxicants in conformance with label instructions; traps, snares, lures, and repellents; and other approved methods.</p> <p>14. Fire management activities, including prevention and restoration measures, when conducted in accordance with Departmental and Division procedures.</p> <p>16. The reintroduction of supplementation (e.g., stocking) of native, formerly native, or established species into suitable habitat within their historic or established range, where no or negligible environmental disturbances are anticipated.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 5</b>  <i>Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>2. Non-destructive data collection and inventory, including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping.</p> <p>15. Game and non-game wildlife surveys, vegetation and rare plant surveys, aquatic life surveys, inventory studies, new transect lines, photographing, recording, sampling, collection, culture, and captive propagation.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Native forest restoration will require the removal of invasive and non-native vegetation and invasive, non-native pests. There will not be cumulative impacts from these management activities as the removal of invasive species will be offset by the establishment of native plant species. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be taken to minimize risk to</p>

	endangered species on the property. The project's restoration efforts will benefit the native forest ecosystem and the nearby community by protecting and restoring native forest habitat, enhancing watershed function, and providing opportunities for community education and engagement. Similar forest management and restoration projects have also been declared exempt.
<b>Determination:</b>	The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.

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Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

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Date



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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS

October XX, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Parker Ranch Mauna Kea Reforestation Forest Stewardship Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with Parker Ranch Inc.
<b>Project Location:</b>	Kamuela, Hawai'i Tax Map Key (TMK): (3) 4-4-015:003
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Parker Ranch Mauna Kea Reforestation Forest Stewardship project proposes to restore and maintain approximately 3,300 acres of native forest on TMK (3) 4-4-015:003 in the Kamuela District in Hawai'i County. The Forest Stewardship project area is designated by the State of Hawai'i as Agriculture.</p> <p>Over the course of the 10-year management plan, Parker Ranch Inc. ("landowner") intends to increase native forest cover through the exclusion of ungulates, removal of invasive weed species, and establishment of native species. The project will provide improved fuel management and wildfire response, expanded forest habitat for native wildlife, and opportunities for community education and engagement.</p> <p>The vegetation on the property is dominated by introduced grass species, including kikuyu (<i>Cenchrus clandestinum</i>), buffel, fountain (<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>), velvet (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), and orchard grass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>) that support cattle grazing operations on Parker Ranch. Remnant pockets of native forest are found throughout the property, generally in isolated areas like gulches and streams. Native plant species include māmane (<i>Sophora chrysophylla</i>) and other less common native species like pilo (<i>Coprosma montana</i>), naio (<i>Myoporum sandwicense</i>), 'iliahi (<i>Santalum paniculatum</i>), 'ākala (<i>Rubus hawaiiensis</i>), and 'akoko (<i>Euphorbia olowaluana</i>).</p> <p>Native wildlife species occasionally found within the project area include Hawaii 'amakihi (<i>Chlorodrepanis virens</i>), 'apapane (<i>Himatione sanguinea</i>), 'elepaio (<i>Chasiempis sandwichensis</i>), kōlea (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>),</p>



	<p>pueo (<i>Asio flammeus sandwichensis</i>), and ‘io (<i>Buteo solitarius</i>). Threatened or endangered species that may exist in the project area due to nearby presence include ‘ōpe‘ape‘a (<i>Lasiurus cinereus semotus</i>), palila (<i>Loxioides bailleui</i>), ‘i‘iwi (<i>Drepanis coccinea</i>), and nēnē (<i>Branta sandvicensis</i>). The project management activities will take measures to avoid major disturbance to these species while restoring habitat through restoration efforts.</p> <p>Pressure from cattle grazing, unmanaged feral sheep grazing, and damage from ungulates have reduced the overall health of the forest ecosystem in the project area. Wildfire hazards from fine fuels are managed by domestic cattle grazing, but there are wildfire risks where grazing is restricted.</p> <p>The landowner will implement project activities (weed control, and monitoring and maintenance) described below with state Forest Stewardship funds. Other related management activities described in the management plan are supported by federal and state funding including: fence installation and maintenance, ungulate control, weed control, fuel break establishment, water infrastructure installation, tree and shrub site prep, and tree and shrub establishment. Fence installation was declared exempt by the Chairperson on September 20, 2023.</p> <p><b>Weed Control</b></p> <p>Weed control will ensure the success of the restoration project by targeting fast-growing, invasive and non-native species which outcompete native vegetation and out plantings. A combination of manual removal and chemical weed control methods will be used to target herbaceous weed species. Areas will be monitored for re-sprouting and seed recruitment. A weed survey will also be conducted to treat existing populations as well as map their presence and absence for future efforts and adjustments to treatment.</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Maintenance</b></p> <p>Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be done on a regular basis after the initial planting and throughout the 15 year management dedication term of the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of fencing and weed control. Initial ground surveys will be conducted in year 1 to establish a baseline level of plant species composition, canopy cover, weed presence, bird species presence and densities, etc. This survey will be repeated in year 10 to show the change in forest structure across the project management period. Photo points will be established, and publicly available aerial and/or satellite imagery will be collected.</p>
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b>	<p>The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chair to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in XXXX meeting.</p>

