

Ala Wai Canal Flood Control: The High Cost of Protecting Waikiki

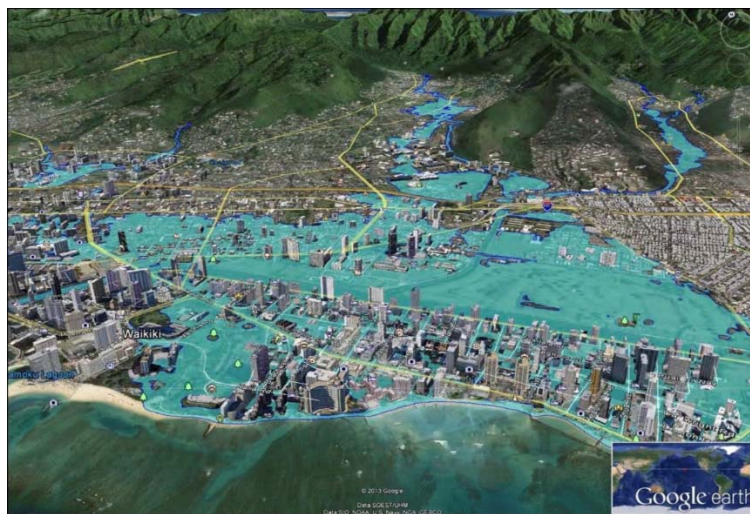
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is accepting comments until Oct. 7 on a \$173 million plan for construction of concrete canal walls, pump stations and floodwater repositories along streams in Manoa, Palolo and Makiki.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 • By [Anita Hofschneider](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing a \$173 million project to minimize damage to Waikiki and surrounding neighborhoods if a “100-year flood” causes the Ala Wai Canal to overflow.

Such a flood — which has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year — would destroy 3,000 properties and cause \$318 million in structural damages, according to the Corps’ newly released analysis.

That doesn’t include the economic cost to hotels and other businesses in Waikiki, the epicenter of Honolulu’s tourism economy. The Corps of Engineers report didn’t estimate the value of that business activity, but a [2003 state report](#) found that Waikiki generates \$3.6 billion in revenue annually.



The state and federal governments have spent more than \$9 million since 2001 analyzing how to decrease flood damage, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers just published a 1,835-page [draft environmental impact analysis and feasibility study](#).

Derek Chow, who leads the civil and public works branch at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu office, said he and other engineers considered a range of possibilities, including building a large dam in Manoa, erecting 14-foot-high walls along the Ala Wai Canal and extending the canal through Kapiolani Park.

“It will absolutely happen. It’s just a matter of when.” — Derek Chow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, referring to the 100-year flood scenario

They ultimately settled on a plan that calls for establishing repositories for floodwater along streams in Manoa, Palolo and Makiki, which feed into the canal. That would reduce the risk of flooding upstream while decreasing the speed and amount of water that eventually enters the canal.

The report also proposes constructing concrete walls up to 4 feet high along the canal, an idea that Waikiki state Rep. Tom Brower expects will meet resistance from some residents.

The Corps of Engineers is accepting written comments on the proposal until Oct. 7. A public hearing will be held Sept. 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Washington Middle School.

The project’s price tag is more than \$173 million, in addition to nearly \$1 million each year in operating costs. But the report stresses that the plan would save millions of dollars in the long run.

Chow says it’s only a matter of time until the Ala Wai Canal’s banks overflow, threatening the 54,000 residents and 79,000 tourists in Waikiki on any given day.

“It will absolutely happen,” he said. “It’s just a matter of when.”

A Watershed-Wide Approach

The Ala Wai Canal was built in the 1920s to drain the wetlands on Oahu’s south shore, allowing the development of Waikiki. Streams in Manoa, Palolo and Makiki were diverted into the canal, elevating the risk of flooding.

The Corps of Engineers flood control plan would scatter mitigation efforts throughout the watershed rather than limiting improvements to the canal.

The proposal includes installing several in-stream detention basins, 20 to 24 feet deep, to control the flow of water within the three streams. In addition, a concrete pad, 8 feet by 60 feet, and steel posts up to 7 feet high, would catch woody debris in Manoa Stream.

The proposal also involves building earthen berms around the Kanewai Field, Husten Ditch and Ala Wai Golf Course to collect water in the event of a flood.

Chow said the public would still be able to use the parks and golf course, and that the flood warning system would be improved to ensure that people stay out of those areas during heavy rains.

The recommended concrete wall along the canal would be up to 4 feet high for 1.7 miles along one bank and 0.9 miles along the other bank. The report describes the walls as indispensable, and notes that the design would allow access for canoe paddlers who use the canal.

Three pump stations would also be constructed along the canal.

Chow stressed that the plan aims to mitigate the damages but won't eliminate all risk. For example, even with the project's implementation, parts of Makiki would likely still be swamped during a 100-year flood.

"There will always be a flood that's bigger than the flood we design for," Chow said. "We will never eliminate the risk. We are trying to manage the risk to an acceptable level."

Resistance to the Wall

The report lists myriad potential environmental, cultural and aesthetic impacts from the installation of flood control measures.

The construction of repositories, berms and walls might disturb the Hawaiian hoary bat, Oahu elepaio birds and Hawaiian waterbirds. And the work could disturb archaeological sites, including iwi.

Complex Process

When the Manoa Stream overflowed in 2004, runoff from heavy rains hit a wall of debris under Woodlawn Bridge and spilled into neighborhoods. Parked cars were pushed into trees, homes were flooded and the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii was drenched.

Chow remembers the shock he felt surveying the damage, which totaled over \$85 million. At the time, Chow was three years into developing a plan for the Ala Wai Canal. The Corps of Engineers ended up expanding the the project to take into account the risk of flooding upstream.

It's been a long process. Changes in policy and incremental funding forced the analysis to be completed in fits and starts, lengthening the amount of time it took, Chow said.

And even if everything goes as planned from now on, it will be another six years before the project would likely break ground.

Chow said the Corps of Engineers is expected to approve a final version of the plan in January 2017 and then send it to Washington, D.C., for further review.

Funding would need to be included in Congress' Water Resources Development Act, which tends to prioritize a backlog of projects over new proposals. The federal government would pay for two-thirds of the project, or nearly \$113 million, with the state picking up the rest.

Sen. Brian Schatz, who has been working with the Ala Wai Watershed Association for the past two decades, said that if the community supports the project that he will make securing funding a high priority.

"I think it goes without saying that (the flood) would be not just an environmental catastrophe but an economic catastrophe," he said.

Meanwhile, the state could move forward with the design of the project as well as figuring out how to pay for its portion, nearly \$60.7 million. The state would also need to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the flood control system, which is estimated at nearly a million dollars each year.

Chow said the Corps of Engineers, state and city are exploring various funding possibilities, ranging from floating bonds to asking the business community to pitch in.

For the next month Chow will focus on public outreach, talking to various community associations, neighborhood boards and politicians.

To Finley from the Neighborhood Board, helping the public learn about the project is key.

“It needs a lot of advertising,” he said. “It’s like most projects — you folks put it in the news... and when they start breaking ground, people go, ‘What’s that?’”

[Click here to read the full draft environmental impact statement.](#)

DOH, UH Studies Find Growing Evidence Of Cesspool Impacts to Coast, Potable Wells

With Governor David Ige's signing of Act 120 in June, the state Department of Health edged closer to tackling the public health threat posed by the tens of thousands of cesspools scattered throughout the islands that discharge an estimated 50 million gallons a day of raw sewage into the ground. Act 120 allows owners of eligible cesspools to claim up to \$10,000 in tax credits for costs associated with upgrading to a septic or aerobic treatment system or with connecting to a sewer system. (To qualify, a cesspool must be near drinking water wells or within 200 feet of the shoreline, streams or wetlands, or it must be connected to multiple residential dwellings.)

But Act 120 has its limitations, according to Robert Whittier of the DOH's Safe Drinking Water Branch. The act caps the tax credits in a given year to \$5 million and they expire in five years.

With upgrades to individual cesspools likely to cost about \$25,000 to \$30,000, the \$25 million in total credits allowed by the act will likely cover only about 2,500 of the 6,900 qualified cesspools that the DOH has identified, he said last month at a lecture at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

What's more, concerns remain over whether the credits are best applied to cesspools within 200 feet of coastal or surface waters and whether converting a cesspool to a septic system — which would require a leach field — would offer any improvement in areas with porous, rocky soil.

Whittier pointed out that if a single person in a remote area had a cesspool within 200 feet of the coast, upgrading it probably wouldn't be as valuable as converting cesspools in an area like Waialua, O'ahu, where there is a large cluster of them, albeit half a mile from shore.

By converting those in Waialua, "you're going to get a bigger bang for your buck," he said.

He added that there are ongoing discussions about how to best implement Act 120 and that the DOH has identified high-risk areas that need to be focused on.

According to Dr. Roger Babcock, a civil engineering professor at UH who attended Whittier's talk, in addition to focusing on high-risk areas, the department may also need to provide guidance

on what kind of upgrades should occur and where.

A septic system pumps waste from a holding tank onto a leach field, where the waste is spread out and filtered in the soil. But that type of system is fairly limited in areas with a high concentration of similar systems and soils that don't allow the dispersal field to do its work, he said.

"There may be no improvement, especially if you have a high density [of onsite disposal systems]. Like on the Big Island, where you have very poor soils and you essentially have just [waste] injection [into the ground], septic is not going to help at all," he said, adding that people there would be better off installing an aerobic treatment plant, which doesn't necessarily cost more than a septic system.

Hawai'i island has by far the most cesspools of any other island. And in places such as East Hawai'i's Hawaiian Paradise Park (HPP), with more than 4,000 cesspools and "absolutely no soil," according to Whittier, aerobic systems may be the only way to prevent the continued contamination of the subdivision's drinking water wells.

HPP, which is not served by the county water system, has about 250 potable wells and is home to about 4,500 residents. Last year, the University of Hawai'i and the DOH sampled 32 of those wells and found that half of them tested positive for total coliform and a quarter of them tested positive for *E. coli* bacteria, both of which indicate contamination by sewage.

The incidence of bacteria detection increased near the coast and after a heavy rain, Whittier said. He also stressed that researchers did not test for longer-lived viruses. (More than 100 types of viruses have been detected in human fecal matter.)

Given the results, Whittier said the DOH strongly urged HPP residents to use ultraviolet light disinfection systems to treat their drinking water.

More recent studies by the University of Hawai'i are revealing additional areas that would likely benefit from a large-scale cesspool upgrade. For example, along O'ahu's South Shore, UH researchers Henrieta Dulai and Christina Richardson have sampled the coastal waters off Black Point, which has never been connected to the Honolulu sewer system,

and Waiupe Peninsula and Kawaikui Beach Park, which have.

In the Black Point samples, they found elevated levels of total nitrogen, total phosphorous, and a nitrogen isotope (delta ^{15}N) that has been found to be a good tracer of sewage pollution.

And modeling by the University of Hawai'i, later validated with actual delta ^{15}N measurements from a separate study, shows that the coastal waters of West Hawai'i have five to ten times the amount of sewage-related nitrogen found in East Hawai'i. The UH researchers predicted higher levels of nitrogen in West Hawai'i because East Hawai'i gets much more rain and, therefore, more dilution of its leached wastewater, Whittier said.

"We want to start replacing existing cesspools in critical areas," Whittier said. Kahalu'u, O'ahu, is an obvious place to start. Last year, the area received a lot of media attention when a bather got a serious skin infection after wading in a lagoon there and subsequent tests by the DOH found bacteria levels that were the equivalent to those found in the Ala Wai canal after one of the islands most massive raw sewage spills.

In the Kahalu'u case, not only did the DOH find a measurable impact of disposal systems on surface waters, it also verified an adverse health impact, Whittier said.

So what else is being done to address the problem?

Whittier said the DOH is also in the midst of revising its wastewater regulations to prohibit new cesspools.

Last year, then-Gov. Neil Abercrombie chose not to sign administrative rules for the DOH that would have banned new cesspools and phased out old ones, and a House Bill aimed at doing the same died this past legislative session.

Unfazed, the DOH held public hearings in August on rules that would not only ban new cesspools, but also provide the framework for the tax credit program authorized by Act 120. The department's website states that the rules are expected to be approved by the end of the year, before the tax credit program is set to start. But according to one Wastewater Branch staffer, the division has no idea when the rules will be ready for the governor to sign.

— T.D.

Hawaiian Electric Proposes Community-Based Renewable Energy Program | Maui Now

 mauinow.com/2015/10/06/hawaiian-electric-proposes-community-based-renewable-energy-program/

The Hawaiian Electric Companies proposed a

Community-Based Renewable Energy program and tariff to the Hawai'i Public



Photo courtesy of Living Off Grid.

Utilities Commission on Oct. 1 that would allow customers who cannot or will not take advantage of solar power to receive the benefits of renewable energy to help offset their monthly electric bills and support clean energy for the state.

Until now, only customers who own a suitably sized and located residential or commercial roof have been able to take advantage of distributed solar generation. More than 40 percent of Hawai'i households rent their homes and 37 percent live in multi-unit dwellings, making it difficult or impossible for them to benefit from rooftop solar.

If approved, the program will enable state residents and Hawai'i-based businesses and organizations with an electric utility account to receive the benefits of renewable energy by allowing customers to buy an interest in electricity generated by community renewable projects in diverse locations on their home islands without installing anything on their own roofs or property.

These community-based projects will be able to provide cost-effective renewable energy for all customers and help support their island grid to deliver reliable service. The goal is that all customers share in the benefits of low-cost power while not placing an undue cost burden on those who do not participate:

- Community-based renewable energy projects may be developed independently or by the utility to serve the entire electric system in the most cost-effective manner. As with all utility-scale

generation, electricity from community projects will be provided via the grid for all customers at low cost.

- The Hawaiian Electric Companies will provide lists of community projects on each island for potential participants to choose from.
- Customers who participate will purchase an interest in the electricity generated directly from the project developer. They will receive credits on their monthly electric bill to offset their use in proportion to their interest without installing renewable energy resources on their property.
- The program will be a “pass through,” with all benefits going to the developers and/or program participants. The Hawaiian Electric Companies will only recover the actual cost to administer the program on behalf of all projects and participants.

Individually owned rooftop solar systems comprise almost all customer-based renewable energy. This program is designed to allow a variety of sizes and kinds of projects—including wind—to give customers and developers several ways to participate.

Projects will be considered in different-sized tiers to allow both small and large community renewable projects to participate.

If the proposed program is accepted, the first small solar projects under one megawatt will be qualified on a “first-ready” basis. Community-based solar projects greater than one megawatt or community-based wind projects will be selected through a competitive process.

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This is intended to provide fairness and ensure the lowest cost of electricity for all customers and the lowest upfront and ongoing costs for community-based renewable participants.

In asking the PUC to approve the program, the Hawaiian Electric Companies hope to start with selection of developers for new community-based renewable energy projects in 2016. Only after projects are selected, approved and built will customers have the opportunity to participate. The community renewable energy program will be available on all islands the Hawaiian Electric Companies serve, once developers undertake community projects on those islands.

“Expanding options is part of our efforts to deliver value for our customers,” said Shelee Kimura, Hawaiian Electric vice president for corporate planning and business development. “Encouraging more customer participation in renewable energy supports our vision to integrate more low-cost renewables that benefit all of our customers and to lower customer bills by 20% by 2030 as we work to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2045.”

The Hawaiian Electric Companies developed the proposal in collaboration with the stakeholders from the renewable energy industry; environment advocacy organizations; the Energy Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; and organizations representing customers who may benefit from such a program.

A series of meetings and other exchanges provided an opportunity for suggestions and questions and while agreement was not reached on all issues, the dialogue did contribute to changes and compromises to the proposal the Hawaiian Electric Companies submitted.

The filing complies with Act 100 called for filing of a community-based renewable energy tariff by Oct. 1, 2015, that was passed in the last legislative session and signed into law by Gov. David Ige.

Ige Signs Rules to Create Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

The Hawaii governor had been under pressure for months to sign the rules, which were years in the making.

AUGUST 4, 2015 • By [Nathan Eagle](#)

Amid mounting public pressure, Gov. David Ige has signed rules to create Hawaii's first Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area for Haena on the north shore of Kauai.

The [months-long delay](#) frustrated those who fought for the past decade to finally convince the state Board of Land and Natural Resources in October to take action to ensure the sustainability of the near-shore ocean resources there by implementing a program based on culturally rooted practices.

"The Haena CBSFA is an outstanding example of self-determination and governance for a local community, which wants to not only preserve but enhance its local fishery for sustainability," Ige said in a release Tuesday. "I personally want to thank everyone involved for their patience and kokua in bringing this long process to a great conclusion."

Under the rules, commercial fishing would be banned in the subsistence fishing area, which spans a few miles along the northwestern coast and stretches one mile seaward. Additionally, fishermen could only use two hook-and-line poles at any given time; spear guns and night fishing would be prohibited; and there would be bag limits for opihi, limu, lobsters, urchins and octopuses.

The land board dismissed an appeal for a contested case hearing in December filed by Makani Christensen and Michael Sur, who argued that the rules jeopardized their livelihoods as commercial fishermen.

That decision left Ige's signature as the final hurdle before the rules could take effect.

“Community-based management of this nature isn’t only the past, but is now the future,” DLNR Chair Suzanne Case said in a release. “This CBSFA reflects the hard work and commitment of the greater Haena community and provides a great example of how other communities and the state can collaborate to manage precious natural resources.”

Thomas Hashimoto, a master in fishing and agriculture practices who was born and raised in Haena, said in the release that “the land and the ocean are life for the people.”

He was a founding member of Hui Makaainana o Makana, a nonprofit formed in 1999 to advocate for the Haena CBFSA.

The group sent Ige a letter July 14 that urged him to sign the rules and even offered to negotiate certain concessions to commercial fishermen so they could fish alien species like taape and roi.

“We believe, beyond misinformation about exclusivity and vigilantism, that each community is different and that our state cannot fulfill its obligations through centralized decision-making alone,” wrote Presley Wann, the nonprofit’s president.

Supporters of the rules were frustrated by what they saw as a contradictory leadership style when it came to the fishing rules and the Thirty Meter Telescope to be built atop Mauna Kea.

In the latter, they saw Ige as a decision-maker who believed in process. Despite objections from Native Hawaiians who consider the mountain sacred, the governor has explained his support for the TMT project to proceed because the group followed the government’s lengthy approval process.

But until this week, advocates for the fishing rules saw the administration as waffling, asking for more public meetings despite their having gone through a similarly long process to secure all the necessary approvals.

“If this is indeed your process philosophy, then why isn’t the Haena proposal, having taken the appropriate steps and received the necessary approvals, worthy of the same support?” Wann asked in the letter to the governor.

Ige, through a spokeswoman, declined to comment on the comparison.


“In Haena, from my great-grandparents’ time, we were taught to malama Haena, its lands, and especially its ocean areas,” Hashimoto said in the release. “I have been honored and humbled to share knowledge I received from my kupuna from past generations with all who live in Haena, so these same places that I have fished and gathered my whole life will continue to be here for my great-grandchildren and all future generations.”

Advocates for the subsistence fishing area have said they hope it becomes a model that other communities can use to protect near-shore ocean resources.

Erin Zanre, the DLNR’s CBSFA coordinator, provides an overview of how these areas will work in a video [here](#).

The DLNR plans to hold a public hearing on the Haena CBSFA Management Plan at a later date, the release says.

Imua Maunalua: Group Launches New Planning Process to Help Troubled Bay

 www.civilbeat.com/2015/09/imua-maunalua-group-launches-new-planning-process-to-help-troubled-bay/

A local nonprofit launched an effort Wednesday to pull together more than two dozen stakeholders to create a community-driven, science-based plan to restore Maunalua Bay on the east side of Oahu.

Malama Maunalua, headed by marine conservation expert Frazer McGilvray, has been working to heal the bay for the past decade. The planning process, which is expected to take two years, is called Imua Maunalua.

"It's the best chance that the bay has," McGilvray told the Civil Beat Editorial Board on Tuesday.

A diverse group of community members embarked on a two-year planning process for the future of Maunalua Bay, seen here along with the Hawaii Kai Marina.

Kim Ubert/Flickr

McGilvray, the former administrator of the DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources, said this approach has not been done before in Hawaii. But he's seen it work first-hand in places ranging from California to Indonesia.

The bay, which covers 6.5 miles of coastal waters from Black Point to Portlock Point, has ranked among the least healthy in the state for the past several years. Scientists, environmentalists and a range of ocean users say it's overfished and is being destroyed by sediment runoff and other human-caused factors.

Some 60,000 residents live in the area that borders the bay. Malama Maunalua wants to get their input on the future of the bay along with numerous other sectors of society that use the resource, including commercial tour operators, recreational fishermen, scuba divers, surfers, paddlers and boaters.

The nonprofit is hiring an impartial facilitator to hold regular planning meetings and public listening sessions, McGilvray said.

Frazer McGilvray, executive director of Malama Maunalua, meets with the Civil Beat Editorial Board on Tuesday.

Cory Lum/Civil Beat

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Imua Maunalua: Group Launches New Planning Process to Help Troubled Bay...

State to conduct animal control operations on Big Island

Published October 6, 2015 - 6:32am

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Updated: October 6, 2015 - 6:32am

West Hawaii Today

State efforts to control invasive species damaging the critical habitat for the palila will result in closures of several areas of public land over the next three months.

The hunts are to control feral goats, feral sheep, mouflon and mouflon/feral sheep hybrids. The areas involved include Mauna Kea Forest Reserve (Unit A,) Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve (Unit K) and the Kaohe Game Management Area (Unit G.)

The control efforts will include trapping, staff hunting and aerial shooting.

"Aerial shooting is required for compliance with the federal court order mandating the removal of sheep and goats from critical habitat for palila, a bird endemic to Hawaii," the Department of Land and Natural Resources wrote in a press release.

The palila is a honeycreeper exclusive to the 6,000 to 9,000 feet elevations of the slopes of Mauna Kea, getting 90 percent of its food from green mamane tree pads, according to the federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

The FWS estimates there are 3,000 individuals in the wild, 95 percent on the southern slopes.

The control dates are scheduled for Oct. 15 and 16, Nov. 16 and 17, and Dec. 14 and 15.

"Public access to Mauna Kea Forest Reserve from Waikahalulu gulch, north to Kemole, and east to Puu Kole, Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve, the Kaohe Game Management Area and Mauna Kea Hunter Access Road will be by permit only for animal salvage from 7 a.m. on Oct. 15, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14. and from 6 a.m. on Oct. 16, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

The Mauna Kea Observatory Road will remain open.

The Hale Pohaku and Kilohana gated entrances to Units A and G, and the gate behind Mauna Kea State Recreation Area will be blocked at 8 p.m. the day before each control period and opened at 7 p.m. the day after.

There is a map showing the areas subject to aerial shooting at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife offices.

The interest in salvage permits has lead the DOFAW to arrange for telephone call-ins to the Waimea office at 887-6063. Calls can be made from 9 a.m. Oct. 7 to 10 a.m. before each shoot day. There will be one permit per call per vehicle valid for one day. Applicants can have their names placed on a standby list for additional days. Callers will need to provide the driver, occupants, license plate and make and model of the vehicle.

There will be up to 15 vehicles in the Ahumoa location and a maximum of 10 at the Puu Mali location.

Salvagers planning to go to the Ahumoa site need to meet at the Kilohana Check Station at 7 a.m. Those looking at Puu Mali area need to be at Kuhio Hale at 6 a.m.

Standbys at the gates will not be allow access.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Hilo at 974-4221 or in Kamuela at 887-6063 have additional details regarding meat salvage or access permits.

From the Pacific Business News

http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/blog/morning_call/2015/06/updated-plan-for-lanai-omits-luxury-hotel.html

Updated plan for Lanai omits luxury hotel, residential development

Jun 3, 2015, 7:05am HST



Duane Shimogawa

Reporter- Pacific Business News

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Plans for a new luxury hotel on 20 acres and an adjacent 250-acre oceanfront residential project on the eastern side of Lanai have been shelved, according to a recent community plan update.

However, many of the projects envisioned by Oracle founder Larry Ellison, who owns about 98 percent of the island, are still in play, according to the Lanai Community Plan, which is part of the Maui County General Plan 2030. Lanai is part of Maui County.

The updated plan includes a 546-acre mixed-use residential development west of Lanai City, a 50-acre tennis academy park with dormitories, a 524-acre university and research institute on the western edge of town, a 50-acre rural residential project near Koele stables, and a 22-acre film studio.

The plan also includes adding nearly 50 acres to the existing airport with a 500-foot runway extension, a 200-acre industrial park in the Miki Basin area, a 105-acre mixed-use residential project called Manele Mauka, a 10-acre ocean resources heavy industrial park near Kaunalapau Harbor, and a 50-acre mixed-use residential development south of Kaunalapau Highway.

The proposed 100-room luxury hotel on the former Club Lanai site, along with the adjacent rural residential development that would include 50 homes, were omitted from the plan.

Pulama Lanai, the company founded by Ellison to oversee operations on the Pineapple Isle, estimates that the island's population could double to about 6,000 if its development plans go through.

The Lanai Community Plan was adopted in 1983 and first updated in 1998. The 2015 update combines the existing plan with new topics required by Maui County code and revisions to reflect the county's 2030 General Plan.

The county's code requires community plans to be updated every 10 years, to the extent practicable.

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.

Vet Center Told 'No Solar'

 themolokaidispatch.com/vet-center-told-no-solar/

MVCV News Release

The Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans (MVCV) has been looking into installing solar panels on the roof of the new Veterans Center. But vice commander Longie Dudoit who was trying to get quotes on the project has hit a road block and he has been told by Sun Electric that solar panels cannot be installed on Molokai at this time. This is a frustrating situation that we hope can be resolved soon. If you have any questions, please call the vet center at 553-8387. There will be a meeting regarding electricity in Hawaii and especially the proposed Hawaiian Electric merger with NextEra Energy on Saturday, Sept. 19 at Kulana Oihi at 9 a.m. The public is welcome to attend, and the vice commander would like to see as many vets as possible at the meeting to see if anything can be done about the solar problems on Molokai.