

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
NATURAL RESOURCES ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
POHAKUOLA TRAINING AREA and KEAMUKU MANEUVER AREA
ISLAND of HAWAII

Article III, (D) of the following Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Units (CESU)
Californian, Hawaii-Pacific Islands, Pacific Northwest, and or Rocky Mountains

15 April 2021

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1** The Pohakuloa Training Area and Keamuku Maneuver Area, hereafter referred to collectively as U.S. Army Garrison-Pohakuloa Training Area (USAG-PTA), environmental program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Article IB of the master agreement states the objectives of the CESU are to: provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies, and their potential partners; develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, and social sciences necessary to address resource issues and interdisciplinary problem solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.

- 1.2** This work requires onsite support personnel located at PTA on the Island of Hawaii. Sufficient personnel are required to carry out coordination, natural resource management, reporting, and technical support necessary to carry out required conservation measures and other mandates directed by local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

2.0 AUTHORITY

- 2.1** This cooperative agreement supports, and is supported by, the Sikes Act as codified in Title 16, United States Code, Section 670 et seq., Subchapter I – Conservation Programs on Military Installations. The Sikes Act authorizes cooperative programs for conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. The Government shall not exercise any supervision or control over a Cooperator performing the services herein. In accordance with FAR 7.503(e), projects for execution under this Cooperative Agreement (CA) do not include any functions to be performed that are inherently governmental. This determination is made with the assessment that places emphasis on the degree to which conditions and facts restrict the discretionary authority, decision-making responsibility, or accountability of Government officials using Cooperator support services or work products. In accordance with FAR 37.104, this CA shall not be used for performance of personal services. Any modifications to

Cooperative Agreement activities as outlined by this Statement of Objectives must be channeled through the Grants Officer's Technical Representative and Grants Officer prior to Cooperator implementation.

- 2.2** In agreement with the above stated purpose, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the USAG-PTA responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the Sikes Act (16 USC 670c-1) and 10 U.S.C. § 2684a - Agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations.
- 2.3** In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), all CESU projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive direct benefit of the United States Government. Examples of carrying out a public purpose may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Project results are made available to a wide audience (including nonfederal entities)
 - Project results/outputs add to the scientific literature/knowledge base, with applicability and utility beyond the scope of the project footprint/study area
 - Academic and other nonfederal partner institutions (and their personnel) gain professional experience, increase knowledge, and develop skills and abilities
 - Students benefit from direct interaction with federal scientists, program and technical staff, and field unit managers
- 2.4** In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), substantial involvement is expected between the Department of Defense and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the cooperative agreement. The DoD agrees to participate at a national level in support of the CESU program as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

The installation further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under Article II (A) of the above listed CESU Master Agreement # to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- US Army Garrison Hawaii is involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- US Army Garrison Hawaii actively participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- US Army Garrison Hawaii incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. Examples

include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing vehicles, some airplane/helicopter time
- Providing IT support
- Providing appropriate work space
- Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Requirements:

- 3.1.1 Within 30 days of award, the Recipient/Cooperator will schedule an initial project kick off meeting with all parties involved (USACE Ft. Worth District, USAG-PTA) to develop a project work schedule to implement the Statement of Objectives (SOO). All deliverables/tasks will be submitted within the required timeframes as identified. The USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC and USACE Ft. Worth POC must be notified ahead of time and agree to any deviation from the agreed upon timeframes or any breaks-in-service for the major tasks listed below. For breaks-in-service, the Cooperator will be required to supply an explanation for the break in service and a plan to re-establish service to the task including a timeline.
- 3.1.2 The Recipient/Cooperator will work with the USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC to establish priorities for program execution. This determination will be made based on mission priority, range access, or by habitat priority by the USAG-PTA Biologist. Due to U.S. Army, Hawaii training prioritization schedules and access restrictions, implementation of fieldwork activity/schedules may require changes, as agreed upon by the Recipient/Cooperator, USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC, and U.S. Army, Hawaii Range Planning and Operations.
- 3.1.3 Cooperator personnel must be able to pass a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) background check and acquire a Common Access Card for installation and computer access to the Army network. Cooperator personnel will be required to have or attain appropriate training and certification for work conducted in USAG-PTA management units, including, but not limited to, a valid State of Hawaii driver's license, State of Hawaii Restricted Use Pesticide Applicator's license, appropriate wilderness first aid training, and helicopter operations training. Additional training may be required for certain personnel conducting specialized operations, such as rappelling on steep cliffs or climbing and cutting trees, and use of firearms, and access to UXO areas. All cooperator personnel will adhere to the established safety program.
- 3.1.4 Cooperator personnel will be required to work in rugged wilderness areas, and may be exposed to strenuous outdoor conditions, including intense sun or rain, hot or cold conditions, muddy trails, and steep terrain, and rugged substrate (lava). Extensive hiking, carrying of a weighted pack up to fifty (50) pounds, and multiple night camping trips may be required.
- 3.1.5 Access to management units in rugged wilderness areas may be limited and may require helicopter operations for movement of personnel and field gear.

