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September 12, 2006

Ms. Genevieve Salmonson
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235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

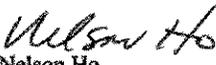
SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Miloli'i Solid Waste Transfer Station, TMK 8-9-004:007 Miloli'i, Hawai'i, Hawai'i

Dear Ms. Salmonson,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management has reviewed the comments received during the 30-day public comment period which began on June 8, 2006. The agency has determined that this project will not have significant environmental effects and has issued a FONSI. Please publish this notice in the next available OEQC Environmental Notice.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Publication Form and four copies of the Final EA. Please call David Robichaux at (808) 637-8030 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

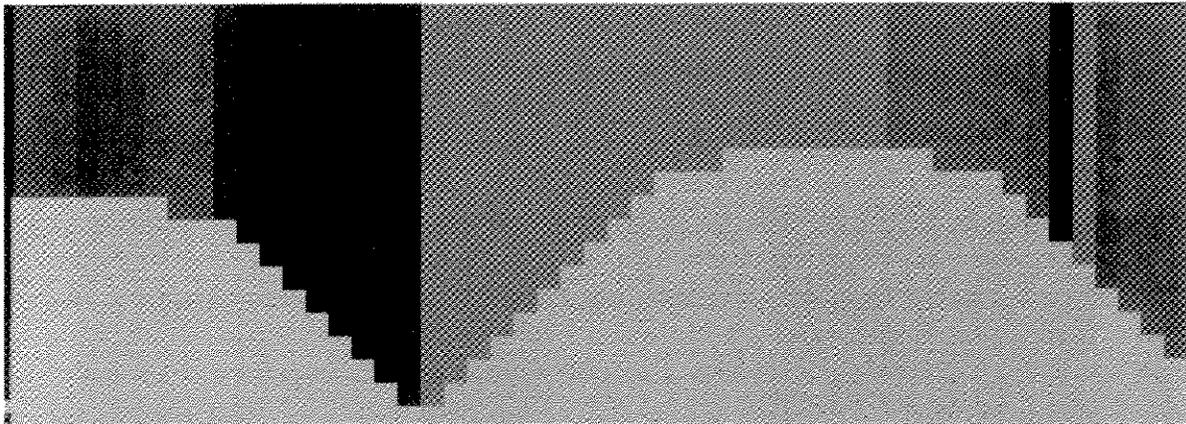

Nelson Ho
Deputy Director

cc: Dave Robichaux, DR Associates
Michael Dworsky, SWD Chief

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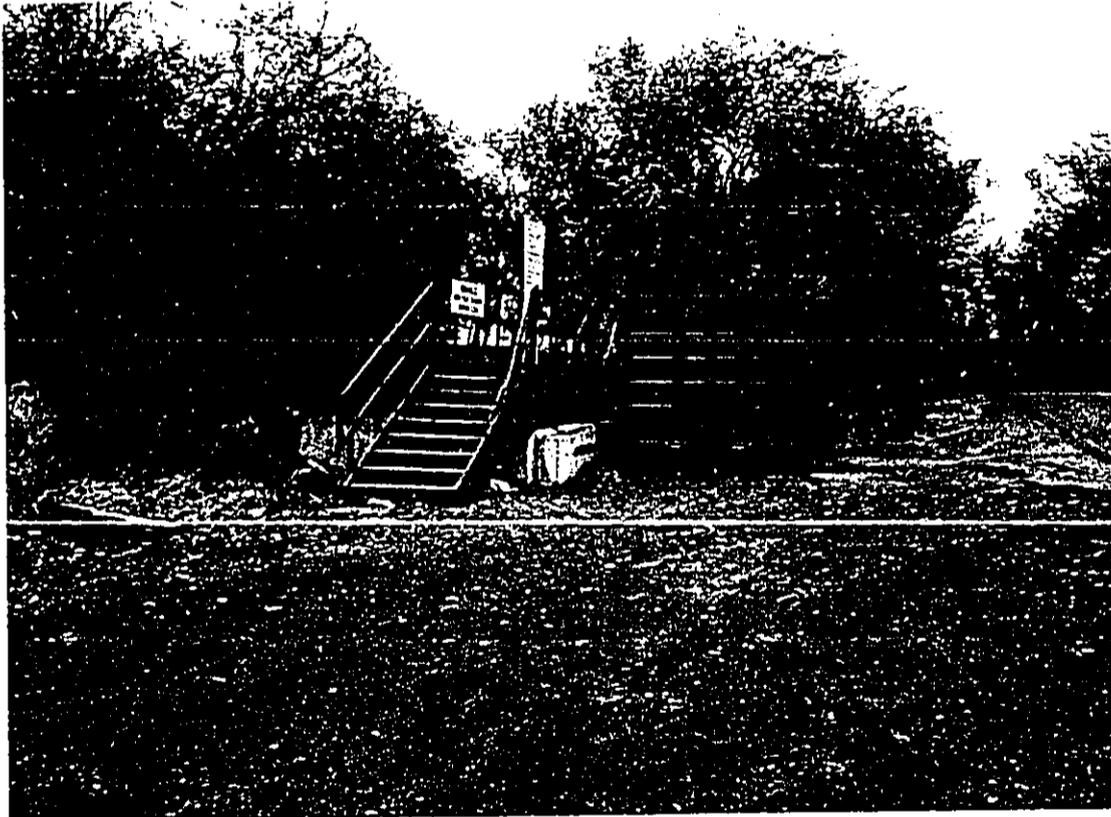
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**MILOLI SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION
MILOLI, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I
STATE OF HAWAI'I**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Submitted Pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS)

County of Hawai'i
Department of Environmental Management



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**MILOLI'I SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION
MILOLI'I, HAWAII, HAWAII**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Tax Map Key Number:
8-9-004:007

**PROPOSING
AGENCY:**

County of Hawaii
Department of Environmental Management

CONSULTANT:

DR Associates
PO Box 1018
Hale'iwa, Hawaii 96712

CLASS OF ACTION:

Use of County Funds, Conservation District,

This document is prepared pursuant to:
The Hawaii Environmental Protection Act,
Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and
Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawaii Department of Health Administrative Rules (HAR).

SUMMARY

The Miloli'i convenience center, also known as the Miloli'i transfer station, consists of a single 20-foot drop box with a wood-frame stair and deck. It has been in operation without proper permits or land-use authorization for over 20 years. The facility is owned by the County of Hawai'i and operated through a private contract. It serves the disposal needs of the roughly 700 residents of the community of Miloli'i. The transfer station property is owned by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is in a Conservation District and within the shoreline Special Management Area.

This after-the-fact Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared for the purpose of bringing the facility into compliance with existing State and County of Hawai'i regulations and to obtain a Permit to operate the transfer station from the Office of Solid Waste Management, Department of Health. The proposed action is to continue to operate the facility in its current location until a replacement facility can be made available.

This transfer station is the smallest and most isolated of the 21 owned by the County of Hawai'i. It is much more expensive than the County operated transfer stations on a cost-per-ton basis. The County is actively pursuing development of a new transfer station along Mamalahoa Highway to serve both Miloli'i and the mauka community of Hawai'i Ocean View Estates (HOVE). The County intends to close Miloli'i after opening the new facility that will be more accessible and serve a greater population.

Alternatives to the proposed action are the No Action alternative, which would be to immediately close the transfer station, or to move the existing facility to an alternate location. The No Action alternative is rejected because of probable environmental impacts. No solid waste disposal alternatives would be available within 15 miles if the Miloli'i transfer station is closed immediately. An alternate location would probably not be ready for permitting and operation during the period between selecting a Miloli'i site and selecting a mauka site that will replace Miloli'i altogether. There are few alternative locations in the community of Miloli'i, and those may create additional impacts that are not currently associated with the existing location.

Land-use restrictions on the existing location require that Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) and a Special Management Area Permit be obtained. For this reason the location is not in compliance with State of Hawai'i land-use plans or County zoning ordinances. Despite these restrictions the existing facility is found to have only minor and temporary impacts to the environment and quality of life in Miloli'i. These impacts are far outweighed by the opportunity to dispose of residential waste in a safe, convenient and environmentally sound manner.

In this document, underlined text represent changes or additions to the Draft Environmental Assessment published in May 2006.

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List of Abbreviations

ALISH	Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawai'i
BMP	Best Management Practice
DLNR	Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources
DWS	Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
HDOH	Hawai'i State Department of Health
HAR	Hawai'i Administrative Rules
HEPA	Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act
HCGP	Hawai'i County General Plan
HRS	Hawai'i Revised Statutes
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
OEQC	Hawai'i State Office of Environmental Quality Control
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SHPD/O	State Historic Preservation Division/Officer
SMA	Special Management Area
UH	University of Hawai'i
USF&WS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USNRCS	U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

1.0 PROJECT LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 Project Location

The Hawai'i County Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has operated a solid waste convenience center, which is also known as a transfer station, for household rubbish disposal in the village of Miloli'i for over 20 years.

Miloli'i is an isolated traditional Hawaiian fishing village with approximately 700 residents on the South western shoreline of the island of Hawai'i in the District of South Kona, Ho'opuloa *ahupua`a*, State of Hawai'i (Fig. 1-2). The existing village area was occupied by native Hawaiians since prehistory. The first census was taken in 1831 by missionaries. At that time there were 1406 residents of Miloli'i and Ho'opuloa district, but probably somewhat less in the area of Miloli'i village. By 1910 the population had decreased to 98 with 8 households at Miloli'i and 4 households at Ho'opuloa. All 72 persons living in Miloli'i were Native Hawaiian while Ho'opuloa contained 10 Hawaiians, 13 part Hawaiian part Chinese, 2 Japanese and one listed as other.

On April 18, 1926 the houses at Ho'opuloa were buried by lava from the Pu'u o'keoke'o vent of Mauna Loa. A few families moved to Miloli'i and the others dispersed to higher elevations. Over the years, residents of Miloli'i have continued to occupy the land. Their rights to do so have never been questioned, but legal tenancy or ownership has never been offered. In 1931 the territorial governor set aside the area as a public park under the control of the County government (Executive Order 473). Under the park provision the governor gave the County full authority to create a "Hawaiian Village" at Miloli'i. The County had the village subdivided into house lots in 1941. Requests were submitted to occupy the house lots between 1943 and 1954. While some of the house lots were awarded, residents never received title to them. In 1963 Governor Burns canceled Executive order No. 473 and the land reverted to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, in what was intended to be a land swap with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. The exchange never took place and the residents were again without any legal rights to the land. In 1982 the state legislature passed Act 83, which authorized the state to negotiate long-term leases with the residents and those displaced by the 1926 lava flow. In 1984 the Land Board approved a "Special Subzone" within conservation district lands. The Special Subzone allows for residential development and continued fishing activities within the Conservation District. This proved to be the final hurdle for the establishment of long-term leases between residents of Miloli'i and the State.

1.2 Project Description

The solid waste transfer station was established in 1982 during the time when the community was in final negotiations for lease-hold tenure of the land. The Facility consists of one 8-foot by 20-foot roll-off container with a wooden stairway and platform constructed for access. The parcel on which the transfer station is located is owned by the State, managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and



Figure 1: Location Map of Miloli'i transfer station on the Island of Hawaii

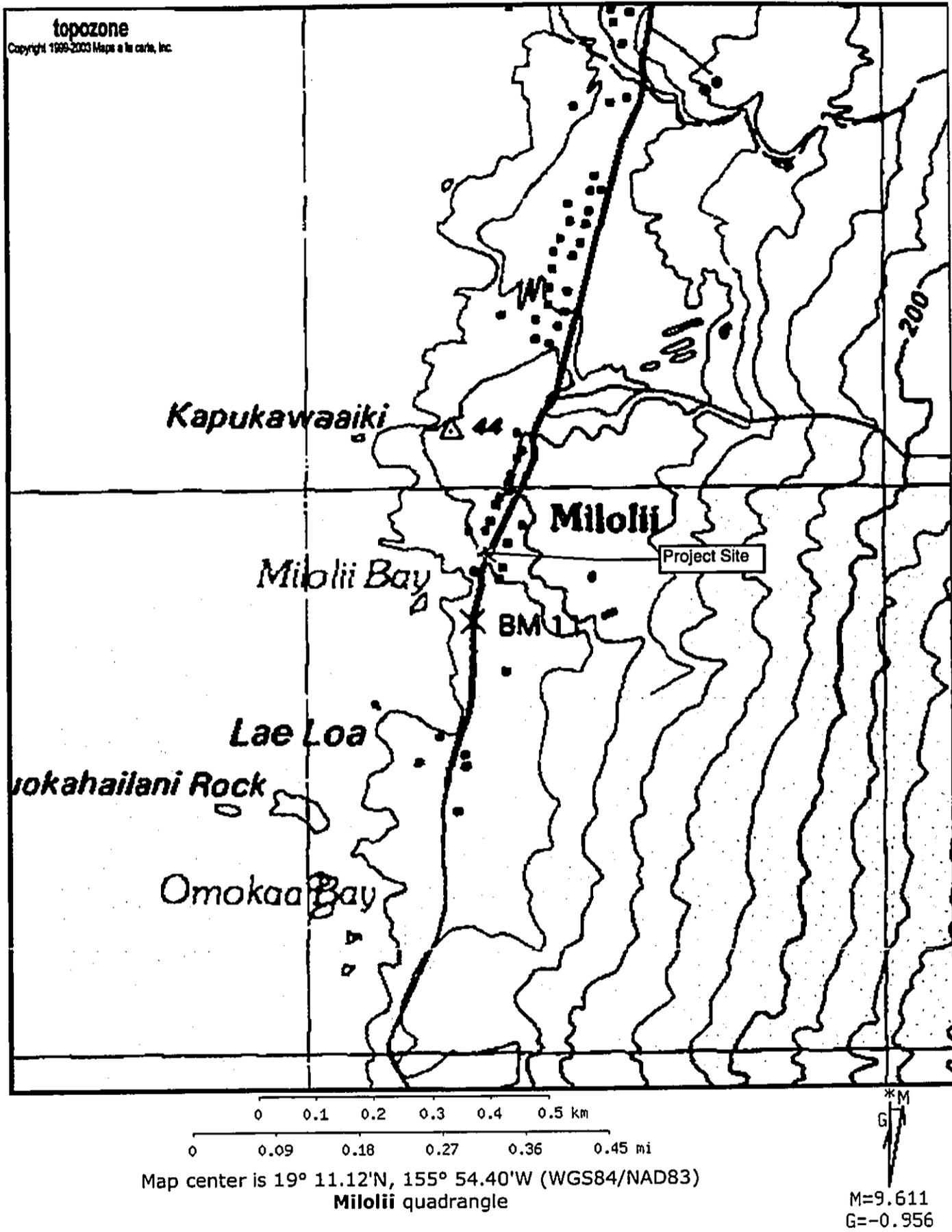


Figure 2: USGS Quad Map showing the location of the Miloli'i transfer station

designated as Tax Map Key (TMK) 8-9-004:007 Lot 2 (Fig. 3). Lot 2 was subdivided from a 37-acre parcel for the benefit of the transfer station in 1982 (Fig. 4). The Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa Community Development Plan published in 1984 states that the facility would be moved to a different location at some time in the future. The proposed location at the north end of the housing development is now privately owned, not available, and part of a very large parcel.

1.3 Purpose and Need

The Miloli'i transfer station has served the solid waste disposal needs of this community since its installation in 1982. Before 1982 waste was burned or thrown into a gulch as was the historical practice. Neither of these practices is legal or environmentally acceptable today. Without this facility household rubbish would have to be driven up the hill for disposal in the Waiea transfer station approximately 15 miles away, the Waiohinu transfer station approximately 23 miles away or be disposed illegally. Many people living in this community have limited mobility and would not have access to County solid waste management without this transfer station.

A Solid Waste Management Permit was never obtained for the Miloli'i transfer station. When this was recognized, the County began the process of obtaining a permit for the facility and determined that an after-the-fact environmental assessment was advantageous. A solid waste management permit will be obtained after completion of this environmental assessment and completion of Conservation District Use permits and Special Management Area Permits.

1.4 Description of the Action

The action considered in this Environmental Assessment is to continue operations of the Miloli'i transfer station at its current location until such time as a replacement site on Mamalahoa Highway can be selected and placed in service.

