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County of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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July 2, 1999

OFFICE OF  
QUALITY

Genevieve Salmonson, Director  
State of Hawaii  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
220 South King Street, Fourth Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Salmonson:

**Subject: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Waiakea Peninsula  
Improvements, TMK: 2-1-03:1,2,16,19,22,23,25, Waiakea, South Hilo  
District, Hawaii**

Having reviewed the comments received on the draft environmental assessment for Waiakea Peninsula Improvements, during the thirty-day public review period which began on March 23, 1999, the Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii has determined that this project will have no significant environmental effect and, with this letter, issues a finding of no-significant impact. We request that you publish notice of this determination in the July 23, 1999 issue of the Environmental Notice.

Enclosed is a completed Bulletin publication form and four copies of the final environmental assessment. Please contact Glenn Miyao of my staff at 961-8313 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Juliette Tulang in cursive.

Juliette Tulang  
Director

cc: Roy R. Takemoto, Land Use Consultant

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**FILE COPY**

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*Final Environmental Assessment*

*\*WAIAKEA PENINSULA  
IMPROVEMENTS\**

*Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii  
TMK: 3rd 2-1-03:1,2,16,19,22,23,25*

Department of Parks & Recreation  
County of Hawaii

July 1, 1999

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*Final Environmental Assessment*

# **WAIAKEA PENINSULA IMPROVEMENTS**

*Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii  
TMK: 3rd 2-1-03:1,2,16,19,22,23,25*

**Prepared for:**  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
County of Hawaii

**Prepared by:**  
Roy R. Takemoto  
Land Use Consultant  
P.O. Box 10217  
Hilo, HI 96721

**July 1, 1999**

*This document was prepared pursuant to:  
Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343 and Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200 (Depart-  
ment of Health); and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)) and  
HUD rules relating to environmental review (24 CFR Part 58)*

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## SUMMARY

- PROJECT NAME:** Waiakea Peninsula Improvements
- PROPOSING AGENCY:** Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii  
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, HI 96720
- LOCATION:** Waiakea, South Hilo District, Island and County of Hawaii
- TAX MAP KEY:** 3rd/2-1-03:1, 2, 16, 19, 22, 23, 25
- CLASS OF ACTION:** Use of County land and funds; use of State land; proposed use in Conservation district; proposed use in shoreline setback area; possible use of Federal funds
- DETERMINATION:** Finding of No Significant Impact
- PROPOSED ACTION:** Park improvements to four subareas: 1) Liliuokalani Gardens (ADA-compliant pathways and restroom renovations; parking improvements; gateway entry improvements; landscaping); 2) Coconut Island (ADA-compliant pathways, restroom renovations, and access ramps to bridge); 3) Waiakea Docks (ADA-compliant pathways, parking improvements, landscaping); and 4) Old Government Wharf (reconstruction to scenic and fishing area).
- ESTIMATED COST:** \$1.25 - 2.0 million
- PURPOSE AND NEED:** Improve access for the handicapped; optimize the recreational value of underutilized shoreline areas; create a pedestrian path throughout the Site and along street rights-of-way to link to the overall envisioned Hilo Bay shoreline park; upgrade existing park facilities; convert a public safety hazard (Old Government Wharf) into a scenic vantage point
- MITIGATION MEASURES:** Design Phase:
- Submit construction plans for review by the Commission on Persons with Disabilities.
  - Prepare erosion and sedimentation plans to prevent impacts to the coastal water quality during construction.
  - Provide certifications and seek approvals required by the Flood Control Code.
  - Submit plans for review by the State Historic Preservation Division.

- 
- Design drainage systems to minimize surface runoff from the parking lot to the coastal waters.

**Construction Phase:**

- Comply with noise standards.
- Implement best management erosion control practices specified in construction documents.
- Implement best management practices as approved by the Department of Health Section 201 Water Quality Certification.
- Avoid obstructing access to commercial establishments during business hours.

**UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS  
OR UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None.

**STATE LAND USE  
DISTRICT:** Urban; Conservation (Waihonu Ponds and Coconut Island only)

**ZONING:** Open

**PERMITS REQUIRED:** Department of Army Permit, SMA, Plan Approval

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Proposing Agency and Accepting Authority

The County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation proposes the following actions (the "Project"):

- Liliuokalani Gardens— ADA-compliant pathways and interior restroom renovations, entry features, landscaping and parking improvements;
- Coconut Island— ADA-compliant ramps/pathways and interior restroom renovations;
- Waiakea dock (former Isles Restaurant)— ADA-compliant pathways and parking improvements;
- Old Government wharf makai of the Liliuokalani Gardens— reconstruction as a scenic and fishing area.

The use of State land, County land, County funds, proposed use in the Conservation district, and proposed use in the shoreline setback area trigger the environmental review requirements under *Hawaii Revised Statutes* Chapter 343.<sup>1</sup> Should the proposing agency (i.e., County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation) determine that the proposed actions could result in significant impacts such that an EIS should be prepared, the accepting authority to determine the adequacy of the Final EIS is the governor, or an authorized representative, due to the use of State lands.

The possible use of Federal funds also triggers the environmental review requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended (NEPA). The source of the Federal funds may be the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) if, based on the bid results, additional funding is required and funds are available. The County of Hawaii Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) administers the CDBG with oversight by HUD. Since this document is a joint State and Federal environmental assessment, OHCD and HUD will also review the significance of the Project's impacts if CDBG funds are used and determine whether an EIS would need to be prepared under NEPA's significance criteria.

### 1.2 Agencies Consulted

The following agencies and organizations were consulted during the process of preparing this environmental assessment or during the 30-day public review period:

- Federal
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- State

1. *Hawaii Revised Statutes* §343-5(a)(1) (use of State or County land or funds), -5(a)(2) (proposed use in conservation district), -5(a)(3) (proposed use within shoreline area defined in HRS 205A-41).

- Department of Accounting and General Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Office of State Planning
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Department of Transportation, Harbors Division
- County
  - Planning Department
  - Department of Public Works
  - Department of Water Supply
  - Fire Department
  - Police Department
  - Civil Defense
  - Hawaii Redevelopment Agency
  - Arborist Advisory Committee
  - Tea Ceremony House Advisory Committee (Department of Parks and Recreation)
  - Committee on People with Disabilities (Mayor's Office)
- Organizations and Individuals
  - Hilo Outdoor Circle
  - Banyan Drive resorts
  - Hawaii Island Economic Development Board
  - Elected officials
  - Adjacent landowners/lessees

The general public was notified of the Project through the following means:

- Libraries-- copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment were sent to the Hilo Regional Library;
- Environmental Notice-- availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment was published in OEQC's Environmental Notice;
- News media-- a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment was sent to the Hawaii Tribune Herald, West Hawaii Today, Honolulu Star Bulletin, and Honolulu Advertiser.

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

### 2.1 Location and Ownership

The Project is located at Waiakea, South Hilo District, island and County of Hawaii (see Figure 1). The Site consists of the following subareas (see Figure 2):

FIGURE 1. Location Map

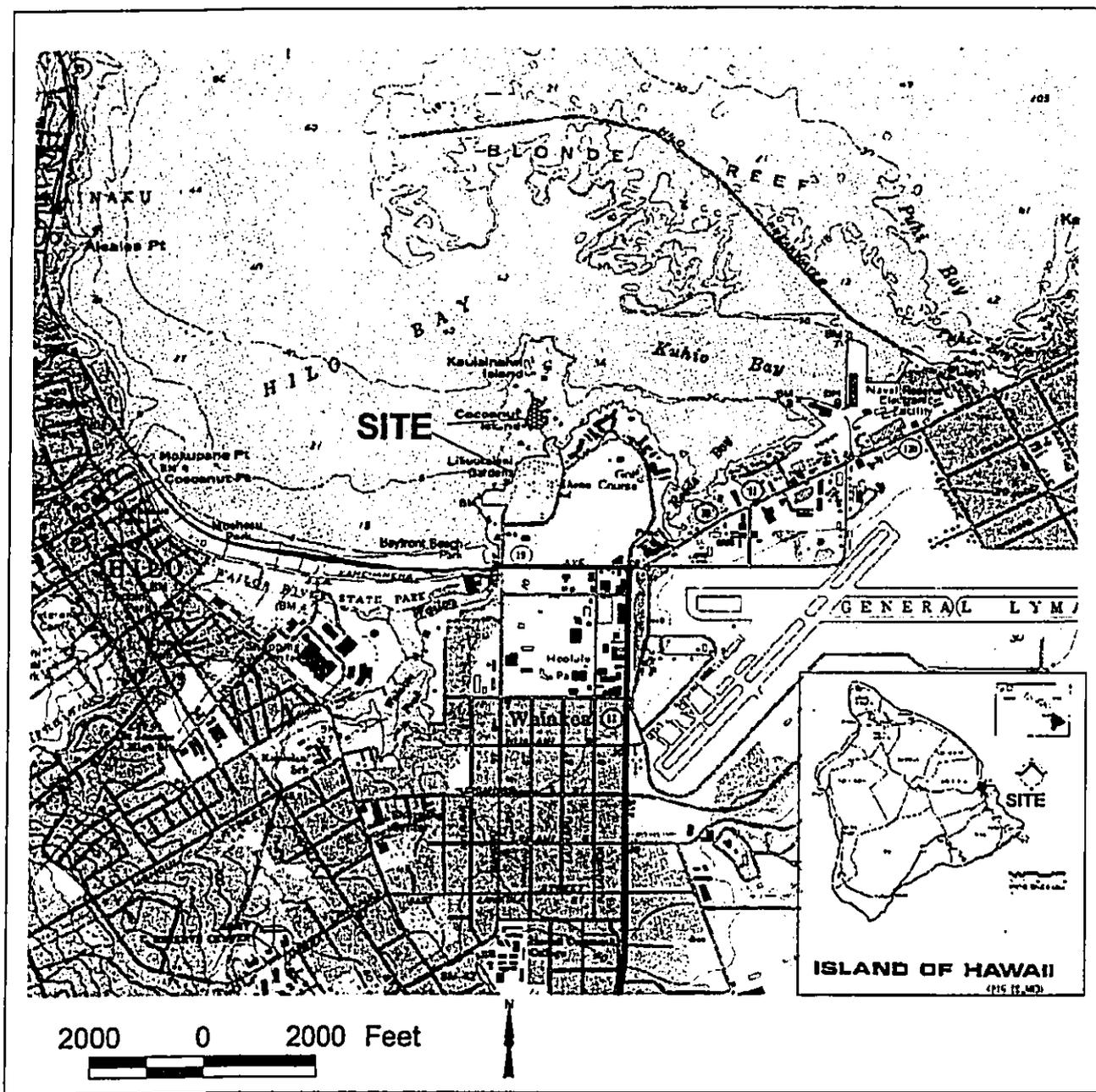


FIGURE 2. Project Site Subareas

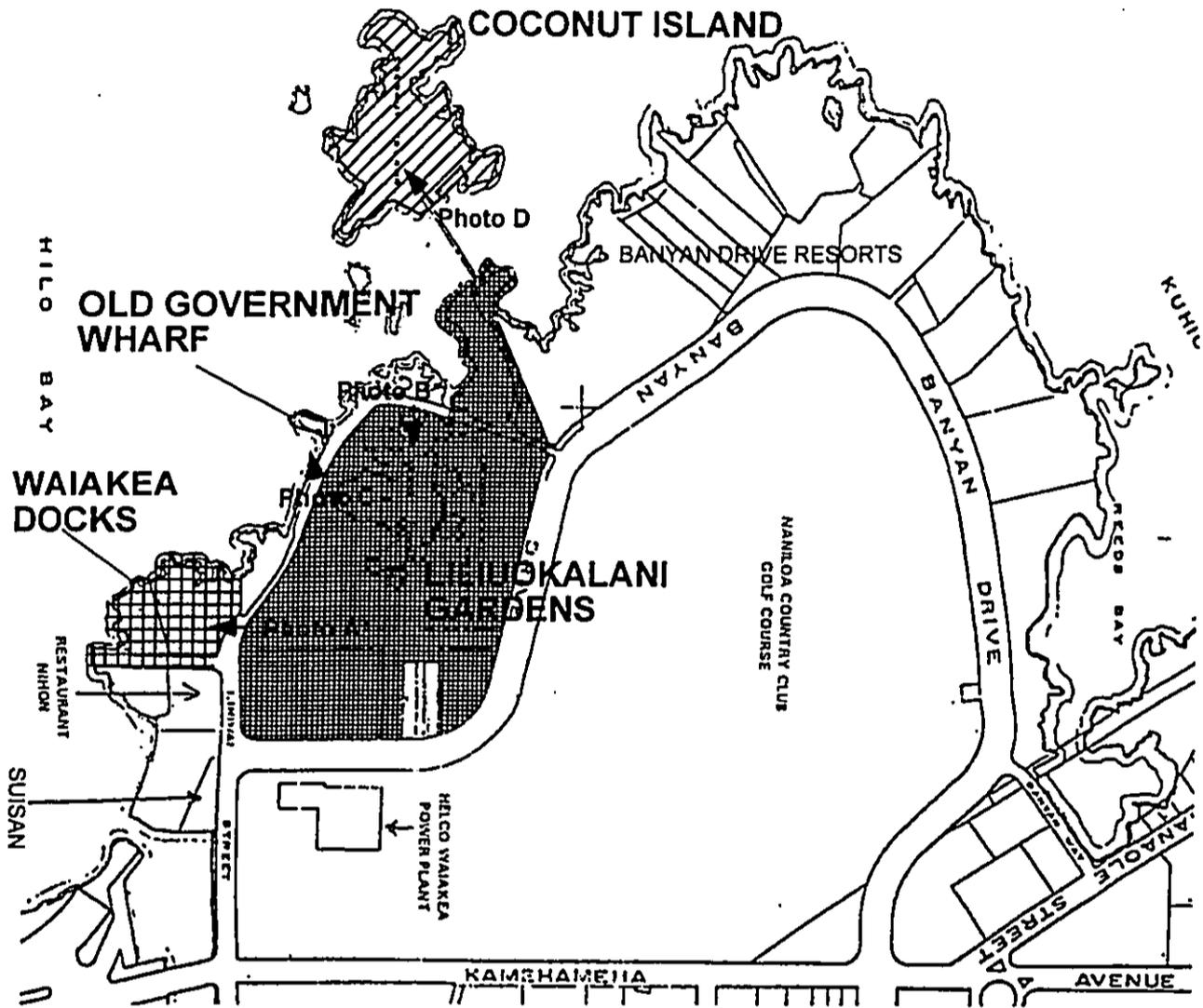


Photo A: Waiakea Docks



Photo B: Liliuokalani Gardens



Photo C: Old Government Wharf



Photo D: Coconut Island

- *Liliuokalani Gardens.* Liliuokalani Gardens consists of 3 parcels and 2 "paper" road rights-of-way (Mamane and Mokuola Streets), totaling approximately 18 acres (TMK:2-1-03:1, 23, 25) (see Figure 3). The State currently owns the land, but is in the process of setting aside the land to the County by Executive Order.
- *Coconut Island.* Coconut Island, consisting of 3.1 acres, is connected to the peninsula by a pedestrian bridge. The State set aside this island (TMK: 2-1-03:19) to the County by Executive Order #585 for recreational purposes.
- *Waiakea Dock.* Waiakea Dock was the site of a former restaurant known as the Isles Restaurant. This area consists of 3 parcels (including a roadway lot) totaling approximately 1.77 acres (TMK: 2-1-03:2, 16, 22). The State currently owns the land, but is in the process of setting aside the land to the County by Executive Order. The State may also set aside an adjacent unencumbered parcel in the future for park expansion (TMK: 2-1-03:17).
- *Old Government Wharf.* The remnant of this wharf is located makai of Liliuokalani Gardens. There is no tax map key assigned to the structure, but the tax maps indicate the wharf as a "government wharf".

The State set aside Liliuokalani Gardens (initially 17.0 acres) to the County by Executive Order No. 276 on May 24, 1927. After the 1960 tidal wave, the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency condemned the privately owned lands within the Site (i.e., various grants within TMK 2-1-03:23 and 25) under authority of the Urban Redevelopment Act (Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 53). The Hawaii Redevelopment Agency then conveyed the entire Site to the State by various deeds in 1965 through 1969. Because of the additions and withdrawals over the years, the State canceled Executive Order 276 by Executive Order 2355 on January 8, 1968, with the intent of updating, consolidating, and setting aside the area once again to the County. The County continued to maintain the area. For reasons unknown, the setaside languished until 1982 when the Board of Land and Natural Resources realized the oversight and recommended to the Governor to issue an executive order to set aside the Site to the County as a County park. The Board authorized immediate right of entry to the County for maintenance purposes. The State Survey Division prepared a consolidation map for County subdivision approval; however, again the State deferred action and did not submit the maps for County approval. The State has revived the process and is currently updating the consolidation maps for submittal to the County. The area covered by the pending Executive Order is the entire Site (including the Old Government Wharf), except for Coconut Island which already has been set aside by a separate Executive Order.<sup>2</sup>

## 2.2 Existing Uses

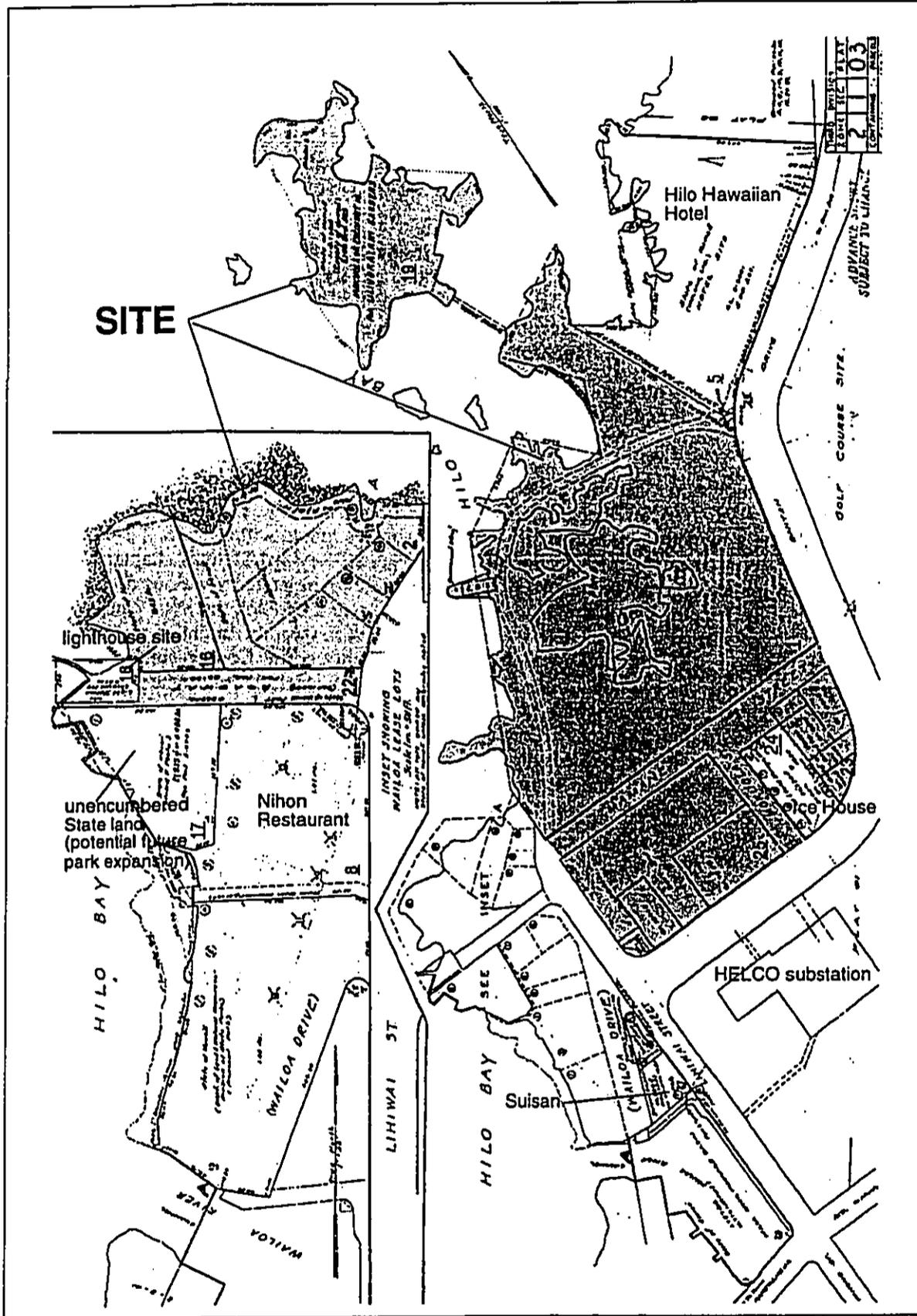
**Site.** All areas within the Site are used for recreation under the management of the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Surrounding Areas.** The surrounding uses are as follows (refer to Figure 3):

- North: ocean;
- South: Nihon Restaurant (TMK: 2-1-03:08, leased from State), State vacant unencumbered land (TMK 2-1-03:17), U.S. Department of Commerce lighthouse site (TMK 2-1-03:18 by Governor's Executive Order 239 on May 22, 1926), Suisan (TMK: 2-1-03:27), Ice House (TMK: 2-1-03:24), HELCO substation;

2. Correspondence in files at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Land Management, Hilo office.

FIGURE 3. Tax Map



- East: Banyan Drive resorts;
- West: ocean.

## 2.3 Project Description

### 2.3.1 Purpose and Need

Liliuokalani Gardens and its environs are scenic, historic, and popular recreational resources that attract both local residents and visitors. Some of the areas within the Site are unkept or underutilized. There is no ADA-compliant pathway through the Site. Although the area is popular for exercising walkers and joggers, there is no perimeter pathway around Liliuokalani Gardens causing the people to use the roadway pavement to avoid the often wet and muddy conditions of the shoulder. The deteriorated condition of the Old Government Wharf, a popular fishing area, poses a potential public safety hazard-- the County needs to either demolish it completely, or restore it. Parking is not in defined areas.

The purpose of the Project is to remedy the problems and regenerate the Site into an attractive recreational area for residents and visitors. More particularly, the objectives include:

- upgrade the facilities to improve access for people with disabilities;
- create a pedestrian path throughout the Site, along the street rights-of-way, and linking to the Bayfront shoreline park;
- create more efficient parking;
- optimize the recreational value of underused areas;
- restore the Old Government Wharf into a scenic vantage point and fishing area.

The proposed improvements are part of an overall plan to create a bayfront greenway that would link the cruise ship passenger terminal, to the Banyan Drive resort areas, to Wailoa State Park, to the stretch of open area along the Bayfront Highway, to downtown Hilo, to the proposed Wailuku Riverfront Park. These improvements will expand recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, and stimulate economic activity by creating a more attractive visitor destination.

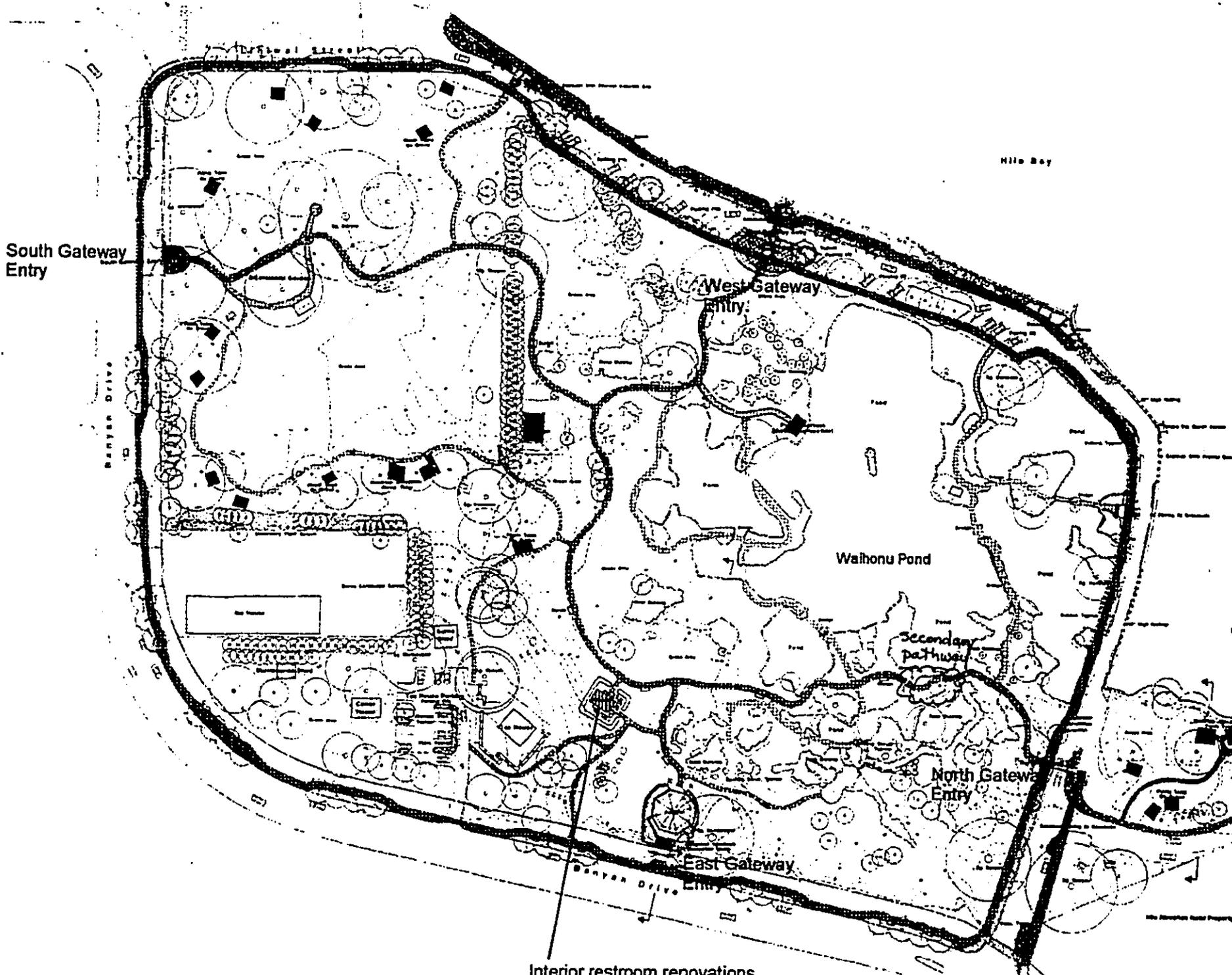
### 2.3.2 Conceptual Plan

The proposed improvements include:

- Liliuokalani Gardens (see Figure 4):
  - Primary pathway network-- New and reconstruction of existing pathways to ADA-compliant standards-- 6' wide concrete pathways with aesthetic embellishments where feasible, such as sectional concrete curb or stone borders to complement the existing pathways (see Figure 5); this primary pathway network will connect the four gateway entries to the park; *[In response to comments from the State Historic Preservation Division, a portion of the primary pathway at the North Gateway has been deleted, and grass paving will be considered in lieu of concrete in certain sections if it results in reduced costs.]*

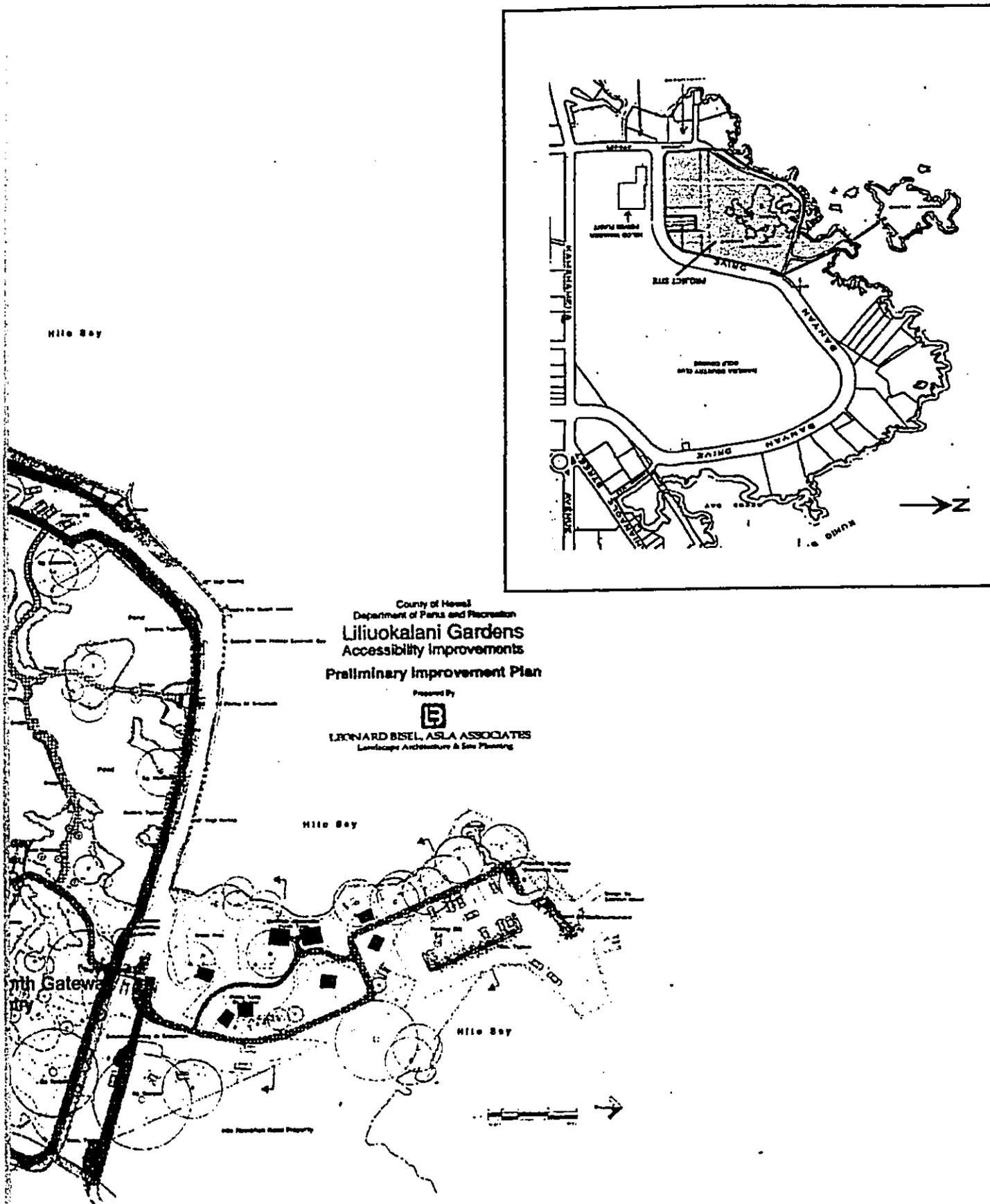
3. Revisions to the project in response to comments to the Draft EA are annotated in italics and bracketed. The comments are reproduced in APPENDIX D, "Comments and Responses to the Draft EA".

