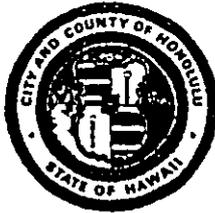


DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FRANK F. FASI
MAYOR



WALTER M. OZAWA
DIRECTOR

ALVIN K.C. AU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

RECEIVED
'91 DEC -2 AS:50

November 26, 1990
FC. OF ENV. Q.
QUALITY CONTROL

Mr. Brian J. J. Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
State of Hawaii
Central Pacific Plaza
220 South King Street, Fourth Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Environmental Assessment and Negative
Declaration for Kuhio Beach Park Improvements
Tax Map Key 2-6-01: 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17 & 18

The Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared an Environmental Assessment for Kuhio Beach Park improvements and has determined that the project will not have any significant environmental impact. Please publish the Negative Declaration in the next OEQC Bulletin. OEQC Form 91-1 and four copies of the Environmental Assessment are enclosed.

Please contact me at 527-6343 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


WALTER M. OZAWA, Director

WMO:ei

Attachments

cc: Department of Land Utilization

215

1991 - 12-08-0A-FAA

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
* KUHIO BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS *

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

TMK: 2-6-01: 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, & 18

This document was prepared pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 200 of Title 11, State Environmental Council Environmental Impact Statement Rules.

NOVEMBER 1991

PROPOSING AGENCY: City and County of Honolulu
Department of Parks and Recreation
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

CONTACT: Walter M. Ozawa, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
Telephone: 527-6343

CONSULTED PARTIES: Department of Land Utilization
Department of Transportation Services
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Division
Windward Door of Faith
Mantra Meditation Hawaii
Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy
Salvation Army
Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club
Outrigger Canoe Club
Na Opio Canoe Clubs Association
Lai Ula O Kai Canoe Club
Hawaii Longboard Surfing Association
Hawaiian Surfing Federation
Local Motion Surf Into Summer
Gentry Sports Foundation
Aloha State Games
World Corporate Games
Waikiki Improvement Association

I. PROPOSED PROJECT

A. SUMMARY

The City Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to beautify the Ewa end of Kuhio Beach Park between the Surfrider Hotel and a banyan arbor. Proposed improvements include installation of tile

FILE COPY

pavers on the makai Kalakaua Avenue sidewalk and around a banyan arbor; reconfiguration and/or replacement of pavement, benches, tables, lighting, and other fixtures; development of low rock walls, grassed mounds, and hedges; relocation and additional planting of coconut trees; and development of other minor landscaping amenities.

B. TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The approximately 3 acre project site is located makai of Kalakaua Avenue on the Diamond Head side of the Surfrider Hotel. (See Figures 1 and 2) Most of the project area (TMK: 2-6-01: 4, 8-10, & 17) is owned by the City; the remainder (TMK: 2-6-01: 15 & 18) is owned by the State but assigned by Executive Order to City control and management as a beach park.

Existing improvements in the project area include concrete promenades, sidewalks, and steps; a food concession/comfort station building, the mauka portion of which has been converted into a Honolulu Police Department (HPD) substation; two surfboard lockers; three showers; a Seiko "Prince Kuhio" clock; a Duke Kahanamoku statue; an arbor and benches around a large banyan; bicycle racks; concrete benches and tables; wooden benches; and night lighting. (See Figures 3A, 3B, 3C) Wastewater from the concession/comfort station building is pumped to Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, treated in compliance with federal requirements, and discharged from the Sand Island ocean outfall.

Proposed improvements include replacement of about 590 feet of concrete sidewalk with tile pavers on the makai side of Kalakaua; replacement of practically all concrete pavement between the food concession/comfort station building and the Diamond Head side of the banyan arbor; development of additional pavement, tile pavers, and low rock walls; relocation of one shower and removal of another; relocation and/or replacement of benches, tables, bicycle racks, lighting, and other fixtures; development of two low grass mounds; planting of natal plum hedges in several at-grade planters; relocation and additional planting of coconut trees; and development of other minor landscaping amenities. (See Figures 4, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6A, 6B, 6C)

C. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The purpose of proposed improvements is to beautify the Ewa (northwestern) end of Kuhio Beach Park.

D. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Proposed improvements will cost about \$950,000. Costs will be shared between the City and the State.

Construction tentatively will commence in March 1992. Heavy construction (such as replacement of concrete and installation of tile pavers) will probably be completed by the end of May 1992. The entire project including maintenance of landscaping will be completed within 210 days.

E. APPLICABLE LAND USE CONTROLS

The project site is:

- . within the Urban District;
- . designated Parks and Recreation on the Primary Urban Center (PUC) Development Plan (DP) Land Use Map;
- . not designated for significant public improvements on the PUC DP Public Facilities Map;
- . within the Waikiki Special District Public Precinct (240-foot height limit);
- . within the special management area (SMA);
- . partially within the shoreline setback area; and
- . within Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Flood Fringe District Zone AE (projected 100-year inundation 8 feet above mean sea level).

A SMA use permit, shoreline variance, and a Special District minor permit are required for proposed park improvements. No district boundary amendment, DP amendment, zone change, or flood hazard variance is needed.

F. HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

The project area was formerly the site of a park pavilion/comfort station popularly known as the Waikiki Beach Center. At the time, a low seawall fronted the project area and separated a relatively narrow beach from a patchy lawn and sandy dirt. (See Figures 7A, 7B, 7C)

During fiscal year 1980-81, in order to expand ocean views from Kalakaua Avenue and increase the size of the beach, the Ewa end of Kuhio Beach Park was cleared and redeveloped to its present configuration. Construction plans for existing improvements called for lowering most of the old seawall to an elevation of 4 feet above mean sea level (msl). (See Figures 8A, 8B) Construction plans also called for a new at-grade grass planter strip between the Kalakaua sidewalk and a new meandering curb. Construction plans also required placement of a 4" layer of sand over unpaved areas between the shoreline and the proposed curb.

As planned, sand deposited by natural beach processes has permanently buried parts of the old seawall lowered to 4 feet msl. Although the meandering curb remains, a few months of pedestrian traffic killed all grass in the new planter strip.

The expanded beach is heavily used by tourists. Daily mechanical beach cleaning and ad hoc placement of additional sand (e.g., 500 cubic yards in July 1988) have become necessary to preserve the appearance of the man-made beach between the shoreline and the meandering curb. However, current management measures have not totally resolved compaction and accumulation of fine pollutants in parts of the beach not periodically subject to wave action.

II. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A. PHYSICAL SETTING

The project area is a highly altered, urban beach park with large areas of pavement and practically no vegetation other than trees. There are no streams, wetlands, estuaries, or potable ground water resources in the project area.

The top of the concrete slab around the food concession/comfort station building ranges between 9 and 9.5 feet above mean sea level (msl). The Kalakaua sidewalk slopes gently from this slab to about 8 feet msl by the banyan arbor. Unpaved parts of the project area slope gently from the Kalakaua sidewalk to about 6 feet msl at the top of the beach scarp. There are no drainage swales or storm drains in the project area makai of the Kalakaua sidewalk.

B. SHORELINE

Because daily mechanical beach cleaning has eliminated the debris line and prevents growth of coastal vegetation, there is no reliable way to determine the shoreline (the highest annually recurring wash of the waves) in the project area. According to City lifeguards, waves gently lapped against the face of the seawall makai of the food concession/comfort station building during both the highest surf and the highest tides of summer 1991. In contrast, a September 19, 1991 shoreline survey, which has been submitted for State certification, represents that the shoreline is the top of the current beach scarp. At its closest point, the beach scarp is 39 feet from the food concession seawall.