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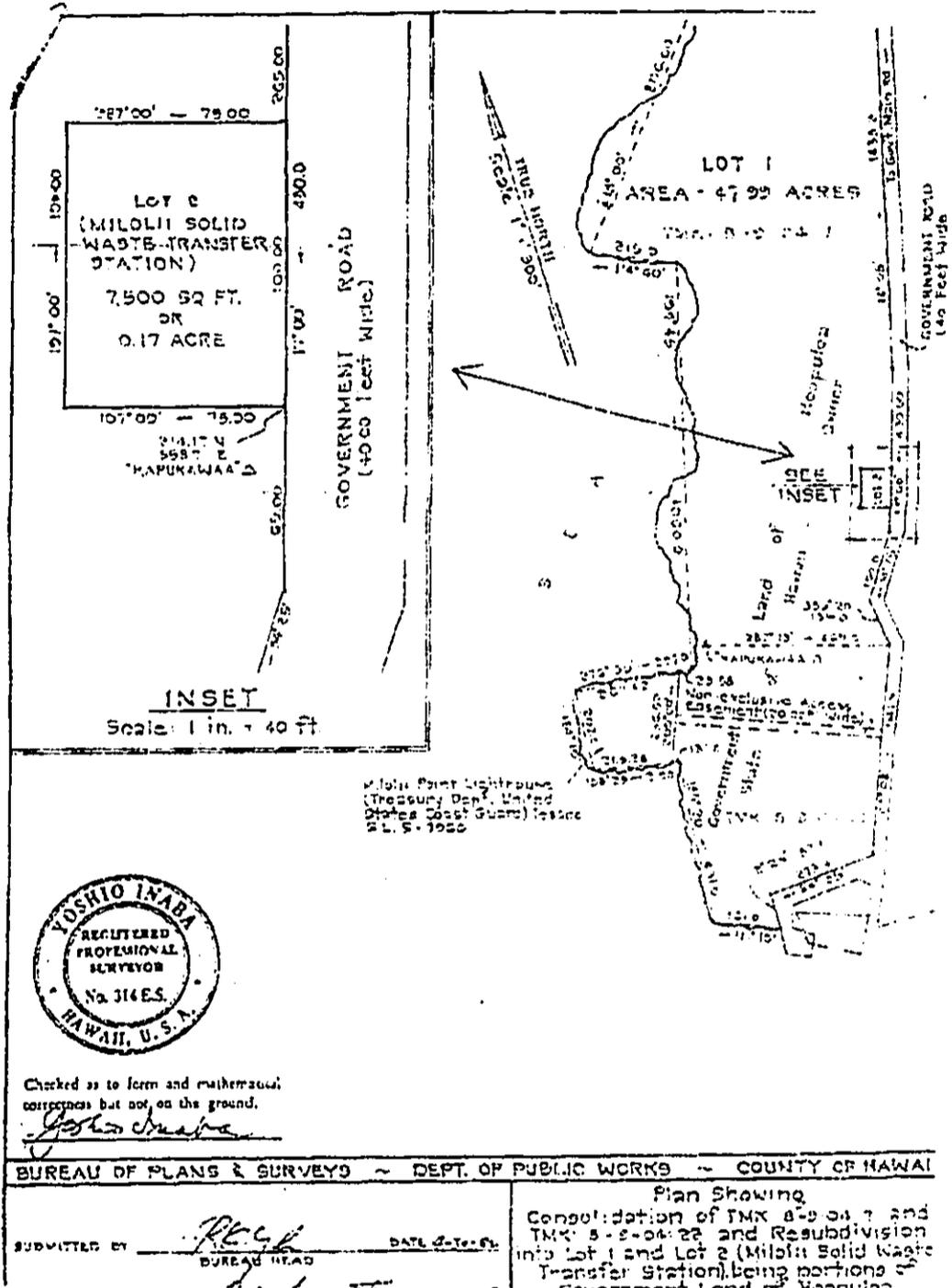


Figure 4: Survey map showing Miloli'i Transfer Station subdivision

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

2.1 Proposed Action

The County of Hawai'i does not provide household waste collection services. Regular County solid waste collection would be uneconomical for the long haul distances and low population density found over much of the island. Instead, private companies collect rubbish from subscriber residences (mostly in the few densely populated areas of Hilo and Kona), while over 80% of the population haul their own rubbish to transfer stations (Hawai'i County, 2004).

The County has 21 transfer stations (including Miloli'i) that provide convenient disposal for households, with no fees. Seven are gated and have set hours of operation, while most are open facilities monitored by County attendants or security guards who provide some public education and monitor for hazardous wastes. The distribution of existing transfer stations, and those proposed are depicted in Figure 5.

Twenty of the twenty-one transfer stations are operated by County personnel and equipment. Miloli'i transfer station, the only exception, is operated under private contract. The small and winding roads make it difficult for large County transfer equipment to service the area, and the limited amount of waste generated by the community allows for smaller waste transfer equipment to accomplish the task. Because it was a small and isolated facility conducted under private contract, the permits for operation of the facility were overlooked.

The Miloli'i transfer station consists of a single 20-foot drop box with a wood-frame stair and deck. The facility is not manned. A private contractor removes and replaces the container twice per week. Waste from the transfer station averages approximately 1,160 lbs. (0.58 tons) of waste per day, and is hauled to the West Hawai'i Sanitary Landfill. The contractor is required to keep the facility operational and free of waste materials on the ground. It serves the disposal needs of the roughly 700 residents of the Community of Miloli'i.

The proposed action is to continue use of the existing facility for the period required to identify, acquire build and operate another transfer station in the vicinity of Miloli'i. The County began screening sites for a new facility near the intersection of the Miloli'i Access Road and Mamalahoa Highway in 2005. Several previous sites have been proposed and subsequently rejected by the community, or due to their proximity to threatened and endangered species. The County is continuing the site selection process and the subsequent environmental review process will finalize the site. The official estimate of time required to select, permit and build a new transfer station is two years.

The new transfer station will be one that is also accessible to mauka area residents in the vicinity of the Ocean View community. The Miloli'i transfer station may be shut down at the time the new facility is placed in operation. The closure of the Miloli'i transfer

station is desired because of the expense to operate this facility. Under the existing conditions operating the Miloli'i transfer station costs the County more than \$400 per ton of waste disposed. This facility is more than four times more expensive than the County operated facilities.

Since the Department of Health has pointed out the lack of proper permitting for the existing facility and the County has moved expeditiously to resolve this issue by preparing this environmental assessment and applications for use of lands in the

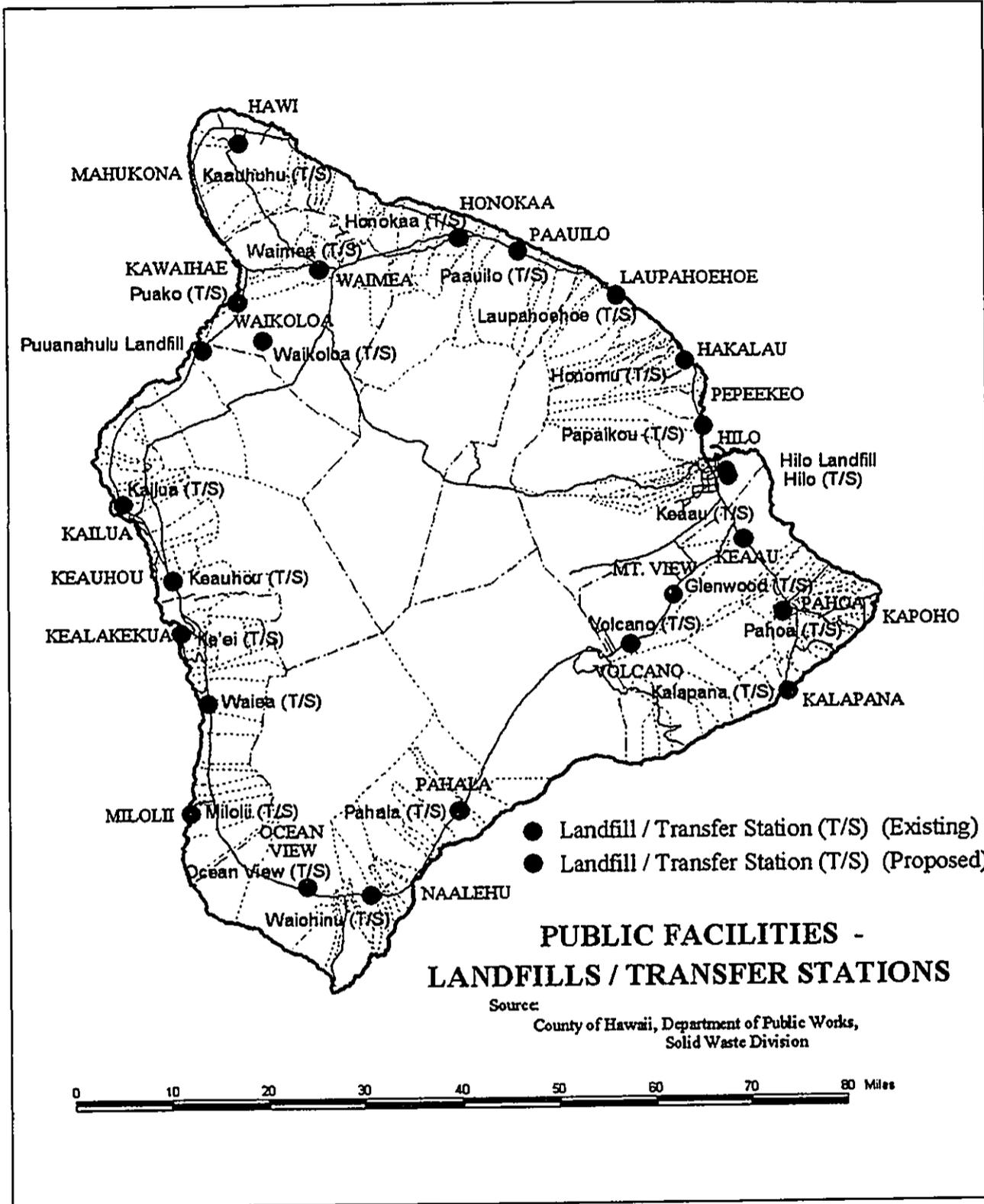


FIGURE 5: The location of solid waste facilities in the County of Hawaii.

Conservation District and Special Management Area. The proposed action includes compliance with all applicable County, State, and Federal regulations.

As part of the effort to provide convenient solid waste services for the community the County is supporting an effort to obtain state and federal assistance for alternative waste management strategies such as recycling, composting or other community-based programs that would reduce the waste generation and provide employment or resources to the residents of Miloli'i.

2.2 Alternative Action: Relocate Project to an Alternative Location

As an alternative to the proposed action, other portions of vacant land could be designated for use as a municipal transfer station. The existing location suffers from restrictions imposed by State land use district and the SMA covenants.

A brief search of the area shows one additional portion of State land along the Miloli'i access road. This parcel is designated as TMK (3rd) 8-9-013:023. It intersects the road approximately midway between the highway and shoreline. Much of the parcel is zoned agriculture, but portions are in the conservation. The portion intersecting the access road is the area in the Conservation District.

The requirements for moving the facility would be similar to those for keeping it in place, except that the new area would have issues and potential impacts that are currently unknown. This new location would be farther from the community, less accessible to those on foot, and no less difficult to permit. The expense of moving the facility would also be much higher than leaving it in-place.

The County is attempting to create a replacement transfer station along the Mamalahoa Highway and considers the Miloli'i transfer station a temporary part of their solid waste transfer system. The current estimate is that a replacement facility will be ready within two years. Permitting and construction of a Miloli'i facility in an alternate location may require the same length of time, and the expense of operations and maintenance would still be extremely high.

For these reasons the County will not consider an alternative location within the community of Miloli'i. The site of the permanent transfer station will serve the community's solid waste disposal needs upon its completion.

2.3 No Action Alternative: Immediate Closure

Immediate closure of the existing facility would eliminate the administrative costs associated with the only privately contracted transfer station in the County, and over \$83,000 per year from its solid waste budget. Solid waste services could either be privately contracted by community groups or waste could be hauled to the closest transfer station by residents. There have been discussions on how to maintain and expand solid waste services in the area using state or federal grant monies available to small communities and non-profit organizations. Miloli'i is likely to be a good candidate for

public assistance to support appropriate technology for solid waste management; however, no organized effort has yet been mounted and the time requirements for securing these funds is usually measured in years.

Because of the isolation of Miloli'i, any reduction in solid waste services could be matched by an increase in local burning and illegal dumping. Closure of the facility would withdraw public support for the proponents of traditional Hawaiian culture and lifestyle, and those least able to compensate for the loss of municipal services. A further discussion of cultural aspects of the community is presented in Section 3.3.

2.4 Selection of Project Alternative

The County has determined that the most rational and efficient strategy for managing solid waste in Miloli'i is to operate the existing facility until such time as a new replacement transfer station is available in close proximity along the Mamalahoa Highway. The County has determined that immediate closure of the existing transfer station would create an unacceptable hardship to the residents of Miloli'i. It will obtain proper permits and authorizations to maintain operation of the Miloli'i transfer station until a replacement site near Mamalahoa Highway becomes available. This Environmental Assessment (EA) process and others are required to bring the existing transfer station into compliance for the period that it will be kept open.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND IMPACTS

3.1 Physical Environment

3.1.1 Geology, Geography, and Soils

The Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa community lies in the shadow of its most dominant geological feature, Mauna Loa. Lava flows from Mauna Loa have continually inundated the area for the past 100,000 years. Since 1832 the volcano has erupted forty times. Eight of these flows have reached down the slopes of Mauna Loa into North and South Kona, and four have reached the ocean. These flows occurred in 1859, 1919, 1926, and 1950. The 1926 flow destroyed the village of Ho'opuloa under up to 50 feet of a'a. This flow dominates the topography of the area. The access road and northern portion of the community of Ho'opuloa and Miloli'i sit on the 1926 flow. The remainder of the area consists of lava flows occurring between 750 and 3,000 years ago (Wolfe and Morris 1996).

The transfer station site is on an older flow; however, soil coverage of lava at the site is negligible. There are two soil types recorded for the Miloli'i/Ho'opuloa area: 'a'a lava (rLV) and rough broken land (RB). The lava land has no soil covering and very limited vegetation. It is mostly hard clinkery sharp pieces of lava piled in tumbled heaps (USGS, 1972). The rough broken land is from prehistoric flows. This also has no soil except that brought in by residents, or mechanically crushed into cinders. Although vegetation is still sparse, these areas support Kiawe trees, other shrubs and sparse pockets of grasses.

The village of Miloli'i is located on a relatively flat coastal plain. The three bays in the vicinity offer little protection from westerly swells or wave surge. Shoreline features in the vicinity include a black sand beach at Ho'opuloa Bay, broad, gently sloping lava extending into the sea between Ho'opuloa Bay and Miloli'i Bay, and shallow intertidal shelves extending from Miloli'i Bay to Omoka'a Bay. Scenic rocks of wave-eroded 'a'a protrude from the near shore waters. Offshore, there is a shallow shelf from 15 to 25 feet deep. The depth reaches 120 feet at 1800 feet offshore. On land the topography gradient is not so steep, reaching 200 feet above sea level approximately 3000 feet inland.

The entire Big Island is subject to geologic hazards, especially lava flows and earthquakes. The project site is located in Lava Flow Hazard Zone 2 (on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1). With the exception of small areas in the immediate vicinity of the rift zones, Zone 2 represents the highest risk areas on the flanks of erupting volcanoes. In Zone 2 on Mauna Loa, approximately 75 percent of the land area has been covered by lava in the last 750 years, 20 percent since 1800, and 5 percent since 1950 (Heliker, 1990). As such, there is some risk of lava inundation over short time scales on the subject property.

In terms of seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai'i is rated Zone 4 Seismic Probability Rating (Uniform Building Code, Appendix Chapter 25, Section 2518). Zone 4 areas are at risk from major earthquake damage, especially to structures that are poorly designed or built.

Lava tubes and other caves in Hawai'i may have value as historic sites, burial locations, recreation areas, as unique geological features, or for other reasons. No lava tube caves were observed during reconnaissance of the area; however the transfer station site is quite near an anchialine pond (see Section 3.1.3 for discussion of water quality). These ponds may form when a lava tube daylights near the shoreline. In this instance the pond is subterranean and located in a small gulch that runs mauka to makai. The gulch is not an erosional feature, but rather a discontinuity between successive lava flows. It does not appear to be a collapsed lava tube, but this is also a possibility.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The geologic conditions impose no overriding constraints on the project, and no mitigation measures are expected to be required. However, it is recognized the most of the surface of the Big Island is subject to eventual lava inundation, and that buildings and infrastructure in places such as Miloli'i face some degree of risk. Solid waste transfer stations could not be placed in a less high hazard area and still practically serve the area. The County determined that it is economically and environmentally sensible to place the facilities closer to the community that needs them, despite the risk of lava inundation.