- 3.1.6 Cooperator personnel to be listed on the Army's State of Hawaii and U.S. Fish and Wildlife endangered species permits will require a demonstrable knowledge and background working with those listed Hawaiian taxa. General knowledge of the flora and fauna of Hawaii is recommended for most Cooperator personnel.

3.2 Major Requirements and Tasks:

3.2.1 Task 1 Botanical Program Support (Mandatory) (including plant monitoring, genetic storage and out planting).

- 3.2.1.1 Survey USAG-PTA lands to determine, to an appropriate level of confidence, the abundance and distribution of federally listed plant species.
- 3.2.1.2 Monitor federally listed plant populations to assess threats, population trends, and to determine when cuttings or fruit/seed collections should be conducted.
- 3.2.1.3 Conduct and monitor the effectiveness of threat control around federally listed plant populations and out planting sites. This may involve, but is not limited to, control of invasive vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant pests.
- 3.2.1.4 Acquire and maintain collections of genetic material for long-term storage of federally listed plant species and utilize and replenish collections based on propagule viability to ensure adequate genetic representation. Genetic material may be made available to other conservation agencies in Hawaii, if available.
- 3.2.1.5 Propagate plants in the Army Rare Plant Propagation Facility for use in reintroduction and augmentation at on- and off-site locations.

3.2.2 Task 2 Wildlife Program Support (Mandatory) (including species management and vertebrate control)

- 3.2.2.1 Conduct surveys and monitoring for the federally listed and state listed rare animal species including, but not limited to, Hawaiian Hoary Bat, Hawaiian goose (Nene), Hawaiian hawk (Io), the Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel (Uau), and the Band-rumped storm petrel (Akeake).
- 3.2.2.2 Develop and implement protocols for the management of Nene.
- 3.2.2.3 Control introduced, invasive animal species within management units and around rare species populations using the most appropriate control techniques.
- 3.2.2.4 Survey for and control newly introduced invasive animal species (i.e. incipient populations) utilizing the most appropriate control techniques.
- 3.2.2.5 Maintain large-scale fenced management units and monitor for ingress by goats, sheep, and pigs. Inspection schedules and priorities will be developed in cooperation with the USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC. Repair and replace fencing fabric, posts, anchors, gates, and other materials as necessary

to ensure unit integrity.

3.2.3 Task 3 USAG-PTA Hunting Program Support (Optional)

3.2.3.1 Coordinate and administer USAG-HI public hunting program in conjunction with USAG-PTA Command, Range Control, and Department of Land and Natural Resources personnel. Tasks include, but are not limited to, scheduling hunts, advertising and administering hunts, coordinating available hunting areas, conducting hunter education, and coordinating with law enforcement personnel at USAG-PTA,

3.2.4 Task 4 Invasive Plants Program Support (Mandatory) (including weed control and fire pre-suppression management).

3.2.4.1 Control introduced/invasive plant species and microorganisms within management units and around rare species populations utilizing the most appropriate control techniques. Area and species priorities will be developed in coordination with the USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC.

3.2.4.2 Manage vegetation along priority breaks that comprise the fuel break/firebreak system. Priority work will be developed in coordination with the USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC, Range Control, and the PTA Installation Fire and Safety Office. The most appropriate control techniques will be applied based on each particular situation. Sensitive areas where additional care is required to avoid damage to rare species populations will be identified in coordination with the USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC.

3.2.4.3 Fuel cover assessments within existing fuel monitoring corridors (FMS) will be conducted on 5 year intervals. Control will be initiated in FMCs that exceed established fuel cover thresholds. FMC locations and fuel thresholds will be developed in coordination with the PTA Installation Fire and Safety Office.

3.2.4.4 Provide wildland fire technical assistance, including but not limited to, fire modeling, fuels analysis, and other wildland fire related issues specific to USAG-PTA. Technical support shall be used to make management recommendations based on the best available sciences, technology, and techniques to minimize wildland fire impacts to USAG-PTA.

3.2.5 Task 5 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Execution (Optional)

3.2.5.1 Conduct survey of Species At Risk which may have impacts to training activities because of future, potential regulatory action due to risk status.