<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b>  <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1  26. Maintenance of existing landscaping, including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation.  27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation.  28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 2</b>  <i>Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.</i></p> <p>Part 1  19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 4</b>  <i>Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.</i></p> <p>Part 1  2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.  3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 5</b>  <i>Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p>
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	<p>2. Non-destructive data collection and inventory, including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping.</p> <p>16. Research to identify, monitor, control, or eradicate introduced species.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Monitoring and maintenance will be conducted through ground surveys, photo points, and satellite imagery which require little to no environmental disturbance. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be followed to minimize risk to endangered species. The project's restoration efforts will benefit the native forest ecosystem and the nearby Kamuela community by restoring native forest habitat.</p>
<b>Determination:</b>	<p>The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.</p>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
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STATE PARKS

October XX, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Pia Valley Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with Protect & Preserve Hawai'i Inc.
<b>Project Location:</b>	Niu, O'ahu Tax Map Key (TMK): (1) 3-7-003:076
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds, Conservation District lands
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Pia Valley Forest Stewardship project proposes to restore and maintain approximately 330 acres of native forest on TMK (1) 3-7-003:076 in Niu, O'ahu. The Forest Stewardship project area is designated by the State of Hawai'i as Conservation.</p> <p>Over the course of the 10-year management plan, Protect and Preserve Hawai'i Inc. ("landowner") intends to restore and protect the existing native forest through removal of invasive weed species and establishment of native species across the project area. The project will focus on an existing fenced 10-acre demonstration plot within the overall 330 acres of native forest. Identifying, mapping, and conducting weed control around relict native forest pockets outside the fenced unit will also be done.</p> <p>The proposed FSP project area consists of non-native vegetation cover that varies from grassland to forest diffusely interspersed with common native species. Roughly 99% of the area has an alien shrubland or forest cover and all have an understory of alien grasses. The vegetation on the property is dominated by nonnative species. The most common alien species are guinea grass (<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>), koa haole (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>), strawberry guava (<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>), and Christmas berry (<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>). The predominant native species are: 'a'ali'i (<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>), alahe'e (<i>Psydrax odoratus</i>), 'ūlei (<i>Osteomeles anthyllidifolia</i>), 'ōhi'a (<i>Metrosideros polymorpha</i>), lama (<i>Diospyros sandwicensis</i>), 'iliahi (<i>Santalum ellipticum</i>), 'akoko (<i>Euphorbia celastroides</i> var. <i>amplectens</i>), and wiliwili (<i>Erythrina sandwicensis</i>). Approximately 120 acres of the mauka (northern) portion of the property are designated critical habitat for</p>

lowland mesic forest ecosystem. At the time of designation in 2012, at least 10 endangered plant species including: *Bonamia menziesii*, hāhā (*Cyanea acuminata*, *C. grimesiana* subsp. *grimesiana*), *C. lanceolata*, ha‘iwale (*Cyrtandra polyantha*), *Asplenium dielerectum*, *Lobelia monostachya*, halapepe (*Dracaena forbesii*), ‘ohe (*Polyscias lydgatei*), and kaulu (*Pteralyxia macrocarpa*) occupied the critical habitat unit.

Pressure from ungulates and other invasive species threatens restoration efforts by disrupting natural forest regeneration and contributing to the spread of invasive plants and disease.

### **Weed Control**

Weed control will ensure the success of the restoration project by targeting fast-growing, invasive and non-native species which outcompete native vegetation and out plantings. Woody invasives, with an emphasis on mature individuals, will be targeted to minimize fire-risk and reduce propagule dispersal. Weed control will be applied across the 330 acre project area, which includes the 10-acre demonstration plot. A combination of manual removal, brush management, and herbaceous weed control methods will be used.

Chemical control methods like cut stump, frill cut, and injection point application (IPA) are preferred for areas away from waterways to control habitat modifying invasive species threatening these native areas. Brazilian scale, an approved insect biocontrol for strawberry guava, will be applied to stands of this species throughout the entirety of the project area. Clearing of undesirable alien vegetation will not occur during O‘ahu ‘elepaio nesting season (November to April). Weed matting will also be installed with routine inspection and spot weeding.

### **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Tree/Shrub and Groundcover Establishment**

Sites will be prepared for planting primarily through manual and chemical removal of plant material. Native plant establishment will occur through out planting. All plant material will be grown at the landowner's nursery, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, or purchased from Hui Kū Maoli Ola. Material will be inspected for pathogens and pests prior to installation. Propagation material will be collected from Pia Valley or with partner assistance (Ko‘olau Watershed Partnership) from southeast Ko‘olau region when unavailable in the valley.

### **Mulching**

Mulch will be used to reduce erosion, improve moisture management, and improve plant productivity and health. Areas that have been cleared around larger koa haole will be covered with weed cloth. Ground cloth staples, or similar anchoring products, will be used to secure the fabric to the ground. Anchors will be installed at a minimum of two to three foot spacing. Holes will be cut into the material to allow for planting. Once sufficient canopy or

	<p>ground cover has been established all synthetic mulch will be removed. This will allow for recruitment and growth of desirable species.</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Maintenance</b> Ongoing monitoring and maintenance, will be done on a regular basis after the initial planting and throughout the 15 year management dedication term of the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of existing fencing, monitoring of native plant growth and establishment, invasive species and pests, and weed control. Monitoring will be completed every six months to document changes to treated areas. Monitoring products will include photo points and drone generated ortho-imagery. An integrated pest management plan will be developed to identify target pests and applied biannually to the 10-acre project area.</p>
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b>	<p>The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chair to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in XXXX meeting.</p>
<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b> <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1 1. Removal of boulders, rocks, hazardous trees, marine debris, and other similar hazards necessary to maintain lands and waters in a safe condition. 26. Maintenance of existing landscaping including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation. 27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation. 28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 2</b> <i>Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.</i></p> <p>Part 1 19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 4</b></p>



	<p><i>Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.</p> <p>3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.</p> <p>5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.</p> <p>6. Gathering plant seed, cuttings, or other vegetative matter for propagation.</p> <p>9. Control of pests utilizing federal and state-approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and toxicants in conformance with label instructions; traps, snares, lures, and repellents; and other approved methods.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 5</b></p> <p><i>Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>2. Non-destructive data collection and inventory, including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping.</p> <p>15. Game and non-game wildlife surveys, vegetation and rare plant surveys, aquatic life surveys, inventory studies, new transect lines, photographing, recording, sampling, collection, culture, and captive propagation.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Native forest restoration will require the removal of invasive and non-native vegetation and invasive, non-native pests. There will not be cumulative impacts from these management activities as the removal of invasive species will be offset by the establishment of native plant species. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be taken to minimize risk to endangered species on the property. The project's restoration efforts will benefit the native forest ecosystem and the nearby community by restoring native forest habitat, enhancing watershed function, and providing</p>

	opportunities for community education and engagement. Similar forest management and restoration projects have also been declared exempt.
<b>Determination:</b>	The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.

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Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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

SYLVIA LUKE  
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS

October XX, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Pulehu 2 Forest Stewardship Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with Nahele Hou Foundation.
<b>Project Location:</b>	Kula, Maui. Tax Map Key (TMK): (2) 2-3-001:072
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Pūlehu 2 Forest Stewardship project proposes to restore and maintain approximately 309 acres on TMK (2) 2-3-001:072 in the Kula District, Maui County. The State of Hawai'i designates the project area as Agriculture land. The area is dominated by non-native, invasive species and contains a 50-acre burn scar from the August 2023 Kula wildfire.</p> <p>Over the course of the 10-year management plan, Nahele Hou Foundation intends to restore native forest cover, reduce soil erosion, and reduce wildfire risk through mulching. The project will provide improved fuel management and wildfire response, increased soil stability forest habitat for native wildlife, and opportunities for community education and engagement. The landowner will implement project activities (mulching) described below with state Forest Stewardship funds. Other related management activities described in the management plan are supported by federal and alternative funding sources including: fence installation and maintenance, ungulate control, weed control, fuel break establishment, water infrastructure installation, tree and shrub site prep, and tree and shrub establishment.</p> <p>In August 2023, approximately 50 acres of wattle forest along the gulch on Pūlehu 2 burned in a wildfire, fueled by these invasive trees. The fire destroyed 26 homes in the area, and the fire burned underground in the wattle root system for months. The vegetation on the property is primarily monoculture stands of Australian black wattle (<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>) with pockets of invasive fireweed (<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>), invasive bull</p>

	<p>thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), and lion's ear (<i>Leonotis Leonurus</i>). The only known naturally occurring native plant species on the property is the pua kala (<i>Aregemone glauca</i>). The 'ōpe'ape'a (<i>Aeorestes semotus</i>) is likely to nest or roost in taller trees on property, such as the black wattle. While there is no known presence of 'ōpe'ape'a on the property, they have been observed nearby. The project management activities will take measures to avoid disturbance to 'ōpe'ape'a based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service avoidance and minimization measures.</p> <p>Unmanaged grazing by large axis deer (<i>Axis axis</i>) populations threatens the stability and progress of native restoration in the project area. The presence of highly flammable vegetation and ignition sources, combined with dry conditions and strong winds, poses a significant wildlife threat to the property.</p> <p><b>Mulching</b> The landowner will utilize invasive hardwoods to create mulch for the property. Mulching serves as a form of both weed and erosion control. Mulching will also help the establishment of out planted trees and shrubs by suppressing weeds and retaining moisture. Mulched areas will be monitored for coconut rhinoceros beetle (<i>Oryctes rhinoceros</i>), and traps will be installed in partnership with the Maui Invasive Species Committee.</p>
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b>	<p>The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chair to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in XXXX meeting.</p>
<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b> <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1 26. Maintenance of existing landscaping, including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation. 27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation. 28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.</p>

	<p><b>General Exemption Type 4</b>  <i>Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.</p> <p>3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.</p> <p>7. Minor ground adjustments (e.g., grading, grubbing, cutting, clearing, or filling) that do not require grading permits.</p> <p>10. Management of surface water runoff, including installation of minor drainage ditches and implementation of other stormwater best management practices and low-impact development techniques (e.g., bioretention areas, permeable pavers, etc.)</p> <p>14. Fire management activities, including prevention and restoration measures, when conducted in accordance with Departmental and Division procedures.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Temporary impacts caused by the clearing of invasive black wattle will be offset by the proposed mulching and subsequent establishment of native vegetation. There will not be cumulative impacts from these management activities as the removal of invasive species will be offset by the establishment of native plant species. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be taken to minimize risk to endangered species on the property. The project's restoration efforts to clear and mulch black wattle will benefit the native ecosystem and nearby community by improving soil stability, aiding in native plant establishment, and reducing the risk of wildfire.</p>
<b>Determination:</b>	<p>The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.</p>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
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October XX, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Punahoa Heritage Forest (PHF), Forest Stewardship Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with Pū'ā Foundation.
<b>Project Location:</b>	Punahoa, South Hilo, Hawai'i Tax Map Keys (TMK): (3) 2-5-001:011, 012, and 004
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds and Conservation District Lands
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The PHF Forest Stewardship project proposes to sustain and maintain 2,224 acres of native forest on TMK numbers (3) 2-5-001:011, 012, and 004 in the South Hilo District in Hawai'i County. The project area is designated by the State of Hawai'i to be within the Conservation District, with portions of the property in the Protective and Resource subzones.</p> <p>Over the course of the 10-year management plan, Pū'ā Foundation ("landowner") intends to sustain and maintain the PHF through the removal of invasive weed species, and establishment of native species. The project will provide the opportunity to build reciprocal connections through community-supported forest restoration, educational opportunities, and practitioner access.</p> <p>The landowner will implement project activities (weed control, forest health and protection, tree/shrub site preparation/establishment and monitoring and maintenance) described below with state Forest Stewardship funds. Other related management activities described in the management plan (e.g. fence installation) are supported by federal funding and have been reviewed and documented by the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (Site Plan Approval #HA 25-62).</p> <p>The vegetation on the property is dominated native 'ōhi'a and koa-'ōhi'a wet forests. Common native plants include olomea (<i>Perrottetia sandwicensis</i>), kupukupu (<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>), hāpu'u (<i>Cibotium</i></p>

*menziesii*), uluhe (*Dicranopteria linearis*), pa'iniu (*Astelia menziesiana*), māmakī (*Pipturus albidus*), and 'ie'ie (*Freycinetia arborea*).

Native wildlife species that may be found on property include the 'io (*Buteo solitarius*), 'apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*), 'amakihi (*Chlorodrepanis virens*), 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*), pueo (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*), and federally endangered 'ōpe'ape'a (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*). While not observed on property, the following species may potentially be found on the property throughout the restoration process: nalo meli maoli (*Hylaeus sp.*), damselfly (*Megalagrion sp.*), and picture wing fly (*Drosophila sp.*). The project management activities will take measures to avoid major disturbance to these species based on state and federal avoidance and minimization measures.

Pressure from ungulates, non-native invasive species, and plant disease threatens the overall health of the forest ecosystem in the project area. Non-native weed species that have become established on the property include strawberry guava (*Psidium cattleianum*), Koster's curse (*Clidemia hirta*), and cane tibouchina (*Tibouchina herbacea*). Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) is present and greatly threatens the 'ōhi'a forest on the project property.