3.1.2 Floodplains and Surface Water Quality

The properties are designated Zone X, or Special Flood Hazard areas identified in the community flood insurance study as areas of moderate or minimal hazard from the principal source of flood in the area. The substrate consists largely of lightly weathered 'a'a lava with little soil and is very well-drained. The location is within the Tsunami Inundation zone. Four tsunamis have been recorded in historic times at Miloli'i. The relatively straight coastline is not conducive to amplification as it is in deeper bays. The average run up elevation is less than 8 feet (Cox, 1979). Large ocean swells from westerly directions create significant surge and some flooding in Miloli'i Bay. The transfer station is sufficiently far inland that it will not be damaged by either ocean swells or a major tsunami.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The facility has no paved area and does not add to the area of impermeable surface. It will not adversely affect drainage in the area. Installation and maintenance of the facility does not involve soil disturbance; therefore the transfer station should not increase sedimentation or runoff in the vicinity.

The facility is not likely to be affected by a tsunami. During a tsunami capable of toppling the container, both litter and organic waste would be widely distributed by the vast quantities of water moving through the area. In this instance the relatively small amount of waste held in the container would be among the least of the problems associated with a major tsunami.

Heavy equipment used to load and unload the container may leak hydraulic fluids or oil during operation if the equipment is poorly maintained or damaged. Because the transfer station is in close proximity to the shoreline, leaks or spills of petroleum will quickly find their way to the shoreline via groundwater seeps. The County requires that its contractors use properly maintained equipment and comply with all environmental and safety regulations. This contract provision should be enforced in order to minimize or eliminate hydraulic and oil leaks at the Miloli'i transfer station.

3.1.3 Groundwater Resources

Four anchialine ponds are known to exist in the community of Miloli'i (A'a Pono Miloli'i, 1984). None of these ponds are open to the surface because of previous uses or development, but historically they have provided some low salinity water for the community. One of the ponds is approximately 75 feet southwest of the transfer station property.

The pond now resembles a shallow well. It is in a small depression formed in the lava down gradient of the transfer station. It has been sealed with a concrete cover with a central port through which a suction line enters. A small diesel pump is located inside a shed approximately 10 feet west of the pond. The pump delivers water to holding tanks approximately 1/2 mile north of the site. From the tanks water is distributed by gravity to the community through a 6-inch PVC pipeline that extends to the last houses before the Miloli'i dock. One of the reservoirs is used for non-potable wash water and toilets; the other reservoir is for fire protection. Salinity levels are in the range of 4 to 6 parts per thousand, indicating a composition of six parts fresh groundwater to one part seawater... Water level inside the pond moves up and down with the tides, providing a regular exchange of water in the well cavity. Near shore observations indicate that there are numerous springs and subsurface flow of fresh water in this area. This observation indicates that there is a sufficient groundwater gradient that subsurface water is rapidly recharged and exchanged through natural processes.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The facility has no paved area and does not add to the area of impermeable surface. Surface water runoff is not likely to enter the well directly because of surface topography and the high permeability of local lava substrates.

There is some concern over the possibility of contaminants percolating into the groundwater and entering the well in the subsurface. The greatest concern would be over hazardous wastes or petroleum products, which by County policy, are not accepted at any solid waste collection facilities. The most likely derivative of waste collection operations is organic materials such as fish waste or food waste. In order to enter the groundwater wastes would be required to be released from the container. If the drop box container does not drip liquid wastes the risk of environmental contamination is removed. Under normal circumstances the extremely dry conditions in the area are not conducive to a release of liquids from the container. During

heavy rains the dilution factor would be extremely high due to percolation in the surrounding area. Dilution of the surrounding groundwater and the rapid flow of groundwater to the ocean makes it extremely unlikely that detectable levels of contaminants originating in the waste container could be found in the anchialine pond.

For the reasons presented above, the risk of contaminating of the anchialine pond from releases at the transfer station is negligible. The Community and the County will actively enforce bans on petroleum and liquid wastes in the container as a precaution against a release to the environment. The nearby water system is for non-potable use including fire protection. The community and the County will also inform residents against inappropriate use of this water source.

3.1.4 Climate and Air Quality

The climate of Miloli'i and Ho'opuloa is mild and quite dry due to its location on the leeward side of Mauna Loa volcano. Although the Island of Hawai'i lies in the path of northeasterly tradewinds, Miloli'i receives no tradewind influence. The community lies in the shadow of volcanoes Hualalai, Mauna Loa, and Kilauea, which force the tradewinds aloft on their windward slopes. Tradewind flows do not descend on the leeward side of these mountains and remain aloft until they are well past the coastline. The same principle eliminates almost all tradewind-associated showers. Average annual rainfall in the area is listed at 20 inches per year; however, many recent years have been even dryer. Winds are generally light onshore breezes during the day, replaced by downslope drainage winds at night. This pattern is occasionally replaced by light and variable southerly "Kona" winds, most often in winter (UH-Manoa, Dept. of Geography 1998).

The mean annual temperature in the area is around 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual temperature variation is less than the mean daily temperature variation.

Air quality in the area is mostly affected by emissions of sulfur dioxide from Kilauea Volcano, which convert into particulate sulfate and produce a volcanic haze (vog) that persistently blankets the South Kona district and surrounding areas. Human sources of air pollution in this sparsely populated area are minimal.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project is not expected to produce any substantial air quality impacts. Odor is considered in the next section.

3.1.5 Odor

The background odor levels in Miloli'i and Ho'opuloa area is very low due to its sparse population and prevalent ocean breeze.

The Miloli'i transfer station is located approximately 150 feet north of Lot 12 in Phase I and 125 feet south of Lot 1 in Phase II of the Miloli'i community (Fig. 6). There has been a history of odor complaints from the residents in close proximity to the transfer station. Waste materials received by the Miloli'i transfer station is composed primarily of bagged household waste, greenwaste, paper and cardboard. Fish waste is also regularly disposed in the container. Fish waste is the primary source of odors, particularly if it is not properly bagged.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

All sources of odor are also attractants to flies and other disease vectors. In addition odors impact the quality of life for residents and community member who are exposed.

Odors can be mitigated through proper management of the facility as well as community based initiatives to reduce inappropriate disposal practices.

County-based initiatives may include posting a sign on the container that describes the proper bagging procedure for odorous waste. Community based initiatives may include consulting with waste generators to design diversion methods. Miloli'i is unique because of the limited number of people that are in close contact with each other. Community initiatives can be effectively implemented without expensive educational programs of public relations because many of the residents are constantly involved with a significant portion of the other residents.

One possible diversion would be to compost food and fish waste along with greenwaste and coconut husks. The area has very little soil and coincident lack of home based gardening. The lack of available fresh water would require the use of non-potable water for composting and gardening; however, the rewards from a composting operation include reduction of odors at the waste container and the beginnings of local crop production in Miloli'i.

The community has marine conservation policies that prohibit use of chum or *palu* in near shore waters. Offshore fishermen could use organic waste for chum in *Ahi* or *Mahimahi* fishing. Also this type of waste could be useful as bait for deepwater crab traps. There are currently no crab fishermen working from Miloli'i (La Cher Napeahi, Personal Communication, 2005).

Odors could also be mitigated by more regular hauling and disposal. The container is currently dumped twice per week. Due to the expense of hauling and disposal of waste, it would be impractical to haul more than twice per week.

3.1.6 Noise

Noise levels on the sites are currently low and are derived mainly from traffic along the Miloli'i access road. Elevated noise levels are also created by flushing boat motors and

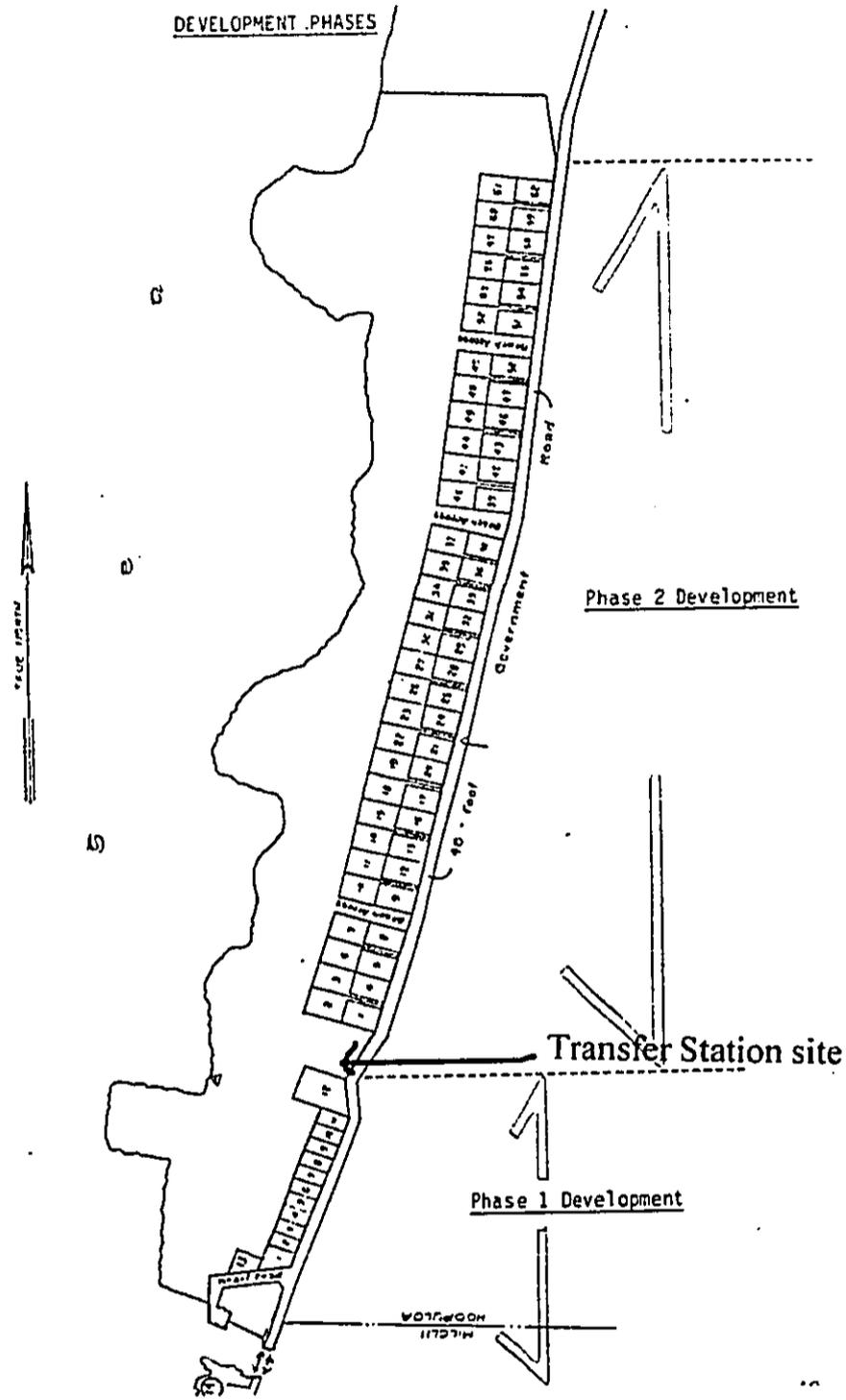


Figure 6: Miloli'i development Plan

construction activities. Some noise may be generated from throwing trash into the container. The two closest noise receptors are the adjacent residences. These residences are over 100 feet away. Normally noise levels during the daytime would mask all but the loudest noises generated from trash disposal. Night time use of the facility may be much more noticeable.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Noise, like odor can be mitigated through proper management of the facility and community initiatives. Proper management includes advising the community on how to dispose bulky waste and other materials that are large and loud when disposed. It is likely that the waste hauler would prefer bulky waste such as engines and appliances are left on the side of the container rather than thrown inside. Information on best management may be posted at the site.

Inquiries on noise pollution conducted during public meetings and interaction with the residents of Miloli'i did not generate a response that would indicate that noise is a problem with nearby residents. If noise is identified as an issue that requires mitigation, the County and the operator can post signs requesting all use to be completed during daylight hours.

3.1.7 Scenic Value

The community of Miloli'i is a historical fishing village with a unique scenic value that is associated with recent lava flows and rocky shorelines. The scenic value is lost from inside Miloli'i village where housing development obscures all of the coastal view and many of the mountain views. Undeveloped land is slowly colonized by Kiawe forest. The section of land seaward of the transfer station is overgrown by a very dense stand of Kiawe, which obscures any coastline view or access (See Plates).

The transfer station is located on a portion of the Miloli'i Access Road that has restricted line of sight from both directions. When traveling north to south there is a small hill that begins 150 feet in front of the transfer station location and ends approximately 75 feet north of the facility. The transfer station cannot be seen over this hill. The line of sight restriction hides the facility from oncoming vehicular and foot traffic before the edge of the transfer station property. Approaching from the south there is a curve in the road that restricts the view of the transfer station until traffic is approximately 200 feet from the site.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Miloli'i transfer station is not a scenic use of land; however, neither does it obscure any scenic vistas due to topography and vegetation. The visual impacts of the facility are quite limited by its location, which cannot be seen from distance in any direction. The restricted line of sight poses a traffic concern addressed in section 3.3.3.

The transfer station consists of a wooden platform and stairway adjacent to a 20-foot roll-off container. Potential mitigation of visual impacts include repainting the stairway and containers or construction of a CMU block wall in front of the container to block the view of the container. The stairway would still be visible, and it is doubtful that hiding the container behind a block wall would greatly improve the scenic value of the facility.

3.1.8 Hazardous Substances

The County transfer stations do not accept hazardous materials for disposal. Despite this fact, there are almost certainly some unacceptable materials placed in the container at regular intervals. Due to the nature of the community these are likely to consist of petroleum products, oily rags, and paint or household chemicals. The risk associated with hazardous substances is primarily from a release at the transfer station. Disposal of hazardous materials into a lined landfill is not immediately dangerous to human health and the environment because of the safeguards required in operation of RCRA subtitle D landfills.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Potential impacts associated with a release of hazardous material or petroleum products at the transfer station have been discussed in sections on soil, surface water and groundwater (3.1.1 - 3.1.3).

Reducing the risk of a release of hazardous materials from the transfer station can be accomplished using at least three different approaches.

- Proper containment of all waste that enters the container. The container is designed to contain solid waste. Liquid wastes are not allowed in the solid waste system. Preventing liquids from being dumped is essential to containment. The existing signage warns against disposing liquid wastes. Management through community interest and contractor awareness will help to discourage illegal dumpers of hazardous liquids and petroleum products. If the community is aware of these dangers they will utilize other methods of disposal that are more environmentally friendly and acceptable. If they do not choose to take advantage of other alternatives at least they will bag liquid wastes thoroughly so that it is not identifiable as liquids. In this instance the waste would be disposed in a lined landfill where a release to the environment is not likely.
- Containers should be designed to hold small amounts of liquid such as those derived from decomposing organic waste or small amounts of rainfall. A well-maintained container without holes in the bottom will prevent almost all releases at the transfer station site.
- Community awareness and discussion of the risks will reduce the occurrence of disposing illegal waste in the transfer station container.

3.2 Biological Environment

Floral and Faunal resources in the vicinity

The subject property is cleared of vegetation with the exception of grasses growing in small patches around the perimeter of the site. Immediately adjacent to the site is a dense Kiawe grove that has pushed out almost all other species except Lantana.

The existing vegetation at Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa is representative of those species associated with dry and moderate rainfall and poor soil areas. It is dominated by species such as Kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Koa Haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*) and Christmas berry (*Schinus terebinthifolius*). The vegetative cover varies considerably along the coast due to the relative ages of the various lava flows and the presence of low-salinity groundwater. Vegetation at the head of Alike and Papa Bays is particularly heavy due to the presence of underground springs that subsequently enter the ocean. Vast areas of the community are virtually void of vegetation, particularly the northern portion located on the 1926 lava flow. Other areas that are on prehistoric flows have not developed soils that are suitable for extensive vegetative development. A grove of ironwood trees (*Casuarina sp.*) is found at the south end of the village, and various species of ornamental or utility plants associated with the housing development. These include Ti (*Cordyline fruticosa*), Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*) and Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*).

Plants identified on or directly adjacent to the site are shown in Table 3.2-1.

Table 3.2-1 Plants observed on or adjacent to the project Site

<i>Abutilon grandifolium</i>	- Hairy abutilon
Cactaceae (unknown)	- Cactus
<i>Carica papaya</i>	- Papaya
<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	- Buffel grass
<i>Coccinea grandis</i>	- Ivy gourd
<i>Hyptis pectinata</i>	- Comb hyptis
<i>Lantana camara</i>	- Lantana
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	- Koa haole
<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i>	- Malvastrum
<i>Momordica charantia</i>	- Bitter gourd
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	- Love-in-a-mist
<i>Pluchea symphytifolia</i>	- Sourbush
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	- Pigweed
<i>Prosopis pallida</i>	- Kiawe
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	- Christmas berry
<i>Sida fallax</i>	- Ilima
<i>Waltheria indica</i>	- 'Uhaloa

Other native plants that have been identified in the area, although not on the subject property, include: Hala (*Pandanus tectorius*), Ulei (*Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*), and Kou (*Cordia subcordata*). A fine stand of the medicinal plant Maiapilo (*Capparis sandwichiana*) is found about 1/3 mile north of the transfer station.

