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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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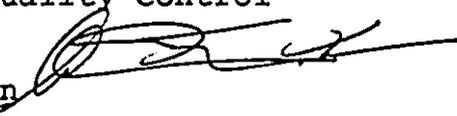
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OFFICE OF
QUALITY CONTROL

May 5, 1994

HAR-ED 2328.94

To: Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Interim Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control

From: ✓ Rex D. Johnson
Director of Transportation 

Subject: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR HILO HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS
YARD EXPANSION, HILO, HAWAII
JOB H. C. 5267

In accordance with Act 241, SLH 1992, we have completed the formal Draft Environmental Assessment for 30 day public review and comment. We have not received any comments during the review period, therefore, we are filing a Negative Declaration.

Enclosed are the original, four (4) copies of the Negative Declaration and a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form.

Should you have any question, please contact Carter Luke of our Harbors Division at 587-1956.

Enc.

1994-05-23-HI-NEA-Hilo Harbor
Yard Expansion

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
HILO HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS
YARD EXPANSION
HILO, HAWAII
JOB H.C. 5267
April 18, 1994

A. APPLICANT

Department of Transportation, Harbors Division

B. APPROVING AGENCY

Department of Transportation, Harbors Division

C. PREPARED BY

Wesley R. Segawa & Associates, Inc.
101 Silva St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

D. AGENCIES CONSULTED

1. Agencies that were consulted with include the following:

Division of Historic Preservation - DLNR
Division of Forestry and Wildlife - DLNR
Matson Navigation Company
HT&T Company, Inc.
Texaco Refining & Marketing, Inc.
The Gas Company Hawaii Division
Hawaii Electric Light Company

2. Agencies that will be consulted with as part of the permit process include the following:

Department of Public Works - County of Hawaii
Planning Department - County of Hawaii
Fire Department - County of Hawaii
Department of Water Supply - County of Hawaii
Department of Health - State of Hawaii

3. Agency consulted by way of a copy of this Negative Declaration include the following:

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii

Although other agencies and business groups were not consulted at the time of preparation of this declaration, they have participated in the preparation of the 2010 MASTER PLAN FOR HILO HARBOR. Our assessment of the proposed action has confirmed that this project will not have a significant impact.

E. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S CHARACTERISTICS

1. Technical (See attached map)

The proposed project consists of clearing, grubbing, grading, laying treated base course, asphaltic concrete pavement, fencing and installing security lights on an area of approximately 2.8 acres on the east side of Pier 1.

2. Economic - Social

Hilo Harbor is primarily a cargo handling facility for the East side of the Island and will continue to play an important role in the growth and economic development of the Big Island. Therefore sufficient storage space is vital for efficient and safe operation at this Harbor for servicing the needs of a growing resident and visitor population. The existing container yard and storage areas at Pier 1 are being utilized to over 100% capacity. The volume at Hilo Harbor is steadily increasing and this project will provide needed container and cargo storage space.

The project is deemed consistent with the 2010 MASTER PLAN FOR HILO HARBOR.

3. Environmental

The proposed project will be constructed on a vacant property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation, Harbors Division. Adjacent to this property located on the south boundary is the Gas Company yard and office and at the southeast boundary is the Texaco Refining & Marketing, Inc. facilities. Adjacent to the north side is an existing paved container yard. The Flood Insurance Rate map published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the National Flood Insurance Program, indicates the site to be flood prone and possibly subject to tsunami inundation and hurricane wave wash.

The vegetation on site consists of kamani and iron wood trees, shrubs and weeds. No threatened or endangered species of fauna and floral are known to inhabit the site.

F. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The adverse environment effects described in paragraphs H and I are expected to be brief and associated only with construction of the project. As determined by the Division of Historic and Preservation the area to be improved does not contain any historical or archaeological sites. Also as confirmed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife the species of fauna or floral on site are not classified as endangered.

Since the project is approximately 300 feet inland of Hilo Bay, no pollution of the marine environment is foreseen.

The visible soil condition at the site consist of rock and loose gravel and pahoehoe lava in certain areas. The site is not experiencing any erosion hazard at the present time since the topography is considered level with pockets in certain areas and covered with shrubs. The site after improved will be provided with proper drainage system to minimize any flooding and erosion problems.

G. DISCUSSION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Evaluation of the effects of the proposed project on the environment indicates that there will be no significant adverse effects on the environment. The proposed project will not:

1. Involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources, except for the labor and materials related to the construction of this project;
2. Curtail the beneficial uses of the environment;
3. Conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies, goals or guidelines;
4. Substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or state;

5. Involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities;
6. Degrade the environmental quality;
7. Affect any rare, threatened, or endangered species of animals, plants and habitats. No endangered species are known to exist in the project site; and,
8. Cause the displacement of any persons.

Rather, the implementation of this project will have a beneficial effect on the general public and its environment by providing an adequate and efficient storage yard for more efficient port and harbor operations.

For the reasons above, the proposed project will not have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

H. IMPACTS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

During the construction period, there will be a temporary increase in noise, dust and emission from the internal combustion engines associated with construction. However, these impacts will be minimal and intermittent in nature.

All the planned improvements are vital for safe and efficient operations of the harbor.

The alternative of "NO PROJECT" would perpetuate the insufficient operating area of the present storage yard and will be contrary to the 2010 MASTER PLAN FOR HILO HARBOR.

