

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

December 9, 2010

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

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL FOR SELECTION OF COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL PROCESS AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO AWARD AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR COMPLETING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE FOR THE KAU CONSERVATION PROJECT**

This Board Submittal requests approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) under the competitive sealed proposal process, and authorize the Chairperson to award and execute a contract for completing environmental and cultural compliance for the Kau Conservation Project.

**BACKGROUND**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funding to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) through FWS Grant Agreement #12200-A-G006 (\$150,000). These funds were provided to complete planning, outreach and required compliance for the Kau Conservation Project in Kau Forest Reserve. The project will include habitat management and restoration to benefit the Alala, or Hawaiian Crow (*Corvus hawaiiensis*) and other endangered forest birds. This grant provides funding for the environmental and cultural compliance required to implement the Kau Conservation Project.

The Alala is listed as endangered. Currently there are no Alala known to exist in the wild and only 77 Alala in captivity. Endemic to the island of Hawaii, historically, the Alala was restricted to the dry and mesic forests in the western and southern portions of the island. The species is associated with ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) and ohia-koa (*Acacia koa*) forests with an understory of native fruit-bearing trees and shrubs. Current threats include potential predation by non-native mammals, introduced diseases, human impacts and habitat loss and fragmentation. Because the population is small and confined to captivity, the Alala is highly susceptible to stochastic environmental, demographic, and genetic events.

Recovery of this species will require both sustained, long-term conservation actions and experimentation to determine the optimal means to reestablish wild populations. Two release

sites for Alala have been identified in the Kau Forest Reserve, on Mauna Loa Volcano, Hawaii. The Kau Conservation Project will include proposed management actions such as fencing, feral ungulate removal, weed control, and predator control in areas proposed for Alala release and the protection of other forest birds.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the requirements and special conditions of this procurement, DOFAW recommends that a competitive sealed proposal process be used for source selection. Such an approach will be the most advantageous procurement process for the solicitation because:

- 1) The primary consideration for the determination of the awards for this Request For Proposals is not price.
- 2) Oral or written discussion may need to be conducted with the Applicants concerning technical and price aspects of their proposals.
- 3) Applicants may need to be afforded the opportunity to revise their proposals, including price.
- 4) Awards may need to be based upon a comparative evaluation as stated in the request for proposal of differing price, quality, services and other contractual factors in order to determine the most advantageous offering to the State.

Pursuant to HAR 3-122-43, a determination by the Department procurement officer must be made for the use of the competitive sealed proposal process over the competitive sealed bidding process when the competitive sealed bidding process is neither practicable nor advantageous to the State. Additionally pursuant to HAR § 3-122-45, a determination must be made by the procurement officer that an evaluation committee, selected in writing by the procurement officer, shall evaluate the competitive sealed proposals. The Division recommends the use of an evaluation committee for the selection of the proposals as an evaluation committee will allow for an objective review, evaluation, ranking and selection of the most qualified proposal for the program. Further the evaluation committee must consist of at least three government employees with sufficient qualification in the area of the goods or services to be procured; DOFAW recommends the following individuals:

Roger Imoto, DOFAW (State, Hawaii Branch Manager)  
Steve Bergfeld, DOFAW (State, Hawaii Forestry Manager)  
David Leonard, DOFAW (State, Wildlife Biologist)  
Lisa Ferentinos, DOFAW (State, Watershed Planner)  
Tanya Rubenstein, DOFAW (University of Hawaii, Project Coordinator)  
Mililani Browning, DOFAW (University of Hawaii, Alala Outreach Coordinator)  
Colleen Cole (University of Hawaii, Three Mountain Alliance Coordinator)  
Ulalia Woodside (Kamehameha Schools, Land Assets Division)

In order to expedite a contract for this procurement, DOFAW requests that the Board delegate authority to the Chairperson to award and execute the contract for goods and services based on the recommendations of the evaluation committee and other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interest of the State. Additionally, should any of the committee members above be unable to participate, DOFAW requests that the Board delegate authority to the Chairperson to appoint alternates or recommend that the committee be

reduced by one member should the need arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

- 1) Approves the use of:
  - a. A competitive sealed proposal for an Environmental Assessment and a Cultural Impact Assessment for completing environmental and cultural compliance for the Kau Conservation Project.
  - b. An evaluation committee comprised of the individuals identified above to serve, evaluate and select the competitive sealed proposals.
  
- 2) Delegates authority to the Chairperson to:
  - a. Award and execute a contract for goods and services, subject to the availability of funds and review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General.
  - b. Appoint evaluation committee alternates or recommend that the committee be reduced by one member should the need arise.

Respectfully submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY,  
Administrator

Attachments

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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