

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Engineering Division  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 13, 2009

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

**Request for Authorization for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and its agents, employees, and consultants, to enter upon State and private property for the purposes of investigating, installing, operating and maintaining remote sensing gages and related instrumentation equipment, conducting inspections and hydrologic and hydraulic calculations on and around streams, dams and reservoirs located within the State of Hawaii pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 179 and 179D and Authorize the Chairperson to request, negotiate and execute agreements with the USGS**

Chapter 179 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Flood Control and Flood Water Conservation, authorizes the coordination by the State of all federal and state flood control projects undertaken in Hawaii and for such technical or financial assistance to its political subdivisions as may be desirable or necessary to assure maximum benefits to the people of the State for flood control purposes. Chapter 179 empowers the Board of Land and Natural Resources to render technical and financial assistance to state and county agencies for flood control projects and related flood control activities.

Chapter 179D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Dam and Reservoirs, also known as the Dam Safety Act of 2007, provides for the inspection and regulation of construction, operation, and removal of certain dams in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State by reducing the risk of failure of such dams. Chapter 179D empowers the Board of Land and Natural Resources, among other things, to enter upon such private property of the dam or reservoir as may be necessary in conducting investigations and inspections of the dams or reservoirs.

The Engineering Division has requested assistance from the USGS to provide investigations and related monitoring services. As a result, early flood alert monitoring systems for flood prone watersheds and some high hazard dams were established as a related flood control and dam safety activity for mitigating the loss of lives at risk. These systems are typically installed and operated under a joint funding agreement between the USGS and DLNR, and may also include additional funding partners such as the State Civil Defense agency, private individuals and companies. The USGS assist in deferring some of these costs by utilizing Federal funds appropriated to their programs. Related studies, calculations and investigations to support and supplement these activities may also be conducted by the USGS.

**ITEM L-4**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve the following:

1. Request for Authorization for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and its agents, employees, and consultants, to enter upon State and private property for the purposes of investigating, installing, operating and maintaining remote sensing gages and related instrumentation equipment, conducting inspections and hydrologic and hydraulic calculations on and around streams, dams and reservoirs located within the State of Hawaii pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 179 and 179D
2. Authorize and direct the Chairperson, to request, negotiate and execute joint funding agreements, operation and maintenance agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other support documents and agreements as needed to facilitate assistance from USGS, subject to available funding.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC T. HIRANO  
Chief Engineer

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson