

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Heeia Community Development District
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

January 4, 2016

Chairperson and Members
Hawaii Community Development Authority
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

HCDA Board Members:

SUBJECT: Shall the Authority Authorize the Executive Director to Execute the Governance Charter for the Heeia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) at Heeia, Oahu, Hawaii?

SUMMARY:

The Authority is being asked to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Governance Charter for the Heeia NERR (Governance Charter). The Governance Charter establishes the organizational framework for stakeholders to participate in and coordinate their efforts to advance the mission of the Heeia NERR. All stakeholders will be asked to endorse the Governance Charter and commit to participate in the He'eia NERR.

AUTHORITIES:

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 206E-203, Heeia Community Development District; policies to guide development.

- (3) The authority shall provide, to the extent feasible, maximum opportunity for the restoration and implementation of sustainable, culturally appropriate, biologically responsible, or agriculturally beneficial enterprises;
- (4) The authority may engage in planning, design, and construction activities within and outside the district; provided that activities outside the district shall relate to infrastructural development, area-wide drainage improvements and sediment transport mitigation, roadway realignments and improvements, and other activities the authority deems necessary to carry out redevelopment of the district and implement this part. Studies or coordinating activities may be undertaken by the authority in conjunction with the county and appropriate federal and state agencies and may address infrastructural systems, natural-resource systems, and other activities.

BACKGROUND:

The NERR System is a network of 28 areas representing different biographic regions of the United States that have been established for long-term research, water quality monitoring, education and coastal stewardship. The NERR System was founded on the principle that long-term protection of representative estuaries provides stable platforms for research and education and the application of management practices that will benefit the Nation's estuaries and coasts.

In 2012, Governor Neil Abercrombie initiated the process of establishing a NERR site in Hawaii. Through an extensive site selection and public input process, Heeia Estuary in Kaneohe Bay was chosen as the preferred site for designation as a NERR in Hawaii.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Heeia NERR was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The FEIS analyzes alternatives to the proposed designation along with the potential environmental impacts of those alternatives. A Final Management Plan (FMP) was also prepared that addresses research, monitoring, education, stewardship, and cultural resource needs for the proposed reserve. The FEIS and FMP for the designation of the proposed Heeia NERR was posted in the Federal Register on December 16, 2016. The FEIS and FMP are available for viewing at www.coast.noaa.gov/czm/compliance.

On December 7, 2016, a presentation on the Heeia NERR was made to the Authority by Rob Toonen of the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology ("UH"). In addition to providing information on the Heeia NERR, Mr. Toonen also presented information on a proposed Governance Charter.

ANALYSIS:

The Governance Charter includes a commitment to participate in programs of the Heeia NERR and share the NERR goals of:

- (1) Increasing our understanding of the effects of human activities and natural events to improve informed decision-making affecting the sustainable management of the Heeia estuary, coastal ecosystems, and ultimately the entire ahupuaa of Heeia;
 - (2) Developing a place-based education and training program for the Heeia NERR that inspires and educates the community about estuaries, coastal ecosystems, and traditional Hawaiian practices, such as loi and loko ia, that malama (nurture) these systems sustainably; and
 - (3) Engaging various communities to create opportunities for collaboration to practice and promote stewardship that sustains cultural, biological, and natural resources.
- Accordingly, participants agree to abide by the Governance Charter for the Heeia NERR, and pledge reasonable best efforts to accomplish its mission. The Governance Charter does not override the statutory authority of Hawaii Revises Statutes, Section 206-E that establishes the Heeia Community Development District.

Participation in the Heeia NERR is consistent with HRS §206E-203, Heeia community development district; policies to guide development, with respect to: *(1) providing, to the extent feasible, maximum opportunity for the restoration and implementation of sustainable, culturally appropriate, biologically responsible, or agriculturally beneficial enterprises; and (2) studies or coordinating activities may be undertaken by the authority in conjunction with the county and appropriate federal and state agencies and may address infrastructural systems, natural-resource systems, and other activities.*

The Governance Charter and Commitment to Participate has been reviewed by the State Attorney General's Office and is attached as Exhibit A.

RECOMMENDATION

HCDA staff recommends that the Authority Authorize the Executive Director to Execute the Governance Charter for the Heeia NERR at Heeia.

Respectfully submitted,

Deepak Neupane, P.E., AIA
Director of Planning and Development

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Jesse K. Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Governance Charter for the Heeia NERR

Draft dated December 6, 2016

**Governance Charter For the
He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve
at He'eia, O'ahu, Hawai'i.**

This Governance Charter establishes the organizational framework for interested parties to participate in and coordinate their efforts to advance the mission of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve ("NERR") at He'eia, O'ahu, Hawai'i.

Preamble

The State of Hawai'i ("Hawai'i") determined that the waters and related coastal habitats of He'eia estuary within Kāne'ohe Bay, Island of O'ahu, provide unique opportunities to study the natural and human processes of an estuarine ecosystem, to expand environmental education, and to develop research-based information for effective coastal zone management in the State of Hawai'i.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") concurred with the State's determination. Pursuant to its authority under Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA, 16 U.S.C. § 1461), and in accordance with implementing the regulations at 15 C.F.R. § 921.30, NOAA intends to designate the He'eia estuary and related coastal habitats as the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve ("NERR").

The ~~former Governor's~~ nomination process to include the He'eia lands in the national estuarine research reserve system received broad public support through the site selection and site nomination phases. Various organizations, including public agencies of the State of Hawai'i, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other interested parties strongly support the purpose for the NERR and desire to participate in its program activities once the NERR becomes formally designated.

Hawai'i and NOAA believe that state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups, and private entities could more effectively collaborate as partners in the stewardship of the He'eia estuary if there were an organizational structure with clear protocols based on common operating assumptions and participatory decision making.

This multi-party governance Charter for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve at He'eia, O'ahu, Hawai'i, is therefore established as follows.

Article I

NERR Site

Section 1. Current NERR Site Boundaries. The He'eia NERR includes the estuary, wetlands, marine waters, and upland areas. The total acreage of the He'eia NERR is approximately 1,385 acres. It encompasses He'eia State Park to the north, He'eia Fishpond in the center, wetlands to the west and south, the University of Hawai'i's (UH) Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) property on Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island) to the east, and a large expanse of marine waters with patch and fringing reefs. These lands were selected for inclusion because of the support from the respective landowners, the adequacy of current oversight by state agencies, and because the land exhibits characteristics suitable for long-term estuarine research, education and interpretive activity. *See He'eia NERR Management Plan, Figure 1.3, Location of the He'eia NERR, Figure 1.4, Land Ownership in He'eia NERR, and Table 1-1, Landownership, Managing Entity, and Acreage of Properties.*

Section 2. Future NERR Site boundaries. This Charter shall be amended from time to time to reflect modifications to the NERR boundaries. Potential future changes to the NERR are outlined in the He'eia NERR Management Plan. *See He'eia NERR Management Plan Section 9, Land Acquisition Plan.* The boundary modification process is delineated by NOAA.

Article II

Management Plan, Strategic Plan, and Site-Specific Activities

Section 1. Site Management Plan. A site management plan has been developed for the NERR that outlines specific research, monitoring, education, training, and stewardship activities at the NERR. *See He'eia NERR Management Plan, Section 4 Reserve System Program Foundations.*

- a. Unique Approach. The plan for the NERR presents an opportunity to honor the past by using the traditional ecosystem management approach embodied in ahupua'a principles, integrated with contemporary principles of the NERR System and evaluated through the ecosystem services provided to sustainably manage the He'eia estuary.
- a. Adaptive Management Characteristics of Plan. As more information becomes available, the NERR management plan may be amended to adapt to the new information through annual and required 5-year comprehensive reviews. Incorporating the latest data into the decision-making process will assist He'eia NERR staff and the Reserve Advisory Board (*See Article IV*) to more effectively assess and evaluate staffing, facilities, and program needs.
- b. Purpose of the Management Plan. The purpose of the Management Plan is to provide funding, staff, and other resources and guidance that will assist NERR land managing entities to develop and sustain site-specific activities that are consistent with the goals of the NERR.

