

News Bulletin

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd Rm 3-122
Honolulu, HI 96850
808-792-9400



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Contact: Paul Brown, (808) 282-9442 or dillon_brown@fws.gov

Service Opens Public Comment Period for Incidental Take Permit to Kauai Island Utility Cooperative

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate the impacts of issuing an Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit to Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC).

The Incidental Take Permit would authorize take of listed species caused by activities covered under the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative Long-Term Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan. Under section 3 of the endangered species act, the term “take” means to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct” The mostly likely impacted species are the endangered Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), threatened Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus newelli*), and a species proposed for listing as endangered, the band-rumped storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*).

The Service will hold a public scoping meeting in Līhu‘e, Kaua‘i from 5-7 p.m. July 20, 2016, at Kaua‘i Community College, 3–1901 Kaunuali‘i Highway. The meeting will be an open house format and will provide members of the public an opportunity to ask questions, discuss issues with Service staff regarding the scope of the draft EIS, and provide written comments. The public comment period is open through September 6, 2016. The Service encourages all interested individuals and organizations to provide written comments on the preparation of the draft EIS. The most helpful comments will address: alternatives to be considered, topics to be covered, and the presence of resources in the area that should be considered. Your input and suggestions will help to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that considers the community’s ideas and addresses relevant concerns. The Service will consider all comments in developing the draft EIS.

Please submit written comments by September 6, 2016, using one of the following methods:

- U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, Attn: KIUC HCP and scoping EIS, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3–122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
- Email: KIUCLongTermhcp@fws.gov. Include “KIUC HCP and scoping EIS” in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 808–792–9580, Attn: Field Supervisor. Include “KIUC HCP and scoping EIS” in the subject line of the message.

For more information on these species and the draft EIS, review the *Federal Register* Notice of Intent (available at www.fws.gov/pacificislands) or by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Honolulu office at 808/792-9400.

For more information about incidental take, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/hcp/index.html>