- Secondary pathway network-- Restoration of the existing pathways as a secondary pathway network that will preserve the existing features, such as stepping stones, stairs, and bridges, and will therefore not be ADA-compliant (see Figure 6);
- Perimeter pathway network-- New 8' wide ADA-compliant pathway around the park perimeter as a standard concrete sidewalk;
- Restroom renovation-- Interior renovation of existing restroom to ADA-compliant standards;
- Parking improvements-- Reconfigured and expanded parking along Lihikai Street, paving of existing parking area for teahouse, reconfigured and repaved parking for Coconut Island, bus drop-off area along Lihikai Street; *[In response to comments from Nihon Restaurant, bus parking at Waiakea Docks area adjacent to Nihon Restaurant has been deleted]*
- Gateway entries-- New gateway entries at the north, east, and west entrances, and restoration of the existing bicentennial garden at the south entrance (see Figure 7, Figure 8, Figure 9, and Figure 10); *[In response to comments from Disabilities Rights Hawaii, the ramp at the East Gateway and accessible parking at the West Gateway were revised to conform with ADA standards]*
- Picnic facilities-- New picnic tables, benches, and lookout platforms;
- Streetscape landscaping-- New landscaping along the perimeter of Liliuokalani Gardens;
- Row of paperbark trees-- The row of paperbark trees in the vicinity of the former teahouse will be thinned and not completely removed; *[In response to comments from the State Historic Preservation Division, selected trees will remain to preserve a visual reminder of the historic boundary of the park]*
- Oceanside pathway-- New oceanside pathway along Lihikai Street (see Figure 11); *[In response to comments from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, the street lights along Lihikai Street were redesigned to minimize distraction to the dark-rumped petrel; in response to comments from the State Historic Preservation Division, any pedestrian areas along Lihikai Street bordering Liliuokalani Gardens shall not be raised where the walkway abuts an existing rock wall in order to avoid changing the face of the wall.]*
- Future improvements-- Due to Hilo's rainy climate, future improvements contemplated include roofed pavilions (no walls) at the East Gateway entry, at the center of the park for picnics, and at a pond overlook;
- Coconut Island (see Figure 12)
  - accessible ramps-- New accessible ramp at both ends of the Coconut Island bridge;
  - Primary pathway network-- New ADA-compliant pathway around perimeter;
  - Restroom renovation-- Interior renovation of existing restroom to ADA-compliant standards;
- Waiakea Docks (see Figure 13)
  - Primary pathway network-- New ADA-compliant pathway;
  - Parking improvements-- Repaved parking;
  - Landscaping-- New landscaping;
  - Picnic facilities-- New picnic facilities;
- Old Government Wharf (see Figure 14 and Figure 15)
  - Reconstruction to original dimensions (i.e., to original dimensions of the existing stone/concrete structure and not the historical dimensions of the wharf which was much larger (see §4.1.5, "Historic/Archaeological/Cultural Resources"))).



-  Perimeter walkways (handicapped-accessible), 8' wide
-  Interior primary walkways (handicapped-accessible), 6' wide
-  Interior secondary walkways (not handicapped-accessible)
-  Picnic facilities

Interior restroom renovations  
handicapped-accessible



**Fig. 4. Conceptual Site Plan for Liliuokalani Gardens Improvements**

FIGURE 5. Pathway Details-- Primary (ADA-compliant) Pathway

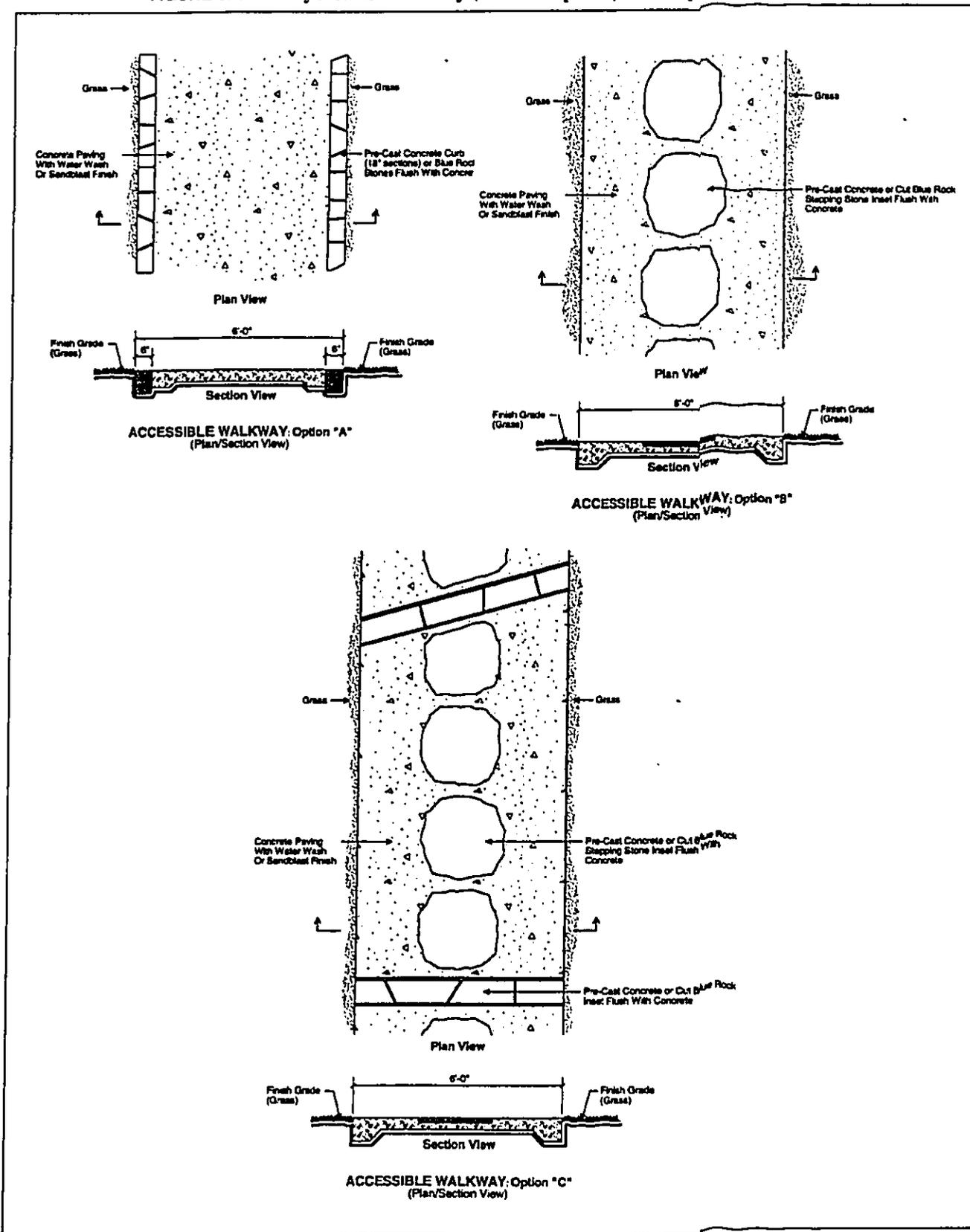


FIGURE 6. Pathway Details-- Secondary Pathways

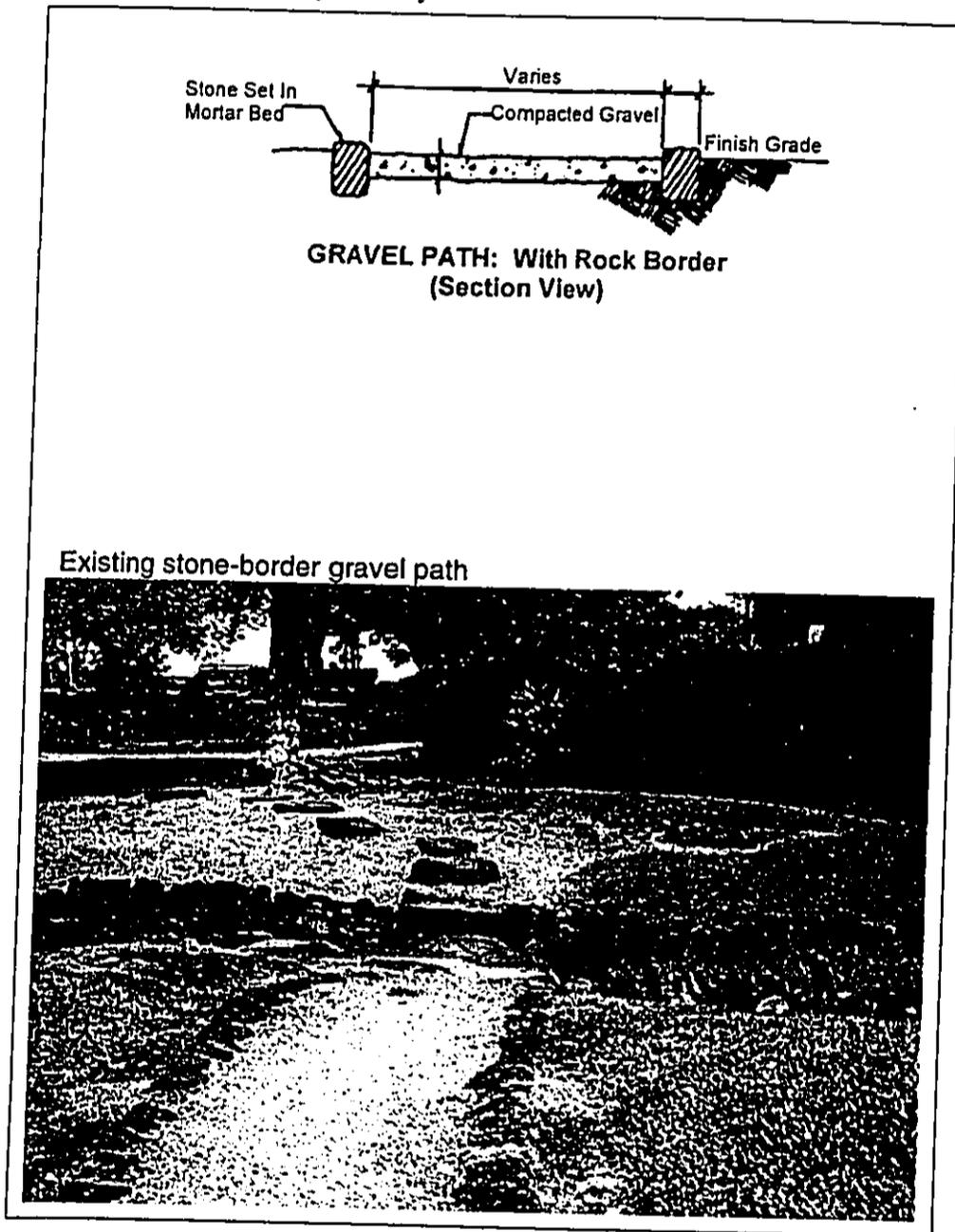


FIGURE 7. East Gateway Entry

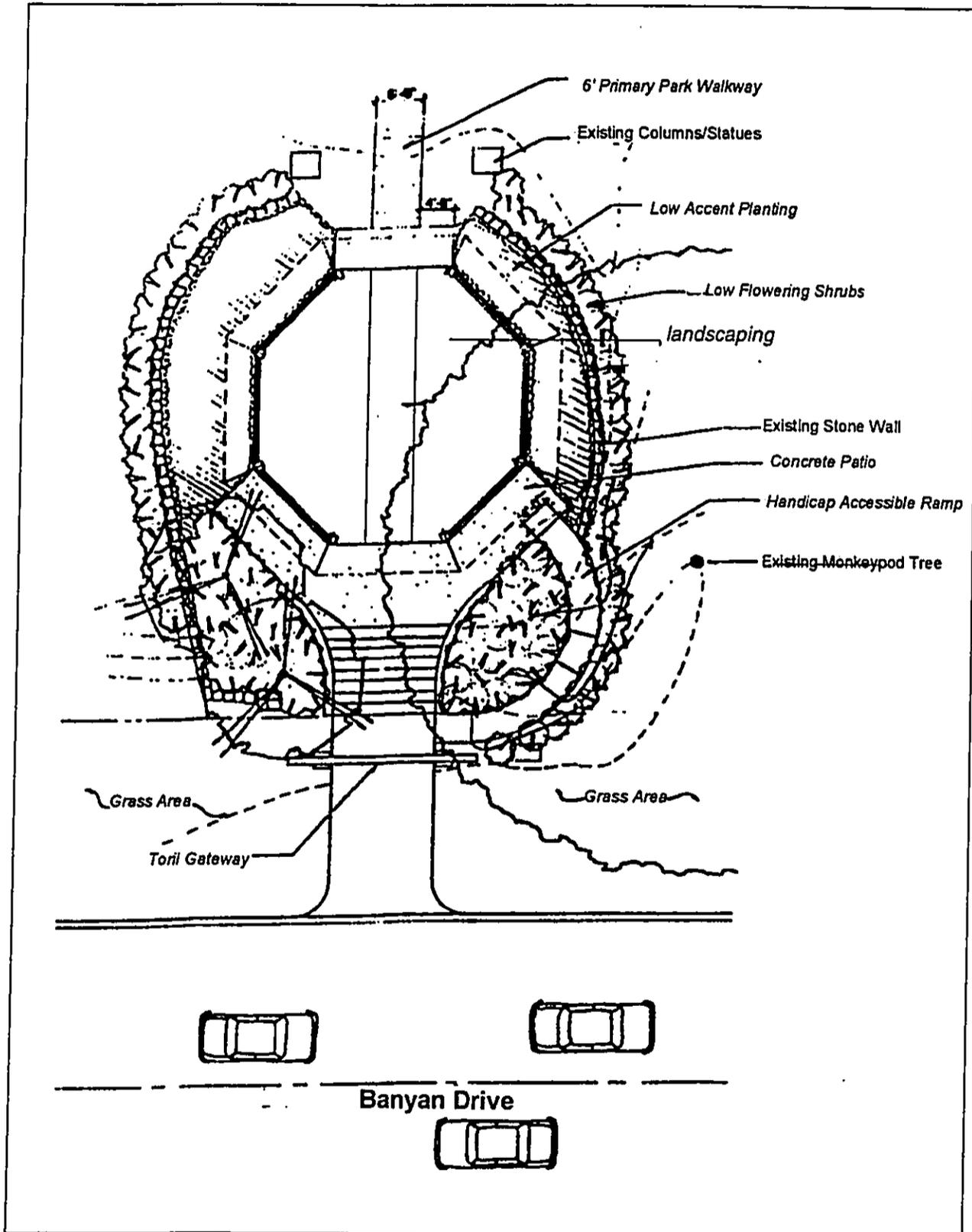


FIGURE 8. Existing South Gateway Entry

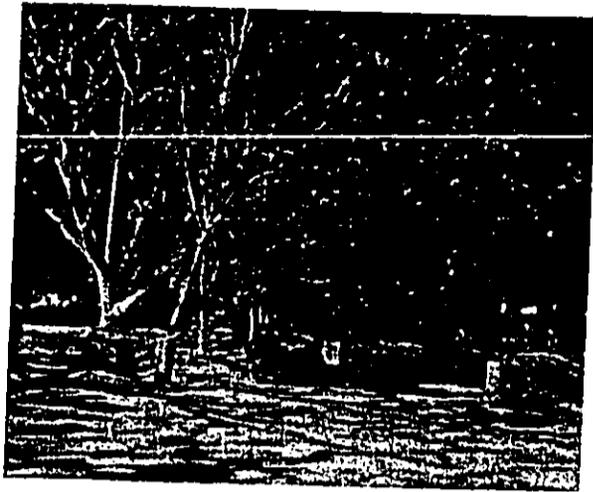


FIGURE 9. North Gateway Entry

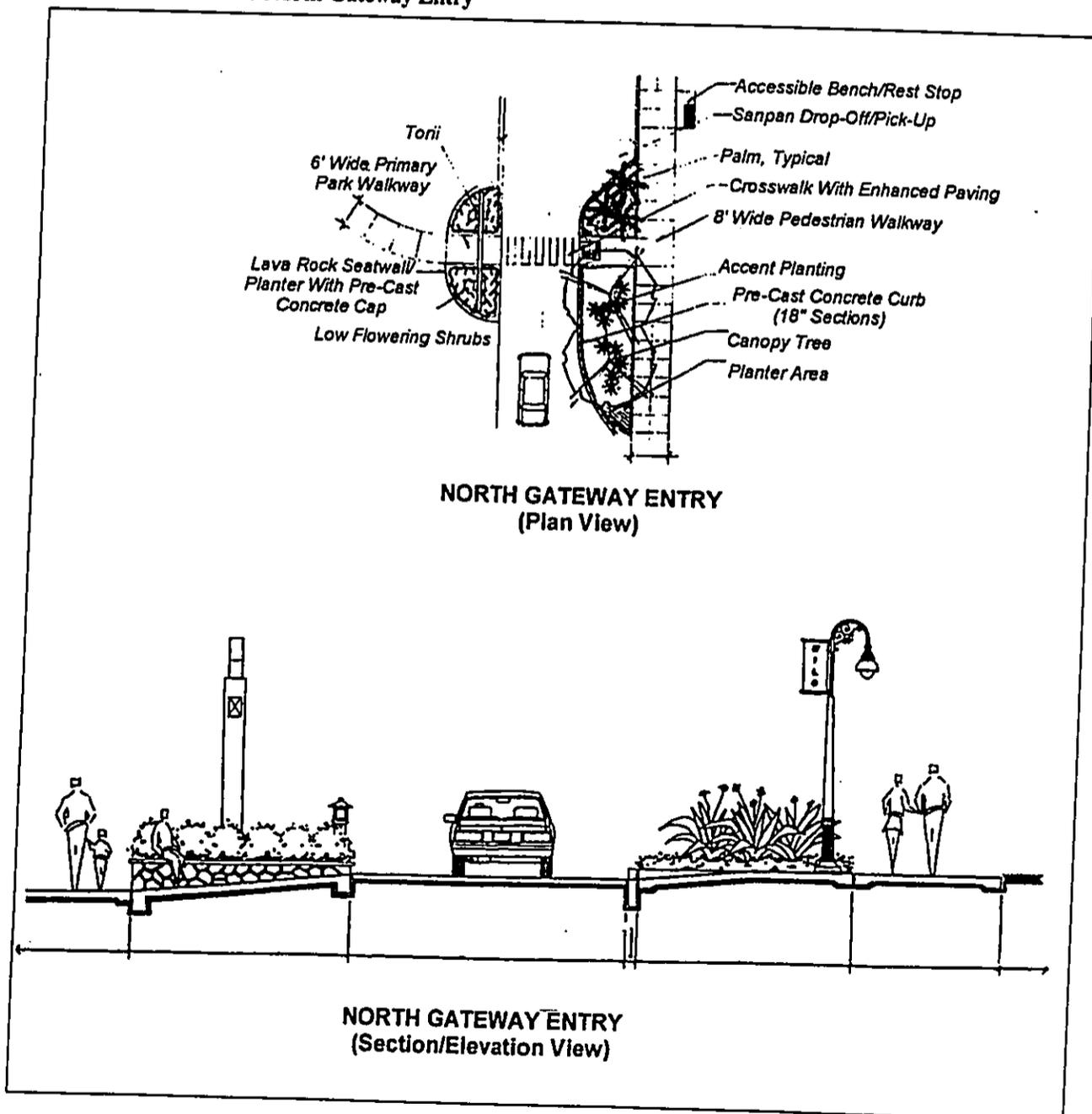


FIGURE 10. West Gateway Entry

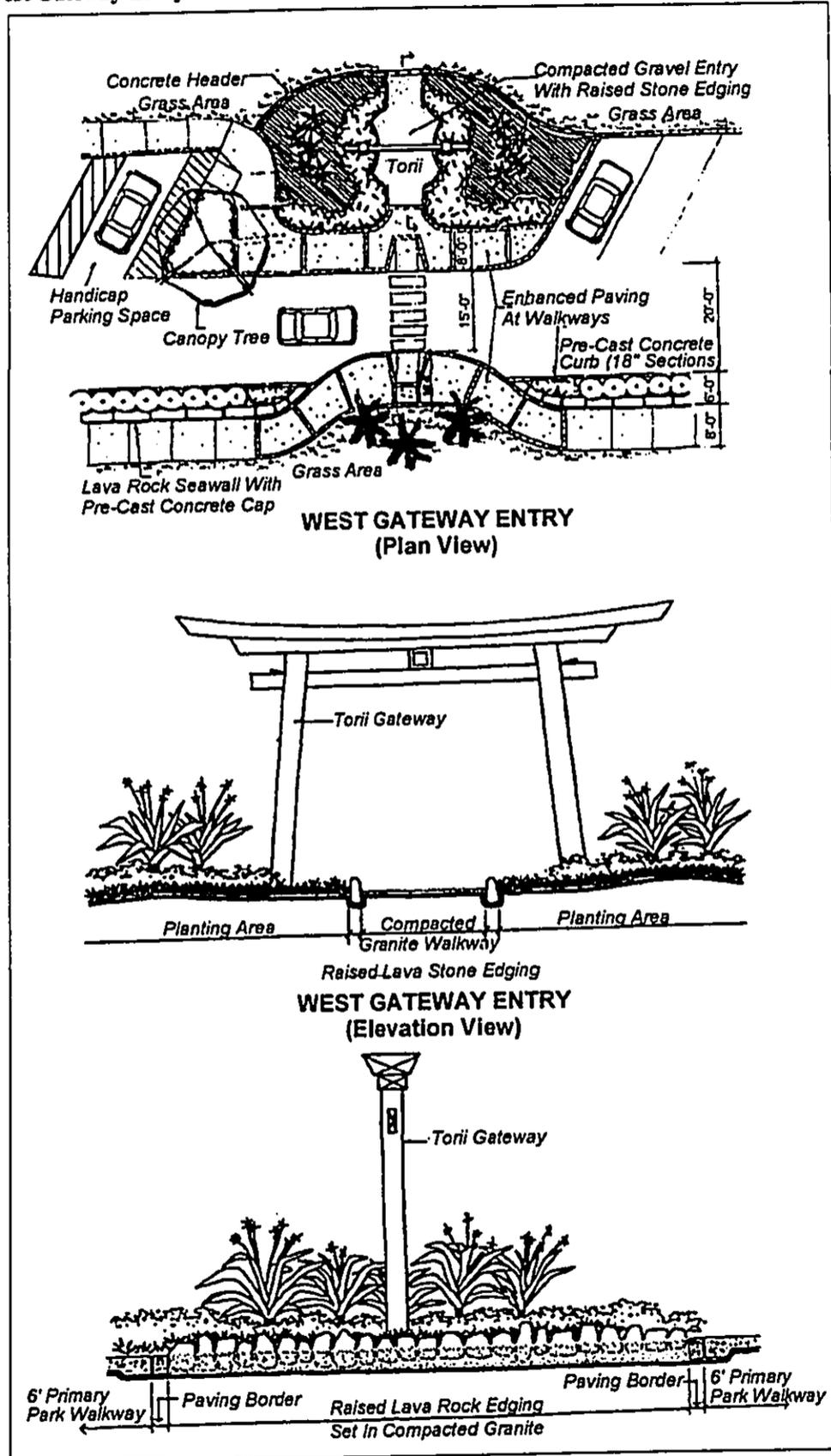
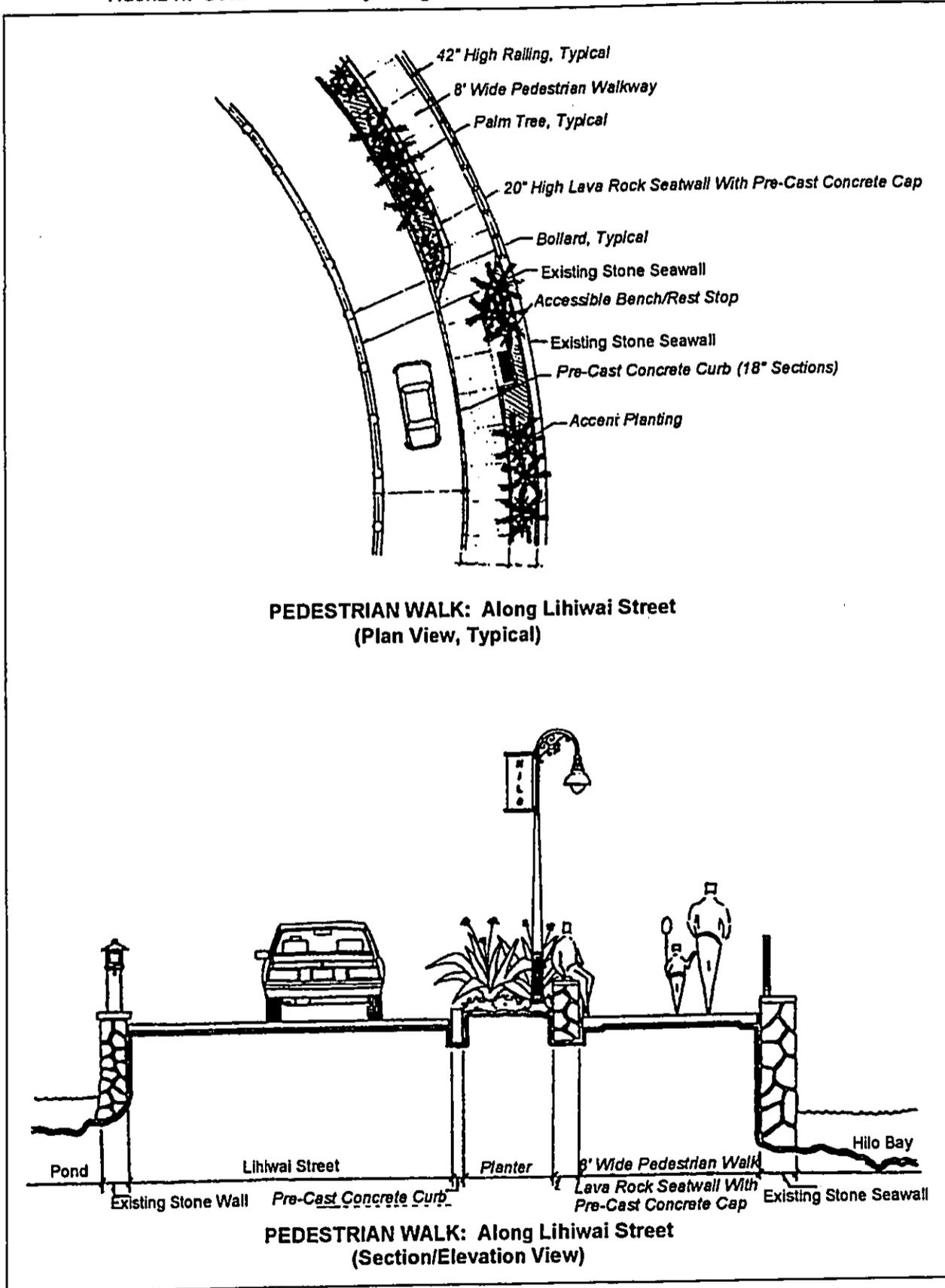
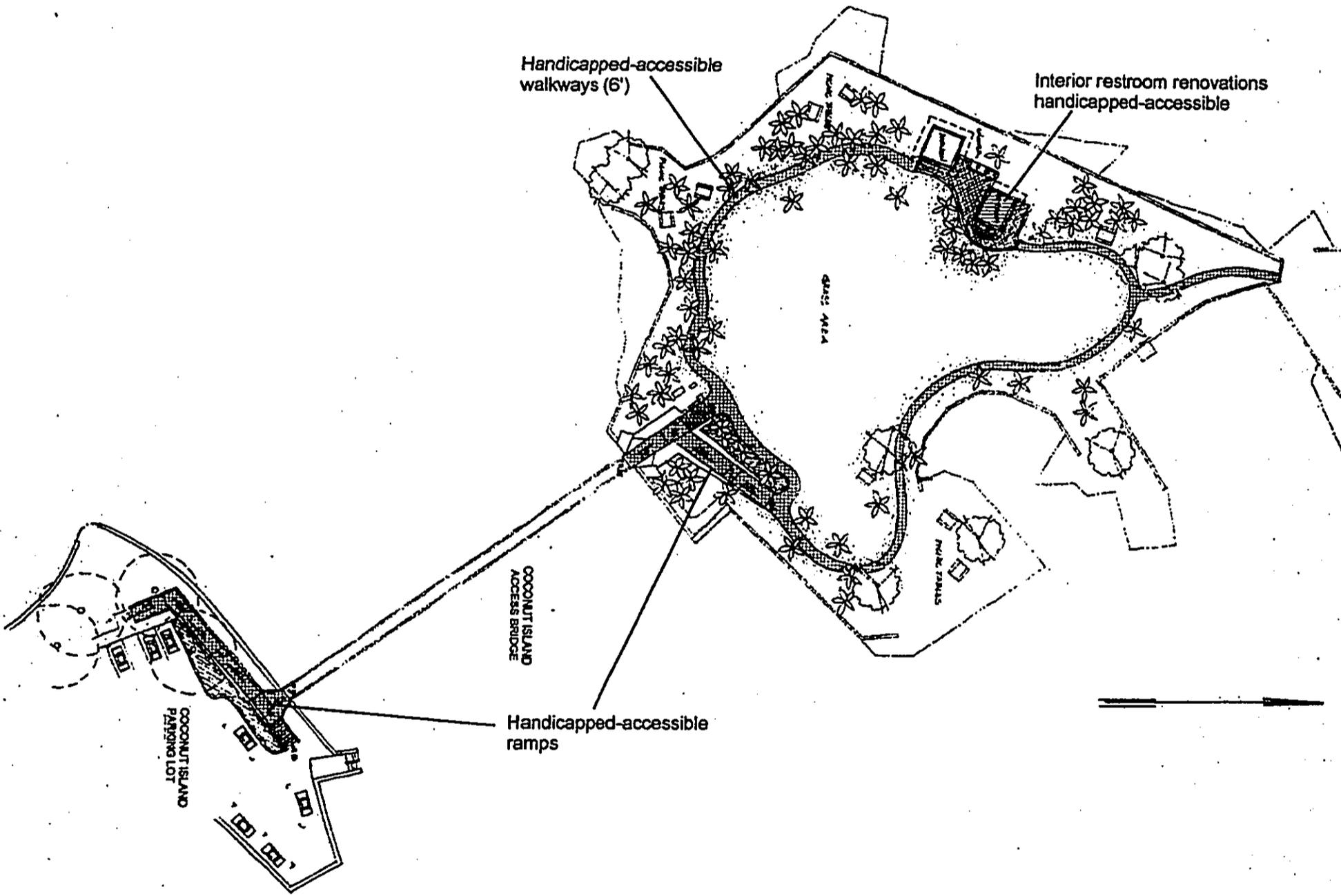


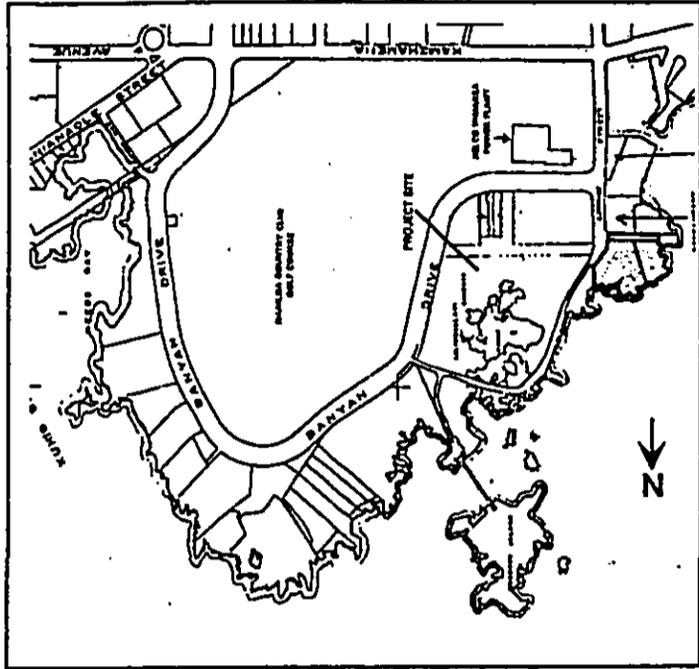
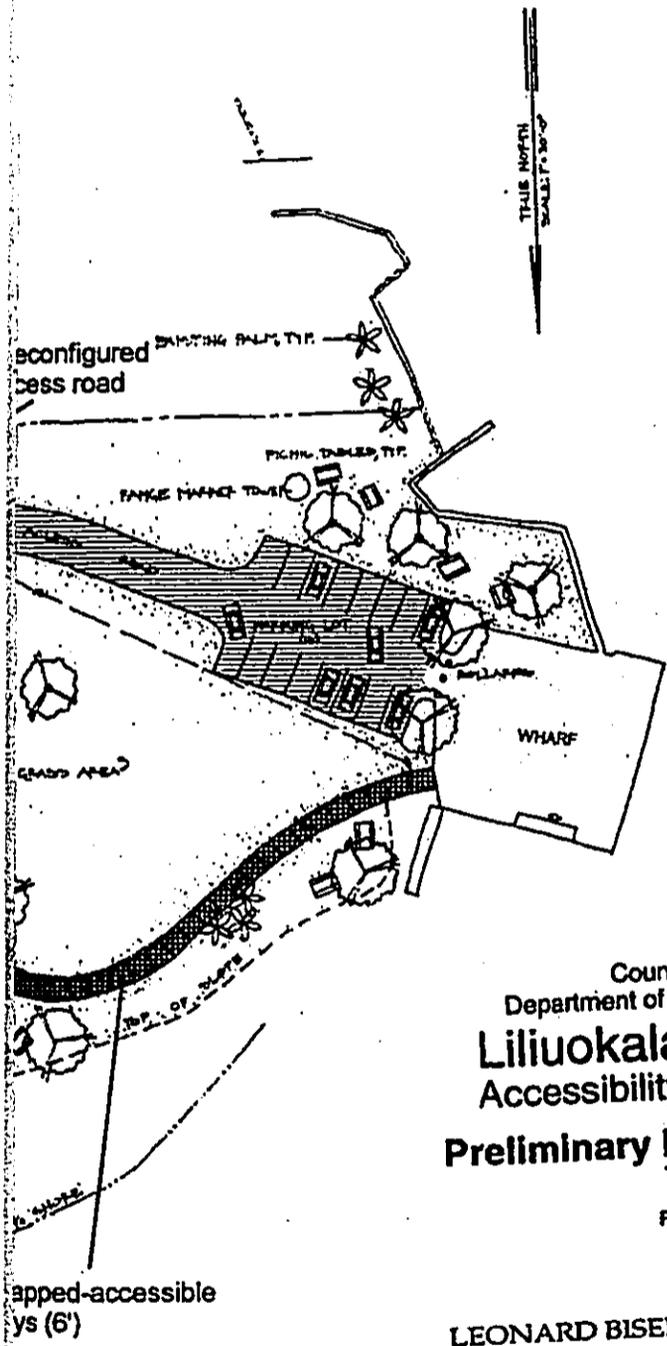
FIGURE 11. Oceanside Pathway Along Lihwai Street





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100





County of Hawaii  
 Department of Parks and Recreation  
**Liliuokalani Gardens**  
 Accessibility Improvements  
**Preliminary Improvement Plan**

Prepared By



**LEONARD BISEL, ASLA ASSOCIATES**  
 Landscape Architecture & Site Planning

**Fig. 13. Conceptual Site Plan for Waiakea Docks Improvements**



FIGURE 14. Old Government Wharf-- Existing Conditions

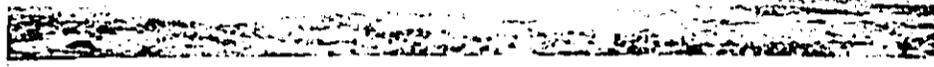


Photo A

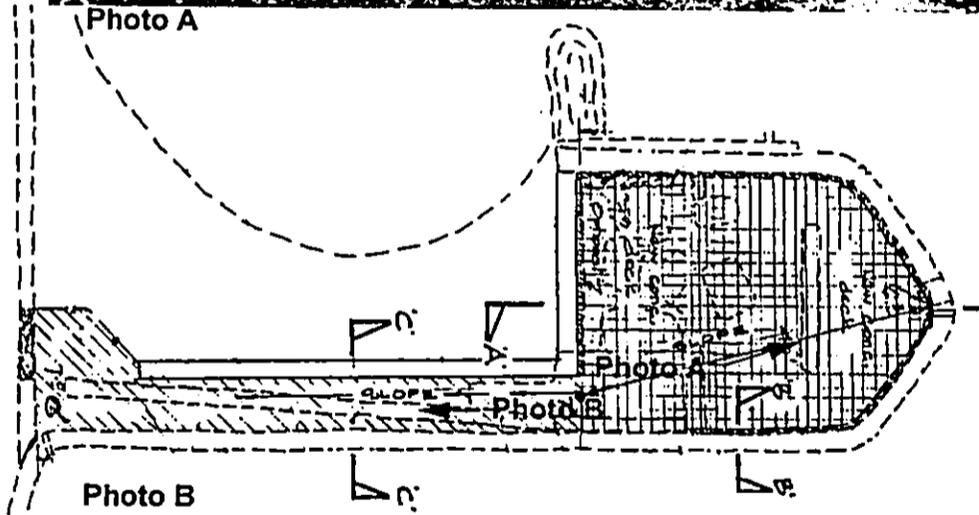


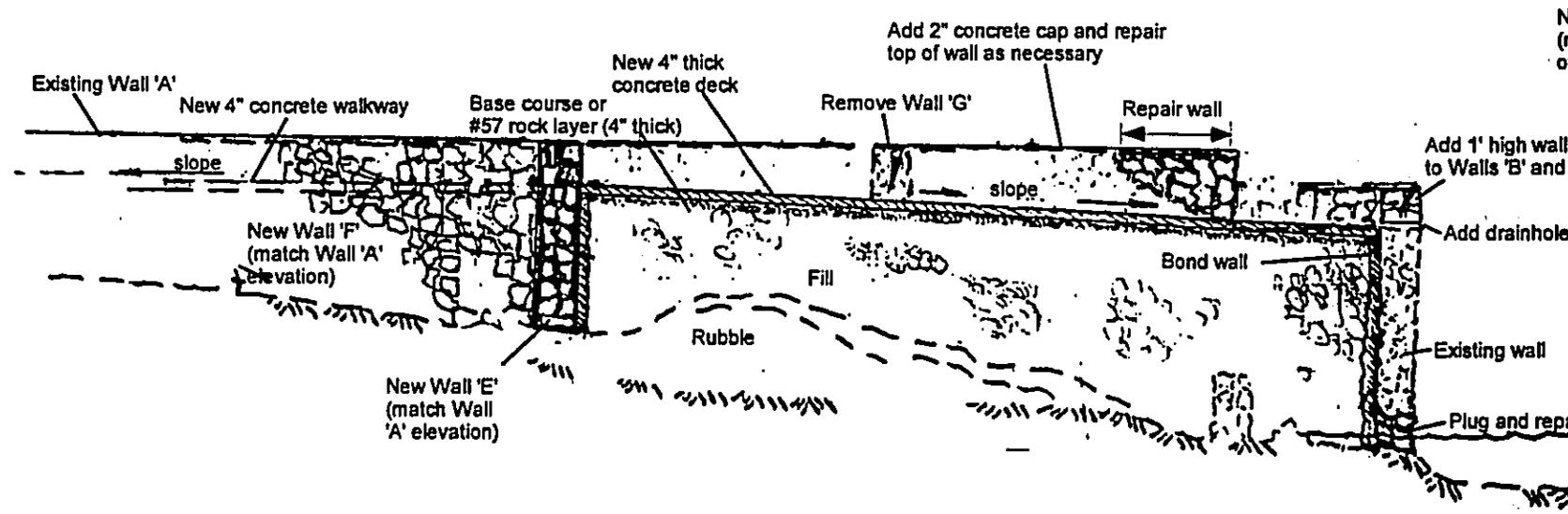
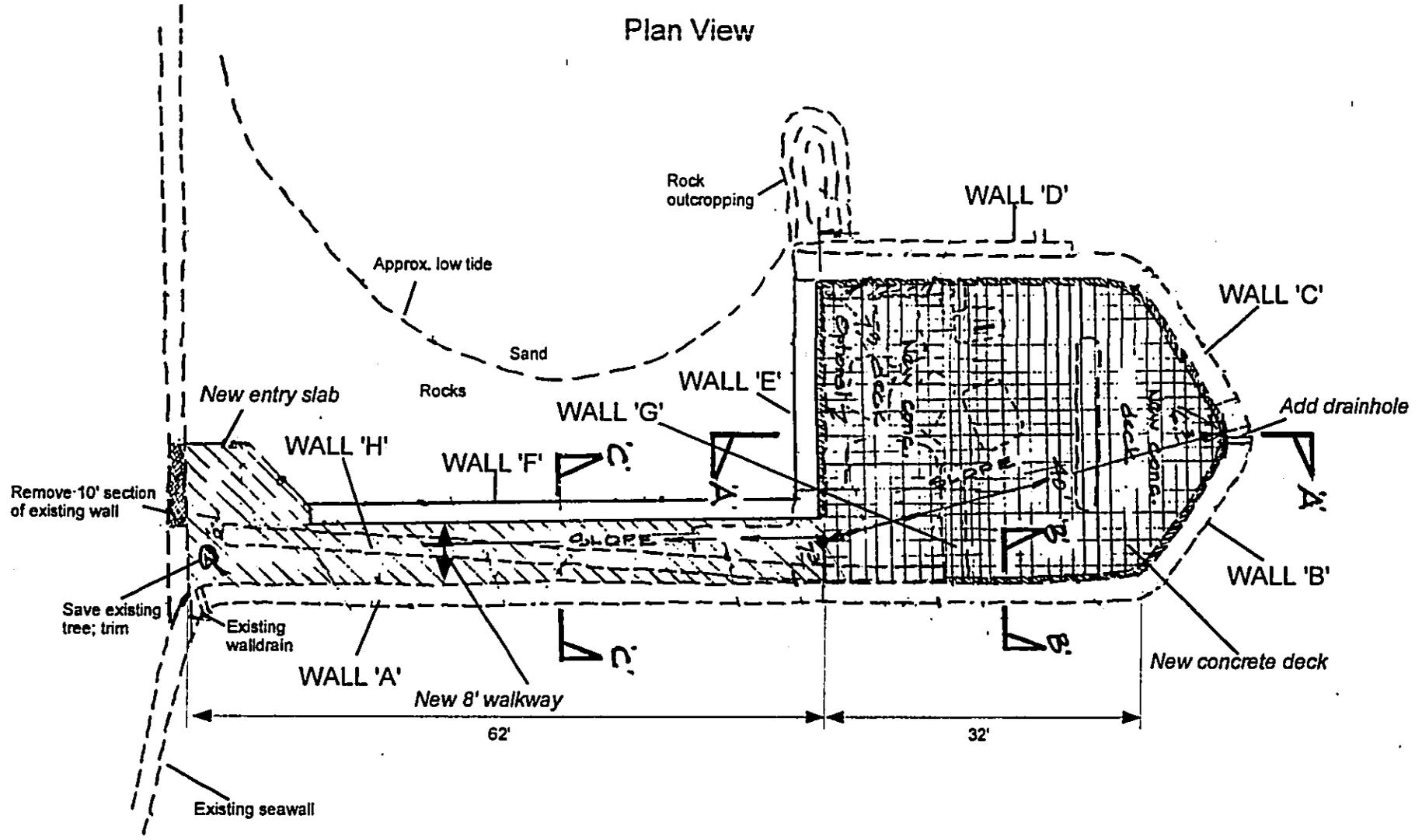
Photo B



Final EA Waiakea Peninsula Improvements

§2.3.2

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION



WALL  
Existin  
New 6'

WALL  
Existin  
Repair  
New 6'

WALL  
Existin  
Plug b  
New 6'

WALL  
Existin  
New 6'

WALL  
New w  
New 6'

WALL  
New w

WALL  
Remov

WALL  
Remov

Ne  
(m  
of

Add 1' high wall  
to Walls 'B' and 'C'

Add drainhole

Bond wall

Existing wall

Plug and repair

**WALL 'A'**  
Existing wall to remain (retain all existing walkdrains).  
New 6"-8" thick concrete bond wall along inside of walls in fill area.

**WALL 'B'**  
Existing wall to remain; add 1' high section to existing wall.  
Repair 10' section.  
New 6"-8" thick concrete bond wall along inside of walls in fill area.

**WALL 'C'**  
Existing wall to remain; add 1' high section to existing wall.  
Plug breach in bottom of wall.  
New 6"-8" thick concrete bond wall along inside of walls in fill area.

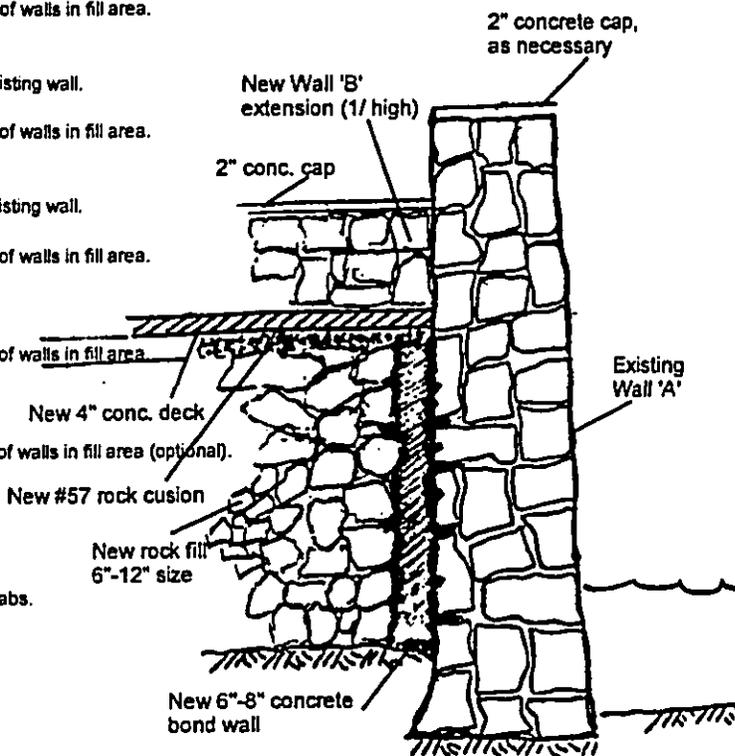
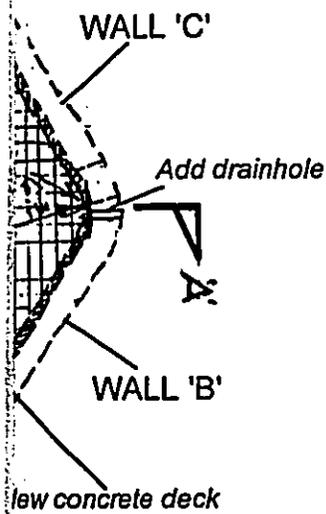
**WALL 'D'**  
Existing wall to remain.  
New 6"-8" thick concrete bond wall along inside of walls in fill area.

**WALL 'E'**  
New wall to match Wall 'A' elevation.  
New 6"-8" thick concrete bond wall along inside of walls in fill area (optional).

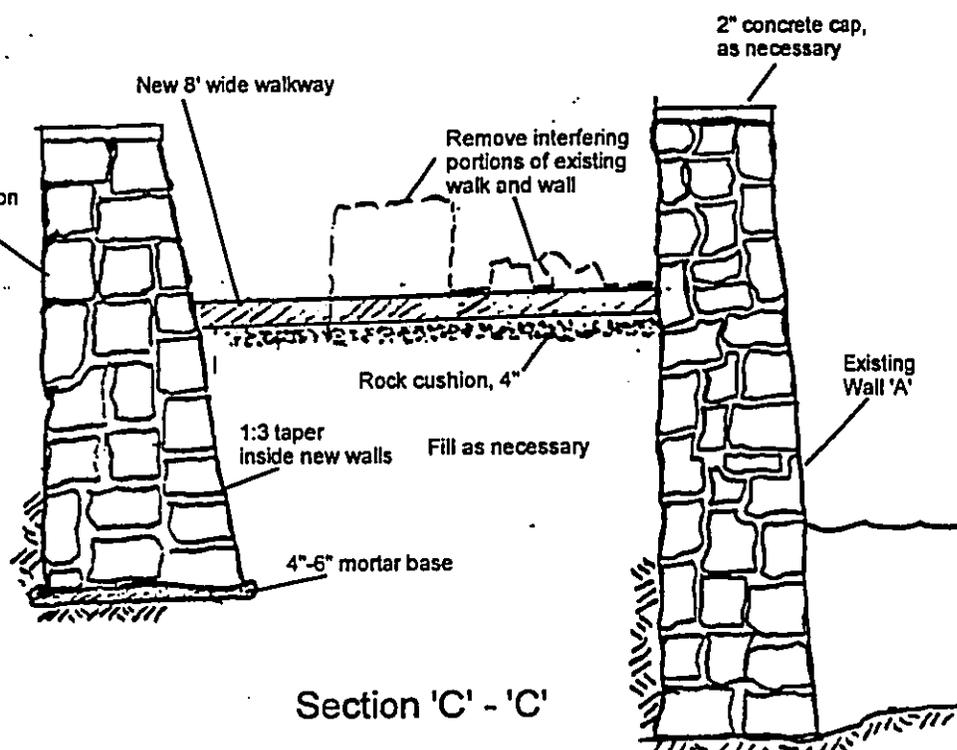
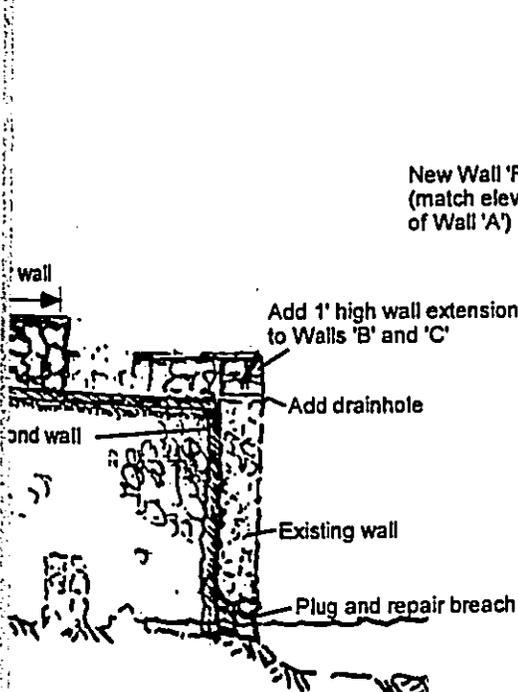
**WALL 'F'**  
New wall to match Wall 'A' elevation.

**WALL 'G' and existing concrete slabs**  
Remove existing wall and all existing concrete slabs.

**WALL 'H'**  
Remove obstructing portions.



Section 'B' - 'B'



Section 'C' - 'C'

Fig. 15. Old Government Wharf--  
Proposed Reconstruction

## 2.4 Timetable and Cost

The targeted construction start is late 1999, with completion in 6 months by the middle of 2000. The estimated construction cost is \$1.25-2.0 million using County funds. Based on the bid results, if additional funding is required, there may be a possibility that Federal (Community Development Block Grant) funds may be used.

## 3.0 ALTERNATIVES

### 3.1 No Action

The "no action" alternative would maintain the existing conditions of Liliuokalani Gardens, which would be acceptable to those who are concerned about the historic integrity or prefer the existing aesthetics of the Garden. However, the disadvantages of this alternative include the continued lack of ADA-compliant accessibility to the existing park facilities at Liliuokalani Gardens and Coconut Island, the continued public safety hazard of the Old Government Wharf, and the missed opportunity to enhance the overall area.

### 3.2 Alternative Designs

The proposed ADA-compliant pathways within Liliuokalani Gardens may raise concerns of compatibility with the existing character. To address these concerns, several alternative details have been developed that are more aesthetic than a standard sidewalk, yet meet accessibility standards and budget constraints (refer to Figure 5).

### 3.3 Selective Implementation

The Project can be selectively implemented by subareas. For example, if concerns are raised with the Liliuokalani Gardens improvements that cannot be effectively resolved, then the plans for this area can be deferred while the plans for the other subareas proceed.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, & MITIGATION MEASURES

The impacts are classified according to the following categories:

- No impact anticipated;
- Potentially beneficial;
- Potentially adverse;
- Requires mitigation; or
- Requires project modification.

## 4.1 Physical Characteristics

### 4.1.1 Climate

Located on the wetter windward side of the island, the mean annual rainfall is about 136". Generally, the wet months occur from October through April. Mean annual temperature is about 73°F. Wind patterns are diurnal-- dominant easterly tradewinds prevail during the day, while in the evening cooler westerly winds sweep down the slopes of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea.<sup>4</sup>

#### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

### 4.1.2 Topography & Soils

The Site ranges in elevation from sea level to approximately 14' above mean sea level. The topography of the Site is relatively flat. The Soil Survey Report classifies the soil as Keaukaha Series (rKFD), which is extremely rocky muck, well-drained, thin (<1') organic soils overlying pahoehoe lava bedrock. Runoff is medium, erosion hazard slight, and shrink-swell potential high (although these soils are usually moist, when dried they have high shrinkage but low swelling potential).<sup>5</sup>

#### Impacts and Mitigation

Requires mitigation. The parking improvements for the Waiakea Dock subarea may require grading. Although the project may be exempt from the County Grading Permit requirements since the area requiring grading is less than an acre,<sup>6</sup> the Special Management Area Permit should require best management construction practices as a condition of the permit because of the proximity of this area to the shoreline.

### 4.1.3 Natural Hazards

**Flood and Coastal Hazards.** The Flood Insurance Rate Map designates the entire Site in the coastal high hazard zone (VE), more commonly known as the tsunami inundation areas, with base flood elevations up to 22' (see Figure 16).<sup>7</sup> All proposed improvements must comply with the construction standards in the Flood Control Code (Hawaii County Code chapter 27). The standards address design requirements such as anchoring to resist flotation, locating appropriate electrical and mechanical improvements above the base flood elevation, prohibiting filling, and raising new construction or substantial improvements to existing structures so that the lowest floor is above the base flood elevation.<sup>8</sup>

4. State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. *An Inventory of Basic Water Resources Data: Island of Hawaii*. Report R34, 1970.

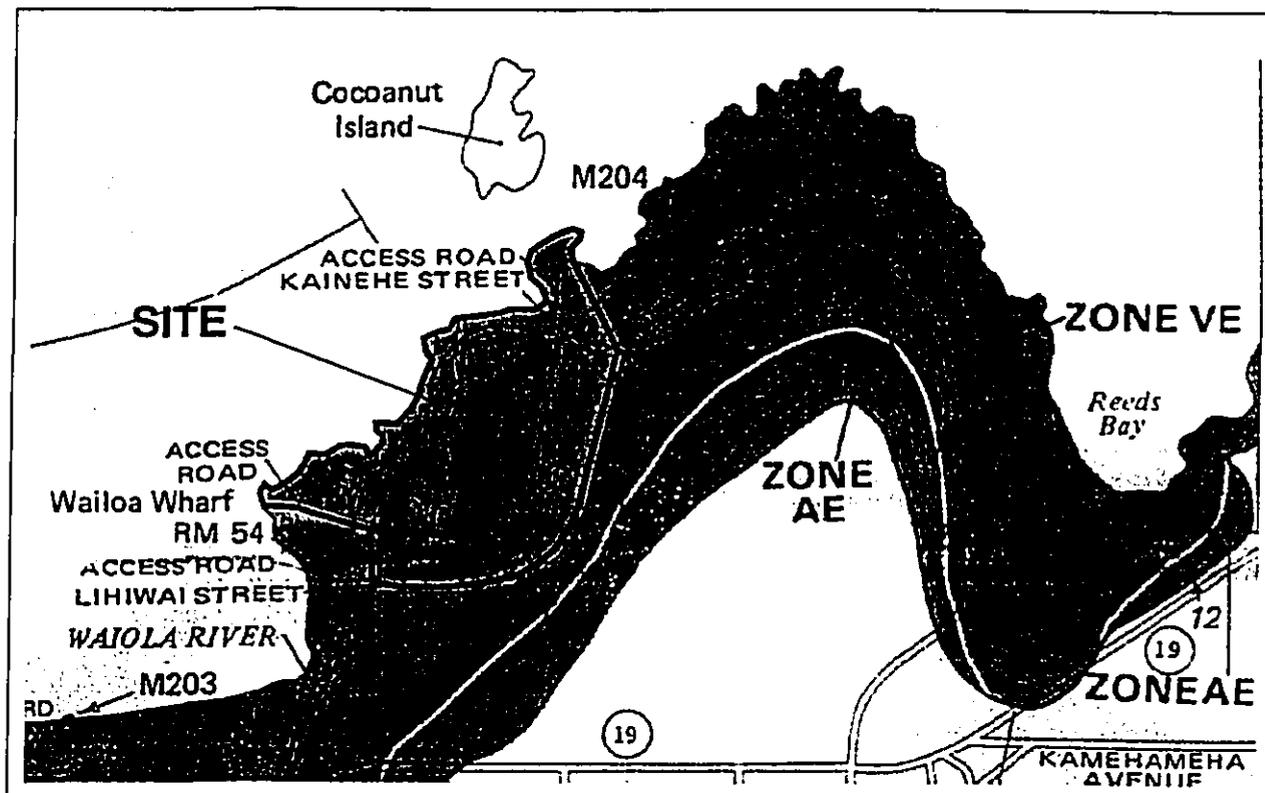
5. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. *Soil Survey of Island of Hawaii*. State of Hawaii, 1973, sheet 74.

