

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

FRANK F. FASI  
MAYOR



REC'D

WALTER M. OZAWA  
DIRECTOR

ALVIN K.C. AU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

'91 DEC 13 A9:00

December 11, 1991  
SEC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL 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 King Kalakaua Park Improvements  
(Formerly Waikiki Gateway Park)  
Tax Map Key 2-6-16: 32-36

The Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared an Environmental Assessment for King Kalakaua Park improvements and has determined that the project will not have any significant environmental impact. Please publish a 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

227

1991-12-23 OA-FA-

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR  
\* KING KALAKAUA PARK (AKA WAIKIKI GATEWAY PARK) IMPROVEMENTS \*  
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

TMK: 2-6-16: 32, 33, 34, 35, & 36

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: None

I. PROPOSED PROJECT

A. SUMMARY

The City Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to develop landscaping improvements and a water feature at King Kalakaua Park (formerly named Waikiki Gateway Park).

B. TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

King Kalakaua Park is located in the triangular area bordered by Kalakaua Avenue, Kuhio Avenue, and the Waikiki Gateway Hotel. (See Figures 1, 2, and 3) The City owns the 0.507 acre site.

The park site is almost level. Current landscaping improvements include a lawn, 14 coconut palms, 8 rainbow shower trees, and several hibiscus and mock orange hedges. Structural improvements include tile pavers along Kalakaua Avenue, a concrete sidewalk along Kuhio Avenue, a King Kalakaua Statue mounted on a circular concrete pad, and a concrete walkway and plaza enclosed within a low rock wall. (See Figure 3) The rainbow shower trees surround and shade the plaza. Within the center of the plaza, there is a simulated volcano: red bougainvillea within a gently sloping, circular rock mound.

Proposed improvements require removal of all rainbow shower trees, grass, hedges, concrete pavement, and rock walls from King Kalakaua

Park. The park will be redeveloped as a series of curvilinear planter areas surrounded by tile pavers. Planter areas at the Ewa end of the park will utilize low flowering hedges. (See Figure 4) The circular planter around the King Kalakaua Statue will also incorporate a water feature and decorative fence. Planter areas in the middle of the park will use zoysia grass. Kukui trees and additional coconut palms will be planted to shade lawn areas. The planter area at the Diamond Head end of the park will be intensively landscaped to obscure views of the Waikiki Gateway Hotel from the park.

#### C. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The project's purpose is to beautify one of the "gateways" to Waikiki.

#### D. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Proposed improvements will cost about \$600,000 to \$700,000. Costs will be shared between the City and the State.

Construction will commence in spring 1992 and be completed within 180 days including maintenance of landscaping.

#### 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 (25-foot height limit for TMK: 2-6-16: 35 and 300-foot height limit for the remainder of the park site);
- . outside the special management area (SMA); and
- . within Flood Insurance Rate Map Flood Fringe District Zone AO (projected 100-year flood depth of 2 feet).

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

## II. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

King Kalakaua Park is a completely man-made park surrounded by intensive urban development. The park abuts the Diamond-Head side of a busy Waikiki street intersection. (See Figure 2) In the

project vicinity, Kuhio Avenue allows two-way traffic while Kalakaua Avenue allows only one-way Diamond Head-bound traffic.

The park is located on a gently sloping coastal plain on the dry leeward side of the island. The site ranges between 5 and 7 feet above sea level. There are no rare or endangered species of plants or animals; streams, wetlands, or estuaries; potable ground water resources; or known archaeological resources in the area where development is proposed.

#### B. LAND USE

King Kalakaua Park is directly adjacent to Kalakaua Avenue, Kuhio Avenue, and the Waikiki Gateway Hotel. Hotels, an automobile service station, restaurants, and shops are located across the street from the park.

King Kalakaua Park is not used for active recreation. Pedestrians occasionally sit on the benches in the center of the park.

#### III. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

During construction, most of the the park will be fenced off. Pedestrians will be routed to the crosswalk at the Ewa end of the park. The bus stop on the Kuhio Avenue side of the park will temporarily be closed. Other short term construction related impacts including noise and dust will be mitigated with standard State and City requirements.

