

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Laupahoehoe Fire  
Station

Nelson M. Tsuji  
Fire Chief

Edward Bumatay  
Deputy Fire Chief

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County of Hawaii

FIRE DEPARTMENT '98 JUN -8 P3:35  
777 Kilauea Avenue • Mall Lane • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4239  
(808) 961-8297 • Fax (808) 961-8296 (F.O. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL)

June 4, 1998

Mr. Gary Gill, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
State Office Tower  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 702  
Honolulu, HI 96813-2437

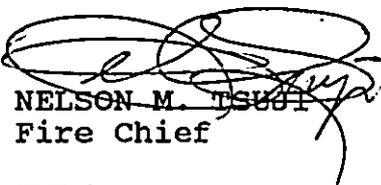
Dear Mr. Gill:

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment & Finding of No  
Significant Impact  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

The Hawaii County Fire Department has reviewed comments received during the 30-day public comment period which began on April 8, 1998. The Department has determined that this project will not have a significant environmental effect and has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Please publish this notice in the June 23, 1998 OEQC Bulletin.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form and four copies of the Final EA. Please contact Battalion Chief Lloyd Narimatsu at (808) 961-8373 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
NELSON M. TSUJI  
Fire Chief

NMT/mo

Enclosures



57

1998-06-23-HI-FEA-Laupahoehoe  
Fire Station

JUN 23 1998

**FILE COPY**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LAUPAHOEHOE FIRE STATION

MANOWAIOPAE HOMESTEADS, NORTH HILO,  
ISLAND OF HAWAII

APPROVING AGENCY: COUNTY OF HAWAII,  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

777 KILAUEA AVENUE  
MALL LANE, ROOM 6  
HILO, HAWAII 96720

JUNE, 1998

PREPARED BY:  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING  
CONSULTANT  
101 AUPUNI ST. SUITE 217,  
HILO, HAWAII 96720

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

The Hawaii County Fire Department has been granted federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to construct a new 24-hour fire station in the community of Laupahoehoe, Hawaii. The project site, containing an area of 66,755 square feet, has been placed under the control and management of the County of Hawaii for public safety, general community services and allied uses by State Executive Order No. 3245. The proposed use of County property triggers the environmental review process specified in Chapter 343, (HRS) and the purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to comply with those requirements.

### 1.2 Identification of Proposing Agency

Nelson M. Tsuji is the Fire Chief of the Hawaii County Fire Department. The mailing address for the Fire Department is 777 Kilauea Avenue, Mall Lane, Room 6, Hilo, Hawaii 96720.

### 1.3 Identification of Approving Agency

In accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, the Mayor, or an authorized representative of the County of Hawaii is the appropriate accepting authority of the Environmental Assessment.

### 1.4 Agency and Public Consultation

The following public and private organizations were consulted during the preparation of this environmental assessment:

United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Division of Ecological Services  
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation  
Division and Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health  
State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation  
State of Hawaii, Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
County of Hawaii, Planning Department  
County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works  
County of Hawaii, Police Department  
County of Hawaii, Department of Water Supply  
North Hilo Community Council, Lucille Chung, President

### 1.5 Technical Description

The Hawaii County Fire Department has received a grant of \$200,000 in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to construct a new 24-hour fire station in the community of Laupahoehoe, Hawaii. The project will be situated on a 66,755 square foot parcel which is

already utilized by the Police and Fire Departments with six existing structures. The property is situated approximately 200 feet southeast of the intersection of the Mamalahoa Highway and the Government Main Road, Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii, Tax Map Key Number: 3-6-09: 31. (See Figure 1 - Vicinity Map and Figure 2 - Tax Plat Map)

Access to the subject property is provided off of the Government Main Road which has a forty (40) foot wide right-of-way and a twenty (20) foot wide pavement. The property is currently utilized as the site of the Laupahoehoe Police Station as well as the Laupahoehoe Fire Station. The Fire Department is currently borrowing an old two story dwelling and a unattached garage from the Police Department to utilize as the Laupahoehoe Fire Station. The Fire Department also utilizes an unattached apparatus building which will also be retained. Upon completion of the new fire station, the two story dwelling and the garage will be returned to the Police Department for their use. The new structure will be situated behind the existing two story dwelling and the existing apparatus building in the southern corner of the property. (See Figure 3 - Site Plan)

The new building will be a single story wood frame structure with a cement slab base having an area of approximately 1,600 square feet (40' x 40'). (See Figure 4 - Elevation Drawing) The new 24 hour manned fire station will have one apparatus bay, a bathroom, office, kitchen and dormitory. There is no fuel/gasoline storage facility involved with the proposed project. The design will allow the station to be utilized as a community emergency center and/or command post during disasters.

The building will be used to secure and house a new fire truck and other fire fighting apparatus. The building will be constructed to proper safety and design standards that will greatly increase the protection for the emergency resources it will house. This 24 hour manned fire station will cover a ten mile service radius providing a response within the national standard of ten minutes from the sounding of the alarm. Construction is scheduled to begin in August, 1998 with a scheduled completion date of December 1998.

#### 1.6 Need for the Project

The Laupahoehoe Fire Station is the only station situated within the North Hilo district which covers an area of 277 square miles and a 1990 population of 1,569 people. The fire station site is situated approximately 25 miles northwest of the Central Fire Station in Hilo and approximately 15 miles southeast of the Honokaa Fire Station. The resources assigned to the Laupahoehoe Fire Station provides primary fire protection, initial emergency medical services, and initial rescue service to the people living within and passing through the North Hilo district. As such, it is essential that the resources assigned to the station are provided adequate protection from the elements including the possibility of natural disasters. The poor condition of the existing structures does not insure protection from natural disasters of even a modest scale. Furthermore, none of the existing structures can accommodate the new fire truck that has been acquired and assigned to this station.

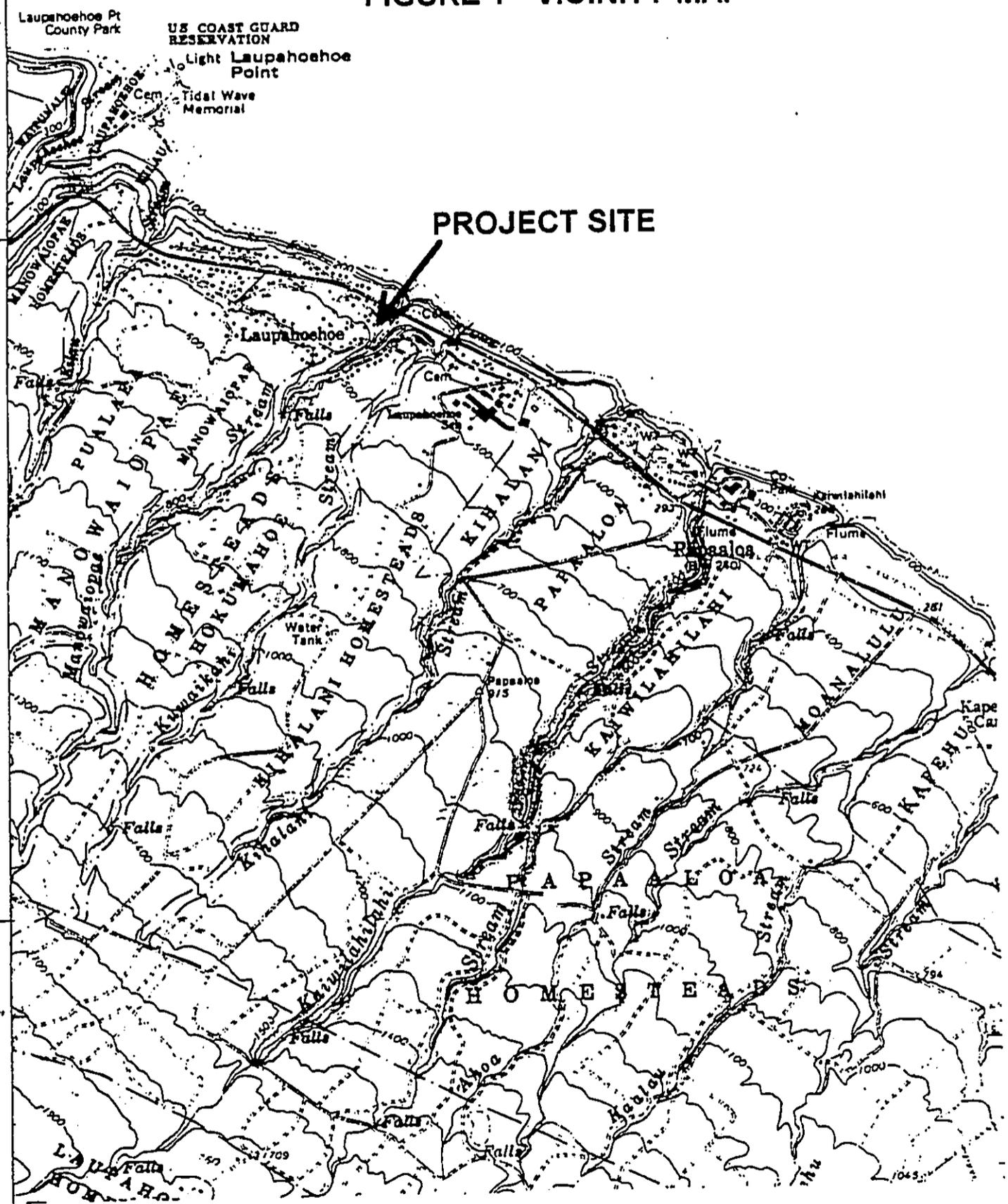
The proposed project will provide positive impacts to the residents by ensuring that these emergency resources will be available to the community when they are most needed. In the event of a natural disaster the community will have a safe emergency center that they can go to as well

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

155°15' 265000m.E  
20°00'  
2213000m.N.

FIGURE 1 - VICINITY MAP



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FIGURE 2 - TAX PLAT MAP

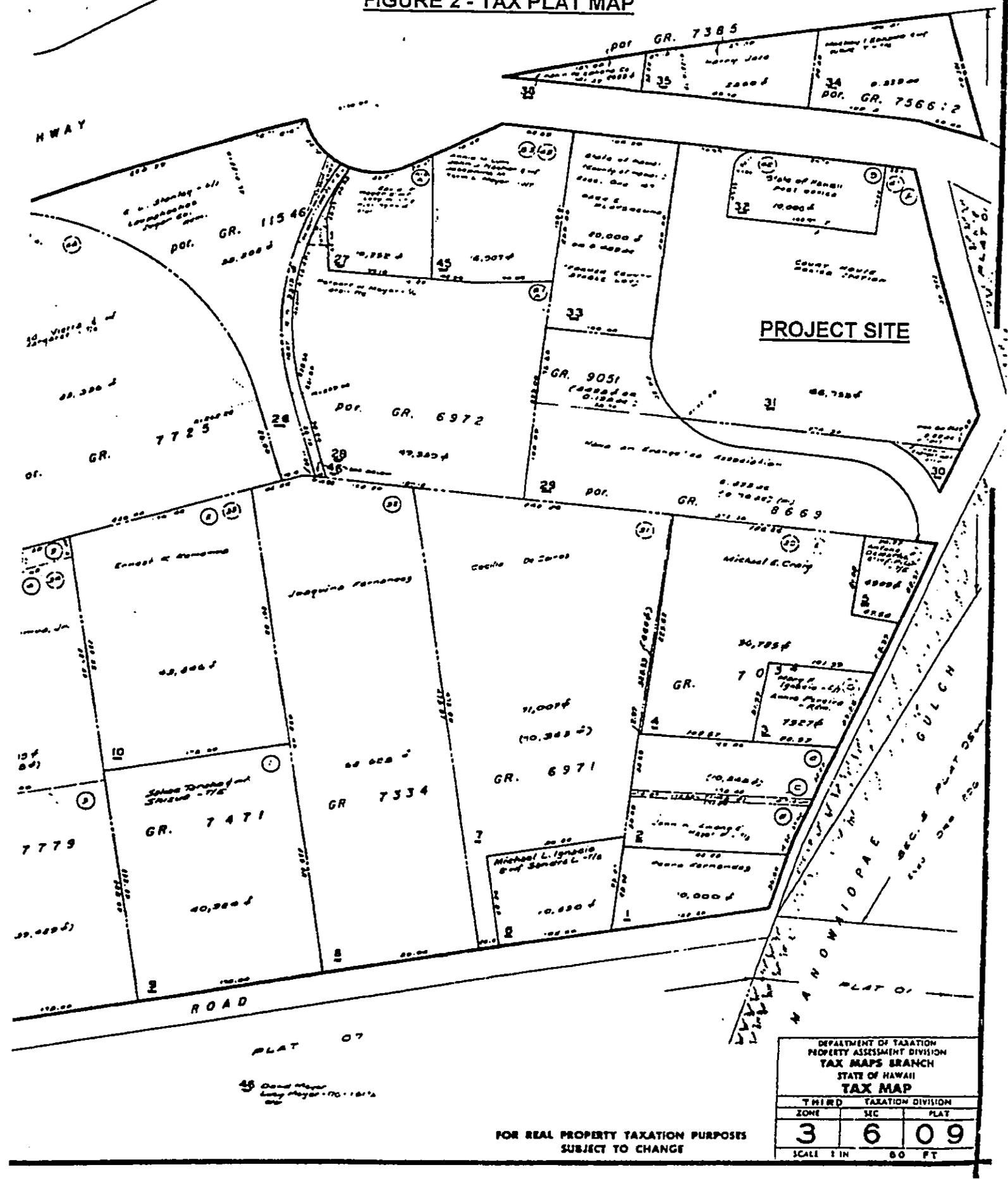
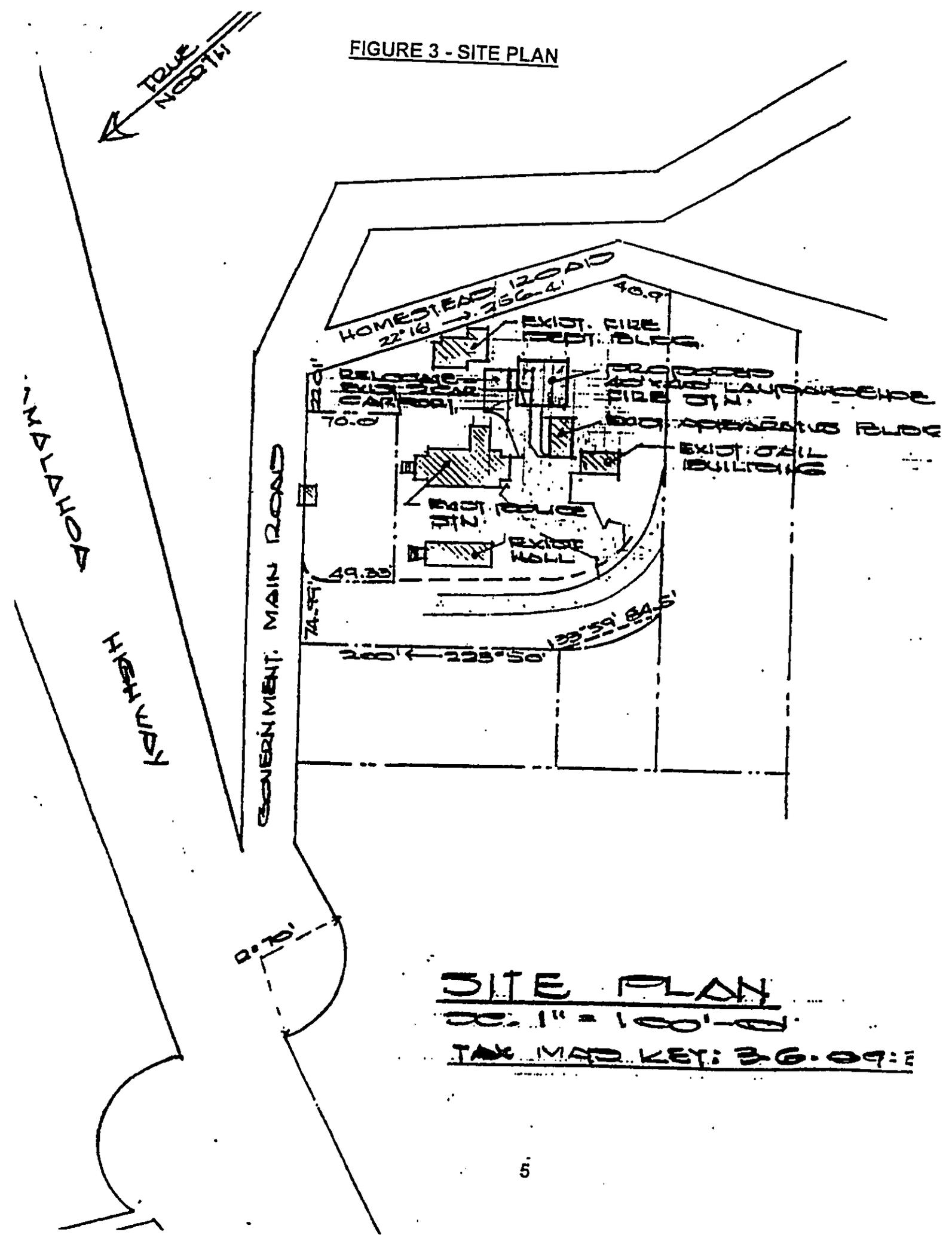
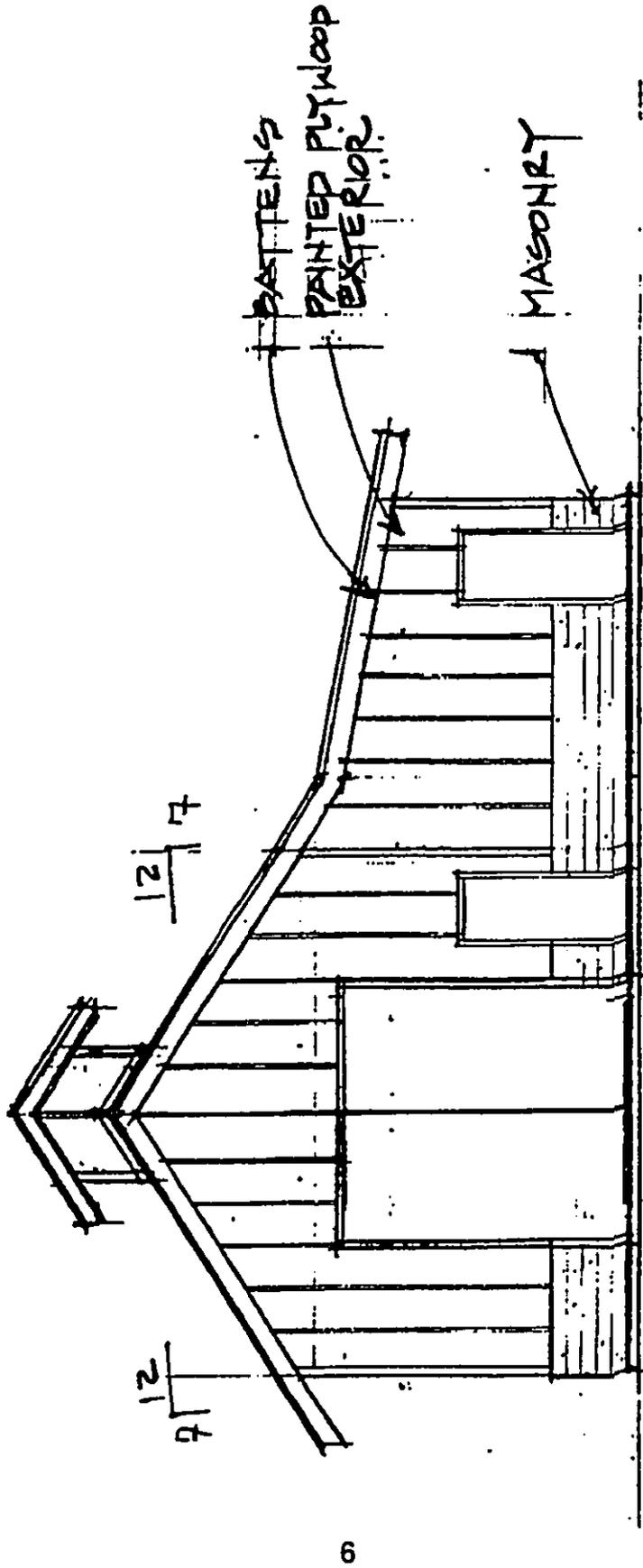


FIGURE 3 - SITE PLAN



SITE PLAN  
1" = 100'-0"  
TAX MAP KEY: 36-09-B

FIGURE 4 - ELEVATION DRAWING



Laupahoehoe Fire Station, Front Elevation

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

as a command post to coordinate emergency operations. Reliance on another response team from the next available fire station would result in a 20 to 30 minute delay in the provision of emergency services. The additional time span would mean total fire loss to structures, much more destruction from wild land fires and greatly reduced survival rates in medical and rescue emergencies.

### **1.7 Land Use Designations**

The subject area, as well as the surrounding properties are designated for Medium Density Urban development on the County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Map. The State Land Use designation of the subject area is Urban and the County Zoning designation is Single Family Residential with a minimum lot size of ten thousand square feet (RS-10). The project is not situated within the Special Management Area (SMA). The proposed construction of a fire station serving the community is consistent with the existing land use designations of the property and the surrounding area.

## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### 2.1 Physical Environment

#### 2.1.1 Geology and Hazards

The project area is located on the lower eastern slopes of Mauna Kea and consists of the Hamakua volcanic series. These lava flows are chiefly basaltic with layers of Pahala ash. (Sterns and Macdonald, 1946). The Pahala ash on Mauna Kea, not covered by subsequent lava flows, represents an accumulation of ash over a long period of time.

The Island of Hawaii is susceptible to four main types of natural hazards including tsunami, volcanism, seismic activity, and hurricanes. The subject area is not within a tsunami inundation area and is in a region where the risk of volcanic eruption is classified by the United States Geological Survey as Lava Flow Hazard Zone 8, on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1. The zone 8 designation includes the lower slopes of Mauna Kea, most of which have not been affected by lava flows for the past 10,000 years. (Heliker, 1990)

With respect to seismic activity, the entire island is in the Zone III category of the Uniform Building Code which requires public and certain types of private buildings to meet structural design standards for earthquake resistance. The Building Code also requires all new construction to withstand high winds.

#### 2.1.2 Soils

Soils of the subject area are classified as part of the Ookala Soil Series which consists of silty clay loams with varying slopes ranging from gentle to steep. These soils consist of well-drained, silty clay loams that formed in volcanic ash. Permeability is moderately rapid, runoff is medium, and the erosion hazard is moderate. (U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, 1973)

Although there are some engineering limitations associated with the Ookala Soil Series, these soils have been utilized for other structures in the immediate vicinity without posing any significant problems.

#### 2.1.3 Climate

The project site is located on the "windward" side of the island of Hawaii, exposed to northeasterly trade winds which causes relatively high rainfall (approximately 150 inches annually). (University of Hawaii, 1973) The resulting landscape characterizing the entire Hilo-Hamakua coast, is lush vegetation interspersed with numerous streams and waterfalls that drain from the slopes of Mauna Kea down to the Pacific Ocean. Average temperature along the lower elevations of the project area ranges between 65 - 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### **2.1.4 Hydrology and Drainage**

The site lies in an area that is generally characterized as having basal groundwater floating on salt water. The aquifer system underlying this section of the North Hilo district is estimated to have a sustainable yield of approximately 150 million gallons per day. (Hawaii Department of Water Supply, 1991)

Soils of the subject area do not present major drainage problems. As required by the Storm Drainage Standards (Hawaii County Department of Public Works 1970), increases in runoff determined to be due to development of a proposed site, including but not limited to buildings, paved roads and parking areas and more intensive use, must be disposed of by on-site drainage facilities. This is usually accomplished by the construction of drywells and other necessary drainage structures. The proposed project will adhere to all State and County drainage regulations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency classifies flood hazard zones on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The FIRM map has designated the project area to be within Flood Zone "X" which includes areas determined to be outside the 500 year flood plain.

#### **2.1.5 Flora and Fauna**

The subject property has been previously cleared and has been utilized in an urban setting for many years. The project area has been maintained as a lawn next to the two story dwelling that is currently utilized by the fire department.

Upon preliminary review of the proposed project the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service stated in part, the following "To the best of our knowledge, there are no wetlands or federally endangered, threatened, or candidate species directly within the project site. The federally endangered Hawaiian hawk (*Buteo solitarius*) is known from the general vicinity and may occur at the project site. However, the Service believes that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the referenced species because of the project's location and previous disturbance."

#### **2.1.6 Air Quality**

The prevailing trade winds generally provide for excellent air movement in the region. This factor, coupled with the relatively low density of development in the area, results in generally excellent air quality.

#### **2.1.7 Water Quality**

The Manowaiopae Stream is situated southeast of the subject property. All project generated runoff will be disposed of on site and will not be directed to the stream. In addition, the individual wastewater system will be located more than 50 feet from the stream to comply with the State Department of Health spacing requirements. As such,

the proposed project is not expected to have any direct impact on Manowaiopae Stream or the coastal marine waters.

#### **2.1.8 Noise**

Ambient noise levels in the project area are relatively low and reflect the rural-agricultural character of the North Hilo district. Temporary noise impacts will occur from the construction of the fire station and are unavoidable. These impacts, however, are similar to those associated with the construction of a single family dwelling.

#### **2.1.9 Scenic Resources**

The open space and scenic vistas of the North Hilo district and the Laupahoehoe area in particular will not be adversely affected by the proposed waterline replacement project.

### **2.2 Social, Cultural and Economic Setting**

#### **2.2.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics**

The North Hilo district has the smallest population on the island with a 1990 population of 1,541 persons. Population in the district has been declining for more than fifty years and that trend is not likely to change in the near future. The district lost its primary employer when the Hamakua Sugar Company ceased operations in 1994. Since that time, no other major employer has emerged to take the place of the sugar company.

The proposed project is situated in the community of Laupahoehoe which is located along State Highway 19 approximately 24 miles Northwest of the city of Hilo. Hilo is the largest city and leading commercial center on the island of Hawaii with a 1990 population of 37,808. Hilo airport and Hilo Harbor provide regional air and ocean transportation services for the eastern half of the island. Hilo also serves as the seat of County government and administrative center for other governmental services including the campus of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

The project site is well served with existing infrastructure including County water, roadway and electrical service. The Laupahoehoe community is the primary urban center in the North Hilo district and includes most of the community facilities serving the district. Police, fire, emergency medical, solid waste transfer station, elementary, intermediate and the high school facilities are situated in Laupahoehoe.

#### **2.2.2 Adjacent Land Uses**

The project site is situated on public property that has been set aside for public safety, general community services and allied uses. In addition to the police station and fire station, there is a social hall situated on the property and utilized by community groups as a meeting place. Other land uses in the immediate vicinity include a post office, a church,

small play field, single family residential dwellings, general store and agricultural uses.

### **2.3 Public Facilities and Services**

#### **2.3.1 Roads**

The Government Main Road fronts the subject property and has a pavement width of 20 feet within a 40 feet wide road right-of-way. The fire apparatus will travel a distance of approximately 200 feet on the Government Main Road to get to the Mamalahoa Highway (State Highway 19) which is the primary transportation link between Hilo and all of the communities along the North Hilo-Hamakua coast.

#### **2.3.2 Water System**

The subject property is served by the County's Laupahoehoe System which utilizes a deep well source. The Department of Water Supply stated that, "As the project will create a new facility for the existing Fire Department, we do not anticipate water usage concerns. However, a new water meter and service lateral will be required for the new facility."

#### **2.3.3 Protective Services**

The County Fire Department shares the project site with the County Police Department. Plans for the proposed improvements have been coordinated with the Police Department to minimize impacts to police operations.

#### **2.3.4 Wastewater**

There is no municipal wastewater system serving the community of Laupahoehoe. A new individual wastewater disposal system will be installed for the new fire station meeting with the approval of the State Department of Health.

### **2.4 Archaeology, Historic and Cultural Resources**

The State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, provided the following comments on the proposed project, "Our records indicate there are four historic buildings on the parcel that may qualify for the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places -- the volunteer fire station, the old tax office, the police station and the jail. We would like the County to insure care not to damage the existing buildings, particularly the jail house which is proposed to be the adjacent building." The Historic Preservation Division further stated that, "We would greatly appreciate a transmittal from the County identifying the historic buildings and indicating the massing relationship between the existing buildings and the new fire station to initiate the Section 106 consultation process. We are glad to see that the County will not be replacing any of the existing historic buildings and the new building will be one story towards the rear of the property."

### **3. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**

#### **3.1 Runoff**

Impacts: All development generated runoff must be disposed of on site and cannot be directed toward any adjacent properties.

Mitigation: The proposed project will adhere to all State and County drainage regulations. The contractor will be required to utilize best management practices to minimize any potential impacts during construction. All of the runoff associated with operational aspects of the fire station (washing of vehicles, maintenance, etc.) will be contained on the subject property. The runoff will flow to the lawn on the north side of the property and will percolate through the soil.

#### **3.2 Police Operations**

Impacts: The Police Department commented in part that the proposed fire station, "will reduce the already limited parking situation in the area and interfere with the ingress/egress to the police station. To alleviate this problem, we recommend constructing the new building on the south end of the existing apparatus building or redesign the access to the property."

Mitigation: The proposed location for the new fire station has been revised and situated to the south end of the existing apparatus building as recommended by the Police Department. This new location will address the concerns of the Police Department and will not have an adverse impact on Police Department operations at the site.

#### **3.3 Historic Resources**

Impacts: The State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, provided the following comments on the proposed project, "Our records indicate there are four historic buildings on the parcel that may qualify for the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places -- the volunteer fire station, the old tax office, the police station and the jail. We would like the County to insure care not to damage the existing buildings, particularly the jail house which is proposed to be the adjacent building." The Historic Preservation Division further stated that, "We would greatly appreciate a transmittal from the County identifying the historic buildings and indicating the massing relationship between the existing buildings and the new fire station to initiate the Section 106 consultation process. We are glad to see that the County will not be replacing any of the existing historic buildings and the new building will be one story towards the rear of the property."

Mitigation: The proposed location for the new fire station has been revised and situated to the south end of the existing apparatus building which is further away from the jail house building that the State Historic Preservation Division was concerned about. The

Fire Department has submitted the revised plans to the State Historic Preservation Division for their review as part of the Section 106 consultation process.

Upon further review of the revised plans the State Historic Preservation Division stated, in part, that "The site plan indicates that the historic buildings (the old tax office, police station, jail and volunteer fire station) will not be demolished and the new fire station will not touch any of the existing historic buildings. Also since the building will be towards the rear of the property, we believe the proposed new fire station will have 'no effect' on historic resources.

## 4. ALTERNATIVES

### 4.1 No Action

If the proposed fire station is not constructed the resources assigned to the station will not be provided adequate protection from the elements including the possibility of natural disasters. The poor condition of the existing structures does not insure protection from natural disasters of even a modest scale. Furthermore, none of the existing structures can accommodate the new fire truck that has been acquired and assigned to this station.

*In the event that a natural disaster renders the equipment inoperable, reliance on another response team from the next available fire station would result in a 20 to 30 minute delay in the provision of emergency services. The additional time span would mean total fire loss to structures, much more destruction from wild land fires and greatly reduced survival rates in medical and rescue emergencies.*

### 4.2 Alternative Sites

The Fire Department has explored the use of alternative sites for the proposed project. Suitable sites within the Laupahoehoe community are limited and not readily available. The consideration of any other site would mean further delays in the construction of the fire station without any benefit of lesser impacts on the community or the environment.

## 5. DETERMINATION, FINDINGS AND REASONS FOR SUPPORTING DETERMINATION

### 5.1 Significance Criteria

According to the Department of Health Rules (11-200-12), an applicant or agency must determine whether an action may have a significant impact on the environment, including all phases of the project, its expected consequences both primary and secondary, its cumulative impact with other projects, and its short and long-term effects. In making the determination, the Rules establish "Significance Criteria" to be used as a basis for identifying whether significant environmental impact on the environment if it meets any one of the following thirteen criteria.

- 1. Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.**

The proposed project involves the construction of a new 24-hour fire station on a parcel already utilized for the same purpose. The project site has been placed under the control and management of the County of Hawaii for public safety, general community services and allied uses by State Executive Order No. 3245. The fire station is consistent with the intended purpose of the Executive Order.

Although the project site contains existing historic structures, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has stated that, "we believe the proposed new fire station will have 'no effect' on historic resources."

- 2. Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment.**

The proposed fire station is proposed on a parcel that already contains five existing structures and utilized by both the County Fire and Police Departments. The new fire station will not adversely affect the environment of the surrounding area.

- 3. Conflicts with the State's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS; and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions, or executive orders.**

The proposed development is consistent with the Environmental Policies established in Chapter 344, HRS, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

- 4. Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or state.**

The proposed project will have a substantial impact on the economic and social welfare of the community. The Laupahoehoe Fire Station is the only station situated within the North Hilo district which covers an area of 277 square miles and a 1990 population of 1,569 people. The fire station site is situated approximately 25 miles northwest of the Central Fire Station in Hilo and approximately 15 miles southeast of the Honokaa Fire Station. The resources assigned to the Laupahoehoe Fire Station

provides primary fire protection, initial emergency medical services, and initial rescue service to the people living within and passing through the North Hilo district. As such, it is essential that the resources assigned to the station are provided adequate protection from the elements including the possibility of natural disasters. The poor condition of the existing structures does not insure protection from natural disasters of even a modest scale. Furthermore, none of the existing structures can accommodate the new fire truck that has been acquired and assigned to this station.

The proposed project will provide positive impacts to the residents by ensuring that these emergency resources will be available to the community when they are most needed. In the event of a natural disaster the community will have a safe emergency center that they can go to as well as a command post to coordinate emergency operations. Reliance on another response team from the next available fire station would result in a 20 to 30 minute delay in the provision of emergency services. The additional time span would mean total fire loss to structures, much more destruction from wild land fires and greatly reduced survival rates in medical and rescue emergencies

**5. Substantially affects public health**

The proposed project will have a positive impact on public health by ensuring that the emergency resources of the community are protected from the elements and available to serve the community when they are needed.

**6. Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.**

The proposed project will not have any substantial secondary impacts because no new services are being added. Although the services are already being provided to the community, the facilities that house the emergency equipment need to be upgraded.

**7. Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality.**

The proposed project is situated on a parcel that has been previously developed and utilized for providing public services to the community. As such, the Laupahoehoe Fire Station project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.

**8. Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect on the environment, or involves a commitment for larger actions.**

As stated previously, the proposed project will not have any substantial secondary impacts because no new services are being added. The proposed project does not involve a commitment for larger actions and will not induce other actions having a cumulative effect on the environment.

- 9. Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat.**  
The proposed project will not have any substantial adverse effect on any rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat.

- 10. Detrimentially affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels.**

Short term impacts will result from the proposed construction activity including increased noise levels, dust and exhaust from machinery involved in the construction of the fire station. Given the relative short construction time period and the sparse development of surrounding properties, the potential impacts of these construction activities should be minimal.

- 11. Affects or is likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area, such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, freshwater, or coastal waters.**

The proposed project is not situated within nor affect an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, freshwater, or coastal waters.

- 12. Substantially affects scenic vistas and view planes identified in county or state plans or studies.**

The proposed project will not affect any scenic vistas or view planes identified in county or state plans or studies.

- 13. Requires substantial energy consumption.**

The proposed project will not require substantial energy consumption.

### **5.2 Findings**

Based on the foregoing information presented, it is determined that the proposed Laupahoehoe Fire Station Project will not have a significant effect. As such, a determination of a Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed action is appropriate.

### **5.3 Reasons Supporting Determination**

The nature and scale of the proposed action are such that no significant environmental effects are anticipated. Potential impacts, if any, can be mitigated through sensitive site planning and architectural design, careful construction methods and compliance with all governmental requirements including those of the State Department of Health, State Historic Preservation Division and the County Department of Public Works.

## REFERENCES

Heliker, Christina, U.S. Geological Survey. *Volcanic and Seismic Hazards on the Island of Hawaii*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1990

Kon, Megumi, Inc., *Hawaii County Water Use and Development Plan*, County of Hawaii, Department of Water Supply, 1991

University of Hawaii, Department of Geography, *Atlas of Hawaii*, University Press of Hawaii, 1973

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Stearns, H.T. and Macdonald G.A., *Geology and Ground-Water Resources of the Island of Hawaii*, *Bulletin 9* Hawaii Division of Hydrography, Advertiser Publishing Co., Ltd. Honolulu 1946

**APPENDIX A - REPRODUCTION OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES MADE  
DURING THE PRE-ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION PERIOD**

1. United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, September 10, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
2. State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, September 10, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
3. State of Hawaii, Department of Health, August 27, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
4. State of Hawaii, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, August 28, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
5. State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, September 11, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
6. County of Hawaii, Planning Department, September 19, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
7. County of Hawaii, Police Department, August 27, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
8. County of Hawaii, Department of Water Supply, September 11, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998
9. County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, September 8, 1997.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, March 17, 1998



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
PACIFIC ISLANDS ECOREGION  
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 3108  
BOX 50088  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850  
PHONE: (808) 541-3441 FAX: (808) 541-3470

SEP 10 1997

In Reply Refer To: JMC

Brian T. Nishimura, Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni St.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information provided in your letter dated August 13, 1997. The two projects proposed by the County of Hawaii, and funded by Federal Community Development Block Grant funds, are the restoration of the Hilo Armory Gymnasium and construction of a new fire station in Laupahoehoe. It is our understanding that your company is representing the County of Hawaii in this request for information pertaining to fish and wildlife resources that may be affected by the proposed activities.

The Service has reviewed the provided information as well as other information contained in our files. To the best of our knowledge, there are no wetlands or federally endangered, threatened, or candidate species directly within the project site. The federally endangered Hawaiian hawk (*Buteo solitarius*) is known from the general vicinity and may occur at the project site. However, the Service believes that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the referenced species because of the project's location and previous disturbance. The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment.

If you have questions or comments, please contact our Program Coordinator for Interagency Cooperation, Ms. Margo Stahl or Fish and Wildlife Biologist Mick Castillo at (808) 541-3441.

Sincerely,

Brooks Harper  
Field Supervisor  
Ecological Services

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

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March 17, 1998

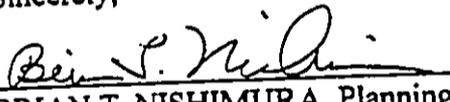
Mr. Brooks Harper, Field Supervisor  
Division of Ecological Services  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., P.O. Box 50088  
Honolulu, HI. 96850

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 10, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. The County of Hawaii evaluated alternative locations for the proposed project which resulted in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
33 SOUTH KING STREET, 6TH FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

September 10, 1997

MICHAEL D. WILSON, CLAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPUTIES

GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND

RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT

CONVEYANCES  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DIVISION  
LAND DIVISION  
STATE PARKS  
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura, Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

LOG NO: 20076  
DOC NO: 9709tm02  
Architecture

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessments  
Hilo Armory Restoration  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station

Since the County of Hawaii will be utilizing CDBG funding, they will need to go through a Section 106 review. Since we have already concurred with the Hilo Armory project, no further correspondence is required. However, we have not had correspondence on the Laupahoehoe Fire Station. Our records indicate there are four historic buildings on the parcel that may qualify for the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places -- the volunteer fire station, the old tax office, the police station and the jail. We would like the County to insure care not to damage the existing buildings, particularly the jail house which is proposed to be the adjacent building.

We would greatly appreciate a transmittal from the County identifying the historic buildings and indicating the massing relationship between the existing buildings and the new fire station to initiate the Section 106 consultation process. We are glad to see that the County will not be replacing any of the existing historic buildings and the new building will be one story towards the rear of the property.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have further questions, please call Tonia Moy at 587-0005.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Hibbard".

DON HIBBARD, Administrator  
State Historic Preservation Division

TM:jk

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

March 17, 1998

Don Hibbard, Administrator  
State Historic Preservation Division  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
33 South King St. 6th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

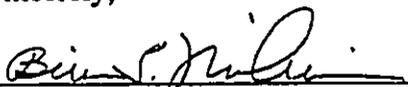
Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 10, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. The County of Hawaii evaluated alternative locations for the proposed project which resulted in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

The Fire Department has transmitted the revised plans for your review and to initiate the Section 106 consultation process. We believe that the revised location for the new fire station will minimize the impact of the proposed project on the existing historic buildings on the property.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. Your continued assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LAWRENCE MIKE  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P O BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

in reply please refer to

August 27, 1997

97-178/epo

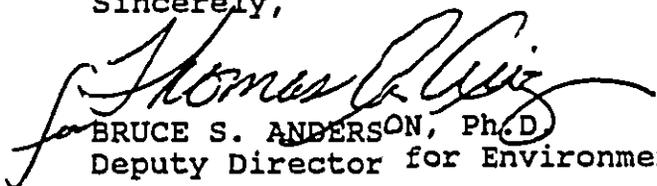
Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Subject: PRE-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA)  
Project: Lapahoehoe Fire Station  
Location: Manowaiopae Homesteads  
North Hilo, Hawaii  
TMK: (3) 3-6-09: 31

Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the subject project. The forthcoming Environmental Assessment (EA) should address wastewater disposal, fuel/gasoline storage, and non-point source pollution runoff prevention measures during the construction of the project. We would be interested in reviewing a copy the EA upon completion.

Sincerely,

  
BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

March 17, 1998

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director of Environmental Health  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

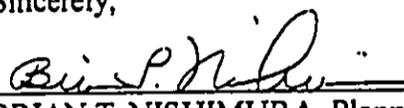
This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 27, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. The County of Hawaii evaluated alternative locations for the proposed project which resulted in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

With regard to the specific concerns raised in your letter, the following responses are provided:

1. The Fire Department will construct an individual wastewater disposal system for the new fire station meeting with the approval of the State Department of Health.
2. No fuel or gasoline will be stored by the Fire Department on the project site.
3. The contractor will be required to utilize best management practices to include non-point source pollution runoff prevention measures during construction.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. The draft EA will be transmitted for your review upon its completion.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

PHONE (808) 594-1888



FAX (808) 594-1865

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 28, 1997

Brian T. Nishimura, Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni Street,  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Preparation of Draft Environmental Assessments for  
proposed Hilo Armory Gymnasium Restoration, and  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station Construction.

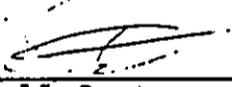
Dear Mr. Nishimura:

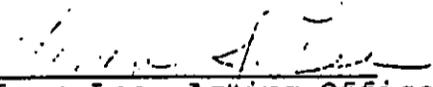
Thank you very much for your letter informing us of the upcoming Draft Environmental Assessment's (DEA) for the above-referenced projects.

At this time OHA has no concerns with the preparation of the DEA's for the proposed projects. However, OHA intends to thoroughly review both DEA's when they become available for public review.

Please contact Lynn Lee, Acting Land and Natural Resources Division Officer, or Richard Stook, EIS Planner at 594-1888, should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Randall Ogata  
Administrator

  
Lynn Lee, Acting Officer  
Land and Natural Resources

RS:rs

cc: Trustee Clayton Hee, Board Chair  
Trustee Rowena Akana, Land & Sovereignty Chair  
Trustee Abraham Aiona, Board Vice-Chair  
Trustee Haunani Apoliona  
Trustee Billie Beamer  
Trustee Frenchy DeSoto  
Trustee Moses Keale  
Trustee Collette Machado  
Trustee Hannah Springer  
Jamie Kawauchi, CAC Hilo

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

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March 17, 1998

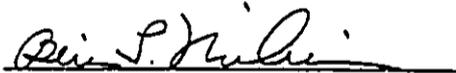
Colin Kippen, Division Officer  
Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
711 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 500  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of the letter from Lyn Lee dated August 28, 1997, responding to my request for preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to the letter. The County of Hawaii evaluated alternative locations for the proposed project which resulted in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

As requested, a copy of the draft EA will be transmitted for your review upon its completion .  
Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

KAZU HAYASHIDA  
DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTORS  
BRIAN K. MINAII  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO

IN REPLY REFER TO:

HWY-PS  
2.6215

SEP 11 1997

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Subject: Environmental Assessments, Hilo Armory Restoration, Hilo, Hawaii,  
TMK: (2) 2-3-04: 08 and Laupahoehoe Fire Station, Laupahoehoe,  
North Hilo, Hawaii, TMK: (3) 3-6-09: 31

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project descriptions and site plans for the subject projects prior to preparation of the subject Environmental Assessments (EA's).

No impact on our State highway system is anticipated to result from the Hilo Armory Restoration project.

We have the following comments on the Laupahoehoe Fire Station:

1. The site plan should show Route 19 (Hawaii Belt Road) and its intersection with Old Mamalahoa Highway.
2. The planned future disposition or use of the existing Fire Department building and any existing appurtenant structures (two car carport and apparatus building) should be identified.

Very truly yours,

  
KAZU HAYASHIDA  
Director of Transportation

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

March 17, 1998

Kazu Hayashida, Director  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Transportation  
869 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5097

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 11, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. The County of Hawaii evaluated alternative locations for the proposed project which resulted in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

In response to your comments, please be advised that the site plan has been revised (see attached site plan) to show Route 19 (Hawaii Belt Road) and its intersection with Old Mamalahoa Highway. In addition, the Fire Department will return the two car carport and the single family dwelling to the Police Department for their use. The existing apparatus building will be retained by the Fire Department to store the rescue vehicle and other related apparatus.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein  
Director  
Russell Kokubun  
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8244 • Fax (808) 961-9615

September 19, 1997

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Request for Comments regarding the Preparation of a  
Draft Environmental Assessment for the Restoration of the  
Hilo Armory Gymnasium and the Construction of the New Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
TMK: 2-3-04: 8 (Wailuku, S. Hilo) & 3-6-09: 31 (Manowaiapae Homesteads, N. Hilo)

This letter will respond to your August 13, 1997, request for comments regarding the preparation of an draft environmental assessment for the above-described projects. We are providing you with the following comments for your consideration:

Hilo Armory Gymnasium Restoration

The Hilo Armory Gymnasium is located on approximately 31,500 square feet of land situated between Wailuku and Shipman Streets in Downtown Hilo. The parcel maintains the following land use designations:

- o State Land Use designation - Urban
- o General Plan LUPAG Map designations - High Density Urban
- o Hilo CDP designation - CG7.5 (general commercial)
- o Hawaii Redevelopment Agency - project site situated within boundary of the Downtown Hilo Redevelopment Area. Restoration activities will require the approval of the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
Page 2  
September 19, 1997

- o County Zoning - CDH (Downtown Hilo Commercial)
- o SMA - situated within County SMA.

Laupahoehoe Fire Station

The proposed Laupahoehoe Fire Station will be situated on approximately 66,755 square feet of land which maintain the following land use classifications:

- o State Land Use designation - Urban
- o General Plan LUPAG Map designations - Medium Density Urban
- o Northeast Hawaii CDP designation - maintain existing RS-10 designation
- o County Zoning - RS-10 (Single Family Residential-minimum lot size of 10,000 s.f.).  
Section 25-4-11(c) of the Zoning Code specifies that public structures and uses, such as a fire station, are considered permitted uses within any zoned district.
- o SMA - project site is not situated within County SMA.

We hope that the information provide above are of help to you. We will reserve further review and comment upon receipt of a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessments for both projects. Should you have any questions please contact Daryn Arai of this office at 961-8288.

Sincerely,

  
VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN  
Planning Director

DSA:cjf  
f:\wp60\czm\Ch343\LNishi01.dsa

xc: Land Use Controls Division  
Parks & Recreation  
Fire Department

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

March 17, 1998

Virginia Goldstein, Director  
County of Hawaii  
Planning Department  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station - County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 19, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. Additional time was utilized to evaluate alternative locations for the proposed project resulting in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

Thank you for providing the land use information affecting the proposed project. As requested, a copy of the draft EA will be transmitted for your review upon its completion. Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Wayne G. Carvalho  
Police Chief

James S. Correa  
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawaii  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2702

August 27, 1997

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of August 13, 1997, regarding the Hilo Armory Restoration and new construction at the Laupahoehoe Fire Station.

The planned Hilo Armory restoration project should not adversely affect current police operations in downtown Hilo.

The proposed construction in Laupahoehoe, however, will reduce the already limited parking situation in the area and interfere with the ingress/egress to the police station. To alleviate this problem, we recommend constructing the new building on the south end of the existing apparatus building or redesign the access to the property.

Should you have any questions on our recommendation, please contact Captain Edwin Rapozo, North Hilo/Hamakua District Commander, at 775-9522.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*Wayne G. Carvalho*  
WAYNE G. CARVALHO  
POLICE CHIEF

CMC:js/lk

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

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March 17, 1998

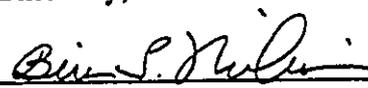
Wayne G. Carvalho, Police Chief  
County of Hawaii  
Police Department  
349 Kapiolani St.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2702

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 27, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. Based in part, on the comments and concerns raised in your letter, the proposed fire station has been relocated from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. The concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site are addressed with the new location of the fire station.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. Your continued assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720  
TELEPHONE (808) 961-3660 • FAX (808) 961-3657

September 11, 1997

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS - REQUEST FOR CONCERNS  
TAX MAP KEY: 2-3-004:008, 3-6-009:031

In response to your letter regarding our preliminary concerns for the Hilo Armory Restoration and Laupahoehoe Fire Station projects, we have the following to offer:

Hilo Armory Restoration

As the property is currently serviced by a 1-inch meter and the project does not involve additional or different uses for the facility, we do not anticipate any concerns regarding the water system.

Laupahoehoe Fire Station

As the project will create a new facility for the existing Fire Department, we do not anticipate water usage concerns. However, a new water meter and service lateral will be required for the new facility.

Please forward a copy of the Environmental Assessments to this Department for our further review. We may have further comments to offer.

If you have any questions, please contact our Water Resources and Planning Branch at 961-8660.

Milton D. Pavao, P.E.  
Manager

KKO:gms

*... Water brings progress...*

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

March 17, 1998

Milton D. Pavao, P.E.  
Manager  
County of Hawaii  
Department of Water Supply  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 11, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. We apologize for the delay in responding to your comments. Additional time was utilized to evaluate alternative locations for the proposed project resulting in the relocation of the fire station from the western corner to the southern corner of the property. This was done to address concerns of the Police Department regarding loss of parking and ingress and egress to the site.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. As requested, a copy of the draft EA will be transmitted for your review upon its completion. Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Donna Fay K. Kiyosaki  
Chief Engineer

Jiro A. Sumada  
Deputy Chief Engineer

**County of Hawaii**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
25 Aupuni Street, Room 202 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8321 • Fax (808) 961-8630

September 8, 1997

MR BRIAN T NISHIMURA  
101 AUPUNI STREET  
HILO HAWAII 96720

**SUBJECT : DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
Manowaiopae, North Hilo, Hawaii  
TMK: 3 / 3-6-09: 31

We acknowledge receipt of your letter concerning the subject matter, and provide you with our comments as follows:

1. Any building construction shall conform to all requirements of code and statutes of the County of Hawaii.
2. All development generated runoff shall be disposed on site and shall not be directed toward any adjacent properties.
3. All earthwork and grading shall be in conformance with Chapter 10, Erosion and Sediment Control, of the Hawaii County Code.
4. Any work within the County right-of-way shall be in conformance with Chapter 22, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Hawaii County Code.
5. The subject properties are found within Flood Zone "X", according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map dated September 16, 1988.

DRAFT EA  
September 8, 1997  
Page 2 of 2

6. Wastewater disposal shall meet with the requirements of the DPW, Wastewater Division.
7. We do not need to receive a copy of the environmental assessment when it is completed.

Should there be any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Mr. Casey Yanagihara in our Engineering Division at (808)961-8327.



Galen M. Kuba, Division Chief  
Engineering Division

CKY

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

March 17, 1998

Galen M. Kuba, Division Chief  
Engineering Division  
County of Hawaii  
Department of Public Works  
25 Aupuni St. Room 202  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252

Subject: Preliminary Comments  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 8, 1997, providing preliminary comments on the preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-described project. Thank you for identifying the applicable code requirements for the proposed project. The Fire Department will comply with all applicable code requirements.

Thank you for providing preliminary comments prior to the preparation of the draft EA. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

**APPENDIX B - REPRODUCTION OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES MADE  
DURING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW PERIOD**

1. State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, March 24, 1998.  
Response: Nelson M. Tsuji, Fire Chief, May 18, 1998.
2. State of Hawaii, Office of Environmental Quality Control, April 13, 1998.  
Response: Nelson M. Tsuji, Fire Chief, May 18, 1998.
3. State of Hawaii, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, April , 1998.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, May 15, 1998
3. County of Hawaii, Planning Department, April 15, 1998.  
Response: Brian T. Nishimura, May 15, 1998

APR 06 '98 11:12 HI. FIRE DEPT.-HILO 808 961-6920

BENJAMIN J. CAYetano  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



*Lloyd*  
**RECEIVED**  
MAR 27 1998

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MICHAEL D. WILSON, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPUTIES

GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND

RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
CONVEYANCES  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DIVISION  
LAND DIVISION  
STATE PARKS  
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
33 SOUTH KING STREET, 6TH FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

REF:HP-JK

MAR 24 1998

Mr. Nelson M. Tsuji  
County of Hawaii  
Fire Department  
777 Kilauea Avenue, Mall Lane  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4239

LOG NO: 21203  
DOC NO: 9803tm03  
Architecture

Dear Mr. Tsuji:

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance  
1997 Community Development Block Grant Program  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
TMK: 3-6-09:31, Laupahoehoe, Island of Hawaii**

Thank you for your transmittal on the above project. The site plan indicates that the historic buildings (the old tax office, police station, jail and volunteer fire station) will not be demolished and the new fire station will not touch any of the existing historic buildings. Also since the building will be towards the rear of the property, we believe the proposed new fire station will have "no effect" on historic resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have further questions, please feel free to call Tonia Moy at 587-0005.

Aloha,

*Michael D. Wilson*  
MICHAEL D. WILSON, Chairperson and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

TM:jk

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Nelson M. Tsuji  
Fire Chief

Edward Bumatay  
Deputy Fire Chief

## County of Hawaii

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

777 Kilauea Avenue • Mall Lane • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4239  
(808) 961-8297 • Fax (808) 961-8296

May 18, 1998

Mr. Michael D. Wilson, Chairperson and  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
33 South King Street, 6th Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

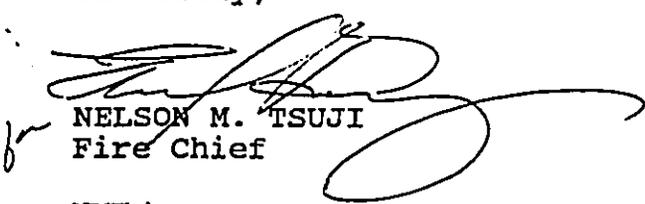
Dear Mr. Wilson:

Subject: Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
Tax Map Key: (3) 3-6-09:31  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

Thank you for your comments dated March 24, 1998, regarding the above-described project (LOG NO: 21203/DOC NO: 9803tm03/Architecture). Your letter will be included in the Final Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed project.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
NELSON M. TSUJI  
Fire Chief

NMT/mo



BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR



GARY GILL  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
SUITE 702  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE (808) 686-4186  
FACSIMILE (808) 686-4186

April 13, 1998

Nelson Tsuji  
Hawaii Fire Department  
777 Kilauea Ave.  
Mall Lane, Room 6  
Hilo, HI 96720

Attn: Lloyd Narimatsu

Dear Chief Tsuji:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Laupahoehoe Fire Station

We have the following comments to offer:

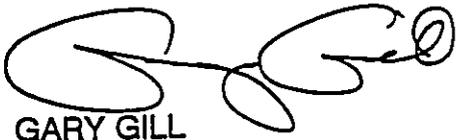
1. Runoff: Please discuss how runoff associated with operational aspects of the fire station (washing of vehicles, maintenance, etc.) will be controlled to avoid impacts to Manowaiopae Stream.
2. Contacts: Notify the nearest neighbors or neighboring landowners of the proposed project, allowing them sufficient time to review the draft EA and submit comments. Document all contacts in the final EA and include copies of any correspondence.
3. Timeframe: What are the anticipated start and end dates of this project?
4. Visual impacts: Include drawings that show the final appearance of the proposed building and any proposed landscaping.
5. Map: In the final EA enclose a location map that shows the relation of the project site to its neighboring parcels.
6. Construction impacts: Discuss impacts to traffic, noise on the surrounding community and safety issues (pedestrian safety and prevention of vandalism or theft of equipment and materials) and related mitigation measures.

Nelson Tsuji  
April 13, 1998  
Page 2

7. Significance criteria: Include a discussion of findings and reasons, according to the significance criteria listed in HAR 11-200-12, that support the anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. You may use the enclosed sample as a guideline.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Heinrich at 586-4185.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GARY GILL". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

GARY GILL

Enc.

c: Brian Nishimura

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Nelson M. Tsuji  
Fire Chief

Edward Bumatay  
Deputy Fire Chief

## County of Hawaii

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

777 Kilauea Avenue • Mall Lane • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4239  
(808) 961-8297 • Fax (808) 961-8296

May 18, 1998

Mr. Gary Gill, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Gill:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
Tax Map Key: (3) 3-6-09:31  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is in response to your comments dated April 13, 1998, regarding the above-described matter. Your comments are addressed as follows:

1. All of the runoff associated with operational aspects of the fire station (washing of vehicles, maintenance, etc.) will be contained on the subject property. The runoff will flow to the lawn on the north side of the property and will percolate through the soil.
2. The Fire Department has participated in two community meetings held by the North Hilo Community Council to discuss the fire station project. The latest meeting was held on December 9, 1997. The primary concerns raised involved potential conflicts with Police Department operations and the removal of trees along the south side of the property. The relocation of the proposed fire station building to the southwest corner of the property was made to address these concerns.
3. The projected start and end dates for the project are August, 1998 - December, 1998.

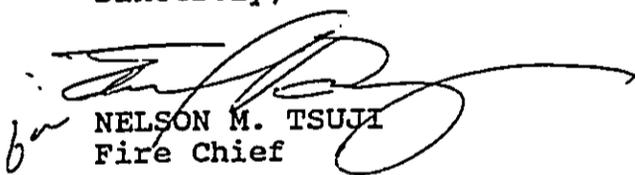


Mr. Gary Gill, Director  
Page 2  
May 18, 1998

4. Elevation drawings of the fire station building will be included in the Final EA. There is an existing lawn on the north side of the property that will remain. Existing vegetation along the south side of the property will also remain.
5. A tax plat map will be included in the Final EA to show the relation of the project site to neighboring parcels.
6. Construction impacts to the surrounding community will be similar in nature and scale to the construction of a single-family dwelling. The proposed project will not generate any heavy construction traffic nor present pedestrian safety or noise concerns to the community. The project site is also the site of a 24-hour police station which should provide adequate security for the equipment and materials.
7. The Final Environmental Assessment will discuss the findings and reasons for supporting the FONSI determination based on all 13 significant criteria listed in Section 11-200-12 of the EIS rules.

Thank you for your comments to the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed project. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please call the consultant, Brian Nishimura, at (808) 935-7692.

Sincerely,

  
NELSON M. TSUJI  
Fire Chief

NMT/mo



STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5249  
PHONE (808) 594-1888  
FAX (808) 594-1865

April 17, 1998

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
Planning Consultant  
101 Aupuni St., Suite 217  
Hilo, HI 96720

Doc. No. EIS-83

**Subject:** Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Laupahoe Fire Station,  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

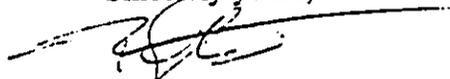
Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Laupahoe Fire Station, Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Island of Hawaii. The Hawaii County Fire Department is seeking authorization to build a new 24 hour-fire station in the Community of Laupahoe. The project is situated on property already used by the Police and Fire Department. The property, which has been utilized in an urban setting for many years, is situated approximately 200 feet southwest of the intersection of the Mamalahoa Highway and the Government Main Road.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has no concerns at this time to the proposed project. Based on information contained in the DEA, the new fire station apparently bears no adverse impacts on adjacent lands nor upon existing flora or fauna and no known archaeological remains exist. But OHA would like to underline the fact that the property contains four historical buildings and steps must be taken to ensure proper care and maintenance.

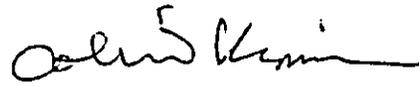
Letter to Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
April 17, 1998  
Page 2

Please contact Colin Kippen (594-1938), LNR Officer, or Luis Manrique (594-1758), should you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



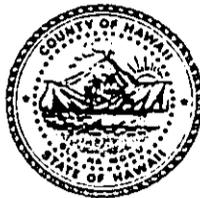
Randall Ogata  
Administrator



Colin Kippen  
Officer,  
Land and Natural  
Resources Division

cc: Board of Trustees  
CAC, Island of Hawaii

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein  
Director

Russell Kokubun  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawaii

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

April 15, 1998

Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 217  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Draft Environmental Assessment and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact  
(FONSI) for the Construction of the New Laupahoe Fire Station  
TMK: 3-6-09: 31 Manowaipea Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

Thank you for your letter dated April 2, 1998, accompanied by a copy of the draft environmental assessment for the above-described project, which anticipates a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding Environmental Impact Statements.

We have completed our review of the draft environmental assessment and have no objections to the information contained within the report nor the anticipated FONSI determination. However, we would like to make one additional comment. Prior to securing a building permit for the construction of the new fire station, the Fire Department shall apply for plan approval review with this office. This review will ensure that the fire station structure and its location will comply with all requirements of the Zoning Code.

Thank you for providing our office with the opportunity to review and comment on the report. Should you have any questions please contact Daryn Arai of this office at 961-8288.

Sincerely,

  
VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN  
Planning Director

DSA:jkg  
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Mr. Brian T. Nishimura  
Page 2  
April 15, 1998

c: Fire Department  
Land Use Controls Division  
Parks & Recreation

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

---

May 15, 1998

Virginia Goldstein, Director  
County of Hawaii  
Planning Department  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station -County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 15, 1998, providing comments on the draft (EA) and FONSI for the above-described project. As noted in your comments, the Fire Department will be advised to apply for plan approval review prior to securing a building permit for the construction of the new fire station.

Your letter will be included in the Final EA prepared for the subject project. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

c. Fire Department

**BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, PLANNING CONSULTANT**

101 Aupuni Street  
Suite 217  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7692 Fax: (808) 935-6126

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May 15, 1998

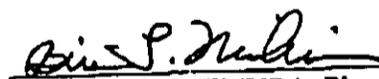
Colin Kippen, Division Officer  
Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
711 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 500  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Comment Regarding Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
Manowaiopae Homesteads, North Hilo, Hawaii

Thank you for your comments on the Draft EA for the above-described project dated April 17, 1998. Please find enclosed, a letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer dated March 24, 1998, stating their belief that "the proposed new fire station will have 'no effect' on historic resources."

Your letter will be included in the Final EA. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN T. NISHIMURA, Planning Consultant

attach.

06/12/1998 08:13 0009356126 BRIAN T NISHIMURA  
APR 06 '98 11:12 HI. FIRE DEPT.-HILO 808 961-6920

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*Lloyd*

BENJAMIN J. CAYLOR  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**RECEIVED**  
MAR 27 1998

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
33 SOUTH KING STREET, 8TH FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

REF:HP-JK

MAR 24 1998

MICHAEL D. WILSON, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPUTIES  
GILBERT COLONIA-ADANAR  
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
AQUATIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND  
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
CONVEYANCES FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
LAND DIVISION  
STATE PARKS  
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Nelson M. Tsuji  
County of Hawaii  
Fire Department  
777 Kilauea Avenue, Mall Lane  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4239

LOG NO: 21203  
DOC NO: 9803tm03  
Architecture

Dear Mr. Tsuji:

**SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance  
1997 Community Development Block Grant Program  
Laupahoehoe Fire Station  
TMK: 3-6-09:31, Laupahoehoe, Island of Hawaii**

Thank you for your transmittal on the above project. The site plan indicates that the historic buildings (the old tax office, police station, jail and volunteer fire station) will not be demolished and the new fire station will not touch any of the existing historic buildings. Also since the building will be towards the rear of the property, we believe the proposed new fire station will have "no effect" on historic resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have further questions, please feel free to call Tonia Moy at 587-0005.

Aloha,

*Michael D. Wilson*  
MICHAEL D. WILSON, Chairperson and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

TM:jk