6. Hawaii County Code §10-3(b)(8) (exclusions to Erosion and Sedimentation Control Code).

7. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Rate Map, panel 880.

8. Hawaii County Code §§27-18 (standards for construction) and -23 (standards for coastal high hazard areas).

FIGURE 16. Flood Insurance Rate Map



Because federal funds may be involved, Executive Order 11988 requires federal agencies to minimize occupancy and modification of floodplains, and to consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects and incompatible development in a floodplain. If no practicable alternatives exist, the project must be designed to minimize potential harm and a notice must be publicly circulated explaining the project and reasons for the project being sited in the floodplain. Furthermore, construction must be consistent with the standards, criteria and intent of the National Flood Insurance Program and its implementing regulations (44 CFR 59-77).

To implement this Executive Order, HUD requires an "Eight-Step Floodplain Management Analysis" to ensure that all practicable alternatives have been analyzed, that the natural and beneficial uses of floodplains are not adversely affected, that any potential harm to the floodplain or human health and safety can be mitigated, and that the public has had a chance to review and comment upon the proposed project. If federal CDBG funds are used, OHCD will perform this eight-step analysis, and the proposing agency will publish the required notices. A preliminary draft of the analysis is included in APPENDIX A, "Compliance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management".

**Volcanic and Earthquake Hazards.** The United States Geological Survey (USGS) classifies the Hilo area in Lava Flow Hazard Zone 3, on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1.<sup>9</sup> The Building Code designates the entire island of Hawaii in Earthquake Zone 3 and contains certain structural requirements to address the relative seismic hazards.

### Impacts and Mitigation

Requires mitigation. The Flood Control Code standards for construction within the VE zone apply to "new construction" and "substantial improvement". Both "new construction" and "substantial improvement" apply to "structures". A "structure" is a "walled and roofed building." The only structures involved in the Project are the restroom renovations. Both restrooms are "nonconforming structures," defined as existing prior to May 5, 1982.<sup>10</sup> The standards do not apply to nonconforming structures, unless the reconstruction are considered "substantial improvements." The Flood Control Code defines substantial improvement as follows:

Substantial Improvement. For the purposes of this chapter, the determination of whether any improvements constitute substantial improvements is applicable only to structures built prior to May 5, 1982. "Substantial improvement" means any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other proposed new development of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement which shall be the sum of all costs of all such work performed in the previous three years including the cost of the current work being considered....<sup>11</sup>

The Liliuokalani Gardens restroom was built in 1961, and the Coconut Island restroom in 1969. No work has been done on these structures in the previous three years. The estimated cost of the Liliuokalani Gardens restroom renovations is \$35,000, which is less than 50% of the estimated market value (replacement cost) of \$80,400. The estimated cost of the Coconut Island restroom renovations is \$34,000, which is less than 50% of the estimated market value (replacement cost) of \$115,300. If the costs and values meet the definition of "substantial improvements," the Project may proceed without raising the lower floors of the restrooms above the base flood elevation. If the costs or values do not meet the definition, then the proposing agency will seek a variance to the Flood Control Code or otherwise redesign the renovations to meet the code.

The proposed pathways, parking lot improvements, torii gates, and wharf reconstruction are not "structures," but are considered "development".<sup>12</sup> The Flood Control Code requires pre-construction and post-construction certification of elevation and floodproofing of any development, new construction, or substantial improvements within the special flood hazard areas.<sup>13</sup>

### 4.1.4 Flora/Fauna

There are no known endangered or threatened flora on the Site.<sup>14</sup> To mitigate disorienting the dark-rumped petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*), which is a federally endangered or threatened species, the proposed street lighting will conform with the recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: the height of the light poles will be less than 25' (proposed lights are

9. Heliker, C. *Volcanic and Seismic Hazards on the Island of Hawaii*. U.S. Geological Survey, 1991.

10. Hawaii County Code §27-13.

11. Hawaii County Code §27-12(a)(61).

12. "Development," is defined as "any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate." (Hawaii County Code §27-12(a)(12)).

13. Hawaii County Code §27-17.

14. Confirmed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife in a letter dated 5/18/99 (see APPENDIX D, "Comments and Responses to the Draft EA").

18'); the lights will be directed downward and shielded as required by the outdoor lighting code (Hawaii County Code section 14-50 *et seq*); and the lights will be of low wattage (35w).

The only tree designated as an "exceptional tree" in the vicinity is the monkeypod at Suisan. An "exceptional tree" is "a tree or grove of trees with historic or cultural value, or which by reason of its age, rarity, location, size, aesthetic quality, or endemic status has been designated by the council as worthy of preservation."<sup>15</sup>

The pond at Liliuokalani Gardens is called Waihonu Pond. Although this pond is a wetland, it is not a significant habitat for endangered native waterbirds, as inferred by omission in comprehensive statewide surveys of wetlands. In a publication, *Hawaii's Endangered Waterbirds*, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife ranked wetland habitats by their value to endangered waterbirds.<sup>16</sup> The publication included only Lokoaka Pond in the Hilo area. Another survey, using vegetation as indicators of wetlands, identified Lokoaka Pond and Haena Pond in the Hilo area.<sup>17</sup> Another survey of wetlands as bird habitats identified Waiakea/Mohouli Ponds, Lokoaka/Kionakapahu Ponds, and Keaau Ranch Fishpond.<sup>18</sup> For the nearby Waiakea/Mohouli Ponds, the survey observed Hawaiian coots and Black-crowned Night Herons. The survey considered these ponds of secondary importance in terms of the number of waterbirds that regularly inhabit the ponds. The study's conclusion, which may also apply to the Waihonu Ponds, seem to be the educational/recreational value of the ponds rather than the natural habitat value:

The principal value of the site is not in the number of coots that nest, but in the unique opportunity for residents and visitors to observe an endemic waterbird behaving naturally. There is no waterbird habitat in the State where nesting coots can be so easily observed by the public without disturbance to the birds. The same educational and recreational value holds true for the observation of migratory waterfowl. Although total numbers of birds that visit the pond may be relatively small, the variety is impressive and the opportunity for observation unsurpassed by other wetland habitat on Hawaii.<sup>19</sup>

The Project's enhanced use of the Site for park purposes furthers these educational/recreational values of Waihonu Pond.

#### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated. No action is proposed for Waihonu Pond. Existing landscaping in Liliuokalani Gardens will be preserved, except for two areas. The row of paper bark trees in the middle of the park will be thinned in one area to reduce the visual separation between parts of Liliuokalani Gardens (see Figure 17). The thinning will also allow the ground in the shade of the trees to dry and become usable for picnicking. Selected trees will remain to preserve a visual reminder of the historic boundary of the park. The other area where tree-cutting will occur is the Formosan koa and bottle brush along Lihikai Street. These trees-- which are too closely planted, spindly, and termite-infested-- will be replaced with pedestrian pathways, parking, and streetscape trees.

15. Hawaii County Code §14-57.

16. U.S. Department of Interiors. *Hawaii's Endangered Waterbirds*, September 1970.

17. Elliott, M. and E. Hall. *Wetlands and Wetland Vegetation of Hawaii*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1977.

18. Ahuimanu Productions. *An Ornithological Survey of Hawaiian Wetlands*, 1977.

19. *Ibid.* v. 2, p. 364.

#### 4.1.5 Historic/Archaeological/Cultural Resources

There are no registered historic sites within the Site.<sup>20</sup> However, the State Historic Preservation Division has identified two properties within or in the vicinity of the Site that may be eligible for the Hawaii and National Registers of Historic Places.<sup>21</sup> They are Liliuokalani Gardens and Suisan Fish Market. Suisan Fish Market is outside the Project Site, and the Project will not likely affect this property. Liliuokalani Gardens is valued in terms of historical interest as one of the first Japanese style gardens constructed outside of Japan.<sup>22</sup> Historical background information on the Site is provided below.

**Liliuokalani Gardens<sup>23</sup>.** Liliuokalani Gardens exemplifies the blending of cultures of modern Hawaii. Its stone lanterns and pagodas, its precise footpaths and bridges, and the traditional design of its buildings make it an authentic Japanese garden, perhaps the largest outside of Japan. Juxtaposed amidst the Japanese features are such tropical features as pahoehoe lava, coconuts and mangos, which make this garden unlike any in Japan.

A visit to Japan in 1914 inspired the development of this park. Upon their return from a visit to the Kyoto Golden Pavilion, Mrs. Laura Kennedy, wife of the manager of the Waiakea Mill Company, began working on park plans to turn this area of swamplands and fishponds into a Japanese garden. By the 1940s, the park expanded from the shoreline to the then Mamane Street. The 1946 tsunami destroyed most of the work-- buildings were washed away, stonework demolished, ponds filled with mud, and plantings uprooted.

The County Parks Department started to rehabilitate the park, but no substantial funds were available until the 1949 Legislature appropriated \$10,000 for that purpose. Among the preliminary steps taken were the introduction of big sea turtles to eat excess vegetation which clogged the old ponds, placing a bounty on barracuda which preyed on the mullet in the ponds, and scouring the muddy bottoms for buried Japanese lanterns and restoring them.

After the 1960 tsunami, which destroyed most of the remaining residences and businesses on Waiakea Peninsula, the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency acquired and relocated the destroyed residences and businesses, eliminated Mamane Street, and expanded the park boundaries to Banyan Drive.

The Liliuokalani Park of today is built from countless acts of generosity:

- Hilo Shinkokai, a women's organization, donated a ten-foot high stone lantern in 1916;
- Seiichiro Yasui, governor of metropolitan Tokyo, donated another stone lantern;

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20. State Historic Preservation Division website lists the Hawaii and National Register on its website (<http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/hpd/hpregistr.htm>).

21. Preconsultation correspondence with the State Historic Preservation Division (letter dated February 16, 1999 from D. Hibbard, Administrator, State Historic Preservation Division).

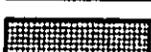
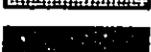
22. Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii Register of Historic Places, Short Form, Site No. 10-35-7486.

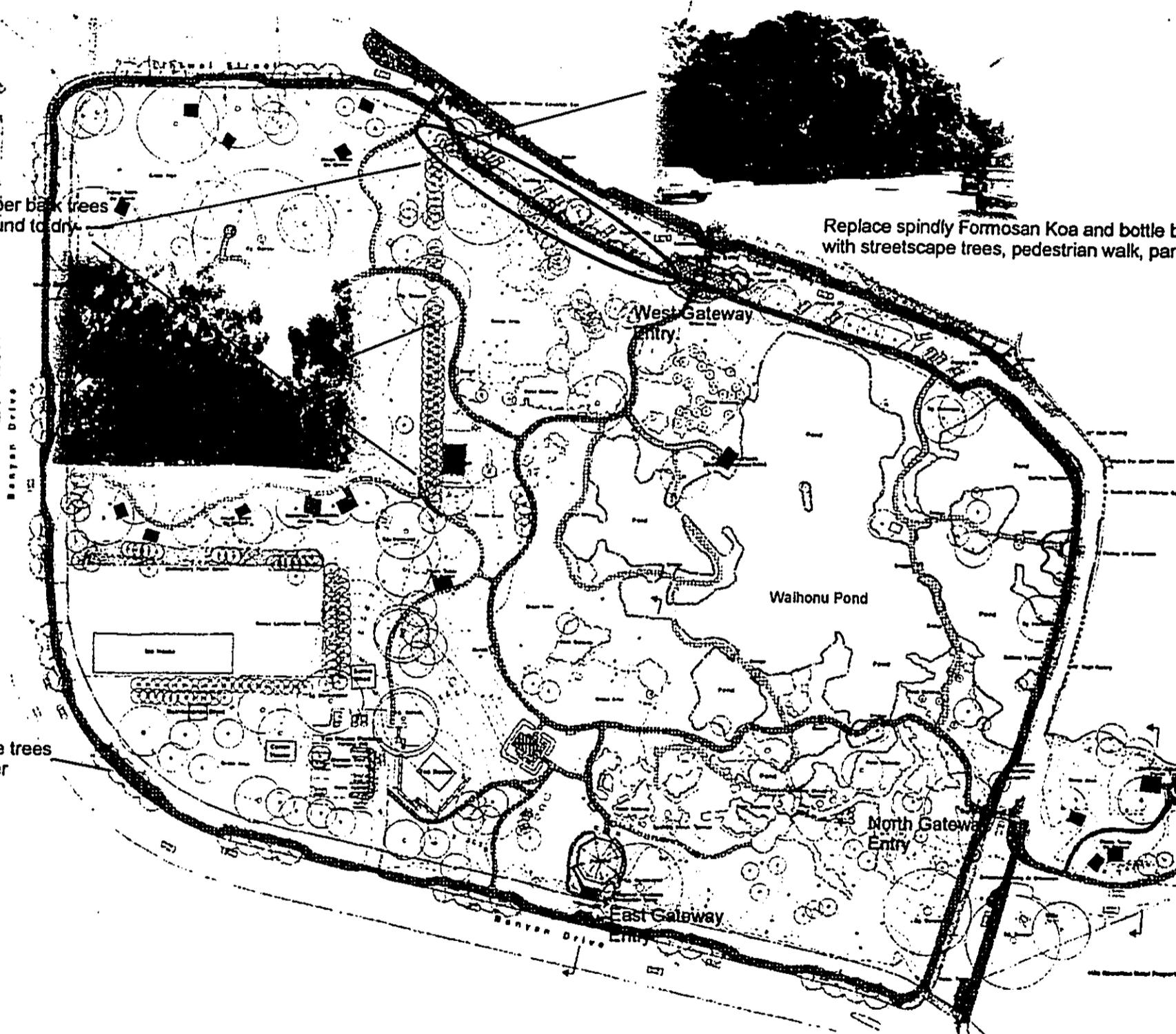
23. Honolulu Advertiser, October 4, 1953, "Japanese Park in Hilo Is Now Being Restored"; Honolulu Star-Bulletin, January 13, 1954, "Rebuilding of Hilo Park Will Be Completed Soon"; Honolulu Advertiser, May 26, 1957, "Sample of Japan".

Thin out paper bark trees to allow ground to dry

Replace spindly Formosan Koa and bottle trees with streetscape trees, pedestrian walk, park benches

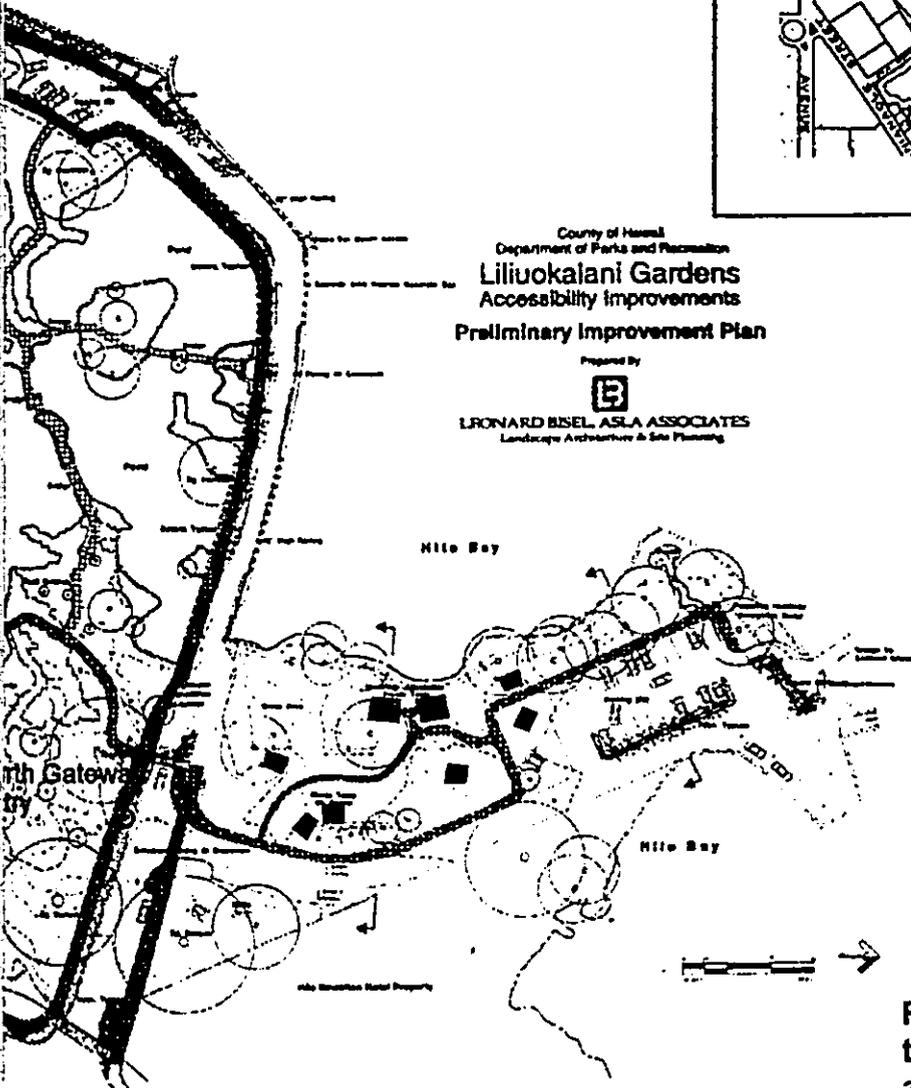
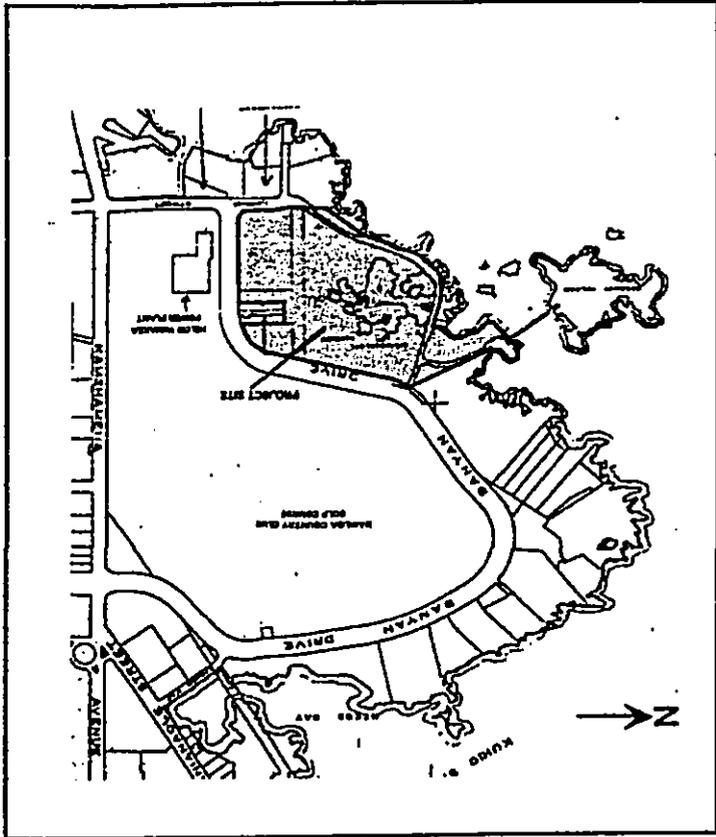
New streetscape trees around perimeter

-  Perimeter walkways (handicapped-accessible), 8' wide
-  Interior primary walkways (handicapped-accessible), 6' wide
-  Interior secondary walkways (not handicapped-accessible)
-  Picnic facilities





Spindly Formosan Koa and bottle brush  
landscape trees, pedestrian walk, parking



County of Hawaii  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
**Liliuokalani Gardens**  
Accessibility Improvements  
Preliminary Improvement Plan  
Prepared by  
**LEONARD BESEL ASSOCIATES**  
Landscape Architecture & Site Planning

**Fig. 17. Proposed Alteration  
to Existing Landscaping  
at Liliuokalani Gardens**

- During the 100th anniversary celebration of Japanese immigration to Hawaii, the governors of the Japanese prefectures that sent immigrants to Hawaii donated 13 stone lanterns, two stone lion gates, and torii;
- The Urasanke Tea Ceremony Foundation of Kyoto donated a Japanese tea ceremony house with materials and craftsmen from Japan which took six months to construct in 1972;
- Vandals burned the teahouse a few years ago, and the teahouse was rebuilt in its present location with County funds and private donations;
- Various Hilo residents and organizations donated stone lanterns, pagodas, benches, metal cranes, and plants.

A local contractor named Yamamoto, an expert in Japanese gardens, drew the original plans for the park. For the reconstruction of the park after the 1946 tsunami, the County commissioned Nagao Sakurai, a noted Japanese landscape architect and former Imperial household landscape designer. Mr. Sakurai also created a miniature "dry" garden to complement the "wet" garden in the park. He worked with rocks, bonsai trees, and ferns to depict a waterfall plunging into a gorge, with the mountain stream represented by white sand. Another landscape architect, Kinsaku Nakane of Kyoto University, also designed various features, including the moon bridge near the center of the park and a red-painted rest house on another bridge.

Coconut Island<sup>24</sup>. Coconut Island derives its name from its prominent stand of coconut trees. The Hawaiian name, Mokuola, means "healing island". Hawaiians visited the island to seek cures for diseases that afflicted them. Part of the treatment included swimming once around a rock offshore the island under the direction of a kahuna. The fresh spring waters that emerge in the sea water surrounding the island were believed to be endowed with healing properties. Mokuola was also recognized as a place of refuge, or pu'uhonua, a haven where lawbreakers could find safety and forgiveness.

Directly across the channel between the island and Waiakea peninsula was a sacrificial heiau. Nothing remains of the structure. Captain Thomas Spencer removed the foundation stones in 1861 to construct a boat landing near the mouth of the Wailoa River.

The island developed into one of Hilo's most popular picnic areas. Before a bridge connected the island to the peninsula, the Isaac Keliipio family rowed people across the waters to Coconut Island. The cost for a round trip was a nickel. Beside their family home was the Hilo Rowing Club boathouse and training facilities, now the site of the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

During World War II, the military took over Coconut Island for its own exclusive recreational use, angering many local residents. The military also constructed a diving tower for military training. This tower survived the 1960 tsunami and is a popular attraction for youngsters, who leap from its split-level decks into a large inlet once known as Kalua'uwao. The civilian community regained use of the island in November 1945. A pontoon bridge, constructed by the army, was acquired to join the peninsula and the island. The 1946 tsunami swept away the bridge. Another bridge was constructed, and destroyed by the 1960 tsunami. The present concrete bridge was built as part of the restoration of Coconut Island and Liliuokalani Gardens.

24. Clark, J., *Beaches of the Big Island*. University of Hawaii Press, 1985, pp. 18-20; Richard Nakamura and Glora Kobayashi, "Waiakea Town, or 'Yoshijima Story', Home of the Waiakea Pirates, booklet available at the Hilo Public Library, pp. 48-49.

**Government Wharf<sup>25</sup>.** The place for the first experiment with a ship wharf in Hilo Bay was under the shelter of Coconut Island next to Waihonu fishpond. Original plans for the government wharf called for a wharf 250' long by 60' wide, extending to a depth of 22'. Construction was completed in 1899. A shed was provided due to the wet climate (see Figure 18). In 1902, the wharf was repaired and extended 30' making it 280' in length. Also in 1902, construction began on a larger, modern wharf 800' long and 60' wide in the Waiakea Dock area. The Hilo Railroad Company completed construction of this new dock in 1903, and the dock became known as the railroad wharf. With the construction of the more modern railroad wharf, the government wharf became obsolete. In 1912, the dilapidated government wharf was removed.

#### **Impacts and Mitigation**

Potentially beneficial. The Project will restore a portion of the Old Government Wharf, instead of demolishing it. The proposed improvements to Liliuokalani Gardens will revitalize this historic park. The Project plans will be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Division (see §5.3, "Historic Preservation").

#### **4.1.6 Coastal and Water Resources**

The Site is popular for picnicking, sight-seeing, fishing, and swimming. With panoramic views of Mauna Kea, Hilo town, and the Hamakua Coast, it is a prime coastal recreational area. There are no streams within the Site. No action is proposed for Waihonu Pond, except for routine maintenance.

#### **Impacts and Mitigation**

Potentially beneficial. The proposed improvements will enhance public access to this popular resource.

Mitigation required. The proposed improvements to the Old Government Wharf will not expand the structure from its original dimensions. Thus, there will be no pilings or further encroachment onto submerged lands that would affect the benthic environment or currents. The substrate in the vicinity of the wharf is a shallow rocky bottom with no corals, and is not a prime habitat for marine life. During construction, the contractor will be required to comply with best management practices approved by the Department of Health pursuant to Section 401 Water Quality Certification requirements. The proposing agency will not issue a notice to proceed until the Department of Health has issued its approval.

#### **4.1.7 Air Quality and Noise**

The existing and proposed uses for the Site are for passive recreation, and will therefore not be as noisy as active recreational uses. Typical construction noise will temporarily disturb park users.

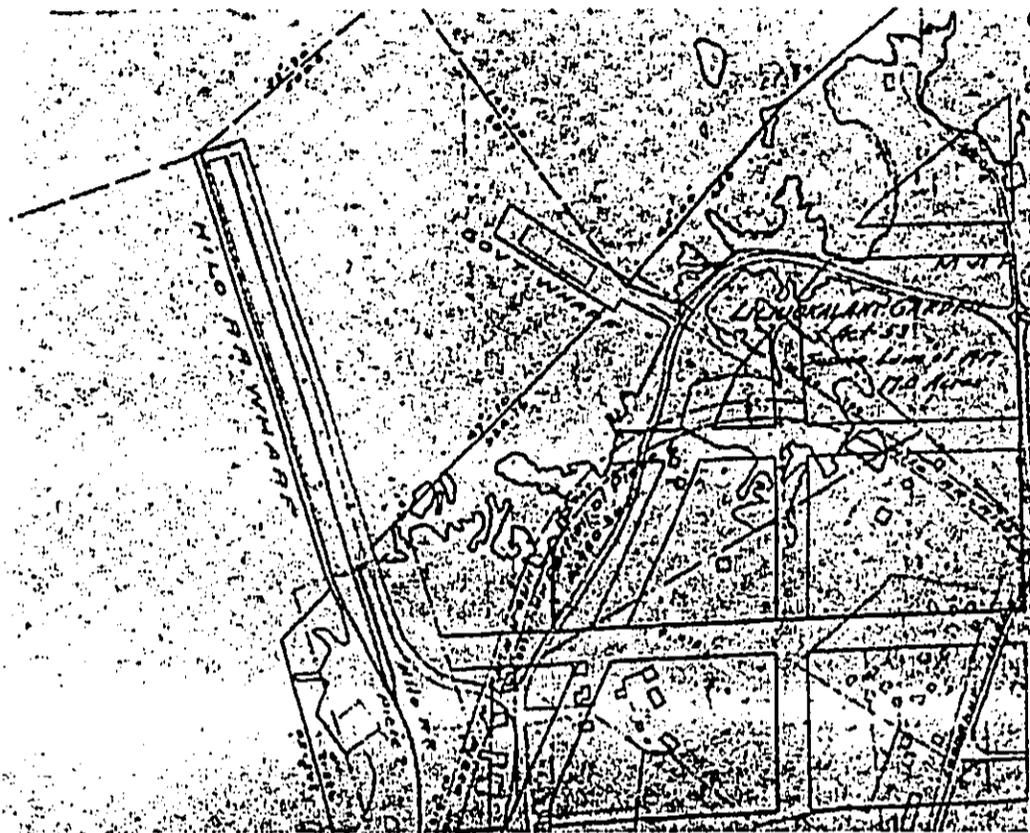
#### **Impacts and Mitigation**

Requires mitigation. Noise during construction would be mitigated by compliance with the Department of Health noise regulations (*Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-46*).