#### **Weed Control**

Weed control will ensure the success of the restoration project by targeting fast-growing, invasive grasses and other non-native species which outcompete native vegetation and outplantings. A combination of targeted chemical and manual clearing will be applied. State or federal-approved herbicides will be applied, following label instructions, carefully to avoid ground and surface water contamination and non-target effects.

To avoid and minimize impacts to 'ōpe'ape'a, disturbance, removal, or trimming of woody plants greater than 15 feet tall will not take place during bat pupping season (June 1st to September 15th).

#### **Forest Health and Protection**

A weed and pest decontamination station will be installed along management access trails. In an effort to reduce strawberry guava populations, the biocontrol *Tectococcus ovatus* will be introduced and spread throughout the property following proper protocols. The landowner has partnered with the Forest Service and University of Hawai'i to collaborate and support ROD-resistant 'ōhi'a research. Care will be taken throughout project implementation to avoid and minimize damage to 'ōhi'a to prevent the spread of ROD and sanitization protocols will be developed.

#### **Tree & Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment**

Planting sites will be prepared for planting primarily through manual and chemical weed control methods. Native plant establishment will be done through direct seeding and out planting events with the community. The



	<p>collection and propagation of endangered species will be done according to protocol with proper federal and/or state permits. Planting material will be purchased from local nurseries with the intention to develop a nearby nursery on site. Seed scattering and opportunistic outplanting will be conducted in the years after initial plant establishment.</p> <p><b>Monitoring &amp; Maintenance</b> Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be conducted after the initial planting and throughout the 15-year management dedication term of the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of fencing, monitoring of ungulate activity, and weed control.</p>
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b>	<p>The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chairperson to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment at XXXX meeting.</p>
<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b> <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal of boulders, rocks, hazardous trees, marine debris, and other similar hazards necessary to maintain lands and waters in a safe condition.</li> <li>23. Maintenance of existing boardwalks, trails and unpaved roads.</li> <li>26. Maintenance of existing landscaping, including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation.</li> <li>27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation.</li> <li>28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.</li> </ul> <p><b>General Exemption Type 2</b> <i>Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Replacement or reconstruction of existing bollards, walls, gates, fences, lighting, and other similar items necessary for the security of continued operation of a facility or structure.</li> <li>19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.</li> </ul>

**General Exemption Type 3**

*Construction and location of single new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of the facilities or structures and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of the equipment or facilities, including but not limited to: (A) Single family residences less than 3,500 square feet, as measured by the controlling law under which the proposed action is being considered, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such units; (B) Multi-unit structures designed for not more than four dwelling units if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; (C) Stores, offices and restaurants designed for total occupant load of twenty individuals or fewer per structure, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; and (D) Water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extensions to serve such structures or facilities; accessory or appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences; and acquisition of utility easements.*

**Part 2**

1. Natural resource management actions that the Department declares are designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance the status of native species or native species' habitats, such as fences around or to manage rare, threatened or endangered plants. Fences shall contain step-overs or other features that permit pedestrian access for cultural and recreational use.

**General Exemption Type 4**

*Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.*

**Part 1**

2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.

3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.

5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.

6. Gathering plant seed, cuttings, or other vegetative matter for propagation.

	<p>9. Control of pests utilizing federal and state-approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and toxicants in conformance with label instructions; traps, snares, lures, and repellents; and other approved methods.</p> <p>16. The reintroduction of supplementation (e.g., stocking) of native, formerly native, or established species into suitable habitat within their historic or established range, where no or negligible environmental disturbances are anticipated.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 5</b>  <i>Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.</i></p> <p>Part 1  2. Non-destructive data collection and inventory, including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping.  15. Game and non-game wildlife surveys, vegetation and rare plant surveys, aquatic life surveys, inventory studies, new transect lines, photographing, recording, sampling, collection, culture, and captive propagation.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Native forest restoration will require the removal of invasive and non-native vegetation and invasive, non-native pests. There will not be cumulative impacts from these management activities as the removal of invasive species will be offset by the establishment of native plant species. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be taken to minimize risk to endangered species on the property. The project's restoration efforts will benefit the native forest ecosystem and the nearby community by restoring mesic forest habitat and providing opportunities for community education and engagement.</p>
<b>Determination:</b>	<p>The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.</p>

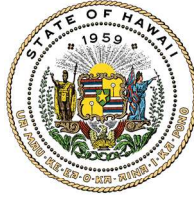
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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. KAHAHANE  
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

October XX, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Kahanu Preserve Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with National Tropical Botanical Garden
<b>Project Location:</b>	Honomā'ele, Hāna, Maui Tax Map Keys (TMKs): (2) 1-3-002:001, 004, 037, 039
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds, Conservation District lands
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Kahanu Preserve Forest Stewardship project proposes to restore and maintain approximately 127 acres of native forest on TMKs number (2) 1-3-002:004 and 037 in Hāna, Maui. The Forest Stewardship project area is designated by the State of Hawai'i as Agriculture and Conservation, Limited along the coastline. The coastline area of the project is also designated as Special Management Area by the City &amp; County.</p> <p>The Kahanu Forest Stewardship Agreement (state funding) will implement one year of the 10-year management plan across a 5 acre area to restore and protect the existing native forest through the management practices described below (removal of invasive weed species, and establishment of native species).</p> <p>Remnant hala (<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>) forests in Honomā'ele exist along the project property, but area experiencing moderate disturbance from non-native and invasive species. Common native species in the upland and coastal areas include 'ōhi'a (<i>Metrosideros polymorpha</i>), hāpu'u (<i>Cibotium menziesii</i>), 'ie'ie (<i>Freycinetia arborea</i>), naupaka kahakai (<i>Scaevola sericea</i>). Rare, threatened, or endangered plants found on the property include, but are not limited to, the federally listed, endangered hilo ischaemum (<i>Ischaemum byrone</i>), dwarf naupaka (<i>Scaevola coriacea</i>), and 'akoko (<i>Euphorbia celastroides</i> var. <i>Laehiensis</i>).</p>

Non-native species persist throughout the project area including the following high priority invasive species, african tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*), ironwood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), inkberry (*Ardisia elliptica*), coffee (*Coffea arabica*), and orchid tree (*Bauhinia monandra*). Native sea bean (*Mucuna gigantea*) grows aggressively through the Preserve and will be reduced as needed to promote native species establishment and growth. Federally listed wildlife have been observed at Kahanu Garden and Preserve including nēnē (*Branta sandvicensis*) and honu or green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The project management activities will take measures to avoid major disturbance to these species while restoring habitat through restoration efforts.

Pressure from invasive species, pests, threatens the health of the native forest. Hala scale (*Thysanococcus pandani* Stickney) has become an increasing threat to remnant hala forests along the coast.

#### **Tree & Shrub Site Preparation**

Sites will be prepared for planting primarily through manual and chemical removal of invasive plant material. Staff will use approved material and procedures in line with the NRCS practices for site preparation (code 490). This includes proper safety plans and protection while following herbicide label requirements.

If nēnē are observed loafing or foraging within the project area during the breeding season (September through April), a biologist will be contacted to survey the area for nesting prior to resumption of any work. The Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted if a nest is discovered.

#### **Tree & Shrub and Ground Cover Establishment**

Native plant establishment will occur through out planting. Plants will be grown for tree/shrub and groundcover establishment at the Kahanu Garden nursery. Additional material unavailable to the Garden through normal collections will be purchased as necessary from native plant nurseries on Maui.

#### **Weed Control**

Weed control will ensure the success of the restoration project by targeting fast-growing, invasive and non-native species which outcompete native vegetation and out plantings. A combination of manual removal, brush management, and herbaceous weed control methods will be used. Best management practices will be established to determine how often and how much herbicide will be used.

#### **Monitoring and Maintenance**

	Ongoing monitoring and maintenance, will be done on a regular basis after the initial planting and throughout the 15 year management dedication term of the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of fencing and trails, and weed control.
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	
<b>Authorization:</b>	The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chair to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in XXXX meeting.
<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b>  <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1  1. Removal of boulders, rocks, hazardous trees, marine debris, and other similar hazards necessary to maintain lands and waters in a safe condition.  26. Maintenance of existing landscaping including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation.  27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation.  28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 2</b>  <i>Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.</i></p> <p>Part 1  19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 4</b>  <i>Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.</i></p> <p>Part 1  2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.</p>

	<p>3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.</p> <p>5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.</p> <p>6. Gathering plant seed, cuttings, or other vegetative matter for propagation.</p> <p>9. Control of pests utilizing federal and state-approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and toxicants in conformance with label instructions; traps, snares, lures, and repellents; and other approved methods.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 5</b>  <i>Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>2. Non-destructive data collection and inventory, including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping.</p> <p>15. Game and non-game wildlife surveys, vegetation and rare plant surveys, aquatic life surveys, inventory studies, new transect lines, photographing, recording, sampling, collection, culture, and captive propagation.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Native forest restoration will require the removal of invasive and non-native vegetation and invasive, non-native pests. There will not be cumulative impacts from these management activities as the removal of invasive species will be offset by the establishment of native plant species. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be taken to minimize risk to endangered species on the property. The project's restoration efforts will benefit the native forest ecosystem and the marine habitat by protecting and restoring upland and coastal forest habitat.</p>
<b>Determination:</b>	<p>The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.</p>

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Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

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Date

DRAFT

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

September 22, 2025

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment under the authority of  
Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200-8, HAR

