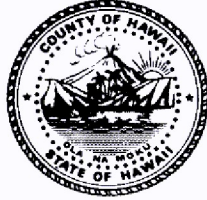


Mitchell D. Roth  
*Mayor*

Deanna S. Sako  
*Managing Director*

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## County of Hawai'i

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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*Director*

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
*Deputy Director*

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January 30, 2024

George Rosenberg  
12-7001 Lahela St.  
Pahoa, HI 96778  
VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

**SUBJECT: Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit Assessment Application  
(PL-SAA-2023-000205)  
Special Management Area (SMA) Minor Permit  
(PL-SMM-2024-000058)  
Applicant: George Rosenberg  
Landowner: George Rosenberg  
Request: Clearing Vegetation, and Fence Construction  
Tax Map Key: (3) 1-3-002:111, South Kona, Island of Hawai'i**

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We have reviewed the subject Special Management Area Use Permit Assessment Application (PL-SAA-2023-000198) received by this office on November 19, 2023. The 3.0-acre subject parcel is zoned Agricultural-1 acres (A-1a) by the County and designated as Agricultural by the State Land Use Commission (LUC). The subject parcel is designated as "Important Agricultural Lands" (ial) by the Hawai'i County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) map. Approximately ½ of the subject parcel is located within the Special Management Area (SMA), however, it is not located within the "shoreline area" as defined by section 205A-41, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) and as such no shoreline certification is required.

#### **Proposed Project:**

The applicant is proposing to clear overgrown and non-native vegetation within the Special Management Area (SMA) and construct a perimeter fence in preparation for agricultural uses. No structures or additional development is proposed.

**Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Ch. 6E-42 review:**

Planning Staff submitted the project for review by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) under their Ch. 6E-42 review. To date no response has been received from SHPD, and according to SHPD rules the project may proceed since they have not responded to the project in the required 45-day review period.

**Special Management Area Determination:**

According to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A-44 and Planning Commission (PC) Rule No. 9-4(e)(1)(E), "development" includes "*Grading, removing, dredging, mining or extraction of any materials.*" Therefore, the proposed land clearing activities are considered to be development and will require a review against the Special Management Area rules and regulations.

We find that the proposed project is not exempt from the definition of "development;" however, the project will not have a cumulative impact or a significant adverse environmental or ecological effect on the SMA. Therefore, pursuant to Planning Commission Rule Section 9-10(e), Special Management Area Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000058 is hereby issued for the project as described above. It is the applicant's responsibility to read and comply with the conditions listed in the enclosed permit.

While further review of the proposed project against the Special Management Area rules and regulations will not be required, all other applicable Zoning Code and Building Code requirements must be satisfied. Additionally, any future development or activities not included in this approval shall require further review and approval as provided under Chapter 205A, HRS and Rule 9, Planning Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.

If you have questions regarding this document, please contact Alex J. Roy of this office at (808) 961-8140 or via email at [alex.roy@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:alex.roy@hawaiicounty.gov)

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
Jeffrey W. Darrow (Jan 30, 2024 15:23 HST)

*for* ZENDO KERN  
Planning Director

AJR:mads

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Enclosure: SMA Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000058

George Rosenberg  
January 30, 2024  
Page 3

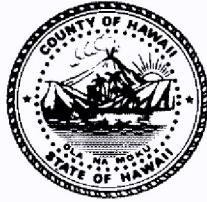
cc via email w/enclosure: Shichao Li, State-OPSD  
Lisa E. Webster, State-OPSD  
GIS Section



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## **Special Management Area Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000058**

**Project:** Proposed Vegetation Clearing and Fence Construction  
**Applicant(s):** George Rosenberg  
**Landowner(s):** George Rosenberg  
**TMK(s):** (3) 1-3-002:111  
**Location:** Puna District, Island of Hawai'i  
**Land Area:** 3.00 acres

### **Applicant's Request**

- 1. Project Description:** This Special Management Area (SMA) Minor Use Permit is being pursued to allow the landowner to clear overgrown vegetation and construct a perimeter fence for future agriculture purposes.
- 2. Project Valuation:** \$5,000.
- 3. Determination:** According to Chapter 205A-22, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and Planning Commission (PC) Rule No. 9-4(e)(1) relating to Special Management Area (SMA): "*grading, removing, dredging, mining or extraction of any materials*" are defined as "development." Therefore, the proposed vegetative clearing is considered "development" and requires a review against the Special Management Area rules and regulations. Our review has resulted in the issuance of a SMA Minor Permit.

### **State and County Plans**

- 4. State Land Use District:** The subject parcel is within the State Land Use Agricultural District.
- 5. General Plan:** The parcel is designated as "Important Agricultural Land" (ial) by the Hawai'i County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) Map.
- 6. County Zoning:** The parcel is currently zoned as Agricultural-1 acres (A-1a).
- 7. Special Management Area:** The project parcel is located within the Special Management Area (SMA); however, it is not located within the "shoreline area" as

defined by section 205A-41, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) and as such, no shoreline certification is required.

- 8. Flood Zone:** The subject parcel is designated as Flood Zone “X”, which is an area determined to be outside the 500-year floodplain.