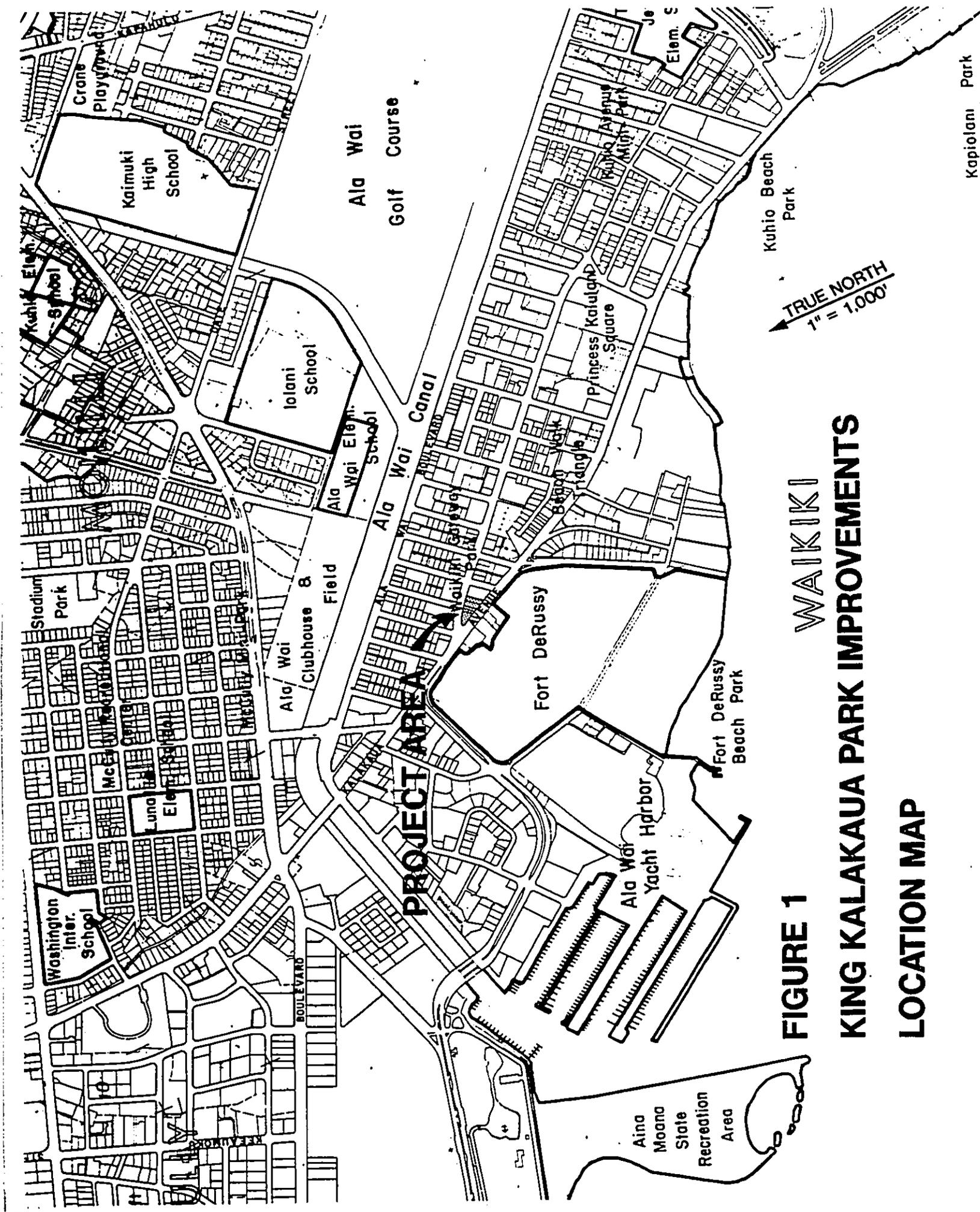
In the long term, King Kalakaua Park will be more aesthetically pleasing. No other environmental impacts are anticipated. Given the setting, it is unlikely that proposed improvements will encourage active recreational use of the park..

#### IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The "no action" alternative was rejected as less attractive than proposed improvements. Beautification is appropriate because the Kuhio Avenue/Kalakaua Avenue intersection is a heavily travelled gateway to Waikiki.

#### 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.

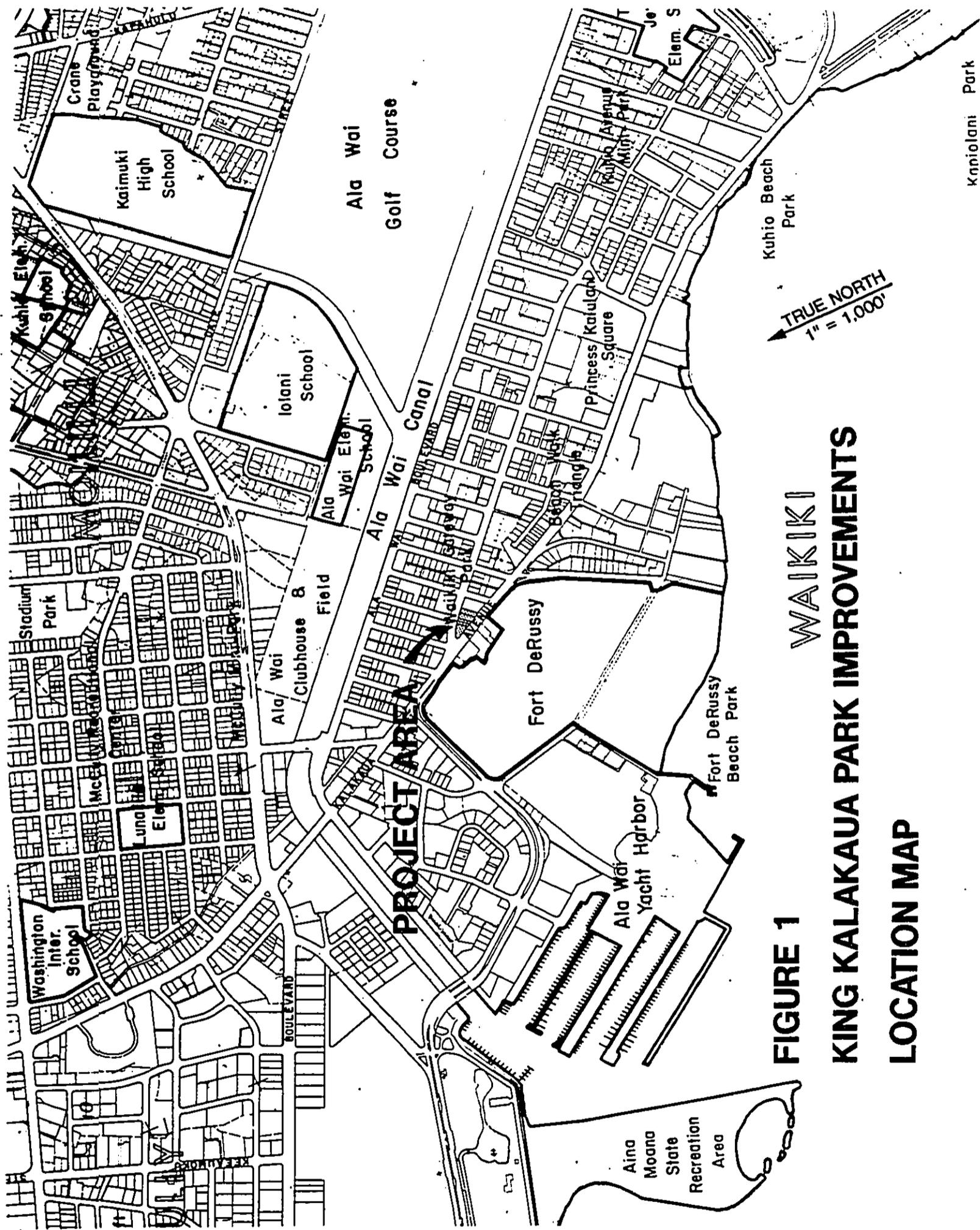


