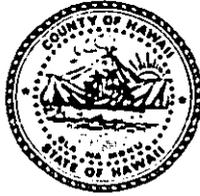


Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Juliette M. Tulang
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8311

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March 16, 2000

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

Ms. Genevieve Salmonson, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
State Office Tower
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, HI 96813

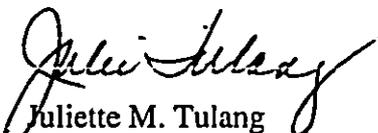
Dear Ms. Salmonson:

**Subject: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Lelewi Beach Park
Improvements, TMK 2-1-17: por. 21, 22, Waiakea, South Hilo
District, Hawaii**

The Department of Parks and Recreation has reviewed comments on the Draft EA received during the thirty-day public review period, which began on February 8, 2000, determined that this project will have no significant environmental effect, and with this letter, issues a finding of no significant impact. Please publish notice of this determination in the April 8, 2000 Environmental Notice.

Enclosed is a completed OEQC Bulletin publication form and four copies of the Final EA. Please contact Glenn Miyao at 961-8311 if there are any questions.

Yours truly,


Juliette M. Tulang
Director

cc: Roy Takemoto, Land Use Consultant

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APR 8 2000

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2000-04-08-HI-*FEA* -

Final Environmental Assessment

**(*LELEIWI BEACH PARK
IMPROVEMENTS*)**

*Waiakea, South Hilo District, Hawaii
TMK: 3rd 2-1-17:por. 21,22*

Prepared for:
Department of Parks & Recreation
County of Hawaii

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

March 2000

*This document was prepared pursuant to:
Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343 and Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200 (Department of Health)*

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SUMMARY

- PROJECT NAME:** Leleiwi Beach Park 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/2-1-17:por. 21, 22
- CLASS OF ACTION:** Use of County land and funds
- DETERMINATION:** Finding of No Significant Impact
- PROPOSED ACTION:** Parking improvements (23 stalls, approximately 0.4 acre limits of grading) and trails
- ESTIMATED COST:** \$82,000 (County funds)
- PURPOSE AND NEED:** Improve access to the recreational value of underutilized shoreline areas.
- 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 required by the Flood Control Code.
 - Design drainage systems to minimize surface runoff from the parking lot to the coastal waters.
 - Include security gates for the parking lot.
 - Include perimeter landscaping along the street frontage and west boundary.
- Construction Phase:
- Comply with noise standards.
 - Implement best management erosion control practices specified in construction documents.
 - Protect, as necessary, the banyan tree makai of the Site.

UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS OR UNRESOLVED ISSUES: Unavoidable cutting of mango, palm, and other exotic trees on the Site.

STATE LAND USE DISTRICT: Urban

GENERAL PLAN: Low Density Urban

ZONING: Open

PERMITS REQUIRED: SMA Minor Permit, Plan Approval, Grading Permit

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Proposing Agency

The County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to construct trails and a parking lot for the Leleiwi shoreline area. The use of County land and funds trigger the environmental review requirements under *Hawaii Revised Statutes* Chapter 343.¹

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
 - 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, Highways Division
- County
 - Planning Department
 - Department of Public Works
 - Department of Water Supply
 - Fire Department
 - Police Department
 - Civil Defense
 - Arborist Advisory Committee
 - Committee on People with Disabilities (Mayor's Office)
- Organizations and Individuals
 - Leleiwi Community Association
 - Hilo Outdoor Circle

1. *Hawaii Revised Statutes* §343-5(a)(1) (use of State or County land or funds).

- 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; and
- Community meetings-- meetings were held with the Leleiwi Community Association to discuss the project.

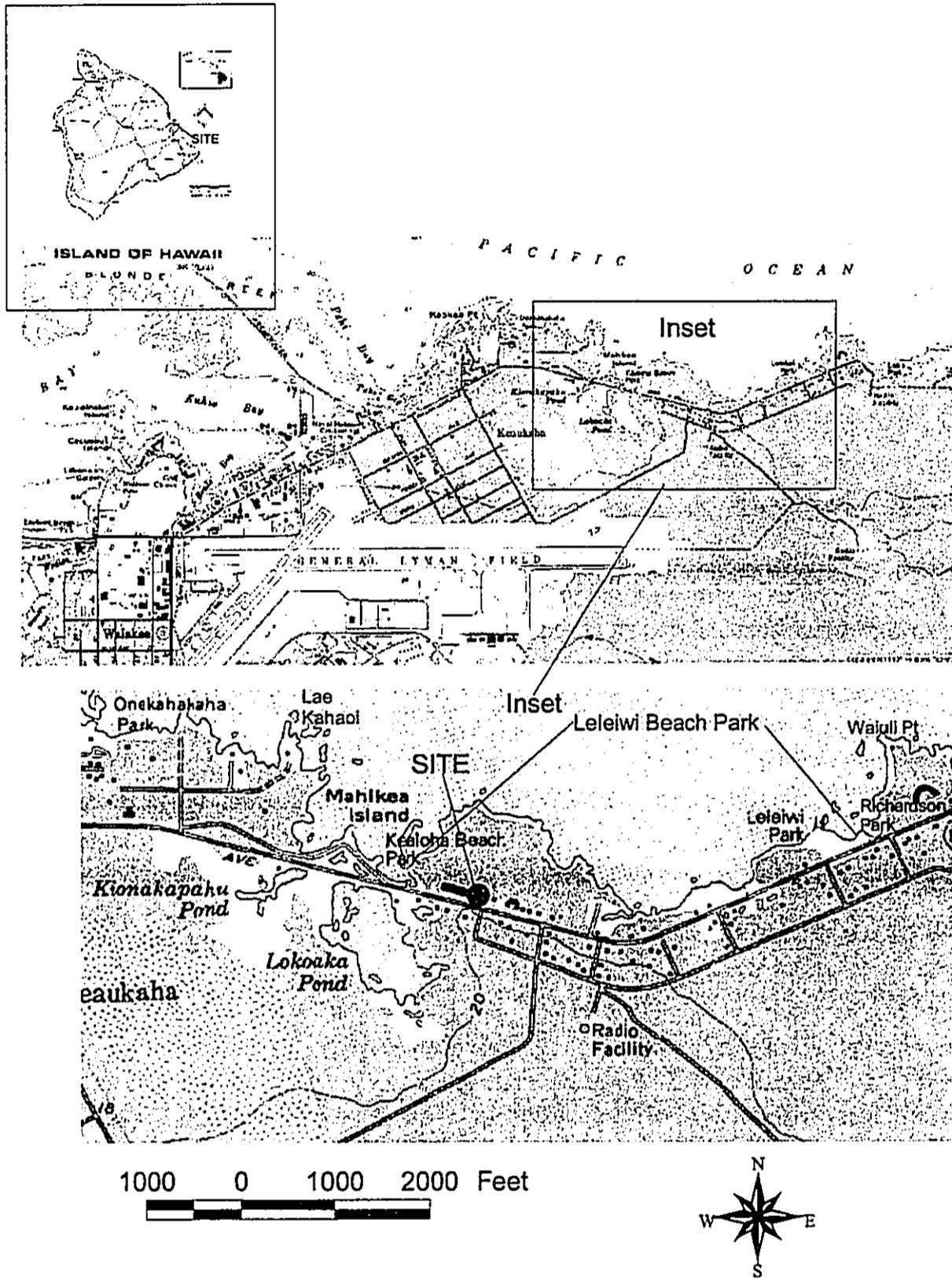
2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 Location and Ownership

The project site is located near to a portion of the Leleiwi shoreline area known as the Carlsmith Estate Park (also known as "Four Miles") at Keaukaha in Waiakea, South Hilo District, island and County of Hawaii ("Site") (see Figure 1). The Site consists of two parcels and a roadway lot (TMK: 3rd/2-1-17:por. 21, 22) (see Figure 2).

The County owns the Site in fee simple. The Site had previously been zoned Resort. In the 1970s, the County purchased the Site together with the adjoining makai parcels to preserve the area in open space. These parcels, combined with State-owned shoreline parcel (2-1-17:18) which the State set aside to the County by Executive Order, comprise part of Leleiwi Beach Park. Leleiwi Beach Park extends from the James Kealoha Beach Park to Richardson Beach Park.

FIGURE 1. Location Map



2.2 Existing Uses

Site. The Site is currently vacant and overgrown with vegetation (see Figure 3).

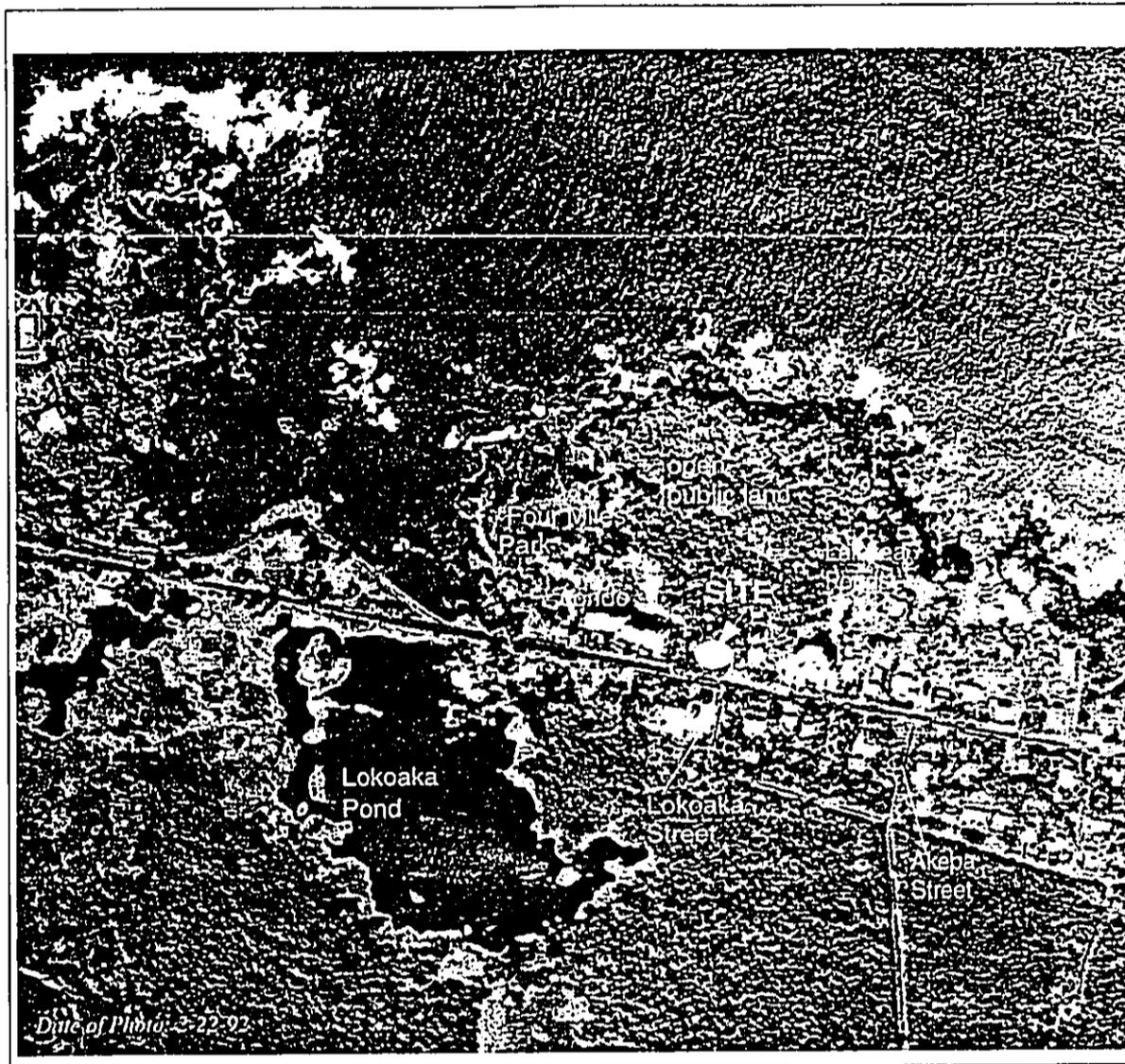
FIGURE 3. Site Photograph (makai view from Kalanianaʻole Street)



Surrounding Areas. The surrounding uses are as follows (see Figure 4):

- North: Vacant land owned by the County and planned for shoreline park use;
- South: Kalanianaʻole Street and residences across the street;
- East: Residences;
- West: Mauna Loa Shores Condominium.

FIGURE 4. Aerial Photograph



2.3 Project Description

2.3.1 Proposed Action

The County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to construct a paved parking lot with 23 stalls, of which 2 are compact stalls and one is a handicap stall (see Figure 5). The area of grading totals approximately 0.4 acre. Total earthwork includes excavation totaling approximately 740 cubic yards and embankments totaling approximately 170 cubic yards.

Access will be from Kalanianaole Street at Lokoaka Street. The portion of Lokoaka Street makai of Kalanianaole Street had once been a paved deadend street that has since been abandoned. This abandoned roadway is used by vehicles and pedestrians to access the shoreline. The proposed parking lot would provide improved offstreet parking and access to the shoreline. Security gates at the parking lot will prevent access at night to discourage late-night gatherings. Perimeter landscaping along the street frontage and west side of the parking lot will screen the view of the parking lot from motorists and neighbors.

The County plans to clear and maintain the Lokoaka Street right-of-way as a trail from the parking lot to the shoreline. In addition, a trail will be cleared from the proposed parking lot to Lalakea Ponds (refer to Figure 2). The trails will be improved to meet the "back country" ADA standards for trails (clear width of 28", maximum sustained running grade of 12%, maximum grade of 20% over a maximum distance of 50', maximum cross slope of 8%). The improved trail to Lalakea Ponds will be approximately 530' in length with a grubbed width of approximately 5'.

2.3.2 Purpose and Need

The proposed parking lot is an access point for the undeveloped western portion of Leleiwi Beach Park. The lack of formal access to the shoreline in this area results in problematic access through certain condominium parking levels, especially to the popular area known as Lalakea Ponds.

The proposed project is consistent with a schematic master plan for this area prepared in the 1970s entitled the Keaukaha Shoreline Plan.² The master plan proposed to preserve the natural character of the area with minimal development consisting of a trail linking scattered picnic shelters (see Figure 6). The master plan also proposed a one-way loop access road entering from Akepa Street and exiting at Lokoaka Street. Although the County has not formally committed to this plan, the plan does provide a conceptual guide for park improvements in this area as funds become available. One noticeable departure from the plan is that the proposed parking lot is not circular as shown in the master plan, and is also offset to the town side of Lokoaka Street to preserve the option of developing a loop road connecting to Akepa Street without having to acquire the property at the corner of Lokoaka and Kalaniana'ole Street.

2.4 Timetable and Cost

The targeted construction start is summer of 2000, with completion in 4 months. The estimated construction cost for the parking lot is \$82,000 using County funds. The County may rely on volunteers to clear and improve the trails.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES

3.1 No Action

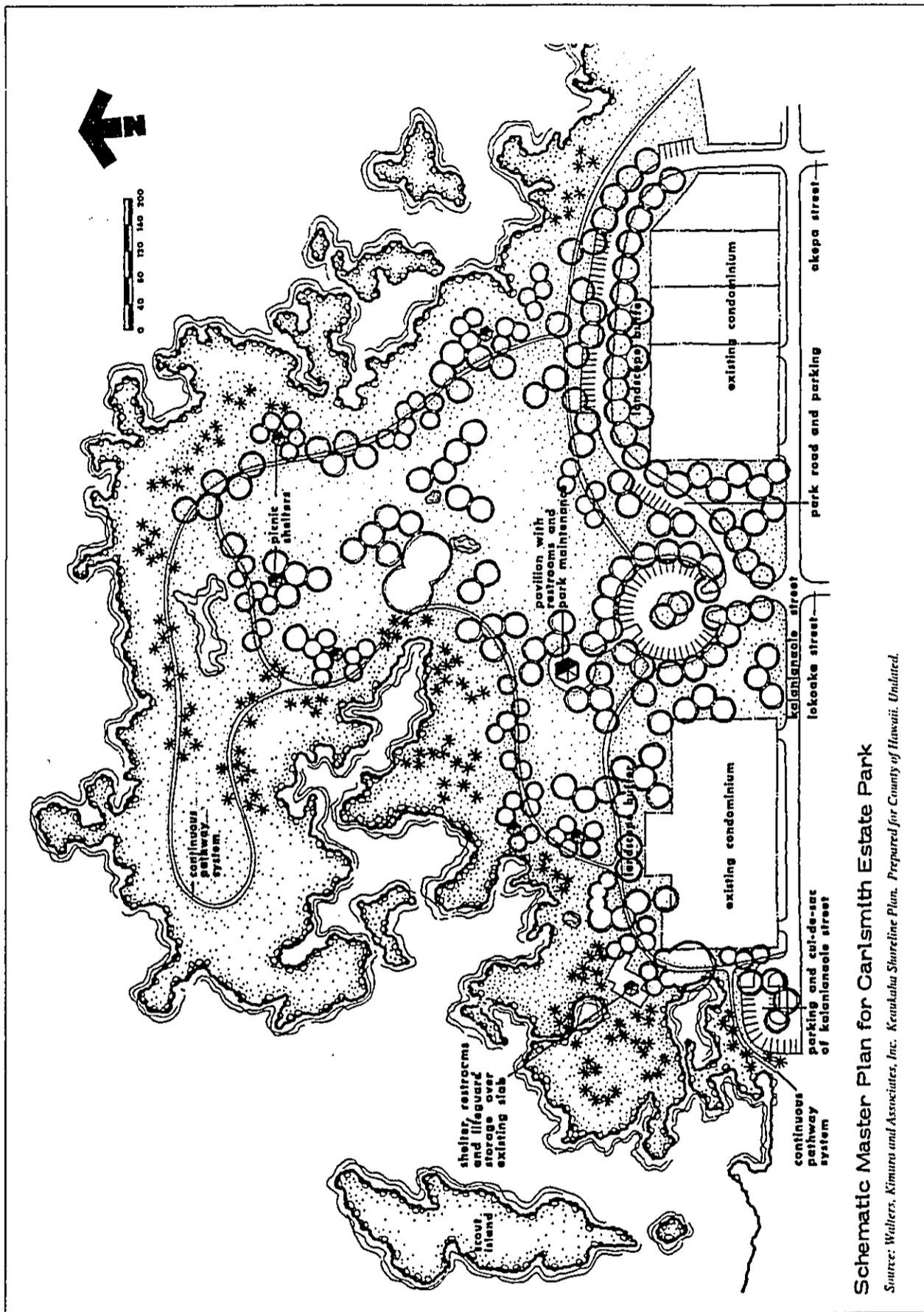
The "no action" alternative would preserve the vegetation on the Site as is. Convenient public access to the shoreline area would continue to be limited, thereby increasing the pressures for undesirable access through private property.

3.2 Alternative Designs or Location

Alternative designs could reduce the extent of tree removal. However, the parking layout and access would be less efficient and the trees would increase maintenance from the leaf litter. The County does not own any other suitable site in the vicinity to construct a parking lot that would not be adjacent to an existing residence.

2. Walters, Kimura and Associates, Inc., Keaukaha Shoreline Plan. Prepared for the County of Hawaii. Undated.

FIGURE 6. Schematic Master Plan for Leleiwi Shoreline Area



Schematic Master Plan for Carlsmith Estate Park
 Source: Walters, Kimura and Associates, Inc. Keaukaha Shoreline Plan. Prepared for County of Hawaii. Undated.

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.³

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

4.1.2 Topography & Soils

The Site ranges in elevation from approximately 15' to 20' above mean sea level. The topography of the Site is relatively flat. The Soil Survey Report classifies the soil as pahoehoe lava (rLW).⁴

Impacts and Mitigation

Requires mitigation. Since the Project involves more than 100 cubic yards of excavation, the County Grading Permit may apply. The Special Management Area Minor Permit may also require best management construction practices as a condition of the permit because of the proximity of this area to the shoreline. The construction documents will require the contractor to sod or plant all exposed areas immediately after grading, and to remove all silt and debris that may be deposited in drainageways.

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) and 100-year flood hazard zone (AE). The base flood elevation within the Site is approximately 21' (see Figure 7).⁵ Any development must comply with the construction standards in the Flood Control Code (Hawaii County Code chapter 27). The standards address design

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

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

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

requirements such as anchoring to resist flotation, locating appropriate electrical and mechanical improvements above the base flood elevation, and prohibiting filling.⁶

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 1.⁷ 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

No impact anticipated. Since the Project does not involve any structures, the only applicable standard relates to fill.⁸ The proposed volume of excavation (740 cubic yards) exceeds the volume of embankments (170 cubic yards). Consequently, there should be no increase in base flood elevation and no aggravation of flooding. 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.⁹

4.1.4 Flora/Fauna

There are no known endangered or threatened flora or "exceptional tree" on the Site. 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."¹⁰ The Site is overgrown with exotic vegetation. Approximately 20 mature (approximately 30' to 50' in height) mango, coconut, and palm trees will have to be removed (see Figure 8).

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated. Although some exotic mature trees will be removed, these are not native or endangered species. The adjacent areas owned by the County are heavily vegetated and will be developed into a natural shoreline park, with selective land clearing. The County will require the contractor to take precautionary measures to protect a large banyan tree located makai of the project site.

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

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

8. Hawaii County Code §27-18(c)(2).

9. Hawaii County Code §27-17.

10. Hawaii County Code §14-57.

FIGURE 7. Flood Insurance Rate Map

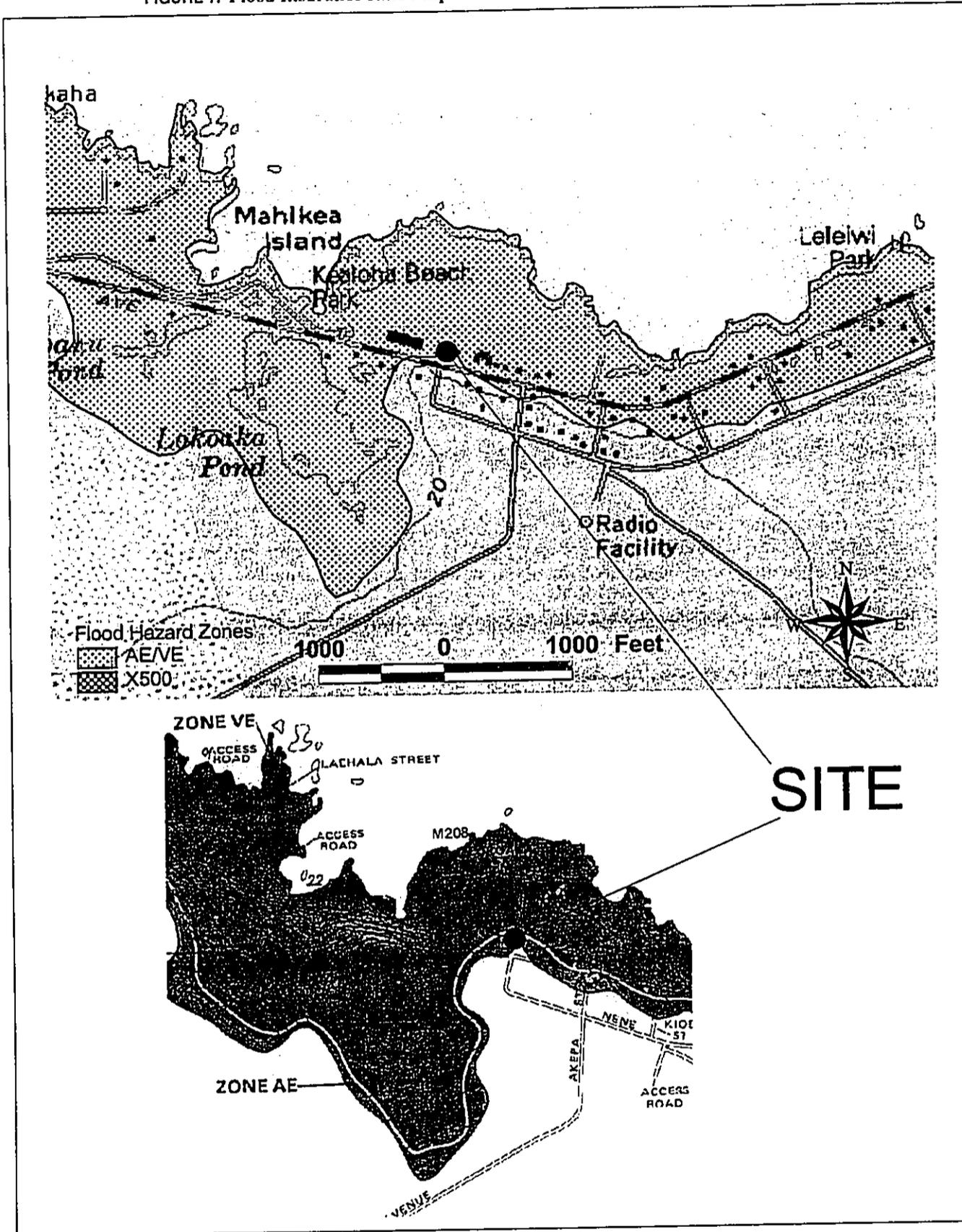
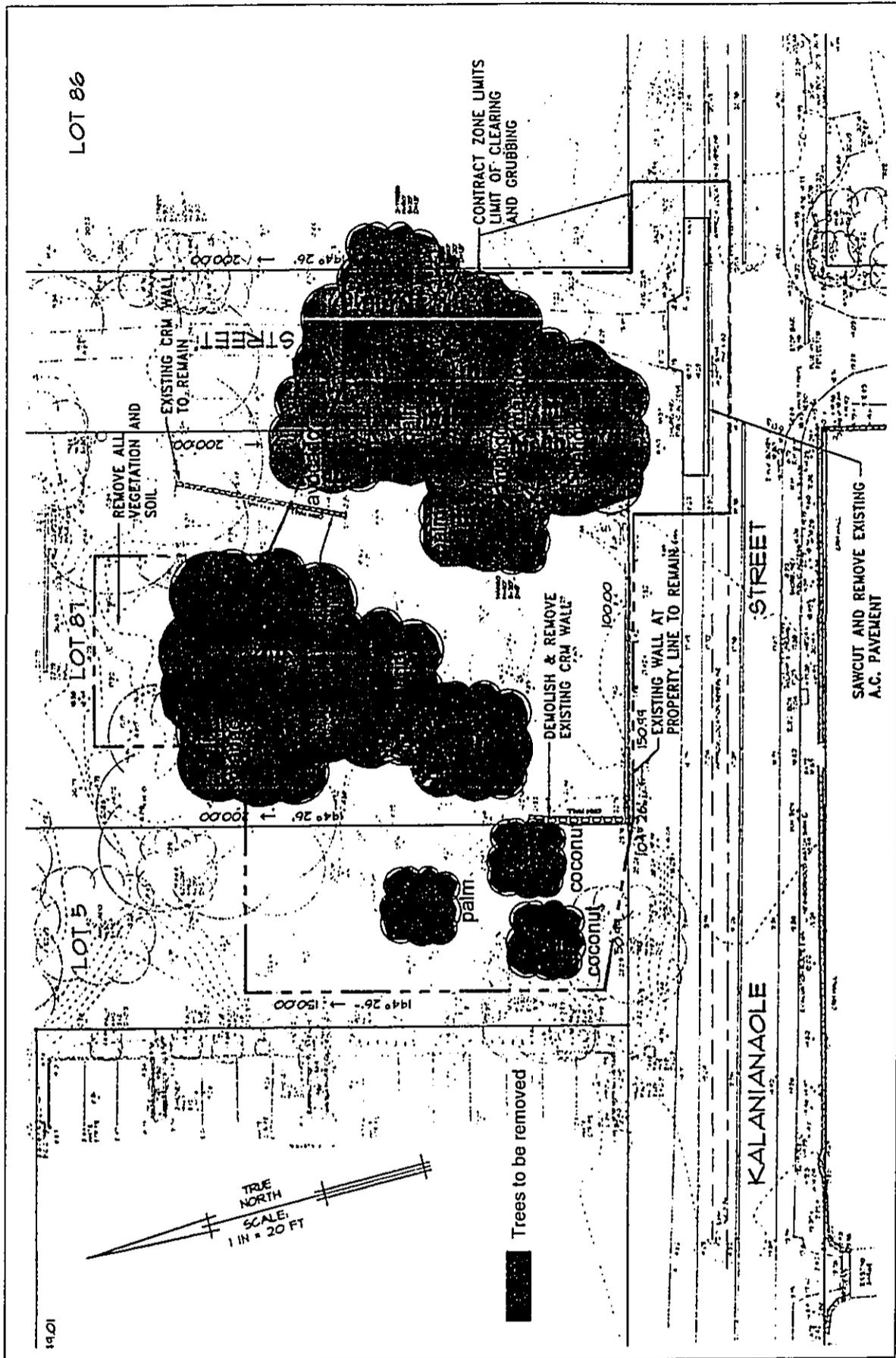


FIGURE 8. Site Clearing Plan



4.1.5 Historic/Archaeological/Cultural Resources

There are no registered historic sites within the Site.¹¹ Since the Site was previously used as a residence, the entire Site has been disturbed.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

4.1.6 Coastal and Water Resources

The Project will improve access to the shoreline areas makai of the Site. The shoreline area is suitable for picnicking, sight-seeing, and fishing. With panoramic views of Mauna Kea, Hilo town, and the Hamakua Coast, it is a prime coastal recreational area. There are no streams or wetlands within the Site.

Impacts and Mitigation

Potentially beneficial. The proposed improvements will enhance public access to the shoreline resources.

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 may temporarily disturb adjacent residences.

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). The construction documents will require the contractor to prevent dust nuisances.

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.

4.1.8 Scenic Resources

The General Plan lists Leleiwi Park shoreline as a significant scenic resource.¹²

Impacts and Mitigation

Potentially beneficial. The Project will improve access for public enjoyment of this underappreciated scenic resource.

4.1.9 Hazardous Substances

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

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

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

12. County of Hawaii General Plan, Supporting Document, November 1989, p. 33.

4.2 Socioeconomic Characteristics

4.2.1 Ceded Lands

The Site is not part of the State's ceded lands inventory.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

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 Impact on Neighbors

Late night gatherings at Leleiwi parking lots is an existing community problem.¹³ The proposed parking lot could aggravate the problem.

Impacts and Mitigation

Mitigation required. The County has committed to install a security gate to prevent access after-hours.

4.3 Public Facilities, Utilities, and Services

4.3.1 Roads and Traffic

Access to the Site is provided by Kalaniana'ole Street, a County roadway. The zoning map indicates future road widening along this street from the existing 50' width to 60' (5' widening on each side).

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated. There is adequate sight distance at the proposed access driveway for safe ingress and egress. The proposed improvements are sufficiently setback from the existing right-of-way boundary to accommodate any future road widening. Construction activity will not obstruct traffic along Kalaniana'ole Street.

4.3.2 Water System

No water improvements are necessary.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

4.3.3 Wastewater System

Restrooms are available at the nearby "Four Miles" park.

¹³. See letter from Leleiwi Community Association in Appendix B.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

4.3.4 Drainage System

Because of the relatively small area of pavement, drainage from the parking lot will flow into a low point on the Site that will serve as a seepage pit.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

4.3.5 Electrical/Telephone

No electrical or communications improvements are necessary. The Project will not include any lighting.

Impacts and Mitigation

No impact anticipated.

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.

4.4 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

The Project is related to other park improvement projects that envision a shoreline greenbelt from Lelewi Point to the Hilo Bayfront to Wailuku River.¹⁴ These other projects include the Waiakea Peninsula improvements (Liliuokalani Gardens, Coconut Island, Waiakea Dock), proposed Wailuku Riverfront Park, and Hilo Bayfront Restroom Facilities.¹⁵ The intended cumulative and secondary impacts are beneficial-- that is, to enhance Hilo as a visitor destination area that would stimulate the economy and to preserve a scenic shoreline resource for future generations.

14. Hilo Community Development Plan-- see discussion in §5.5 on page 19.

15. See Final Environmental Assessment for Waiakea Peninsula Improvements, prepared by R. Takemoto for the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation, July 1999; 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.

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.

§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.

The proposed project will expand the opportunities for groups of all ages and abilities to enjoy the shoreline recreational resource.

5.2 State Land Use Law

The State Land Use classification for the Site is Urban. The County zoning determines the permitted uses within the Urban district.

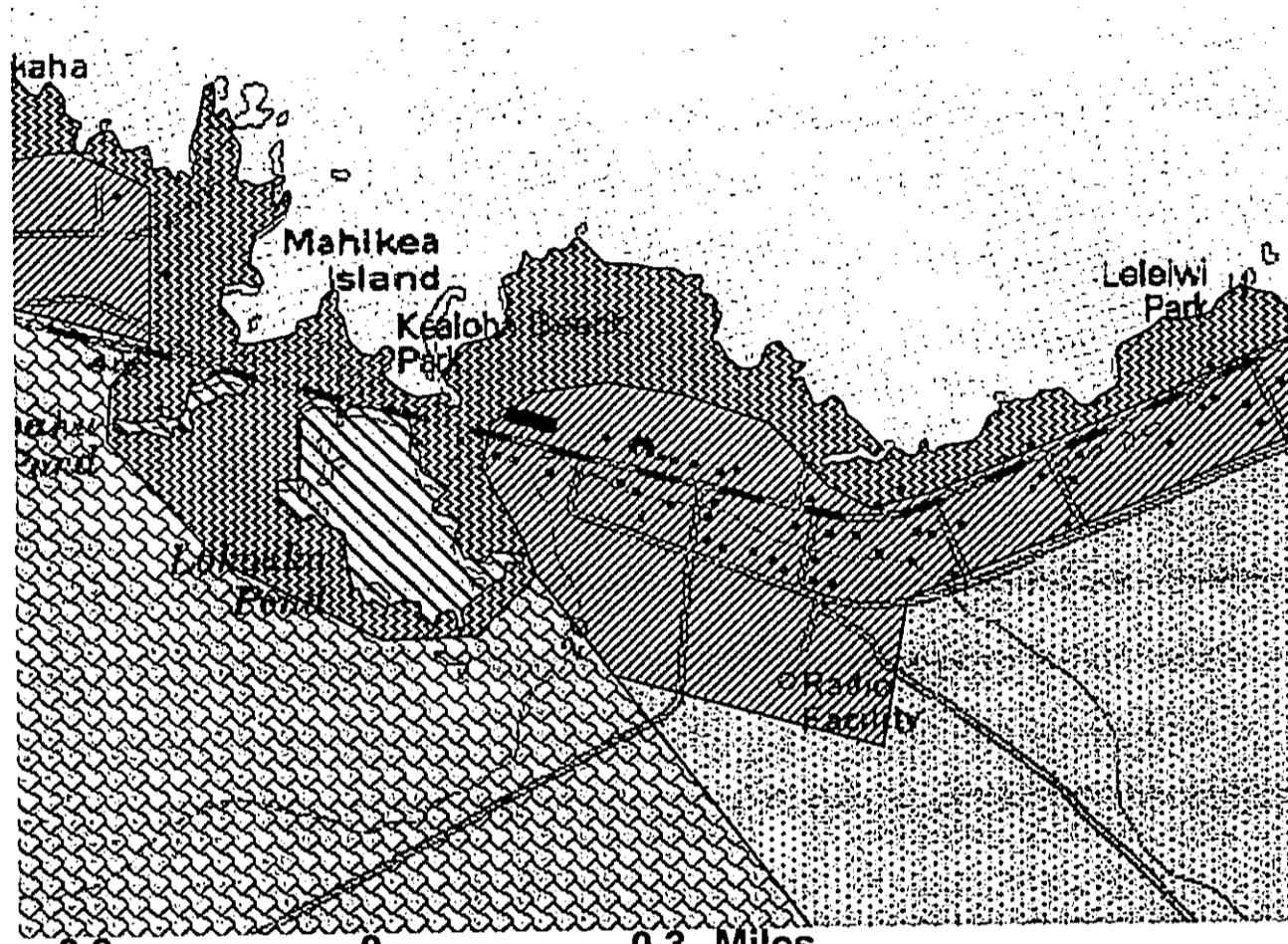
5.3 Historic Preservation

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. Since the Site has no historic properties, this requirement is not applicable.

5.4 Hawaii County General Plan

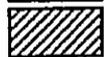
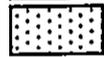
The General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) Map designation for the Site is Low Density Urban (see Figure 9). Public facilities are permitted within this designation.

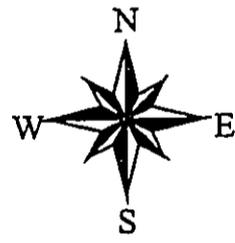
FIGURE 9. General Plan LUPAG Map



0.3 0 0.3 Miles

LUPAG

-  Industrial
-  Low Density Urban
-  Open
-  Orchards
-  Pond



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.¹⁶

The proposed project would enhance the recreational opportunities of residents and visitors by improving access to shoreline resources.

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.¹⁷ The Plan 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.

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

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

**The parks from Reeds Bay to Lelewi Point provide picnicking, camping, swimming, fishing, and sun-bathing activities.¹⁸*

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

5.6 Hawaii County Zoning

The existing County zoning for the Site is Open (O) (see Figure 10). Public parks are permitted uses within the Open district.¹⁹ Plan approval is required for any proposed structure within the Open district, including public uses.²⁰ Therefore, the Department of Parks and Recreation will submit all Project construction plans for plan approval. Perimeter landscaping of the parking lot will be provided in compliance with the Planning Department's landscaping rules.²¹ Because of the small size of the parking lot and the setting of existing mature trees that surrounds the Site, a waiver of the landscaping requirements within the parking lot will be requested.

5.7 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:²²

- *Placement or erection of any solid material or any gaseous, liquid, solid, or thermal waste.* The Project includes the placement of solid materials (i.e., pavement).
- *Grading, removing, dredging, mining, or extraction of any materials.* The Project requires grading.

Since the estimated Project cost is less than the threshold of \$125,000, the Project will require a SMA Minor Permit rather than a SMA Use Permit. The Planning Director may issue an SMA Minor Permit upon a finding that the activity "is not in excess of \$125,000 in valuation and will not have a significant adverse effect on the Special Management Area."²³ As part of the impact evaluation, the Project must conform with the objectives and policies of the Coastal Zone Management Act (*Hawaii Revised Statutes* Chapter 205A).²⁴ The policies are discussed in APPENDIX A, "Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination".

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

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

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

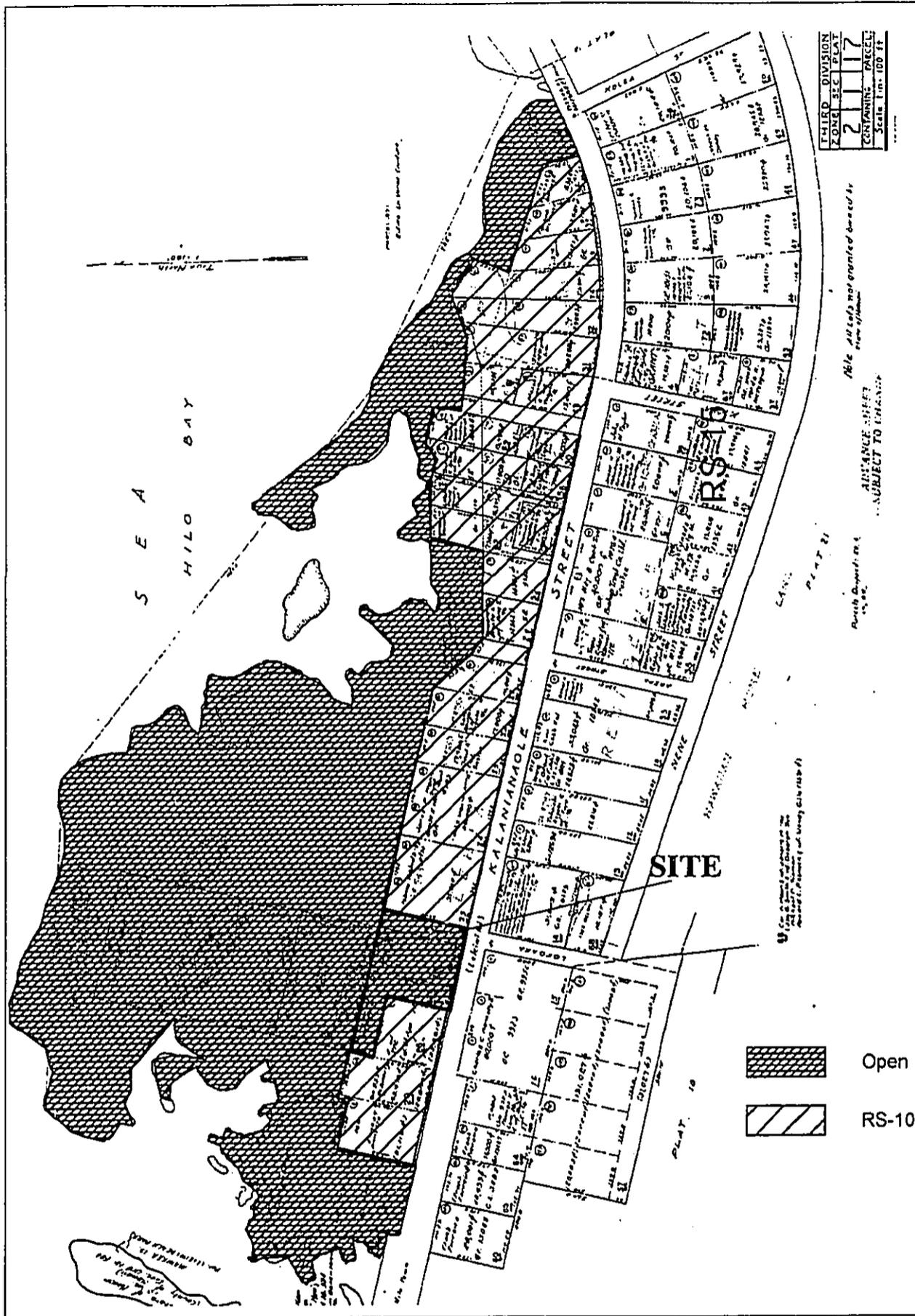
21. Planning Department Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 17.

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

23. County of Hawaii, Planning Commission, Rules of Practice & Procedure §9-10.E.

24. Ibid., §9-11.C.

FIGURE 10. Zoning Map



The proposed trails may extend into the shoreline setback area. However, the trail clearing is a permitted "minor activity" within the shoreline setback area and will not need a shoreline setback variance upon a determination by the Planning Department that the proposed activity "would not affect beach processes or artificially fix the shoreline and would not interfere with public access or public views to and along the shoreline."²⁵

5.8 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.²⁶ The Project is consistent with the Recreation Plan.

5.9 Americans with Disabilities Act

As a public project, the Project must conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.²⁷ The Project includes a handicap parking stall. The County will seek the advice and recommendation from the Commission on Persons with Disabilities on the construction plans.

5.10 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. Any sign for a public facility that does not exceed 24 s.f. is excluded from the sign permit requirements.²⁸

Table 1: List of Permits and Approvals

Permit or Approval	Authority ¹	Approving Agency
FEDERAL		
None		
STATE OF HAWAII		
Conformance with handicapped accessibility guidelines	HRS §103-50	Commission on Persons with Disabilities
COUNTY OF HAWAII		
Plan Approval	HCC Chap. 25; PD Rule 17 (landscaping)	Planning Department
Grading Permit	HCC Chap. 10	Department of Public Works
SMA Minor Permit	PC Rule 9	Planning Department
Flood certifications	HCC Chap. 27	Department of Public Works
Determination of Minor Activity (permitted activity within shoreline setback area)	PD Rule 11	Planning Department
Work within County Right-of-Way	HCC Chap. 22	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

25. Planning Department Rules of Practice and Procedure §11-8.

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

27. Hawaii Revised Statutes §103-50.

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;²⁹ therefore, the proposing agency hereby issues 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 will remove several mature exotic trees as an unavoidable impact to improve access to the shoreline resources. However, a large banyan tree located makai of the Site will be preserved and protected.

The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment. The recreational uses of the shoreline area will be enhanced by the Project.

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 Leleiwi Point, a beneficial cumulative impact. Although the Project is consistent with a master plan for the area, the County does not contemplate any further development as described in the plan beyond the parking lot and trails. The intent is to preserve the wilderness shoreline characteristics of the area.

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.

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. Sitework will be in accordance with grading and 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 Project does not involve any

28. Hawaii County Code §3-32(a)(3).

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

structures or increase of base flood levels. 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. The proposed improvements do not include electrical improvements.

7.0 REFERENCES

- Aotani & Associates, Inc., County of Hawaii: Recreation Plan, 1973.
- Belt, Collins & Associates, Ltd. Hilo Community Development Plan. Prepared for the County of Hawaii, 1975.
- Clark, J., Beaches of the Big Island. University of Hawaii Press, 1985.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel 885, September 16, 1988.
- Heliker, C. 1990. Volcanic and Seismic Hazards on the Island of Hawaii. Washington: U.S. GPO.
- State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. An Inventory of Basic Water Resources Data: Island of Hawaii. Report R34, 1970.
- Terry, R., Ph.D. Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact: Wailuku Riverfront Park, prepared 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 for the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation, January 1999.
- U.S. Soil Conservation Service. 1973. Soil Survey of Island of Hawaii, State of Hawaii. Washington: Government Publications.
- Walters, Kimura and Associates, Inc. Keaukaha Shoreline Plan. Prepared for County of Hawaii. Undated.

APPENDIX A

Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination

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 parking lot will improve public access to wilderness shoreline park areas that are part of the Leleiwi Beach Park. The County will clear and maintain a trail from the parking lot to the shoreline.

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 was formerly used as a residence. The residence had been abandoned and was in a deteriorated condition at the time the County purchased the Site in the 1970s. There are numerous fishponds along the Keaukaha coast. The proposed project is a small step in an overall plan for a continuous shoreline trail from Leleiwi Point to Hilo Bayfront. Public awareness and appreciation of the fishponds is one of the objectives for this shoreline trail.

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 —	X —

Discussion

The General Plan identifies the Leleiwi shoreline area as a scenic site. The proposed parking lot does not involve any structures that would detract from the view between the highway and the shoreline. The project would enhance public access to enjoy this scenic resource.

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?	—	—
9. Is there a wetland on the project site?	—	X —
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? X
12. Is the project site situated in or abutting an estuary? X

Discussion

The proposed improvements will require grading (excavation and filling). The County grading permit and SMA Permit will require the contractor to use best management practices to minimize construction runoff (e.g., immediate sodding or planting of exposed areas, clearing drainageways of silt and debris). The Lokoaka Pond, a habitat for waterbirds, is nearby but will not be affected by the construction activities of the proposed project.

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?	—	—

Discussion

The project is a public open space use that attracts visitors, and in that sense has economic value.

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) or 100-year flood zone (AE) 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 Project does not have any structures. The base flood elevation would not be increased as a result of the Project.

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

An environmental assessment has been prepared. The public will be notified through the OEQC Environmental Notice. The EA will also be sent to adjacent landowners and key interest groups. The project is a permitted use with the State Land Use Urban District and Open zone 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, coastal ecosystems, fishing, 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 and located inland. No erosion-protection structures are proposed.

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, or cause any impact upon, marine or ocean resources seaward of the shoreline.

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, or cause any impact upon, marine or ocean resources seaward of the shoreline.

APPENDIX B

Comments and Responses to the Draft EA

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT EA

The Draft EA was published in the February 8, 2000 OEQC Environmental Notice. This publication date triggered the start of the thirty day Review Period, which officially ended on March 9, 2000. 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
Federal			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	X		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service		X	
State			
Department of Accounting & General Services		X	
Department of Health	X		
Department of Land & Natural Resources			X
Office of Environmental Quality Control	X		
Office of Planning, DBEDT			X
Office of Hawaiian Affairs		X	
Department of Transportation, Highways Division			X
County			
Planning Department	X		
Department of Public Works			X
Department of Water Supply		X	
Fire Department			X
Police Department		X	
Civil Defense			X
Aaron Chung, HI County Council			X

Agency/Organization	Commented: Response Sent	Commented: No Response Necessary	Did not send written comments
Arborist Advisory Committee	X		
Organizations			
Hilo Outdoor Circle			X
Lelewi Community Association	X		
Adjacent Landowners/Lessees			
2-1-17-14 Dan Samuel Yochelson Trust c/o Nadine S. Yochelson			X
2-1-17-14 Maureen Goto			X
2-1-17-16 Charles C. Kennedy II			X
2-1-17-20 Mauna Loa Shores (Mr. Jack Oit)	X		
2-1-17-23 Sumiye Unebasami, et al			X
2-1-17-24 Manager, Hale Moana Apartments			X



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, HONOLULU
FT. SHAFTER, HAWAII 96824-5400

ATTENTION OF

March 1, 2000

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Meyer



Juliette M. Tulang
Director
C. Kenneth Sowden
Deputy Director

Civil Works Technical Branch

County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 - Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-6311

Mr. Glenn Miyao
Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Miyao:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Ieileiwi Beach Park Improvements Project, Waiakea, Hawaii (TMK 2-1-17: por. 21 and 22). The following comments are provided in accordance with Corps of Engineers authorities to provide flood hazard information and to issue Department of the Army (DA) permits.

a. Additional information is required to determine whether or not a DA permit will be required for this project. For further information, please contact Mr. William Lennan of our Regulatory Branch staff at (808) 438-6986 and refer to file number 200000095.

b. The flood hazard information provided on pages 10 and 11 of the DEA is correct.

Sincerely,

Milton Yoshimoto
Acting Chief, Civil Works
Technical Branch

Copy furnished:

Mr. Roy R. Takemoto, Land Use Consultant
P.O. Box 10217
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

March 16, 2000

Mr. Milton Yoshimoto, Acting Chief
Civil Works Technical Branch
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Leileiwi Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii
(TMK: 2-1-17: por. 21, 22)

Dear Mr. Yoshimoto:

Thank you for your letter dated March 1, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment.

- A. Applicability of DA Permit. We have contacted Mr. William Lennan and no DA permit will be required.
- B. Not in Special Flood Hazard Area. Thank you for confirming that the flood hazard information in the EA was correct.

If any questions or other concerns arise, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Juliette M. Tulang
Juliette M. Tulang
Director

BENJAMIN J. CAVITTANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



RECEIVED
MARCH 3 11 4 12

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

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

BY FAX, PLEASE REFER TO
THE

March 2, 2000

00-022/epo

Mr. Glenn Miyao
March 2, 2000
Page 2

00-022/epo

3. Locate potential nonpoint pollutant sources away from steep slopes, water bodies, and critical areas.
4. Protect natural vegetation with fencing, tree armoring, and retaining walls or tree wells.
5. Cover or stabilize topsoil stockpiles.
6. Intercept runoff above disturbed slopes and convey it to a permanent channel or storm drain.
7. On long or steep slopes, construct benches, terraces, or ditches at regular intervals to intercept runoff.
8. Protect areas that provide important water quality benefits and/or are environmentally sensitive ecosystems.
9. Protect water bodies and natural drainage systems by establishing streamside buffers.
10. Minimize the amount of construction time spent in any stream bed.
11. Properly dispose of sediment and debris from construction activities.
12. Replant or cover bare areas as soon as grading or construction is completed. New plantings will require soil amendments, fertilizers and temporary irrigation to become established. Use high planting and/or seeding rates to ensure rapid stand establishment. Use seeding and mulch/mats. Sodding is an alternative.

The following practices are suggested to remove solids and associated pollutants in runoff during and after heavy rains and/or wind:

1. Sediment basins.
2. Sediment traps.
3. Fabric filter fences.
4. Straw bale barriers.
5. Vegetative filter strips.

Mr. Glenn Miyao
Department of Parks and
Recreation
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Miyao:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
Leleiwi Beach Park Improvements
Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TRK: 2-1-17: por. 21, 22

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

Polluted Runoff Control

Proper planning, design and use of erosion control measures and management practices will substantially reduce the total volume of runoff and limit the potential impact to the coastal waters from polluted runoff. Please refer to the Hawaii's Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Plan, pages III-117 to III-119 for guidance on these management measures and practices for specific project activities. To inquire about receiving a copy of this plan, please call the Coastal Zone Management Program in the Planning Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism at 587-2877.

The following practices are suggested to minimize erosion during construction activities:

1. Conduct grubbing and grading activities during the low rainfall months (minimum erosion potential).
2. Clear only areas essential for construction.

Mr. Glenn Miyao
March 2, 2000
Page 3

00-022/epo

Any questions regarding these matters should be directed to the
Polluted Runoff Control Program in the Clean Water Branch at
586-4309.

Sincerely,



GARY GILL
Deputy Director for
Environmental Health

c: HDHO
OEQC

Juliette M. Tulang
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden
Deputy Director



County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-1252
(808) 961-3311

March 16, 2000

Mr. Gary Gill, Deputy Director for Environmental Health
Department of Health
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

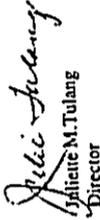
Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Lelewi Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii
(TMK: 2-1-17; par. 21, 22)

Dear Mr. Gill:

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment. All necessary measures will be incorporated into the construction documents to ensure minimum runoff to coastal waters.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Juliette M. Tulang
Director

BENJAMIN J. CAYetano
Governor



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

236 SOUTH BERTANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 588-4185
FACSIMILE (808) 588-4188

February 3, 2000

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

Attention: Glenn Miyao

Dear Ms. Tulang:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Leleiwi Beach Park
Improvements, Keaukaha

We have the following comments to offer:

1. Map: In the final EA please enclose a map of the island with the project site indicated.
2. Coastline improvements:
 - ◆ Section 2.3.2. of the draft EA mentions a master plan, the Keaukaha Shoreline Plan, for this area. What is the status of this plan? If other improvements to the area are contemplated, then disclosure is required for all of them, along with an analysis of their cumulative impacts and related mitigation measures.
 - ◆ Section 4.3.1 indicates road widening in the future. How will the road widening affect improvements made to Leleiwi Beach Park?
3. Landscaping: Will the trees proposed for removal be relocated elsewhere on site? In the final EA include a drawing or diagram that shows the final appearance of the project, including proposed landscaping.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Heinrich at 588-4185.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Salmonson
GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
Director

c: Roy Takemoto

GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
Director

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 - Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4752
(808) 961-8311

March 16, 2000

Ms. Genevieve Salmonson, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
236 South Bertania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Leleiwi Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii
(TMK: 2-1-17: pof. 21, 22)

Dear Ms. Salmonson:

Thank you for your letter of February 3, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment.

1. Location Map. A map of the island showing the project site will be included in the final EA.
2. Scope of Proposed Improvements. Although the Keaukaha Shoreline Plan, prepared in the 1970's, was never formally adopted by the County of Hawaii, the plan is used as a guide for improvements that are considered in the area. Besides the parking lot, the proposed improvements will include a trail from the parking lot to Lahaeka Ponds. The proposed trail will be described in the Final EA. No further improvements are contemplated. The parking lot design has taken into consideration the road widening, should it ever occur, by setting back the improvements.
3. Landscaping. The banyan tree will be preserved in place. There is no room in the parking lot to relocate any of the trees targeted for removal. Since the parking lot will be surrounded by existing mature trees, no tree landscaping is proposed within the parking lot. Some perimeter landscaping will be included to screen the parking lot from affected neighbors. The Arborist Advisory Committee has agreed to the removal of the trees, provided the banyan tree is preserved. The site plan in the EA shows the final appearance of the parking lot-- the proposed perimeter landscaping will be added in the Final EA.

If any questions or other concerns arise, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Juliette M. Tulang
Juliette M. Tulang
Director

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein
Director
Russell Kokubun
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 951-8238 • Fax (808) 951-8712

Mr. Glenn Miyao
Department of Parks and Recreation
Page 2
February 17, 2000

Thank you for providing our office with the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental assessment. Please feel to contact Daryn Arai of this office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN
Planning Director

DSA:gd
p:\my\gd\Ch10\2000\Lelewi Beach Parking.doc

c: Ms. Genevieve Salmonson, Director, OEQC
/Mr. Roy Takemoto

February 17, 2000

Mr. Glenn Miyao
Department of Parks and Recreation
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Miyao:

Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Lelewi Beach Park Improvements

We are in receipt of the above-described draft environmental assessment (DEA) on February 4, 2000. We have completed our review and have the following comments to offer:

1. The information within Section 5 - Relationship to Plans, Policies and Controls, relative to General Plan, State Land Use, Hilo CDP, Zoning, and Coastal Zone Management are correct.
2. According to the Purpose and Need statement within the DEA, the proposed project will "Improve access to the recreational value of underutilized shoreline areas." The DEA, through Section 2.3.1-Proposed Action, indicates that "The proposed parking lot would provide formal parking and access to the shoreline. The County plans to clear and maintain the right-of-way as a trail to the shoreline." While the Lokoaka Street right-of-way will be maintained, the right-of-way appears to terminate at quite some distance from the shoreline. Since vegetation in the area is very thick with an uneven topography, how will safe pedestrian access be provided to the shoreline?

Juliette M. Tulang -
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden
Deputy Director



County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-252
(808) 961-5311

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor

March 16, 2000

Ms. Virginia Goldstein, Director
Planning Department
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Leliehi Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii
(TRMK: 2-1-17: por. 21, 22)

Dear Ms. Goldstein:

Thank you for your letter dated February 17, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment.

1. Policies and Permits. Thank you for confirming the accuracy of the planning policies and permit information as stated in the Draft EA.
2. Shoreline Access Improvements. The Department of Parks and Recreation has plans to grub and improve a trail from the proposed parking lot to Lalakea Ponds. In addition, the remnants of the Lokosaka roadway to the shoreline will be cleared. These trail improvements will be shown in the Final EA.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Juliette M. Tulang".

Juliette M. Tulang
Director

Juliette M. Tulang
Director
C. Kenneth Sowden
Deputy Director



County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 981-8311

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor

March 16, 2000

Mr. David Tamura
Arborist Advisory Committee
c/o Planning Department
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Leleiwi Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii
(TMK: 2-1-17: por. 21, 22)

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter dated March 4, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment.

1. Landscape Rules. Perimeter landscaping will be added in compliance with the Planning Department's Landscape Rules. However, the Planning Department will be asked to waive the requirements for tree landscaping within the parking lot because of the relatively small size of the parking lot and the setting of mature trees that surround the proposed parking lot.
2. Preservation of Banyan Tree. We will note the location of the large banyan tree and specify that this tree is to be preserved and protected from damage during construction.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Juliette M. Tulang
Juliette M. Tulang
Director

Virginia Goldstein
Director
Russell Kakaban
Deputy Director



County of Hawaii
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-4228 • Fax: (808) 961-4742

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor

March 4, 2000

Mr. Glenn Miyao
Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Leleiwi Beach Park Improvements, Hilo, Hawaii TMK: 3rd 2-1-17:por. 21,22

Dear Glenn,

The Arborist Advisory Committee has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed parking lot. The Committee has no objections to the Draft but has the following concerns:

1. The project comply with the Landscape Rule as administered by the County Planning Department.
2. Care shall be taken to preserve and prevent damage to the existing large Banyan Tree located makai of the project site.

Thank you very much for allowing the Arborist Advisory Committee the opportunity to participate in the EIS process. Please contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Y. Tamura
David Y. Tamura



Glenn Miyao
Parks & Rec Department
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Hilo, March 6 2000
Leleivi Community Association
20 Akepa Street
Hilo, HI 96720

RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR LELEIVI BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Mr. Miyao:

Thank you for the copy of the Environmental Assessment dated Jan, 2000. We have reviewed this document and herein express the concerns of our community. Remarks are keyed to the numbered pages of your document. We wish to emphasize that the Purpose and Need (Pg. -Summary-1) is to improve public access to the shoreline area, in this case specifically the Lalakea Ponds (Pg.8). This access is to be provided via a TRAIL (Pg.6). The proposed parking lot is only an adjunct to the purpose of the project, i.e. providing public access to the Lalakea Ponds. A parking lot is useful only in so far as it accommodates users of the park.

As stated in our Community Association General Meeting of Oct 11,1999 and the special meeting of Dec 8,1999 attended by Mr. Miyao and Councilman Aaron Chung, our priorities are:

1. A safe public access trail from Lokoaka Street to Lalakea Ponds.
2. A security gate across the county park road (Lokoaka) joining Kalaniana'ole Ave. to the shoreline.
3. A gated parking lot to provide off-street parking.

Security gates are necessary to prevent the parking lot from becoming a gathering place for illegal activities in the late night hours. This is an existing problem in Leleivi parking lots, and the community opposes worsening the situation.

We request that the Leleivi Beach Park Improvements document be amended to clearly indicate the trail connecting the parking lot to the Lalakea Ponds and the location of the security gates. Specifically, the "Proposed Action" (Pg. -Summary-1) should state "Public Access Trail to Lokoaka Ponds and Parking Improvements" This

page 2

trail should be clearly marked on the area map (Pg. 4-Fig.2) and a site plan drawing of the trail should be included with the parking lot plan drawing (Pg.7 -Fig.5) These drawings should clearly indicate the security gates.

We note that the copy of the document provided to us has numbered pages 1 thru 24 and 30 thru 38, but is missing pages 25 thru 29. Please include these missing pages in the revised document.

Mahalo for your efforts in preserving our shoreline park area and in making this asset available to the public.

Signed: Officers and Directors, Leleivi Community Association.

Elfie Wilkins Interim president *Elfie Wilkins*
Donna Saiki Treasurer *Donna Saiki*
Jan Moon Secretary *Jan Moon*
Anne Plack Director *Anne Plack*
Patti Oliver Director *Patti Oliver*
Robert Wilkins Director *Robert Wilkins*

cc: Parks & Rec. Julie Tulang
Councilman Aaron Chung
Consultant Takemoto
Arborist Committee
Hilo Outdoor Circle
DBED Steve Olive
CECC

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 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8311

March 16, 2000

Ms. Elfie Wilkins, Inienim President
Lelewi Community Association
20 Akepa Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Lelewi Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii
(TNK: 2-1-17; por. 21, 22)

Dear Ms. Wilkins:

Thank you for your letter dated March 6, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment.

1. Shoreline Access Improvements. The plans will include an improved trail from the proposed parking lot to Lalakea Ponds. The trail alignment will be shown in the final environmental assessment. Clearing of the trail will be completed before completion of the parking lot construction.
2. Security Gates. A gated parking lot and a security gate across the Lokoaka right-of-way will be made a part of the improvements and shown in the final environmental assessment.

There were no missing pages. Pages 30 through 38, which were part of Appendix A, are pages excerpted from a State form. To avoid confusion, those page numbers will be erased in the final environmental assessment.

Thank you for your comments. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Juliette M. Tulang in cursive script.
Juliette M. Tulang
Director

Juliette M. Tulang
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden
Deputy Director



County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

25 Airport Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8311

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor

March 16, 2000

Mr. Jack H. Ott
Mauna Loa Shores
1875 Kalanianaʻole Street #409
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, Lelieui Beach Park Improvements, Keaukaha, Hawaii (TNIK: 2-1-17;
por. 21, 22)

Dear Mr. Ott:

Thank you for your letter dated February 19, 2000 regarding the subject draft environmental assessment.

1. **Master Plan.** The Keaukaha Shoreline Plan, prepared in the 1970s, was never formally adopted by the County of Hawaii. The plan merely serves as a guide. Nevertheless, the location of the proposed parking lot is consistent with the master plan. Besides the parking lot and trails from the Lokoaka Street right-of-way to the shoreline, no further improvements described in the master plan are contemplated. The intent is to preserve the wilderness characteristics of this shoreline area.
2. **Alternatives.** The only other alternative is to do nothing--the "no action" alternative is discussed in the EA.
3. **Shoreline Access Improvements.** The present problem with access to the area is offstreet public parking. Informal trails exist. Two trails will be improved to provide easier access from the parking lot to the shoreline--one trail will follow the remnants of the old Lokoaka Street, and the other will lead to Lalakea Ponds. These proposed improved trails will be shown in the Final EA.
4. **Impact on Neighbors.** Currently, some beachgoers go through private property to access Lalakea Pond. A major purpose of the proposed parking lot is to alleviate this impact on these affected neighbors, in the area. The improvements will include a security gate to close the parking lot at night in order to discourage late night gatherings.
5. **Future Park Improvements.** The proposed parking lot does not foreclose the possibility to improve Lokoaka or Akepa Streets. However, the present plan is to preserve the wilderness characteristics of this beautiful shoreline--that means very minimal improvements. Whatever parking is provided should be centralized and setback as much as possible away from the shoreline. Akepa Street may be improved in the future as a trail. In keeping with the wilderness concept, the trails will be accessible to those with disabilities at an ADA standard referred to as "back country." The "back country" standards acknowledge that "urban" ADA standards are not applicable in all settings, and that all public areas do not need to be accessible to all disability levels.

We appreciate your comments and hope that these improvements will benefit beachgoers and residents of the area. Should you have any questions or further concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Juliette M. Tulang
Director

Feb. 17, 2000
Lelieui Beach Park Improvements

Parks and Recreation,

After reading the draft EA, I was left with the following impression:

- The Master Plan is being disregarded
- There should be honest examination of more alternatives
- The purpose is supposed to be to provide improved access to the shoreline, but a large parking lot is being built with shoreline access as an afterthought.
- There is no discussion of the parking lot's impact on neighbors.

At present Lokoaka and Akepa Street are designated as shoreline access, but Lokoaka is a narrow dirt track and Akepa is more like a private driveway. These streets should be constructed and paved with small parking areas at the ends. Trails that leave these roads should be wheelchair accessible. Future development would provide more trails, restrooms and other features of the Master Plan. These streets should be included as alternatives.

I am making these comments as a concerned neighbor to the proposed action.

Yours truly,

Jack H Ott
#409, 1875 Kalanianaʻole St.
Hilo, HI 96720

PHONE (808) 594-1888

FAX (808) 594-1865

(P) 1088.0



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
711 KAPTOLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 24, 2000

EIS #362

FEB 22 2000

County of Hawaii
Department of Park and Recreation
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Attention: Mr. Glenn Miyao

Gentlemen:

Subject: Leleiwi Beach Park Improvements
Draft EA

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subject document. Since the project does not impact any of our facilities, we have no comments to offer.

If there are any questions, please have your staff contact Mr. Ralph Yukumoto of the Planning Branch at 586-0488.

Sincerely,

GORDON MATSUOKA
Public Works Administrator

RY:mo
C: OEQC
Mr. Roy Takemoto

Mr. Glenn Miyao
Department of Parks & Recreation
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Miyao:

We are in receipt of the draft environment assessment for your proposed improvements to Leleiwi Beach Park in the South Hilo District.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has no comment at this time Mahalo for the copy of the draft environment assessment and the opportunity to review and comment. Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of this letter, please contact Ms. Pitake Pelekai, policy analyst, at (808) 594-1954.

Sincerely,

Colin C. Kippen, Jr.
Deputy Administrator

CC: BOT
CRS Hilo Office
OEQC
✓ Roy R. Takemoto

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Wayne G. Carvalho
Police Chief
James S. Correa
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawaii

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998
(808) 935-3111 • Fax (808) 961-3702

February 7, 2000

TO : JULIE TUKANG, DIRECTOR, PARKS & RECREATION
FROM : *Thomas J. Hickcox*
TOMAS J. HICKCOX, ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF, FIELD OPERATIONS
BUREAU
SUBJECT : DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
LELEWI BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS
ISLAND OF HAWAII, WAIAKEA, SOUTH HILO DISTRICT
TAX MAP KEY: 3RD 2-1-17:POR. 21 & 22

Staff has reviewed the above-referenced draft environmental assessment and has no comments or objections to offer at this time.

FHR:ik

cc: Genevieve Salmonson, Director, OEQC
Roy R. Takemoto, Land Use Consultant

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

March 11, 2000

Memo

To: Files
Fr: Roy Takemoto
RE: Lelewi Beach Park Improvements EA

cc:

Per Glenn Miyano of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the following agencies telephoned the Department to state that they had no comments on the subject EA:

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife (M. Castillo)-- no endangered species.
2. Department of Water Supply.