Section 2. Strategic Plan. The NERR Strategic Plan outlines the NERR Vision and Mission, as well as the Primary Research Question for the He'eia NERR. The NERR Strategic Plan relates the NERR goals, objectives, and priority coastal management issues to broader State and federal priorities. *See He'eia NERR Management Plan, Section 3 Reserve Strategic Plan.*

Section 3. Site-Specific Activities. Multiple uses of NERR lands are encouraged to the extent that such uses are compatible with the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the site partners as expressed in the management plan. The charter participants having jurisdiction over the NERR lands will exert their reasonable best efforts to ensure uses or levels of use are consistent with the goals of the management plan.

Section 4. Education and Public Disclosure

A free exchange of data and information among the charter participants is encouraged to ensure the success of these cooperative activities.

Article III

Charter Participants

Section 1. The benefits and privileges of this Charter shall be available to organizations that have signed a Participation Agreement. *See attached Draft Template for Participation Agreement.*

Section 2. Charter Participants. For administrative convenience, the charter participants and their general responsibilities can be grouped into the following categories:

A. Lead State Agency: University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology ("HIMB"). The State has designated HIMB, an independent research unit within the University of Hawai'i to be the lead State agency for the NERR. The duties and responsibilities of HIMB as lead state agency are described in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NOAA and HIMB. *See He'eia NERR Management Plan, Appendix J.*

The primary mission of HIMB is to conduct multi-disciplinary research and education in all aspects of tropical marine biology. HIMB continues to be a world leader in research to understand and conserve tropical marine ecosystems. As such, HIMB faculty and staff develop and implement new technologies that advance the informed stewardship of Hawai'i's marine and coastal biodiversity. Consequently HIMB may continue similar research and educational activities on other projects. HIMB may use, publish, and disclose data, information, or writings generated by activities under the Program.

HIMB may discuss its activities under the NERR with other entities and individuals.

B. State Landowners: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Community Development Authority

- a. Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is responsible for managing, administering, and exercising control over public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas (except commercial harbors), minerals, and all

interests therein. Divisions within DLNR, including Division of Aquatic Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation; Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement; Division of Forestry and Wildlife, State Parks; and Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, are involved with specific tasks related to their statutorily assigned responsibilities. These may apply to activities within the He'eia NERR, although the designation of the NERR does not change these responsibilities. The He'eia State Park is owned and managed by DLNR. DLNR may discuss its activities under the NERR with other entities and individuals.

- b. Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) is a body corporate and a public instrumentality of the State of Hawaii, for the purpose of implementing Chapter 206E, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"). HCDA was established to supplement traditional community renewal methods by promoting and coordinating public and private sector community development. The HCDA is the local redevelopment authority of the He'eia district and is responsible for facilitating culturally appropriate agriculture, education, and natural-resource restoration and management of the He'eia wetlands. ~~Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) is a State agency that was established to supplement traditional community renewal methods by promoting and coordinating public and private sector community development. The HCDA is the local redevelopment authority of the He'eia district to facilitate culturally appropriate agriculture, education, and natural-resource restoration and management of the He'eia wetlands. The designation of the NERR~~ This Charter does not affect HCDA's authority under Chapter 206E, HRS and its implementing rules. -does not change these responsibilities. HCDA may discuss its activities under the NERR with other entities and individuals.

C. Privately Held Land Manager: Paepae o He'eia is a private non-profit organization dedicated to caring for He'eia Fishpond. Paepae o Heeiea's mission is to implement values and concepts from the model of a traditional fishpond to provide intellectual, physical, and spiritual sustenance for their community. Paepae o He'eia entered into a license agreement for the fishpond with landowner Kamehameha Schools. The designation of the NERR does not change the responsibilities Paepae o He'eia has to Kamehameha Schools. Paepae o He'eia may discuss its activities under the NERR with other entities and individuals.