The young geological age of soils in the area reduces the biological diversity considerably, and creates a sparse flora that is tolerant of salt and resistant to drought.

The general lack of soil and vegetation also contributes to sparse faunal colonization. The native Hawaiian bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) is the only known threatened or endangered species frequenting the area. The bat is highly mobile and tends to favor upland regions. No bat sightings have been recorded in the coastal area of Miloli'i.

Based on historical surveys and related observations the following list of fauna and avifauna presumably inhabit the Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa area and may venture into the community on occasion:

Table 3.2-2 Animals and Birds Reported on, or adjacent to the Project Site

Mammals:	Hawaiian bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus semotus</i>)
	Feral pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)
	Domestic dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)
	Domestic cat (<i>Felis catus</i>)
	Mongoose (<i>Herpestes aroupunctatus</i>)
	Common mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)
	Polynesian rat (<i>Rattus exulans</i>)
	Roof rat (<i>Rattus rattus</i>)
Birds:	Mynah (<i>Acridotherese t. tristis</i>)
	House finch (<i>Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis</i>)
	Ricebird (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)
	Barred dove (<i>Geopelia striata</i>)
	House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)
	Northern cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardenalisis</i>)
	Spotted dove (<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>)
	Japanese white-eye (<i>Zosterops j. japonica</i>)
	Pacific golden plover (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>)
	Hawaiian Owl (<i>Aseo flammeus sandwichensis</i>)

The coastal waters surrounding Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa are classified as Class AA by the Hawai'i Administrative Rules Title 11 Chapter 55. This classification is the most restricted and is generally applied to pristine waters that will be protected for recreation, research and conservation and limited propagation of marine life.

Coral development on the offshore platforms is patchy according to a 1981 survey. Individual colony growth is diversified by the amount of wave surge in each area.

Pocillopora meandrina is the most common species in high surge areas such as shallow bench areas. *Porites lobata* becomes dominant in areas subject to lower wave surge and *Porites compressa* begins to dominate in deeper areas. Coral growth generally disappears below 90 feet (Nolan and Cheney, 1981).

On a marine survey conducted for this Environmental Assessment it was noted that nearshore areas have large populations of sea urchins, herbivorous fish and coralline algae. Subtidal areas seem to be heavily grazed by herbivores and none of the larger algae noted from an earlier survey was observed. Seaweeds probably are found in nearshore areas that are protected from grazing by being intertidal or by the local topography that restricts entrance by grazing fish and urchins. Fishing pressure on nearshore reef fish also seemed to be light in comparison to other locations along the west coast of the Big Island. Parrotfish (*Chlorurus perspicillatus*) and Hapu'u or Roi (*Cephalopholis argus*), both a favorite target for spear fishermen were observed in large numbers. Smaller reef fish including Chromus, Acanthurids, Chaetodonts, and Balistids were also quite common.

Observation of nearshore fish and benthic communities was made between Miloli'i harbor and the point immediately seaward of the Miloli'i transfer station. No differences in the communities were observed in the vicinity of the transfer station. Observers were impressed by the large quantity of cold fresh water that entered the ocean at numerous points along the shoreline. Although these springs enhance terrestrial vegetation in the vicinity of the coastline, no differences in the aquatic communities were observed in the vicinity of these springs.

3.3 Socioeconomic

3.3.1 Social Factors and Community Identity

Miloli'i is a community composed largely of native Hawaiians whose families have lived in the same location for several generations. It is commonly referred to as the last fishing village in Hawai'i. A significant fraction of persons living in Miloli'i are fishermen. Some community members work outside the village, but many are involved in home-based enterprises.

The village is constructed on State-owned land that has been recently divided into legal lots with long-term leases. There are two phases of Miloli'i village. Phase I was awarded to residents already residing in the area surrounding the Miloli'i wharf. Fourteen lots were created. One of these lots is reserved for access to the Light at Kapukawa'a. Thirteen are occupied. To qualify for a lease award each family that was in residence at the time of the awards (1984) designated one member to be the lessee. Leases are expected to remain with the family of their original award through inheritance. All existing structures were grandfathered into legitimacy, so long as they did not present a threat to health and safety of the residents. Any new construction was required to comply with current building standards. Phase II of the community consists of up to 62 individual lots of 10,000 square feet each. These lots are two deep along the makai side of the access road, with a common access drive for four lots.

The lots in Phase II are not fully developed and occupied. In order to be eligible for leasehold in Miloli'i Phase II an applicant:

- (1) Must demonstrate that they are persons displaced, or descendants of persons displaced by the 1926 lava flow that destroyed Ho'opuloa village, and continued to reside in the area prior to 1949; or
- (2) Persons awarded a lot under County management of Executive Order No. 473, and did not relinquish that right, and who resided in that area prior to 1949; or
- (3) Must be a person who resided in that area by virtue of assignment of a lot by persons who were actually awarded a lot under Executive Order 473; or
- (4) Any heir of any person qualifying under points 1,2, or 3 and has resided in the area; or
- (5) Be any person who resides on one of the parcels on the effective date of the act, have permits to reside on the parcel and can prove their claim to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

All new construction in Phase II is required to meet development standards listed below:

1. abide by current health codes for the State of Hawai'i
2. have no chain-link fences,
3. have no piggeries
4. use quality materials in construction
5. paint or otherwise finish the exterior of the house
6. maintain landscaping of some sort
7. keep yard areas free of debris

8. have a minimum house size of 800 square feet
9. have a water catchment system
10. establish and adhere to a schedule for completion of construction.

The community association has encouraged culturally appropriate business development including net-making, lauhala weaving, preparation of opelu, marine engine repair, and canoe building.

Census data are not available for the Miloli'i area by itself. The southern part of South Kona lies within Census Tract 213. Selected socioeconomic characteristics are shown in Table 3.3-1. Miloli'i, with its high proportion of native Hawaiians, is probably distinct in many ways from the census tract as a whole, which is only 13.4 percent Hawaiian.

Table 3.3-1 Selected Socioeconomic Characteristics, Census Tract 213

Subject	Number	Percent
Total population	5,535	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	2,811	50.8
Female	2,724	49.2
Under 19 years	1,641	29.6
Over 65 years	585	10.6
Median age (years)	40.2	(X)
RACE		
White	2,179	39.4
Black or African American	16	0.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	31	0.6
Asian	840	15.2
Chinese	45	0.8
Filipino	305	5.5
Japanese	415	7.5
Korean	4	0.1

Vietnamese	2	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	809	14.6
Native Hawaiian	739	13.4
Guamanian or Chamorro	2	0.0
Samoan	14	0.3
Some other race	81	1.5
Two or more races	1,579	28.5
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	359	6.5
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE		
Total households	1,945	100.0
Family households (families)	1,362	70.0
With own children under 18 years	628	32.3
Married-couple family	998	51.3
With own children under 18 years	438	22.5
Female householder, no husband present	224	11.5
With own children under 18 years	116	6.0
No family households	583	30.0
Householder living alone	406	20.9
Householder 65 years and over	107	5.5
Average household size	2.84	(X)
Average family size	3.33	(X)
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	2,269	100.0
Occupied housing units	1,945	85.7
Vacant housing units	324	14.3

For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	194	8.6
HOUSING TENURE		
Occupied housing units	1,945	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	1,240	63.8
Renter-occupied housing units	705	36.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Web Page. <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

3.3.2 Public Services, Facilities and Utilities

The community is provided with municipal roads, power, telephone and solid waste disposal opportunities. Potable water from the County system is not available, and each family either collects potable water from rain catchments or hauls water from elsewhere. A community-run non-potable water system is available on an intermittent basis.

Wastewater is disposed in individual wastewater systems. First response emergency services are provided by community members.

Miloli'i has been serviced by the Kaupiko Store for many years. It carries food items, and gasoline. An economic development zone has been established around the pavilion at Miloli'i Bay. The pavilion has community accessible chilling and freezing capacity and other equipment to support fishing-related business.

3.3.3 Roads and Access

The Miloli'i access road is a ten-foot wide paved, public road within a 25-foot easement. The road begins at Mamalahoa Highway and extends to the pavilion at Miloli'i Bay. The distance is approximately 5.5 miles. The transfer station is just less than 4.5 miles from the Highway. This road provides the only access/egress from the village. Approximately halfway down the access road intersects the road which services the private parcels to the north of Miloli'i village. The residents of this area also utilize the transfer station. Because it is narrower than most public access roads and it is quite a few sharp turns, heavy vehicles have great difficulty getting to Miloli'i village and the transfer station. This factor limits the County's ability to manage and operate the transfer station using public vehicles and personnel.

3.3.4 Archaeological and Historic Resources

Miloli'i is unique in culture and tradition as the last traditional fishing village in Hawai'i. Several post contact sites are on the historical record or are candidates for the historical record (Figure 7). The community has undertaken an oral history project designed to capture the heritage of Miloli'i-Ho'opuloa communities, with place names being a central

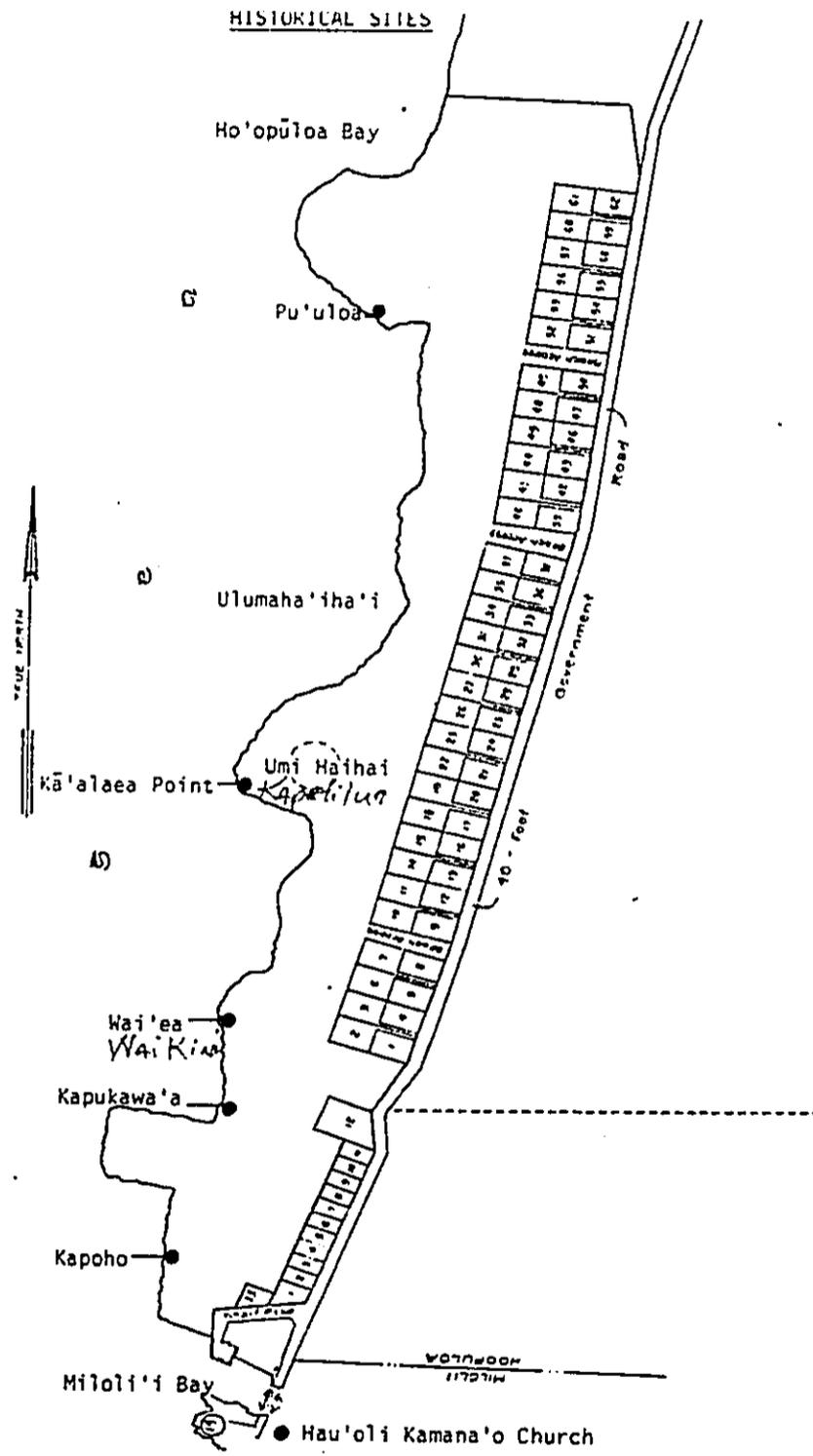


Figure 7: Cultural/ Archeological sites within the vicinity of the Miloli'i transfer station.

part of that effort. In the vicinity of Miloli'i village the Hau'oli Kamana'o Church is on the Historic Register (File # 10165/7352). The church was given the status as a new mission in 1883 because of its large and expanding congregation. The building predates this designation, but was moved from its original location. Other historical sites include:

- Wai'ea and Kapukawa'a, which are shoreline sites within approximately 500 feet of the transfer station location.
- Kapoho, another shoreline site near Miloli'i Bay
- Kaalaea Point and Pu'u'loa, which are shoreline sites north of the transfer station
- Umi Haihai is a burial site.

The transfer station property has no recognized archeological, cultural or historical sites in close proximity. The subject property is quite small and has been graded during construction of the Miloli'i access road and again repeatedly over the past 20 years to maintain the transfer station site. Wai'ea and Kapukawa'a are not visible from the transfer station property due to dense Kiawe vegetation. The extremely sharp and irregular 'a'a ground would make shoreline access quite difficult from the transfer station property.

The transfer station is isolated from the nearest known sites by topographic and vegetative barriers, which greatly reduce potential impacts on these sites from the transfer station. The State Historic Preservation Office was notified during the pre-consultation period. Their comments were solicited during the comment period following publication of the Draft EA. The County concludes that there are no physical sites or artifacts of historical or archaeological significance that will be impacted by the continued use of the site.

3.3.5 Cultural Impacts

Cultural Impacts were assessed during community meetings and during discussions, telephone interviews and letters sent by Ms Napeahi, a Miloli'i resident, who is a member of the consulting team. The County received no comments on cultural impacts from operation of the transfer station during public meetings, from requests for information, or research on this project.

Miloli'i is quite rich in cultural resources due to its isolation, ownership and dominant Hawaiian makeup. Miloli'i residents may have a greater cultural identity than the general population. They are proud of their predominant Hawaiian heritage, aware of their environment, and careful to conserve the traditional values associated with the last Hawaiian fishing village. Many residents cherish their isolation and wish to protect it. Some commute to surrounding villages for work, but many do not regularly leave Miloli'i, and have limited ability to transport household waste outside of walking

distance. The ability to be self sufficient within a traditional Hawaiian fishing village is very important to maintaining their cultural identity. Traditional solid waste disposal practices are no longer legal or acceptable; therefore, like all residents of Hawai'i County they are dependent on municipal solid waste services to protect public health and the environment.

Maintaining an available waste disposal system for the residents of Miloli'i is contributes to the preservation of the community identity and cultural heritage, by making it feasible to dispose household waste without leaving the community or owning a vehicle. In this role, the Miloli'i transfer station has a positive impact on the cultural heritage of the community by allowing residents to enjoy solid waste disposal services without leaving the community.

The no action alternative of immediate closure would result in many residents being unable to independently dispose of waste in a legal and proper manner, and would have an immediate impact on the ability of some residents to remain in the community and comply with environmental regulations. That stated, the County intends to displace the transfer station to a location near the top of the Miloli'i access road. Part of the County's strategy is to give sufficient notice and planning support to encourage community-based organizations that assist those who need help in disposing household waste.

The County is unaware of any beliefs or cultural practices that are impacted by maintaining the ability to dispose of waste within the community.

3.3.6 Agricultural Land

All of the land within the villages of Miloli'i and Ho'opuloa, including the transfer station is State-owned land within the Conservation District. Land on the inland side of the access road is privately held agricultural land. No agriculture is practiced on the lower portion of these parcels due to the lack of soil and water. Portions of these parcels that are adjacent to Mamalahoa Highway receive sufficient rainfall that some soil has developed. These activities are sufficiently distant from the transfer station to be unaffected by any actions associated with the proposed action or alternatives.