<b>Project Title:</b>	Pāpā Forest, Forest Stewardship Management Plan and Forest Stewardship Agreement with Farm and Forest Hawai'i LLC.
<b>Project Location:</b>	Pāpā, South Kona, Hawai'i. TMK: 3-8-8-003:011
<b>Chapter 343 Trigger(s):</b>	Use of State Funds
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Pāpā Forest, Forest Stewardship project proposes to restore and maintain approximately 5.6 acres of native forest on Tax Map Key numbers (3) 8-8-003:011 in the South Kona District in Hawai'i County. The Forest Stewardship project area is designated by the State of Hawai'i as Agriculture. The proposed FSP project area consists of an undeveloped 'ōhi'a (<i>Metrosideros polymorpha</i>)-olopua (<i>Nestegis sandwicensis</i>) mesic forest with about 60-75% of the canopy native tree composition. The project area is split into three fields: Field 1 native forest plot (1.63 acres), Field 2 native forest plot (2.13 acres), and Field 3 (1.73 acres) agroforestry plot.</p> <p>Over the course of the 10-year management plan, Farm and Forest Hawai'i LLC ("landowner") intends to restore and protect the existing native forest through the exclusion of ungulates, removal of invasive weed species, and establishment of native species across the 5.6 acre project area. Forest farming in Field 3 will incorporate native and non-native, non-invasive plants to support restoration efforts while providing economic and educational opportunities.</p> <p>The vegetation on the property is dominated by 'ōhi'a, olopua, and other common native species such as alahe'e (<i>Psydrax odoratum</i>), kōpiko (<i>Psychotria marianiana</i>), lama (<i>Diospyros sandwicensis</i>), and māmāki (<i>Pipturis albidus</i>). Common native understory species include moa (<i>Psilotum nudum</i>), palapalai (<i>Microlepia strigosa</i>), puapua moa (<i>Ophioderma pendula</i>). Non-native species persist throughout the project area including the following high priority invasive species, Silk oak (<i>Grivellia robusta</i>), African olive (<i>Olea europaea subsp. Cuspidata</i>), Strawberry guava (<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>), Christmas berry (<i>Schinus</i></p>



*terebinthifolius*), *Clidemia* (*Miconia crenata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and *Desmodium* (*Desmodium tortuosum* and *intortum*). Federally listed endangered ‘io (*Buteo solitarius*) and ‘ōpe‘ape‘a (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) have been observed on or transiting through the property. The project management activities will take measures to avoid major disturbance to these species while restoring habitat through restoration efforts.

Pressure from ungulates and other invasive species threatens restoration efforts by disrupting natural forest regeneration and contributing to the spread of invasive plants and disease. Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death is also a threat present in the project area and surrounding forests. Mitigation efforts include the removal of feral ungulates, sanitation of gears and tools, and avoidance of ‘ōhi‘a damage.

### **Fencing**

The first management activities will be the installation of an ungulate proof fence along the perimeter of the property and establishment of fuel breaks. Approximately 1,268 linear feet of high tensile ungulate-proof fencing will be installed to meet existing fencing and replace dilapidated fencing to complete the perimeter of the property . The fence will be considered non-roadside and will be set back from roads to meet county regulations. Construction of the fence will avoid disturbance of any archaeological sites and natural rock banks along roads. A 5ft wide clearing will be made to clear the fenceline, avoiding mature native trees and archaeological features.

### **Tree & Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment**

After the fence is completed, sites will be prepared for planting primarily through manual and chemical weed control methods. Native plant establishment will occur through outplanting. Seeds and plants will be sourced from surrounding areas and grown out by the landowner, or seedlings may be purchased from nurseries. Gentle scarification of the soil will be done to promote natural regeneration of existing seed banks. Site prep and planting activities will be done with an abundance of caution to avoid damage to ‘ōhi‘a lehua.

### **Weed Control**

Weed control will ensure the success of the restoration project by targeting fast-growing, invasive and non-native species which outcompete native vegetation and outplantings. Manual (i.e. trimming and clearing) and chemical weed control methods will be used.

