

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

October 24, 2008

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

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIR TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, HAWAII CHAPTER, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KAENA POINT ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT, KAENA POINT NATURAL AREA RESERVE AND KAENA POINT STATE PARK, OAHU

This submittal requests the Board to authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and sign a cooperative agreement between the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wildlife Society, Hawaii Chapter, for the implementation of the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project, Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve and Kaena Point State Park, Oahu, pursuant to the terms outlined below and subject to approval by the Attorney General.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project is a joint project of DLNR-DOFAW-Oahu Natural Area Reserves Program, DLNR-State Parks, The Wildlife Society, Hawaii Chapter (TWS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The project involves the planning and implementation of a predator-proof fence to exclude small mammals (dogs, cats, mongoose, rats, mice) from the coastal ecosystem at the tip of Kaena Point and to remove any animals remaining within the fenced area.

This project builds upon the previous management efforts. After the establishment of the NAR in 1983, vehicular access to most of the reserve was blocked, and recovery of native vegetation since that time has been significant, with increasing numbers of endangered plants such as ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) and recovery of the rare coastal naupaka (*Scaevola sericea*) community. As the coastal habitat has improved, and predator control has been initiated, increasing numbers of uau kani, or wedge-tailed shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*), and Laysan albatrosses, or moli (*Phoebastria immutabilis*), began to breed in the NAR. Wedge-tailed shearwater chicks hatching at Kaena have increased in number from zero in 1995 to over 1,500 in 2007. Laysan albatross

Society, Hawaii Chapter. As the project progresses, the Parties believe that it is appropriate to formalize the relationship among the parties, to the benefit of all concerned. A draft cooperative agreement has been prepared to clarify the roles of the parties with the following terms:

1. The Parties agree to consider together, at such places and at such intervals as may be currently agreed upon, the implementation of the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project, to include construction of a predator-proof fence within Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve and on a portion of Kaena Point State Park, removal of alien predatory mammals, public outreach and education before, during, and after construction, maintenance of fencing, and ongoing monitoring for signs of alien predatory mammals.
2. Subject to budget constraints, USFWS will provide technical advice and funding for initial implementation of the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project, including construction of a predator-proof fence at Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve, initial removal of alien predatory mammals after fence construction, and public outreach and education efforts associated with fence construction.
3. DLNR will prepare an Environmental Assessment, pursuant to HRS Chapter 343, and will secure all necessary State and county permits and approvals required for the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project. DLNR will provide necessary permits to USFWS, TWS, and other cooperators as needed to carry out the activities associated with the implementation of the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project.
4. USFWS will ensure that all Federal requirements, including those associated with the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act (including section 106 compliance), are met.
5. The parties agree to work cooperatively to address and satisfy any conditions on Federal, State, or county permits and approvals.
6. TWS will act as the fiscal agent for the construction of the predator-proof fence and provide technical assistance during the construction phase of the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project. The parties agree that DLNR will own the fencing after construction.
7. Subject to budget constraints, DLNR will provide staff, funding, and logistical support during the construction phase of the project. Subject to budget constraints, DLNR will provide staff, funding, and logistical support to attempt removal of all alien predatory mammals, to maintain the fencing in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, to monitor for ingress by alien predatory mammals, and to remove any re-invading alien predatory mammals during the lifespan of the fencing, which is estimated to be 20 years.
8. The parties will work together to identify researchers to document the benefits to native seabirds and native plants resulting from the construction of the predator-proof fence and removal of alien predatory mammals.

their nesting areas are located on atolls and islands at greater threat by rising sea levels than Kaena.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and sign a cooperative agreement between the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wildlife Society, Hawaii Chapter, for the implementation of the Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project, Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve and Kaena Point State Park, Oahu, pursuant to the terms outlined above and subject to approval by the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources