

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
HC 01 Stalnback Highway
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

PAULINE N. NAMUO
Deputy Director
Administration

MARIAN E. TSUJI
Deputy Director
Corrections

SIDNEY A. HAYAKAWA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

'01 JAN 25 P3:33

OFC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL No. _____

January 19, 2001

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

Dear Ms. Salmonson:

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Kulani Correctional Facility
Greenhouse Construction and Improvements, TMK 2-4-08-9, Kulani, South Hilo,
Hawaii.

The Department of Public Safety has reviewed the comments received during
the 30-day public comment period, which began on December 2000. The
agency has determined that this project will not have significant environmental
effects and has issued a FONSI. Please publish this notice in the February 8,
2001 OEQC Environmental Notice.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Publication Form and four copies of the
final EA. Please call Tanya Rubenstein at (808) 985-6197 if you have any
questions.

Sincerely,

Peter MacDonald
Peter MacDonald
Warden

PMD:mn

c: Ted Sakai
John Borders

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2001-02-08-HI-~~FEA~~

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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

~~KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS~~

I. Summary

CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISIED STATUTES (HRS)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Kulani Correctional Facility Greenhouse Construction and Improvements

Proposing Agency: Hawai'i Department of Public Safety
Kulani Correctional Facility

Approving Agency: Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Project Location: Kulani, South Hilo, Hawai'i, TMK: 2-4-08-9

Agencies Consulted During EA Preparation:

Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Service Biological Resource Division
National Park Service

State: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife-Hawai'i
Division of Land Management-Hawai'i
Historic Preservation Division
Natural Area Reserve System Commission

County: Department of Water Supply
Planning Department

Private: Bishop Museum
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hawaii Audubon Society
Kamehameha Schools
Native Hawaiian Advisory Commission
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation
The Peregrine Fund
Pig Hunters of Hawai'i
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund

Sierra Club, Moku Loa Group
 The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
 Volcano Community Association
 Wildlife Conservation Association

II. Project Description

The Department of Public Safety is proposing the construction of a greenhouse (24' x 94') at Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF). The project includes construction of a water tank (10,000 gallons) and a fence (925 ft) surrounding the greenhouse complex. Additional smaller structures may be built off the proposed greenhouse to provide an extended growing area and storage for tools and materials. The purpose of the project is to propagate and outplant native plants with the goals of forest restoration, production of native agro-forestry crops (e.g. maile, berries, teas, plants for lei-making and landscaping), and education and work training for inmates. Two additional greenhouses are proposed for the same general site at some point in the future as funding becomes available. The purpose of these additional greenhouses will be for training inmates in horticulture and production of vegetables and other agricultural products.

III. Summary Description of Affected Environment

Location - The greenhouses, water tank and fence will be built at KCF. KCF is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Hilo at the end of Stainback Hwy. The proposed project site is immediately adjacent to another currently existing greenhouse (used for horticultural training) as well as the facility's piggery operation. The greenhouse complex (proposed greenhouses and currently existing greenhouse) is located in a previously cleared area of approximately .80 acres. The elevation is approx. 5,360 ft.

Native Flora - The proposed project will occur in a previously disturbed area dominated by non-native pasture grasses. There are scattered small native trees and shrubs in the vicinity including ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), pukiawe (*Styphelia tameiameia*), ohelo (*Vaccinium*) and kukaenene (*Coprosma erneoides*). The area immediately surrounding the project site on three sides is cleared pasture currently used for cattle grazing and a piggery operation. A young lava flow with scattered ohia and an understory of native trees, shrubs, and ferns borders the project area on the south side.

Native Fauna - Native forest birds common in the pasture and open forest adjacent to the proposed project site are the non-endangered 'apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*), 'amakihi (*Hemignathus virens*), 'i'iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*), 'oma'o or Hawaiian thrush (*Phaeornis obscurus*) and 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*). Nene (*Nesochen sandvicensis*) and Pacific golden-plover or kolea (*Pluvialis fulva*) frequent the pasture and piggery area. The endangered Hawaiian hawk or 'io (*Buteo solitarius*) is often seen soaring over the project area. Three species of endangered forest birds (Hawai'i creeper (*Oreomystis mana*), Hawai'i 'akepa (*Loxops coccineus*), and 'akiapola'au (*Hemignathus munroi*)) occur at KCF, but are not commonly seen near the proposed project site. Additionally, the 'ua'u or dark-rumped petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*) and the 'ake 'ake or band-rumped storm petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) may overfly KCF to and from nesting areas on the upper, eastern slopes of Mauna Loa.

Hawai'i's only endemic land mammal, the 'ope'ape'a or endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) is also known from KCF.

Historical/Archeological and Cultural Sites/Cultural Activities - There are no known historic or archeological sites in the vicinity of the site proposed for greenhouse construction. The area is already cleared and has previously been used for vehicle parking and temporary storage of greenhouse supplies.

The history of the greater KCF area and use by Hawaiians is not well documented. Trails, small forest shrines, burial caves and lava tube shelters are the types of features that may be revealed by intensive surveys. The area may have been used historically by Hawaiians for activities such as bird hunting and gathering plants for medicinal uses.

Adjacent lands controlled by the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) are used for gathering of plant materials and public hunting for feral pigs. KCF has been in use since 1946, and public access to the facility for gathering and/or hunting is not permitted due to security and public safety concerns. The KCF boundary is currently being fenced and marked to prevent public access from DOFAW lands into KCF.

IV. General Description of the Action Including Environmental and Socioeconomic Characteristics

The project will include the construction of a greenhouse (24 x 100 ft) adjacent to the existing greenhouse, a 10,000 gallon water tank and a fence (925 ft) to enclose all the horticultural facilities located in the approximately .80 acre site. Additional smaller structures may be built off the proposed greenhouse to provide an extended growing area as well as storage for tools and materials. Other greenhouses proposed for the site in the future include a 48' x 96' and a 48' x 60' greenhouse (see appendix for site plan and project area map). KCF staff and inmates will prepare the site and construct the galvanized steel frame greenhouse with fiberglass siding. This project will require grading the site with heavy machinery and preparing the site using local road base cinder.

A horticulture instructor will provide inmates classes in plant propagation, greenhouse management, and landscape design and supervise inmates in reforestation and agroforestry work projects using native plants. Inmates will grow common native species such as koa, 'ohi'a, pilo, naio, mamaki, and 'akala in the greenhouse. Inmates will be involved in site planning, site preparation, and outplanting of seedlings. Inmates will also provide follow-up care to outplanted plants such as control of non-native weeds that outcompete and inhibit the growth of native plants, and monitoring of growth and survival.

Propagated plants will be used for forest restoration, agro-forestry and landscaping projects. Propagated plants will be planted at KCF and surrounding lands involved in the O'laa - Kilauea Partnership. Plants will be planted in abandoned farm plots and pasture, road corridors, and previously disturbed areas. These cleared lands are surrounded by native forest, and once a matrix of native species is planted in open grass areas, other native plants and ferns will be able to naturally become established and grow. Planting native plants in these areas will slow the spread of invasive non-native plants and provide a buffer for the native forest. Inmates will also develop techniques to sustainably produce shorter rotation agro-forestry crops (e.g. berries, tea,

medicinal uses, lei making) such as maile, palapalai, mamaki, and 'ohelo berries. KCF may also provide native plants for landscaping and restoration purposes to other federal, state, and county facilities as well as to non-profit organizations.

The 'Ola'a - Kilauea Partnership and KCF staff will provide overall guidance for the project. The Partnership, established in 1994, is a cooperative land management effort for 32,000 acres of state, federal and private land on the island of Hawai'i. Partners include four federal agencies, two state agencies and a private non-profit organization. The Partnership has prepared a Natural Resources Management Plan that describes the overall vision for conservation in the KCF area, and specific projects that will be undertaken in the next five year to protect and conserve native flora and fauna. The proposed project will help achieve the overall goals of the Partnership, which include restoring native habitat and species and work training and education to KCF inmates

V. Summary of Major Impacts

Environmental Impacts - Heavy equipment and construction activity will temporarily increase noise levels at the project site.

The possibility for introduction of new weed species as a result of human activity exists. Weeds could be introduced to the site through construction equipment, greenhouse supplies and/or humans. In addition, pests such as weeds, insects and pathogens present in greenhouse operations could potentially spread into the outside ecosystem through the process of outplanting outside the greenhouse facility.

Socio-Economic/Cultural Impacts - This project will be able to serve as a model for inmate vocational training programs. Hands-on work training in horticulture, agro-forestry, silviculture, landscaping and forest restoration will help the inmates develop discipline and a strong work ethic as well as respect for nature. Vocational training will also increase inmates chances of finding work once they are released.

This project will include the production of culturally important native plants such as maile, palapalai, māmakī, 'ōhelo and 'ākala berries, lei-making plants, and native plants. These plants will be used as agroforestry crops (e.g. berries, tea, medicinal uses) as well as for landscaping and restoration. Kūlanī's inmate population is 46% native Hawaiian, and Hawaiian inmates may be particularly interested in native plants grown for cultural reasons.

VI. Alternatives Considered

We did not consider any alternate project sites at KCF. The proposed site is already cleared and requires minimal grading and site preparation. In addition, the proposed site is the most convenient one because it is currently being used for greenhouse operations and horticultural training.

We did consider obtaining native plants for the project off site. However, we determined it is necessary to construct a greenhouse on site because many of the upper elevation species of plants we will be growing are not consistently available in large numbers from other nurseries. We will only be planing native plants already found in the area. In addition, we want to use propagation

materials from local sources to ensure we will be growing locally adapted genotypes. KCF is over 5,000 ft in elevation and plants at that elevation are adapted to the colder and wetter conditions that are commonly present. A greenhouse operation at KCF will also benefit inmate education and training programs.

VII. Proposed Mitigation Measures

The noise from equipment and construction activity will be minimal and temporary. The site chosen is already cleared and requires minimal grading and site preparation.

The possibility for introduction of new weed species will be minimized by ensuring that equipment, tools and construction materials are clean. Project staff will also perform regular inspection and weed control to prevent further spread of noxious plants within KCF.

We will take special precautions to ensure no pests are transported to outplanting sites from the greenhouse facilities by adhering to strict greenhouse sanitation standards. All seedlings for outplanting will be sprayed ahead of time for insect and fungal pests. Plants will also be checked visually for weeds. Outplanting sites will also be regularly monitored for weeds and weeds controlled, if necessary.

VIII. Determination

Having reviewed the comments received on the draft environmental assessment, the Department of Public Safety has determined that this project will have no significant environmental effect and issues a finding of no significant impact.

IX. Findings, and Reasons Supporting the Determination

The intent of this project is to benefit native ecosystems and species in the project area. Because the project aims to restore native ecosystems, it will not destroy or cause the loss of natural or cultural resources and will improve environmental quality. The project will increase the range of beneficial uses of the environment by increasing environmental education and awareness of KCF staff and inmates as well as protecting native Hawaiian ecosystems for future generations.

The project has a positive impact on the state's social welfare because it includes the training of correctional facility inmates in practical work skills. This project will also include the production of culturally important native plants for education, restoration and landscaping.

The project is focused on research, management and education. As such, the project has no growth inducing qualities and will only use a small amount of energy. The project is in an upland area and will not detrimentally affect any coastal areas or water bodies. It may improve watershed qualities by reducing the amount of erosion and water runoff. Although the project is in a geologically hazardous area, there will be no threat to public health, safety or welfare. The project site is not visible from public viewing sites, and the project may improve visual qualities for staff and inmates at KCF by landscaping the area with native species.

Construction noise will be minor and short-term. The long-term benefits of the greenhouse and native plant restoration program far outweigh the limited short-term effects of construction.

X. EA Preparation Information

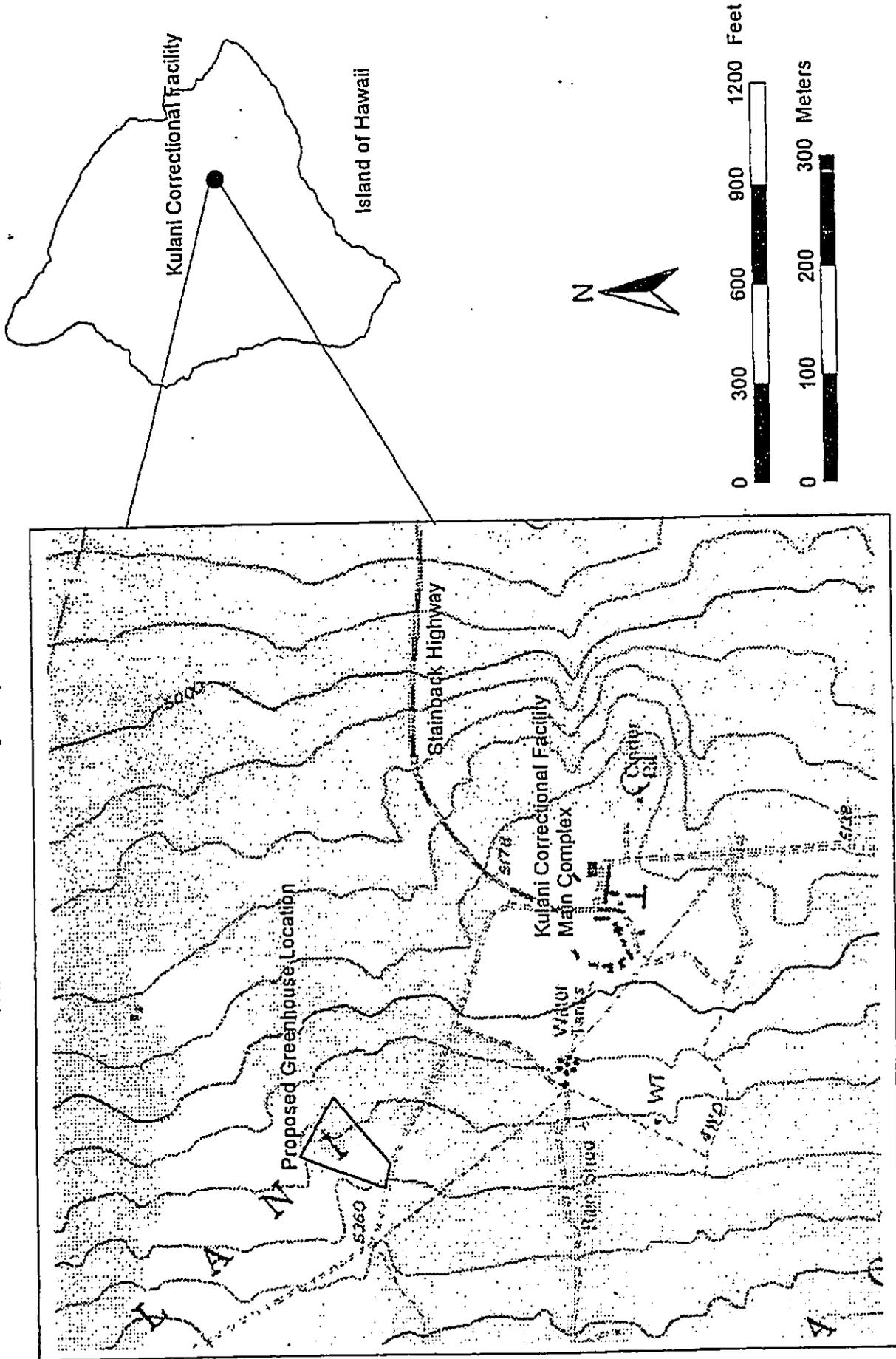
This Final Environmental Assessment was prepared on behalf of the Ola'a – Kilauea Partnership and the Department of Public Safety by:

Tanya Rubenstein, 'Ola'a – Kilauea Partnership Coordinator
P.O. Box 52
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718
(808) 985 - 6197

XI. Appendix

General Location Map
Proposed Greenhouse, Water Tank and Fence Schematic

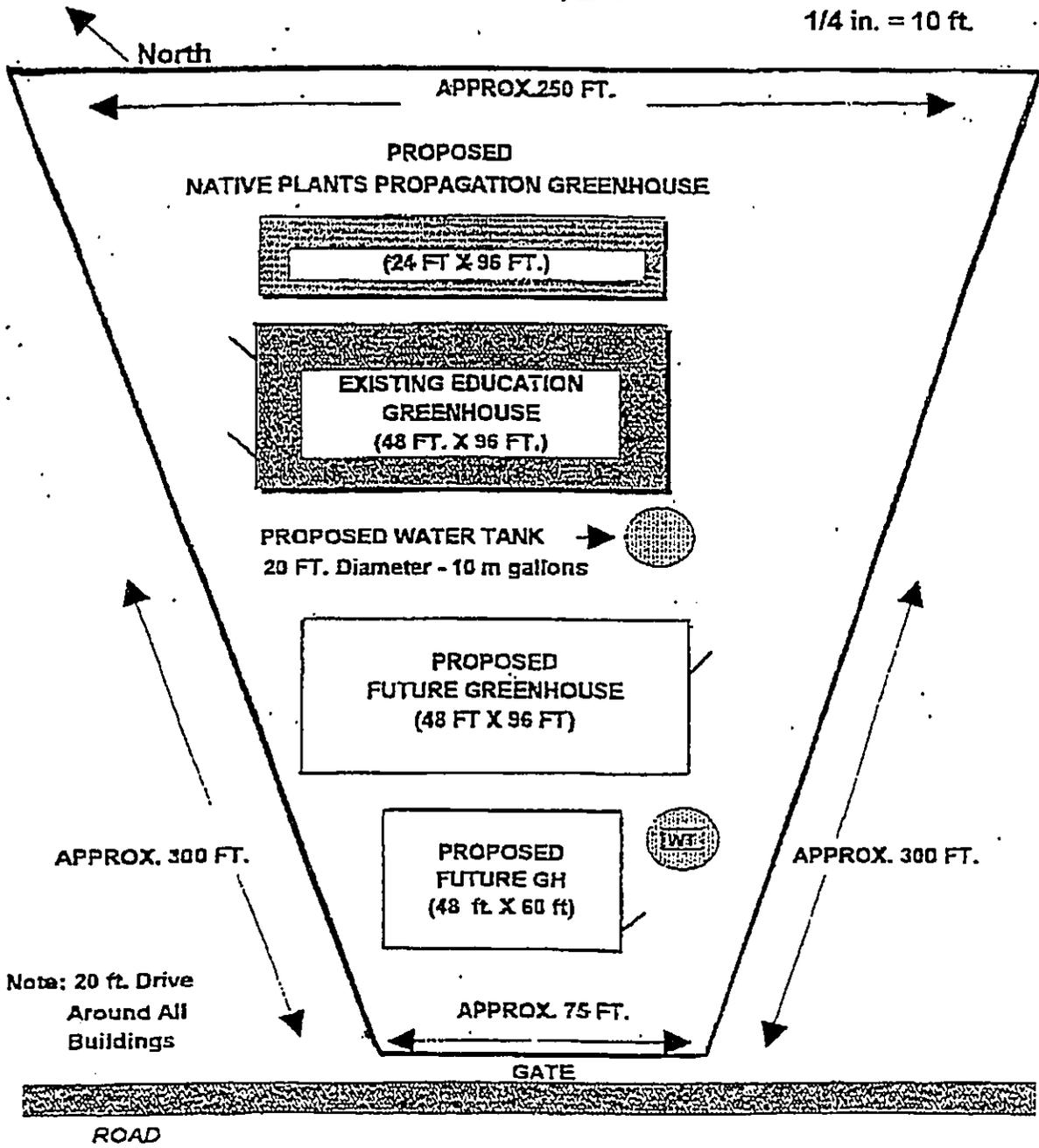
General Location Map
Kulani Correctional Facility Proposed Greenhouse



PROPOSED GREENHOUSE, WATER TANK & FENCE SCHEMATIC

OCTOBER, 2000

1/4 in. = 10 ft.



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BENJAMIN J. CAVETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TIMOTHY E. JOHNS
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JANET E. KAWELO
DEPUTY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
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STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

December 21, 2000

Ms. Tanya Rubenstein
Partnership Coordinator
Olaa - Kilauea Partnership
P.O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, Hawaii 96718

Dear Ms. Rubenstein:

Subject: Draft EA Kulani Correctional Facility Greenhouse Construction and Improvements.

We have received the draft EA for Kulani Prison Greenhouse Construction and Improvements and we fully support this project that is being proposed. The Hawaii Branch of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife has been actively involved with the Olaa - Kilauea Partnership including the planning and management strategies that are outlined in this draft EA. The proposed activities will provide the added nursery infrastructure and storage improvements to propagate and out-plant native plants and most importantly, provide actual field training for inmates in horticulture and production of agricultural products. We have no objections to the proposed project and thank you for the opportunity to review the draft EA.

Sincerely yours,

Michael G. Buck
Administrator

C: Hawaii Branch, DOFAW

PHONE (808) 594-1888

FAX (808) 594-1885



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

January 9, 2001

Olaa-Kilauea Partnership Coordinator
P.O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718
ATN: Ms. Tanya Rubenstein

Subject: Kulani Correctional Facility Greenhouse Construction and Improvements,
Kulani, South Hilo, Hawaii

Dear Ms. Rubenstein,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental assessment for the above referenced project. The Department of Public Safety plans to construct a greenhouse for the purpose of native plant propagation for use in reforestation efforts.

At this time, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has no concerns about the draft environmental assessment. OHA supports the proposed project's objectives of providing inmates with an educational opportunity that will teach them how to malama 'aina and improving environmental quality with native plant reintroduction.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharla Manley, Assistant Policy Analyst at 594-1944.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colin C. Kippen, Jr.".

Colin C. Kippen, Jr.
Deputy Administrator

cc: OHA Board of Trustees
Randall K. Ogata, Administrator



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720
TELEPHONE (808) 961-8660 • FAX (808) 961-8657

January 3, 2001

Ms. Tanya Rubenstein
Olaa-Kilauea Partnership Coordinator
P.O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY GREENHOUSE
CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS
TAX MAP KEY: 2-4-008:001**

This is in response to your transmittal letter of December 14, 2000.

Please be informed that the property is not within the service limits of the Department's existing water system facilities. All Federal, State, and County regulations concerning the use of catchment water should be complied with.

Should there be any questions, please call our Water Resources and Planning Branch at 961-8665.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Pavao", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Milton D. Pavao, P.E.
Manager

WA:gms

copy - Planning Department

... Water brings progress...