<p align="center"><b>Compliance with Objectives and Policies of Chapter 205A, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS), Regarding the Special Management Area</b></p>
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Check all objectives and policies found to be consistent with proposed development. Issuance of SMA Minor Permit requires that activity be consistent with all objectives & policies.

**The proposed development is consistent with the following objectives and policies:**

- ☒ Development will not have any significant adverse environmental or ecological effect, except as any adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and clearly outweighed by public health, safety, or compelling public interest. Those adverse effects shall include but not be limited to the potential cumulative impact of individual developments, each of which taken by itself might not have a significant adverse effect and the elimination of planning options.
- ☒ The proposed development is consistent with the Hawai‘i County General Plan, community plan, and zoning; provided that a finding of consistency shall not preclude concurrent processing where a general plan, community plan, or zoning amendment may also be required.
- ☒ The proposed development does not conflict with the following objectives of Chapter 205A, HRS (as amended), to:
  - ☒ Provide coastal recreational opportunities accessible to the public.
  - ☒ Protect, preserve, and where desirable, restore those natural and man-made historic and pre-historic resources in the coastal zone management area that are significant in Hawaiian and American history and culture.
  - ☒ Protect, preserve, and where desirable, restore or improve the quality of coastal scenic and open space resources.
  - ☒ Protect valuable coastal ecosystems, including reefs, beaches, and coastal dunes, from disruption and minimize adverse impacts on all coastal ecosystems.
  - ☒ Provide public or private facilities and improvements important to the State’s economy in suitable locations.

- ☒ Reduce hazard to life and property from coastal hazards.
- ☒ Improve the development review process, communication, and public participation in the management of coastal resources and hazards.
- ☒ Stimulate public awareness, education, and participation in coastal management.
- ☒ Protect beaches and coastal dunes for: Public use and recreation; The benefit of coastal ecosystems; Use as natural buffers against coastal hazards; and Coordinate and fund beach management and protection.
- ☒ Promote the protection, use, and development of marine and coastal resources to assure their sustainability.
- ☒ The proposed development is consistent with the following policies of Chapter 205A, HRS, relating to:
  - ☒ Recreational Resources
  - ☒ Historic Resources
  - ☒ Scenic and Open Space Resources
  - ☒ Coastal Ecosystems
  - ☒ Economic Uses
  - ☒ Coastal Hazards
  - ☒ Managing Development
  - ☒ Public Participation
  - ☒ Beach and Coastal Dune Protection
  - ☒ Marine and Coastal Resources
- ☒ The proposed development conforms to the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS, regarding Environmental Impact Statements.



### Findings

1. As discussed above, the conducted activities will not have any significant adverse environmental or ecological effect, except as such adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and clearly outweighed by public health, safety, or compelling public interest.
2. The proposed development is consistent with the objectives, policies, and SMA guidelines of Chapter 205A, HRS.
3. The estimated project cost of \$5,000.00 is not in excess of \$500,000.

### Approved Uses, Activities and Operations

Pursuant to Planning Commission Rule Section 9-10(e), **Special Management Area Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000058** is hereby approved for the proposed vegetation clearing and fence construction, subject to the applicants' compliance with the conditions of approval as specified below.

### Conditions of Approval

The Planning Director has approved **SMA Minor Permit No. PL-SMM-2024-000058**, subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant(s), its successor(s), or assign(s) (Applicant) shall be responsible for complying with all stated conditions of approval.
2. The applicant shall secure all necessary approvals and permits from other affected federal, state, and county agencies as necessary to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
3. All earthwork and grading activity shall conform to Chapter 10, Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Hawai'i County Code.
4. All construction and maintenance activities on the subject parcel shall comply with Chapter 27, Floodplain Management, of the Hawai'i County Code.
5. In the event that surface or subsurface historic resources, including human skeletal remains, structural remains (e.g., rock walls, terraces, platforms, etc.), cultural deposits, marine shell concentrations, sand deposits, or sink holes are identified during the demolition and/or construction work, the Applicant shall cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find, protect the find from additional disturbance and contact the State Historic Preservation Division at (808) 933-7651. Subsequent work shall proceed upon

an archaeological clearance from DLNR-SHPD when it finds that sufficient mitigation measures have been taken.

6. Any further development, including but not limited to, the construction of structures or improvements not included in this determination shall require further review and approval as provided under Chapter 205A, HRS, and Rule 9, Planning Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.
7. That in issuing this permit, the Department has relied on the information and data that the applicant has provided in connection with this permit. If, subsequent to issuance of this permit, such information and data prove to be false, incomplete or inaccurate, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, and/or the Department may, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings.
8. The Planning Director shall initiate procedures to revoke this permit should any of the conditions not be met or substantially complied with in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alex Roy at (808) 961-8140 or via email at [alex.roy@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:alex.roy@hawaiicounty.gov)

APPROVED:

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
Jeffrey W. Darrow (Jan 30, 2024 15:23 HST)

*for*

ZENDO KERN  
Planning Director

January 30, 2024

Date

AJR: mads

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