C. BEACH PROCESSES

From the Kapahulu storm drain to the banyan arbor, Kuhio Beach is enclosed within a system of low groins and offshore walls (commonly called a crib wall). Most of the sand within the crib wall was placed there as part of public beach widening projects. Longshore currents generated by summer southern swells carry sand out of the crib wall and deposit it on an unconfined beach which extends from the Ewa end of the crib wall to a groin makai of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Sand loss was reduced but not entirely

stopped after the crib wall was raised in 1974.

Without periodic sand replenishment, there would be very little beach within the crib wall. To restore the beach, the State placed about 13,000 cubic yards of sand within the crib wall in FY 1971-72, the City placed about 2,000 cubic yards in summer 1988, and the State will place about 3,260 cubic yards in fall 1991.

Most of the time, longshore currents cause slight beach erosion on the Ewa side of the Kuhio Beach crib wall, and substantial beach accretion on the Diamond Head side of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel groin. (See Figure 9) Longshore currents generated by winter Kona storms reverse this pattern. Long-time City lifeguards report that large summer southern swells cause beach erosion makai of the entire project area while winter Kona storm surf causes beach accretion makai of the project area.

In the long term, the size of the beach and the location of the shoreline in the project area depend on as yet unresolved State plans for widening and stabilizing the beach within the Kuhio Beach crib wall. Sand loss from the crib wall since 1972 has substantially contributed to beach size Ewa of the crib wall. Aerial photographs purchased by the City show groins makai of the project area almost totally exposed in April 1967, almost totally buried beneath sand in June 1981, and partially exposed in November 1990.

D. NATURAL HAZARDS

Normally, the project area and nearshore waters are not subject to natural hazards. Occasionally, low-lying parts of the project area are inundated by storm waves and tsunamis. The adopted FIRM projects the 100-year flood elevation as 8 feet msl.

E. BIOLOGICAL SETTING

There are no rare or endangered species of plants or animals in the project area. All of the trees present (coconut palm, false kamani, kou, milo, banyan, hibiscus) are common non-native species. Outside of a few small planter areas, heavy pedestrian traffic and daily mechanical beach cleaning limit growth of vegetation other than trees in the project area.

F. LAND USE

The project area is the Ewa end of a mile-long strip of public beach park bordered by the Waikiki Aquarium, Surfrider Hotel, and Kalakaua Avenue. The strip of beach park between the Kapahulu storm drain and the Surfrider Hotel is named Kuhio Beach Park, and the strip of beach park between the Kapahulu storm drain and

the Aquarium is part of Kapiolani Regional Park. The Moana Hotel abuts the Ewa end of the project area, and the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Hotel is mauka of the project area (on the mauka side of Kalakaua Avenue).

Ownership of Kuhio Beach Park is divided between the City and the State. The State has authorized the City to manage all State land between the Waikiki Aquarium, Surfrider Hotel, Kalakaua Avenue, and low water mark as a City beach park. The City Department of Parks and Recreation regulates organized group use of Kuhio Beach Park with permits. No commercial use of the beach or fast land in Kuhio Beach Park is legal unless authorized as a Department of Parks and Recreation concession.

Tourists make heavy use of Kuhio Beach Park. Offshore surf sites ("Queens", "Baby Queens", and "Canoes") are popular with both tourists and Hawaii residents. During daylight hours on both weekdays and weekends, there are usually several hundred sunbathers, swimmers, and surfers within and makai of the project area.

Every morning, City lifeguards trailer their rescue craft (an inflatable rubber boat and a jet ski) from Kalakaua Avenue to the beach immediately Ewa of the crib wall. City lifeguards use these vessels for rescues and for enforcement of State rules governing use of Waikiki shorewaters. When not in use, rescue craft are stored at the lifeguard Leahi substation.

Every year between mid-April and the end of October, the Ewa end of Kuhio Beach Park is used as a staging area for water sports events (and ancillary temporary concessions) including surf contests, outrigger canoe races and regattas, and swimming meets. Most events and heaviest public attendance occur on weekends and holidays. Beginning in 1991, Kamehameha Day festivities have also included a lei-draping ceremony at the Duke Kahanamoku statue.

Three religious groups regularly use the banyan arbor area for services: Windward Door of Faith (Sundays 2 to 4:30 p.m.), Mantra Meditation Hawaii (Sundays 6:30 to 8 p.m.), and Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy (Tuesdays 6 to 10 p.m.) Other religious groups irregularly stage services and concerts in the same general area.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has authorized four concessions in the project area: surfboard racks (on the sidewalk Ewa of the food concession/comfort station building), a "beachboy" concession (on the beach makai of the surfboard racks), a food concession (in the building), and another "beachboy" concession (on the beach Ewa of the crib wall). The "beachboy" concessions provide surfing lessons, furnish outrigger canoe rides, and rent water sports equipment. Commercial

catamarans which solicit paying riders from the beach in the project area have not been authorized with a concession.

The surfboard racks and food concessions operate under five-year contracts awarded by competitive bidding while the "beachboy" concessions operate under non-bid month-to-month revocable permits. State law prohibits extension of such revocable permits for longer than one year. In accordance with law, after adoption of rules, the Department of Parks and Recreation plans to replace the present revocable permits with a five-year non-bid concession to be operated by a "qualified nonprofit beachboy association".

G. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The so-called "Wizard Stones", about 40 feet south (Diamond Head-side) of the HPD substation, are the only surface artifact of aboriginal Hawaiian culture remaining in Kuhio Beach Park. Because the "Wizard Stones" have been moved at least three times, they no longer have any archaeological significance. All subsurface cultural artifacts have probably been destroyed by previous public and private development in the project area.

III. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

A. SHORT TERM CONSTRUCTION RELATED IMPACTS

1. PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Construction of proposed improvements will require fencing off and removing all of the Kalakaua Avenue makai sidewalk and most of the pavement, benches, and tables from the food concession/comfort station building through the Diamond Head end of the banyan arbor. Construction of proposed improvements will also require fencing off parts of the beach, including the shoreline mauka of the lifeguard stand, to allow relocation of trees and development of new pavement and walls.

To mitigate impacts, the contractor will be required to maintain safe, uninterrupted, lateral pedestrian access along both the Kalakaua Avenue and ocean sides of the project area. An alternative walkway must be provided whenever the Kalakaua Avenue sidewalk is impassible. Throughout practically all of the construction period, the contractor will also be required to maintain safe pedestrian access from both Kalakaua Avenue and the shoreline to the HPD substation, comfort station, surfboard rack concession, and food concession.

For a few months of the construction period, City lifeguards will be unable to launch their rescue craft from Kuhio Beach. Launching of rescue craft will have to be temporarily relocated to the Ala Wai Canal. Response time from the lifeguard Leahi

substation is about 30 minutes more if rescue craft have to be launched from the Ala Wai Canal rather than from Kuhio Beach. For that reason, Sans Souci Beach will be used for emergency launchings prior to normal launching times. Emergency launchings prior to normal launching times occurred four times during 1991.

For a few months of the construction period, outrigger canoe trailers will have no means of beach access between the banyan arbor and the Surfrider Hotel. Concessions and clubs wishing to bring outrigger canoes to Kuhio Beach will either have to carry them from trailers temporarily parked on Kalakaua Avenue or paddle them from relatively distant launching sites.

For several months, between about 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., construction of proposed improvements will require closing of the makai lane of Kalakaua Avenue from the Duke Kahanamoku Statute to about the Diamond Head end of the banyan arbor. In order to avoid traffic congestion, the City Department of Transportation Services will not allow a lane of Kalakaua Avenue to be closed during rush-hour traffic.

For several months, construction of proposed improvements will require closing of the tour bus loading bay makai of Kalakaua Avenue between the HPD substation and the Duke Kahanamoku Statue. An alternative tour bus loading area may have to be designated.

2. NOISE AND DUST

For at least several weeks, removal of existing concrete pavement will generate considerable noise and dust. Dust will be controlled by sprinkling.

3. BEACH PARK USE

For several months during heavy construction, the Department of Parks and Recreation will not issue permits for group use of parts of the project area where development will take place. Through at least May 1992, religious groups will need to relocate their services and sponsors of watersports events will need to relocate their staging areas. Heavy construction will probably also result in relocation of many sunbathers and swimmers to another part of Kuhio Beach Park.

4. BEACH PARK CONCESSIONS

All concessions in the project area will lose business while construction is taking place. Rents paid by the food concession and surfboard rack concessions will need to be adjusted to compensate for their loss in revenues. Rents paid by the "beachboy" concessions will not be adjusted, and the concession immediately Ewa of the cribwall will probably be closed during

construction.

B. LONG TERM IMPACTS

1. BEACH PROCESSES

Part of proposed improvements on TMK: 2-6-01: 8, 10, & 18 will take place within 40 feet of the highest annually occurring wash of the waves. As a beautification measure, an existing seawall will be replaced along with some of the pavement, tables, and seats between the seawall and the food concession/comfort station building. As a beautification measure and to facilitate handicapped shoreline access, a concrete ramp will be placed on the Diamond Head side of the food concession. A concrete shower pad will be sited between the makai end of this ramp and the food concession seawall.

Makai of the food concession, the existing slightly-overhanging concrete seawall (top elevation 8.8 feet msl) is about 2 feet higher than the abutting beach. It will be replaced with a higher, vertical rock seawall (top elevation 11.6 feet msl) which will be about 5 feet higher than the abutting beach. Since there will be negligible change in the location of the seawall face, replacement of the food concession seawall is unlikely to affect beach processes. Long-time City lifeguards cannot ever recall wave reflection from the existing seawall scouring the beach makai of the food concession.

On the Diamond Head side of the food concession, the makai edge of the proposed beach shower pad and concrete shoreline access ramp (top elevation 7.0 feet msl) will cover sand (top elevation 6.8 feet msl) overlying an old buried seawall (top elevation 4 feet msl). According to City lifeguards, waves gently washed into this area during both the highest surf and the highest tides of summer 1991. Hence, it seems likely that a few times each year, large surf will deposit sand on top of the shower pad and makai end of the ramp. To prevent undermining by wave action, the makai toe of the proposed shower pad and ramp will be 2 feet below the top of the slab.

2. BEACH SIZE

Proposed improvements will slightly reduce the size of the beach at the Ewa end of Kuhio Beach Park. However, most of the sandy area to be paved is a compacted artificial beach.

3. BEACH PARK RECREATIONAL USES

Proposed improvements will not cause any significant long-term change in recreational use of Kuhio Beach Park. Minor changes will be as follows.

Currently, the level, sandy, unvegetated planter area makai of the Kalakaua sidewalk is only used for pedestrian beach access. Two low grass mounds will be placed in the planter area to "frame" the Duke Kahanamoku Statue and accommodate sitting and sunbathing. Low rock seat-walls will be placed between proposed grass mounds and the Kalakaua sidewalk to protect the grass from pedestrian traffic.

Currently, runoff from the showers on the Diamond Head side of the HPD substation drains across the sand and ponds on the beach south of the food concession. A few concrete picnic tables and seats are located on dry sand between the path of shower runoff and the food concession. To reduce drainage problems and provide a more attractive setting for picnicking, this entire area will be paved, concrete picnic tables and seats will be placed on the pavement, and the showers will be relocated to the makai side of the new pavement.

4. BEACH PARK CONCESSIONS

Although there will be long-term changes in Kuhio Beach Park concessions, these changes will not be the result of proposed improvements. State law prohibits the City Department of Parks and Recreation from continuing its existing non-bid month-to-month revocable permits.

5. COASTAL VIEWS

Proposed improvements will not significantly affect coastal views from Kalakaua Avenue or views along the shoreline. However, unless pruned to under 3 feet in height, proposed natal plum hedges will mostly block Ewa (west) shoreline and ocean views for persons sitting under the banyan arbor.

6. WATER QUALITY

Proposed improvements will not have any long term effect on the quality of coastal waters.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Proposed improvements will not affect any known surface or subsurface archaeological resources. The "Wizard Stones" will remain at their present site, within a circle of sand, surrounded by pavement.

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The "no action" alternative was rejected as less attractive than proposed improvements. Beautification is appropriate given heavy public use of Kuhio Beach Park. Other planting options, such as

use of naupaka, were considered and rejected because of the potential to adversely affect coastal views from Kalakaua Avenue.

V. DETERMINATION

An environmental impact statement is not required. The proposed action will not result in direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental impacts which are significant under the criteria set by Section 11-200-12, Environmental Impact Statement Rules.

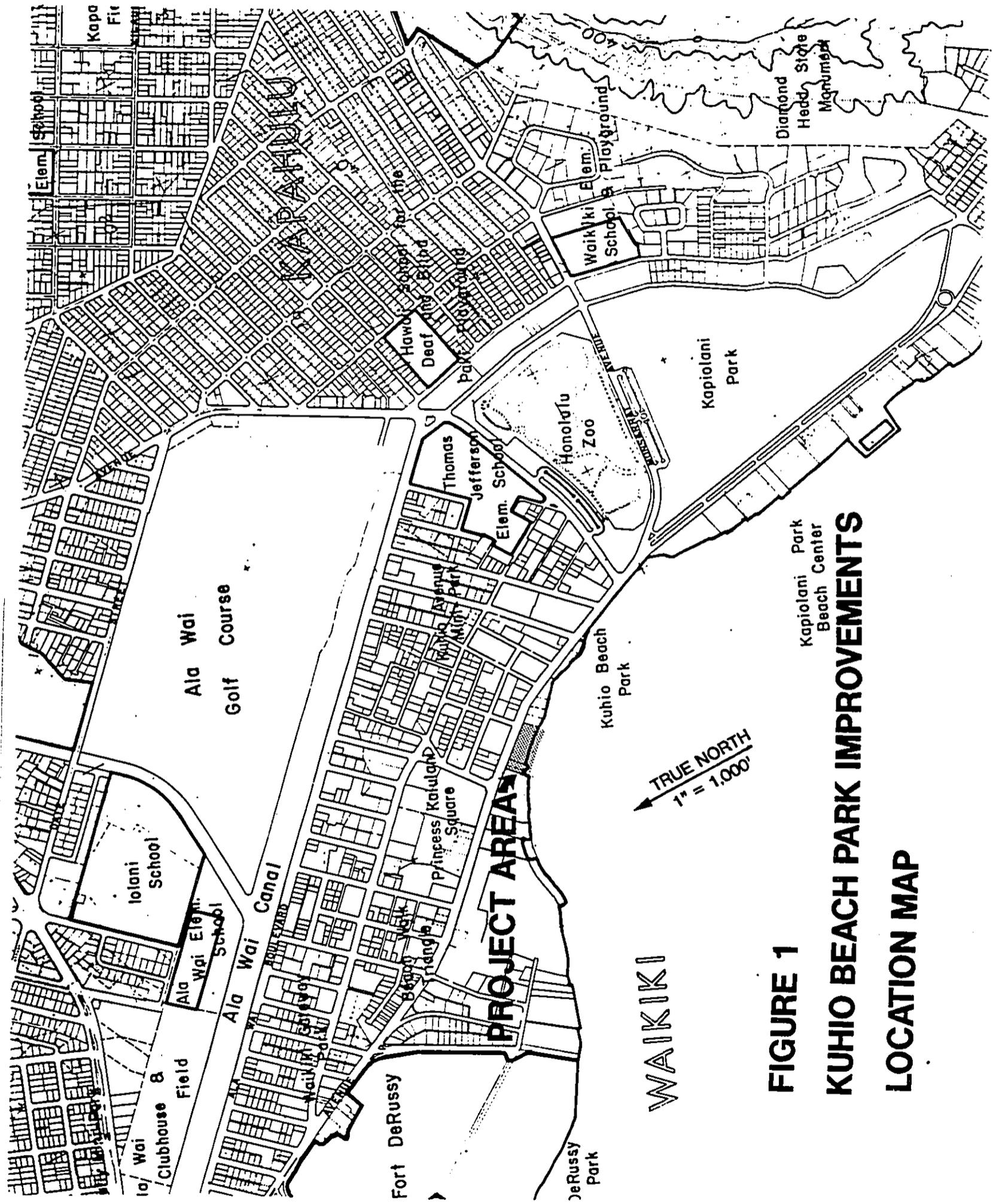


FIGURE 1
KUHIO BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS
LOCATION MAP

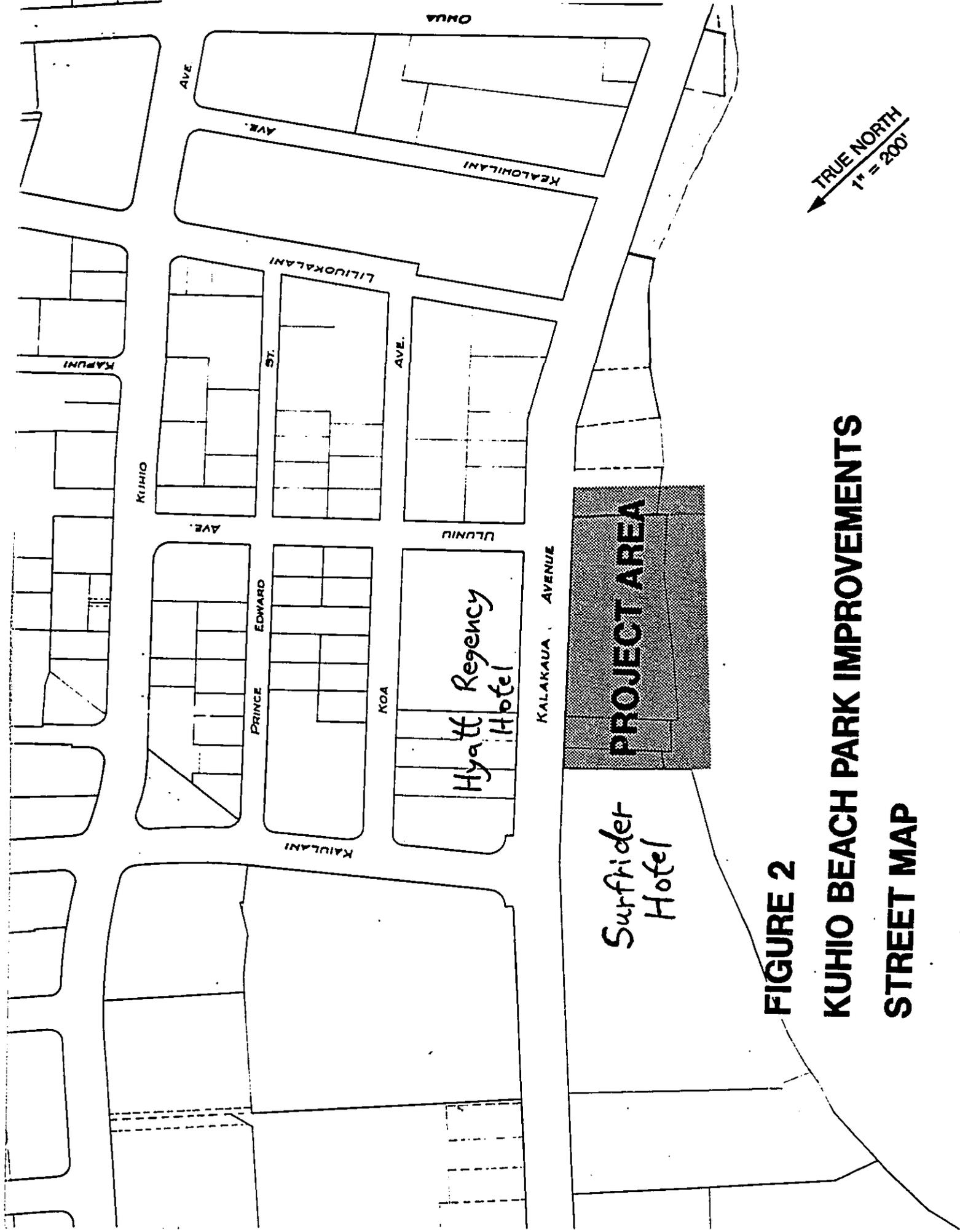
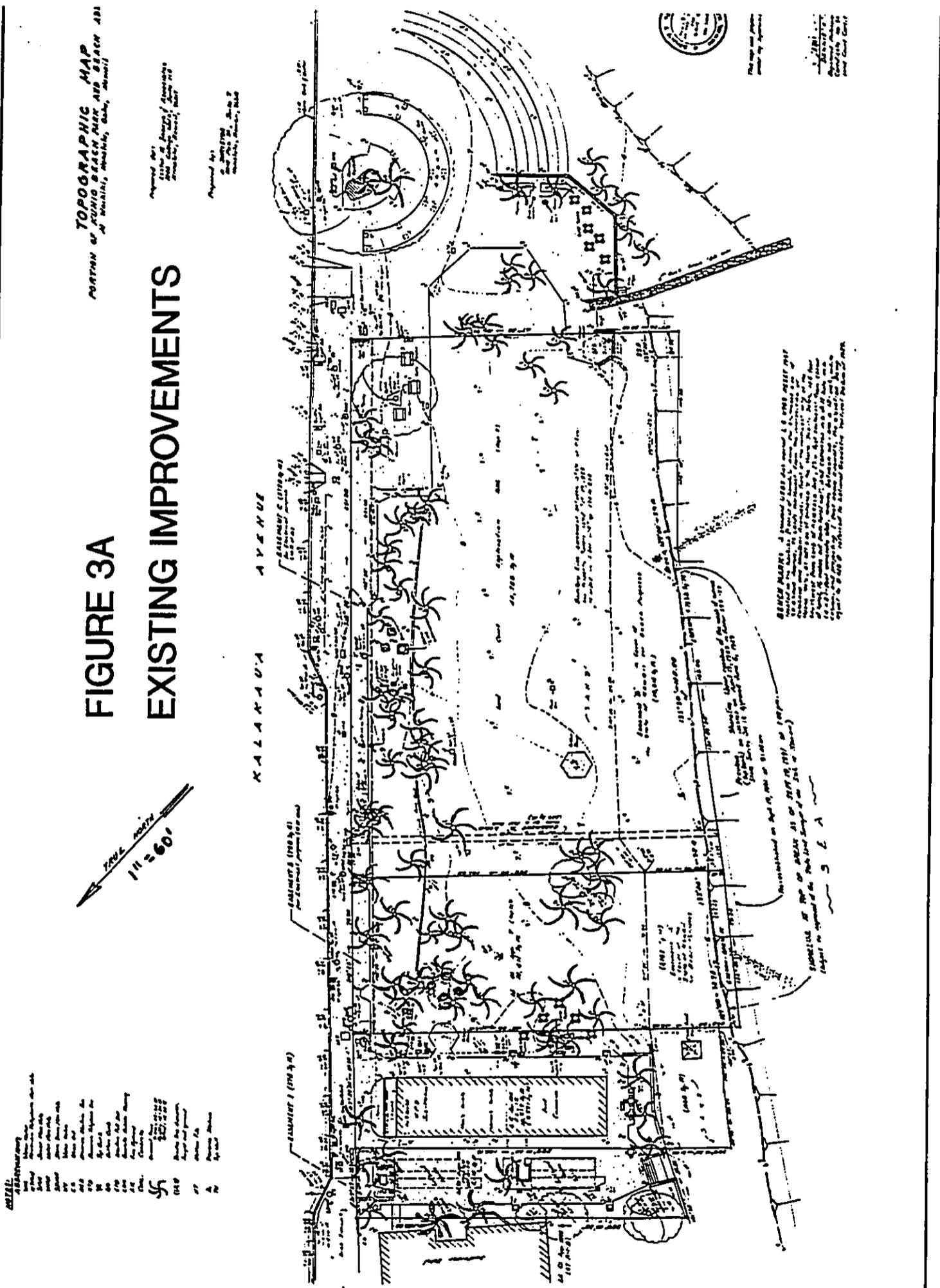


FIGURE 2

**KUHIO BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS
STREET MAP**



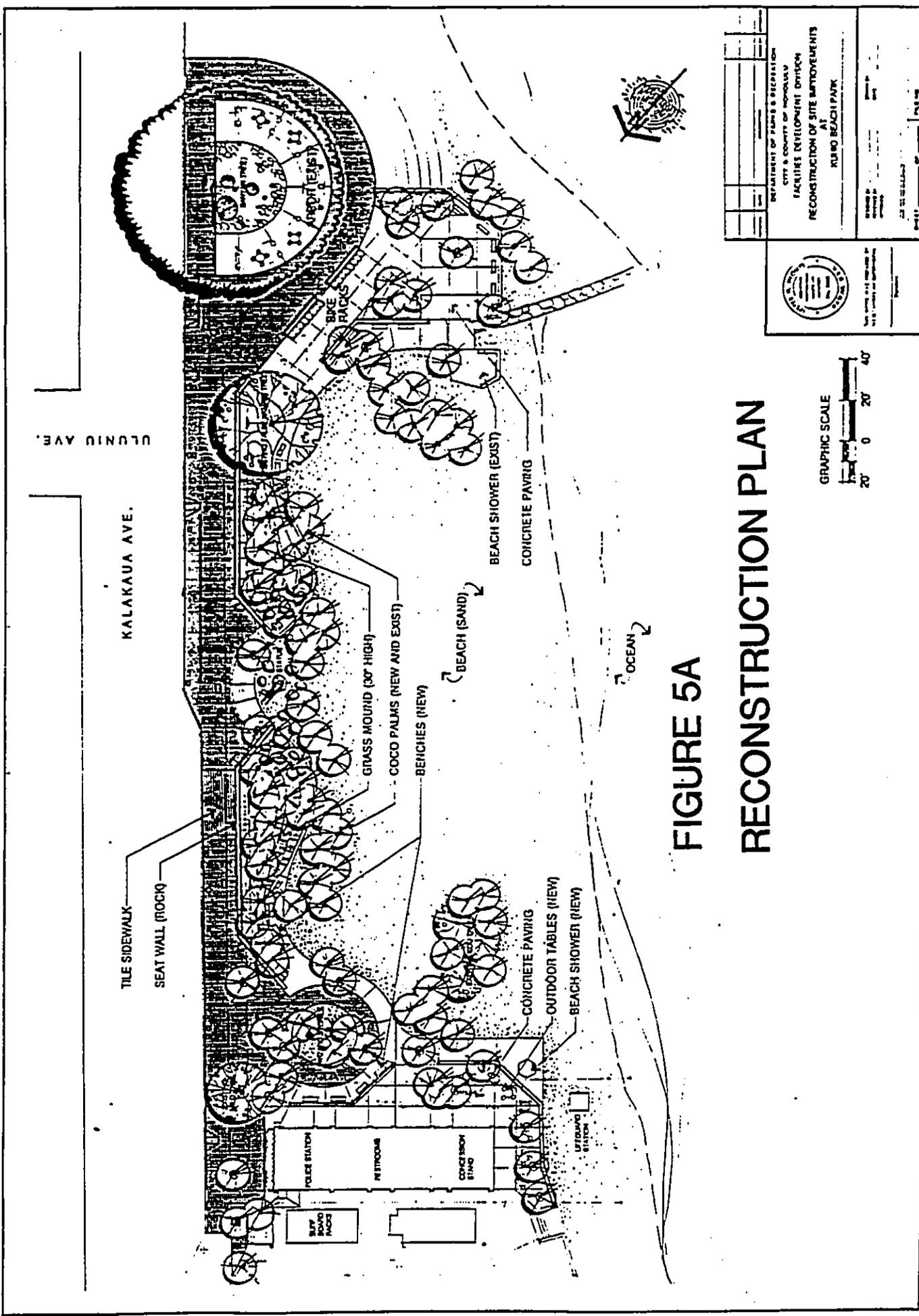


FIGURE 5A
RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION	
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU	
PARKS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	
RECONSTRUCTION OF SITE IMPROVEMENTS	
AT	
KULO BEACH PARK	
DATE: 11/11/11	SCALE: 1" = 20'



FIGURE 5B
RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

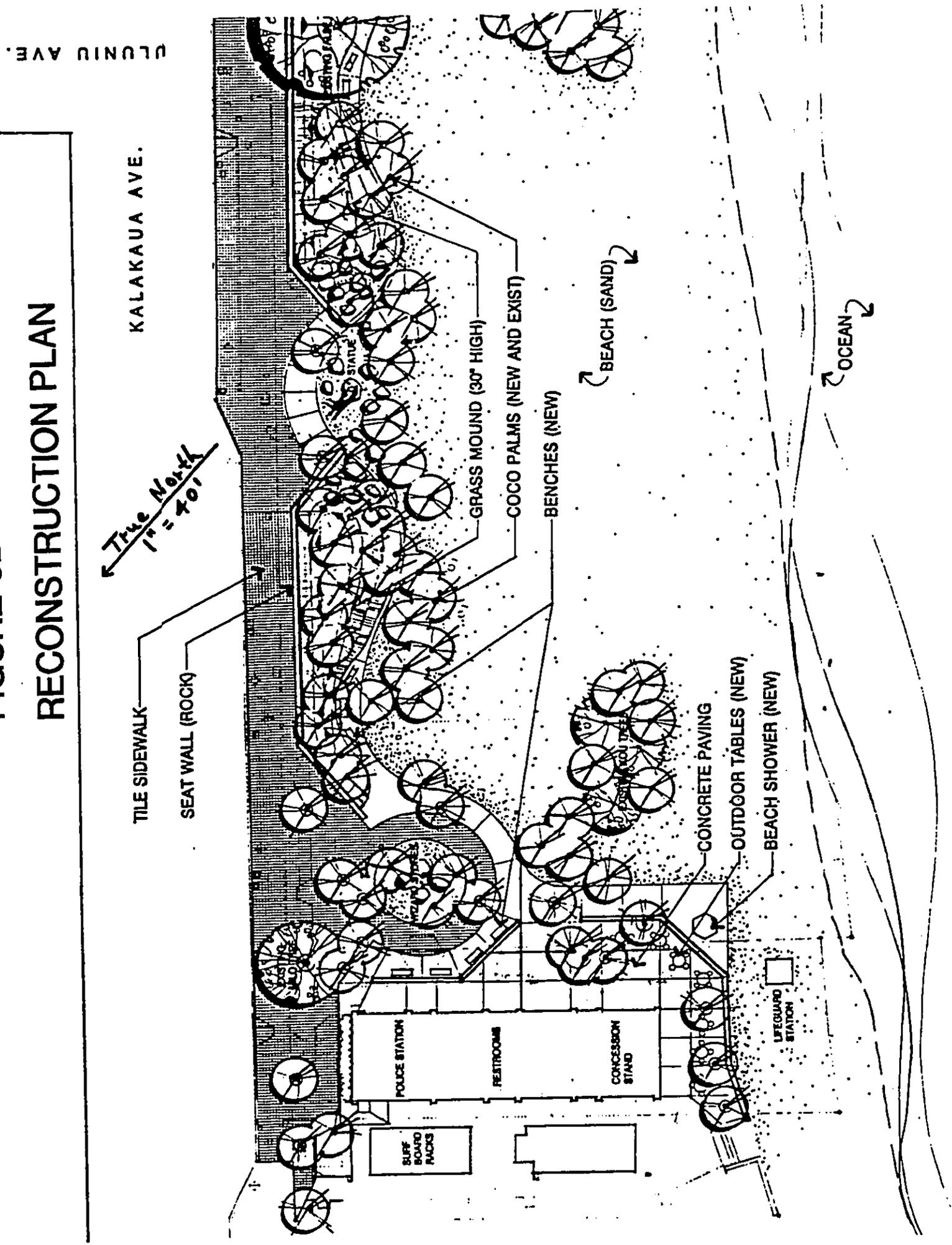


FIGURE 5C
RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

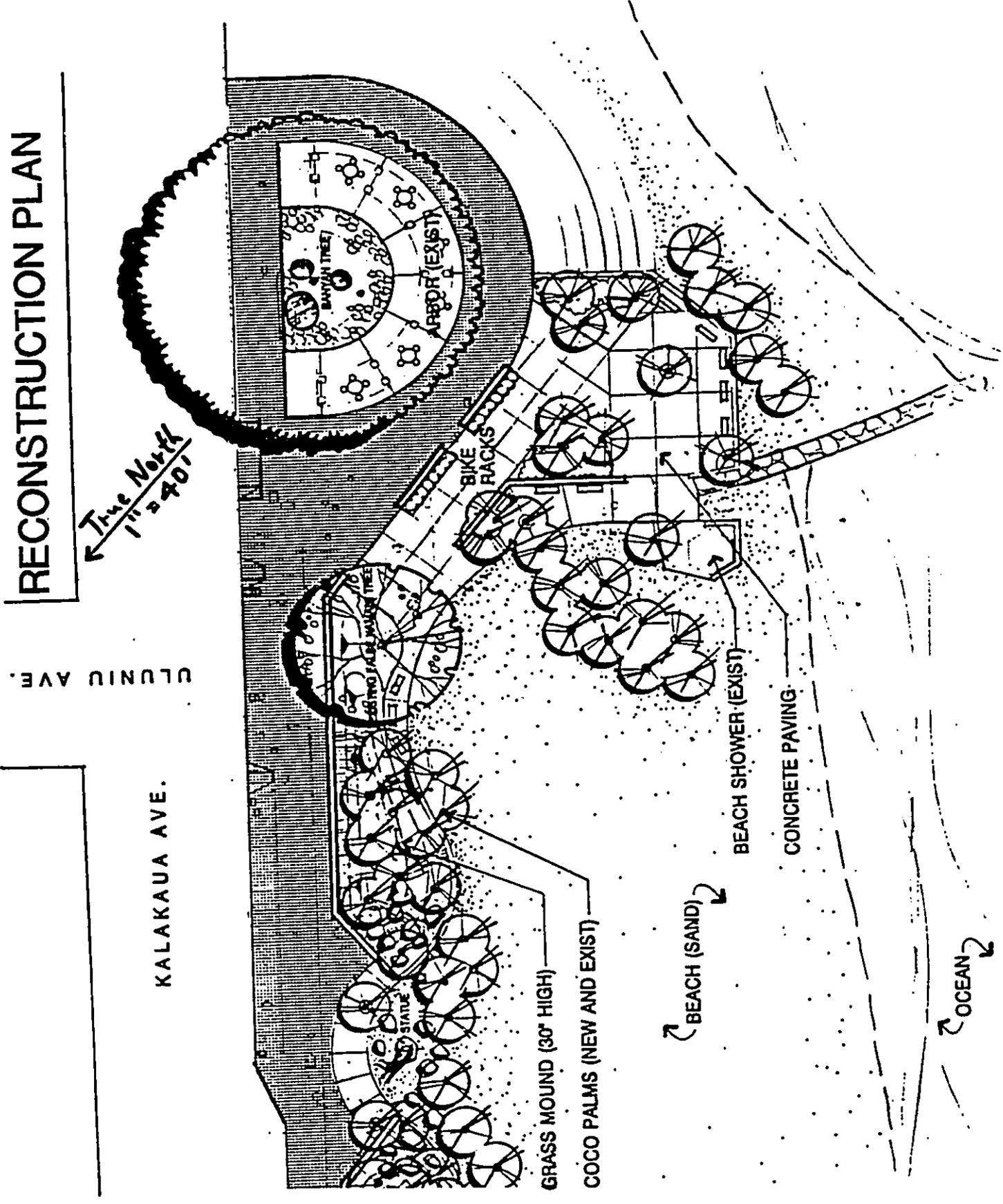


FIGURE 6B
LANDSCAPING DETAILS

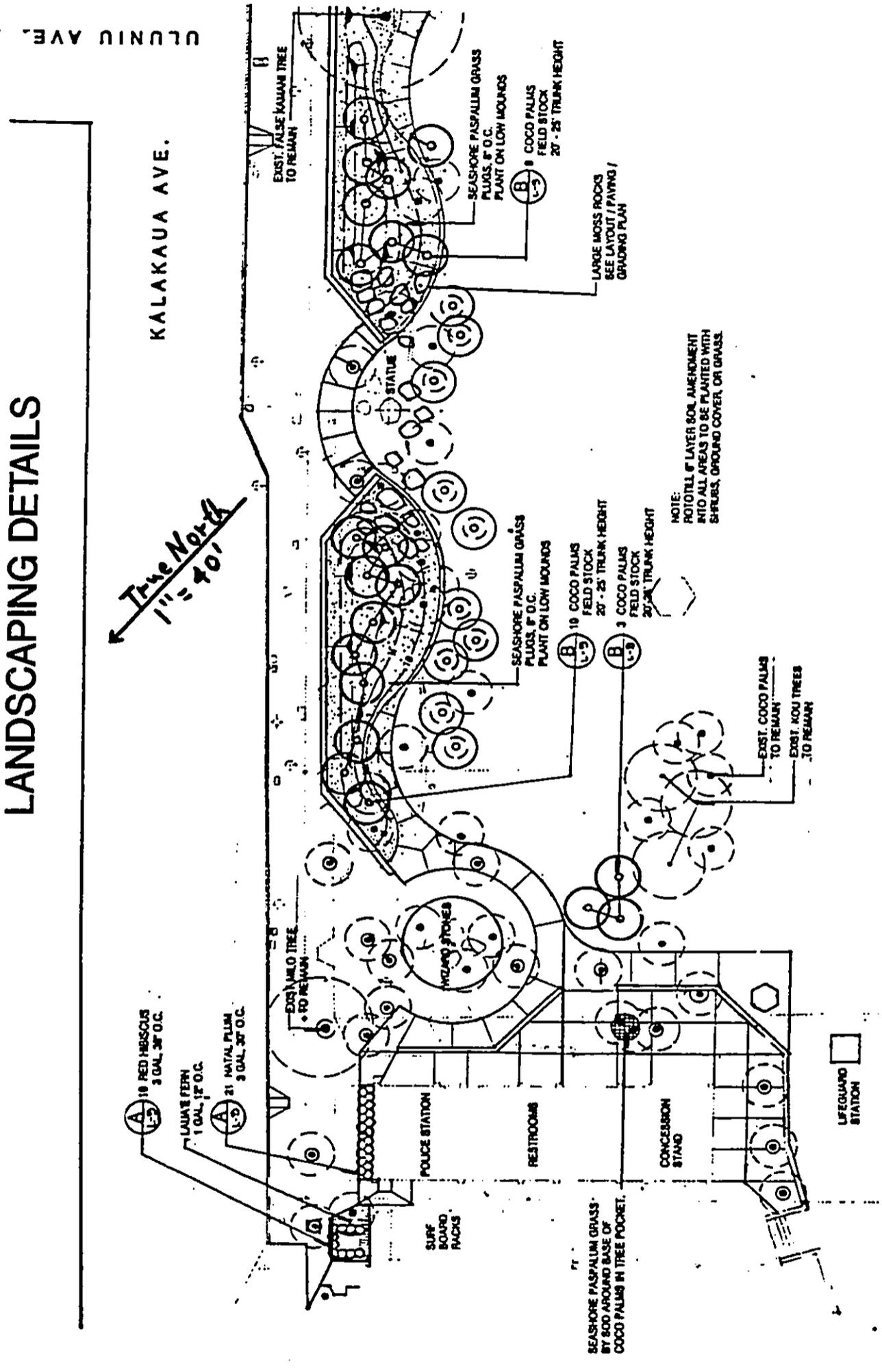
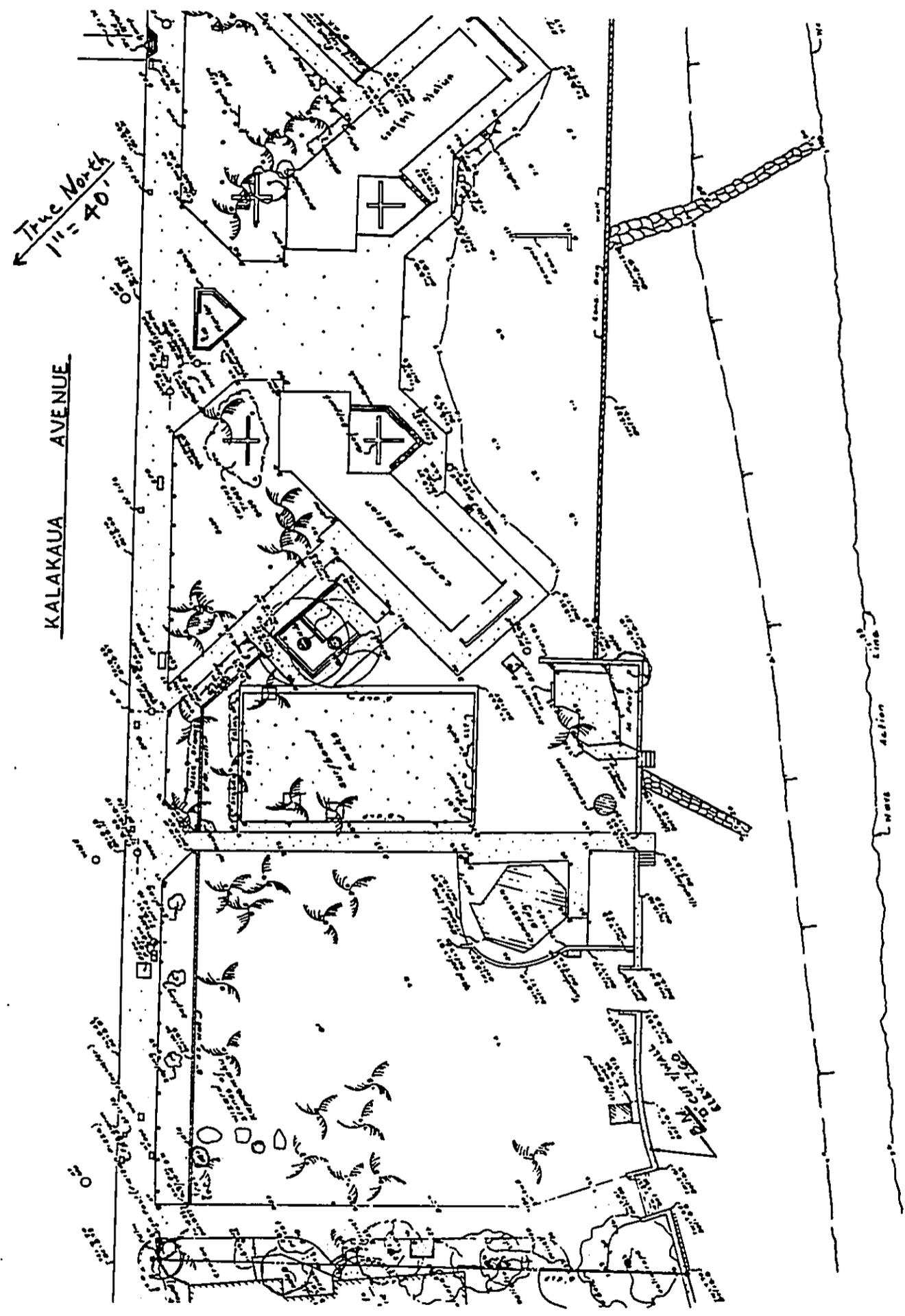


FIGURE 7B PROJECT AREA IN 1980



PROJECT AREA IN 1980

FIGURE 7C

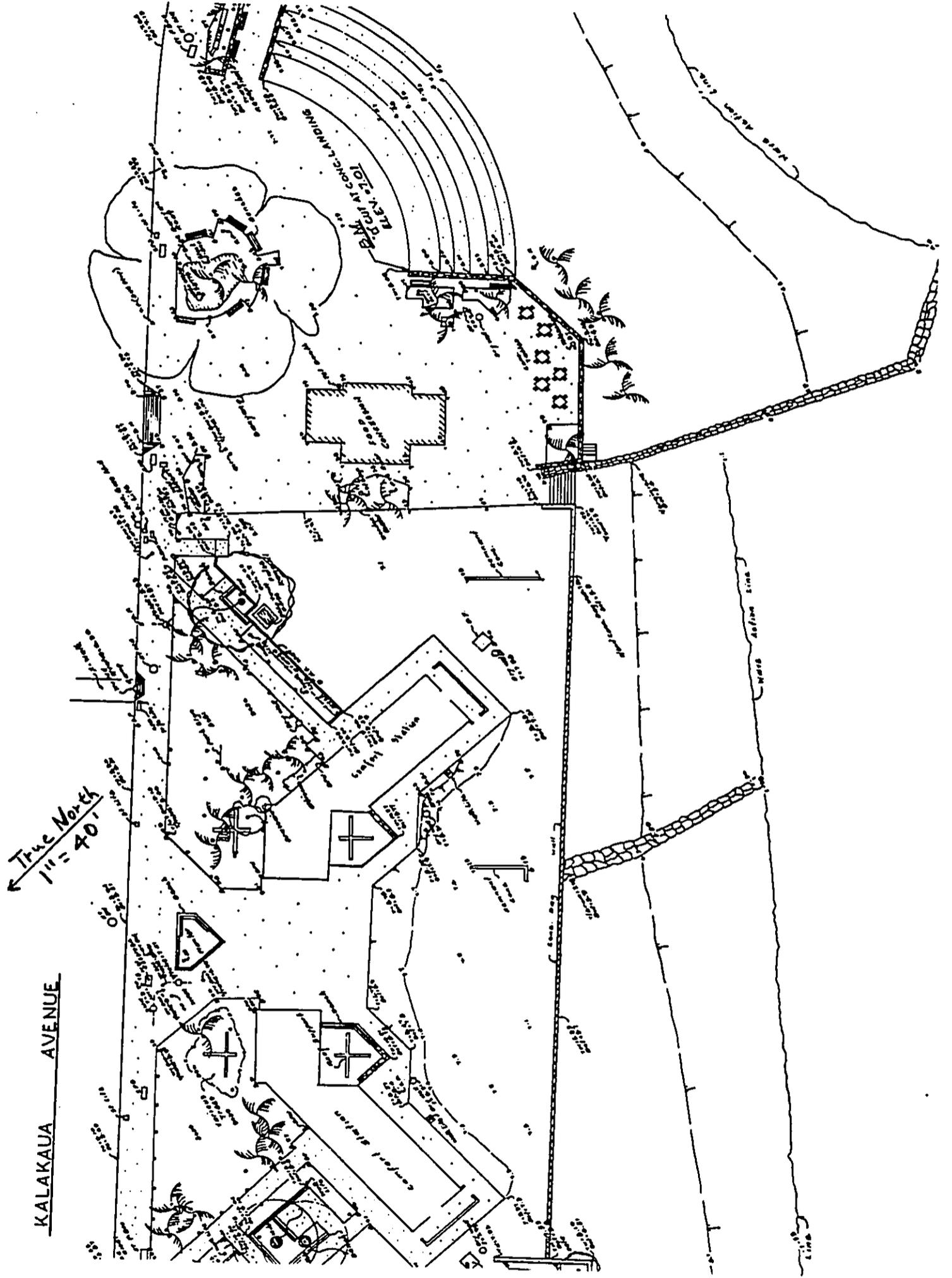


FIGURE 8A
PLANS FOR LOWERING
SEAWALL IN 1981

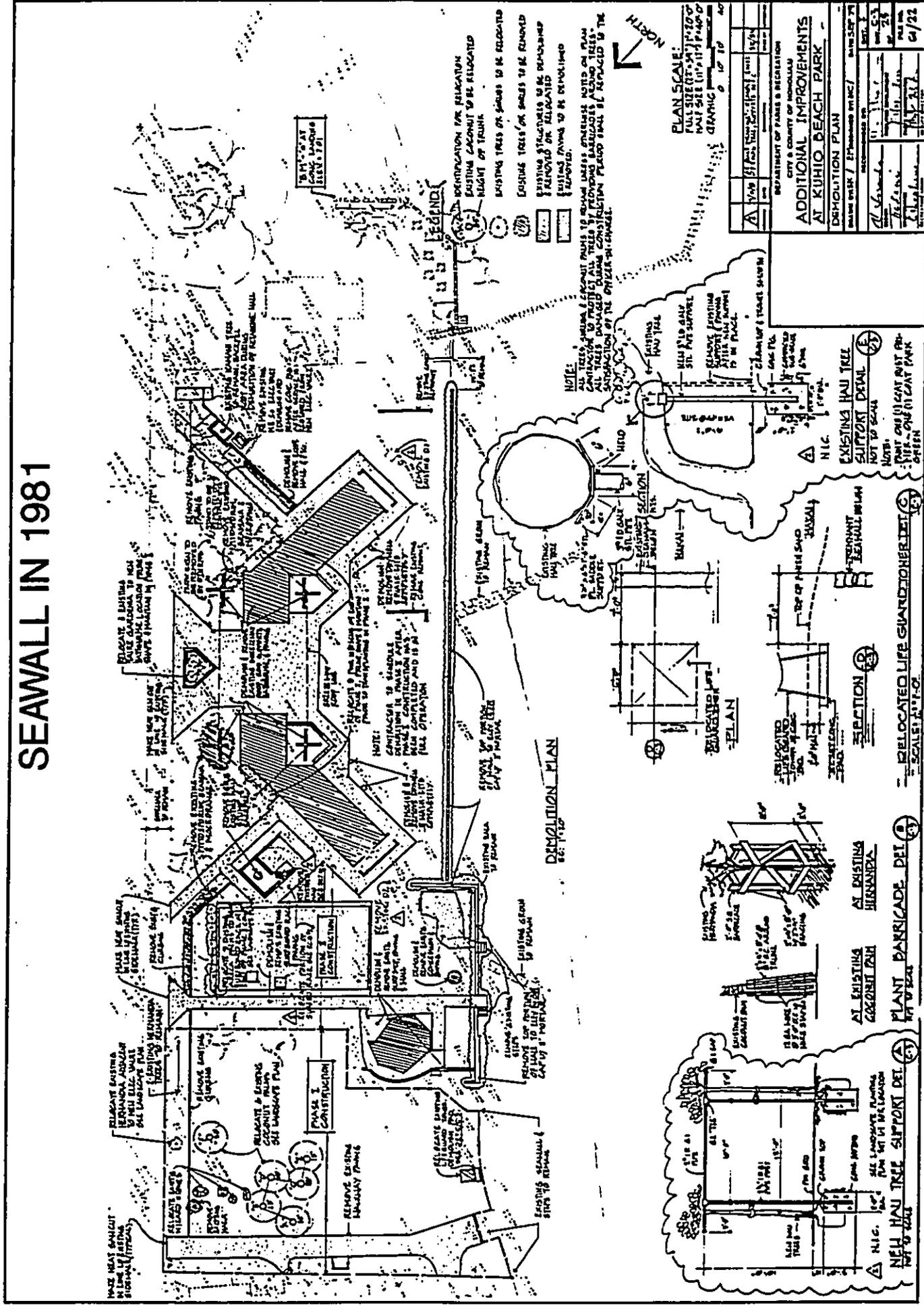
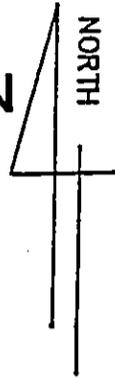


FIGURE 9
BEACH CONFIGURATION
1952-1990



DYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL

MOANA HOTEL

BEACH BACKSHORE

BEACH TOE

LEGEND

- 1952 _____
- 1958 - - - - -
- 1970 _____
- 1982 - - - - -
- 1990 - - - - -

0 250 500
SCALE IN FEET

EDWARD K. NODA & ASSOC., INC. HARJOFS DIVISION STATE OF HAWAII, DOT	WAIKIKI BEACH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMPARISON OF 1952, 1958, 1970, 1982, AND 1990 SHORELINES FROM AERIAL PHOTO ANALYSIS FORT DERUSSY - KUHIO BEACH	6/91 FIGURE 2-3B
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