D. Future partners

Organizations wishing to join the He'eia NERR as a Governance Charter participant may do so by signing a Participation Agreement and submitting it to the Reserve Advisory Board for their review. The Reserve Advisory Board will make a determination regarding the acceptance of any additional participants to join the He'eia NERR. *See attached Draft Template for Participation Agreement.*

Article IV

Advisory Board and Committees

Section 1. Reserve Advisory Board. The policies, activities, and programs of the He'eia NERR will be developed and implemented with input from the Reserve Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB will be created upon designation of the He'eia NERR. RAB Bylaws shall be developed and adopted after the Board is created.

- a. Board membership. The Board shall consist of members from the entities listed in Article III Section 2 who have signed written Participation Agreements as well as additional entities including Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, and The Nature Conservancy. Each entity shall have one representative on the Board. Board terms shall be of three years duration, commencing upon designation of the He'eia NERR and ending three years thereafter, excluding initial partial year appointments. The Board may vote to stagger the years when Board terms end. Any party may substitute its representative at any time, to serve the balance of the three year term. New Board members affiliated with new participants may be added to the Board by a majority vote. Board member term limits may be adopted by the Board in their Bylaws.
- b. Board role. The Board shall act on behalf of the agencies/entities having jurisdiction over sites comprising the NERR and/or an operational interest in the NERR. Members of the Board will serve without compensation from the NERR. In addition, the purpose of the Board is to advise the lead State Agency, HIMB, regarding implementation of the He'eia NERR Management Plan. The Board shall review the Plan at least every five (5) years and shall advise the lead State Agency regarding modification of the Plan.
- c. Board meetings. Board members will be provided notice ten (10) working days in advance of a meeting. Fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) member of Board members present in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at all meetings of the Board. Each member of the Board will have one vote in decisions put before the Board. The system by which the RAB shall make decisions shall be adopted by the Board in their Bylaws. A minimum of 4 meetings per year shall be held, and a schedule for these meetings shall be developed and adopted by the Board in their Bylaws.

Section 2. Advisory Committees

The Board may create committees or subcommittees to provide technical information or linkage to the broader community pertaining to the three main missions of the NERR Program (Program): research, education, and stewardship. Members of committees or subcommittees will serve without compensation from the NERR.

- a. Kūpuna Advisory Committee. The He'eia NERR Reserve Manager and RAB may establish a Kūpuna Advisory Committee to provide cultural guidance to the Board on cultural protocols, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices either within the He'eia NERR or within the ahupua'a of He'eia, or any other relevant and appropriate cultural information. The Kūpuna Advisory Committee shall be composed of Kūpuna or cultural practitioners familiar with the ahupua'a of He'eia or its cultural resources.
- b. Research Advisory Committee. The He'eia NERR Reserve Manager and RAB may establish a research advisory committee to coordinate and provide input on the He'eia NERR's research and monitoring program. This group will be chaired by the He'eia NERR Research

Coordinator and be composed of research staff from the RAB, federal and state agency staff, and visiting researchers who have an interest in the He'eia NERR research program.

c. Education Advisory Committee. The He'eia NERR Reserve Manager and RAB may establish an education advisory committee to coordinate and provide input on the He'eia NERR's education programs. This group will be chaired by the He'eia NERR Education Coordinator and be composed of education staff from the RAB; federal and state agency staff; teachers and administrators representing a variety of levels, geographic areas, and subjects; and visiting educators who have an interest in the He'eia NERR education program. The group can provide community input and planning support for developing and implementing NERRS education programs such as TOTE and KEEP. Cultural educators may also sit on the education advisory committee to ensure cultural aspects are considered in developing education programs at the He'eia NERR.

d. Cultural Resource Committee. The He'eia NERR Reserve Manager and RAB may establish a cultural resource committee to coordinate and provide input on cultural aspects of He'eia NERR programs. The group will be co-chaired by the He'eia NERR Cultural Resource Coordinator and NERR Stewardship Coordinator, and be composed of members from the RAB, cultural practitioners, and those whose families have lineal and cultural connections to the ahupua'a of He'eia, as well as cultural educators.

Section 3. NERR Staff. HIMB may hire and direct NERR staff, supervising and coordinating implementation of the provisions of the Management Plan. HIMB may enter service orders with the Research Corporation, University of Hawai'i, where appropriate, to hire employees or provide equipment and supplies. The NERR staff will be directly responsible for Program coordination with agency/entity representatives having jurisdiction over areas within the NERR boundary. HIMB's obligation to implement the Plan is contingent upon continued receipt of Grants or other appropriations for the purpose of operating the Program.

