



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

December 18, 2025

Mr. Edward H. Sniffen, Director
Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAUI

Request for Authorization to issue a 10-year License to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a tide house and other equipment to collect wave and atmospheric data, situated at Pier 2, Kahului Harbor, island of Maui, Tax Map Key (TMK) Nos. (2) 3-7-010:003 (Portion), (2) 3-7-008:003 (Portion), and (2) 3-7-008:006 (Portion), Governor's Executive Order (GEO) No. 2635.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 171-6, 171-11, 171-13, 171-17, and 171-95, as amended.

APPLICANT:

NOAA (Applicant) is a government agency whose mailing address for its headquarters location is 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128, Washington, DC 20230.

CHARACTER OF USE:

The Applicant maintains a tide house containing solar panels, a weather mast, water sensors, a satellite antenna for data transmission, and survey disks located at various points within and immediately outside the harbor to collect atmospheric data to assist in predicting atmospheric events.

LOCATION:

Portion of Governmental lands at Pier 2, Kahului Harbor, island of Maui, TMK Nos. (2) 3-7-010:003 (Portion), (2) 3-7-008:003 (Portion), and (2) 3-7-008:006 (Portion), as shown on the enclosed map labeled Exhibit A.

ZONING:

State Land Use Commission:
County of Maui:

Urban
M-2, Heavy Industrial

AREA: See enclosed Exhibits A and B

The tide station is approximately 49 square feet, accompanied by a weather mast and nearby water-level sensors, and five survey disks located at various points within the harbor, which serve as permanent ground-elevation markers, as shown in Exhibits A and B.

CONSIDERATION:

Gratis

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Public Land Trust Information System states trust land status for TMK No. (2) 3-7-010:003 (Portion) as undetermined, and TMK Nos. (2) 3-7-008:003 (Portion) and (2) 3-7-008:006 (Portion) were acquired after 8/59.

CURRENT USE STATUS:

The Applicant currently occupies the premises and uses the data collected to monitor and predict weather events. The data collected daily is available on the Applicant's Tides and Currents website.

LAND TITLE STATUS:

GEO No. 2635 for Kahului Harbor, to be under the control and management of the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT).

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This use is exempt from the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and Environmental Review Program requirements pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Subchapter 11-200.1, that exempts the following:

“Exemption Type 1: Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving minor expansion or minor change of use beyond that previously existing.”

The HDOT deems the action as de minimis and exempts it from the preparation of an exemption notice in accordance with HAR, Section 11-200.1-16 (b). The exemption declaration for the action described above, is based on the Exemption List for the HDOT, reviewed and concurred to by the Environmental Advisory Council on February 1, 2022, is as follows:

Exemption Type 1, Part 1:

- No. A1.b. “Repair or maintain buildings, office space, sheds, parking structures, warehouses, utility systems, aircraft aprons and hardstands, hangars, tunnels

and other similar structures or facilities necessary for the continued function and use, and to meet current local, state, and federal standards and regulations. Actions include but not limited to the following: Utility systems: electrical, interior lighting, plumbing, wastewater, information technology (IT)/communication and security systems, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) units and other similar systems.”

Exemption Type 8, Part 1:

- No. 8f. “Execute and administer rights-of-entry agreements, use and occupancy contracts.”

REMARKS:

The Applicant is a government agency whose mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, and ocean conditions, and to share knowledge with others to support the conservation and management of environmental resources. Data on water temperature, water levels, air temperature, air pressure, and wind strength are collected, analyzed, and shared on its website. Part of its mission is to monitor and understand global climate changes and work with international partners to ensure there is reliable data and information to assist with advance notice of weather events for communities worldwide.

The Applicant has been collecting readings from Kahului Harbor since 1946. The oldest survey benchmark that is still currently in use was installed in 1966. These survey benchmarks are utilized to measure ground elevation and are necessary for measuring relative sea level. Additional survey benchmarks are located outside the harbor to assist with accurate measurements. Currently, the Applicant’s equipment is powered by the solar panels on the roof of the tide house, and all collected data are transmitted from the tide house via satellite antenna.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on this submittal, testimony and facts presented, the HDOT recommends the issuance of a 10-year License to the Applicant including its conditions and rent, under the terms and conditions cited above and other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Director of Transportation to best serve the interest of the State.

Sincerely,



DREANALEE K. KALILI
Deputy Director of Transportation for Harbors

Enclosures



NOAA FORM 76-199
(8-83)

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service

BENCHMARK SKETCH

FIELD UNIT

POB

DRAWN BY
REVISED BY

SRB
DMM
RFB

DATE
DATE
DATE
DATE

20160308
20180205
20200115

STATION NAME

Kahului, HI

STATION NO.

161-5680

REVISED BY

DATE