Management actions may be required depending on location and potential reduction in regulatory impact.

3.2.5.2 Assist with development of action plans to execute training/construction actions with minimal impact to sensitive plant and animal species.

3.2.5.3 Conduct habitat restoration actions that provide for stable, native ecosystems which provide support for natural or out planted TES populations.

3.2.6 Task 6 Planning Level Surveys (Optional)

3.2.6.1 Conduct planning level surveys to detect TES populations that may impact training/construction projects.

3.2.7 Task 7 Data Management Support (Mandatory) (including database and GIS support).

3.2.7.1 Develop and maintain data management systems for federally and state listed plant and animal species in accordance with the standards of the Hawaii Natural Heritage Program or other appropriate entity, for the purpose of monitoring, collection, evaluation, and dissemination of ecological data.

3.2.7.2 Develop algorithms to support queries for planning, monitoring, and reporting purposes.

3.2.7.3 Maintain an appropriate geospatial database to support natural resources activities.

3.2.7.4 Prepare graphics and maps (digital and print) that support natural resources program activities. Appropriate standards shall be met to allow for sharing of geodatabase information with other entities, including but not limited to, the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) program and the DPW web map system.

3.2.7.5 Investigate, develop, and implement increasingly efficient and effective data collection and analysis techniques (remote sensing, UAV use, satellite imagery analysis) for operational and resource planning.

3.2.8 Task 8 Technical Support (Mandatory)

3.2.8.1 Respond to request for information from USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC, Command Group, or Installation Fire and Safety Office on matters of environmental concern or issues regarding federally listed species.

3.2.8.2 Participate in meetings and discussions concerning natural resources topics with local, state, and federal agencies. Participation may include, but is not limited to, presenting information as a subject matter expert, offering recommendations based on best available science and current management techniques, and production of supporting documentation.

3.2.8.3 Provide information to support environmental analysis of proposed Army actions which may include Records of Environmental Consideration, Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, or other forms of NEPA documents.

3.2.8.4 Provide information and reports to support updates or revisions to USAG-PTA SOPs or the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.

3.2.9 Task 9 Administration Support (Mandatory) (including operations support and safety).

3.2.9.1 Prepare and track budgets for program execution. Budgets and spending rates of program funds shall be evaluated with the USAG-PTA POC quarterly.

3.2.9.2 Provide administrative support for purchasing, sub-contract management (helicopter operations, fencing contracts, etc...), and purchasing and maintenance of field vehicles.

3.2.9.3 Development, updating, and maintenance of the Natural Resources Safety Program, including writing and implementation of safety plans, risk assessments, and standard operating procedures that are staffed to the Army Safety and Mission Support element on an annual basis.

3.2.9.4 Provide appropriate trainings to staff to maintain a safe working environment and to meet all OSHA requirements.

3.2.9.5 Conduct all human resource activities to maintain program operations including hiring, evaluation, corrective action, accident and injury documentation and reporting, and compensation claims.

3.2.9.6 Conduct all necessary actions to ensure compliance with Institutional Animal Care and Use requirements in regard to animal control programs.

3.2.9.7 Provide support for public outreach and education initiatives regarding natural resources management at USAG-PTA. Support may entail development of

static displays or handouts/pamphlets, hands-on activities, and formal or informal presentations.

4.0 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

4.1 Government supplied materials

- Office space for all on-site personnel
- 2 GSA vehicles: Cooperator Staff will be authorized to operate GSA vehicles once proof of liability insurance for operation of such vehicles is provided by the cooperator.
- Plant Propagation facilities
- Access to field site locations
- Unexploded Ordnance technician escorts to accompany field staff into areas designated by Army Safety and Range Operations.
- Limited cleaning service for office areas.
- Fuel for on-site use of GSA vehicles and those purchased or leased under this SOO.

Government furnished materials or property is governed by 2 C.F.R. Part 200.312 which states that a) Title to federally-owned property remains vested in the Federal government. The non-Federal entity must submit annually an inventory listing of federally-owned property in its custody to the Federal awarding agency. Upon completion of the Federal award or when the property is no longer needed, the non-Federal entity must return the property to the Federal awarding agency for further Federal agency utilization.

4.2 Quality Assurance/Quality Control

The USAG-PTA Natural Resources POC will serve as the designated source of responsibility for quality assurance in the capacity of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) in the field. This SOO and the associated sections titled General Requirements, Major Requirements and Tasks, Deliverables, and Period of Performance serve as the guidelines by which quality assurance will be judged by the US Army Technical Representative. Quarterly metrics may be required as necessary to the COTR throughout the duration of the performance period in order to identify and resolve any problems with the workload.

