Hawaiian Hoary Bat

Thermal IR and Acoustic Monitoring Project for Removal of Trees on grounds of Solomon Elementary School, Schofield Barracks on 20 July 2017

Survey Goals

Establish whether or not Hawaiian Hoary bats (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) are roosting with pups in five Monkey Pod trees (*Albizia saman*) on the grounds of Solomon Elementary School, Schofield Baraacks (Figure 1). The trees need to be removed for construction project. If bats present, discuss with regulatory agency possible mitigation measures to continue project or postpone removal of trees until pupping season is completed.

Survey

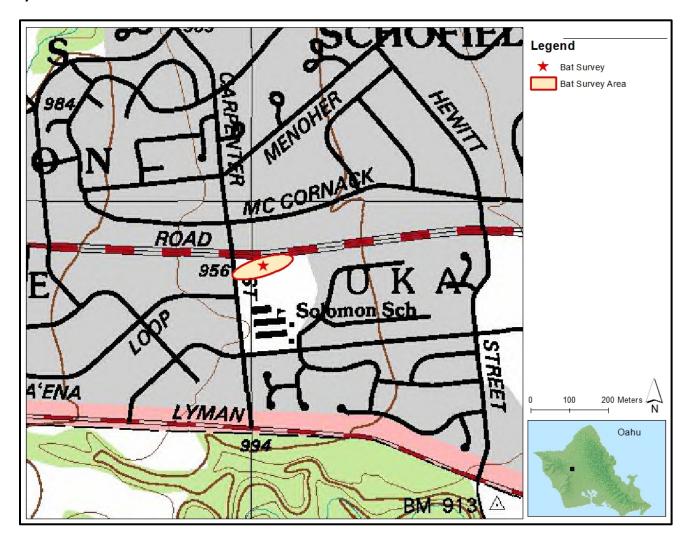


Figure 1. Map of project site at Solomon Elementary School



Figure 2. Image of project site at Solomon Elementary School

Methods

Visual and acoustic surveys for bats were conducted on 20 July 2017, the day of the scheduled tree trimming. A Fluke Ti400 thermal imager was employed to scan the trees for any roosting bats to confirm no presence. OANRP also employed the hand held Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch attached to an IPad as a way to scan the area for any possible bats returning to a roost within close proximity. This tool has the ability to listen to bats in real time, GPS tracks and tags all recordings with location information and has full color spectrograms. Scanning commenced from 04:40-06:30 from the ground from different angles and locations.

Results and Discussion

The visual, thermal IR, and acoustic surveys detected no bats at all. Multiple species of birds were observed with the thermal IR, with visual confirmation, in and around the area. It was determined that there would be No Effect to bats if the trees were removed and the corridor cleared.

Recommendations

Work with DPW to better monitor the contractors work so that trees that need trimming are not missed prior to the pupping season.