

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

March 11, 2010

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Approval to Add Federal Funding (\$468,000) and Extend through FY11
BLNR/RCUH Contract No. 51059 for the Division of Aquatic Resources'
Stream/Estuarine Fisheries Studies Project

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend and extend an existing Project Agreement (Contract No. 51059) between the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Amendment No. 8 will add funding in the amount of \$468,000 and allow continuation of the project from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. This Amendment is fully federally funded; no State General Funds are being used. The Federal funds are being provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This includes \$403,000 from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and \$65,000 from the State Wildlife Grants Program. The required State matching component will be provided by Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) in-kind and volunteer services as available.

The Agreement enables the DAR to secure assistance from RCUH in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for the DAR to meet project goals and objectives in a timely way.

The on-going Stream/Estuarine Fisheries Studies project involves research on native stream and estuarine species to demonstrate ridge to reef connectivity and provides data and support for DAR staff in supplying needed information for the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) in its development of instream flow standards, with special emphasis on east Maui. The data thus gathered will provide an accessible source of information by which to evaluate relative biological integrity of various streams, thereby serving to rationalize management actions by CWRM. Of particular importance are CWRM's decisions affecting water flows, including proposed water withdrawals, damming, channelization, or other actions that could modify existing instream habitat. Given the mandates of the State Water Code, the authority assigned to CWRM, and its own statutory requirements for the protection and management of aquatic biota, this project will increase our knowledge base, strengthen the foundation for decision making, and ultimately provide the means for assuring the future survival of our unique native biota.

FY11 project activities will focus on 1) continuation of on-going stream surveys in areas proposed for potential stream flow restoration, with special emphasis on streams or stream reaches not yet surveyed; 2) data collection and analysis; 3) incorporation of data into the DAR Aquatic Survey Geo-database with subsequent geospatial analysis using GIS software for finishing the native species atlas; 4) investigation, assessment and monitoring of the effects of

finishing the native species atlas; 4) investigation, assessment and monitoring of the effects of water restoration (setting Instream Flow Standards) on aquatic biota and habitats; 5) conducting estuarine (including anchialine pool) surveys and initiate early life history studies on important recreational fish species; and 6) determination/evaluation of the relationships between stream flow and a healthy estuary as essential nursery habitat for coastal marine species. In the course of the project, DAR will continue to encourage community partnerships for stream monitoring.

Amendment No. 8 to the Project Agreement is currently being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. Also, Governor's approval to amend and extend the contract is being requested concurrently, through the Department of Budget and Finance for review and approval. DAR is aware that implementation of Amendment No. 8 is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend a Project Agreement (Contract 51059) with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii for FY11."

Respectfully submitted,



DAN POLHEMUS, Administrator
Division of Aquatic Resources

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson