

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

May 22, 2026

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF RARE AND ENDANGERED NATIVE INVERTEBRATES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION FACILITIES, TMK: (1) 9-7-025:001, PEARL CITY, O'AHU

AND

REQUEST APPROVAL OF DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION FROM CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISIED STATUTES

BACKGROUND

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife seeks approval to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health, Environmental Management Division, to allow the temporary use of Department of Health facilities as an emergency evacuation site for rare and endangered native Hawaiian invertebrates.

The Department's Hawai'i Invertebrate Program and Snail Extinction Prevention Program maintain rare and endangered native Hawaiian snails and insects in laboratory facilities. Some of these animals are housed in temporary containers or facilities that may be vulnerable during hurricanes, severe storms, or other catastrophic weather events. Establishing a pre-approved emergency relocation site is necessary to protect these species and ensure continuity of conservation and recovery efforts.

DISCUSSION

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding would establish a formal arrangement between the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Health,

Environmental Management Division, for temporary access to the basement of the Hale Ola Building, located at TMK: (1) 9-7-025:001, Pearl City, O'ahu.

The facility would be used only in the event of an imminent hurricane, severe storm, or other catastrophic weather event that requires the emergency relocation of rare and endangered native Hawaiian invertebrates maintained by the Department's conservation programs. The purpose of the agreement is to provide a secure, temporary location to safeguard these protected species during emergency conditions.

Delegation of authority to the Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife is requested to allow the Division to negotiate and execute the Memorandum of Understanding and any related terms necessary to implement the emergency evacuation arrangement.

CHAPTER 343, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES — ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Staff has reviewed the proposed action pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules.

The proposed action involves establishing an emergency evacuation plan for the temporary relocation and protection of rare and endangered native Hawaiian invertebrates. The action is administrative and protective in nature and is not anticipated to involve construction, ground disturbance, facility expansion, or other activities that would result in significant environmental impacts.

Pursuant to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Exemption List, reviewed and approved by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020, the proposed action is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment under:

General Exemption Type 1, Part 1, No. 2: Rescue of threatened or endangered species.

Staff believes that the proposed action will likely have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would warrant preparing an environmental assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

1. Authorize the Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources, to negotiate and enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health for the emergency evacuation of rare and endangered native invertebrates to the Department of Health, Environmental Management Division facilities located at TMK: (1) 9-7-025:001, Pearl City, O'ahu; and

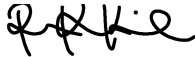
2. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed action as provided by Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, the proposed action will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL



Ryan P. K. Kanakaole, Acting Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources