

The Environmental Notice

A semi-monthly periodic bulletin published by the Office of Environmental Quality Control pursuant to Section 343-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

February 23, 2008

Final NEPA EIS for Stryker Brigade - Schofield Barracks on O'ahu - Preferred Location

The Department of the Army announced on February 15, 2008, its intention to release the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the permanent stationing of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division as a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (2/25th SBCT). The Final EIS will be transmitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for publication of a notice of availability in the *Federal Register*, anticipated to occur on February 22, 2008.

This Final EIS identifies Schofield Barracks Military Reservation in Hawai'i as the Army's preferred alternative for the stationing location of this brigade. A Record of Decision (ROD) document will announce the final location decision no earlier than 30 days from the date the EPA notice of availability of the Final EIS appears in the *Federal Register*. The 2/25th SBCT deployed in November 2007 from Hawai'i to support ongoing operations in Iraq and will return to a home station in early 2009. (Photograph - undated, courtesy of U.S. Army website, showing Kolekole Pass from Schofield Barracks looking toward the Wai'anae coast.)

The Army analyzed 140 installations for their suitability to meet the appropriate training infrastructure, maneuver land, compatible mission and garrison support infrastructure to support the SBCT. Out of the 140 installations, three Army installations were determined to have the appropriate infrastructure capable of supporting the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT. The Final EIS examines the three Army installations. It provides the Army's senior leadership with a "hard look" at environmental impacts associated with the proposed action so their decision-making process for selecting the final stationing location will be fully informed. The EIS effort included analysis of all activities (training, facilities construction, and Soldier and Family support) required to permanently station the 2/25th SBCT. In addition, the

Final EIS identifies strategic deployment as a critical component of the need for the stationing action. Strategic deployment considerations for the stationing of the 2/25th SBCT will be evaluated further in the Army's decision-making process and justified in the record of decision. The three alternatives for implementing the proposed stationing action are: (1) permanently

stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Schofield Barracks Military Reservation while conducting required training at military training sites in Hawai'i; (2) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Fort Richardson while conducting required training at military training sites in Alaska; and (3) permanently stationing the 2/25th SBCT at Fort Carson while conducting required training at military training sites in Colorado. In addition to these alternatives, the "No Action" alternative was described and its environmental impacts fully assessed

and considered. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed stationing action have been considered in the final EIS. The document identifies impacts at each of the three alternative locations that would occur as a result of implementing the proposed action. Impacts at alternative sites would result from construction and training activities. Each of the impacts can be mitigated. The Army invited full public participation in the environmental evaluation process to promote open communication and better decision making. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the permanent stationing of the 2/25th SBCT were urged to participate. The public has provided input and comments at scoping meetings and public meetings held at all potential alternative stationing locations for the 2/25th. Send all written comments and questions concerning this final EIS to: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Building E4460, 5179 Hoadley Road, Attention: IMAE-PA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401. Telephone: (410) 436-2556. Facsimile: (410) 436-1693. Electronic mail comments should be sent to: PublicComments@aec.apgea.army.mil.



Environmental Council Meeting on March 12, 2008

The Environmental Council tentatively plans to meet on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2:00 P.M. in the afternoon in Room 204, Leiopapa A Kamehameha, 235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu. For the final agenda, please visit the following Uniform Resource Locator on or after March 6, 2008: <http://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/html/event>. When the page opens click on "Available Calendars" and select "Department of Health, Environmental Council." Although the Environmental Council meets at 2:00 P.M., the various standing committees of the Environmental Council will be meeting in Room 702, Office of Environmental Quality Control at 1:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend and testify on any agenda item.



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We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. Write or call OEQC or our departmental Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378 or at (808) 586-4616 (voice/tty) within 180 days of a problem. OEQC intends to make the information in this bulletin accessible to everyone. Individuals that require this material in a different format (such as large type or braille), should contact our office for assistance.

Definitions

Your guide to the Environmental Review Process

Draft Environmental Assessment

A project or action that may affect the environment cannot be implemented until an Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared in accordance with Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). If the lead State or county agency (the *proposing agency* for agency actions, or the *approving agency* for applicant actions) anticipates that the project will have no significant environmental impact, then affected agencies, individuals, and organizations must be consulted and a Draft EA (DEA) is written and public notice is published in this periodic bulletin (see, section 343-3, HRS) known as the *Environmental Notice*. The public has 30 days to comment on the Draft EA from the date of the first notice.

Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

After the lead agency reviews the public comments, if it determines that the project will have no significant effect on the environment, and then it will prepare a Final EA (FEA) and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) formerly called a *Negative Declaration*. The Final EA must respond to all public comments. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be required and the project may now be implemented. The public has 30 days from the first notice of a FONSI in this periodic bulletin to ask a court to require the preparation of an EIS.

Final Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice

When a lead agency decides that a project may have a significant environmental impact, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared prior to implementing the project. Like the DEA (see *above*), affected agencies, individuals and organizations must be consulted prior to preparation of the final EA (FEA) and issuance of a determination called an EIS preparation notice (EISPN). (The EA is called *final*, to distinguish it from the draft, *above*). After the FEA is written by the lead agency, and notice of the FEA and EISPN is published in this periodic bulletin, any agency, group, or individual has 30 days from the first publication of the EISPN to request to become a consulted party and to make written comments regarding the environmental effects of the proposed action. The public (including an applicant) has 60 days from the first notice of an EISPN in this periodic bulletin to ask a court to not require the preparation of an EIS.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

After receiving the comments on the FEA and EISPN (see *above*), the lead agency or private applicant must prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prior to project implementation. This document must completely disclose the likely impacts of a project. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts must be discussed along with measures proposed to mitigate them. The public has 45 days from the first publication date in this periodic bulletin to comment on a DEIS. The DEIS must respond to comments received during the FEA-EISPN comment period in a *point-by-point* manner.

Final Environmental Impact Statement

After considering all public comments filed during the DEIS stage, the agency or applicant must prepare a Final EIS (FEIS). The FEIS must respond in a *point-by-point* manner to all comments from the draft stage. Requisite deeper analyses must be included in the FEIS. For applicant projects, the approving agency is authorized to accept the FEIS. For agency project the Governor or the county mayor is the accepting authority. Only after the EIS is accepted may the project be implemented.

Acceptability

If the FEIS is accepted, the law requires that notice of this be published in this periodic bulletin. The public has 60 days from the date of first notice of acceptance to ask a court to vacate the acceptance of an EIS. In the case of applicant actions, the law requires that an approving agency must make a determination on acceptance within thirty-days of receipt of the FEIS or the FEIS is deemed accepted. Also, for applicant actions, the law provides for an administrative appeal of a non-acceptance to the Environmental Council.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal projects to prepare an EA or EIS. In many ways it is similar to Hawai'i's law. Some projects require both a state (and county) *and* federal EIS and the public comment procedure should be coordinated. Although not required by law, the OEQC publishes NEPA notices in this periodic bulletin to help keep the public informed of important federal actions.

Conservation District

Any use of land in the State Conservation District requires a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA). These applications are reviewed and approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Members of the public may intervene in the permit process. Notice of these permit applications is published in this periodic bulletin.

Special Management Area

The Special Management Area (SMA) is along the coastlines of all our islands and development in this area is generally regulated by Chapter 205A, HRS and county ordinance. A special subset of the SMA that is regulated by Chapter 343, HRS is the Shoreline Setback Area. Most development in this area requires a Special Management Permit (SMP). This periodic bulletin posts notice of these SMP applications to encourage public input.

Shoreline Certifications

State law requires that Hawai'i shorelines be surveyed and certified when necessary to clearly establish the shoreline setback (an area contained between the certified shoreline and a prescribe distance inland (usually 40 feet) from the certified shoreline). The public may participate in the process to help assure accurate regulatory boundaries. Private land owners often petition to have their shoreline certified by the State surveyor prior to construction. This periodic bulletin publishes notice from the Department of Land and Natural Resources of both shoreline certification applicants and of final certifications or rejections.

Environmental Council

The Environmental Council is a fifteen-member citizen board appointed by the Governor to advise the State on environmental concerns. The council makes the rules that govern the Environmental Impact Statement process. The agendas of their regular meetings are published on the Internet at <http://www.ehawaii.gov.org/calendar> and the public is invited to attend.

Exemption Lists

Government agencies must keep a list describing the minor activities they regularly perform that are declared exempt from the environmental review process. These lists are reviewed and approved by the Environmental Council. This periodic bulletin will publish an agency's draft exemption list for public comment prior to Council decision making, as well as notice of the Council's decision on the list.

Endangered Species

This periodic bulletin is required by Section 343-3(c), HRS, to publish notice of public comment periods or public hearings for habitat conservation plans (HCP), safe harbor agreements (SHA), or incidental take licenses (ITL) under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as availability for public inspection of a proposed HCP or SHA, or a proposed ITL (as a part of an HCP or SHA).

Hawai'i Notices

February 23, 2008

(1) Keahuolu Affordable Housing Project (HRS 343 DEIS)

District: North Kona
TMK: (3) 7-4-021: 020, por. 21
Proposing Agency: Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation, 677 Queen Street, Suite 300, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813. Contact - Stan S. Fujimoto, (808-587-0541)
Accepting Authority: Office of the Governor, c/o Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation, 677 Queen Street, Suite 300, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813. Contact - Janice Takahashi, (808-587-0639)
Consultant: Belt Collins Hawai'i, Ltd., 2153 North King Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819. Contact - Mary O'Leary, (808-521-5361)
Public Comment Deadline: April 8, 2008
Status: Draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) notice pending 45-day public comment. Address comments to the proposing agency with copies to the accepting authority, consultant and OEQC.
Permits Required: State Land Use District Boundary Amendment, Zone Change or Exemptions, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Subdivision Approval, Grading, building, plan approval and other necessary development permits, Production Well(s) Construction Permit / Pump Installation Permit

The Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation is the State of Hawai'i agency tasked with developing and financing low- and moderate-income housing projects and administering homeownership programs. The HHFDC is proposing the development of the Keahuolu Affordable Housing project to provide affordable housing options for people employed in West Hawai'i. The project is intended to be a mixed-use community with affordable and market-priced housing, as well as commercial space and public facilities.

The HHFDC developed a master plan with three alternative land use plans for the 272-acre housing project site, which is owned by the HHFDC and located along Palani Road mauka of Kailua-Kona town. The alternative concept plans offer single- and multi-family dwelling units in varying densities. The total number of housing units in the alternative concepts varies from 1,020 to a maximum of 2,330 dwelling units. In addition to housing, the three mixed-use concept plans have the following common elements: 197,000 square feet of commercial/retail space, a civic open space at a town center, a site reserved for a school, neighborhood parks, an archeological preserve area, and landscaped buffers and open space. The project will require the development of on-site and off-site infrastructure.

The HHFDC has undertaken a Request for Proposal process and will select the ultimate developer of the project.

(2) Replacement of Ola'a Reservoir No. 2 (HRS 343 DEA)

District: Puna
TMK: 1-6-002:87 & 98, 1-6-03:27
Proposing Agency: Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply, 345 Kekuanaoa Street, Suite 20, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720. Contact - Bill Atkins, (808 961-8070)
Determination Agency: Same as above.
Consultant: Geometrician Associates, P.O. Box 396, Hilo, Hawai'i 96721. Contact - Ron Terry, (808 969-70990)
Public Comment Deadline: March 24, 2008
Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the proposing agency with copies to the consultant and OEQC.
Permits Required: Hawai'i County Approval Plan Approval, Subdivision Permit, Building Permit, Grading Permit, Right of Way Permit, National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit System Permit

The Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply (DWS) plans to remove the existing 0.20 million gallon capacity (Mg) Ola'a Reservoir No. 2 in Kea'au and construct a 0.50 Mg reservoir nearby. The existing reservoir, pumps and supporting facilities have reached the end of their service life, are undersized for current needs, have required expensive maintenance, and do not meet current DWS standards. The new reinforced concrete reservoir will be larger and better able to meet future demands in its water service area. Other features include a pump station with two booster pumps, a control building, a driveway, perimeter fencing, and landscaping. The existing transite water main along Milo Street will be replaced with a ductile iron pipe. Once existing water services are reconnected to the new tank, the existing reservoir will be demolished and the site landscaped to match the surrounding area. The improvements will promote public health and safety by improving water storage capacity for the Kea'au area.

The contractor will implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to contain sediment and storm water runoff during construction. Mitigation for worker and adjacent resident exposure to arsenic, asbestos and lead will be undertaken as part of construction. Hazardous substances will be abated by appropriate measures during construction and demolition. Implementation of the project would have a minor effect on local traffic, possibly requiring only a short-term single-lane closure during grading and paving of vehicular access points and during installation of the water line. The new reservoir site is a former sugar cane field and an active papaya field. No significant biological, archaeological or cultural resources are present. If archaeological resources or human remains are encountered during land-altering activities, work will be halted and the State Historic Preservation Division will be contacted.



Maui Notice

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(3) 2025 Master Plan Improvements at Kahului Commercial Harbor (HRS 343 DSEA)

District: Wailuku
TMK: 3-7-01: 21 & 22; 3-7-10: 2, 3, 6, 13, 15, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32 & 34; and 3-7-08: 2, 3, 4 & 6

Proposing Agency: State of Hawai‘i, Department of Transportation, Harbors Division, 79 South Nimitz Highway, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813. Contact - Mr. Michael Formby, (808 587-3651)

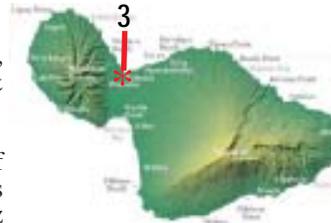
Determination Agency: State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, 869 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813. Contact - Brennon Morioka, (808 587-2150)

Consultant: Belt Collins Hawaii Ltd., 2153 North King Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96819. Contact - Sue Sakai, (808 521-5361)

Public Comment Deadline: March 24, 2008
Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the proposing agency with copies to the consultant and OEQC.

Permits Required:

Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, CWA Section 401 water quality certification, Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permit, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.



This Supplemental EA is prepared in response to a court order on the Final EA for the Kahului Commercial Harbor 2025 Master Plan. The court vacated the FONSI (published 12/23/05) with respect to traffic impacts only and affirmed that the FONSI was adequate with respect to all other subject matters.

The proposed action includes improvements to be implemented by 2015 to ensure efficient, safe, and accessible port operations: (1) Pier 1 extension; (2) Pier 1 waterline; (3) new Pier 4 (angled configuration); and (4) structural pavement, access bridge, and utilities at “Pu‘unene Yard.” An alternative to the angled Pier 4 is expansion/extension of Pier 3 to create a linear Pier 3 and Pier 4.

The traffic study analyzed three intersections along Ka‘ahumanu Avenue that access the harbor: Pu‘unene Avenue, Wharf Street, and Hobron Avenue. Hawaii Superferry (HSF) operations were considered in the analysis. All three intersections currently operate at acceptable levels (LOS C or better) during peak periods, with and without HSF traffic. In 2015, with the improvements completed (with either Pier 4 configuration) and under the no-action alternative, the intersections are projected to continue operating at acceptable levels, with and without HSF traffic. No traffic mitigation is required.

O‘ahu Notices

(4) Ho‘opili Project (HRS 343 DEIS)

District: ‘Ewa
TMK: *Petition Area:* 9-1-17: 04 (portion), 59, and 72; 9-1-18: 01 and 04. *Remainder of the Project Area:* 9-1-10: 02, 14 (portion), and 15 (portion); 9-1-17: 04 (portion); 9-2-01: 04, 05, 06 and 07; and 9-2-02: 02.

Applicant: D.R. Horton – Schuler Division, 828 Fort Street Mall, 4th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813. Contact - Dean Uchida, (808 521-5661)

Accepting Authority: State of Hawai‘i, Land Use Commission, P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96804-2359. Contact - Rodney Maile (808 587-3822)

Consultant: PBR HAWAI‘I, ASB Tower, Suite 650, 1001 Bishop Street, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813. Contact - Vincent Shigekuni, (808 521-5631)

Public Comment Deadline: April 8, 2008
Status: Draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) notice pending 45-day public comment. Address comments to the applicant with copies to the accepting authority, consultant and OEQC.

Permits Required:

State Land Use District Boundary Amendment, Zone Change, Subdivision Approval, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Building/Grading Permits, and Water Use Permit.

D.R. Horton – Schuler Division is proposing the development of Ho‘opili, a mixed-use, transit-ready community including residential (approx. 11,750 units, including affordable housing), business and commercial areas (approx. 145 acres), light industrial/business areas (approx. 50 acres), transit stops, schools and other public facilities (approx. 100 acres), parks (approx. 60 acres), and large amounts of open space (approx. 150 acres). The project area is located in the ‘Ewa District, on the island of O‘ahu and is designated on the ‘Ewa Development Plan as follows: Low and Medium Density Residential; High Density Residential; Parks; Transit Node (High Density Residential and Commercial); and Future Intermediate School. The proposed action involves the reclassification of approximately 1,553.844 acres from the Agricultural District to the Urban District. The petition area is situated in between the H-1 Freeway (north) and Mango Tree Road (south), and in between the proposed University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu (UHWO) property (west) and Old Fort Weaver Road (east).

In support of the Project, infrastructure facilities to be installed, expanded or improved include access and circulation

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roadways, drainage systems, water and wastewater collection lines, and electrical/communication systems; some or all of these utilities may occur within State and County road right-of-ways or lands. While all infrastructure improvements will be designed and sized to accommodate the Project, the applicant is already sharing in the cost of installing regional infrastructure, even though the first homes are not expected until 2012. To accommodate all of the off-site infrastructure, the project area may involve up to approximately 1,600.265 acres.

(5) Kalaeloa Storage and Building Facilities (HRS 343 DEA)

District: 'Ewa
TMK: 9-1-074:037, 038 and 9-1-014:024 (por.)
Applicant: Sause Bros., Inc., 705 N. Nimitz Highway, 2nd Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817. Contact - Doug Won, (808 521-5082)

Approving Agency: State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation - Harbors Division, 79 South Nimitz Highway, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4898. Contact - Dean Watase, (808 587-1883)

Consultant: R.M. Towill Corporation, 2024 North King Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819. Contact - Brian Takeda, (808 842-1133)

Public Comment Deadline: March 24, 2008
Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the applicant with copies to the approving agency, consultant and OEQC.

Permits Required: Special Management Area Permit, Building Permit, Grading Permit, NPDES NOI-C Permit

Sause Bros., Inc. proposes to construct a storage yard facility adjacent to the Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor area in Kalaeloa. The storage yard facility will be used to store lumber, related building supplies and materials, and other products serving the construction industry.

Facility improvements proposed include site grading of approximately 6.85 acres. The entire project site will be graded and overlain with basalt gravel. An office building with floor space of 976 square feet will also be constructed. An individual wastewater treatment system will be installed to support wastewater treatment requirements.

The proposed project site currently serves as an unimproved storage yard within an industrial area adjacent to the Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor. Surrounding land is zoned for waterfront industrial and is mostly undeveloped. Adjacent land uses include the Campbell Industrial Park, coral mining and stockpiling operations, the Ko 'Olina Resort, and agricultural lands. The nearby agricultural lands are not in active use.

The proposed project is not expected to have significant

negative impacts on flora, fauna, historical, cultural, and scenic and visual resources.

Anticipated temporary impacts include minor traffic and increased noise levels during construction. No significant short or long-term effects are anticipated.

The proposed project is consistent with all land use policies and regulations for the area and supports the stated objectives of the O'ahu Commercial Harbors 2020 Master Plan and the General Plan to develop and improve the facilities at Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor to meet the future operational requirements of O'ahu's commercial harbors.

(6) Honolulu Marine Shipyard at Ke'ehi Lagoon (HRS 343 DEA)

District: Honolulu
TMK: (1) 1-2-025: 024 (por.) and 035
Proposing Agency: Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, 333 Queen Street, Suite 300, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813. Contact - Eric Yuasa, (808 587-0122)

Determination Agency: Same as above.
Consultant: R. M. Towill Corporation, 420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite 411, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817. Contact - Brian Takeda, (808 842-1133)

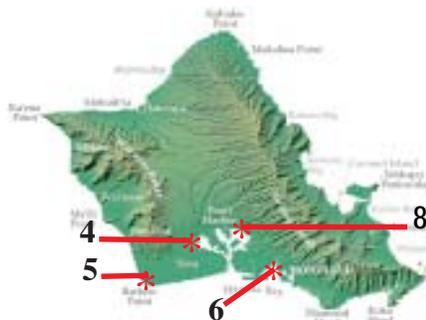
Public Comment Deadline: March 24, 2008

Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the proposing agency with copies to the consultant and OEQC.

Permits Required: Special Management Area Permit, Shoreline Setback Variance, Conservation District Use Permit, Building Permit, Grading Permit, NPDES NOI-B, NOI-C & NOI-G, Department of the Army Permit, Water Quality Certification, CZM Federal Consistency Determination, Private Aids to Navigation Permit

Honolulu Marine, LLC (Honolulu Marine), proposes to relocate its existing shipyard from Kewalo Basin, to the Ke'ehi Lagoon Small Boat Harbor.

The Kewalo Shipyard is under lease from the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) which is tasked with redevelopment of the Kaka'ako district. The existing marine shipbuilding and repair use of the property at Kewalo is inconsistent with the development plan and land use under HCDA's Kaka'ako Makai Area Plan; therefore, HCDA has requested that Honolulu Marine vacate its leased premises prior to the expiration of the lease. In May 2005, the Hawai'i Legislature recognized the state-wide maritime services provided by Honolulu Marine and adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134, authorizing the lease of land at Ke'ehi Lagoon for the redevelopment, management, and operation of a commercial ship repair facility.



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Operations proposed include the construction of new vessels and the repair and maintenance of vessels owned by P&R Water Taxi, Ltd. (a sister company to Honolulu Marine), the United States Navy, and other government and private parties. Improvements planned include the construction of a floating dry

dock, finger pier, and a two-story office building, storeroom and fabrication shop. Site improvements will require grading and paving and installation of chain-link fencing for security requirements. Construction is planned for early 2008 for a period of approximately 10 - 12 months.

Kaua'i Notices

(7) Kukui'ula Landscaping (HRS 343 DEA)

District: Koloa
TMK: (4) 2-6-02:12; 2-6-03:3, 20; portions of Lawai Road
Applicant: Kukui'ula Development Corporation, LLC, P.O. Box 380, Kōloa, Kaua'i, 96756
Approving Agency: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809. Contact - Michael Cain, (808-783-2501)
Consultant: Wilson Okamoto Corporation, 1907 S. Beretania Street, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826, Contact - Frances Yamada (808946-2277)
Public Comment Deadline: March 24, 2008
Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the applicant with copies to the approving agency, consultant and OEQC.
Permits Required: CDUP

The proposal is part of a larger pedestrian and bicycle trail system that the applicant is developing. This portion involves developing a 1700-foot linear turf-grass or gravel pedestrian trail on the makai side of Lawa'i Road; developing three new gravel parking areas; clearing non-native and invasive species makai of Lawa'i Road; planting indigenous and Polynesian-introduced species in the makai areas; maintaining the vegetation along the mauka side of Lawa'i Road; and resurfacing a 700-foot asphalt section of the paved NTBG tram road.



The project area covers 6.4 acres of land. The applicant will be dedicating easements to the County for the trail network, although the applicant will be responsible for future maintenance of the network.

The pedestrian trail would run adjacent to the pavement's edge, and would range from four to eight feet in width. The trail will start at Spouting Horn and run for 1700 feet. The proposal calls for a turf grass trail, but leaves the option open for a gravel trail if long-term maintenance becomes an issue. A future trail will run mauka of Lawa'i Road and connect this pedestrian trail to the adjacent Kukui'ula development.

The clearing of invasive species will occur within a 2.8 acre section extending along the length of the coastal lands adjacent to and makai of Lawa'i Road and the Tram Road. In addition the applicant proposes to remove select large invasive trees from three acres in areas makai of the main clearing and mauka of the road.



View of the coastline within the central portion of the Project Site looking west.



View of the coastline within the central portion of the Project Site looking east.

Coastal Zone Notices

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Special Management Area (SMA) Minor Permits

Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statute (HRS) 205A-30, the following is a list of SMA Minor permits that have been approved or are pending by the respective county/state agency. For more information about any of the listed permits, please contact the appropriate county/state Planning Department. City & County of Honolulu (523-4131); Hawai'i County (961-8288); Kaua'i County (241-6677); Maui County (270-7735); Kaka'ako (Honolulu) or Kalaeloa (Barbers Point) Community Development District (587-2840).

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA (SMA) MINOR PERMITS		
Location (TMK)	Description (File No.)	Applicant/Agent
Hawai'i: South Hilo (2-9-2-85)	Seven (7) Lot subdivision (SMM 07-68)	Melody A. Wohfeil
Kaua'i: Ha'ena (5-4-5-9)	Landscaping / irrigation / temporary safety fence (SMA(M) 2008-11)	SVO Pacific Inc.
Honolulu: Wai'anae (8-7-6-32)	Installation of 25-foot camera mast at the existing Waianae Corporation yard (2007/SMA-68)	C&C of Honolulu BWS / Maxwell Communications (Mark Lucas)
Maui: Hana	8 lot subdivision (SM2 20040082)	Arakaki, Wayne I. Engineer
Maui : Hana (1-3-3-12)	Subdivide parcel to 8 lots (SM2 20070086)	Nakawela Aina, LLC
Maui: Makena (2-1-5-123)	Hale & Related Improvements (SM2 20070108)	Keauhou o Honuaua, Inc.
Maui: Kihei (3-9-5-52)	Install water monitor wells (SM2 20080013)	Valley Well Drilling, LLC
Maui: Wailuku (3-2-15-10)	Power pole installation (SM2 20080014)	Chavez, Joshua
Maui: (2-7-13-77)	Demolition of dwelling (built in 1935) (SM2 20080016)	Tamashiro, Stephen Mitsuo
Maui: Kihei (3-9-11-17)	New shade building at Kihana Nursery (SM2 20080017)	Parr, Donald F.

Federal Consistency Reviews

The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program has received the following federal actions to review for consistency with the CZM objectives and policies in Chapter 205A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. This public notice is being provided in accordance with section 306(d) (14) of the National Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. For general information about CZM federal consistency please call John Nakagawa with the Hawai'i CZM Program at 587-2878. For neighboring islands use the following toll free numbers: Lana'i & Moloka'i: 468-4644 x72878, Kaua'i: 274-3141 x72878, Maui: 984-2400 x72878 or Hawai'i: 974-4000 x72878. For specific information or questions about an action listed below please contact the CZM staff person identified for each action. Federally mandated deadlines require that comments be received by the date specified for each CZM consistency review and can be mailed to: Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804. Or, fax comments to the Hawai'i CZM Program at 587-2899.

Precious Corals Fishery Management Plan Amendment 7

Federal Action: Federal Agency Activity
Federal Agency: National Marine Fisheries Service
Contact: Mark Nelson, 808 944-2234
CZM Contact: John Nakagawa, 808 587-2878
Location: 'Au'au Channel - black coral; U.S. western Pacific Ocean - gold coral

Proposed Action: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is proposing to amend (Amendment 7) the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Precious Corals Fisheries of the U.S. Western

Pacific Region. The proposed amendment would: (1) Designate the 'Au'au Channel black coral bed as an "Established Bed" under the FMP with a harvest quota of 5,000 kg every two years. The quota applies to Federal and State of Hawai'i waters. "Established Beds" are precious coral beds for which a maximum sustainable yield can be estimated based on bed-specific scientific data. (2) Establish a five-year moratorium on the harvest of gold coral throughout the U.S. western Pacific Ocean, during which time research would be conducted on the age and growth of gold corals.

Comments Due: March 7, 2008

Coastal Zone Notices

February 23, 2008

Special Management Area Documents (Chapter 25, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu)

Since SMA-only (Chapter 25, ROH) documents do not trigger the EIS law as articulated in Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, effective September 1, 2001 OEQC will no longer review these documents for completeness or adequacy. However, OEQC will continue to provide notice of these projects as a public service. Questions regarding the adequacy, completeness and availability of these documents should be addressed directly to the county contact listed below.

(8) Walgreen's Pearl Kai Shopping Center

Applicant: Walgreen Company, 106 Wilmington Road, MS #1640, Deerfield, Illinois 60015
Agency: Department of Planning and Permitting, 650 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813. Contact: Lin Wong (808 768-8033)
Consultant: Environmental Communications, Inc., 1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2210, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813. Contact: Taeyong Kim (808 528-4661)

Map Key 9-8-14:6) of the site on the 'ewa end of the shopping center fronting Kamehameha Highway.

The applicant proposes to demolish two (2) buildings, which are currently in nightclub, automobile service, and retail uses, and replace them with a single 13,408-square foot structure. The new single-story structure will be of CMU construction, and feature a flat roof, and a glazed finish, limestone wall details, and metal seam panels.

According to the applicant, the required parking for the shopping center with the proposed drugstore is 397 parking stalls. A total of 488 stalls will be provided. It is noted that the basement parking area, which has been closed over the years, has been restored and is now available for parking as originally designed. Not change to existing site access and internal circulation is proposed.

A 9-month construction period is projected, which will commence after all necessary permits and approvals are obtained.

The Walgreen Company proposes a retail drugstore that will include a pharmacy and general retail merchandise on a portion of the Pearl Kai Shopping Center. The shopping center consists of five (5) jointly developed parcels (86/CUPI-17) with a total lot area of 10.45 acres. The new structure will occupy a portion (Tax

Shoreline Notices

Shoreline Certification Applications

Pursuant to § 13-222-12, HAR the following shoreline certification applications are available for inspection at the DLNR District Land Offices on Kaua'i, Hawai'i and Maui and at Room 220, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, O'ahu (Tel: 587-0414). All comments shall be submitted in writing to the State Land Surveyor, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 210, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 and postmarked no later than fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the public notice of the application. If there are any questions, please call Barry Cheung at (808) 587-0430.

File No.	Date	Location	Applicant/Owner	TMK
OA-1212	02/07/2008	Lot 30, Wai'ala'e Beach Lots Sec. C, situated at Wai'ala'e-Iki, Honolulu, Island of O'ahu. Address: 5039 Kalaniana'ole Highway Purpose: Building permit	DJNS Surveying & Mapping, Inc./Frederick & Joyce Nakama	3-5-22:01

HAR §11-200-27 Determination

Special Management Area Use Permit Application for the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas, Lot 3 Project and Related Improvements

In a February 6, 2008, letter to the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the County of Maui, and pursuant to Section 11-200-27, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, the Department of Planning of the County of Maui has determined that nothing contained in the Special Management Area Use Permit Application for the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas, Lot 3 Project and Related Improvements at Tax Map Key (2) 4-4-014, portion of 005, triggers Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. An environmental impact statement related to the permit application was accepted in 1987 for the North Beach Ka'anapali Project. For more information, please contact Ms. Colleen Suyama at (808) 270-7735.

Shoreline Notices

February 23, 2008

Shoreline Certifications and Rejections

Pursuant to §13-222-26, HAR the following shorelines have been proposed for certification or rejection by the DLNR. Any person or agency wishing to appeal a proposed shoreline certification or rejection shall file a notice of appeal in writing with the department no later than 20 calendar days from the date of the public notice of the proposed shoreline certification or rejection. The Notice of appeal shall be sent to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 220, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.

File No.	Proposed/Rejected	Location	Applicant/Owner	TMK
MA-389	Proposed Shoreline Certification	Portion of Grant 540, situated at Honua'ula, Makawao, Island of Maui. Address: 3156 South Kihei Road Purpose: SMA & building permit	Akamai Land Surveying, Inc./J. Glenn Haines & Cathryn Y. Paxton-Haines	2-1-010:009
HA-383	Proposed Shoreline Certification	Portion of Grant 1595, situated at Honalo, North Kona, Island of Hawai'i. Address: None assigned Purpose: Single family residence	Pattison Land Surveying, Inc./Burnette Hazen Trust	7-9-005:016

Pollution Control Permits

Department of Health Permits

The following three pages contain a list of some pollution control permits currently before the State Department of Health. For more information about any of the listed permits, please contact the appropriate branch or office of the Environmental Management Division at 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu. Abbreviations are as follows: **CAB** - Clean Air Branch (586-4200); **CD** - comments due; **CSP** - Covered Source Permit; **CWB** - Clean Water Branch 9586-4309); **I** - issued; **SHWB** - Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch (586-4226); **SDWB** - Safe Drinking Water Branch (586-4258); **N** - none; **NSP**-Noncovered Source Permit; **NPDES** - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System under the Federal Clean Water Act; **R** - received; **T** - temporary; **UIC** - Underground Injection Control; **NA** - not applicable.

CLEAN AIR PERMITS

Branch Permit Type	Applicant & Permit Number	Project Location	Pertinent Date	Proposed Use
Clean Air Branch, 586-4200, Temporary NonCovered Source Permit	Goodfellow Brothers, Inc. CSP NO. 0242-01-CT (Application for Significant Modification No. 0242-09)	Located at: Various Temporary Sites, Hawai'i	Issued: 1/31/08	780 TPH Stone Processing Plant with 1 mW DEG and 1,100 TPH Mobile Stone Processing Plant with Integral Diesel Engines
Clean Air Branch, 586-4200, Covered Source Permit	Tesoro Hawai'i Corporation Amendment of Covered Source Permit No. 0212-01-C (Significant Modification Applications No. 0212-23)	Located at: 91-325 Komohana Street, Kapolei, O'ahu	Issued: 2/1/08	Crude Oil Storage Tank No. 108 Petroleum Refinery
Clean Air Branch, 586-4200, Covered Source Permit	Maui Paving, LLC Amendment of Temporary CSP No. 0040-01-CT (Minor Modification Application No. 0040-14)	Located at: Camp 10, Ameron Quarry, Pu'unene, Maui	Issued: 2/7/08	186 tph Hot Drum Mix Asphalt Concrete Plant
Clean Air Branch, 586-4200, Temporary Covered Source Permit	CTS Earthmoving, Inc. Temporary CSP NO. 0672-01-CT (Initial Application No. 0672-01)	Located at: Various Temporary Sites, State of Hawai'i	Comments Due: 3/17/08	Mobile Crushing Plant

Pollution Control Permits

February 23, 2008

SAFE DRINKING WATER PERMITS

Branch & Permit Type	Applicant & Permit Number	Project Location	Pertinent Dates	Proposed Use
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Communication Operations Division U.S. Army Garrison, Hawai'i UH-2519	Kilauea Military Camp, Joint Services Recreation Center Crater Rim Road, Volcano National Park, Ka'u	n/a	Modify and register 13 injection-well seepage pits for sewage disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Waiakeawaena Elementary School Department of Education State of Hawai'i UH-2643	Waiakeawaena Elementary School (3)2-2-42:7, 17; 2420 Kilauea Avenue, Hilo	n/a	Register 5 injection-well seepage pits for sewage disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Kea'au Middle School Department of Education State of Hawai'i UH-2644	Kea'au Middle School (3)1-6-2:1, 1-6-3:59; 16-565 Kea'au-Paho Road, Kea'au	n/a	Register 5 injection-well seepage pits for sewage disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Mountain View Elementary School Department of Education State of Hawai'i UH-2645	Mountain View Elementary School (3)1-8-1:7; 18-1235 Volcano Highway, Mountain View	n/a	Register 4 injection-well seepage pits for sewage disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Queen Lili'uokalani Trust UH-2642	Eho Street Extension between Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway & Luhia Street, Keahuolu, North Kona	n/a	Construct 2 drainage injection wells for surface runoff.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Kalaeloa Partners, L.P. UO-1496	Kalaeloa Cogeneration Plant 91-111 Kalaeloa Boulevard, Kapolei	n/a	Modify permit for 2 injection wells for industrial wastewater disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Quicksilver Retail, Inc. UO-2640	Quicksilver Retail, Inc. - Kammie's Store 59-176 Kamehameha Highway, Haleiwa	n/a	Abandon 2 unregistered injection well cesspools.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Airgas Gaspro UO-2057	Airgas Gaspro Ewa Beach Facility 91-102 Kaomi Loop, CIP, Kalaeloa	n/a	Renew permit for 1 injection well for industrial wastewater disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Airgas Gaspro UO-2057	Airgas Gaspro Ewa Beach Facility 91-102 Kaomi Loop, CIP, Kalaeloa	n/a	Modify permit for 1 injection well for industrial wastewater disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	15th Civil Engineering Squad Department of the Air Force UO-1352	Hickam AFB, 18-Hole Golf Course (1)1-1-1:1; 625 Worcester Avenue, Hickam Air Force Base	n/a	Abandon 2 of 4 injection wells for sewage disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Department of the Air Force UO-2641	Hickam AFB, Building 3200, (1)1-1-2:15; Hickam Air Force Base	n/a	Abandon 2 unregistered injection well cesspools.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Waialua High & Intermediate School Department of Education State of Hawai'i UO-2639	Waialua High & Intermediate School (1)6-7-2:9,10,29,30; 67-160 Farrington Highway, Waialua	n/a	Register 20 injection-well seepage pits for sewage disposal.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Navy Region Hawai'i U.S. Department of the Navy UO-2652	Navy Retention Area at Barbers Point (1)9-1-13:1; Barbers Point, Kapolei	n/a	Abandon 1 unregistered drainage injection well.
Safe Drinking Water Branch, 586-4258, UIC Permit	Kilauea Elementary School Department of Education State of Hawai'i UK-2646	Kilauea Elementary School (4)5-2-9:6; 2440 Kolo Road, Kilauea	n/a	Register 2 injection-well seepage pits for sewage disposal.

Conservation Notice

Conservation District Use Permit

Persons interested in commenting on the following Conservation District Use Application (Board Permit) must submit comments to the Department of Land and Natural Resources within thirty days from the date of this notice. Comments may be sent to the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809. For more information, please contact Michael Cain of our Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands staff at 587-0048.

Hawai'i Telcom Poles Placement

File No.: CDUA OA-3451
Applicant: Sandra Padaken, Agent, for Hawai'i Telcom
Location: Palehua, 'Ewa, O'ahu
TMK: (1)9-002-05:13

Proposed Action: Placement of Telecommunications Poles in New Alignment
343, HRS determination: Exempt
Applicant's Contact: 1-808-981-2371

Federal Notices

February 23, 2008

Kahalu'u Habitation Cave: Notice of Inventory Completion under Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The National Park Service (NPS) has announced the completion of an inventory of human remains that in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains in the possession of the Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The human remains were removed from Hawai'i Island. This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the Native American remains. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice. A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Big Island Burial Council, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. In August 1980, human remains were removed from Kahalu'u Habitation Cave (site 50-10-37-7702) and a small adjacent lava tube (site 50-10-37-5611) in Kahalu'u, North Kona, I, by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Paul H. Rosendahl, Inc., during excavations for the West Hawai'i Housing Foundation, as mitigation prior to a federal housing development. Human remains discovered at the time were determined to be prehistoric and reburied. Midden deposits from both sites are in the possession of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. During the NAGPRA inventory process, additional human remains representing a minimum of three individuals from 50-10-37-7702 and one individual from 50-10-37-5611 were discovered in the midden deposits. No known individuals were identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Sites 7702 and 5611 were partially collapsed lava tubes located approximately 300 m from the coast of Kahalu'u Bay. Both sites contained midden deposits dating prior to contact and the associated burials also date to this pre-contact era. These findings support a cultural affiliation for the human remains as Native Hawaiian. Officials of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo have determined that the human remains described above represent a minimum of four individuals of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Officials of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo also have determined that there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the Native Hawaiian human remains and the Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Representatives of any other Native Hawaiian Organization that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the human remains should contact Peter R. Mills, Department of Anthropology, Social Sciences Division, 200 West Kawaili Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4091, telephone (808) 974-7465, before March 14, 2008. Repatriation of the human remains to the Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs may proceed after that date if no additional claimants come forward. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is responsible for notifying the Big Island Burial Council, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs that this notice has been published (see, 73 F.R. 8358, February 13, 2008).

Listing of *Phyllostegia hispida* as Endangered Throughout Its Range

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) wants to list *Phyllostegia hispida* (no common name), a plant species from the island of Moloka'i in the Hawaiian Islands, as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). If FWS finalizes this rule as proposed, it would extend the Act's protections to this species. FWS has determined that critical habitat for *Phyllostegia hispida* is prudent but not determinable at this time. FWS intends that any final action resulting from this proposed rule will be based on the best scientific and commercial data available and be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, FWS requests comments or information from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this proposed rule. FWS particularly seeks comments concerning: (1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threats (or lack thereof) to this species and regulations that may be addressing those threats; (2) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of this species, including the locations of any additional populations of this species; (3) Any information on the biological or ecological requirements of the species; (4) Current or planned activities in the areas occupied by the species and possible impacts of these activities on this species; (5) Which areas would be appropriate as critical habitat for the species and why they should be proposed for designation as critical habitat; and (6) The reasons why areas should or should not be designated as critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*), including whether the benefits of designation would outweigh threats to the species that designation could cause, such that the designation of critical habitat is prudent. We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before April 21, 2008. We must receive requests for public hearings, in writing, at the Honolulu address shown below by April 4, 2008. You may submit comments by one of the following methods: (1) Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments; or (2) U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: RIN 1018-AV00; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, Virginia 22203. We will not accept e-mail or faxes. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Public Comments Solicited section below for more information). For more information, contact Patrick Leonard, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850, telephone (808) 792-9400, facsimile (808) 792-9581. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339 (see, 73 F.R. 9078, February 19, 2008).

February 23, 2008

Protecting and Restoring Native Ecosystems by Managing Non-Native Ungulates Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

In accord with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for a Non-native Ungulate Management Plan for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The purpose of the plan is to refine the strategies for managing non-native ungulates that supports long-term ecosystem protection, recovery and restoration of native vegetation and other natural resources, and protects and preserves cultural resources. Non-native ungulate management is needed to address unacceptable impacts of non-native ungulates, which result in the loss of native ecosystems, especially native plant and animal communities; the loss of sensitive endemic species, including state and federally listed species; and the loss of irreplaceable cultural resources. The park also needs to update non-native ungulate management in order to address NPS Management Policies 2006, Sec. 4.4.4, Management of Exotic Species, which states that non-native species will not be allowed to displace native species if displacement can be prevented. Ungulates, or mammals with hooves, are an issue of concern throughout the State of Hawai'i because of these are non-native species which have detrimental impacts on native diversity and ecosystems. Non-native species are those that do not naturally occur in the ecosystem and were introduced into the environment from elsewhere. Goats, European pigs, sheep, and cattle were introduced to the Hawaiian Islands in the late eighteenth century and have become feral. Mouflon sheep were introduced to Hawai'i Island in the twentieth century as a game animal. Populations of non-native ungulates have proliferated in Hawai'i because of an equable climate, abundant food sources, vegetation poorly adapted to herbivorous mammals, and lack of predators.

Because the ecosystems of the Hawaiian Islands evolved without large mammalian herbivores, they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of non-native ungulates. Non-native ungulates cause habitat degradation and population decline for native Hawaiian species. They impact native species through browsing, stripping bark, destroying habitat, and inhibiting regeneration. Non-native ungulates increase soil disturbance and erosion, and foster the spread of non-native plants.

Non-native ungulates also have the potential to affect cultural resources at the park, which include archeological sites, cultural landscapes, and ethnographic resources. Digging and rooting could impact archeological sites through ground disturbance. Alterations in the ecosystem of an area could impact the characteristics that contribute to its designation as a cultural landscape. Traditional uses of native peoples could be impacted by the loss of native plant and animal communities important to their culture.

The park was created in 1916, and has been addressing populations of non-native species, including ungulates, since the 1920s. However, the park's most recent EIS addressing non-native ungulate control was completed 30 years ago. Consequently the new EIS/plan will address non-native ungulate

management in the context of NPS policies updated in 2006, recent park land acquisition, new invasive species challenges, and currently available strategies for managing ungulates.

Scoping Process: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and the National Park Service (NPS) are eliciting early public comment regarding the full spectrum of issues and public concerns, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts (and as appropriate, mitigation measures), and all feasible management alternatives which should be considered by the planning team in preparing a Draft EIS/plan. Through outreach activities planned in the scoping phase, the NPS welcomes relevant information and suggestions from the public. Publication of this Notice formally initiates the public scoping phase for the EIS process.

All written scoping comments must be postmarked or transmitted not later than May 19, 2008. Written comments may be sent to: Cindy Orlando, Superintendent, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, P.O. Box 52, Hawai'i National Park, Hawai'i 96718-0052. Alternatively, comments may also be transmitted electronically through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment project Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/HAVO>. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you would be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. At this time, it is expected that public meetings will be hosted in the towns of Hilo (April 29), Na'alehu (April 30), and Kona (May 1). All meetings will be conducted in an open house format from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Detailed information regarding the meetings will be included in an announcement posted on the project Web site, and also publicized in direct mailings and via local and regional press media. All attendees will be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments to the planning team. The Web site noted above will provide the most up-to-date information regarding the project, including project description, planning process updates, meeting reports and documents, and informational links associated with the project.

Decision Process: Following the scoping phase and due consideration of public concerns and other agency comments, a Draft EIS for the Non-native Ungulate Management Plan will be prepared and released for public review. Availability of the forthcoming Draft EIS for public review and written comment will be formally announced through the publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, as well as through local and regional news media, direct mailing to the project mailing list, and via the internet at the project Web site. At this time it is expected that the Draft EIS/plan may be available for public release during summer-fall, 2009. Following due consideration of all agency and public comment as may be forthcoming after release of the draft document, a Final EIS will be prepared. As a delegated EIS, the official responsible for the final decision on the proposed non-native ungulate management plan is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service. Subsequently, the official directly responsible for implementation of the approved plan would be the Superintendent, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (see, 73 F.R. 8362, February 13, 2008).