

**Shall the Authority Approve a Finding of No Significant Impact for the
Final Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Kupu Green Job
Training Center Renovation at the Net Shed in the Kakaako Makai Area
on Portions of Tax Map Key Parcels: 2-1-058: 127 and 131, in Accordance
with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes?**

Staff Report
October 7, 2015

Background: Pursuant to §343-5(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), an Environmental Assessment was initiated for the proposed action to renovate the existing Kewalo Basin Net Shed into a job training center located on State land within the Kewalo Basin area of the Kakaako Makai Area. Section 343-5, HRS, establishes nine types of actions that trigger environmental review, including use of State or county lands or funds. Inasmuch as the Kupu Green Job Training Center (“Project”) is located on State land and may use State funds for its programs and certain infrastructure improvements, compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, is required. In addition, uses within a shoreline area may be another applicable trigger. The Draft EA for the subject Project was prepared as an Applicant action with the HCDA as the approving agency.

The Project site is identified as portions of Tax Map Keys: 2-1-058: 127 and 131. The current zoning of the Project site is Park and Waterfront Commercial. See Exhibit A.

Applicant, Kupu proposes to renovate the existing Net Shed into a Project. The Project involves interior and exterior renovations to the Net Shed as well as the surrounding grounds. Interior renovations include: a redesign of the space into classrooms, gathering spaces, offices, improved restrooms, a commercial kitchen; and the addition of a mezzanine. Exterior renovations include: adding walls, windows and doors to the building. Improvements to the surrounding grounds include increase landscaping, a reduction in paved surfaces and low-impact development features such as bioswales and/or rain gardens. The proposed Project will provide an improved environment for Kupu to deliver its education services to Honolulu’s youth.

Discussion: On June 10, 2015, the HCDA transmitted a Draft Environmental Assessment and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (“EA-AFONSI”) for the proposed Project to the Office of Environmental Quality Control. The Draft EA-AFONSI was published in the Environmental Notice on June 23, 2015. Agencies and organizations with possible interest in the Project were consulted during the review of the Draft EA-AFONSI.

Comments were received from the following agencies and organizations:

- Federal
 1. NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office
 2. United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wild Life Services

- State of Hawaii
 1. Department of Accounting and General Services
 2. Office of Planning
 3. Department of Human Services
 4. Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
 5. Department of Land and Natural Resources – Engineering; Land Division
 6. Department of Land and Natural Resources – Commission on Water Resource Management
 7. Department of Land and Natural Resources – Historic Preservation Division
 8. Department of Health
 9. Department of Health – Environmental Planning Office
 10. Department of Health - Clean Water Branch
 11. Department of Transportation
 12. Office of Hawaiian Affairs
 13. Department of Defense
 14. Department of Education

- City and County of Honolulu
 1. Board of Water Supply
 2. Department of Design and Construction
 3. Department of Facility Maintenance
 4. Department of Planning and Permitting
 5. Department of Transportation Services
 6. Department of Parks and Recreation
 7. Honolulu Fire Department
 8. Honolulu Police Department
 9. Department of Community Services

- Public Utilities:
 1. Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

- Private Companies and Individuals:
 1. Ron Iwami, Friends of Kewalos
 2. Maria Simon, UH Presidential Center Initiative Project

A Draft Final EA-FONSI was prepared and is provided as Exhibit B. Appropriate assessments and information were provided in the Draft Final EA-FONSI to support statements that the proposed action of renovating the existing Net Shed at Kewalo Basin will have no significant impact. See Exhibit B, Section 8, Consultation.

As the approving agency, the HCDA is responsible for making a determination for the Final Environmental Assessment (“FEA”), per §11-200-11.2, Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”). Applying the significance criteria of §11-200-12, HAR, the HCDA shall issue a notice of determination for the FEA either noting that the proposed action may have a significant effect, or is not likely to have a significant effect. A determination of significant effect would serve as an Environmental Impact Statement preparation notice, in accordance with §11-200-9, HAR. A determination of not likely having a significant effect would serve as a negative declaration in accordance with §11-200-9, HAR.

In considering the significance of potential environmental effects, the approving agency shall consider the sum of effects on the quality of the environment, and shall evaluate the overall and cumulative effects of the proposed action, as required by and based on the criteria provided in §11-200-12, HAR.

Staff has determined that the Draft Final EA-FONSI has adequately responded to each of the required criteria of significance as provided in Chapter 7 of the Draft Final EA-FONSI, and it is reasonable for the HCDA to determine that the proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment, warranting a Finding of No Significant Impact. See Exhibit C, Chapter 7, Findings and Determination, Draft Final EA-FONSI.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Authority approve a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Final Environmental Assessment for the proposed Kupu Green Job Training Center Renovation at the Net Shed in the Kakaako Makai Area on portions of Tax Map Key Parcels: 2-1-058: 127 and 131, in accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Attachments: Exhibit A – Site Plan
 Exhibit B – Draft Final EA-FONSI
 Exhibit C - Chapter 7, Findings and Determination, Draft Final EA-FONSI