Section 4. The NERR staff, Board, and appropriate advisory participants shall confer regularly to ensure coordination between the NERR and the broader goals and mandates of regional coastal management programs that affect the NERR.

Article V

Funding and Financial Management

A primary purpose of the Program is to provide funding, staff, and other resources and guidance to conduct site-specific activities that are consistent with the Plan.

Section 1. Initial Grant. Upon designation, HIMB will receive a grant ("Grant") from NOAA to be used for the implementation of the Management Plan. This grant will be matched with State general funds.

Section 2. Subsequent Funding. Subsequent funding received from NOAA will be matched by the State in the form of 3 positions to meet the required match level rate pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §921.32.

Section 3. Funding Subject to Availability of funds. All financial commitments by NOAA, the lead State Agency and all partners to implement the Management Plan are subject to the appropriate legislative bodies authorizing and appropriating the necessary funds, and the executive budgetary process releasing those funds to the charter partners.

Nothing in this Charter or subsequent financial assistance awards shall obligate any party-in-interest in the expenditure of funds, or for future payments of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

Article VI

Relationship of this Charter to Pre-Existing or Future Legal Obligations

Section 1. Preserving existing statutorily conferred authority or obligations. Nothing in this Charter diminishes the independent authority or coordination responsibility of any party in administering its respective statutory and legal obligations. Nothing in this Charter is intended to conflict with current written directives or policies of any party. If the terms of this Charter are inconsistent with existing written directives or policies of any party at the time the party agrees to this Charter, then those portions of the Charter that are determined to be inconsistent with such pre-existing written directives and policies shall be invalid as to that party; but the remaining terms not affected by the inconsistency shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 2. No NERR projects shall be carried out on NERR lands without appropriate permits, meeting of regulatory requirements, and/or the approval of the agency/entity having jurisdiction over such lands.

Section 3. All government entity participants in NERR activities shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and county laws regulating ethical conduct of public officers and employees.

Section 4. ~~Reserved.~~ Non-impairment of future legal authority or responsibility of Charter participants. Nothing in this Charter diminishes the legal rights and responsibilities of any participating state agency or private landowner to establish and implement their own management plans, policies or administrative rules or procedures for land and waters under their respective jurisdiction.

Section 5. Each charter partner shall observe all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders respecting Native Hawaiian customary rights.

Article VI

Relationship of this Charter to Pre-Existing Legal Obligations

~~Section 1. Preserving existing statutorily conferred authority or obligations. Nothing in this Charter diminishes the independent authority or coordination responsibility of any party in administering its respective statutory and legal obligations. Nothing in this Charter is intended to conflict with current written directives or policies of any party. If the terms of this Charter are inconsistent with existing written directives or policies of any party at the time the party agrees to~~

~~this Charter, then those portions of the Charter that are determined to be inconsistent with such pre-existing written directives and policies shall be invalid as to that party; but the remaining terms not affected by the inconsistency shall remain in full force and effect.~~

~~Section 2. No NERR projects shall be carried out on NERR lands without appropriate permits, meeting of regulatory requirements, and/or the approval of the agency/entity having jurisdiction over such lands.~~

~~Section 3. All government entity participants in NERR activities shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and county laws regulating ethical conduct of public officers and employees.~~

~~Section 4. Each charter partner shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders to provide Equal Employment Opportunities. [note: awaiting input from NOAA regarding this section]~~

~~Section 5. Each charter partner shall observe all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders respecting Native Hawaiian customary rights.~~

Article VII

Liability and Waivers

Section 1. No waiver of sovereign immunity. Nothing in this Charter or its attached Participation Agreement shall be construed to waive sovereign immunity nor expand the waivers provided under current law concerning the University or Hawai'i or any State of Hawai'i public agency.