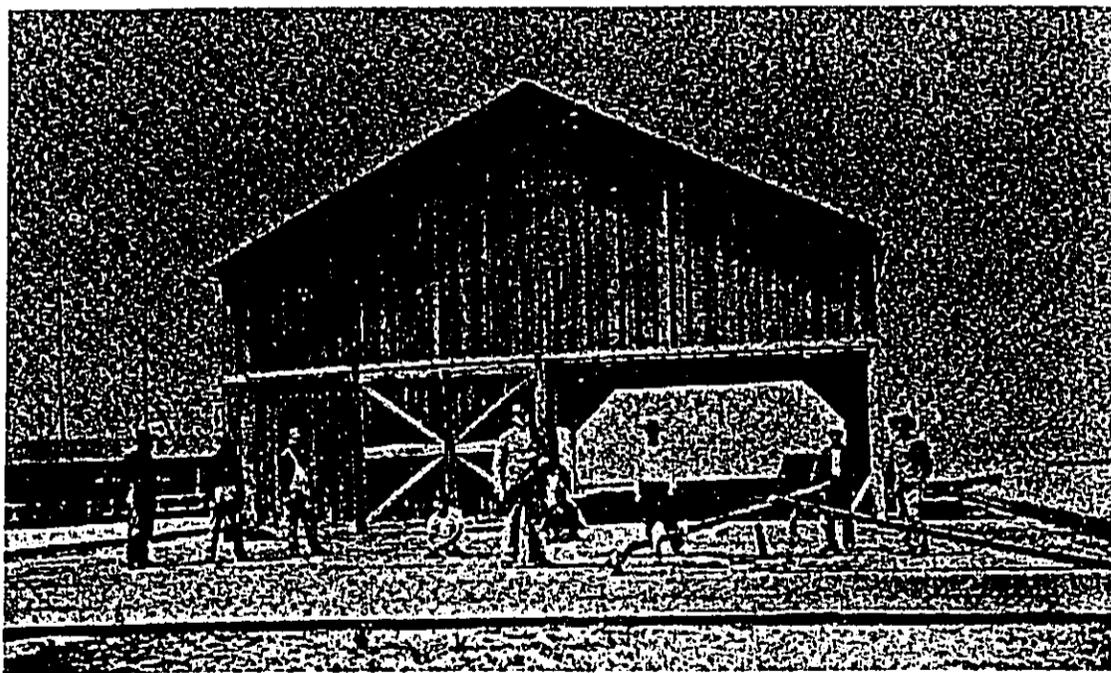
No impact anticipated. The proposed parking improvements will not significantly add capacity such that vehicular traffic will significantly increase over the present conditions. Therefore, vehicular noise and emissions will not significantly differ from existing conditions.

<sup>25</sup> Kelly, M., et al. Hilo Bay: A Chronological History. Prepared for U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu, March 1981, pp. 107, 178-79.

FIGURE 18. Historic Map and Photograph of the Old Government Wharf



Portion of Map Locating Government Wharf and Railroad Wharf.  
W.S. Tay and H.H. Allen, Feb. 1912



Ship Wharf at Waiakea. Hawaii State Archives photo.

Source: M. Kelly, Hilo Bay: A Chronological History, March 1981.

#### 4.1.8 Scenic Resources

The General Plan lists the Site as a significant scenic resource.<sup>26</sup> The Old Government Wharf is a dilapidated structure. The Waiakea Docks and the Coconut Island parking area are underutilized non-landscaped areas.

##### Impacts and Mitigation

Potentially beneficial. The proposed improvements will restore the Old Government Wharf and enhance the visual qualities of the Waiakea Docks and Coconut Island parking areas. The proposed gateway entries to Liliuokalani Gardens will add a sense of identity. The proposed improvements to the interior pathways in Liliuokalani Park will not change the character and location of the existing unpaved paths. The new ADA-compliant pathway will replace an existing concrete pathway and add new pathways where presently there is only grass or dirt (see Figure 19). Grass paving is being considered where feasible.

FIGURE 19. Existing Concrete Pathway in Liliuokalani Gardens



#### 4.1.9 Hazardous Substances

Based on past land uses, there are no known hazardous or toxic substances on the Site.

##### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

<sup>26</sup> County of Hawaii General Plan, Supporting Document, November 1989, p. 33.

## 4.2 Socioeconomic Characteristics

### 4.2.1 Ceded Lands

The entire Site is part of the State's ceded lands inventory. Under the terms of the Admissions Act §5(f), the federal government returned the ceded lands to the State in the form of a public trust for five purposes: support of public schools and other public education institutions; betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians; development of farm and home ownership on as widespread basis as possible; making of public improvements; and provision of lands for public use.

#### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated. The proposed Project meets the public trust purpose of providing land for public use.

### 4.2.2 Economic Impacts

As one piece in the vision to create an attractive shoreline greenway, the proposed improvements will enhance Hilo's image as a visitor destination.

#### Impacts and Mitigation

Potentially beneficial. Although impossible to quantify, the direct and indirect benefits of the Project in terms of increased resident and visitor expenditures related to park activities substantially outweigh the Project costs.

### 4.2.3 Environmental Justice

Projects receiving federal funds must consider whether the project has a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect on minority and low-income populations. By Executive Order 12898, the President mandated that all federal agencies consider such environmental justice issues in the implementation of their programs, policies, and activities.

#### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated. Because this Project involves a recreational facility that beneficially affects all persons in the County, including minority and low-income populations, the concerns of environmental justice do not apply to the Project.

## 4.3 Public Facilities, Utilities, and Services

### 4.3.1 Roads and Traffic

Access to the Site is provided by Lihwai Street, a one-way County roadway (except for a short two-way segment between the Lihwai/Banyan intersection and the Coconut Island access road). Both ends of Lihwai Street connect to Banyan Drive, a two-way County roadway within a 100-foot right-of-way. Currently, neither Lihwai Street nor Banyan Drive has sidewalks in the vicinity of the Site. Tour buses park in the same area as other vehicles.

#### Impacts and Mitigation

Potentially beneficial. The proposed parking lot improvements (teahouse paving, Coconut Island reconfiguration, Liliuokalani Gardens expansion, and Waiakea Docks paving) reconfigure the parking to make it more efficient (i.e., accommodate more vehicles in approximately the same area). Dedicated areas for bus parking ensure that visitors are able to enjoy the park without

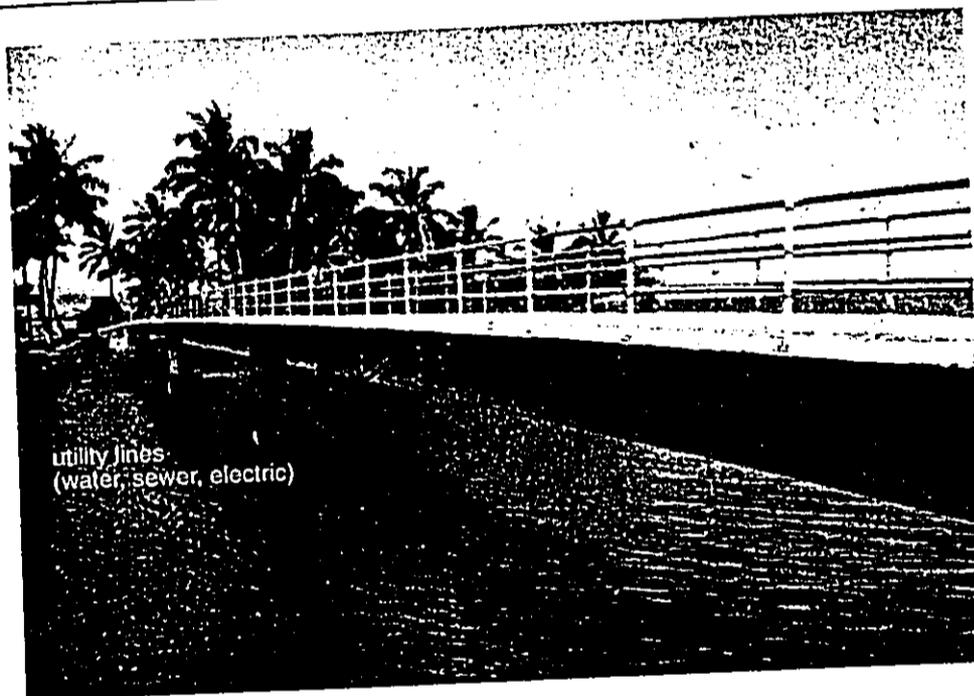
displacing parking for residents. *[In response to comments from Nihon Restaurant, the proposed bus parking adjacent to the restaurant at the Waiakea Docks area has been deleted.]*

Mitigation required. During construction, access to commercial establishments will not be blocked during business hours.

#### 4.3.2 Water System

The County water system presently serves Liliuokalani Gardens and Coconut Island from a 12" main along Banyan Drive and Lihwai Street. The water line to Coconut Island is strapped to the side of the pedestrian bridge (see Figure 20). The proposed improvements to Waiakea Docks will not require any water.

FIGURE 20. Utility Lines Along Coconut Island Pedestrian Bridge



#### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated. The proposed improvements will not significantly increase water demand from the current usage at Liliuokalani Gardens and Coconut Island. The Project will not require any new water improvements.

#### 4.3.3 Wastewater System

The existing restroom at Coconut Island is connected to the County sewerage system. The existing restroom at Liliuokalani Gardens is connected to a cesspool, with future plans to connect to the sewerline.

**Impacts and Mitigation**

No impact anticipated. The Project will not require any wastewater improvements.

**4.3.4 Drainage System**

The existing stormflows from Lihwai Street and the existing paved parking areas at the Waiakea Docks and Coconut Island drain to the adjoining areas or the ocean.

**Impacts and Mitigation**

No impact anticipated. Since small portions of Lihwai Street will only be repaved and not widened, there will be no change from the existing conditions. There are no known water quality problems caused by the existing conditions. The paved parking areas at Coconut Island and Waiakea Docks will be slightly expanded from the existing conditions. If necessary, drainage can be directed to landscaped seepage pits. Drywells would not likely work due to the high water table in this area.

**4.3.5 Electrical/Telephone**

The Site, including Coconut Island, is presently served by electricity. As an energy conservation measure, the proposed street lights may be solar-powered.

**Impacts and Mitigation**

No impact anticipated. The Project includes minimal electrical improvements for street lighting.

**4.3.6 Police & Fire Protection**

The proposed project would be served by the County's fire station headquarters located on Kinoole Street approximately two miles away or the 24-hour substation on Keaa Street near the airport located approximately a mile away from the Site. The Keaa Fire Station also has an advanced life support ambulance unit for emergency services. The police headquarters is located on Kapiolani Street approximately 2.5 miles away from the Site.

**Impacts and Mitigation**

No impact anticipated. The existing services will adequately serve the Project. The restroom renovations will attempt to incorporate measures to discourage graffiti, vandalism, and other criminal activity, such as the following:

- Use of non-porous materials for walls and floors to facilitate graffiti cleanup;
- Although non-porous, avoiding use of ceramic tile which vandals can crack;
- Using stainless steel toilets and sinks instead of porcelain to discourage vandals from cracking or removing them;
- Using stainless steel or polished aluminum as a mirror, instead of glass, to avoid broken glass;
- Motion sensor lights to let officers know someone is in the restroom at nights; the lights would be placed on the ceiling facing the ground to reduce glare and located at the entrance and all four corners of the building;
- Light-colored paint will be considered for the outside walls to increase lighting;
- Landscape barriers to the outside walls may be planted to discourage graffiti.

### 4.3.7 Airport Clear Zones

The Site is outside the runway clear zone for Hilo International Airport, which is the area designated beyond the ends of runways where the greatest number (about 75%) of aircraft accidents occur (see Figure 21). As required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations, this zone is trapezoidal in shape, with maximum dimensions of 1000' at the base, fanning out to 1750', and 2500' long.

#### Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

### 4.4 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

The Project is related to other ongoing improvement projects that are part of the Hilo Bayfront greenway vision. These other projects include the proposed Wailuku Riverfront Park and Hilo Bayfront Restroom Facilities.<sup>27</sup> The cumulative impact of these improvements is to create a continuous shoreline park from Wailuku River to the cruise ship terminal facilities. The intended secondary impacts are beneficial-- that is, to enhance Hilo as a visitor destination area that would stimulate the economy.

## 5.0 RELATIONSHIP TO PLANS, POLICIES, AND CONTROLS

### 5.1 State Plan

The Project conforms with the objectives and policies of the Hawaii State Plan (Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 226):

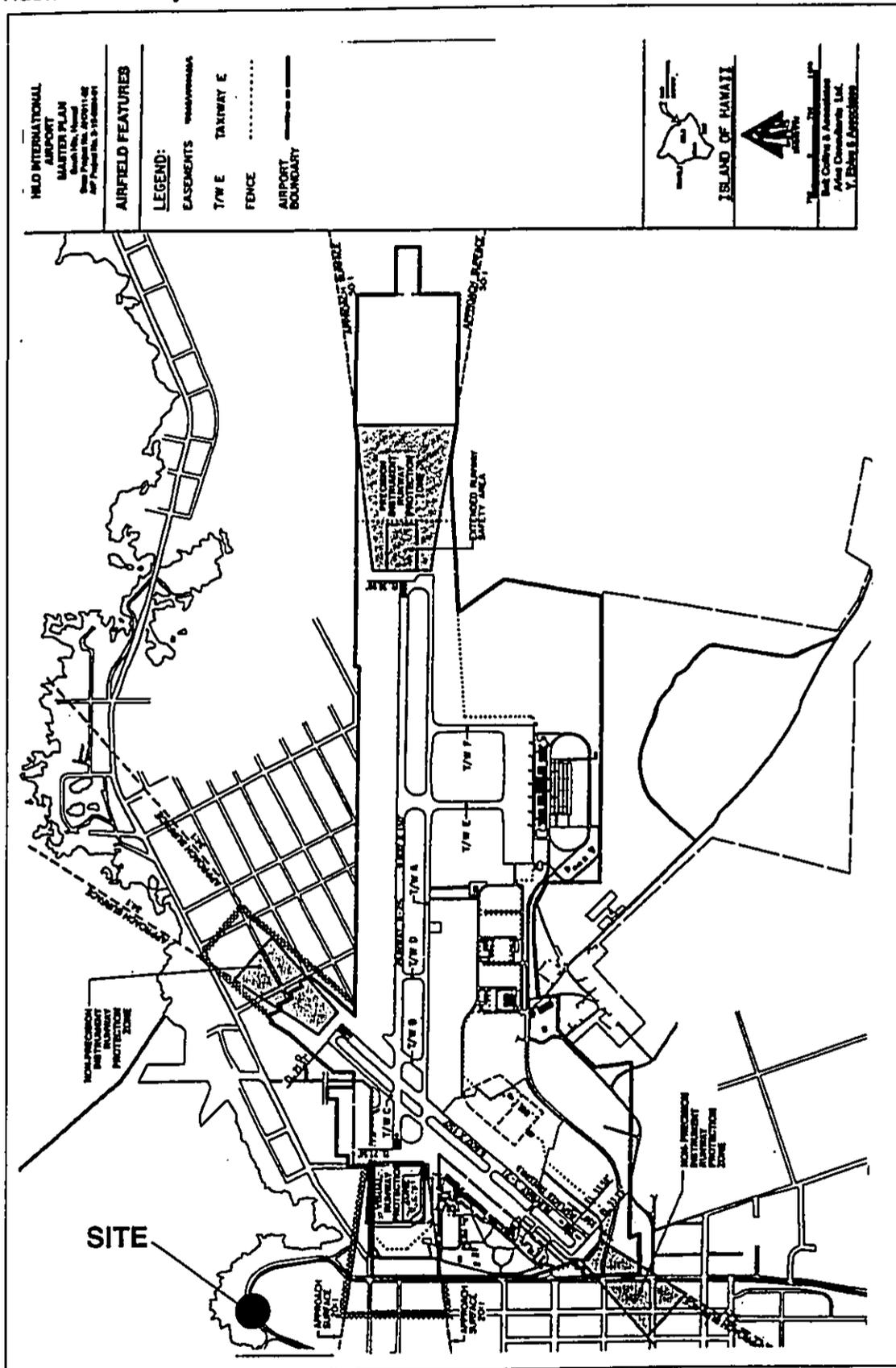
§226-23 Objectives and policies for socio-cultural advancement-- leisure. (a) Planning for the State's socio-cultural advancement with regard to leisure shall be directed towards the achievement of the objective of the adequate provision of resources to accommodate diverse cultural, artistic, and recreational needs for present and future generations.

(b) To achieve the leisure objective, it shall be the policy of this State to:

- (2) Provide a wide range of activities and facilities to fulfill the cultural, artistic, and recreational needs of all diverse and special groups effectively and efficiently.
- (5) Ensure opportunities for everyone to use and enjoy Hawaii's recreational resources.
- (6) Assure the availability of sufficient resources to provide for future cultural, artistic, and recreational needs.

27. See Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact: Wailuku Riverfront Park, prepared by R. Terry, Ph.D. for the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation, December 1998; Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact: Hilo Bayfront Restroom Facilities, prepared by R. Terry, Ph.D. for the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation, January 1999.

FIGURE 21. Runway Clear Zones for Hilo International Airport



**§226-12 Objective and policies for the physical environment—scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources.** (a) Planning for the State's physical environment shall be directed towards achievement of the objective of enhancement of Hawaii's scenic assets, natural beauty, and multi-cultural/historical resources.

(b) To achieve the scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources objective, it shall be the policy of this State to:

- (1) Promote the preservation and restoration of significant natural and historic resources.
- (2) Provide incentives to maintain and enhance historic, cultural, and scenic amenities.
- (3) Promote the preservation of views and vistas to enhance the visual and aesthetic enjoyment of mountains, ocean, scenic landscapes, and other natural features.
- (4) Protect those special areas, structures, and elements that are an integral and functional part of Hawaii's ethnic and cultural heritage.
- (5) Encourage the design of developments and activities that complement the natural beauty of the islands.

With the ADA-compliant pathway improvements and restroom renovations, the proposed project will expand the opportunities for groups of all ages and abilities to enjoy this popular recreational resource. The improvements will advance the multicultural values inherent in the Liliuokalani Gardens, and the historical values of the Waiakea peninsula.

## 5.2 State Land Use Law

The State Land Use classification for the Site is Urban, except for Waihonu Ponds and Coconut Island which are in the Conservation district. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), which has jurisdiction over conservation district lands, classifies the Conservation district lands into five subzones-- Protective, Limited, Resource, General, and Special. Waihonu Ponds and Coconut Island are in the Resource Subzone (see Figure 22).

For Waihonu Ponds, no new construction is proposed in these ponds. There is one area in the eastern portion of the pond where the existing pathway crosses over the pond. This crossing will remain unchanged. Some repair work to the existing bridges and stone crossings may be done as part of the Project or in the future. Pond maintenance, which requires clearing of vegetation and dredging of mud, is periodically required on a routine basis. This work is similar to the maintenance work for fishponds, which does not require a conservation district use permit if the fishpond has an approved management plan.<sup>28</sup>

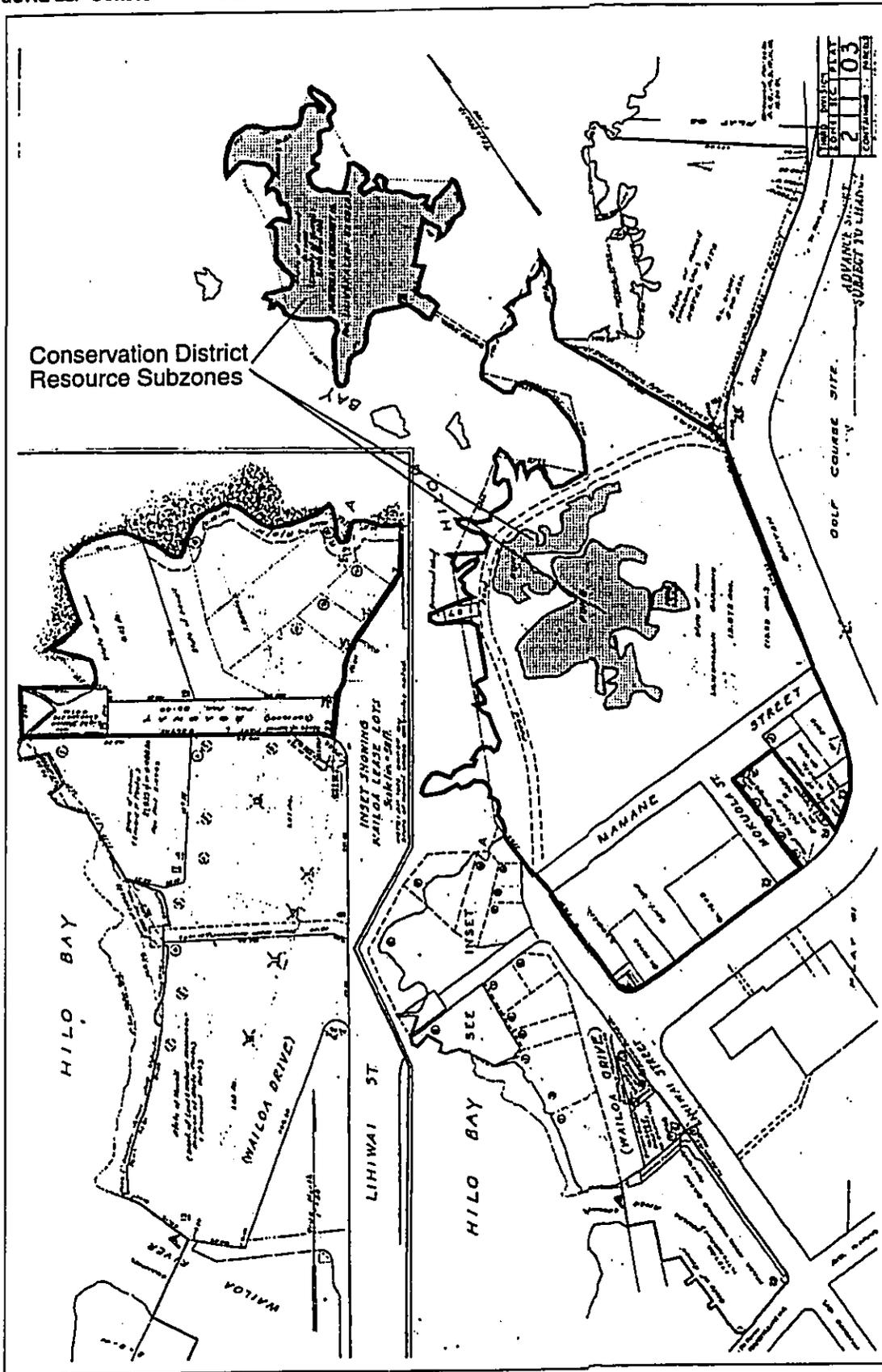
For Coconut Island, the proposed activities include restroom renovations and new pathways and picnic accessories. The proposed restroom renovations would not require a permit since it involves the reconstruction of an existing structure where the new structure will be located approximately on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose, capacity, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.<sup>29</sup> Since the proposed pathways and picnic facilities are accessory to the existing park facility, these actions also do not require a permit.<sup>30</sup>

28. Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-5-24(a), -22 (the identified use is designated P-2 with a permit classification of A-1))

29. Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-5-24(a), -22 (the identified use is designated P-9 with a permit classification of A-1).

30. Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-5-24(a), -22 (the identified use is designated P-10 with a permit classification of A-1).

FIGURE 22. Conservation District within the Site



### 5.3 Historic Preservation

*Hawaii Revised Statutes* §6E-8 requires the review and written concurrence by the Department of Land and Natural Resources of any State or County project which may affect historic properties. The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) was initially consulted in the process of preparing the Draft EA, and the information provided was incorporated in the Draft EA. The County sent SHPD a set of preliminary plans, a copy of the Draft EA, and met with SHPD at the Site. The County will comply with SHPD's comments (see APPENDIX D, "Comments and Responses to the Draft EA").

### 5.4 Hawaii County General Plan

The General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) Map designation for the Site is Open. Since the Open designation is intended for "parks and historic sites,"<sup>31</sup> the proposed use conforms with the General Plan.

The Project implements the following General Plan goals and policies related to Recreation:

#### Goals

Provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of the County.

Provide a diversity of environments for active and passive pursuits.

#### Policies

The County of Hawaii shall improve existing public facilities for optimum usage.

The use of land adjoining recreation areas shall be compatible with community values, physical resources and recreation potential.

The County shall develop short and long range capital improvement programs and plans for recreational facilities which are consistent with the General Plan.

Facilities for compatible multiple uses shall be provided.

The County shall provide facilities and a broad recreational program for all age groups, with special considerations for the handicapped, the elderly, and young children.

The County shall coordinate recreational programs and facilities with governmental and private agencies and organizations. Innovative ideas for improving recreational facilities and opportunities shall be considered.<sup>32</sup>

The proposed project would enhance the recreational opportunities of residents and visitors by improving and optimizing the use of the existing park facilities. The improvements will especially benefit people with disabilities.

### 5.5 Hilo Community Development Plan

The Hilo Community Development Plan, adopted by the Planning Commission in 1975, recommended that the entire Site be zoned Open.<sup>33</sup> The Plan specifically recommended that the Waiakea Docks area of the Site "be improved and added to Liliuokalani Gardens."<sup>34</sup> The Plan

31. Hawaii County General Plan, Supporting Document, 1989, p. 80.

32. General Plan, County of Hawaii, §4.K. (Ordinance No. 89-142).

envisioned a shoreline trail from Leleiwi Point to Wailuku River, and up along the river past Boiling Pots:

Both the river and ocean shoreline comprise the most important natural features of Hilo and can provide attractive open space, views and a variety of recreation facilities. It is essential that the shoreline areas be planned and developed as an integrated system. Figure 22 illustrates the recommended shoreline plan which extends from mauka of the Boiling Pots area of the Wailuku River to Leleiwi Point. The shoreline plan includes most of the major park and other interesting features of Hilo, all of which are connected by a trail system. The map indicates many specific recommendations to accomplish the plan. The variety of recreation experiences provided in the shoreline plan are as follows:

- Wailuku River State Recreation Area provides a natural wilderness type of environment.
- The Bayfront parks provide beach and water oriented activities makai of the Bayfront Highway and Wailoa River State Recreation Area provides open space and water features mauka of the Bayfront highway.
- Hoolulu Park provides active recreation facilities.
- The Suisan area, Liliuokalani Gardens and Coconut Island contribute aesthetic and cultural experiences.*
- The shoreline on the Waiakea peninsula serves primarily as an attraction for tourists staying in the Banyan Drive Hotels.
- The parks from Reeds Bay to Leleiwi Point provide picnicking, camping, swimming, fishing, and sun-bathing activities.<sup>35</sup>

The Project implements a portion of the Plan's recommended shoreline trail.

## 5.6 Hawaii County Zoning

The existing County zoning designation for the existing park area is Open (O). Public parks are permitted uses within the Open district.<sup>36</sup> Plan approval is required for any proposed structure within the Open district, including public uses.<sup>37</sup> Therefore, the Department of Parks and Recreation will submit all Project construction plans for plan approval.

## 5.7 Kaiko'o Urban Renewal Plan

The Site falls within the boundaries of the Kaiko'o Urban Renewal Area, which generally corresponds to the area devastated by the May 23, 1960 tsunami (see Figure 23). Any development within this area must conform with the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency's *Amended Urban Renewal Plan for the Kaiko'o Project* (June 25, 1965).

33. Belt, Collins & Associates, Ltd. Hilo Community Development Plan. Prepared for the County of Hawaii, 1975, p. 50.

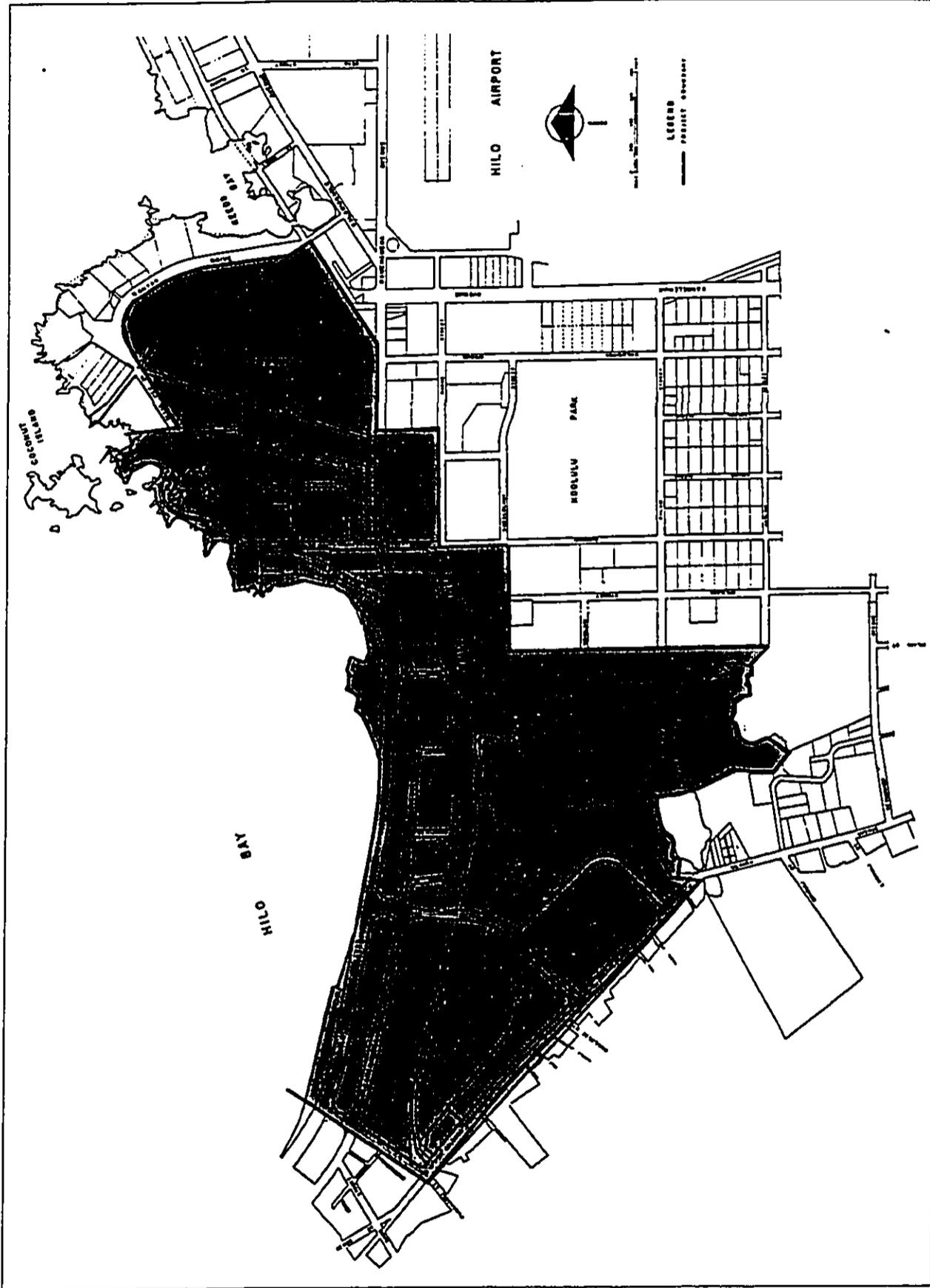
34. Ibid., p. 135.

35. Ibid., p. 132 (emphasis added); the map referred to as Fig. 22 is on pp. 134-5 of the plan.

36. Hawaii County Code §25-5-162(a)(11).

37. Hawaii County Code §25-5-167 (plan approval required in Open district) and §25-4-11(c) (plan approval required for all public uses).

FIGURE 23. Kaiko'o Urban Renewal Planning Area



The Plan's general purpose is "to designate lands within the Project Area for such reuse as will minimize the danger of loss of life or damage to property in areas subject to possible inundation and flooding from future seismic waves." The Plan classifies the planning area into two categories: the "Elevated Areas" (areas that stand at such elevation above sea level so as to afford a reasonable degree of protection or safety from damage caused by a tsunami of similar size to the 1960 tsunami) where commercial uses are permitted, and the "Open Areas" (areas subject to inundation and damage) where limited commercial, limited industrial, and open uses are permitted. The Site is within the Open Areas. Parks are permitted uses within this area. Lands owned by the State of Hawaii or the County of Hawaii located in Open Areas were not designated for acquisition and not acquired by the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency since the reuse designated for such lands was the continuation of the public uses undertaken by the State or County.<sup>38</sup> However, the Plan required the State and County to execute an Owner-Redevelopment Agreement and/or Cooperation Agreement to subject their properties to the terms and conditions of the Renewal Plan and the Declaration of Restrictions.<sup>39</sup> The Hawaii Redevelopment Agency has reviewed and approved the Project plans pursuant to the requirements of the Renewal Plan.<sup>40</sup>

### 5.8 Coastal Zone Management, Special Management Area, and Shoreline Setback Variance

The Project requires a SMA Permit since the Site is located within the Special Management Area (SMA), and the Project activities fall under the following categories of "development" under the County's SMA Rules:<sup>41</sup>

- *Placement or erection of any solid material or any gaseous, liquid, solid, or thermal waste.* The Project includes the placement of solid materials (e.g., new pathways and torii).
- *Grading, removing, dredging, mining, or extraction of any materials.* The Project may require grading for the repaving of the parking lots at the Waiakea Docks, teahouse, and Coconut Island parking area, as well as for some areas of the accessible pathways to meet ADA requirements.
- *Construction, reconstruction, or alteration of the size of any structure.* The Project includes the reconstruction of the existing restrooms and the reconstruction of the Old Government Wharf.

Since the estimated Project cost exceeds \$125,000, the Project will require a SMA Use Permit rather than a SMA Minor Permit. To be approved, the Project must conform with the objectives and policies of the Coastal Zone Management Act (*Hawaii Revised Statutes* Chapter 205A).<sup>42</sup> The policies are discussed in APPENDIX B, "Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination"; the appendix includes the Office of Planning's concurrence that the Project is consistent with the objectives and policies of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

38. Hawaii Redevelopment Agency, Amended Urban Renewal Plan for the Kaiko'o Project, Project No. Hawaii R-4, June 25, 1965, §D-1.b.

39. *Ibid.*, §D-3.

40. *Ibid.*, §C-2.e. (approval of plans and specifications); HRA letter dated December 29, 1998 (documenting Project plan approval).

41. County of Hawaii, Planning Commission, Rules of Practice & Procedure §9-4(10).

42. *Ibid.*, §9-11.C.

The proposed activities within the 40' shoreline setback area include: 1) pathways along Lihwai Street and around Coconut Island, and 2) reconstruction of the Old Government Wharf (see Figure 24, Figure 25, Figure 26). These activities are permitted within the shoreline setback area and therefore will not require a Shoreline Setback Variance.

- *Pathways.* The proposed pathways within the shoreline setback area are "minor structures". The Shoreline Setback Rules define a "minor structure" as follows:

"Minor structure" shall not alter the existing grade of the setback area and shall be limited to landscaping; landscape features (i.e., benches, chairs, borders, wooden trellis, bird feeders, signs, safety improvements, etc.); *walkways for access*; and sprinkling systems.<sup>43</sup>

The Department of Parks and Recreation has submitted to the Planning Department a request for a minor structure determination.

- *Wharf reconstruction.* The County's Shoreline Setback Rules permit reconstruction of "legal, publicly-owned, boating, maritime, or water sports recreational facilities, which result in little or no interference with natural shoreline processes," provided the structure is not enlarged.<sup>44</sup> The Old Government Wharf is publicly-owned, is a watersports recreational facility, and the proposed reconstruction will not enlarge the structure beyond the original dimensions.

No repair work is proposed to the seawalls within the Site, such as the existing seawalls along Lihwai Street and on Coconut Island. The State Survey Division of the Department of Accounting and General Services is in the process of preparing a survey map to consolidate the lots within the Site. The map will show the certified shoreline.

## 5.9 Hawaii County Recreation Plan

The County of Hawaii Recreation Plan reaffirmed the recommendation in the Hilo Community Development Plan of a continuous trail and access system from Boiling Pots to Leleiwi Point.<sup>45</sup> The Project is consistent with the Recreation Plan.

## 5.10 U.S. Army Permit

The repair of the Old Government Wharf, particularly the construction of two new sections of stone wall and the placement of fill material under the wharf structure, requires a Department of the Army (DA) permit. There are two types of DA permits: a nationwide permit with expedited approval procedures, and an individual permit.

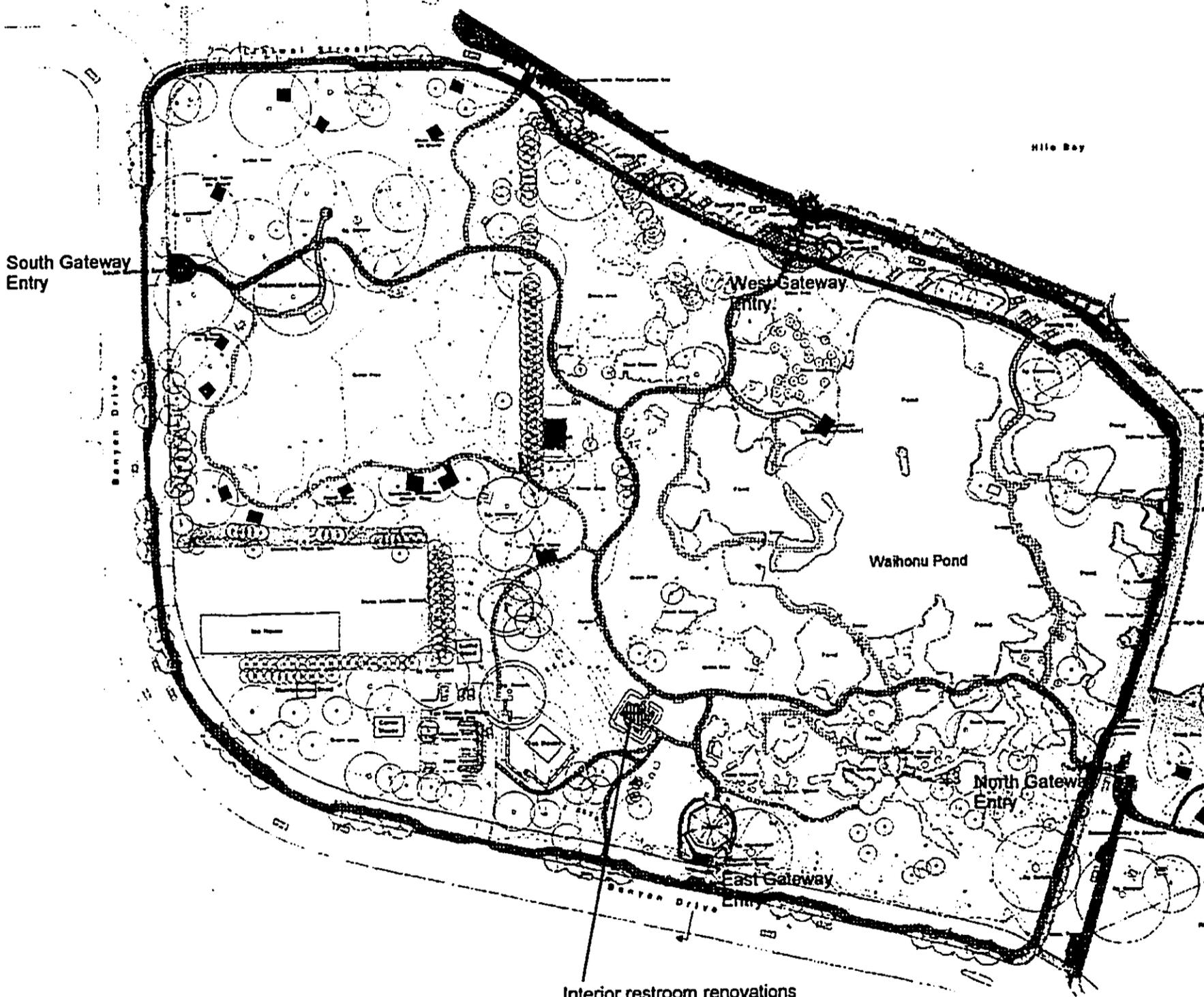
The proposed wharf repair does not meet the conditions for a nationwide permit since the repaired structure will be used for purposes different from those originally intended for the structure, the structure is currently not in a serviceable state and requires major reconstruction, and the proposed work involves greater than 25 cubic yards of fill material placed beneath the ordinary high water mark. Therefore, the wharf repair requires an individual DA permit.<sup>46</sup> The DA Permit process requires coordination with the State Department of Health (Section 401 Water Quality Certification) and the State Office of Planning (Coastal Zone Management federal consistency determination). The County filed the DA permit application together with the Draft EA.

43. Ibid., §11-3(e) (emphasis added).

44. County of Hawaii, Planning Department Rules of Practice & Procedure, §11-7(a)(9), -7(b).

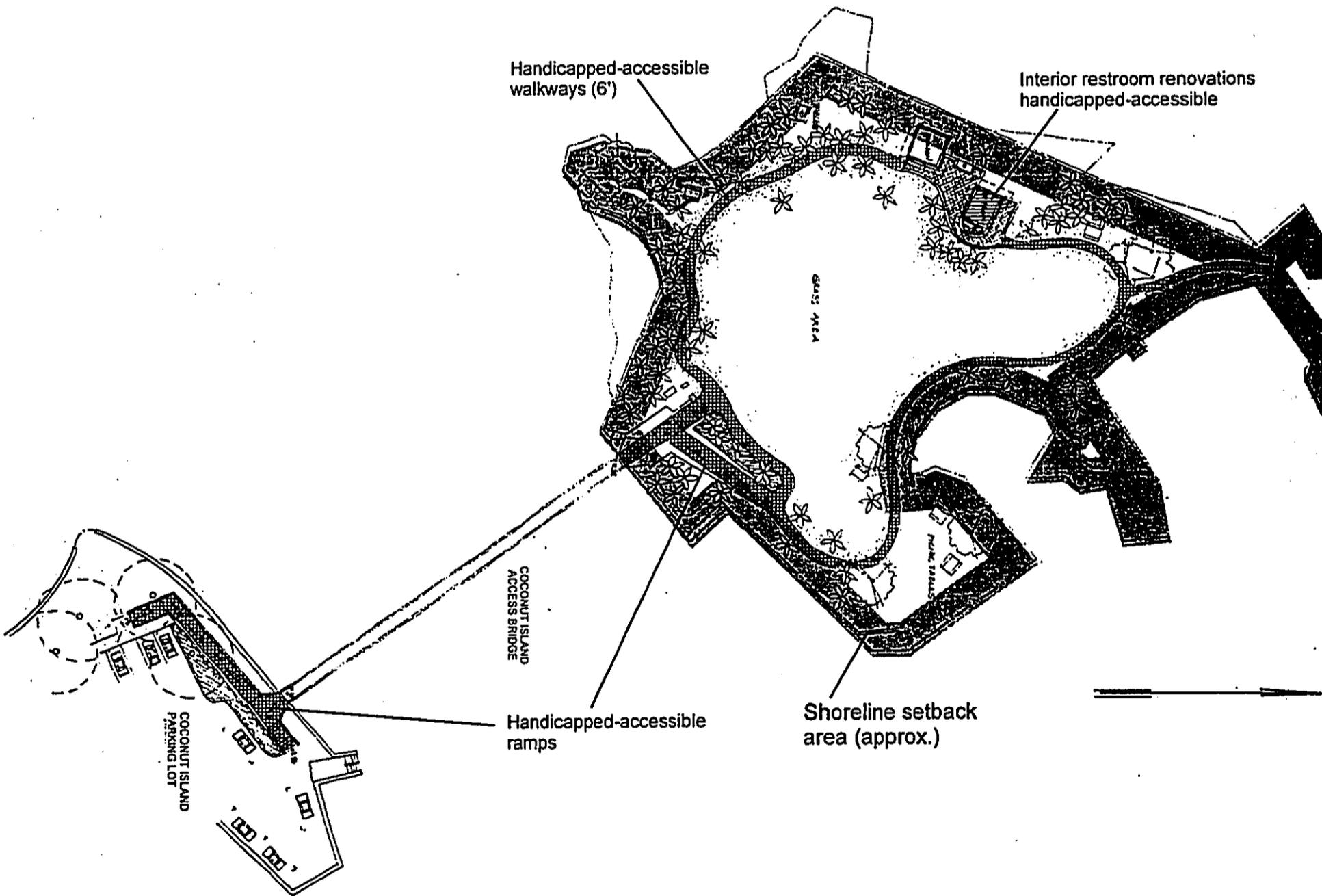
45. Aotani & Associates, Inc., County of Hawaii: Recreation Plan, 1973, pp. 45-6.

46. Preconsultation correspondence with the Department of the Army, DA File No. 990000001 (letter dated October 7, 1998 from G. Young, Chief, Operations Branch of the Department of Army to L. Capellas, County of Hawaii).



-  Perimeter walkways (handicapped-accessible), 8' wide
-  Interior primary walkways (handicapped-accessible), 6' wide
-  Interior secondary walkways (not handicapped-accessible)
-  Picnic facilities





Handicapped-accessible walkways (6')

Interior restroom renovations handicapped-accessible

GLASS AREA

COCONUT ISLAND ACCESS BRIDGE

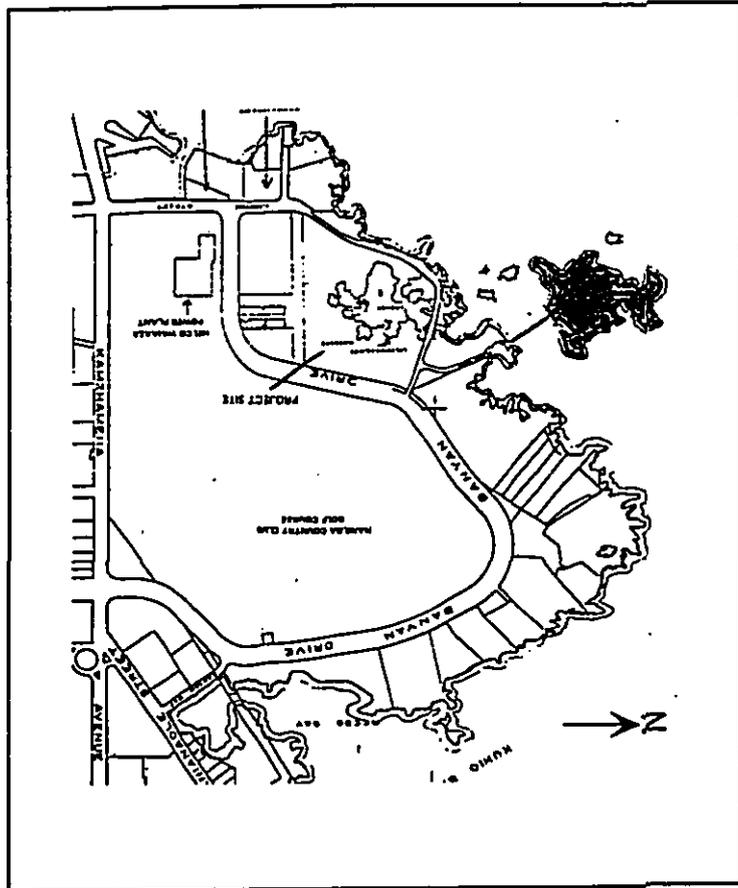
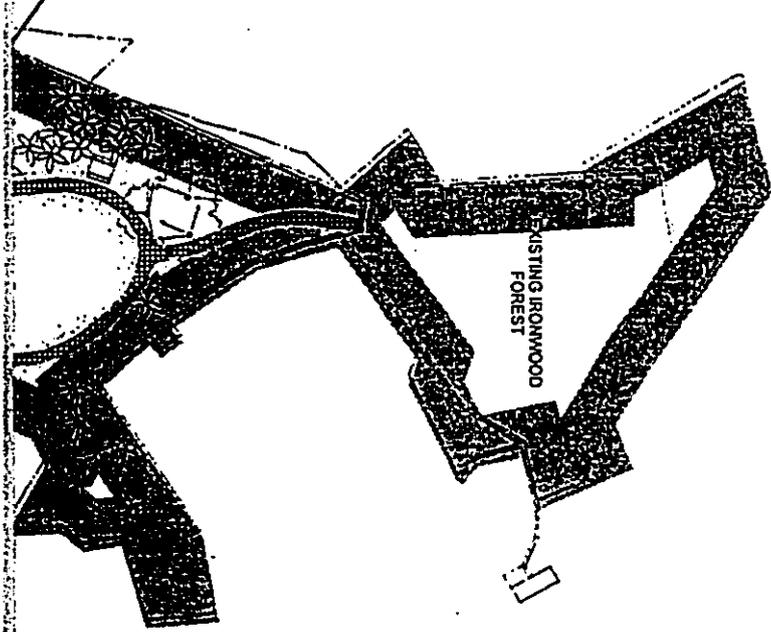
Handicapped-accessible ramps

Shoreline setback area (approx.)

COCONUT ISLAND PARKING LOT

PARK TERRACE

Interior restroom renovations  
andicapped-accessible



County of Hawaii  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
**Liliuokalani Gardens**  
Accessibility Improvements  
**Preliminary Improvement Plan**  
Coconut Island Access

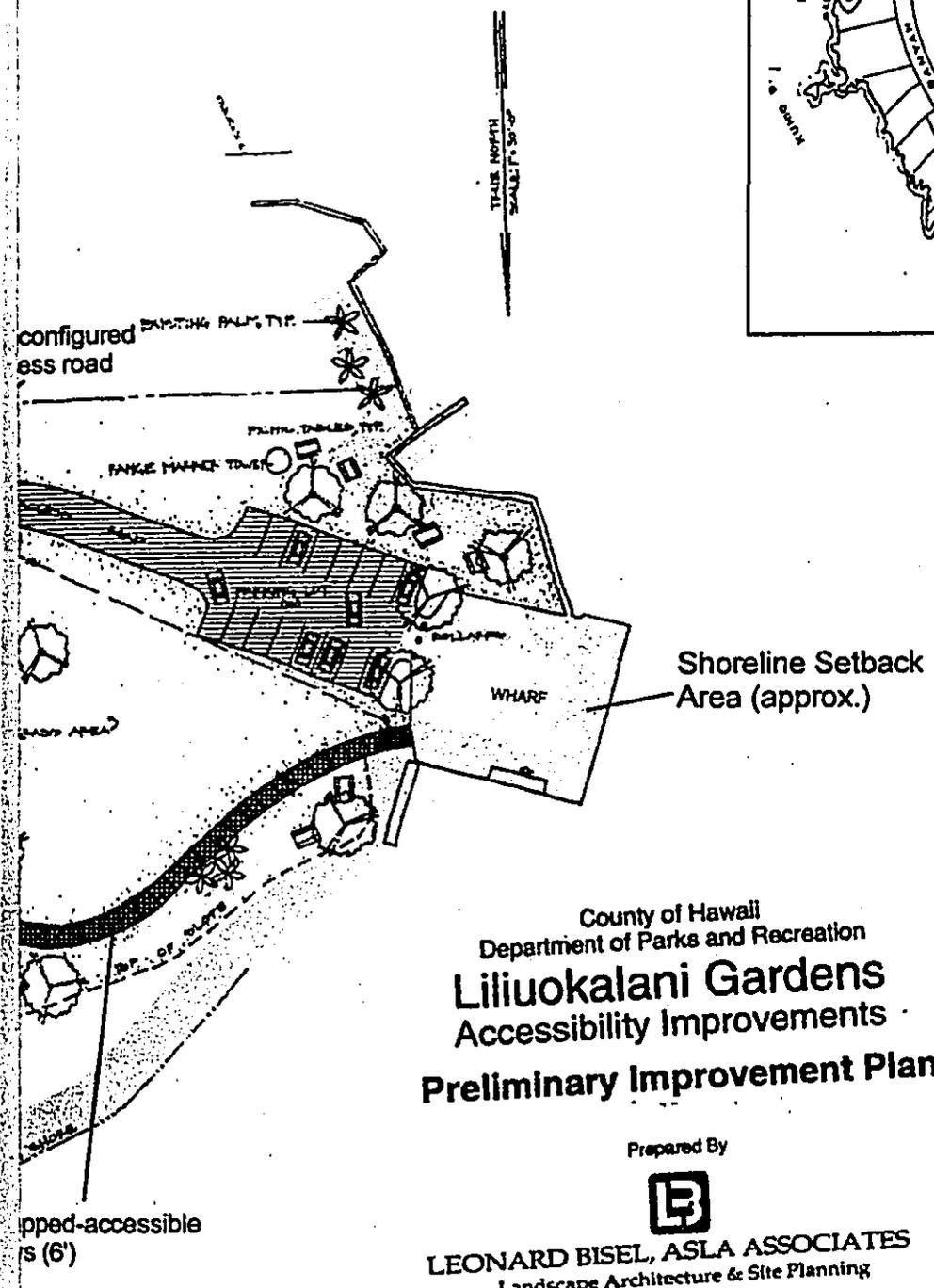
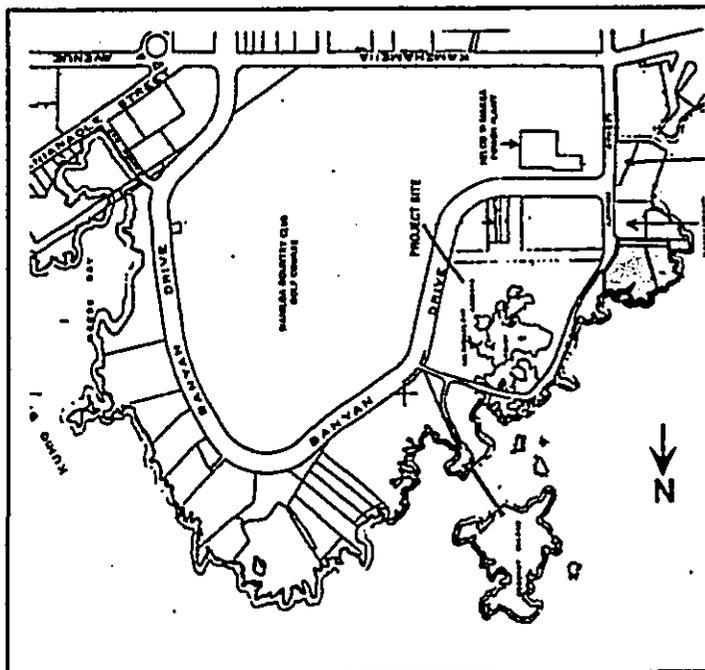
Prepared By



**LEONARD BISEL, ASLA ASSOCIATES**  
Landscape Architecture & Site Planning

**Fig. 25. Proposed Improvements within  
Shoreline Setback Area- Coconut Island**





County of Hawaii  
 Department of Parks and Recreation  
**Liliuokalani Gardens**  
 Accessibility Improvements  
**Preliminary Improvement Plan**

Prepared By



**LEONARD BISEL, ASLA ASSOCIATES**  
 Landscape Architecture & Site Planning

**Fig. 26. Proposed Improvements within the Shoreline Setback Area- Waiakea Docks**

### 5.11 Americans with Disabilities Act

A primary purpose of the Project is to provide pathways and restrooms facilities that meet accessibility standards. As a public project, the Project must conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.<sup>47</sup> The County has sent the construction plans to the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and will comply with the Commission's comments.

### 5.12 Other Permits and Approvals

Since the limits of grading for the improvements will involve less than 5 acres, the non-point source controls under the NPDES Permit administered by DOH do not apply to the Project. The reconstruction of the government wharf and the restroom renovations will require a building permit. Any sign for a public facility that does not exceed 24 s.f. is excluded from the sign permit requirements.<sup>48</sup> Compliance with various federal statutory requirements is summarized in APPENDIX C, "Federal Statutory Compliance Checklist".

Table 1: List of Permits and Approvals

Permit or Approval	Authority <sup>1</sup>	Approving Agency
<b>FEDERAL</b>		
Department of Army Permit		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<b>STATE OF HAWAII</b>		
CZM Consistency Determination	Sec. 307, National CZM Act	Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
DOH Water Quality Certification	Sec. 401, Clean Water Act	Department of Health
Conformance with ADA-compliant accessibility guidelines	HRS §103-50	Commission on Persons with Disabilities
Historic Preservation written concurrence	HRS §6E-8	State Historic Preservation Division
<b>COUNTY OF HAWAII</b>		
Plan Approval	HCC Chap. 25	Planning Department
Building Permit	HCC Chap. 5	Department of Public Works
SMA Permit	PC Rule 9	Planning Commission
Shoreline Setback minor activity determination	PD Rule 11	Planning Department
Flood certifications	HCC Chap. 27	Department of Public Works

1. PC Rule= Rules of Practice & Procedure, Planning Commission, County of Hawaii; PD Rule= Rules of Practice & Procedure, Planning Department, County of Hawaii; HCC= Hawaii County Code; HAR= Hawaii Administrative Rules; HRS= Hawaii Revised Statutes

47. Hawaii Revised Statutes §103-50.

48. Hawaii County Code §3-32(a)(3).

## 6.0 DETERMINATION WITH SUPPORTING FINDINGS AND REASONS

The proposed Project is not expected to cause significant impacts to the environment, pursuant to the significance criteria established by the Environmental Council as discussed below;<sup>49</sup> therefore, the determination is to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact.

*The proposed project will not involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction to any natural or cultural resources.* The Project intends to enhance Liliuokalani Gardens, a cultural resource. The State Historic Preservation Division has reviewed the Project, and the proposing agency will comply with the comments. The Formosan koa and bottle brush trees along Lihwai Street will be replaced with other streetscape trees.

*The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.* The Project will enhance the recreational use of the Site-- it will be more accessible to people with disabilities, the underutilized Waiakea Docks area will be more inviting, and the Old Government Wharf will be a safer scenic feature.

*The proposed project will not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies.* The proposed Project will not conflict with the environmental policies set forth in the State Plan and Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes in that the project will not damage sensitive natural resources nor emit excessive noise or contaminants. The expanded recreational opportunities provided by the Project will beneficially affect the social welfare and public health of the community.

*The proposed project will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.* The Project will increase the capacity of public recreation facilities. This increased capacity will not induce population growth.

*The proposed project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.* There will be no significant degradation of air, water, or noise quality.

*The proposed project will not have cumulative impacts or involve a commitment for larger actions.* The Project is part of a larger vision of a shoreline park from Wailuku River to the cruise ship terminal, a beneficial cumulative impact.

*The proposed project will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat.* The Site is not a habitat for any rare, threatened or endangered species. The Project will not adversely affect any exceptional trees in the vicinity.

*The proposed project will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.* The proposed Project will not produce any point source air emissions. Site work will be in accordance with SMA permit conditions to minimize erosion, non-point source pollution, and dust. Noise during construction will be mitigated to acceptable levels through compliance with the Department of Health noise regulations.

*The proposed project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area (e.g., flood plain, tsunami zone, coastal area).* Although located in the coastal high hazard zone, the only walled and

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49. Hawaii Administrative Rules, §11-200-12.

roofed "structure" is the restroom. The Project will comply with all requirements of the Flood Control Code. The Site is in the Special Management Area, and extra precautions will be taken to ensure minimal water quality impacts during construction and long-term operation.

*The proposed project will not substantially affect scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in county or state plans or studies.* The County General Plan identifies natural beauty sites and vistas. The Project will enhance the Site, which is one of the listed sites or vistas for South Hilo.

*The proposed project will not require substantial energy consumption.* Other than some lighting, the proposed improvements do not include substantial electrical improvements. Solar-powered street lights are being considered.

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**APPENDIX A**

*Compliance with Executive Order 11988,  
Floodplain Management*

[Office of Housing and Community Development letterhead]

*Note: This document would be required if CDBG funds are used for the project. The purpose of this document is discussed under section 4.1.3 of the Final EA on p. 27. Since the document would be prepared by the Office of Housing and Community Development, a draft is included in this appendix as an exercise to assess substantive compliance with the HUD requirements in the event the procedures do become applicable to the project.*

July 9, 1999

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION  
WAIAKEA PENINSULA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988 - EIGHT STEP PROCESS**

**1. Determination of Floodplain Location:**

**A. Type of Floodplain:**

The Waiakea Peninsula Improvements project has been determined to be located in a coastal floodplain as determined by correspondence with the County of Hawaii's Department of Public Works and the Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel #155166 0880C.

The Waiakea Peninsula Improvements project proposes to construct ADA-compatible walkways, renovate the interiors of existing restrooms to ADA-compatible standards, provide picnic facilities, and reconstruct the Old Government Wharf. These proposed improvements are part of an overall plan to create a continuous shoreline park along the Hilo Bayfront from Wailuku River to the cruise ship terminal.

The Flood Insurance Rate Map panel number 155166 0880C, as produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined that the subject parcel is located within Flood Zone "VE", the Special Flood Hazard Area inundated by the 100-year coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action).

The FIRM's zones indicate a potential for flooding in the area due to unusually high waves, storm surge, and tsunami inundation.

## 2. Early Public Review

### A. Public Announcement:

Early public review and involvement in the proposed action will be implemented through a public notice. The notice will inform the public of the intent by the County of Hawaii's Department of Parks and Recreation and Office of Housing and Community Development to implement the Waiakea Peninsula Improvements Project and its location within the floodplain identified by the HIRM map.

The County will not discriminate with respect to audience and will solicit comments from all segments of the public. The public will be notified that the County will review public comments to help determine potential flood impact on the project, and best alternatives to minimize flooding from high wave actions or wave velocity.

The County will invite written comments from the public and allow 15 calendar days from the date of notice for comments to be considered.

Outcome: The funding documents will report the comments received.

## 3. Identification of Practicable Alternative Locations:

### A. Alternative Sites

Because this is a site specific activity, consideration of alternative sites for the action is not applicable.

### B. Alternative Action

Since the project is site specific, there can either have a project or no project in relation to the location. However, the project involves four subareas: Liliuokalani Gardens, Coconut Island, Waiakea Docks, and the Old Government Wharf. There are also several actions proposed: construction of walkways, interior restroom renovations, entry improvements, parking improvements, and wharf reconstruction. Proposed actions that may pose concerns can be modified or eliminated in any of the subareas.

### C. No Action

Because the project is site specific, no action would result in no project. It is not however, the goal of the project to affect or alter the 100-year coastal flood plain area.

4. **Identified Impacts of the Proposal:**

A. Direct and Indirect Support of Floodplain

Construction of the proposed project will not directly impact or adversely affect existing floodplain conditions. All construction would be in conformance to Hawaii County Code Chapter 27 flood zone construction standards.

B. Types of Impacts

1) Impacts upon Lives and Property

The development of the Waiakea Peninsula park complex would enhance the natural beauty and resources of the Hilo Bayfront and provide a recreation area within a safe and passive environment. After the 1960 tsunami, the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency relocated any remaining businesses or residents in the area and expanded the park and open space as a buffer to protect lives and property.

2) Concentrated and Dispersed Impacts

No anticipated changes.

3) Short Term Impacts

Will result from construction activities. These impacts will consist of temporary noise, dust and exhaust from machinery and heavy equipment.

4) Long Term Impacts

No significant adverse impacts are expected to result from the proposed activities.

C. Source of Impacts

The source of impact upon lives and property in the area of the proposed action is due to tsunami high waves or wave velocity. Wave surge potential is possible from high velocity winds. In addition, seasonal hurricanes can cause extensive damage to shoreline facilities along with possible flooding from high waves.

1) Lives and Property

If emergency measures are not taken to accommodate for tsunami inundation and wave surge, lives and property may be at risk. The coastal floodplain presently serves social and economic functions. The project

goal is to enhance the natural, visual, and cultural resources of the area along with providing recreational activities.

2) Water Resources

The proposed activity will not modify the water resources of the area or the ground water quality maintenance.

3) Living Resources

The coastal waters do not border valuable ecosystems which could be permanently disturbed by the proposed activity. Fish and wildlife resources are not endangered by the location of the proposed activity. No endangered terrestrial wildlife live in the area.

4) Cultural Resources

The flood plain is not located in a wilderness area. No archaeological sites are located within the area and therefore, there will be no harm to the archaeological significance of the area. The project complements the cultural values of Liliuokalani Gardens.

5) Agriculture, Aquaculture and Forestry Resources

The floodplain does not possess agricultural, aquaculture or forestry resource development potential.

5. **Minimize, Restore and Preserve:**

The potential harm that could arise from tsunami or storm surge can be mitigated, reduced or eliminated by adhering to the flood plain policies for flood control and drainage as found in the Hawaii County General Plan. The coastal flood plain will not be able to be restored to its natural state as a result of tsunami damage.

6. **Re-evaluate Alternatives:**

The proposed activity cannot be located outside the flood plain as the project location is site specific. The hazard to lives and property can be minimized by proper emergency evacuation and relocation plans.

7. **Finding and Public Explanation:**

The County will publish a "Notice of Consideration to Implement the Waiakea Peninsula Improvements Project" in the Hawaii Tribune Herald. The public will be given 15 days to respond, in compliance with Step 7 of the Executive Order 11988.

Outcome: The funding documents will report comments and responses.

Based on comments received and a decision to proceed with the project, the County will publish a "Notice of Approval of a Project Located in a Floodplain/Notice to Public of Request for Release of Funds" in the Hawaii Tribune Herald if funded by CDBG. The public will be given 15 days to respond.

Outcome: The funding documents will report comments and responses.

**8. Implementation of the Action:**

The Waiakea Peninsula Improvements Project will not expose any person to unreasonable risk. Therefore, the proposed activity will not have any significant effect on the coastal floodplain.

**DRAFT**

**APPENDIX B**

*Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination*



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**OFFICE OF PLANNING**

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Flr., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR  
SELJI F. NAYA  
DIRECTOR  
BRADLEY J. MOSSMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

David W. Blane ~~DEPUTY DIRECTOR~~  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PLANNING

Tel.: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824

Ref. No. P-8085

May 18, 1999

Ms. Juliette Tulang  
Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
County of Hawaii  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

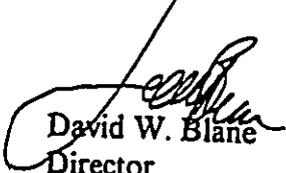
Dear Ms. Tulang:

Subject: Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Federal Consistency  
Review for the Old Government Wharf Reconstruction, Hilo, Hawaii;  
Department of the Army Permit File No. 990000001

Your proposal to reconstruct the Old Government Wharf to its original dimensions has been reviewed for consistency with Hawaii's CZM Program. We concur with your determination that the activity is consistent. The Army Corps of Engineers will be notified of this approval.

CZM consistency concurrence is not an endorsement of the project nor does it convey approval with any other regulations administered by any State or County agency. Thank you for your cooperation in complying with Hawaii's CZM Program. If you have any questions, please call John Nakagawa of our CZM Program at 587-2878.

Sincerely,

  
David W. Blane  
Director  
Office of Planning

**FEDERAL CONSISTENCY  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FORM**

**Project/Activity Title or Description:** Old Government Wharf Reconstruction  
and Waiakoa Peninsula Improvements

**Island** Hawaii **Tax Map Key No.** 3rd/2-1-03:1,2,16,19,22 **Est. Start Date:** Aug 1999

**APPLICANT OR AGENT**

**Name & Title** Juliette Tulang, Director  
**Agency/Organization** Dept of Parks & Recreation, Cty of Hawaii **Telephone** (808) 961-8311  
**Address** 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, HI **Zip** 96720

**TYPE OF APPLICATION (check one only)**

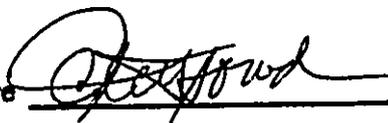
I. Federal Activity  
(statement "a")

"The proposed activity is consistent with and will be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program."

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

II. Permit or License  
(statement "b")

"The proposed activity complies with Hawaii's Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such a program."

**Signature**  **Date** 3/10/99

III. OCS Plan/Permit

IV. Grants & Assistance (possible CDBG funds)

HAWAII CZM PROGRAM  
ASSESSMENT FORM

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Objective: Provide coastal recreational opportunities accessible to the public.

Policies

- 1) Improve coordination and funding of coastal recreation planning and management.
- 2) Provide adequate, accessible, and diverse recreational opportunities in the coastal zone management area by:
  - a) Protecting coastal resources uniquely suited for recreational activities that cannot be provided in other areas;
  - b) Requiring replacement of coastal resources having significant recreational value, including but not limited to surfing sites and sandy beaches, when such resources will be unavoidably damaged by development; or requiring reasonable monetary compensation to the State for recreation when replacement is not feasible or desirable;
  - c) Providing and managing adequate public access, consistent with conservation of natural resources, to and along shorelines with recreational value;
  - d) Providing an adequate supply of shoreline parks and other recreational facilities suitable for public recreation;
  - e) Encouraging expanded public recreational use of County, State, and Federally owned or controlled shoreline lands and waters having recreational value;
  - f) Adopting water quality standards and regulating point and non-point sources of pollution to protect and where feasible, restore the recreational value of coastal waters;
  - g) Developing new shoreline recreational opportunities, where appropriate, such as artificial reefs for surfing and fishing; and
  - h) Encouraging reasonable dedication of shoreline areas with recreational value for public use as part of discretionary approvals or permits by the land use commission, board of land and natural resources, County planning commissions; and crediting such dedication against the requirements of section 46-6.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Will the proposed action involve or be near a dedicated public right-of-way?	X —	—
2. Does the project site abut the shoreline?	X —	—
3. Is the project site near a State or County park?	X —	—
4. Is the project site near a perennial stream?	—	X —
5. Will the proposed action occur in or affect a surf site?	—	X —
6. Will the proposed action occur in or affect a popular fishing area?	X —	—
7. Will the proposed action occur in or affect a recreational or boating area?	—	X —
8. Is the project site near a sandy beach?	—	X —
9. Are there swimming or other recreational uses in the area?	X —	—

Discussion

The proposed reconstruction of the Old Government Wharf would convert a public safety hazard into a scenic vantage point. The proposed action is part of an overall project to enhance and expand existing public recreational areas at Liliuokalani Gardens and Coconut Island consisting of improvements such as handicapped-accessible walkways, restroom renovations, and picnic facilities. These projects are one part of a grand vision to create a continuous shoreline park along the Hilo Bayfront.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Objective: Protect, preserve, and where desirable, restore those natural and man-made historic and pre-historic resources in the coastal zone management area that are significant in Hawaiian and American history and culture.

Policies

- 1) Identify and analyze significant archaeological resources;
- 2) Maximize information retention through preservation of remains and artifacts or salvage operations; and
- 3) Support State goals for protection, restoration, interpretation, and display of historic resources.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Is the project site within a historic/cultural district?	___	X ___
2. Is the project site listed on or nominated to the Hawaii or National register of historic places?	___	X ___
3. Does the project site include undeveloped land which has not been surveyed by an archaeologist?	___	X ___
4. Has a site survey revealed any information on historic or archaeological resources?	___	X ___
5. Is the project site within or near a Hawaiian fishpond or historic settlement area?	X ___	___

Discussion

The project site is not listed on the Hawaii or National Register of Historic Places. However, the State Historic Preservation Division considers Liliuokalani Gardens to be eligible based on its cultural values as possibly the only or largest authentic Japanese garden in the U.S. The County has submitted the plans to SHPD for their review. There are no undeveloped land within the project site. In historic times, the Waiakea peninsula was a settlement of mixed commercial, industrial, and residential uses. The 1946 and 1960 tsunamis destroyed most of these establishments. After the 1960 tsunami, the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency designated the project site area in open space to prevent any future loss of life and property from tsunamis.

SCENIC AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Objective: Protect, preserve and, where desirable, restore or improve the quality of coastal scenic and open space resources.

Policies

- 1) Identify valued scenic resources in the coastal zone management area;
- 2) Insure that new developments are compatible with their visual environment by designing and locating such developments to minimize the alteration of natural landforms and existing public views to and along the shoreline;
- 3) Preserve, maintain and, where desirable, improve and restore shoreline open space and scenic resources; and
- 4) Encourage those developments which are not coastal dependent to locate in inland areas.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the project site abut a scenic landmark?	X —	—
2. Does the proposed action involve the construction of a multi-story structure or structures?	—	X —
3. Is the project site adjacent to undeveloped parcels?	X —	—
4. Does the proposed action involve the construction of structures visible between the nearest coastal roadway and the shoreline?	—	X —
5. Will the proposed action involve construction in or on waters seaward of the shoreline? On or near a beach?	X —	—

Discussion

The project site, including Liliuokalani Gardens and Coconut Island, provides a breathtaking panoramic view of downtown Hilo, Hilo Bay, Mauna Kea, and the Hamakua coastline. The proposed project preserves, maintains, restores, and improves this exceptional open space and scenic resource. The restoration of the Old Government Wharf will improve a dilapidated structure into an inviting viewing and fishing platform.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Objective: Protect valuable coastal ecosystems from disruption and minimize adverse impacts on all coastal ecosystems.

Policies

- 1) Improve the technical basis for natural resource management;
- 2) Preserve valuable coastal ecosystems of significant biological or economic importance;
- 3) Minimize disruption or degradation of coastal water ecosystems by effective regulation of stream diversions, channelization, and similar land water uses, recognizing competing water needs; and
- 4) Promote water quantity and quality planning and management practices which reflect the tolerance of fresh water and marine ecosystems and prohibit land and water uses which violate State water quality standards.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the proposed action involve dredge or fill activities?	X —	—
2. Is the project site within the Shoreline Setback Area (20 to 40 feet inland of the shoreline)?	X —	—
3. Will the proposed action require some form of effluent discharge into a body of water?	—	X —
4. Will the proposed action require earthwork beyond clearing and grubbing?	X —	—
5. Will the proposed action include the construction of special waste treatment facilities, such as injection wells, discharge pipes, or cesspools?	—	X —
6. Is an intermittent or perennial stream located on or near the project site?	—	X —
7. Does the project site provide habitat for endangered species of plants, birds, or mammals?	X —	—
8. Is any such habitat located nearby?	X —	—
9. Is there a wetland on the project site?	—	—
10. Is the project site situated in or abutting a Natural Area Reserve?	—	X —

- |  |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| 11. Is the project site situated in or abutting a Marine Life Conservation District? | — | <u>X</u> |
| 12. Is the project site situated in or abutting an estuary?                          | — | <u>X</u> |

Discussion

The proposed improvements, particularly the parking lot improvements at the Waiakea Docks site, may require grading. The County will require the contractor to use best management practices to minimize construction runoff. The activities proposed within the shoreline setback area do not require a shoreline setback variance because they are either "minor activities" or permitted uses under the County's shoreline setback rules. No action is proposed to Waihonu Pond. Although this pond is not a significant wetland habitat, native and migratory waterbirds occasionally visit and offer an educational/recreational opportunity for residents and visitors to view these birds. Filling will be necessary to reconstruct the Old Government Wharf. The filling would be confined within the perimeter stone walls. The fill provides a foundation over which the concrete platform would be constructed.

ECONOMIC USES

Objective: Provide public or private facilities and improvements important to the State's economy in suitable locations.

Policies

- 1) Concentrate in appropriate areas the location of coastal dependent development necessary to the State's economy;
- 2) Insure that coastal dependent development such as harbors and ports, visitor industry facilities, and energy generating facilities are located, designed, and constructed to minimize adverse social, visual, and environmental impacts in the coastal zone management area; and
- 3) Direct the location and expansion of coastal dependent developments to areas presently designated and used for such development and permit reasonable long-term growth at such areas, and permit coastal dependent development outside of presently designated areas when:
  - a) Utilization of presently designated locations is not feasible;
  - b) Adverse environmental effects are minimized; and
  - c) Important to the State's economy.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the project involve a harbor or port?	---	X
2. Is the project site within a designated tourist destination area?	X	---
3. Does the project site include agricultural lands or lands designated for such use?	---	X
4. Does the proposed activity relate to commercial fishing or seafood production?	---	X
5. Does the proposed activity relate to energy production?	---	X
6. Does the proposed activity relate to seabed mining?	---	X

Discussion

The project site is adjacent to the Banyan Drive resort area. The project is a public open space use that attracts visitors, and in that sense has economic value. No other uses are permitted on the site due to the natural hazard risks.

COASTAL HAZARDS

Objective: Reduce hazard to life and property from tsunami, storm waves, stream flooding, erosion, and subsidence.

Policies

- 1) Develop and communicate adequate information on storm wave, tsunami, flood erosion, and subsidence hazard;
- 2) Control development in areas subject to storm wave, tsunami, flood, erosion, and subsidence hazard;
- 3) Ensure that developments comply with requirements of the Federal Flood Insurance Program; and
- 4) Prevent coastal flooding from inland projects.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Is the project site on or abutting a sandy beach?	—	X
2. Is the project site within a potential tsunami inundation area as depicted on the National Flood Insurance Program flood hazard map?	X	—
3. Is the project site within a potential flood inundation area according to a flood hazard map?	—	X
4. Is the project site within a potential subsidence hazard area according to a subsidence hazard map?	—	X
5. Has the project site or nearby shoreline areas experienced shoreline erosion?	—	X

Discussion

The entire project site is within the coastal high hazard zone (VE) as designated on the National Flood Insurance maps. The proposed improvements will conform with the standards and requirements set forth in the County's Flood Control Code (Hawaii County Code Chapter 27). The only structures involved in the proposed actions are the restroom renovations. Since these restrooms are nonconforming structures (i.e., built prior to May 5, 1982) and the proposed work are not "substantial improvements", the renovations will not require raising the restroom floor above the base flood elevation. However, other floodproofing measures would be incorporated.

MANAGING DEVELOPMENT

Objective: Improve the development review process, communication, and public participation in the management of coastal resources and hazards.

Policies

- 1) Effectively utilize and implement existing law to the maximum extent possible in managing present and future coastal zone development;
- 2) Facilitate timely processing of application for development permits and resolve overlapping or conflicting permit requirements; and
- 3) Communicate the potential short- and long-term impacts of proposed significant coastal developments early in their life cycle and in terms understandable to the general public to facilitate public participation in the planning and review process.

Check either "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Will the proposed activity require more than two (2) permits or approvals?	X ---	---
2. Does the proposed activity conform with the State and County land use designations for the site?	X ---	---
3. Has or will the public be notified of the proposed activity?	X ---	---
4. Has a draft or final environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment been prepared?	X ---	---

Discussion

A joint State/Federal environmental assessment has been prepared. Besides notification in the OEQC Environmental Notice, notice of the project will also be published in the local newspapers pursuant to federal requirements. The public will have opportunities to comment on the project through the EA process, and the several permitting processes including the SMA and U.S. Department of the Army permit. The project is zoned Urban (except for Waihonu Pond and Coconut Island which are Conservation) under the State Land Use Law and Open under County zoning. The proposed improvements to enhance the recreational opportunities of the area are consistent with the objectives of the State and County zoning.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Objective Stimulate public awareness, education, and participation in coastal management

### Policies

- 1) Maintain a public advisory body to identify coastal management problems and to provide policy advice and assistance to the coastal zone management program.
- 2) Disseminate information on coastal management issues by means of educational materials, published reports, staff contact, and public workshops for persons and organizations concerned with coastal-related issues, developments, and government activities, and
- 3) Organize workshops, policy dialogues, and site-specific mediations to respond to coastal issues and conflicts

### Discussion

The proposed improvements will encourage greater participation and appreciation of the diverse coastal resources offered by this area-- scenic beauty, wetland habitat, harbor uses, fishing, cultural values of Liliuokalani Gardens, and respect for the forces of nature that have historically decimated the area. The improvements will hopefully lead to more interpretive educational programs.

## BEACH PROTECTION

Objective: Protect beaches for public use and recreation

### Policies

- 1) Locate new structures inland from the shoreline setback to conserve open space and to minimize loss of improvements due to erosion,
- 2) Prohibit construction of private erosion-protection structures seaward of the shoreline, except when they result in improved aesthetic and engineering solutions to erosion at the sites and do not interfere with existing recreational and waterline activities, and
- 3) Minimize the construction of public erosion-protection structures seaward of the shoreline

### Discussion

The proposed improvements are for public use and recreation. No erosion-protection structures are proposed. The reconstruction of the Old Government Wharf will not expand the original foundations of the structure, and is intended for public use. A small pocket of sand presently accumulates as a result of the existing structure. The proposed reconstruction will maintain this small sand pocket.

## MARINE RESOURCES

Objective Implement the State's ocean resources management plan

### Policies

- 1) Exercise an overall conservation ethic, and practice stewardship in the protection, use, and development of marine and coastal resources,
- 2) Assure that the use and development of marine and coastal resources are ecologically and environmentally sound and economically beneficial,
- 3) Coordinate the management of marine and coastal resources and activities management to improve effectiveness and efficiency,
- 4) Assert and articulate the interests of the State as a partner with federal agencies in the sound management of ocean resources within the United States exclusive economic zone,
- 5) Promote research, study, and understanding of ocean processes, marine life, and other ocean resources in order to acquire and inventory information necessary to understand how ocean development activities relate to and impact upon ocean and coastal resources, and
- 6) Encourage research and development of new, innovative technologies for exploring, using, or protecting marine and coastal resources

### Discussion

The project does not propose any use of marine or ocean resources seaward of the shoreline.

**APPENDIX C**

*Federal Statutory Compliance Checklist*

### Statutory Checklist

[24CFR §58.5]

For each listed statute, executive order or regulation, record the determinations made. Note reviews and consultations completed as well as any applicable permits or approvals obtained. Attach evidence that all required actions have been taken. Record any conditions or mitigation measures required. Then, make a determination of compliance or consistency

Factors	Determinations and Compliance Documentation
<b>Historic Preservation</b> [36 CER 800]	Potentially beneficial. Proposed improvements will improve public access to the cultural values of Liliuokalani Gardens, and restore the historic Old Government Wharf rather than demolishing it. Consultations ongoing with the State Historic Preservation Division pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 6E. See EA §4.1.5, "Historic/Archaeological/Cultural Resources" and §5.3, "Historic Preservation".
<b>Floodplain Management</b> [24 CER 55, Executive Order 11988]	Requires mitigation. The entire project site is within the VE zone. However, the only "structures" involved are the restrooms. All proposed improvements will comply with the County Flood Control Code. See EA §4.1.3, "Natural Hazards" and APPENDIX A, "Compliance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management".
<b>Wetlands Protection</b> [Executive Order 11990]	No impact anticipated. Waihonu Pond is not a habitat for endangered birds. No action is proposed to this pond. See EA §4.1.4, "Flora/Fauna".
<b>Coastal Zone Management Act</b> [Sections 307(c),(d)]	Potentially beneficial. Permits and approvals being processed include the Special Management Area Permit, determination of minor activity in shoreline setback area, and Department of Army permit. See EA §5.8, "Coastal Zone Management, Special Management Area, and Shoreline Setback Variance" and APPENDIX B, "Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination".
<b>Sole Source Aquifers</b> [40 CER 149]	Not applicable.
<b>Endangered Species Act</b> [50 CER 402]	No impact anticipated. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has confirmed the absence of endangered or threatened species within the project site. See EA §4.1.4, "Flora/Fauna".
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act</b> [Sections 7 (b), (c)]	Not applicable.
<b>Air Quality</b> [Clean Air Act, Sections 176 (c) and (d), and 40 CFR 6, 51, 93]	No impact anticipated. See EA §4.1.7, "Air Quality and Noise".
<b>Farmland Protection Policy Act</b> [7 CFR 658]	Not applicable (no agricultural lands affected).
<b>Environmental Justice</b> [Executive Order 12898]	No impact anticipated. See EA §4.2.3, "Environmental Justice".

**HUD Environmental Standards Determinations and Compliance Documentation**

<b>Noise Abatement and Control</b> [24 CFR 51 B]	Requires mitigation. Construction documents will require the contractor to comply with Department of Health community noise rules. See EA §4.1.7, "Air Quality and Noise".
<b>Toxic or Hazardous Substances and Radioactive Materials</b> [HUD Notice 79-33]	No impact anticipated. No known hazardous toxic or hazardous substances on the project site.
<b>Siting of HUD-Assisted Projects near Hazardous Operations</b> [24 CFR 51 C]	No impact anticipated. No known hazardous operations in vicinity of the project site.
<b>Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones</b> [24 CFR 51 D]	No impact anticipated. The project site is outside the Hilo International Airport's runway clear zones. See EA §4.3.7, "Airport Clear Zones".

**APPENDIX D**

*Comments and Responses to the Draft EA*

## COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT EA

The Draft EA was published in the March 23, 1999 OEQC Environmental Notice. This publication date triggered the start of the thirty day Review Period, which officially ended on April 22, 1999.

The Draft EA was sent to various agencies, organizations, and individuals listed below, as well as the Hilo Regional Library. The written comments and respective responses are reproduced in this Appendix. Those letters with "no comment" or "no impact", or those letters that merely provided information rather than raising a concern, are grouped together at the end of the Appendix and were not sent a response.

Agency/Organization	Commented-Response Sent	Commented-No Response Necessary	Did not send written comments
<b>Federal</b>			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers			X
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service	X		
<b>State</b>			
Department of Accounting & General Services		X	
Department of Health		X	
Department of Land & Natural Resources			X
State Historic Preservation Division	X		
Office of State Planning		X	
Office of Hawaiian Affairs			X
Department of Transportation, Harbors Division		X	
<b>County</b>			
Planning Department			X
Department of Public Works	X		
Department of Water Supply		X	
Fire Department		X	
Police Department		X	
Civil Defense			X

Agency/Organization	Commented: Response Sent	Commented: No Response Necessary	Did not send written comments
Office of Housing & Community Development			X
Hawaii Redevelopment Agency		X	
Arborist Advisory Committee			X
Tea Ceremony House Advisory Committee (Department of Parks & Recreation)			X
Committee on People with Disabilities (Mayor's Office)			X
<b>Organizations and Individuals</b>			
Hilo Outdoor Circle			X
Banyan Drive resorts			X
Hawaii Island Economic Development Board			X
Elected officials			X
Adjacent landowners/lessees	X		
Disability Rights Hawaii	X		



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pacific Islands Ecoregion  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3122  
Box 50088  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

SEARCHED	(initials)
SERIALIZED	(initials)
INDEXED	(initials)
FILED	(initials)
MAY 18 1969	
FBI - HONOLULU	

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In Reply Refer To: MR

Lt. Colonel Wally Z. Walters  
Honolulu District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Building 230  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440

MAY 18 1969

Re: File No. 990000001; Repair of Lilioukalani Park Wharf (Old Government Wharf), South  
Hilo District, Hawaii Island

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Walters:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the public notice for the referenced wharf repair project on the Island of Hawaii. The project applicant is the Hawaii County, Department of Parks & Recreation (HCDPR). This letter has been prepared under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934 [16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.; 48 Stat. 401], as amended, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; 87 Stat. 884], as amended (Act), and other authorities mandating Service concern for environmental values. These comments are also consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.; 83 Stat. 852], as amended. Based on these authorities, the Service offers the following comments for your consideration.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve (1) the wharf's safety to the general public and (2) the recreational value of Lilioukalani Park. The proposed project involves the rebuilding of the Old Government Wharf (OGW) as part of the larger Waianai Peninsula Improvements project, which includes upland park facilities construction and refurbishing that area outside the scope of this permit action.

We have reviewed the information provided in the public notice and in our own files. To the best of our knowledge, no federally endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or other Federal trust resource occurs at the immediate project site. The dark-rumped petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwicensis*) is the only federally endangered or threatened species expected to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Circumstantial observations and experimental evidence have shown artificial lighting can disorient seabirds when flying between inland nesting areas and offshore

feeding grounds. This disorientation is caused by excessively bright outdoor lighting and can result in seabird collisions with man-made structures such as light poles and wires. Injured seabirds that "fall-out" from collisions are highly vulnerable to predation by dogs, cats, and mongooses.

While the Service did not identify proposals to modify and/or construct lighting or above-ground wire structures in the project description, we have enclosed some information which will help prevent impact to petrels should the project involve these activities. Enclosed, is a copy of the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife's (DOFAW) brochure on what we recommend be done to minimize the effects of lighting on birds. At a minimum, light poles should be limited to a maximum height of 25 feet, since lights situated on higher poles are more likely to cause seabird fall-out. Also, all lights used in this project should be directed downward and away from the shore, be shaded to prevent light from escaping horizontally, and be as low wattage as possible. It would also be helpful if the lighting is of muted colors instead of a bright white.

Potential ways to minimize the effects of wires on birds include burying wires whenever feasible, aligning wires horizontally rather than vertically, and attaching mylar flashing tape and/or large helicopter warning balls to above-ground wires to assist birds in locating the wires before they fly into them. We recommend the foregoing measures be incorporated into the proposed action and that you contact the DOFAW office on the Big Island for other recommendations.

In view of this, we will concur with a determination that the proposed wharf repair is not likely to adversely affect federally endangered and threatened species. Based on this determination, we believe the requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) have been satisfied. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if (1) new information reveals impacts of the revised standards may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) the revised standards are subsequently modified in a manner not considered in this assessment, or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the revised standards.

Although the public notice does not provide specific amounts of proposed project dredging and filling, discussions with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) staff have clarified that these quantities are expected to be negligible. The proposed project site has been previously disturbed and lacks significant fish and wildlife resources. Accordingly, no significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources are expected to result from the proposed repair. However, the Service recommends the following measures be incorporated into the project to minimize the degradation of water quality and impacts to fish and wildlife resources:

- a. no project-related materials should be stockpiled in the marine environment;
- b. all project-related equipment placed in the water should be free of pollutants;
- c. no contamination of the adjacent marine environment (trash or debris disposal, etc.) should result from project-related activities;

- d. a contingency plan to control petroleum products accidentally spilled during the project should be developed. Absorbent pads and containment booms should be stored on-site to facilitate the clean-up of petroleum spills;
- e. Land clearing and grading activities should be minimized and limited to the immediate project site and adequate erosion control measures should be incorporated to ensure project-related sediments are not carried into nearby coastal waters by storm water runoff; and
- e. Siltation of adjacent coral reefs from the proposed work should be minimized and turbidity should be contained to within the vicinity of the site through the use of effective silt containment devices and the curtailment of work during adverse weather conditions.

The Service appreciates your concern for endangered and threatened species. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Fish and Wildlife Biologist Mike Richardson by telephone at (808) 541-3441 or by facsimile transmission at (808) 541-3470.

Sincerely,

*Robert P. Smith*  
Robert P. Smith  
Pacific Islands Manager

cc: NMFS-PAO, Honolulu  
USEPA-Region IX, Honolulu  
DAR, Hawaii  
CZMP, Hawaii  
CWB, Hawaii

The future of a native Hawaiian seabird, the Newell's Shearwater, is threatened by the growth of new urban developments. Every year on Kauai, nearly 1,500 Newell's Shearwaters are attracted to bright urban lights, fly into unseen objects and fall stunned to the ground. Fortunately, 90% of them are recovered and successfully returned to the wild through the "SOS" (Save our Shearwater) program which involves the cooperation of the general public.

This brochure is designed to describe the bird, its problems with lights, and specifically what architects/planners, resort managers and the general public can do to reduce or avoid the light attraction problem.

### THE BIRD

The Newell's Shearwater once nested on all of the major Hawaiian Islands, but the mongoose, introduced to Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Oahu in the late 1800's is believed to have caused the extinction of shearwaters on those islands. Kauai is the last stronghold for this unique native Hawaiian seabird.

Newell's Shearwaters nest during the spring and summer months in the interior mountains of Kauai. They dig a long burrow in the ground beneath dense vegetation and lay a single egg each year. The eggs hatch during July and August, and the nestlings are reared within the burrow. The adult birds abandon the nestlings a week or two before they are old enough to fly. The nestlings become hungry, and leave the nesting grounds by themselves shortly after nightfall. They head for the open ocean, and must depend upon their instincts to find food. They do not return to their nest, but fly south towards the equator where they will remain all winter on the open seas until the following spring.

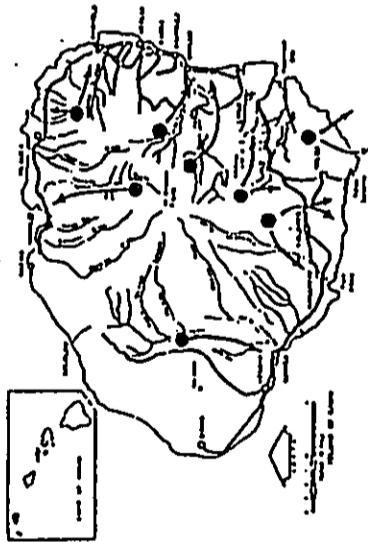


Figure 1. Map showing known nesting areas of the Newell's Shearwater, and probable light paths to the sea, which require them to pass over brightly lit urban areas.

**PREDATORS.** Dogs, cats, rats and feral pigs are known to kill some shearwaters and their young on the nesting grounds each year. The accidental establishment of a new predator to Kauai such as the mongoose, could cause the rapid extinction of this bird. Mongoose sightings on Kauai should be reported to wildlife officials promptly.

**LIGHT ATTRACTION:** Young shearwaters leaving their nests for the first time, do so only at night. They are inexperienced and have a natural attraction to bright lights. Flying near urban areas, they become temporarily blinded by the lights and fly into unseen objects such as utility wires, trees, buildings and automobiles. Often times they are just confused and exhausted. Most often they are only stunned and fall to the ground, but about 10 percent of them die each year. The problem is growing because of the increased number of urban lights associated with new resort and residential developments. The greatest "fallout" problem occurs near coastal towns, particularly near river mouths.

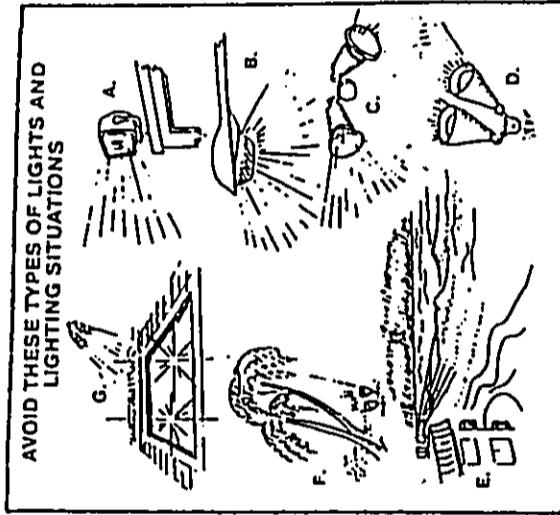


Figure 2. Avoid these types of lights: A. Unshielded high intensity floodlights on tall structures. B. Street lights without shields. C. Unshielded spotlights. D. Spotlights aimed upwards. Avoid using these types of lighting situations during peak fall-out periods (new moon) during October and November. E. Floodlights on turf. F. Spotlights aimed up at vegetation. G. Spotlights directed on pools which reflect light.

### Architects and Planners

- Be aware of the light attraction problem during the plan stages of new development.
- Make every effort to avoid lighting situations where light projects upwards or laterally (see figure 2). Avoid large intensity floodlights located on building tops or poles wherever possible.
- Use shielded lights, cut-off luminaires, or indirect lighting whenever possible. (see figure 3).
- Avoid locating bright lights near utility wires or other objects that could be difficult for birds to see at night.

### Hotel, Resort and Condominium Managers

- When converting to new exterior light fixtures, consider installing shielded lights, cut-off luminaires or indirect lighting.
- Consider installing shields on exterior lights that are known to attract shearwaters. Some light manufacturers offer reflective shields. In some cases inexpensive shields can be fabricated.
- Avoid using unnecessary lighting during the critical water fall-out period (October and November each year). Note: The heaviest fall-out occurs on and around the moon, generally for only 10 to 12 days. (See figure 2). Dowsing unnecessary floodlights that light up the sun shine upward upon buildings or trees for that short period could significantly reduce shearwater fall-out.

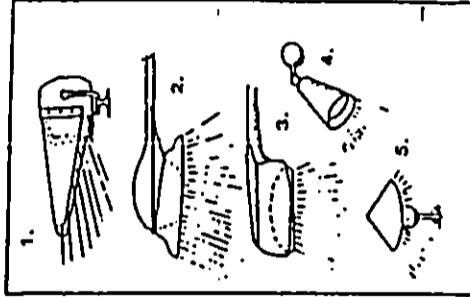


Figure 3. Use these types of lights whenever possible: 1. Shielded floodlights. 2. Shielded streetlights. 3. Cut-off luminaire streetlights. 4. Shielded spotlights aimed downwards. 5. Spotlight lighting low to the ground.

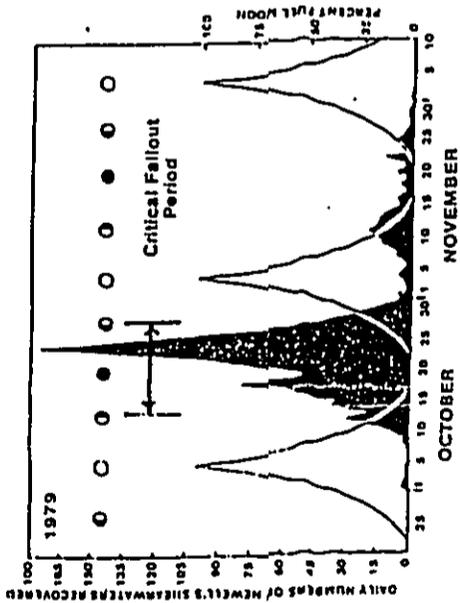


Figure 4. Relationship of shearwater "fallout" to the moon phases. The critical period of fallout occurs during the week before and after the new moon (darkest nights). Dowsing lights that are not absolutely necessary during that period could substantially reduce the annual shearwater fallout problem.

#### What To Do If Shearwaters Fall In Your Area

1. Collect birds as soon as possible to avoid losses to dogs and cats. They are generally docile birds and are easily handled. Take them to the nearest "shearwater aid station" located at county fire stations and at a few private business locations around the island. If birds must be held overnight, keep them in ventilated cardboard boxes with a secure lid.
2. Do not release birds by tossing them into the air. They may have unseen internal injuries and could become more badly injured.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

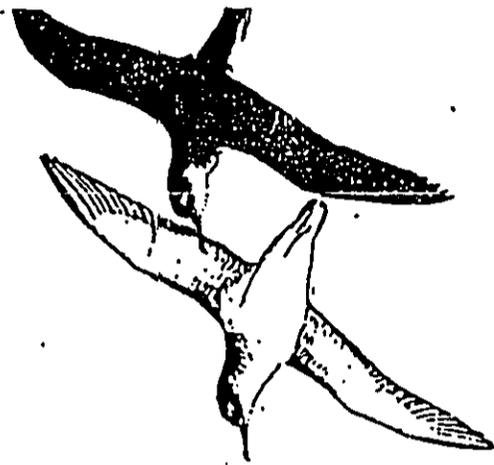
State of Hawaii  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 1671  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
245-4433

U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 87  
Kilauea, Hawaii 96754  
828-1413

The Nature Conservancy  
of Hawaii  
1026 Nuuanu Avenue, Suite 201  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
537-4508



DEPARTMENT OF  
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES



## THE NEWELL'S SHEARWATER LIGHT ATTRACTIO PROBLEM

A GUIDE FOR ARCHITECTS,  
PLANNERS, AND RESORT MANAGER



Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Juliette M. Tulang  
Director  
C. Kenneth Sawden  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • HIL, Hawaii 96720-4232  
(808) 941-4311

June 16, 1999

Mr. Robert Smith, Pacific Islands Manager  
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 50088  
Honolulu, HI 96850

RE: File No. 990006001; Liliuokalani Park Wharf (Old Government Wharf) Repair Project  
Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii  
TMK: 3rd/2-1-03:1

This letter responds to your comments dated May 18, 1999 on the subject project. With respect to the proposed scope of the project that is subject to the U.S. Army Permit (i.e., the repair of the Old Government Wharf), we confirm that there will be no lights or wires placed on the reconstructed wharf. With this understanding, we acknowledge your determination that the proposed wharf repair is not likely to adversely affect federally endangered and threatened species.

With respect to your comments pertaining to the larger Waiakea Peninsula Improvements project outside the scope of the U.S. Army permit action, we appreciate your suggested mitigation measures to minimize impact to the dark-rumped petrel and coastal water quality. We will implement the mitigation measures as follows:

1. **Lighting.** The only lighting improvements proposed are street lights along Lihikai Street. The design of these lights will be modified to ensure that the following specifications are met:
  - a. The light poles will be a maximum height of 25';
  - b. The lights shall be directed downward and away from the shore;
  - c. The lights will be shaded to prevent light from escaping horizontally;
  - d. The lights will be as low wattage as possible, and a muted color instead of bright white.

2. **Wires.** No wires are proposed.
3. **Coastal Water Quality.**
  - a. Compliance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification will ensure that the contractor:
    1. Locates stockpiles and staging areas in a manner that would not disturb the aquatic environment;
    2. Ensures that any equipment placed in the water shall be free of pollutants;
    3. Implements best management practices that contain and prevent pollutant discharges to the coastal waters;
    4. Submits a contingency plan to control petroleum products accidentally spilled during construction;
    5. Conducts a monitoring program to ensure that the best management practices are working and to detect any potential pollution.
  - b. Compliance with Special Management Area Permit conditions will ensure that grading activities are minimized and incorporate erosion control measures. There are no coral reefs in the immediate vicinity of the proposed actions that necessitate special protective measures.

If you have any questions, please call Glenn Miyao of my staff at 961-8311.

Sincerely,

Juliette Tulang  
Director

cc: COE, Regulatory Branch



Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Juliette M. Tulang  
Director  
C. Kenneth Snowden  
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
25 Auahi Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-1232  
(808) 961-8311

July 2, 1999

Mr. Don Hibbard, Administrator  
State Historic Preservation Division  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
601 Kamohila Boulevard, Room 555  
Kapolei, HI 96707

Subject: Waiakea Peninsula Improvements (Liliuokalani Gardens),  
Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the subject project. We respond to your comments, dated June 3, 1999, as follows:

1. **Line of trees.** We have enclosed a set of the construction plans for your review. One section of the line of trees will be thinned. Another section will be removed except for a banyan tree and five other existing trees (see sheet LA-3). These selected trees will serve as a visual marker of the historic boundary, while the removal of the other trees accomplishes other design objectives, such as visually and functionally opening the area now separated by the trees to eliminate the dampness of this area.
2. **Lihwai Street walkway.** The concrete walkway along Lihwai Street will transition from a raised walkway to one that will be flush with the existing asphalt paving in that section fronting the existing rock wall (see sheet LA-21). The face of the existing rock wall along this section of Lihwai Street will not change.
3. **Pathways near teshouse.** Although limited grading is necessary to provide a walkway not exceeding 1:20, this change should not significantly change the character of the area (see sheet LA-11).
4. **Grass paving.** To reduce costs, alternative specifications are currently being studied for the new pathways including grass paving of certain sections or eliminating certain sections altogether.
5. **Pond overlook.** To reduce costs, the pond overlook will

probably be deleted. If it is constructed, grass paving will be considered.

6. **Double stepping stones bridges near North Gateway.** The accessible walkways will stop at either end of the existing stepping stone bridges, and the existing bridges will be preserved (see sheet LA-20).

If these project plans as described above meet your approval, we would appreciate a letter of determination. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Glenn Miyao of my staff at 961-8313.

Sincerely,

*Juliette Tulang*  
Juliette Tulang  
Director

encls



Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 - Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 961-4311

Juliette M. Tulang  
Director

C. Kenneth Sinden  
Deputy Director

the definition of "functionally dependent use" (i.e., "a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water"), and is therefore exempt from the provisions of Hawaii County Code Chapter 27.

- d. The restroom renovations shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 27 by meeting the tests of less than "substantial improvements," by application for a variance, or through redesign. All proposed renovations are within the existing footprint of the building.

July 2, 1999

Mr. Galen M. Kuba, Division Chief  
Engineering Department  
Department of Public Works  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Waiakea Peninsula Improvements, Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the subject EA. We respond to your comments as follows:

1. All proposed building construction (e.g., restroom renovation, torii) shall conform to code requirements as verified through the building permit process.
2. All earthwork and grading shall conform with Hawaii County Code Chapter 10 and/or conditions of the Special Management Area to ensure that sedimentation effects on the coastal waters are minimized.
3. All work within the County right-of-way (e.g., Lihikai Street) shall comply with Hawaii County Code Chapter 22 (Streets and Sidewalks).
4. No sewerline improvements are proposed.
5. Design and construction of the proposed improvements shall comply with Hawaii Code Chapter 27 (Flood Control Code) as follows:
  - a. All utility and structural improvements have been designed to code with attention to floodproofing where special treatment seemed necessary. The plans have been submitted for your review for verification whether further precautions are necessary.
  - b. The proposed earthwork will result in no net fill.
  - c. We confirm that the proposed wharf reconstruction meets

Should you have any questions, please contact Glenn Miyao at 961-8313.

Sincerely,

*Juliette Tulang*  
Juliette Tulang  
Director

Hilo Trading Co., Ltd.  **NIHON** Restaurant & Cultural Center  
123 Lihwai Street • Hilo, Hawaii • 96720 (808) 969-1133



Juliette M. Tulang  
Director  
C. Kenneth Swenden  
Deputy Director

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor

**County of Hawaii**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
25 Aupuni Street, Room 218 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 941-4311

April 13, 1999  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
25 Aupuni St.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Waiakaa Peninsula Improvements  
Island of Hawaii, District of South Hilo  
Dear Sir,

Upon review of the proposed Draft Environmental Assessment to improve the Waiakaa Peninsula (Lifuokalani Gardens, Isles and Coconut Island), I am totally in favor of the project.

I did have two concerns regarding any negative impact this project would have on the Nihon Restaurant. My first concern is during construction. What impact would there be regarding any noise, traffic, detours and/or road closures. Second, at the "Isles" project, I object to the area chosen for bus parking. It is too close to the restaurant.

I also do have one suggestion. With such a wonderful improvement at the site known as "Isles", would it be possible to further extend the project (park area) to include the area fronting the Nihon Restaurant that was formerly a boat dry dock? I truly believe that area is an eyesore and would fit perfectly into this project with minimal added costs.

Thank you for your time and concerns and please feel free to call me at 969-1133 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
  
Stephen I. Hironaka  
General Manager  
Nihon Restaurant

cc: Roy R. Takemoto

June 16, 1999

Mr. Steven I. Hironaka, General Manager  
Nihon Restaurant  
123 Lihwai Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

Subject: Waiakaa Peninsula Improvements, Waiakaa, South Hilo District, Hawaii

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the subject EA. We respond to your comments as follows:

1. Construction Impacts. Every effort will be made to mitigate the noise, dust, and traffic problems in your area. We will require the contractor to ensure uninterrupted access to your restaurant during your hours of operation.
2. Bus Parking. The plans for the Isles area have not been finalized. Your concern regarding the bus parking location is being evaluated and alternative locations will be considered.
3. Boat Dry Dock Area. The County has discussed, with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the possibility of obtaining the State-owned parcel fronting the restaurant. The County is willing to acquire the former boatyard site on the condition that all debris (metal structures) be removed. Once acquired, this site will be incorporated into the overall park plans.

We appreciate your support of the project and, if you have any further questions or concerns, please contact project coordinator Glenn Miyao of my staff.

Sincerely,  
  
Juliette Tulang  
Director





Disability  
Rights  
Hawaii

working together for access

P.O. Box 5575, Hilo, HI 96720 (832) 935-1071

4/10/99, p. 2

One point about terminology and style of reference: In modern writing the term "handicap" is not used. Preferred terms are "accessible" or "ADA compliant" when speaking of features such as pathways and parking spaces, and "people with disabilities" when speaking of the users. I would be glad to make suggestions regarding phraseology if there is any difficulty.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Roy Takemoto  
FAX: 961-2082

4/10/99

Dear Mr. Takemoto,

This is a followup to confirm our telephone discussion of April 2, 1999, concerning the Waiakea Peninsula Improvements Draft EA. The Draft EA was discussed at the Disability Rights Hawaii (DRH) meeting of March 30, 1999. We are very glad that these improvements are finally being made. The following comments came up at the meeting.

Liliuokalani Gardens

1. The interior accessible walkways connecting the four gateway entries will for the first time provide access to this beautiful park to people with disabilities as well as other users such as parents with baby strollers. This renovation is very important. Given the softness of the ground surface in the park, these pathways are our only access.
2. ADA standards for disability accessibility apply at the time of renovation to all facilities, including historical sites. If any entity (individual or agency) believes that the required accessible features would "threaten or destroy" the historical significance of a site, the burden of proof is on that entity. No one, including disability rights advocates like DRH, is required to prove that no such harm would occur. Having read your excellent history of the site, I cannot see how its historical significance can be threatened by making it accessible. If anyone perceives these improvements as threats to historical significance, DRH would be eager to participate in a hearing on the issue.
3. The proposed East Gateway entry has a curved accessible pathway. This is only allowable if the slope is 1:20 or less.
4. The West Gateway has diagonal parking spaces with an accessible parking space next to the entry. Diagonal accessible parking spaces require access aisles and pathways on both sides of the parking space, which do not appear in the drawing. Perpendicular accessible parking spaces only require access aisles on one side (because of the possibility of backing in). This should be evaluated in the design. (Both #3 and #4 would eventually be caught by the Commission on Persons with Disabilities under the review required by State Law 103.50 anyway, but this is just to alert you to the situation.)

Coconut Island

1. The ramps for the bridge to Coconut Island are essential.
2. The walkway around the island is highly desirable, and seems to us consistent with the historical significance of the area. But if for some *good* reason the amount of pavement is objectionable, the most important pavement is that between the bridge and the pavilion and accessible restrooms.

*Disability Rights Hawaii is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation*

Sincerely,

  
Ron Amundson, Secretary  
Disability Rights Hawaii  
P. O. Box 5575  
Hilo, HI 96720

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Juliette M. Tulang  
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
25 Aupuni Street, Room 218 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 941-4331

June 16, 1999

Mr. Ron Amundson, Secretary  
Disability Rights Hawaii  
P.O. Box 5575  
Hilo, HI 96720

Subject: Waiakea Peninsula Improvements, Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the subject EA. We respond to your comments as follows:

Lalukuakalani Gardens

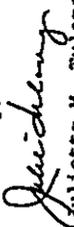
1. **Primary Walkway Network.** As you stated, an interior ADA-compliant pathway network is necessary for access to the park. We appreciate your concern and support on this point.
2. **Compatibility with Historic Character.** We walked the site with a representative from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and discussed the proposed improvements. SHPD had a few minor concerns which we will be able to address. The only relatively significant modification we may make in response to their comments is to delete a portion of the primary pathway connecting to the North Gateway that required crossing over a portion of the pond. In this area, however, alternative accessible pathways will be provided nearby.
3. **East Gateway Entry.** The ramp at the East Gateway has been redesigned. The new configuration is a 1:12 ramp, but is no longer curved.
4. **West Gateway Entry.** The parking at either side of the West Gateway has been redesigned. The new parking configuration remains diagonal; however, aisles have been placed on both sides of the accessible stalls.

### Coconut Island

1. **Coconut Island Ramp.** We acknowledge your concurrence that new accessible ramps are necessary for both ends of the Coconut Island bridge.
2. **Coconut Island Primary Walkway.** The plans still include an ADA-compliant perimeter pathway. If budget constraints require modification, we will ensure that at a minimum an ADA-compliant pathway will be installed between the bridge and the restroom/pavilion.

Thank you for your support of the proposed project. We appreciate your comments on the use of proper terminology. We will revise the Final EA to reflect these changes. Should you have any questions, please contact Glenn Miyao, the staff person handling this project.

Sincerely,

  
Juliette M. Tulang  
Director

BENJAMIN J. CAVIARO  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
PO BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, M.D., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

(P) 1268.9

12 1993

April 26, 1999

99-053/epo

Department of Parks and Recreation  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4253

Gentlemen:

Subject: Waiakea Peninsula Improvements  
Draft Environmental Assessment

This is in response to your letter of March 10 1999, requesting our comments on the subject project.

The project will not impact any of our existing or proposed facilities. Therefore, we have no comments.

In the future, when actions described by Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notices, Environmental Impact Statements, Plan Review Use, etc., do not impact on specific Department of Accounting and General Services plans or facilities, we for workload reasons will not provide a "no comment" or "good planning principles evaluation" type of response. But, since we are still interested in knowing what is going on planning-wise, we would still appreciate the opportunity to review all such documents.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alan Sanborn of the Planning Branch at 586-0499.

Sincerely,

GORDON MATSUOKA  
Public Works Administrator

JT:jy  
C: Mr. Roy Takemoto

Department of Parks  
And Recreation  
County of Hawaii  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)  
Waiakea Peninsula Improvements  
Waiakea, Hawaii  
THK: 2-1-3: 1, 2, 16, 19, 22, 23, 25

Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the subject project. We have the following comments to offer:

If a Department of Army Permit is required, a Water Quality Certification (WQC) will be required from the Clean Water Branch, Department of Health. Please contact Mr. Denis Lau, Chief, Clean Water Branch at 586-4309 for more information.

Sincerely,

GARY GILL  
Deputy Director for  
Environmental Health

C: CWB  
HDHO  
Roy Takemoto



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**OFFICE OF PLANNING**

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Fl., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Ref. No. P-8085

May 18, 1999

Ms. Juliette Tulang  
Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
County of Hawaii  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

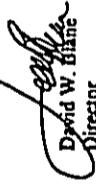
Dear Ms. Tulang:

**Subject:** Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Federal Consistency  
Review for the Old Government Wharf Reconstruction, Hilo, Hawaii;  
Department of the Army Permit File No. 9900000001

Your proposal to reconstruct the Old Government Wharf to its original dimensions has been reviewed for consistency with Hawaii's CZM Program. We concur with your determination that the activity is consistent. The Army Corps of Engineers will be notified of this approval.

CZM consistency concurrence is not an endorsement of the project nor does it convey approval with any other regulations administered by any State or County agency. Thank you for your cooperation in complying with Hawaii's CZM Program. If you have any questions, please call John Nakagawa of our CZM Program at 587-2878.

Sincerely,

  
David W. Blaine  
Director  
Office of Planning

**ROY R. TAKEMOTO**  
Land Use Consultant  
P.O. Box 10217  
Hilo, HI 96721  
Phone/Fax: (808) 961-2082

March 24, 1999

**Memo**

To: Files

Fr: Roy Takemoto

RE: Waiakea Peninsula—telecon received from State DOT Harbors Division

cc:

Received call from Melissa Ihori stating that Harbors Division has no comments on the Draft EA.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII  
25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720  
TELEPHONE (808) 961-8660 • FAX (808) 961-8657

May 7, 1999

Stephen E. Yamashiro  
Mayor



County of Hawaii

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
777 Kuluwea Avenue • Hilo, HI 96720-0299  
(808) 961-8297 • Fax (808) 961-8296

Edward Bumatay  
Acting Fire Chief

TO: Department of Parks and Recreation  
FROM: Milton D. Pavao, Manager

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
WAIAKEA PENINSULA IMPROVEMENTS  
TAX MAP KEY 2-1-003:001, 002, 016, 019, 022, 023, AND 025

We have reviewed the proposed improvements and have the following comments.

We understand that no additional water or water facility improvements will be required for the proposed improvements. However, to insure that the existing water system within the construction area will not be damaged, we request that construction plans be submitted during the design stage for our review and approval.

Should there be any questions, please contact our Water Resources and Planning Branch at 961-8660.

  
Milton D. Pavao, P.E.  
Manager  
MA:gms

copy - Mr. Roy Takemoto ✓

April 6, 1999

Department of Parks & Recreation  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

Subject: Waiakea Peninsula Improvements  
Island: Hawaii  
District: South Hilo  
TX#K: 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-1-011.1.2.16.19.22.23.25

We have no comments on the above-referenced project.

  
EDWARD BUMATAY  
Acting Fire Chief  
EB/mo

cc: ✓ Roy Takemoto, Land Use Consultant



... Water brings progress...

