

FOR ACTION

I. REQUEST

Consider Authorizing the Executive Director to Expend up to \$300,000.00 from the Hawaii Community Development Authority's Heeia Community Development District Special Fund, for Funds Appropriated to the Authority by the 2021 Legislature through H.B. 200, HD1, SD1, CD1 for the Purpose of Remediating Invasive Mangrove in HCDA's Heeia Community Development District.

II. BACKGROUND

The Heeia Community Development District ("HCDD") is comprised of approximately 405 acres of land located in the Heeia ahupuaa on the island of Oahu. The red mangrove (*Rhizophora Mangle*) was introduced in the upland area of the Heeia Wetlands in the 1920s to control erosion and flooding and to stabilize sediment. Subsequently, the red mangrove trees with their vast network of branches and prop roots have spread downstream. This has severely degraded the wetland habitat, specifically, the Heeia Stream, by supplanting native flora and fauna that adversely impact the nesting habitat for native endemic birds. On the north side of the HCDD along the Heeia Stream, there is a large area where the non-native, invasive red mangrove still needs to be remediated.

The further removal and remediation of the red mangrove will help restore the affected food-producing agricultural fields or *lo'i*, as well as restore and protect the wetland habitat for endangered native flora and fauna. The restoration of *lo'i* by removing and remediating the red mangrove is consistent with the He'eia Master Plan principle of "restore[ing] the wetlands to support sustainable farming and food production, while protecting and supporting native species habitat." By growing produce locally, the State will also be working toward a sustainable local food production.

HCDA through Act 88, SLH 2021 was appropriated Federal funds in the amount of \$300,000 to be used for mangrove remediation in the HCDD.

The Governor has approved HCDA's request for the disbursement and use of these funds

The removal of the red mangrove will also provide additional area for food production along with other benefits of removal.

Use of these funds must be for expenditures incurred during the period of March 3, 2021 ending on December 31, 2024.

III. DISCUSSION

The Request for Proposals Solicitation #RFP-HEEIA-22-01, Heeia District Mangrove Remediation ("RFP") was posted on the HlePPRO, the State of Hawaii eProcurement system on October 11, 2021. The RFP closes and offers are due on November 18, 2021.

In anticipation of awarding a contract for the mangrove remediation services pursuant to the RFP, approval to execute a contract with the awarded contractor and, expend the funds of up to \$300,000 is being sought from the Authority through this Action.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Authority authorize the executive director expend up to \$300,000.00 from HCDA's Heeia Community Development District Special Fund, for Funds Appropriated to the Authority by the 2021 Legislature through H.B. 200, HD1, SD1, CD1 for the Purpose of Remediating Invasive Mangrove in HCDA's Heeia Community Development District.

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