I. MITIGATION MEASURES

Provisions will be made in the project specifications to control and minimize the temporary adverse effects of the construction operations i.e. temporary erosion control and drainage run-off. Vegetation and trees along the shoreline will be retained to provide a visual buffer.

J. DETERMINATION

Since no major adverse impacts are anticipated, costly detailed studies were considered inappropriate. Consequently, a determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required.

K. REASONS.

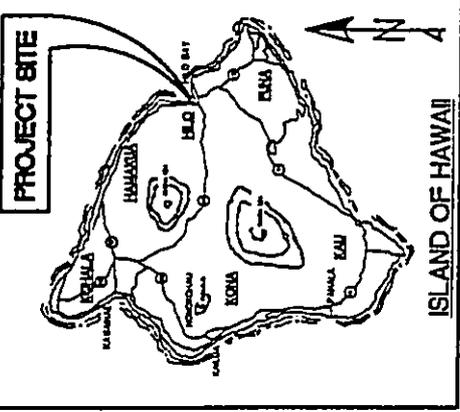
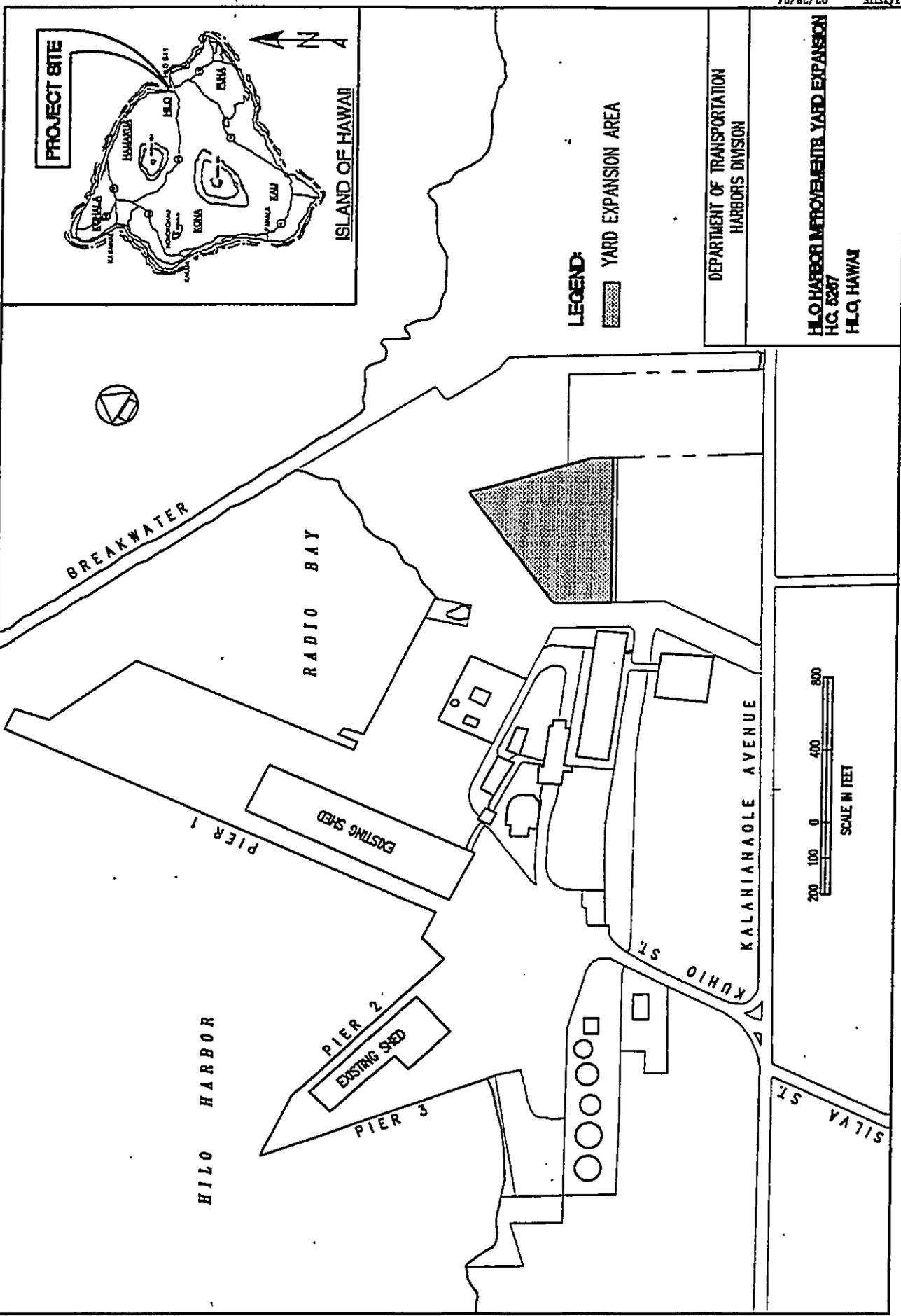
Reasons supporting the "no EIS" determination are outlined in Section G and H of this Negative Declaration. Any adverse environmental impact resulting from this project has been determined temporary and insignificant. Past experience has shown that this type of construction within an established commercial harbor facility has no significant effect on the environment, both short or long term.



REX D. JOHNSON
Director of Transportation

5/5/94

Date



LEGEND:
 YARD EXPANSION AREA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 HARBORS DIVISION

HILO HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS YARD EXPANSION
 H.C. 6267
 HILO, HAWAII