**FIGURE 1**

**WAIKIKI**

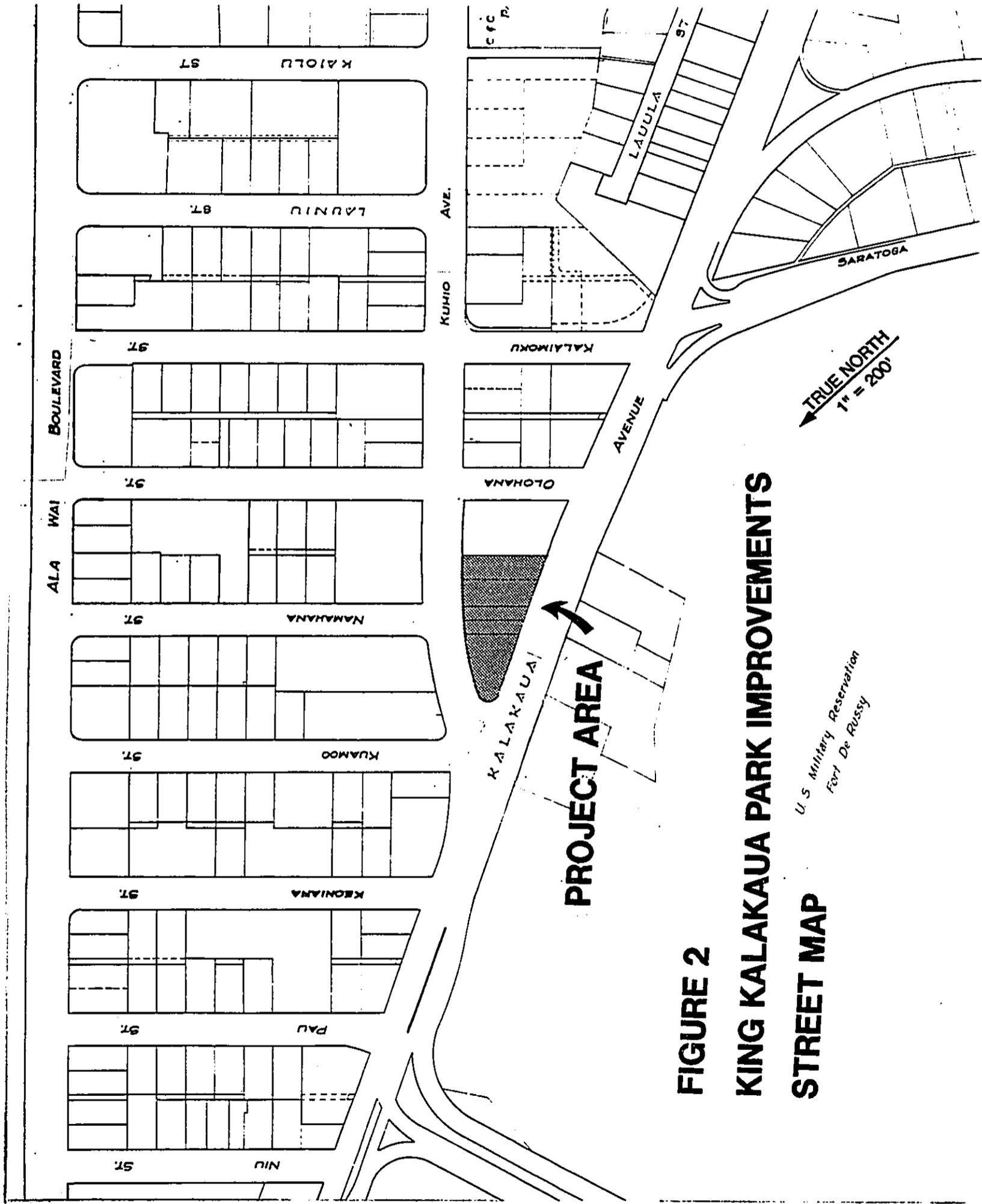
**KING KALAKAUA PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

**LOCATION MAP**

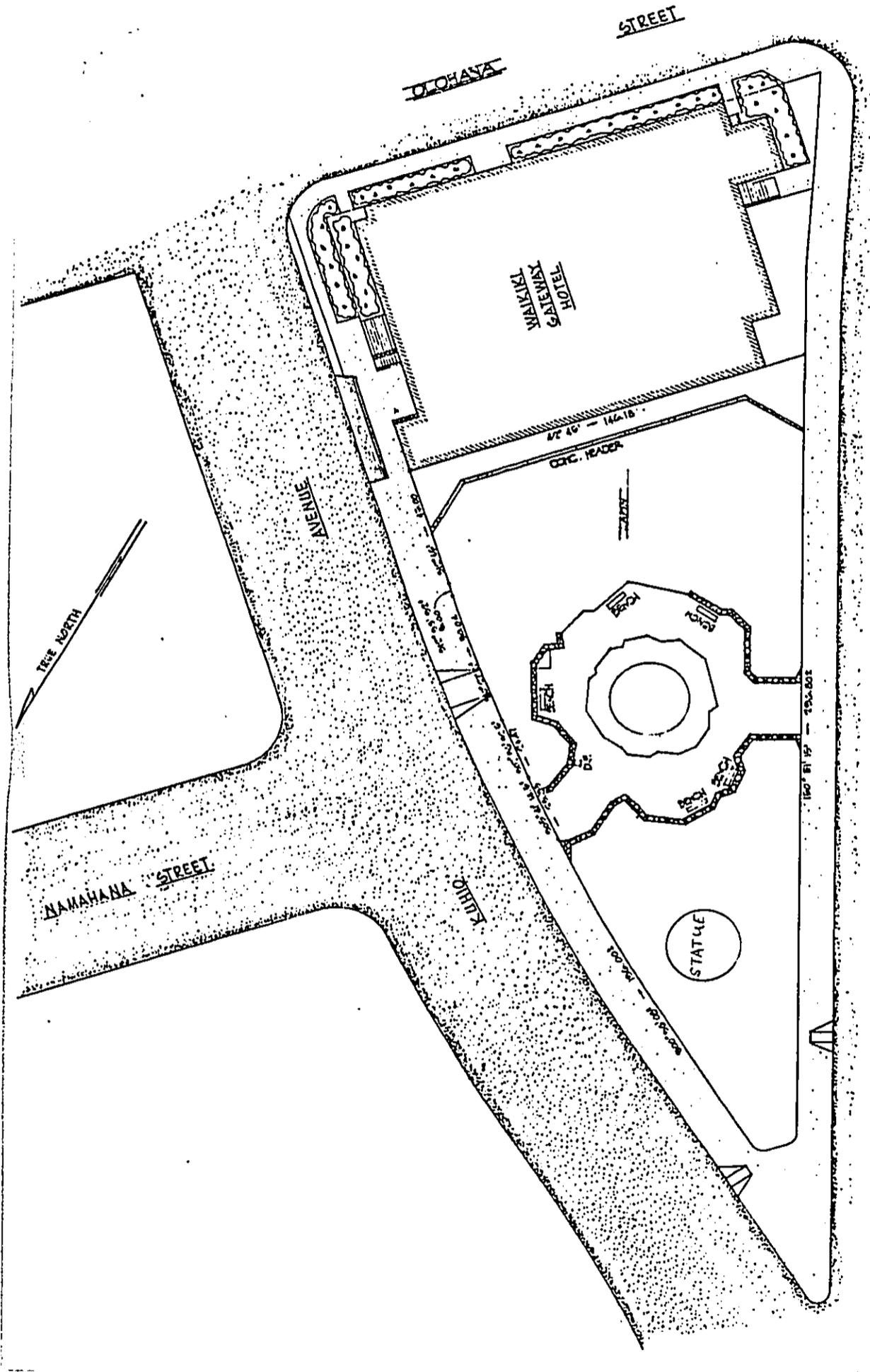


**FIGURE 1**  
**KING KALAKAUA PARK IMPROVEMENTS**  
**LOCATION MAP**

WAIKIKI



**FIGURE 2**  
**KING KALAKAUUA PARK IMPROVEMENTS**  
**STREET MAP**



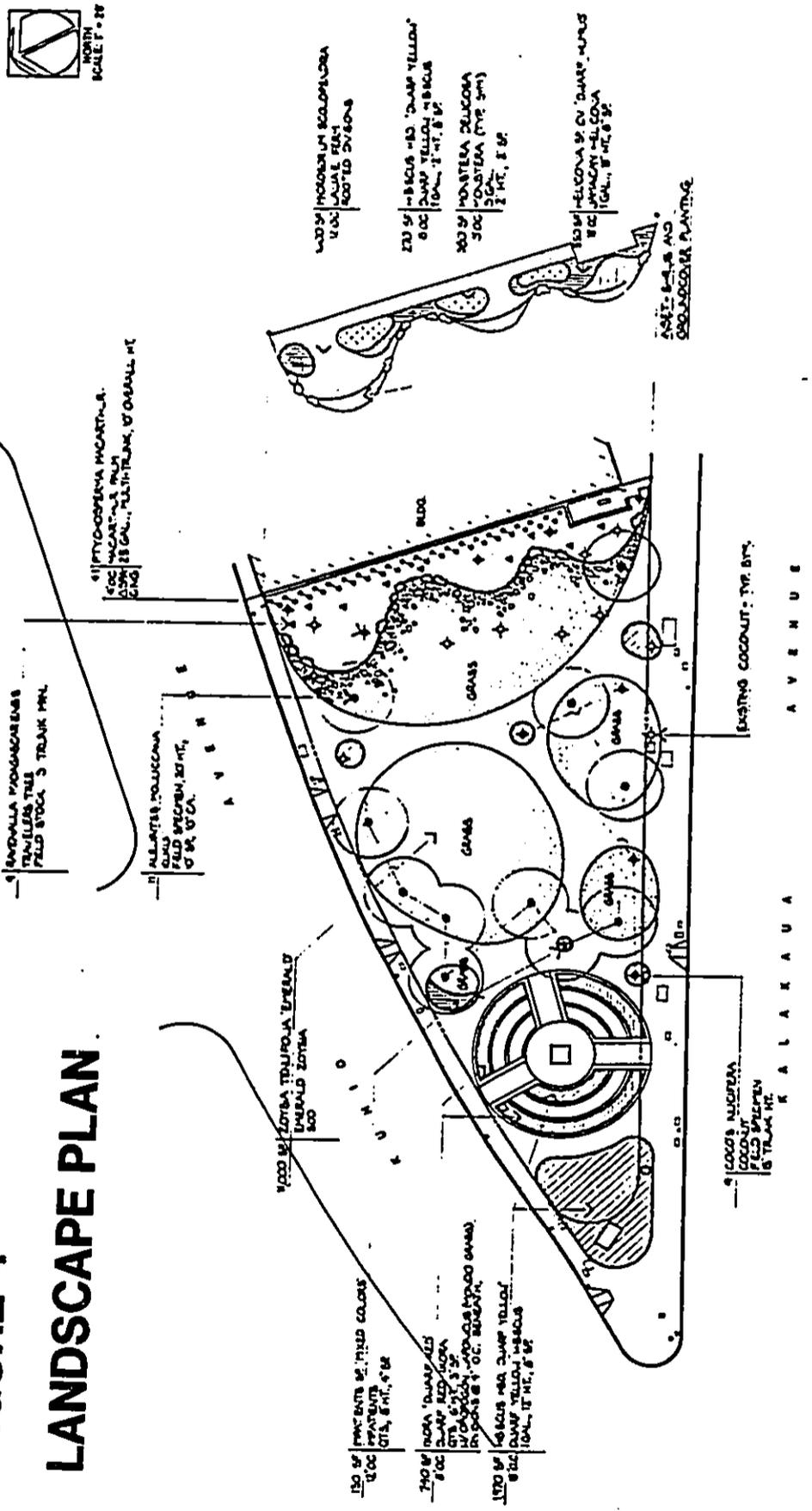
KALAKAUA AVENUE

**FIGURE 3**  
**EXISTING PARK STRUCTURES**



AREA: 0.570 Acres

# FIGURE 4 LANDSCAPE PLAN



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION	
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU	
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	
RECONSTRUCTION OF SITE IMPROVEMENTS	
AT	
WAIKIKI GATEWAY PARK	
PLANTING PLAN	
DATE: 11/11/11	SCALE: AS SHOWN
DESIGNED BY: [Signature]	CHECKED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 11/11/11	SCALE: AS SHOWN



- PLANTING NOTES**
1. VERIFY THE SIZE AND SPACING OF ALL PLANTINGS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE SIZE AND SPACING OF ALL PLANTINGS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE SIZE AND SPACING OF ALL PLANTINGS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
  2. PLANTINGS SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS AND NOTES ON THE DRAWINGS. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE SIZE AND SPACING OF ALL PLANTINGS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
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