

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

July 8, 2010

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

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A  
CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT SIX MILES OF UNGULATE PROOF  
FENCE ON MAUNA KEA TO PROTECT PALILA CRITICAL  
HABITAT**

This Board Submittal authorizes the Chairperson to enter into a contract to construct six miles of ungulate proof fence on Mauna Kea, subject to the necessary procurement approvals.

**BACKGROUND:**

**THE PALILA**

The Palila is a finch-billed Hawaiian honeycreeper currently restricted to Mauna Kea. Loss and degradation of māmane forests, mostly by non-native ungulates, has resulted in a dramatic range contraction. Today, most (>95%) of the Palila population occurs on the southwestern slopes of Mauna Kea in an area of less than 12 mi<sup>2</sup>. Population estimates have varied considerable over the past 30 years ranging from about 1,200 to 6,800 birds. Recent estimates indicated a statistically significant decline in the population occurred from 2003 to 2008, and population estimates for 2009 (1,867) and 2010 (1,186) continue to decline from the 2008 estimate (1,952).

The species was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1967 and the State of Hawai'i in 1982 (USFWS 2006). Critical habitat for the Palila (60,188 ac) was designated on August 8, 1977, and includes all land area on Mauna Kea from approximately 6,500 to 10,075 ft in elevation, mostly in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. Federal court rulings in 1979, 1987, and 1998 mandated the removal of all sheep and goats from critical habitat. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) has conducted periodic removal of sheep via aerial shooting since July 1987, and maintains a liberal hunting policy across critical habitat.

**FUNDING AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT**

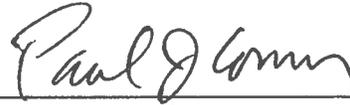
In August of 2008, the USFWS provided DOFAW with \$900,000 to initiate management to protect Palila critical habitat. On January 21, 2009 a meeting with partners determined that the most effective strategy to protect the Palila would be to fence almost all critical habitat, followed by the removal of all sheep and goats. Based on this, a plan was drafted to outline the fence alignment, the sequence of fence construction, the fence specifications and required materials,

and the criteria for selecting a contractor to construct a 59 mile fence that would enclose 94% of critical habitat. On October 29, 2009 this plan was approved by the USFWS and DOFAW representatives. A Request For Proposals (RFP) was drafted and posted on the state procurement office website from May 18, 2010 through June 15, 2010. Nine proposals were received and bids ranged from \$158,400 to \$3,168,000 (see attachment). A selection committee of three DOFAW employees ranked the proposals with input from the USFWS and selected the proposal that would provide the best value to the state. Ranking criteria included technical capability, pricing, experience, and understanding of the job. The lowest bidder failed so submit a proposal that met the requirements of the RFP.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and execute a Contract for Goods and Services with Crane Construction and Fencing Corporation to construct six miles of ungulate proof fencing on the southern slope of Mauna Kea as outline in RFP 10-MKF-1, subject to availability of funds and subject to approval as to form by the Attorney General's Office.

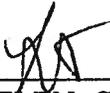
Respectfully submitted,



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PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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

Board Submittal Attachment

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Mean Rank</u>
Crane Construction	\$253,440	93
Sunshine Fencing	\$461,969	90
Azevedo Constructors	\$385,980	86
Advanced Fencing	\$530,640	75
Remote Fencing Outfitters	\$158,400	72
Islandwide Fencing	\$693,750	69
Big Island Fencing	\$338,080	67
Miranda Fence Company	\$287,811	60
Roadway Solutions	\$3,168,000	49

