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To <Molly.E.Schmidt@hawaii.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Supplemental questions

Aloha Molly,

I sincerely apologize for not including these answers in the body of the application. I am attaching them, and would be more than happy to send them in another format if you would like me to. Once again, I am sorry for this oversight.

Mahalo



Scott LLCP supplementary questions.doc

## Section F. Project Description

**Please type your answers on a separate sheet and attach it to the application form (no more than two pages total). Make sure to number your answers so they correlate with the numbered questions below.**

**1. Briefly describe the significance/importance of the property and/or easement (such as public use, natural areas, slope and elevation, soil type, flora and fauna, etc.).**

The significance of the Nu'u Makai parcel can be broken down into three distinct but related elements. These include ecological assets, cultural resources and public use of this area.

- Nu'u Makai contains the single largest (c. 5 acre) tract of palustrine wetland on the leeward slope of Haleakala between Makena and Kipahulu. For this reason it is extremely important habitat for both the Hawaiian stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*) as well as the Hawaiian Coot (*Fulica alai*), which currently utilize this area, as well as a potentially important area for the reintroduction of species no longer found on Maui, such as the Hawaiian Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*). Additionally, other bird species would benefit from habitat restoration, such as the Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*) and the Hawaiian Duck, (*Anas wyvilliana*) and an array of common and less common migratory shore birds. Recently a state biologist sighted the endangered Blackburn Damselfly in the wetlands. Fee simple ownership of this property would give the Maui Coastal Land Trust an opportunity to conduct habitat restoration work and to better manage this critical area to meet the biological needs of all of these species.

The shoreline area of Nu'u Makai has been observed as a haul out area for the endangered Monk Seal. Ownership and management of this area would allow us to better meet the biological and habitat needs of all of these species. Finally, the habitat type, location and elevation provide an opportunity to replant at least five endangered floral species.

- There are numerous cultural resources at Nu'u Makai, including red-ochre petroglyphs and archaeological structures. Among these are house sites, temporary structures and an ancient canoe landing site. Because Nu'u Makai has not been proposed for development an archaeological inventory survey has not been conducted. However, the Bishop Museum, including Winslow Walker, documented a number of archaeological sites on this property as well as on the immediately adjacent lands of Nu'u ahupua'a. These documented sites are currently on the state list of historic sites, though they are frequently subject to abuse by visitors to this area.
- The public frequently uses this area for a variety of recreational uses. These include fishing, diving, camping and hiking, among others. Because of its remoteness it has become an increasingly sought after location for these activities. It is still regarded as a place one can go to "get away from it all."

**2. Identify any conditions that threaten the significance/importance of the subject site. This may include how the property or easement relates to neighboring lands (for example, whether project will expand upon an existing conservation area, or provide open space in developed area, etc).**

Due to the remoteness of this area management up to this point has proven particularly challenging. These challenges now threaten the significant features described above.

- Invasive species and introduced predators pose the most serious threat to the health of the Nu'u Makai wetlands. These include encroachment by Hau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) and Kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) which significantly disturb this delicate ecosystem. Additionally, in the past several years Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) have colonized a portion of the wetlands. At times, we have counted over two hundred individuals in this area. This is particularly disconcerting as Cattle Egret are known predators of juvenile stilts and coots. Evidence of other predators is beginning to be seen with increasing frequency in the wetlands area. These include cats, mongoose and dogs. Habitat restoration and a more active management style in this area will be extremely beneficial to the entire ecosystem, especially the wetlands and the near shore area.
- Human generated threats are another challenge in the Nu'u Makai area. Visitors to this site have been seen on several occasions climbing on and disturbing the archaeological sites on the property. Campers also frequently leave their garbage on the property which attracts predators around the sensitive wetlands and dog tracks have been frequently seen in and near the wetlands. On one occasion, a Maui Coastal Land Trust employee witnessed the illegal use of gill nets on the property.

**3. Briefly describe the proposed use of the acquired property or easement including any short and long term goals, resource management plan, the source of operation and maintenance funding and who (if not the applicant) will manage the property/easement.**

The Maui Coastal Land Trust proposes to acquire this property in fee simple to conduct habitat restoration work in the wetlands, permanently protect from human disturbance the numerous archaeological sites, and educate the public of the need to preserve and protect such sites in perpetuity. We would begin by doing a comprehensive site evaluation, working very closely with the Kaupo community, drafting a management plan which reflects the need to both protect and restore this fragile ecosystem and takes into account the community's values and vision. In order to secure funding for this project we would solicit funds from both private and public sources. Our private source of funding comes through our efforts to reach out to the community and inform them of the need to conserve in perpetuity Maui's coastal properties. Public funding will come through such agencies as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. We have worked successfully with each of these agencies in the past, particularly at the Maui Coastal Land Trust's 277-acre Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge.