



## Department of Parks and Recreation

County of Hawaii • 25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • (808) 961-8311

Lorraine R. Inouye  
Mayor

Charmaine L. Kamaka  
Director

Alan R. Parker  
Deputy Director

August 28, 1992

RECEIVED

'92 AUG 31 A9:14

Mr. Brian J.J. Choy, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
220 South King Street, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL

Subject: GTE Hawaiian Telephone Van at Kamehameha Park,  
North Kohala, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Choy:

We have not received any written comments on the draft environmental assessment for the subject project as of August 22, 1992, the end of the 30-day comment period.

In accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Chapter 200, Title 11, Administrative Rules of the State Department of Health, we have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the subject action. Four (4) copies of the environmental assessment for the proposed action are enclosed.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Glenn Miyao or my staff at 961-8311.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Kamaka  
Director

encl.

cc GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company

1992-09-08-A1-~~FEA~~ - Kohala GTE Hawaiian Tel Co.  
Telephone Van

SEP 8 1992

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

GTE HAWAIIAN TELEPHONE COMPANY  
TELEPHONE VAN AT KAMEHAMEHA PARK

North Kohala, Hawaii

Prepared for

Land and Buildings  
GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company  
P.O. Box 2200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96841

By

Gerald Park Urban Planner

August, 1992

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**PROJECT:** GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company  
Telephone Van at Kamehameha Park

**APPLICANT:** GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company

**LOCATION:** Kamehameha Park  
Kapaa, North Kohala, Hawaii

**TAX MAP KEY:** 5-4-05: por. 16

**LAND AREA:** 1,500 Square Feet

**LANDOWNER:** State of Hawaii

**EXISTING LAND USE:** Park

**STATE LAND USE  
DESIGNATION:** Urban

**KOHALA COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN:** Low Density  
Urban Development

**ZONING:** RS-15

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ernest Umemoto  
Ernest M. Umemoto AIA  
Phone: 395-3744

**CONSULTANT:** Gerald Park  
Gerald Park Urban Planner  
Phone: 533-0018

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## SECTION 1

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company, Inc., proposes to locate a telephone van at Kamehameha Park, Kapaau, North Kohala, County, Island, and State of Hawaii. The park is identified by TMK 5-4-5: 16 encompassing an area of 7.09 acres. The land is owned by the State of Hawaii but under the jurisdiction of the County of Hawaii. A location map is shown in Figure 1.

#### A. Purpose

The proposed action is part of a larger action for improving telephone service in North Kohala. The telephone company plans to expand the size of its North Kohala central office and equip it with modern telecommunications equipment (electronic switches for example). The central office must be shut down during the construction and refurbishing period. To maintain uninterrupted service for its subscribers, all telephone trunk lines will be routed into the telephone van. Communications equipment inside the van performs the same functions as a central office and subscribers will not experience disruptions in telephone service.

#### B. Technical Characteristics

The telephone van will be temporarily located in a 1,500 square foot enclosure (25' X 60') abutting the tennis courts. The van, which measures 35' X 10' X 11', will be trucked to the site and bolted onto six (6) circular concrete piers. The 30" diameter piers will be set a minimum of 3'0" into the ground. Except for excavating footing holes, existing grade beneath the trailer will not be disturbed. When posted, the height of the van should not exceed 13 feet above grade.

A 10' X 7' X 6" (70 square feet) concrete slab will be poured adjacent to the temporary van. A 50 KW generator will be bolted onto the slab and used to energize the van during power outages. The generator will not be covered or enclosed. A 100 gallon fuel (diesel) tank is attached to the generator. The generator pad requires minor excavation and backfilling.

A dry air compressor concrete pad approximately 2'6" X 2'6" X 6" (6.25 square feet) also will be poured next to the van on the side away from the tennis courts.

A 6'0" high chain link fence will be erected around the van and slab. The enclosure will be accessed via a 10-foot wide double swing gate fronting an existing service road to the east. The facilities gate and van will be locked except during routine maintenance and testing. A site plan is shown in Figure 2.

