

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

July 10, 2026

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

PSF No.: 26OD-044

Oahu

Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit for One (1) Day to Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc. for the 55th Annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim Finish Line Area on August 30, 2026, at Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037: portions of 021.

APPLICANT:

Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc., a Hawaii 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

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

LOCATION:

Portion of Government lands of Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, identified as tax map key: (1) 2-3-037: portions of 021¹.

The portion of the event using State owned lands will take place at the west end of Waikiki Beach, otherwise known as Duke Kahanamoku Beach, near the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

AREA:

2,000 square feet, approximately.

¹ [Link to map of property on the City and County of Honolulu Real Property Assessment Division's website](#). The portion requested is for the sandy beach area fronting the lagoon and hotel.

ZONING:

State Land Use
District: City & County
LUO:

Conservation
Public Precinct

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Section 5(a) lands of the Hawaii Admission Act

DHHL 30% entitlement lands pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution: No

CURRENT USE STATUS:

Requested area is unencumbered.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Finish area for ocean swim race event.

TERM OF RIGHT-OF-ENTRY:

From 5:30 am to 12:30 pm on Sunday, August 30, 2026.

RENTAL:

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

Note: The applicant is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Last year the Board adjusted the rent by half, which consistent with what the Board has done with other nonprofit organizations.

COLLATERAL:

None

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §11-200.1-15 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, reviewed and concurred on by the Environmental Council on June 2, 2026, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to:

General Exemption Type 1: Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.

Part 1, Item 44: Permits, licenses, registrations, and rights-of-entry issued by the Department that are routine in nature, involving negligible impacts beyond that previously existing.

The subject request has resulted in no known significant impacts, whether immediate or cumulative, to the natural, environmental and/or cultural resources in the area. The area is not considered to be a sensitive environment as it is used annually to hold this and other events on a temporary basis. Furthermore, this area has historically hosted this particular event and staff has not received any complaints regarding environmental issues and/or concerns. Therefore staff recommends that the Board find that the Applicant's request will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and should be declared exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

DCCA VERIFICATION:

Place of business registration	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
confirmed: Registered business name	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
confirmed: Applicant in good standing	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
confirmed:		

PUBLIC TRUST ANALYSIS:

The proposed use is temporary, and the events are open to the public. Additionally, no commercial activity will occur in the public beach area. Given the limited duration and scope of the events, staff believes that the requested right-of-entry permit would not measurably impair the use of the public beach area and is consistent with the public trust doctrine. Staff has not received complaints from the public about these types of events impeding their beach access or enjoyment. These tournaments are good for community building, promoting beach clean-ups and environmental stewardship.

REMARKS:

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

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

The Applicant is requesting a right-of-entry permit at the finish area for race day, August 30, 2026, beginning at 5:30 AM and ending at around 12:30 PM to cover early morning set-up, finish line, and post-race breakdown and cleanup activities. The race begins at 8:30 AM, with staggered starts depending on participants' seeding, and ends approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes after the latest start. The awards ceremony at the finish line begins at 11:30 AM.

The Applicant requests that the Board approve a right-of-entry permit for its use of an approximately 1,800 square foot area at Duke Kahanamoku Beach. The requested area will include a finish line area with rope delineators for swimmers to exit the water, crowd control barriers, two tables, two 10' x 10' tents, and six chairs for race timers and announcers, a finish chute for swimmers to leave the finish line area, and a station for removing race chips. Volunteers will also be present in this area to assist swimmers. Outside of the finish line area, there will be seven 10' x 10' tents as follows: one medical tent with a doctor, one first aid tent with two first aid assistants, one information tent with volunteers, one bag tent with volunteers, one t-shirt tent with volunteers to distribute pre-ordered race participant t-shirts, one ice tent with volunteers to distribute ice to participants, one water/Gatorade tent to distribute drinks to participants, and several trash cans for use by participants. Tents will be spaced out in the area to allow access through the area. Off-duty Honolulu Police Department officers will be present for site security. In total, there will be approximately sixty-three volunteers, one doctor, two first aid assistants, two announcers, two timers, and two police officers on site. **Exhibit B.**

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

The Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) was consulted on this submittal and agrees with the issuance of a Right-of-Entry permit to the Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Inc. ("Applicant") subject to the applicant applying for and receiving a Right-of-Entry Permit and Marine Events Permit from DOBOR-prior to the event- for use of fast lands and Waikiki beach waters under its jurisdiction.

The applicant has confirmed that they have applied for a Marine Events Permit as required by DOBOR.

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

Comments were solicited from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, however, at the time of writing, no comments had been received.