4.3 Use of Information

The information, data, and material recovered, developed, gathered and assembled and reproduced by cooperator technical specialists or their associates, in fulfillment of the SOO requirements, as defined or related to in the SOO, will become the property of the Army and shall, therefore, not be used by the cooperator for any purpose or use, nor released prior to approval for public release by the Army, without the written consent of the US Army Technical Representative. If a cooperator employee terminates employment

with the program, the data collected during their tenure is to be left at USAG-PTA upon exiting the position.

5.0 COORDINATION

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6.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

6.1 Base Period (Mandatory Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award of cooperative agreement. Start date of period of performance for the Base Period (Mandatory Tasks) will be 31 July 2021.

6.2 Base Period (Optional Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised prior to the award of Option 1 Period (Mandatory Tasks) on 31 July 2022.

6.3 Option Period 1 (Mandatory Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised no later than on 31 July 2022.

6.4 Option Period 1 (Optional Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised prior to the award of Option Period 2 (Mandatory Tasks) on 31 July 2023.

6.5 Option Period 2 (Mandatory Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised not later than 31 July 2023

6.6 Option Period 2 (Optional Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised prior to the award of Option Period 3 (Mandatory Tasks) on 31 July 2024.

6.7 Option Period 3 (Mandatory Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised not later than 31 July 2024

6.8 Option Period 3 (Optional Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised prior to the award of Option Period 4 (Mandatory Tasks) on 31 July 2025.

6.9 Option Period 4 (Mandatory Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised not later than 31 July 2025

6.10 Option Period 4 (Optional Tasks) will be for an 18-month period from the award and shall be exercised no later than 31 July 2026.

7.0 DELIVERABLES

7.1 Quarterly teleconferences progress briefings with USACE/ U.S. Army Garrison-Pohakuloa Training Area (USAG-PTA)

7.2 Progress Reports- One (1) typed letter report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due as of the last day of the third month (quarterly) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail, facsimile, or regular mail no later than the 10th calendar day following the end of the reporting period. Invoices for partial payment shall be submitted to coincide with receipt of the quarterly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due.

7.3 Annual Inventory- Federally owned property - an annual inventory listing Federal property (to include description of the property, a serial number or other identification number) that is in the custody of the recipient; Copies to be sent to USACE and USAG-PTA.

7.4 Annual Inventory – Acquired Property purchased with funding from award - property records must be maintained that includes description of the property, serial number or other identification number, source of funding, who holds title, acquisition date, cost of property, percentage of Federal participation in project costs, location, use and condition of property, and ultimate disposition including date of disposal and sale price. A physical

inventory must be taken, and results reconciled every two years. Copies of the inventory to be sent annually to USACE – SWF and the INSTALLATION.

7.5 Annual Regulator Requirements Report - Submit one (1) copy of a draft report addressing annual regulatory reporting requirements no later than one month before end of the calendar year. The Final report shall be submitted before 31 January each year. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and address annual reporting requirements from regulatory documents such as Biological Opinions, the PTA Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, and NEPA documents.

7.6 Federal and State Permit Reports – Submit one (1) copy of draft reports addressing annual State and Federal permit reporting requirements no later than 1 month before the report due date specified in the permit. The Final report shall be submitted to the Army no later than 1 week before the report due date specified in the permit. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section and address all annual reporting requirements as outlined in the permits.

7.7 Biennial Technical Report – Submit one (1) paper and one (1) electronic copy of the draft biennial technical report no later than 2 months after the reporting period (e.g., end of the Federal Fiscal Year). The final report shall be submitted before 31 January each year. At a minimum the report shall include a project description, data/findings, methods, monitoring results, and recommendations. The report shall address biological trends and status of rare species, report technical programmatic information, and address regulatory compliance issues.

7.8 Draft Final Project Report – One (1) paper copy of a draft final report should be submitted no later than one month before end of the cooperative agreement. At a minimum, the report shall contain an introduction section, and one section for each Task identified in the proposal. For each Task, the report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. USAG-PTA POC will review and provide comments, if any, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt.

7.9 Final Project Report. One (1) paper copy of the final report, incorporating PTA POC review comments on the draft, if any, shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the PTA POC comments. Additionally, one (1) copy of the final report shall be submitted in an MSWord file(s), on digital media. Provide to USACE & Installation representative.

8.0 ADMINISTRATION

This cooperative agreement may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Any resulting cooperative agreement will be subject to and recipient/cooperator shall comply with 2 CFR 200.313 "Equipment", 200.314 "Supplies", and 200.315 "Intangible Property" which includes use of research data.

[End of SOO]