A communications technician will visit the van daily for several hours to inspect and maintain the equipment, otherwise the van will not be manned. The generator will be tested once a week. The test requires starting the generator and running it for one-hour.

Electrical power will be brought to the van from an existing overhead line on a power pole along the service road. The van will be air conditioned to maintain a constant operating environment inside the van. The air conditioning units will be mounted on the van. The air

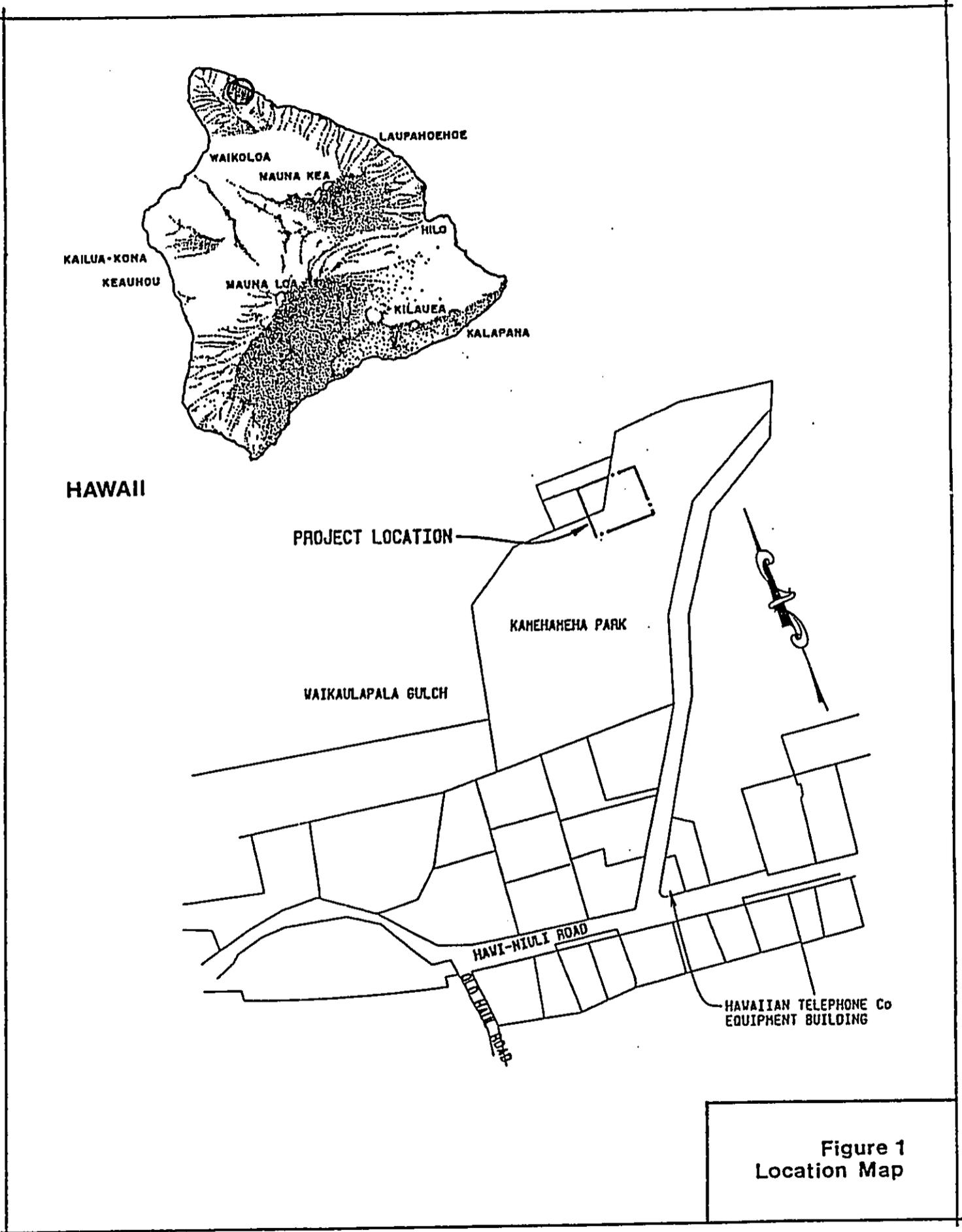
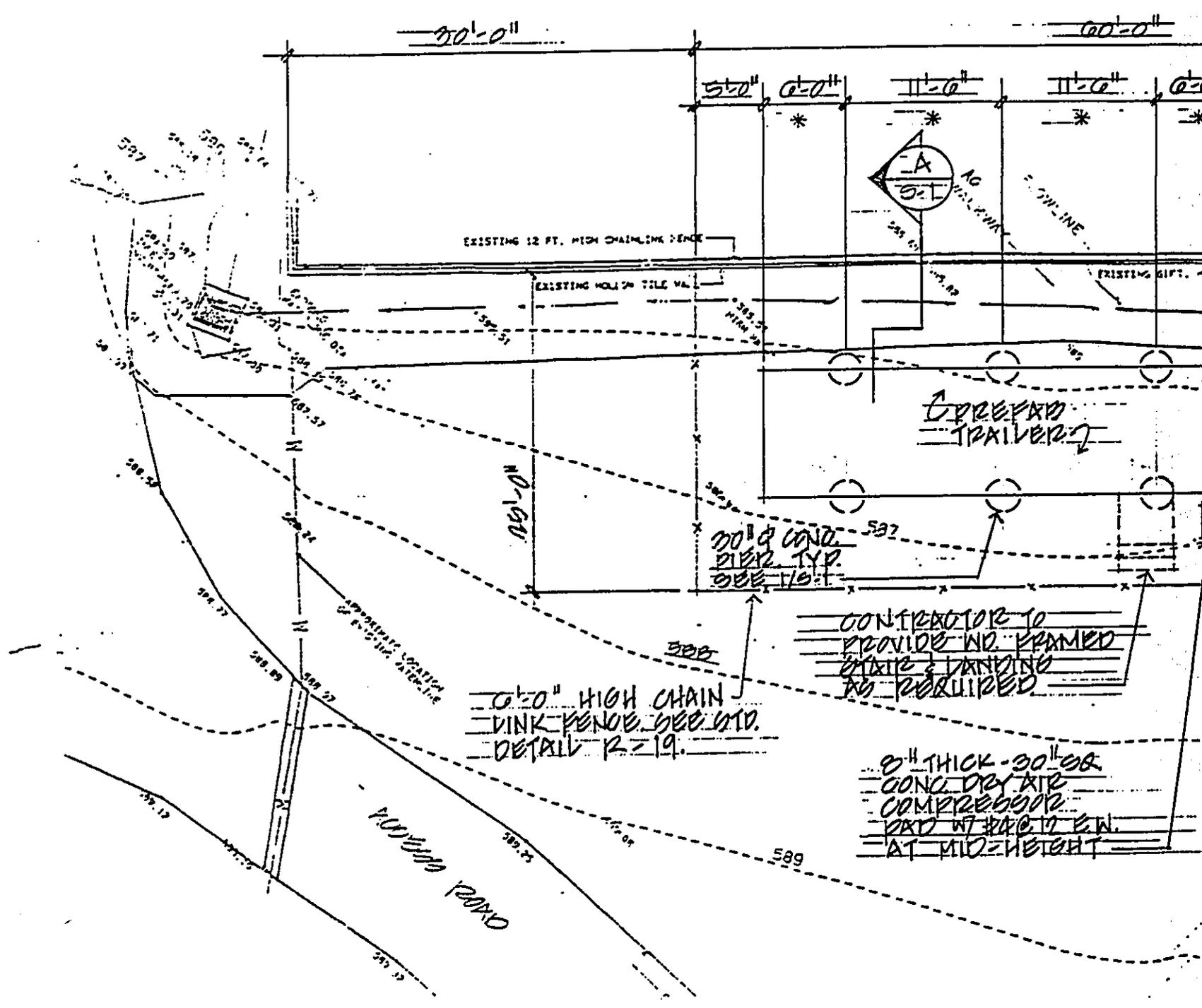


Figure 1  
Location Map



30'-0"

60'-0"

5'-0"

11'-0"

11'-0"

6'-0"

EXISTING 12 FT. HIGH CHAINLINK FENCE

EXISTING HOLD IN TILE VAL



NO. 12-1/2" DIA.

2" DIA. LINE

EXISTING GIP.

GREENHORN TRAILER

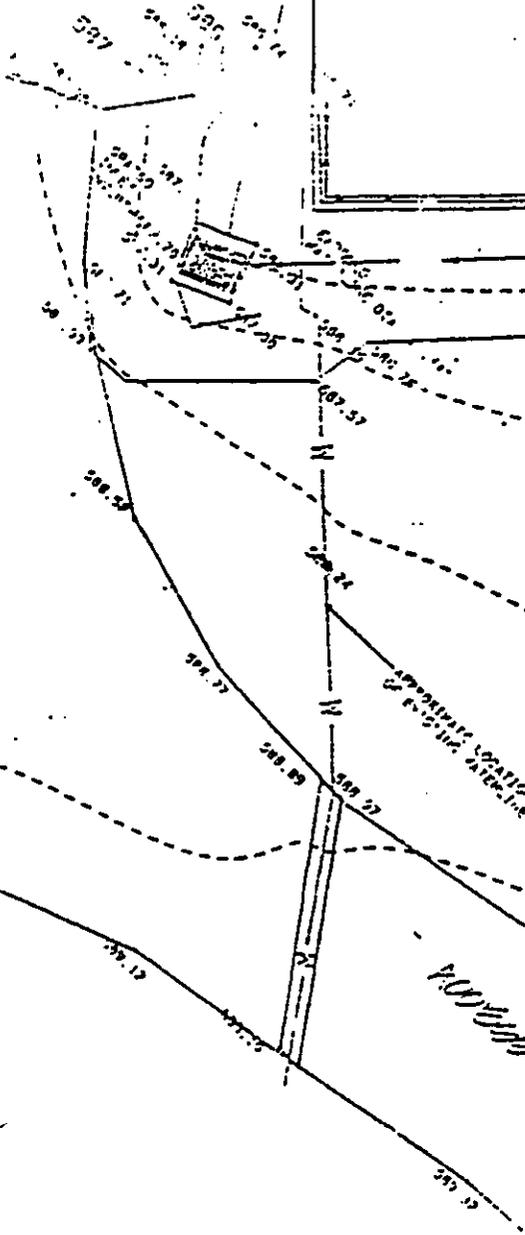
30" Ø CONC. PIER TYP. SEE DET.

CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE NO. FRAMED BRACE & LANDING AS REQUIRED

6'-0" HIGH CHAINLINK FENCE SEE STD. DETAIL R-19.

8" THICK - 30" Ø CONC. DRY AIR COMPRESSOR PAD W/ RIGID F.W. AT MID-HEIGHT

POWERS ROAD



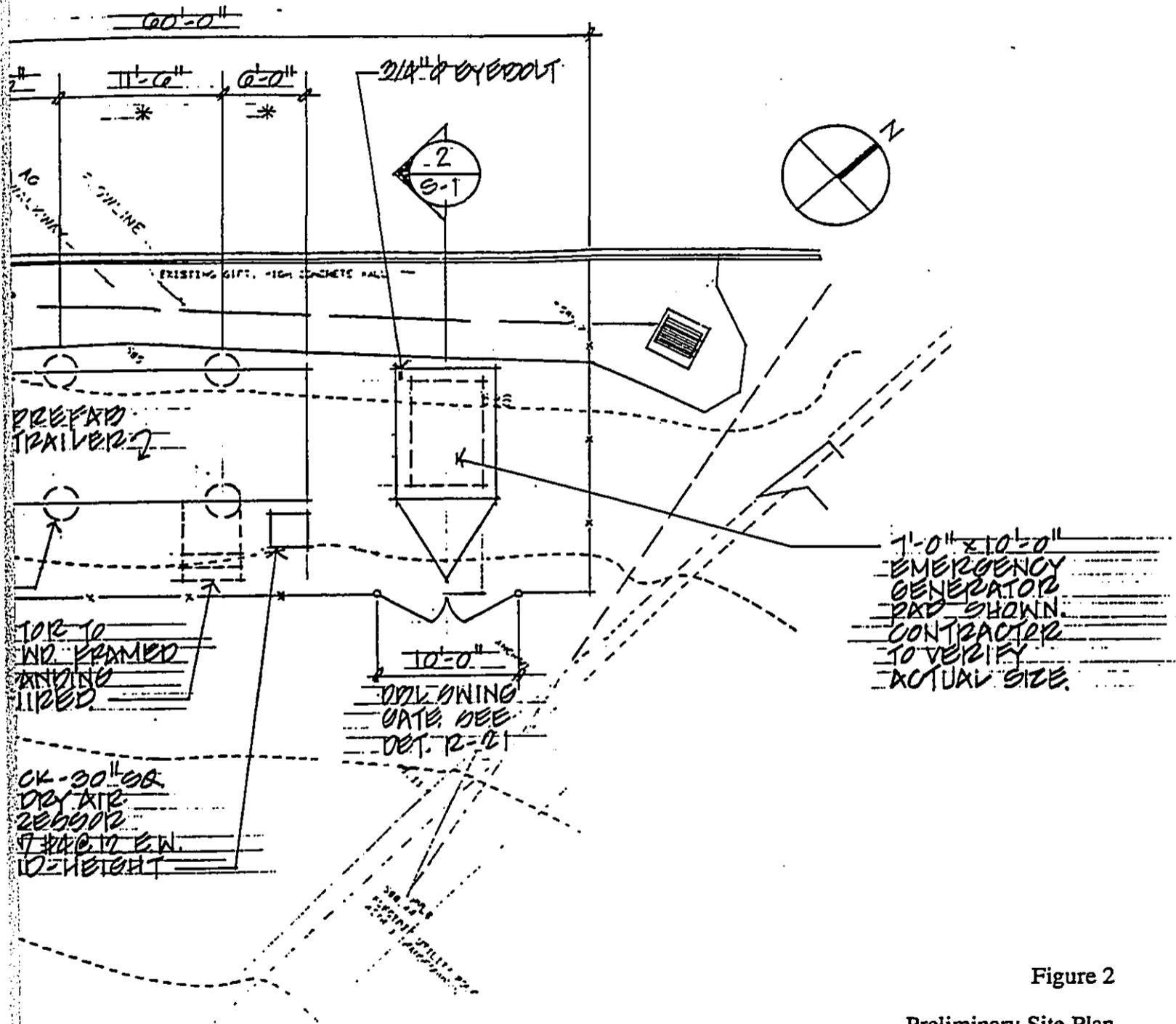


Figure 2

Preliminary Site Plan

Scale: 1" = 10'0"

compressor mounted outside the van will blow air into the telephone cables. The air conditioners and air compressor will operate 24 hours a day.

Telephone cables from the existing central office will be extended on overhead lines to a new pole and then placed underground to the van. Four 6" conduits will be placed from the pole to the van.

A #2 wire tin plated ground ring will be placed around the van. Each corner will have a 5/8" X 8'0" ground rod.

Hawaiian Telephone will hire a private contractor to maintain the grassy area within the enclosure. Upon completion of the new North Kohala central office, the temporary trailer, generator, and all improvements will be removed. The site will then be restored to pre-construction or better condition.

#### **B. Economic Characteristics**

The cost of the project is estimated at \$ 20,000.00 (\$1992) and will be funded by applicant. The cost excludes the cost of the telephone van and emergency generator. Site preparation will commence after all necessary approvals are received and should be completed within 30 days.

The trailer will be positioned on State land under the jurisdiction of the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation. Applicant has requested and the Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the temporary use of the site subject to several conditions (See Appendix A).

The Department is aware that temporary use is estimated at two (2) years.

#### **C. Social Characteristics**

The project is proposed on a vacant, unused portion of Kamehameha Park. No resident, business, or park use will be displaced by the action.

## SECTION 2

### DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Located within Kamehameha Park, the triangular shaped site is bordered by a paved 10 stall parking lot to the east, two tennis courts to the north, and a 12-foot wide service road on the south. A 10-foot wide by 105 foot long asphalt concrete swale separates the planned enclosure from the tennis courts. Drain inlets are placed on both ends of the swale.

The site falls from the service road (south) to the swale (north) from a high of elevation 589 feet to a low of 586 feet or a slope of about 8 percent. The gradient is man-made rather than natural.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (Panel 0100C) place most of Kamehameha Park including the project site in Flood Zone X which is defined as "areas determined to be outside the 500 year flood plain" (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1988).

There are no historic or cultural features on the premise.

Planted only with grass, the site is well maintained and probably used for sitting, lounging, and watching recreational activities.

The site is part of a larger area classified Urban by the State Land Use Commission. The property is designated for Low Density Urban Development on the County of Hawaii General Plan and the North Kohala Community Development Plan (PBR Hawaii, 1984) and zoned Residential (RS-15).

Kamehameha Park is the primary community recreation facility in North Kohala. Permanent recreation facilities at the 18 acre multi-use County park include a gymnasium, swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, and lighted sport field (for baseball and football).

At the time of our field investigation (May 19, 1992 about 12:30 pm) the park was virtually empty probably due to the time of day and it being mid week. We observed swimmers frolicking in the swimming pool and several people picnicking in the shade cast by several well canopied trees. The tennis courts were not in use. Ambient noise levels were very low and predominantly sounds of nature—the wind, rustling leaves, and birds—and occasional traffic noise from a passing vehicle. Background noise levels are estimated at 35-40 dB(A).

The park is accessed from Hawi-Niuli Road by a two-lane road. The road consists of a 12-18 foot wide paved travelway within a 48 foot wide right-of-way. The road passes the existing GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company central office and several residences before gaining the park.

### SECTION 3

#### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS

##### A. Assessment Process

The scope of the project was discussed with staff of GTE Hawaiian Telephone and the consultant team. Government agencies were contacted for information relative to their areas of expertise. Time was spent in the field noting site conditions and conditions in the vicinity of Kamehameha Park. The discussions and field investigation allowed us to identify existing conditions and features which could be affected by the project and upon which impact assessment would be made. These conditions are:

The site is devoid of archaeological features on the ground surface;

There are no threatened or endangered flora and fauna on the premises;

The site does not lie within an identified flood hazard area;

The proposed use is permitted by existing zoning;

The van will be placed in a location that has been previously improved;

Minimal excavation and grading work is required to prepare the site. Circular holes no more than 36" in diameter will be drilled to set the concrete piers and a deeper hole for the utility pole. Two small concrete slabs will be poured for the generator and air compressor. A shallow trench will be excavated for the four telephone conduits and backfilled with soil to grade. Existing grade beneath the van will be maintained and the concrete piers and slabs should not interrupt drainage flow over the site.

Fugitive dust will be raised during construction but can be controlled by frequent and thorough water sprinkling as may be necessary. The contractor will be responsible for general housekeeping of the site and keeping adjacent areas free of mud and debris.

Construction noise, like fugitive dust cannot be avoided. The minimal amount of sitework required suggests that most construction activities can be performed quickly by mechanical and hand operated power equipment. For example, a drilling rig can drill the six concrete pier holes in about half a day and the two concrete slabs can be poured in about one hour. This suggests that noise generating equipment will be on-site for a very short time and cause minimal disturbance to park users. This phase of work can be scheduled at a time of day when park use is minimal.

The nearest noise sensitive area is a residential area about 300+ feet from the van site (beyond the perimeter of the baseball field). Construction work will generate sporadic noise but not at a frequency and duration to adversely affect residents. The distance between noise source and residences should help to attenuate construction noise.

Should subsurface archaeological features be unearthed, work in the immediate area will cease and historic authorities notified for proper disposition of the finds.

Electrical power is available and will be brought to the van via overhead service. The generator will provide standby or emergency power when power outages occur.

Condensation from the air conditioning units will drip onto the grass.

No wastewater will be generated by the facility; solid waste (primarily paper) will be collected and disposed of by the communications technician.

Significant long-term noise impacts are not anticipated. The telephone van is not a noise generator but several pieces of equipment are. The equipment and estimated noise levels are: air conditioning units, 62 dB(A) at 20 feet; air compressor, 70 dB(A) at 3 feet; and emergency generator, 85 dB(A) at 23 feet. The air conditioning units and air compressor emit sounds which will be audible to tennis players and ball players but should not impair play.

The emergency generator becomes an intermittent noise source when it is being tested and a constant source when used during power outages. The generator will be tested once a week and allowed to run for one hour. Testing will occur on a weekday about mid-day when the park generally is empty and relatively quiet. Applicant does not plan to test the generator during peak park use hours when more people would be disturbed. Ironically, because of low background ambient noise levels in the project area during the planned test time, man-made sounds would tend to be audible at great distances from the source. This suggests that during the test period, generator noises may be heard throughout the park and probably beyond the park boundaries. Noise will be most pronounced near the source and attenuate as distance from the source increases. The generator will not be tested when the tennis courts are being played on. Generator noise cannot be avoided and if it cannot be mitigated satisfactorily then the County has the authority to terminate the use.

The two tennis courts are enclosed on all sides. Facing the van site, one court is enclosed by a 6' high concrete wall topped by a 6' high chain link fence and the other court by a 12' high chain link fence. The concrete wall is painted green on the court side and the chain link fence is covered by a black (or green-black) tennis curtain. The 12' high chain link fence is not covered. The telephone van will be visible through the tennis curtain and fencing and stand about +1 foot above the top of the fence. The van will not directly interfere with the use of or play on the tennis courts. Indirectly, however, players facing the van may have a difficult time picking up a returning or served ball because of the multi-colored background behind the southwest court. This problem may already exist because of the multi-colored baseball grandstand and field beyond the uncovered chain link fence. If the van interferes with tennis play, and if it cannot be mitigated satisfactorily, then the County has the authority to terminate the use.

## SECTION 4

### ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A No Action alternative precludes all impacts both short and long-term, beneficial and adverse described in this Assessment. A no action alternative would maintain the status quo of the project site and telephone service in the North Kohala communities. Applicant would be delayed in implementing their improvement program and will incur additional expenses to locate and improve a site to accommodate the telephone van.

A vacant lot near the existing central office was considered for siting the van. However, upon close inspection the site was judged to be sloping gully land. The gully functioned as a natural collection basin for passing runoff beneath Hawi-Niuli Road. In addition, the site was not available within and for the time frame sought by applicant.

**SECTION 5**

**AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED  
IN PREPARING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Federal**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**State**

Department of Land and Natural Resources

**County**

Department of Public Works  
Planning Department  
Department of Parks and Recreation

**Other**

Hawaii Electric Light Company

## SECTION 6

### RELATIONSHIP TO SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Chapter 200 (Environmental Impact Statement Rules) of Title 11, Administrative Rules of the State Department of Health, contains criteria for determining whether an action may have significant effects on the environment (Section 11-200-12). The relationship of the proposed project to these criteria is discussed below.

- (1) Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources;

The project site is devoid of natural and cultural features.

- (2) Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment;

The project site is vacant and generally unused for recreation activities.

- (3) Conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions or executive orders;

The proposed action is a temporary use of government lands and will not conflict with the state's long-term environmental goals and policies.

- (4) Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or State;

The project will not adversely affect the economic or social welfare of the community in the short-term. In the long-term, these factors should be improved by an upgraded communications systems.

- (5) Substantially affects public health;

Public health will not be adversely affected by the proposed use.

- (6) Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities;

The project will not affect population or place significant demands on public facilities. No wastewater will be generated by the project and minimal quantities of solid waste (primarily paper) will be generated daily.

- (7) Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality;

The project site will be slightly modified to site the telephone van, to construct concrete pads for siting the emergency generator and air compressor, and to erect a chain link fence around the 1,500 square foot enclosure. Aside from the aforementioned improvements, no topographical changes to the site are proposed. Upon completion of improvements to the

existing central office, the van and improvements will be removed and the site restored to pre-construction or better condition.

- (8) Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger action;

The project is part of a larger action to improve telephone service in North Kohala. The telephone van will function as a temporary central office while the existing central office is expanded and equipped with modern telecommunications equipment. Improvements to the existing central office are estimated to be completed in two years.

- (9) Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species, or its habitat;

There are no rare, threatened, or endangered flora or fauna on the premises.

- (10) Detrimentially affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels;

The proposed project will not detrimentally affect ambient noise levels in the short-term. A 30 day construction schedule is anticipated with noise generating construction equipment (primarily a drilling rig and a concrete mixer) on-site for less than two days. In the long-term, the air conditioning units and air compressor should not adversely affect recreation use of the tennis courts and baseball field. The emergency generator will be tested once a week and allowed to run for one hour. Noise from the generator will be audible throughout the park but should not adversely affect the nearest noise sensitive area which is about 300 feet away. In the event the telephone van and ancillary facilities results in impacts that cannot be avoided and if it cannot satisfactorily be mitigated, then the County has the authority to terminate the use.

- (11) Affects an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion - prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters.

Not Applicable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Federal Emergency Management Agency. 1988. Flood Insurance Rate Map County of Hawaii Community Panel 155166 0100C.

Personal Communication. 1992. Planning Department County of Hawaii.

Phillips, Brandt, Reddick & Associates (Hawaii) Inc. 1984. North Kohala Community Development Plan. Prepared for County of Hawaii.

**APPENDIX A**



## Department of Parks and Recreation

County of Hawaii • 25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • (808) 961-8311

Lorraine R. Inouye  
Mayor  
Charmaine L. Kamaka  
Director  
Alan R. Parker  
Deputy Director

April 13, 1992

Mr. Ricky Taniguchi  
Real Property Administrator  
GTE Hawaiian Telephone Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 2200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96841

Subject: Temporary Storage of Equipment at Kamehameha Park, No. Kohala, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Taniguchi:

Approval is granted to store equipment at the revised site indicated in your letter dated April 7, 1992. This approval is subject to the following:

1. The use shall be limited to the area abutting the tennis courts, as indicated in your letter dated April 7, 1992.
2. The County of Hawaii shall not be responsible for any damages, theft, etc., to the stored equipment.
3. The use shall be terminated if adverse impacts are encountered and left uncorrected within a reasonable time.
4. The area shall be restored to its original condition upon termination of the use of the area, said period being May 1992-May 1994 with a six month extension option.

Should you agree to the conditions listed above, please sign below and return the original to this office. A copy is enclosed for your files.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Kamaka  
Director

This is to certify that GTE  
Hawaiian Telephone Co., Inc.  
agrees to the conditions  
listed above.

By J. Wong Vice President-External Affairs

April 24, 1992  
Date