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200.1-15, HAR, this activity is expected to have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. For the reasons stated herein, find that the requested disposition is consistent with the public trust.
3. Authorize the issuance of a right-of-entry permit to Waikiki Roughwater Committee, Inc. covering the subject area for the Waikiki Roughwater Swim finish area under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by this reference incorporated herein and further subject to the following:
 - A. The standard terms and conditions of the most current right-of-entry form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - B. The Applicant shall conduct no sales or other commercial activities in the area subject to this right-of-entry;
 - C. The Applicant shall always maintain lateral public access across the beach transit corridor during the period of the right-of-entry permit;
 - D. The Applicant shall notify the U.S. Coast Guard of this event and shall obtain any permits that the Coast Guard may require; and
 - E. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

Respectfully Submitted,

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SO

Stephen Kumalae

Stephen Kumalae
Land Agent

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole, Chairperson



EXHIBIT A

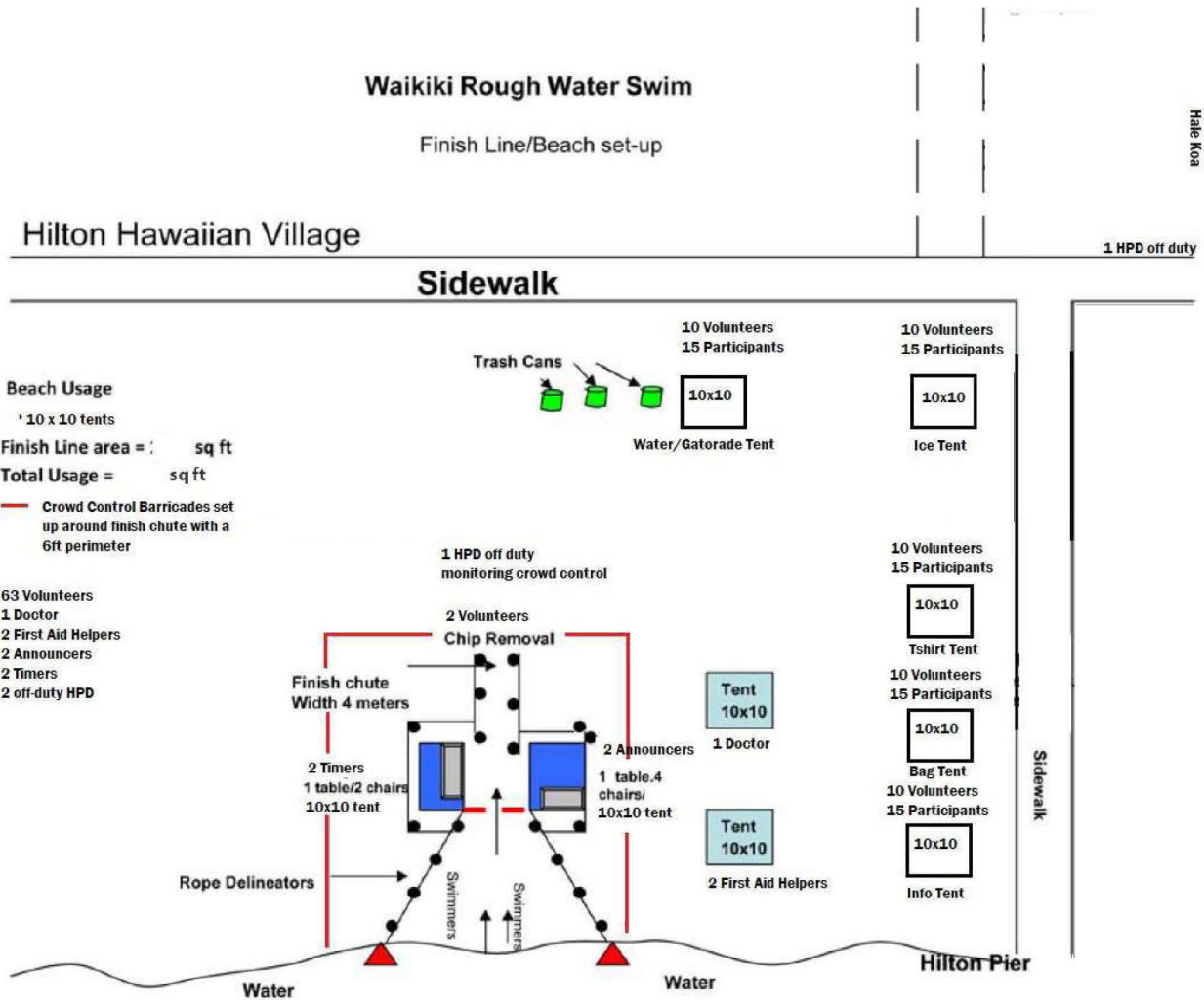


EXHIBIT B