



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

STAFF SUBMITTAL

for the meeting of the
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

March 17, 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii

Application for a Stream Channel Alteration Permit (SCAP-OA-385)
South Punaluu Bridge Replacement
Punaluu Stream, Oahu, TMK: 5-3-02:39(por), 5-3-03:01(por) and 5-3-04:01(por)

APPLICANT:

Mr. Rodney K. Haraga, Director
State of Hawaii
Department of Transportation
Highways Division
869 Punchbowl Street, Room 509
Honolulu, HI 96813

LANDOWNER:

Same as Applicant

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Replace existing deteriorated and substandard South Punaluu Bridge with a bridge that conforms to current bridge design standards.

LOCATION: Exhibit 1.

BACKGROUND:

The existing South Punaluu Bridge was built in 1926. The purpose of the proposed project is to widen and upgrade the bridge to a standard design that meets government agency guidelines and requirements. The project will improve the bridge portion of the coastal highway so it may continue to be used safely for all resident and visiting motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists in Punaluu. The project is an engineering solution for the upgrade of a deteriorated, substandard highway bridge.

DESCRIPTION:

The scope of work for the construction includes the following tasks:

- 1) Installation of best management practices (BMPs) for environmental protection;

- 2) Clearing and grubbing;
- 3) Relocation of an existing Board of Water Supply (BWS) 12-inch potable water fire hydrant line;
- 4) Construction of a temporary (traffic) diversion bridge and roadway;
- 5) Demolition of the existing bridge;
- 6) Widening and stabilization of Punaluu Stream banks beneath the replacement bridge;
- 7) Construction of the new bridge;
- 8) Reconstruction of bridge approach roadways;
- 9) Demolition and removal of the diversion roadway and diversion bridge;
- 10) Final grading and landscaping; and
- 11) Removal of the temporary BMPs.

The project will widen the bridge and bring the bridge up to government standards, and will provide a shielded walk/bikeway that is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Project structures will be located above the present vegetation line and the mean higher high water (mhhw) elevation at 2 feet; thus, they are not expected to adversely impact the shoreline. Removal of some existing vegetation will be required for the project. A revegetation plan has been developed and native trees and shrubs removed during construction work will be replaced.

The project will require dewatering activities during construction of the bridge abutments. The applicant plans to isolate the dewatering areas with sheet piles, and the dewatered stream water will be transported to a containment pond upstream of the project area and allowed to pass through a series of treatment weirs before reentry into Punaluu Stream. This activity is subject to the Department of Health's approval.

The estimated construction cost for this project is about \$14.0 million. The applicant estimates construction work to last 18 months.

Exhibit 2 shows the diversion bridge plan, the diversion section, and the replacement bridge section. The project will not involve any stream diversion for Punaluu Stream.

ANALYSIS:

It should be noted that this project requires many other permits including: a Shoreline Setback Variance; Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit; Flood Hazard Variance; Coastal Zone Management Consistency (CZM); National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit; Section 401 Water Quality Certification; US Department of the Army Section 404 Permit; and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The SMA Use Permit, CZM and Section 106 NHPA Compliance have already been issued to the applicant.

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) comments that long-term, negative impacts on Punaluu Stream can be minimized if all of the BMPs proposed by the applicant are implemented. Such BMPs include the placement of sandbags, installation of silt fences, turbidity barriers (boom floats with silt curtains and anchoring ballasts), and formation of earthen berms for erosion control. Since this project is subject to Clean Water Act permits, including the Best Management Practices Plan (BMPP) required for Clean Water Act permits, staff believes DAR's concerns will be addressed through the BMPPs for this project.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) raised two concerns that need to be addressed. First, in its comments to the Environmental Assessment for the project, OHA stated: "a major concern for OHA is the protection of the Punaluu Stream and the many native animals that are dependent on it. Silt, oil, lubricants and stream bank 'hardening' are all likely to impact species such as the oopu, estuary residents including birds and brackish-water fish, and potentially near-shore reef animals and plants. OHA trusts that all precautions will be taken to protect the Punaluu Stream, which has been referred to as 'one of the best remaining streams on Oahu' by the state's Division of Aquatic Resources." OHA's concerns reflect DAR's concerns in the preceding paragraph, and OHA's concerns will be addressed through the BMPPs for this project.

Second, OHA requests assurances that if the project goes forward, should iwi or Native Hawaiian cultural or traditional deposits be found during ground disturbance, work will cease, and the appropriate agencies will be contacted pursuant to applicable law.

The Commission's standard condition number 7 requires the permittee to stop work and notify the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) if artifacts, burials, or deposits of shells or charcoal are found. In addition, Condition H of the SMA Use Permit requires that the SHPD approve an archaeological monitoring plan, and Condition I requires that a "cultural or archaeological monitor, acceptable to the DLNR (SHPD) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), shall be present on-site during construction activities, until the site has been restored and the project completed." Staff believes standard condition number 7, and Conditions H and I of the SMA Use Permit are adequate to address OHA's concerns.

The final concern raised by OHA is that OHA be notified if changes are made to the current construction plans. Standard condition number 5 requires permittees, prior to construction, to submit one set of construction plans and specifications to determine consistency with the conditions of the permit and declarations set forth in the permit application. The staff will notify OHA if the applicant proposes changes. Therefore this standard condition is adequate to address OHA's concern.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission approve a stream channel alteration permit for the replacement of South Punaluu Bridge, TMK: 5-3-02:39(por), 5-3-03:01(por) and 5-3-04:01(por). The stream channel alteration permit will be valid for two years and subject to the standard conditions for stream channel alteration permits in Exhibit 3.

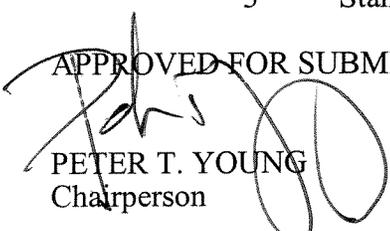
Respectfully submitted,



DEAN A. NAKANO
Acting Deputy Director

Exhibits:	1	Location map
	2	Diversion bridge plan and section, and the replacement bridge section
	3	Standard stream channel alteration permit conditions

~~APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:~~



PETER T. YOUNG
Chairperson