3.4 Growth-Inducing, Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Safe, convenient and cost-effective solid waste disposal is a basic requirement of all communities. Without the transfer station community members would be required to travel more than 15 miles to dispose of waste at the closest legal disposal point. The proposed action allows for waste disposal that meets the basic requirement for the residents. When an alternative facility is available on Mamalahoa Highway it will be more cost effective for the County but somewhat less convenient to the residents of Miloli'i. The community of Miloli'i does not measure success in terms of growth or economic development, but seeks to retain their traditional way of life (A'a Pono Miloli'i, 1984). Burning waste is one of the traditional practices that are displaced by the transfer station, but residents recognize that protecting public health and the environment require that some traditional practices be abandoned.

Secondary and cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action include a slight increase in traffic as residents of developments in Ho'opuloa utilize the transfer station.

The County contracts with a long-time Miloli'i family to manage the transfer station. Funding from this contract has led to development of a broader trucking business in Miloli'i. The positive impacts of having a trucking business in the village include access to heavy equipment and minor repair services, the availability of fuel and other supplies to residents. The secondary impacts of having a successful business in the community include local employment and associated economic trickle-down from this business.

3.5 Required Permits and Approvals

The Miloli'i transfer station is located in the Special Management Area because of its proximity to the shoreline. As a result the facility is required to obtain a special management area permit from the Department of Planning. It is also located in a special subzone of the State Conservation District. As a result it will require a Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) from the Land Board.

The other major permit required is a solid waste management permit from the State Department of Health, Office of Solid Waste Management (OSWM). The OSWM permit requires best management practices to protect public health and the environment from unnecessary problems associated with collection and transport of waste. Because there is no waste processing or recycling activity at the site it is not subject to NPDES industrial stormwater requirements.

4.0 CONSISTENCY WITH GOVERNMENT PLANS, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The project is consistent with relevant government plans and policies, which call for expanded services to prevent illegal dumping, promote recycling and provide all residents with a convenient method for solid waste management that is protective of human health and the environment. The location in a Conservation District and Special Management Area is not consistent with State and County land-use plans. This inconsistency will be addressed by obtaining CDUA and SMA permits. The County's objectives for solid waste management are defined in the following planning documents.

4.1 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan

The Update to the ISWMP adopted by the County and dated December 2002 is an update to the original Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, which was adopted by the County in 1994. This Update to the ISWMP documents the existing facilities and conditions, future needs, and planning priorities for the County to meet solid waste disposal and recycling goals over a 20-year planning period. These goals and priorities were identified by a Solid Waste Advisory Committee empowered by the County, revised according to public input and accepted by the County Council and the Office of the Mayor. The ISWMP now represents the County policy on solid waste management. A set of four guiding principals was agreed upon which form the basis of the County's policy toward solid waste management. They are:

- *Construct no new landfills in East Hawai'i,*
- *Emphasize recycling of recoverable materials at the planned East Hawai'i Sort Station,*
- *Procure a waste reduction facility for the East Hawai'i Waste Stream using either Waste-to-energy incineration, thermal gasification, or anaerobic digestion technology, and*
- *Establish a County recycling program that has the potential to increase waste diversion significantly.*

To support these goals of reducing the amount of waste entering its landfill, the County will launch an island-wide effort to increase its support for reuse, recycling and other types of waste diversion. This support will include:

- A program to upgrade rural transfer stations to include recycling centers. A transfer station enhancement plan is currently being developed. The objective of the plan is to make recycling easy and convenient at the rural transfer stations. Several levels of service will be provided based on the station use, projected growth and other recycling opportunities available,
- Continuation of the County's Abandoned Vehicle Program and enhancement of the County's scrap metal processing facilities to accommodate the recycling of vehicular and non-vehicular scrap metals.

- Organic materials including greenwaste, untreated lumber, non-animal food waste, and other organic waste will be composted and marketed by a County contractor,
- Support for waste diversion will be enhanced to assist private business that remanufacture, collect, or sell waste materials at a profit,
- Recycling education and public awareness programs will be implemented and promoted by the recently hired County Recycling Coordinator, and
- A waste reduction technology will be further investigated and, once a suitable technology is identified, it will be procured. A waste reduction technology is a facility that accepts mixed wastes and processes or transforms them to energy and/or soil amendment. The recycling of source-separated materials, such as glass, newspapers, cardboard, etc., may still occur before the waste is delivered to the waste reduction technology. In some cases, materials such as ferrous metals, soil amendment or compost may also be recovered at the waste reduction facility. In the transformation process the amount of waste for landfill disposal is greatly reduced.
- An effort to establish unique waste management practices in the community of Miloli'i is being supported by the County.

4.2 Hawai'i State Plan

Adopted in 1978 and last revised in 1991 (Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 226, as amended), the *Hawai'i State Plan* establishes a set of themes, goals, objectives and policies that are meant to guide the State's long-term growth and development activities. The three themes that express the basic purpose of the *Hawai'i State Plan* are individual and family self-sufficiency, social and economic mobility, and community or social well-being. The *Hawai'i State Plan* also provides for the preparation of Functional Plans by the State agencies responsible for certain program areas. There are twelve Functional Plans dealing with specific areas of concern, and each contains objectives, policies, and implementing actions necessary to accomplish the goals of the plan. State Functional Plans cover the program areas of agriculture, transportation, conservation lands, housing, tourism, historic preservation, energy, recreation, education, health, human services and employment. No specific functional plans deal with the issue of solid waste. Chapter 226-4 sets forth goals associated with the *Hawai'i State Plan*:

- (1) A strong, viable economy, characterized by stability, diversity, and growth, that enables the fulfillment of the needs and expectations of Hawai'i's present and future generations.
- (2) A desired physical environment, characterized by beauty, cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people.

- (3) Physical, social, and economic well-being, for individuals and families in Hawai'i, that nourishes a sense of community responsibility, of caring, and of participation in community life.

The aspects of the plan most pertinent to the proposed project are the following:

Chapter 226-15 Objectives and policies for facility systems--solid and liquid wastes. (a) Planning for the State's facility systems with regard to solid and liquid wastes shall be directed towards the achievement of the following objectives:

- (1) Maintenance of basic public health and sanitation standards relating to treatment and disposal of solid and liquid wastes.
 - (b) To achieve solid and liquid waste objectives, it shall be the policy of this State to:
- (2) Promote reuse and recycling to reduce solid and liquid wastes and employ a conservation ethic.
- (3) Promote research to develop more efficient and economical treatment and disposal of solid and liquid wastes.

Chapter 226-11 *Objectives and policies for the physical environment--land-based, shoreline, and marine resources.* Planning for the State's physical environment with regard to land-based, shoreline, and marine resources shall be directed towards achievement of prudent use of Hawai'i's land-based, shoreline, and marine resources and effective protection of Hawai'i's unique and fragile environmental resources. To achieve the land-based, shoreline, and marine resources objectives, it shall be the policy of the State to:

- (1) *Exercise an overall conservation ethic in the use of Hawai'i's natural resources.*
- (2) *Ensure compatibility between land-based and water-based activities and natural resources and ecological systems.*
- (3) *Take into account the physical attributes of areas when planning and designing activities and facilities.*
- (4) *Manage natural resources and environs to encourage their beneficial and multiple use without generating costly or irreparable environmental damage.*
- (5) *Consider multiple uses in watershed areas, provided such uses do not detrimentally affect water quality and recharge functions.*
- (6) *Encourage the protection of rare or endangered plant and animal species and habitats native to Hawai'i.*
- (7) *Pursue compatible relationships among activities, facilities, and natural resources.*
- (8) *Promote increased accessibility and prudent use of inland and shoreline areas for public recreational, educational, and scientific purposes.*

Chapter 226-12 *Objective and policies for the physical environment--scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources.* 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. To achieve the scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources objective, it shall be the policy of the State to:

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

Chapter 226-13 *Objectives and policies for the physical environment--land, air, and water quality.* Planning for the State's physical environment with regard to land, air, and water quality shall be directed towards maintenance and pursuit of improved quality in Hawai'i's land, air, and water resources, and greater public awareness and appreciation of Hawai'i's environmental resources. To achieve the land, air, and water quality objectives, it shall be the policy of the State to (among other actions):

- (2) Promote the proper management of Hawai'i's land and water resources.*
- (3) Promote effective measures to achieve desired quality in Hawai'i's surface, ground, and coastal waters.*
- (4) Encourage actions to maintain or improve aural and air quality levels to enhance the health and well-being of Hawai'i's people.*
- (5) Reduce the threat to life and property from erosion, flooding, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural or man-induced hazards and disasters.*
- (6) Encourage design and construction practices that enhance the physical qualities of Hawai'i's communities.*
- (7) Encourage urban developments in close proximity to existing services and facilities.*
- (8) Foster recognition of the importance and value of the land, air, and water resources to Hawai'i's people, their cultures and visitors.*

Discussion. The existing Miloli'i transfer station is consistent with many of the goals, objectives and policies of the *Hawai'i State Plan*. Specifically, the project is consistent with aspects of the Plan that call for protection of the environment although not in the manner or location specified in land-use restrictions. The site contains no rare or endangered species, historic sites, or other sensitive environmental conditions. Appropriate standards for avoiding the environmental impacts of solid waste disposal have been implemented, and will remain in effect until the facility is closed. At that time an independent consultant will be retained to assess the environmental condition of the property and propose mitigation measures, if necessary, prior to the return of land to the State of Hawai'i.

4.3 Hawai'i State Land Use Law

All land in the State of Hawai'i is classified into one of four land use categories – Urban, Rural, Agricultural, or Conservation – by the State Land Use Commission, pursuant to Chapter 183-c, HRS.

The project will involve construction within the State Land Use Conservation District, defined in HRS 205-2(e)

(e) Conservation districts shall include areas necessary for protecting watersheds and water sources; preserving scenic and historic areas; providing park lands, wilderness, and beach reserves; conserving indigenous or endemic plants, fish, and wildlife, including those which are threatened or endangered; preventing floods and soil erosion; forestry; open space areas whose existing openness, natural condition, or present state of use, if retained, would enhance the present or potential value of abutting or surrounding communities, or would maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources; areas of value for recreational purposes; other related activities; and other permitted uses not detrimental to a multiple use conservation concept.

Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that lands within the state land use conservation district contain important natural resources essential to the preservation of the State's fragile natural ecosystems and the sustainability of the State's water supply. It is therefore, the intent of the legislature to conserve, protect, and preserve the important natural resources of the State through appropriate management and use to promote their long-term sustainability and the public health, safety and welfare. [L 1994, c 270, pt of §1]

Discussion:

All solid waste handling facilities are subject to plan review. Because the existing facility is located within the Conservation District, a conservation District use Authorization will be required to comply with the Hawai'i State Land use Plan and HRS 205. The existing facility is monitored and maintained by the community, who are protective of the environmental condition of the coastline in that area.

4.4 Hawai'i County General Plan

The *General Plan* for the County of Hawai'i is the document expressing the broad goals and policies for the long-range development of the Island of Hawai'i. The plan was adopted by ordinance in 2005. The *General Plan* is organized into thirteen elements, with policies, objectives, standards, and principles for each. There are also discussions of the specific applicability of each element to the nine judicial districts comprising the County of Hawai'i. Below are pertinent sections followed by a discussion of conformance.

ECONOMIC GOALS

Provide residents with opportunities to improve their quality of life through economic development that enhances the County's natural and social environments.

Economic development and improvement shall be in balance with the physical, social, and cultural environments of the island of Hawai'i.

Strive for diversity and stability in the economic system.

Provide an economic environment that allows new, expanded, or improved economic opportunities that are compatible with the County's cultural, natural and social environment.

Discussion: The proposed project is in compliance with The General Plan by providing essential public services necessary to maintain public health and the environment. Such activities are in keeping with the overall economic development of the island.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY GOALS

Define the most desirable use of land within the County that achieves an ecological balance providing residents and visitors the quality of life and an environment in which the natural resources of the island are viable and sustainable.

Maintain and, if feasible, improve the existing environmental quality of the island.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POLICIES

Take positive action to further maintain the quality of the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Pollution shall be prevented, abated, and controlled at levels that will protect and preserve the public health and well being, through the enforcement of appropriate Federal, State and County standards.

Incorporate environmental quality controls [are to be incorporated] either as standards in appropriate ordinances or as conditions of approval.

Discussion: The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the environment and would not diminish the valuable natural resources of Miloli'i. Environmental quality controls are incorporated with the provisions of operation and maintenance that are specified in the solid waste ordinances and state regulations covering solid waste collection facilities..

HISTORIC SITES GOALS

Protect, restore, and enhance the sites, buildings, and objects of significant historical and cultural importance to Hawai'i.

Appropriate access to significant historic sites, buildings, and objects of public interest should be made available.

HISTORIC SITES POLICIES

Agencies and organizations, either public or private, pursuing knowledge about historic sites should keep the public apprised of projects.

Require both public and private developers of land to provide historical and archaeological surveys and cultural assessments, where appropriate, prior to the clearing or development of land when there are indications that the land under consideration has historical significance.

Public access to significant historic sites and objects shall be acquired, where appropriate.

Discussion: Archaeological resources have been protected through inventory survey, which has been reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Division.

FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE GOALS

Conserve scenic and natural resources.

Protect human life.

Prevent damage to man-made improvements.

Control pollution.

Prevent damage from inundation.

Reduce surface water and sediment runoff

FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE POLICIES

Enact restrictive land use and building structure regulations in areas vulnerable to severe damage due to the impact of wave action. Only uses that cannot be located elsewhere due to public necessity and character, such as maritime activities and the necessary public facilities and utilities, shall be allowed in these areas.

Development-generated runoff shall be disposed of in a manner acceptable to the Department of Public Works in compliance with all State and Federal laws.

FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE STANDARDS

Applicable standards and regulations of Chapter 27, "Flood Control," of the Hawai'i County Code.

Applicable standards and regulations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Applicable standards and regulations of Chapter 10, "Erosion and Sedimentation Control" of the Hawai'i County Code.

Applicable standards and regulations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Discussion: The property is within the Tsunami inundation zone, but outside the 100-year floodplain, according to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). It is apparent from the history of Tsunamis in the area that only the most catastrophic tsunami is likely to affect the transfer station in its current location.

NATURAL BEAUTY GOALS

Protect, preserve and enhance the quality of areas endowed with natural beauty, including the quality of coastal scenic resources.

Protect scenic vistas and view planes from becoming obstructed.

Maximize opportunities for present and future generations to appreciate and enjoy natural and scenic beauty.

NATURAL BEAUTY POLICIES

Increase public pedestrian access opportunities to scenic places and vistas.

Protect the views of areas endowed with natural beauty by carefully considering the effects of proposed construction during all land use reviews.

Do not allow incompatible construction in areas of natural beauty.

Discussion: The current location of the transfer station is hidden from view in both directions by natural features or vegetation. It does not block scenic coastal vistas due to dense Kiawe forests between the site and the shoreline. Although it is located in the SMA and Conservation District, the site is quite suitable for its function and it does not impact scenic vistas.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND SHORELINES GOALS

Protect and conserve the natural resources of the County of Hawai'i from undue exploitation, encroachment and damage.

Provide opportunities for the public to fulfill recreational, economic, and educational needs without despoiling or endangering natural resources.

Protect and promote the prudent use of Hawaii's unique, fragile, and significant environmental and natural resources.

Ensure that alterations to existing landforms and vegetation, except crops, and construction of structures cause minimum adverse effect to water resources, and scenic and recreational amenities and minimum danger of floods, landslides, erosion, siltation, or failure in the event of earthquake.

Discussion: The transfer station protects the shoreline from illegal dumping and unwanted litter by being centrally located to the source of waste generation. The current operation does not impact aquatic or terrestrial natural resources in its vicinity. Outside of a small graded area along the roadside it has not changed the landform of the area.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND SHORELINES POLICIES

The County of Hawai'i should require users of natural resources to conduct their activities in a manner that avoids or minimizes adverse effects on the environment.

Encourage the use of native plants for screening and landscaping.

Discussion: The proposed project avoids impact on shoreline resources by remaining located well inland, and by providing a method to reduce illegal dumping and litter.

LAND USE GOALS

Designate and allocate land uses in appropriate proportions and mix and in keeping with the social, cultural, and physical environments of the County.

LAND USE POLICIES

Allocate appropriate requested zoning in accordance with the existing or projected needs of neighborhood, community, region and County.

LAND USE, OPEN SPACE GOALS

Provide and protect open space for the social, environmental, and economic well-being of the County of Hawai'i and its residents.

Protect designated natural areas.

LAND USE, OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Open space shall reflect and be in keeping with the goals, policies, and standards set forth in the other elements of the General Plan.

4.5 Governing Statutes and Administrative Rules

HRS 343: This Environmental Assessment (EA) is required by triggers defined in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, which is also known as the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA). The primary trigger is the use of public land and funding. The County of Hawai'i, Department of Environmental Management (DEM), is the proposing agency for this EA.

HEPA was enacted by the Hawai'i State Legislature to require State and County agencies to consider the environmental impacts of various actions as part of the decision-making process. Agencies are required to conduct an investigation and evaluation of alternatives as part of the environmental impact analysis process, prior to making decisions that may impact the environment. The implementing regulations for HEPA are contained in Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR).

The Draft EA was prepared to document environmental conditions and impacts, to develop mitigation measures that avoid, minimize or compensate for adverse environmental impacts, and determine whether or not an action has significant impacts upon the environment. Impacts are evaluated for significance according to thirteen specific criteria as presented in HAR 11-200-12. If no significant impacts are expected, then a Final EA with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be issued. When the Draft EA determines that significant impacts are present, then a Notice of Intent is prepared and the Final EA facilitates preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

HRS Chapter 183C: establishes policies and procedures for lands within the state land use conservation district. The intent of the Statute is to conserve, protect, and preserve the important natural resources of the State through appropriate management and use to promote their long-term sustainability and the public health, safety and welfare.

HRS 183C defines the permissible uses of land located in the Conservation District, and defines procedures for obtaining permits for use and site plan review of activities within the conservation District.

HRS 205A the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Act established special Management Areas. The Act requires special controls on developments within an area along the shoreline are necessary to avoid permanent losses of valuable resources and the foreclosure of management options, and to ensure that adequate access, by dedication or other means, to public owned or used beaches, recreation areas, and natural reserves is provided. The Act declares that it is the state policy to preserve, protect, and where possible, to restore the natural resources of the coastal zone of Hawai'i

No development shall be allowed in any County within the special management area without obtaining a permit in accordance with this part. No agency authorized to issue permits pertaining to any development within the special management area shall authorize any development unless approval is first received in accordance with the procedures adopted pursuant to this part.

The Miloli'i transfer station is operated on public land and uses public funding. The property is in the Special Management Area (SMA) and the land on which it is placed is in a State designated Conservation District. The OSWM permit requires a zoning clearance from the County of Hawai'i Planning Department and a landowner authorization from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Neither of these requirements can be met without an SMA permit or a Conservation District Use Authorization (CDUA). Each of these permits is aided by preparation of an Environmental Assessment or similar documentation. The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management has prepared this EA, to support permits from the Office of Solid Waste Management, SMA, and CDUA.

5.0 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The Miloli'i transfer station has provided essential public services for the community since the mid 1980's. After a review of the affected environment and resident's concerns, the County recognizes that the facility creates minor noise and odor impacts to the quality of life of the residents living closest to the transfer station. The County will work through the existing community organization to minimize those impacts through public education on how, when and what to dispose at the transfer station. The County will also attempt to supplement the waste management ability of the facility with alternatives provided by outside funding, and will relocate the functions of this facility to a site near Mamalahoa Highway that is accessible to County waste vehicles.

Although the facility is located in a Special Management Area and within the Conservation District, the County finds that the transfer station has negligible impact on the shoreline use, cultural resources, and environment because it is isolated from the shoreline by rough terrain and vegetative barriers. Land-use restrictions on the existing location require that Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) and a Special Management Area Permit be obtained. For this reason the location is not in compliance with State of Hawai'i land-use plans or County zoning ordinances. Despite these restrictions the existing facility is found to have only minor impacts to the environment and quality of life in Miloli'i. These impacts are far outweighed by the opportunity to dispose of residential waste in a safe, convenient and environmentally sound manner.

The County anticipates a finding of no significant impact, and intends to operate the Miloli'i transfer station in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations until it can be replaced.

5.1 Agency Determination of Significance

In considering the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the County Department of Environmental Management has considered the sum of the effect on the quality of the environment and evaluated the overall and cumulative effects of the proposed action. The expected consequences of the action, both primary and secondary, cumulative, long-term and short-term are included in this determination.

Any agency action is determined to have a significant effect on its environment if it violates the 13 criteria listed in the Hawai'i Revised Standards (HRS) Chapter 11-200-12, which follow:

An action will be determined to have a significant impact on the environment if it:

1. Involves irrevocable commitment, loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource,
2. Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment

3. Conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies, goals and guidelines expressed in HRS Chapter 344, revisions and amendments thereto, court decisions or executive orders.
4. Substantially affects the economic welfare, social welfare, and cultural practices of the community or state.
5. Substantially affects public health
6. Involves substantial secondary impacts such as population changes or affects on public facilities.
7. involves substantial degradation of environmental quality.
8. Is individually limited, but cumulatively has a considerable affect on the environment, or involves a commitment for larger actions.
9. Substantially affects a rare, endangered, or threatened species, or its habitat
10. Detrimentially affects air or water quality, or ambient noise levels.
11. Affects, or is likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach, geologically hazardous land, estuary, freshwater, or coastal lands.
12. Substantially affects scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in County or State Plans, or
13. Requires substantial energy consumption.

After thorough review of these criteria and the proposed action the County has determined that there shall be no irrevocable commitment, loss or destruction of resources, and no impacts on the beneficial uses of the environment. Potential conflicts with HRS 344 will be resolved through land-use permitting. The transfer station does not negatively impact welfare or public health; although both would be negatively affected if the transfer station was not maintained. There are no secondary or cumulative impacts resulting from operation of the transfer station. The transfer station has the primary objective to prevent degradation of environmental quality. Nearby residents have voiced concerns over the odor resulting from the facility; however, this affect seems to be minor and preventable through management of the facility. There are no locally affected threatened or endangered species. No ambient air or water quality affects are confirmed. Ambient noise is occasionally elevated in nearby residences as a result of operations, but this again is judged to be transient and insignificant. The facility is located within the shoreline management area and conservation district, but not affected by any but the most severe tsunamis due to the open rocky coastline. There are no scenic vistas blocked by the transfer station. Energy consumption is limited to the fuel used by the disposal contractor to haul waste to West Hawai'i Sanitary Landfill and back, but not significant in terms of island, or community wide energy usage.

After a review of the project and significant criteria the County finds that there is no significant impact associated with the continued operation of the facility.

6.0 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

6.1 Agencies and Organizations Contacted

Requests for comments on the proposed action were sent to the following agencies and organizations:

Peter Young, Director Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources
Deputy Director Environmental Health Administration, State Department of Health
Ruby McDonald Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Bob Jacobson, Councilmember Hawai'i County Council
State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Christopher J. Yuen, Director Hawai'i County Planning Department
Bruce McClure, Director Hawai'i County Department of Public Works
Darryl Oliveira, Chief Hawai'i County Fire Department
Patricia Engelhard, Director Hawai'i County Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Senator Paul Whalen 3rd Senatorial District
Rep. Robert N. Herkes 5th Representative District
Kona Outdoor Circle
Janice Yang, President Kona Hawaiian Civic Club
Sierra Club
Ocean View Community Association
Steve Chang, Chief Office of Solid Waste Management
Kimberly Mills, Planner Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
Wesley Matsunaga, Hawai'i State Department of Land & Natural Resources

Five agencies responded to the proponents request for comments. Their instructions and considerations are reflected in this document. Copies of these letters are attached in Appendix 3.

Copies of the Draft Environmental assessment were sent to the following agencies, organizations and individuals:

Office of Environmental Quality Control
Department of Accounting and General Services
Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources
Deputy Director Environmental Health Administration, State Department of Health
Hawai'i DBEDT Planning Office
Department of Hawaiian Homelands
Department of Health, Office of Solid Waste Management
State Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawai'i County Planning Department
Hawai'i County Department of Public Works
Kailua-Kona Public Library
Kealahou Public Library
Miloli'i Community Organization

Four comments were received from State agencies in response to the Draft Environmental Assessment. The comments in these letters have been addressed in the appropriate location in this Final Environmental Assessment and appear in Appendix 3. Five letters were received from interested parties, primarily residents of Miloli'i (see Appendix 3). Three of the letters had concern for the situation when the Miloli'i transfer station was closed and how to adjust to the transition. These concerns have been addressed in Section 2.1 of this document. Two of the letters were expressed concern for the current location of the transfer station. One pointed out that the current location was intended to be temporary and that the Miloli'i community plan had the facility located on the mountain (*Mauka*) side of the highway, outside of the major residential areas. The alternative site assessment is contained in Section 2.2. The other is a letter from an adjacent resident that transmits quality of life issues that are certainly real for residents that are close to the facility. The letter from Mr. Paulo cites odor and vector concerns that undoubtedly affect the quality of life for the adjacent resident. The residents concerns are addressed in additional management recommendations in this Final Environmental Assessment. The County believes that odor and vectors can be reduced through proper management of the transfer station. Mr. Paulo states that the residents do not show sufficient concern for the land. This issue will be addressed in community meetings and with additional funding from the County to address alternative waste disposal strategies.

The County has determined that the community is best served by maintaining the existing transfer station to provide solid waste disposal services for all of the community despite some quality of life issues that affect at least one adjacent resident.

6.2 Public Coordination and Individuals Consulted

The consulting team held a public meeting at the Miloli'i Pavilion on October 26, 2005. The following notice for the public meeting was published in the Hawaii Tribune Herald, and The West Hawaii Today on October 12 and October 21, 2005.

A request for comments along with the announcement of the public meeting were sent to all the residents of Miloli'i and other persons of interest including:

Miloli'i ~ Ho'opuloa `Ahahui	Antonio Akiu
Wilfred Kaupiko	Melanie Fuller
Gil Kahele	Walter Paulo
Honomalino Acres Owners Association.	Clement Chang
Louis Kuahuia Jr.	Michael Forcum Sr
Dora Halena	Roberto Martines
Amoe Casuga	Abel Kahele
Raymond Kuahuia Sr.	Priscilla Llanes
Ben Casuga	Madeline Paulo
Pearline Casuga	Jack Casuga
Kristy Young	Louis Kuahuia Sr

Felisa Kaniho
Mildred Casuga
Moanakeala Kaupiko

Raymond Kuahuia Jr
Alice Gouveia

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

In the matter of the Miloli'i Solid Waste Transfer Station

This public meeting will be held on Wednesday October 26, 2005 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Miloli'i Beach Park Pavilion.

All interested parties are invited.

The County of Hawai'i is now engaged in an after-the-fact Environmental Assessment and permitting process designed to keep the Miloli'i Transfer Station open. This meeting is to gather all information relevant to acquiring proper permits for the Miloli'i Transfer Station to remain open until another site can be acquired and developed.

Various aspects of this plan will be discussed and attendees will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Written comments can be provided before and after the meeting, or may be addressed at any time to:

Mr. David Robichaux
P.O. Box 1018
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

7.0 LIST OF DOCUMENT PREPARERS

This document was prepared by DR Associate's with significant contributions from Dr. Ron Terry, Principal of Geometrician Associates and Ms. La Cher Napeahi. Mr. Nelson Ho, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Management spent many hours in document review, public meetings, and responding to telephone requests for comments and coordination in conjunction with this project. Without the efforts of each of these team members preparation of this document would not have been possible.

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Appendix 1 Site Photographs

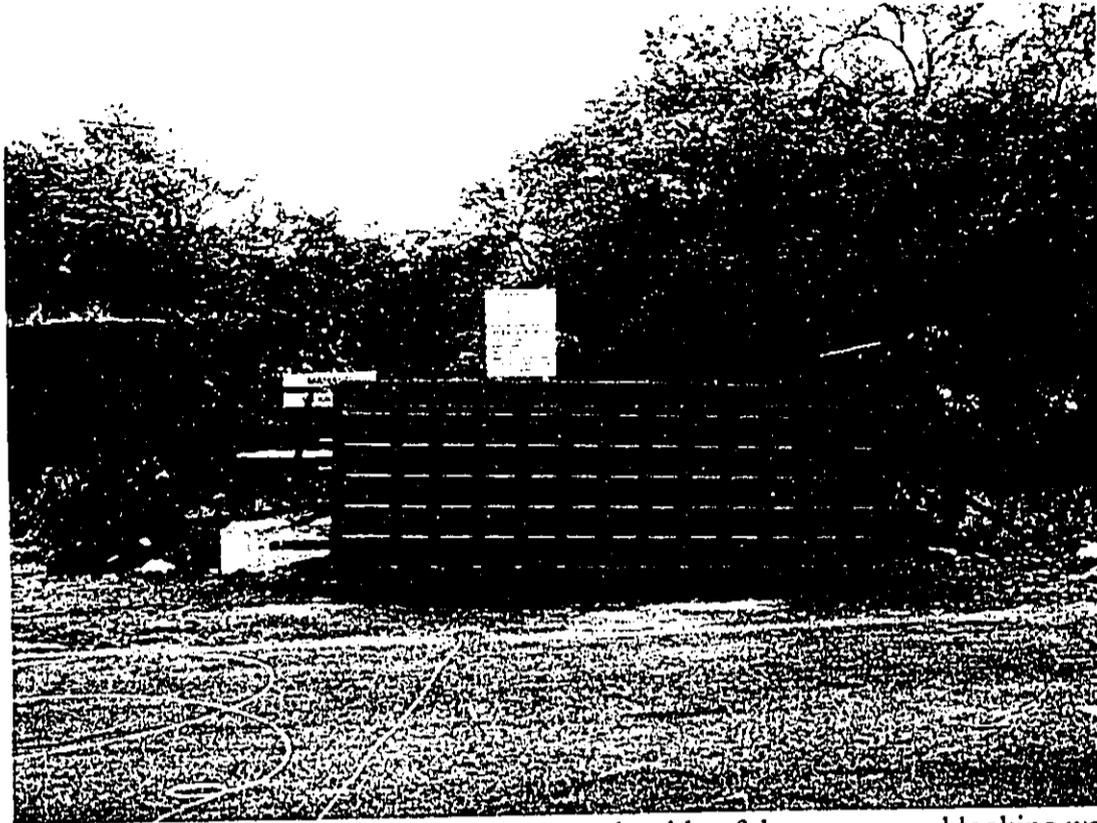


Plate 1: Miloli'i transfer station from the mauka side of the access road looking west.



Plate 2: The view east toward Mamalahoa Highway from Miloli'i transfer station



Plate 3: The view south along Miloli'i Access Road from the subject property.



Plate 4: The view north along Miloli'i Access Road from the subject property



Plate 5: The waste container, stairway, and parking area looking north.

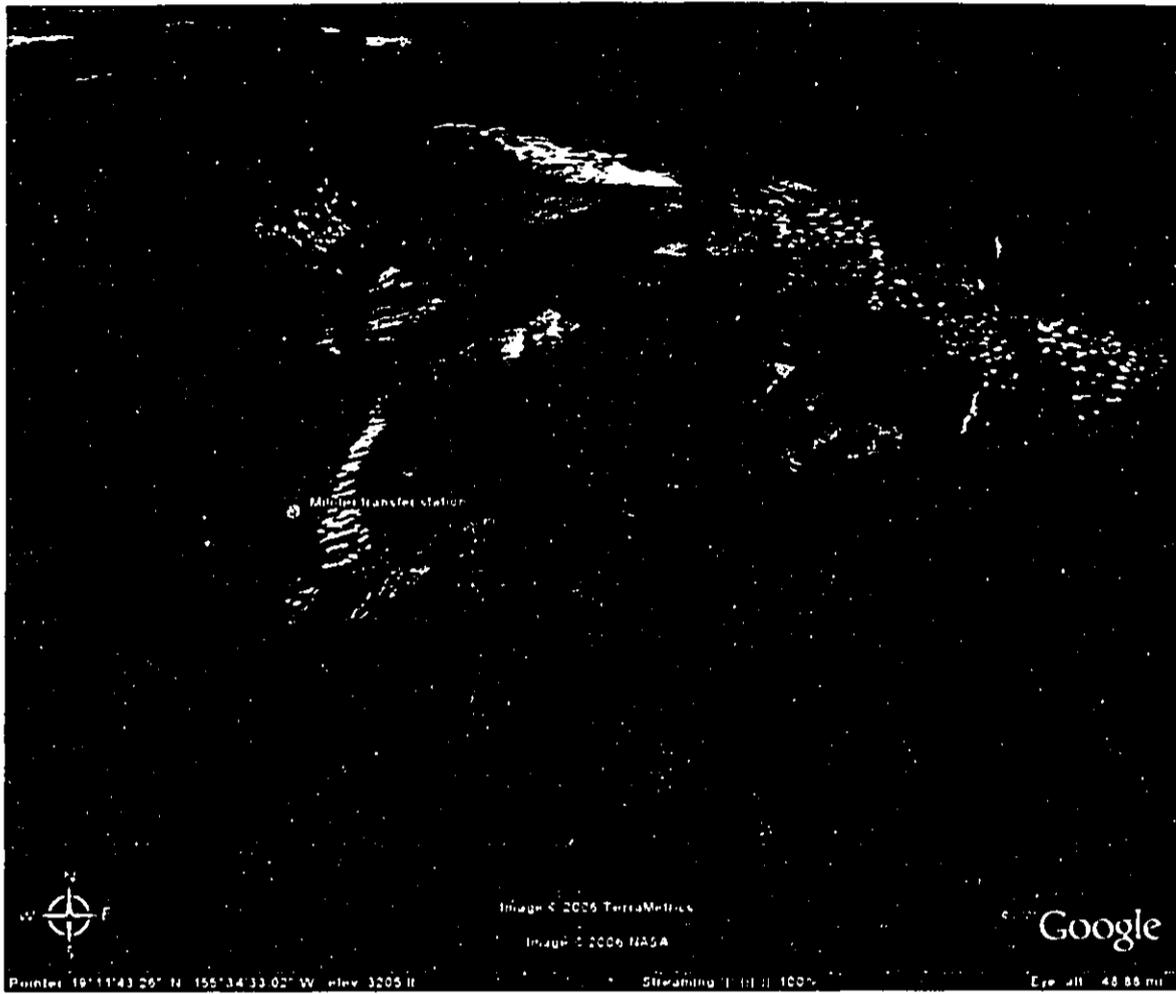


Plate 6: Isometric view of the Island of Hawai'i showing the project location

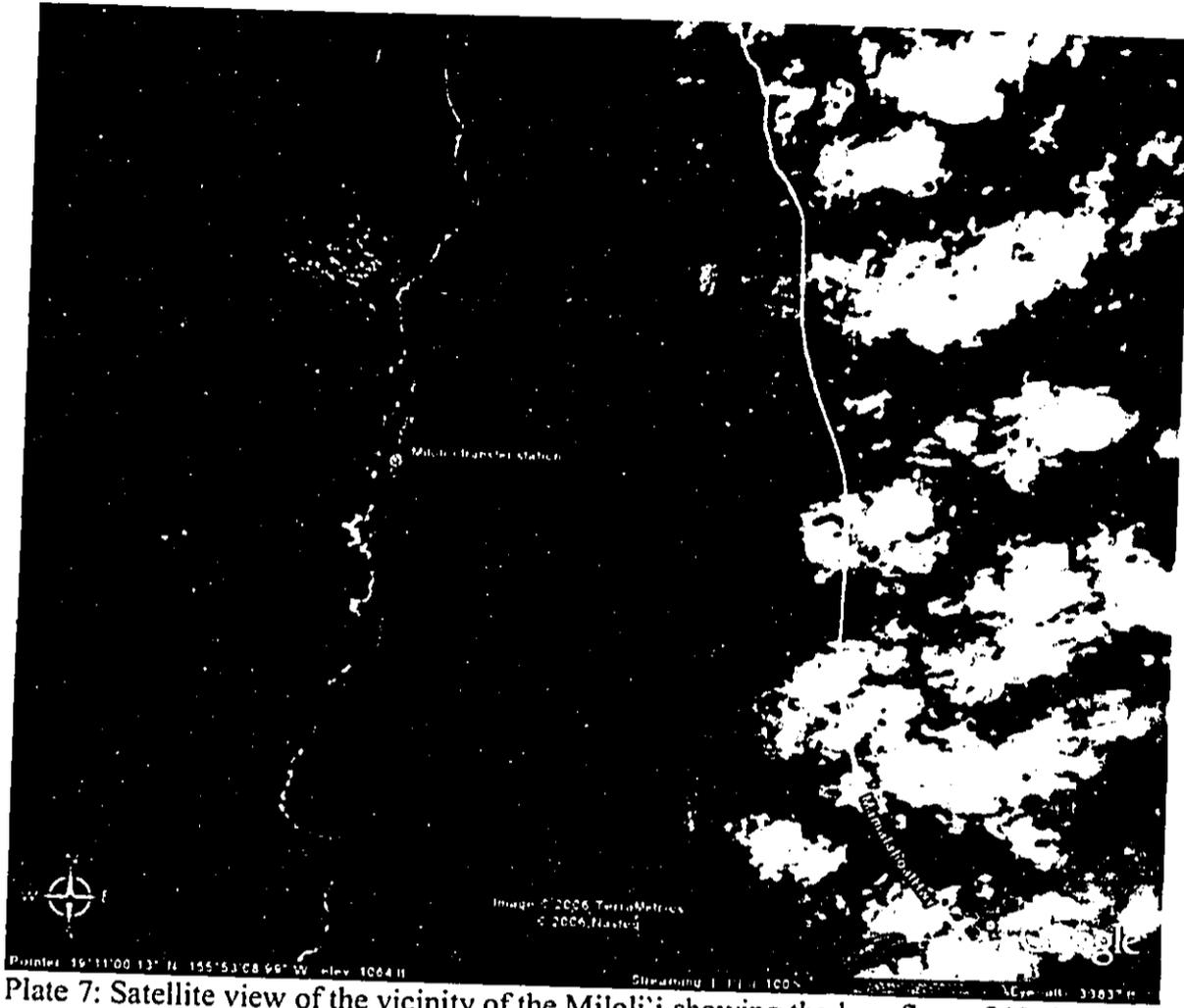


Plate 7: Satellite view of the vicinity of the Miloli'i showing the lava flow of 1850 that inundated Ho'opuloa immediately north of the village.

Appendix 2
Agency Coordination Letters and Public Involvement

Dear Agency or Organization Official:

Subject: Environmental Assessment, Miloli'i Convenience Center

The Miloli'i Convenience Center, also known as the Miloli'i Solid Waste Transfer Station, consists of a single 20-foot drop box with a wood-frame stair and deck (see attached figure for project location). The facility is owned by the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and is operated through a private contract. For the last 20 years it has served the disposal needs of the roughly 700 residents of the community of Miloli'i. Although located on State land in the Conservation District and the Special Management Area, it lacks proper permits from the State Department of Health and State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

DEM is currently preparing an after-the-fact Environmental Assessment (EA) in order to bring the facility into compliance with existing State and County land use regulations and to obtain a permit from the State Department of Health, Office of Solid Waste Management, to legally operate the Convenience Center. The proposed action is to continue to operate the facility in its current location until a replacement facility can be made available (proposed action).

The Convenience Center is the smallest and most isolated of the 21 County centers. As the narrow and winding road prevents access by DEM solid waste trucks, it must be operated under private contract. On a cost-per-ton basis, this convenience center is much more expensive than those serviced by the County. DEM is actively looking for a site for a new convenience center along Mamalahoa Highway that could serve both Miloli'i and the mauka communities of South Kona and the Ocean View areas. The County intends to close Miloli'i after opening a new facility that will be more accessible and serve a greater population.

The areas of investigation in the EA will include but not be limited to the following: flora, fauna, and ecosystems; traffic impacts; geology, soils, and hazards; flooding and drainage impacts; social, cultural and community impacts; historic sites; and economic impacts. A biological survey, archaeological inventory survey, and transfer station land use compatibility study are being conducted by various consultants as part of the background research.

On behalf of DEM, I invite your comments on any special environmental conditions or impacts related to the project. Kindly indicate in your response letter whether you wish to receive a copy of the Draft EA when it is completed. Please contact me at (808) 637-8030 on Oahu or Nelson Ho, of DEM at (808) 961-8083 if you have any questions or require clarification. We thank you in advance for your attention.



David Robichaux,
Project Environmental Consultant

Attachment: Project Location Figure

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

DR ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Anthony J.H. Ching, Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu HI 96804-2359

September 5, 2005

Dear Mr. Ching:

Subject: State Land Use District Boundary Determination for Miloli'i Convenience Center, South Kona District, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3rd) 8-9-004:007 (Lot 2)

The County of Hawai'i, Department of Environmental Management (DEM), is beginning preparation of an after-the-fact Draft Environmental Assessment and Conservation District Use Application for a County activity, in compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR, and Chapter 13-5, HAR. The project involves temporary permitting for the Miloli'i Convenience Center, also known as the Miloli'i Solid Waste Transfer Station, which consists of a single 20-foot drop box with a wood-frame stair and deck (see attached figure and map for project location). The facility is owned by the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and is operated through a private contract. DEM is working to bring the facility into compliance with existing State and County land use regulations and to obtain a permit from the State Department of Health, Office of Solid Waste Management, to legally operate the Convenience Center. The proposed action is to continue to operate the facility in its current location until a replacement facility can be made available.

In order to assist us in the preparation of the EA and CDUA, we are requesting a boundary determination from your agency. If you have any questions or require clarification, please call me at (808) 637-8030 on Oahu or Nelson Ho, of DEM at (808) 961-8083.

Respectfully,



David Robichaux, Principal
DR Associates
PO Box 1018
Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com

Kimberly Mills, Planner
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu HI 96809
Via e-mail: Kimberly.Mills@hawaii.gov

September 5, 2005

Dear Ms. Mills:

Subject: Sub-zone Determination for Miloli'i Convenience Center, South Kona District, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3rd) 8-9-004:007 (Lot 2.)

We are preparing an after-the-fact EA and CDUA for the Miloli'i Convenience Center (solid waste transfer station) and would like to request your office to identify the sub-zone of the property on which the Convenience Center is located (please see attached map). We will be sending a pre-consultation letter to agencies, including yours, shortly. If you have any questions or require clarification, please e-mail or call me at (808) 637-8030 on Oahu.

Thank you,



David Robichaux, Principal
DR Associates
PO Box 1018
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robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030

**DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR AGENCIES
AND INTERSTED PARTIES**

Peter Young, Director
Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu HI 96809

Deputy Director
Environmental Health Administration
Hawai'i State Department of Health
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801

Ruby McDonald
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
75-5706 Hanama Place, Ste. 107
Kailua-Kona HI 96740

Bob Jacobson, Councilmember
Hawai'i County Council
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo HI 96720

State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Land and Natural Resources
601 Kamokila Blvd. Rm. 601
Kapolei, HI 96707

Christopher J. Yuen, Director
Hawai'i County Planning Department
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 3
Hilo HI 96720

Bruce McClure, Director
Hawai'i County Department of Public Works
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo HI 96720

Darryl Oliveira, Chief
Hawai'i County Fire Department
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo HI 96720

Patricia Engelhard, Director
Hawai'i County Dept. of Parks and Recreation
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6
Hilo HI 96720

Paul Whalen
3rd Senatorial District
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 223
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Robert N. Herkes
5th Representative District
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 419
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Kona Outdoor Circle
76-6280 Kuakini Hwy.
Kailua-Kona HI 96740

Janice Yang, President
Kona Hawaiian Civic Club
P. O. Box 3056
Kailua-Kona, Hi 96745

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1137
Hilo HI 96721

Ocean View Community Association
P.O. Box 6016
Ocean View HI 96737

Steve Chang
Office of Solid Waste Management
919 Ala Moana Blvd
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801

Tiger Mills, Planner
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu HI 96809
Via e-mail: Kimberly.Mills@hawaii.gov

Miloli'i ~ Ho'opuloa `Ahahui
89-785 Miloli'i Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Wilfred Kaupiko
Hawaiian Roll-Off Services LLC.
89-1196 Miloli'i Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Melanie Fuller
Miloli'i Beach Club Association
P.O. Box 6337
Ocean View, HI 96737

Gil Kahele
Pa'a Pono Miloli'i
1414 Keneki Place
Hilo, HI 96720

Walter Paulo
89-1743 Miloli'i Rd. Box 6
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Wesley Matsunaga
Hawai'i State Department of Land & Natural Resources
75 Aupuni Street, Room 204
Hilo, HI 96720

Honomalino Acres Owners Association Inc.
88-1610 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Clement Chang
436 Hilinai Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Antonio Akiu
P.O. Box 1103
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Louis Kuahuia Jr.
P.O. Box 6253
Ocean View, HI 96737

Michael Forcum Sr.
P.O. Box 7131 Ocean View, HI 96737

Dora Halena
89-1706 Miloli'i Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Roberto Martines
RR1, Box 37
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Amoe Casuga
P.O. Box 134
Honaunau, HI 96726

Abel Kahele
83-5449 Painted Church Road
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Raymond Kuahuia Sr.
P.O. Box 294
Honaunau, HI 96726

Priscilla Llanes
P.O. Box 642
Honaunau, HI 96726

Ben Casuga
P.O. Box 436
Honaunau, HI 96726

Madeline Paulo
P.O. Box 174
Honaunau, HI 96726

Pearline Casuga
P.O. Box 134
Honaunau, HI 96726

Jack Casuga
P.O. Box 333
Honaunau, HI 96726

Kristy Young
P.O. Box 988
Naalehu, HI 96772

Louis Kuahuia Sr.
P.O. Box 6253 Ocean View, HI 96737

Felisa Kaniho
P.O. Box 844
Naalehu, HI 96772

Raymond Kuahuia Jr.
P.O. Box 294
Honaunau, HI 96726

Mildred Casuga
P.O. Box 1647
Kealahou, HI 96750

Alice Gouveia
P.O. Box 461
Honaunau, HI 96726

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

In the matter of the Miloli'i Solid Waste Transfer Station

This public meeting will be held on Wednesday October 26, 2005 from 5 pm to 7 pm
at the Miloli'i Beach Park Pavilion.

All interested parties are invited.

The County of Hawai'i is now engaged in an after-the-fact Environmental Assessment and permitting process designed to keep the Miloli'i Transfer Station open. This meeting is to gather all information relevant to acquiring proper permits for the Miloli'i Transfer Station to remain open until another site can be acquired and developed.

Various aspects of this plan will be discussed and attendees will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Written comments can be provided before and after the meeting, or may be addressed at any time to:

Mr. David Robichaux
P.O. Box 1018
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

This advertisement was run in both Hawai'i County newspapers on October 17 and October 24, 2006.

Appendix 3
Response Letters



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
LAND USE COMMISSION
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804-2359
Telephone: 808-587-3822
Fax: 808-587-3827

July 7, 2006

Mr. David Robichaux, Principal
DR Associates
P. O. Box 1018
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

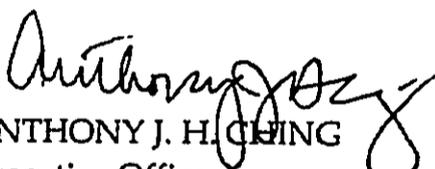
Dear Mr. Robichaux:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Milolii Solid Waste
Transfer Station (After-The-Fact)
Milolii, Hawaii
Tax Map Key: 8-9-04: 7 (Lot 2)

We have reviewed the DEA for the subject project. As we previously indicated in our boundary interpretation (BI No. 05-22) dated October 27, 2005, the project site, identified as TMK: 8-9-04: 7 (Lot 2), is designated entirely within the State Land Use Conservation District.

We have no further comments to offer at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject DEA. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Bert Saruwatari of our office at 587-3822.

Sincerely,


ANTHONY J. H. CHING
Executive Officer

c: County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

DR ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

September 8, 2006

Anthony J.H. Ching, Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu HI 96804-2359

Dear Mr. Ching:

**Subject: Comments on the Draft EA for Miloli`i Transfer Station,
 Island of Hawai`i**

Thank you for the boundary determination and review of the Draft EA for the Miloli`i transfer station. The County will find no significant impacts associated with the proposed action and will prepare an application for a Conservation District Use Permit for submission to the land board. We look forward to working with your staff to bring the facility into compliance.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

Harry Kim
Mayor



County of Hawaii
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3043
(808) 961-8288 • FAX (808) 961-8742

Christopher J. Yuen
Director
Brad Kurokawa, ASLA
LEED® AP
Deputy Director

June 22, 2006

Mr. David Robichaux
DR Associates
P.O. Box 1018
Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96749

Dear Mr. Robichaux:

**SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
Request for Comments
Department of Environmental Management - Miloli'i Convenience Center
Tax Map Key: (3) 8-9-04:007 Ho'opuloa, South Kona, Hawai'i**

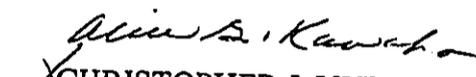
This is in response to your undated letter, which we received on June 6, 2006, transmitting a CD version of, and requesting our comments on the subject after-the-fact Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Department of Environmental Management's existing solid waste transfer station situated on a portion of the subject property.

Our only comment on the DEA beyond those provided in our letter dated October 18, 2005 concerns the uncertain future of the Miloli'i transfer station described in the fifth paragraph of Section 2.1 discussion of the proposed action. This section suggests that the subject waste transfer facility *may be* shut down at the time a new mauka facility is opened for use, while also stating that it is the intention of the County to close this facility due to excessive operational costs. In view of the potential impacts on the Miloli'i community and the surrounding environment, perhaps this section should be revised to provide greater clarity on the anticipated life expectancy of the facility.

Mr. David Robichaux
DR Associates
Page 2
June 22, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this DEA. We would appreciate receipt of a copy of the Final EA for files. Should you have questions, please feel welcome to contact Larry Brown or Esther Inarnura of my staff at 961-8288.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN
Planning Director

LMB:cd
P:\Wpwin60\Larry\EA-EIS Comments\Robichaux-DEM Milolii SWTS DEA.doc

xc: DEM

September 8, 2006

Mr. Chris Yuen, Director
Planning Department
County of Hawaii
101 Pauahi Street Suite 3
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3043

Dear Mr. Yuen:

**Subject: Planning Department comments on the Draft EA for Miloli'i
Transfer Station, Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for providing detailed comments during the preparation of the above-referenced Environmental Assessment. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and its consultants have reviewed the comments and are currently preparing an SMA Use Permit Assessment Application for submission to the Planning Department. As a result of your comments letter sent June 22, 2006, and we have revised section 2.1 to provide greater detail on the future waste management strategy for the area.

Please be advised that the County has issued a finding of no significant impact for the project. We look forward to working with the Planning Department to completing the compliance requirements for this facility.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal
DR Associates

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

WANDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
DIRECTOR

1555 KALANIANA'OLE
DRIVE, SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

Telephone (808) 586-4185
Facsimile (808) 586-4186
Email: oeqc@doh.hawaii.gov

June 21, 2006

Nelson Ho
Department of Environmental Management
Aupuni Street #210
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Subject: Draft environmental assessment (EA), Milolii Solid Waste Transfer Station

Dear Mr. Ho:

We have the following comments to offer:

Figure 3: In the final EA increase the scale in this figure so that the details are legible.

Cultural impacts assessment: Act 50 was passed by the legislature in April 2000. This mandates an assessment of impacts to current cultural practices by the project. In the final EA include such an assessment. For assistance in the preparation refer to our *Guidelines for Assessing Cultural Impacts*, which you may find at <http://www.state.hi.us/health/oeqc/guidance/cultural.htm>, or contact our office for a paper copy. You will also find the text of Act 50 linked to this section of our homepage.

Significance criteria: Include a discussion of findings and reasons, according to the significance criteria listed in HAR 11-200-12, that supports your forthcoming determination, either Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or EIS preparation notice. You may contact our office for a paper copy or access it at http://www.state.hi.us/health/about/rules/11-200.html#sec_12.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Genevieve Salmonson".

GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
Director

Dave Robichaux

DR ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

September 8, 2006

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

Dear Ms. Salmonson:

**Subject: OEQC Comments on the Draft EA for Miloli'i Transfer
Station, Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for providing detailed comments during the preparation of the above-referenced Environmental Assessment. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and its consultants have reviewed the comments in your June 21, 2006 letter and have made the following changes to the Final Environmental Assessment:

- Figure 3 has been expanded as much as possible
- A cultural impact assessment was performed and appears in Section 3.3.5.
- A discussion of significance and findings has been added in Section 5.1

Please be advised that the County will issue a finding of no significant impact for the project. We appreciate your diligence and attention to this project.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal
DR Associates

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

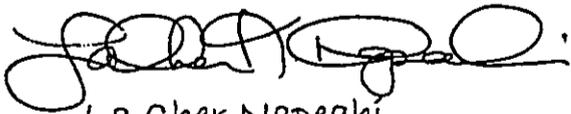
Aloha David,

Here are some of my concerns for the transfer station here in Milolii. As a resident of this community, I would like to ask a few questions.

1. With the help of an environmental assessment, will we be able to achieve the 2 years permit to keep the site open?
2. Once the new site has been chosen will the permits end at the end of the 2 years or will it close immediately?
3. What other ways can the community do to help with this assessment?
4. Can we the community members testify at the county hearing on this matter?
5. Is there a guideline for the steps that you need to take for this assessment process?

My last remark or concern is: What is the county proposing for the new site up mauka? Are they still proposing the site that includes the 3 acre set-up of recycling, green waste recycling and 2-3 rubbish bins? Or is the county willing to build a site like Waiea? Now, that the last site didn't get approved are they still looking towards getting land that is owned by the state?

Mahalo for your time,



La Cher Napeahi
Resident

November 16, 2005

To: DR Associates

From: Miloli'i ~ Ho'opuloa 'Ahahui

Subject: Miloli'i Transfer Station

This is a letter of concern on behalf of the membership of the Miloli'i ~ Ho'opuloa 'Ahahui. Our membership has many concerns and remarks in regards to the Transfer Station that is located in the central part of our community.

These are some of the concerns that have come before us.

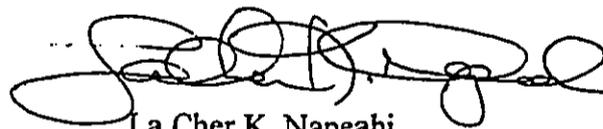
1. What happens if the permits don't get approved within the 2 years?
2. Is the site up mauka going to be sufficient enough for all surrounding communities?
3. Where would we go to dump our trash?
4. What about our Kupuna that don't have transportation to take their o'pala?
5. Will the county be willing to help us transition into this change of inconvenience?

Some of the positive things that have come out of this discussion:

1. No longer an eye sore
2. Unhealthy smell will be gone
3. Community will look cleaner?
4. Site can become useful for a project
5. Residents in surrounding area will appreciate the depletion of flies
6. Possibility of economic zone that was supposed to be there
7. Alternative solution will be creation of jobs with a curb-side service

On behalf of the Miloli'i ~ Ho'opuloa 'Ahahui we would appreciate your response to our concerns.

Mahalo,



La Cher K. Napeahi
President. MHA

DR ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

September 8, 2006

Ms. LaCher Napeahi
89-785 Miloli'i Road
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Ms Napeahi:

**Subject: Comments on the Draft EA for Miloli'i Transfer Station,
Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for providing detailed comments during the preparation of the above-referenced Environmental Assessment. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management and its consultants have reviewed your comments from letters sent November 1 and November 16, 2005, and have incorporated responses in the text of the final Environmental Assessment.

The answers to specific questions from the November 1, 2005 letter are as follows:

1. With the help of an environmental assessment and other permits including SMA permit, State Conservation District Use permit, and Solid Waste Management Permit we will be able to keep the facility open until a suitable substitute is built and running.
2. The specific sequence of event leading to the shift to a new facility have not been determined. The County is committed to a gradual shift and will not allow for any lapse of services.
3. Your efforts in the community to get the worked out and identify alternative waste management methods have been tremendously helpful during this process.
4. The turnout from the community during the public meeting was great, thank you again.
5. The procedure for conducting environmental assessments is codified in HAR 343 and HRS 200.1. The Office of Environmental Quality Control has an excellent guidebook available on their website (www.state.hi.us/health/ocqc/index.html).
6. The County is continuing the site selection process and may have now found a suitable location. The subsequent environmental review process will finalize the site.
7. As you know, The County has funded a project to seek alternative methods to manage Miloli'i's solid waste. This task has not been completed but will focus on providing services to the Miloli'i residents with limited mobility or special needs.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

December 16, 2005

To whom it may concern,

My name is Walter Keli'iokekai Paulo, I am a long time resident here in Miloli'i. I would like to share my mana'o about the rubbish dump located about 100 yards away from my home.

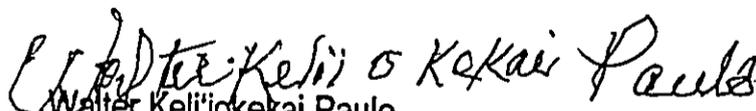
When the winds blow in the morning and from the south the smell is unbearable at times, it stinks, it stinks, and it stinks. It attracts dogs, cats, mongoose, and pigs and occasionally they end up in my yard. I work diligently in my yard to beautify it, these animals have erected my plants, eaten my vegetables, the dogs defecate in my yard, the cats try to make a home in my home and attract flies that also bring millions of maggots.

Another concern I have is about the traffic, in the front of my home is the entrance into the rubbish dump; cars tend to speed entrancing and exiting this area. A lot of times we have children on the road. My concern is eventually one of these speeding cars will injure or kill one of these children. There are 2 blind spots near and around this area. Some cars are traveling at 50 – 60 miles per hour. Also in front of my home is the turn around spot that people have created to use, this kicks up the dust which then settles on my house, windows, porch, plants and furniture.

I have contacted the Department of Health a couple of times. They have been here to see the maggots and flies in and around the dumpster. People from outside and in the community have dumped their trash on the Kona side of the dumpster creating a haven for rats and other pests. Each year I deal with these rodents in my home. They carry disease and infections that I am susceptible to. My wife and I live alone we are not young healthy people, we have our ailments and this unhealthy rubbish site is not helping the situation.

Our own people here in the village don't have pride for the aina. The residents here don't have the mentality to Malama Ka Aina (Take Care of our Land). I am someone who is not able to drive 5 miles up the road to dump my rubbish. I'm partially blind and I don't drive on the major highway. So, I don't oppose having the rubbish site here in Miloli'i but I do oppose of it being my neighbor.

Mahalo,


Walter Keli'iokekai Paulo

September 8, 2006

Mr. Walter Paulo.
c/o LaCher Napeahi
89-785 Miloli'i Road
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Mr. Paulo:

**Subject: Comments on the Draft EA for Miloli'i Transfer Station,
Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for providing comments during the preparation of the above-referenced Environmental Assessment. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management and its consultants have reviewed your comments from letter sent December 16, 2005, and have incorporated responses in the text of the final Environmental Assessment.

The responses to your concerns from the December 16, 2005 letter are as follows:

1. Maintenance of the transfer station can be improved through community awareness of the things that create odors and draw animals to the site. We understand that since the time of your letter that the community association has addressed the issue and that members of the community are trying to minimize disposal of fish waste in the container. The County is currently examining new and alternative management methods for solid waste that are suited specifically for the needs of Miloli'i.
2. The traffic issues that you bring up are problems associated with the topography of the roadway near your house. We note that there is a large area around the transfer station that allows cars to pull well off the roadway while using the facility. Excess speed in areas of limited visibility is very dangerous in any location. These problems will persist after the transfer station is gone, and can only be resolved through discussions with the chronic speeders. I have recommended that the community association address the issue of local speeding and write letters to those who are responsible.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

November 10, 2005

Dear Mr. David Robichaux,

My name is Michael Forcum Sr. and I'm a resident in Miloli'i, South Kona, Hawaii Island. I would like to submit this letter of my opinion about the transfer station here in my community.

Our community has been privileged in to have such a convenient location for a rubbish dump. Unfortunately, we all haven't come to the reality of the negative feed back it gives our community. You will know that you're in Miloli'i once you've passed the rubbish container. At times the smell is unbearable and the site is unforgettable. I feel for those that live in the surrounding area with the smell, the flies and the animals that get left there or go there looking for food.

One of my concerns or issues that I would like to have addressed is: what is the effects of the land from all this transfer station being there for years? I do know that the site once had a very big hole, where the trash was thrown into. This is one of the reasons for the bin coming down for the community/summer employment to clean up. How much has it seeped into our grown and eventually into our ocean? Will this assessment tell us that?

Another concern would be what would happen if the permitting process doesn't get approved? Would we have to truck our trash to Waiea? Did everyone that uses this transfer station site get notified? I only ask these questions because others outside of our community also use this site and we don't need them to be dumping more trash once the bin is gone.

I thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion and concern.

Thank you,



Michael E.K. Forcum Sr.
Miloli'i Makai Watch Coordinator
Concerned Resident

September 8, 2006

Mr. Michael Forcum Sr.
c/o LaCher Napeahi
89-785 Miloli'i Road
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Mr. Forcum:

**Subject: Comments on the Draft EA for Miloli'i Transfer Station,
Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for providing comments during the preparation of the above-referenced Environmental Assessment. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management and its consultants have reviewed your comments from letter sent November 10, 2005, and have incorporated responses in the text of the final Environmental Assessment.

The responses to your three concerns from the November 10, 2005 letter are as follows:

1. Maintenance of the transfer station can be improved through community awareness of the things that create odors and draw animals to the site. We understand that since the time of your letter that the community association has addressed the issue and that members of the community are trying to minimize disposal of fish waste in the container. The County is currently examining new and alternative management methods for solid waste that are suited specifically for the needs of Miloli'i.
2. I have personally examined the site for leakage and waste that may impact the groundwater and ocean. During the time I was there I found no leakage and no differences between the near shore plants and animals near the waste container and those that are far away. Based on these observations I do not believe that the container releases a significant amount of waste to impact the groundwater or ocean.
3. With the help of an environmental assessment and other permits including SMA permit, State Conservation District Use permit, and Solid Waste Management Permit we will be able to keep the facility open until a suitable substitute is built and running. The exact method of closing the existing facility and opening a new one has not been determined, but the County has an obligation to provide a smooth transition without interruption of services.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal

DR ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 1018
HALE'IWA, HI 96712

robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 637-8030
(808) 368-5352

Moanikeala Kaupiko

Miloli'i Phase III
Ho'opuloa, Hawai'i

La Cher Napeahi
Milolii, Hawai'i

RE: Proposal for Refuse Pickup in Miloli'i

Aloha La Cher:

This letter is submitted in support of the proposal currently being assessed for the establishment of a refuse/trash removal service in the village of Miloli'i pursuant to the eventual discontinuance of the present waste program.

The original intent for the placement of the current waste bin was predicated on it being moved to a less imposing location once the homes within the various phases of Miloli'i had been constructed. The waste bin was meant to help alleviate the need for homeowners to take their construction debris to the mauka stations. This would have been extremely inconvenient and could have resulted in large piles of debris being left throughout the project.

Unfortunately, once the homes had been completed, circumstances had changed regarding the land area that was previously selected to house the bin and this has resulted in the unhealthy and hugely embarrassing waste area at the very entry to our 'beautiful village of Miloli'i. The runoff from this bin creates many issues with the possibility of pathogenic bacteria being transferred to the brackish water well from which many draw their bathing and sometimes cooking water. The potential for a widespread epidemic stemming from mismanagement of this water source is criminal. The types of garbage that are routinely deposited in this bin are revolting even to the most detached observer. Daily, fish heads, entrails and other similar remains are dumped into the bin. It is rare that I have passed this general area and had a pleasant reaction. It generally smells repulsive and is infested with flies and maggots. It is not only a health hazard, but it is an embarrassment to our community. It does not engender pride or present any aspect of the Miloli'i of my childhood.

I unconditionally support the proposal to create a waste removal service which will ultimately provide jobs and may well provide something even greater---the desire for Miloli'i to strive to improve its condition by being more responsible for cleaning the village as a whole and promoting a better image to those who visit "Miloli'i, the last fishing village in Hawai'i nei".

Respectfully,
Moanikeala Kaupiko
Mo'opuna of Eugene Keawe Kaupiko (Former Mayor of Milolii)

September 8, 2006

Ms. Moanikeala Kaupiko
c/o LaCher Napeahi
89-785 Miloli'i Road
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Ms. Kaupiko:

**Subject: Comments on the Draft EA for Miloli'i Transfer Station,
Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for providing comments during the preparation of the above-referenced Environmental Assessment. The County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management and its consultants have reviewed your comments from letter sent early this year, and have incorporated responses in the text of the final Environmental Assessment.

The responses to your concerns from the letter are as follows:

1. The County is aware that the current location was intended to be temporary, and still considers it a temporary location because of its plans to move the transfer station to a location that is accessible to HOVE and Miloli'i residents. As you note in your letter the proposed permanent location may have been better but it is no longer available.
2. Management of the facility may be improved through community attention to the waste materials that create unsanitary conditions. We understand that the community association has addressed the issue since your letter was written and have attempted to educate community members on proper bagging and timing to try and minimize the smell and vector attractants. These changes may help, but are not likely to eliminate the problem. The county is currently looking for alternative management method for the Miloli'i waste stream. La Cher Napeahi is the team leader in this effort and I provide technical support. Your input on alternative management methods would be hugely appreciated. I would also ask that Mr. Willie Kaupiko become involved in the discussions of how to improve the waste transfer system as it now exists. Now is the time to weigh in on these discussions. Upon completion of this EA we will place more emphasis on finding alternative waste management strategies for Miloli'i. I will make sure that you are copied on any requests for information or informal meetings to be held on this subject.

Thank you,



David M. Robichaux, Principal

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