Weed control of woody plants over 15ft tall will be avoided during ‘ōpe‘ape‘a pupping season from June 1 through September 15. Additionally, care will be taken to avoid trees containing ‘io nests, especially during breeding season from March 1 through September 30. Removal of woody and herbaceous plants on or near ‘ōhi‘a will be approached with caution to

	<p>avoid damage to ‘ōhi‘a and its roots. Strawberry guava biocontrol agent <i>Tectococcus ovatus</i> will be introduced to slow the growth and reproductive vigor of strawberry guava on the property.</p> <p><b>Trails and Access</b> Access trails will be established to facilitate land management activities and accessibility for ongoing educational activities and community access.</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Maintenance</b> Ongoing monitoring and maintenance, will be done on a regular basis after the initial planting and throughout the 15 year management dedication term of the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of fencing and trails, and weed control.</p>
<b>Consulted Parties:</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (concurred, provided avoidance and minimization measures for federally listed species received; The Nature Conservancy; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services
<b>Authorization:</b>	The Board of Land and Natural Resources delegated the authority to the Chair to declare department actions included in the department-wide exemptions list exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in XXXX meeting.
<b>Exemption Class &amp; Description:</b>	<p>Activities and actions associated with this project fall under the following Exemption Classes and Descriptions, which are included in the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources dated November 10, 2020.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 1</b> <i>Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal of boulders, rocks, <u>hazardous trees</u>, marine debris, and other similar hazards necessary to maintain lands and waters in a safe condition.</li> <li>23. Maintenance of existing boardwalks, trails and unpaved roads.</li> <li>26. Maintenance of existing landscaping including planting, trimming, mowing, and irrigation.</li> <li>27. Maintenance of lands and waters to remove weeds, brushes, grass and other unwanted vegetation.</li> <li>28. Routine pruning, trimming, thinning and removal of trees, excluding commercial logging.</li> </ol> <p><b>General Exemption Type 2</b> <i>Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.</i></p>



Part 1

5. Replacement or reconstruction of existing bollards, walls, gates, fences, lighting and other similar items necessary for the security of continued operation of a facility or structure.

19. Replacement or renovation of existing landscaping or vegetation.

**General Exemption Type 3**

*Construction and location of single new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of the facilities or structures and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of the equipment or facilities, including but not limited to: (A) Single family residences less than 3,500 square feet, as measured by the controlling law under which the proposed action is being considered, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such units; (B) Multi-unit structures designed for not more than four dwelling units if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; (C) Stores, offices and restaurants designed for total occupant load of twenty individuals or fewer per structure, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; and (D) Water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extensions to serve such structures or facilities; accessory or appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences; and acquisition of utility easements.*

Part 1:

1. Improvement of existing trails and construction or improvement of boardwalks on existing trails for recreation, education, and management.

6. Installation and removal of irrigation systems.

8. Construction and location of new, small facilities or structures necessary to support or enhance safe and effective management of lands and waters, such as utility sheds, storage buildings, nurseries, trash containers, fire caches, tollbooths, gates, safety enhancements (e.g., handrails, guard rails, ramps), covered or open areas for endangered species, game birds and mammals, auxiliary buildings for food or equipment storage, incubators and brooders, open-top breeding and release pens, field aviaries, and hacking boxes, and for watershed and native forest management and restoration, and other similar structures.

9. Construction and location of new, small facilities or structures necessary to support or enhance public recreational use of lands and waters, such as outdoor showers, signage, interpretive kiosks, viewing platforms, tables, grills, lifeguard stations, improvements necessary for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other similar structures.

Part 2

1. Natural resource management actions that the Department declares are designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance the status of native species or native species' habitats, such as fences around or to manage rare,

	<p>threatened or endangered plants. Fences shall contain step-overs or other features that permit pedestrian access for cultural and recreational use.</p> <p><b>General Exemption Type 4</b>  <i>Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.</i></p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>2. Minor vegetation clearing and management, including mowing, pruning, trimming, and application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions.</p> <p>3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state-approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species, which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.</p> <p>5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.</p> <p>6. Gathering plant seed, cuttings, or other vegetative matter for propagation.</p> <p>9. Control of pests utilizing federal and state-approved pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and toxicants in conformance with label instructions; traps, snares, lures, and repellents; and other approved methods.</p> <p>Part 2</p> <p>2. Clearing of new fuel breaks and other similar fire pre-suppression actions to reduce fire potential and minimize fire severity.</p> <p>7. Construction of walkways and pathways and other similar items.</p>
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>This project will have minimal adverse environmental impacts. Construction of the fence and new trails will require small amounts of vegetation clearing. There will not be cumulative impacts from these management activities as the removal of invasive species will be offset by the establishment of native plant species. The proposed fence and trail lines will be surveyed prior to installation to avoid effects on sensitive environmental areas, cultural or historic sites, or protected species. An archaeological survey will be conducted before commencing project activities. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be taken to minimize risk to endangered species and sensitive historic or cultural areas on property.</p> <p>The project's restoration efforts will benefit the native forest ecosystem and the nearby Pāpā community by protecting and restoring mesic forest habitat and providing opportunities for community education and</p>

	engagement. Similar forest management and restoration projects have also been declared exempt.
<b>Determination:</b>	The Chair declares that this project will likely have minimal or no significant impact on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under the above exemption classes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date