Section 2. No new rights to sue or causes of action created. This Charter is designed for the convenience of the charter participants. The Charter by itself does not create additional causes of actions or legal rights enforceable in a court of law. No participant in NERR activities shall be liable for any incidental, indirect, special or consequential damages arising out of their performance of the activity. No party shall be liable for delays in performing obligations arising from this Charter due to factors beyond the reasonable control of such party.

Section 3. This Charter shall not be construed to provide any express or implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, freedom of infringement, or any other warranties of any kind or nature.

Article VIII

Internal Dispute Resolution Process

Any ambiguity in the text of this Charter shall be construed in accordance with its fair meaning, without regard to any presumption for or against any party.

If a dispute arises among charter participants concerning the intent or effect of this Charter or its attached Participation Agreement, the parties must make good faith efforts to informally resolve their differences.

If a mutually satisfactory resolution is not reached after good faith attempts, the dispute may be submitted to the Reserve Advisory Board for resolution by majority vote of all members to which the Board is entitled.

If any party objects to the Board's disposition of the matter, the objecting party must state its objections in writing and propose a disposition which it will accept. The Board shall either reconsider its decision, or it may affirm its decision and submit the controversy including the statement(s) of objections to a mediator approved by the majority of the Board. The mediator may discuss the matter with all parties and attempt to mediate a mutually satisfactory compromise. If mediation fails, any party may pursue other legal remedies and may, in addition, immediately terminate participation in this Charter.

Article IX

Duration and Amendments to this Charter

Section 1. This Charter shall continue on an on-going basis so long as the NERR is funded and remains viable, as jointly determined by the lead State Agency and NOAA.

Section 2. This Charter may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 3. This Charter may be amended by majority vote of the Board, provided that the proposed amendment is introduced and discussed at a duly noticed meeting, and adopted only at a subsequent duly noticed meeting.

Section 4. Survival of Terms. Those provisions of this Charter which by their nature extend beyond termination or expiration of this Charter shall survive such termination or expiration.

Article X

Withdrawal from Participation

Withdrawal from Participation. Any party, at any time, may elect to withdraw from further participation in this Charter without cause.

Effect of withdrawal on land. Upon withdrawal, the lands of the withdrawing party would be removed from designation as NERR lands.

Effect of withdrawal on funding. If the withdrawing party has received federal awards related to the implementation of the NERR Management Plan, the withdrawing party will notify appropriate federal agencies to implement appropriate mediation or termination of current or pending grants.

Effect of withdrawal on ownership of equipment or supplies. Upon withdrawal, title and ownership of any equipment purchased by a party for activities initiated in furtherance of the mission of the NERR will be determined in accordance with the terms or conditions of the source funding the purchase.

Article XI

General Conditions

Section 1. Governing Law and Jurisdiction. This Charter shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Hawai'i, exclusive of its choice of law provisions, as well as any preemptive United States federal laws and regulations.

Section 2. Severability. If any clause, sentence or other portion of this Charter shall become illegal, unenforceable, or void for any reason, the parties shall attempt in good faith to continue to implement the remaining portions of this Charter to accomplish the mission of the NERR.

END of CHARTER

Attachment:

Draft Template for Participation Agreement

COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE

HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE (NERR)

He'eia, O'ahu, Hawai'i

The undersigned party desires to participate in programs of the National Estuarine Research Reserve site at He'eia, O'ahu, Hawai'i, and shares the NERR goals of:

- (1) Increasing our understanding of the effects of human activities and natural events to improve informed decision making affecting the sustainable management of the He'eia estuary, coastal ecosystems, and ultimately the entire ahupua'a of He'eia;
- (2) Developing a place-based education and training program for the He'eia NERR that inspires and educates the community about estuaries, coastal ecosystems, and traditional Hawaiian practices, such as lo'i and loko i'a, that mālama (nurture) these systems sustainably; and
- (3) Engaging various communities to create opportunities for collaboration to practice and promote stewardship that sustains cultural, biological, and natural resources.

Accordingly, we agree to abide by the Governance Charter for the He'eia NERR, and pledge our reasonable best efforts to accomplish its mission.

He'eia NERR Multi-Party Governance Charter

Name of Organization: _____

Executed by: _____ (name)

Its _____ (title)

Date: _____

DRAFT