

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
AND REHABILITATION**  
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a Ho'oponopono Ola*  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

December 31, 2025

Mary Alice Evans, Director  
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
Environmental Review Program  
235 South Beretania Street, Room 702  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Publication of an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation  
Notice (EISPAN) for the Kaua'i Correctional Center Relocation Project  
Lihue, Island of Kaua'i  
Tax Map Key (TMK): (4) 3-8-018:001 (20–30-acre portion)**

Dear Director Evans,


On behalf of the State of Hawaii Department of Corrections (DCR), this letter transmits the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPAN) for the proposed relocation of the Kaua'i County Correctional Center. We respectfully request its publication in the January 8, 2026, issue of the Environmental Review Program's periodic bulletin, *The Environmental Notice*.

DCR has concluded that the Kaua'i Correctional Center Relocation Project warrants preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement, as provided under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §343-5(b) and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §11-200.1-14(d)(2). These provisions allow an agency, based on its professional judgment and experience, to proceed directly to an EIS when the scale or nature of a proposed action indicates that an environmental assessment would not be sufficient.

This is a republishing of a previously submitted EISPAN with a new date for the Public Scoping Meeting. The Public Scoping Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025, was cancelled due to a widespread power outage impacting the meeting venue. The Public Scoping Meeting is rescheduled for: January 20, 2026, from 5PM to 7PM at the Kaua'i Veterans Center, 3215 Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hwy, Lihue, HI 96766, in the Silver and Bronze Conference Room.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 587-1350 or by email at [tommy.johnson@hawaii.gov](mailto:tommy.johnson@hawaii.gov), or our planning consultant Alice McLean of SSFM International at (808) 356-1202 or [amclean@ssfm.com](mailto:amclean@ssfm.com).

Sincerely,

  
Tommy Johnson,  
Director

**From:** [dbedt.opsd.erp@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.opsd.erp@hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [DBEDT OPSD Environmental Review Program](#)  
**Subject:** New online submission for The Environmental Notice  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 2:09:31 PM

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**Action Name**

Kaua'i Community Correctional Center Relocation

**Type of Document/Determination**

Changed or republished version of a previously published item (explain in Summary below)

**HRS §343-5(a) Trigger(s)**

- (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of state or county funds
- (6) Propose any amendments to existing county general plans where the amendment would result in designations other than agriculture, conservation, or preservation

**Judicial district**

Kaua'i - multiple districts

**Tax Map Key(s) (TMK(s))**

(4) 3-8-018:001

**Action type**

Agency

**Other required permits and approvals**

State Land Use District Boundary Amendment to redesignate land within the Agricultural District to the Urban District; Subdivision Approval County of Kaua'i, Department of Planning; County of Kaua'i General Plan Amendment County of Kaua'i, Department of Planning; County of Kaua'i Zoning Amendment County of Kaua'i, Department of Planning; Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 6E Compliance State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD); National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater Permit State of Hawai'i, Department of Health (DOH); Community Noise Permit or Community Noise Variance DOH; Grading, Grubbing, Trenching and Stockpiling Permits County of Kaua'i, Department of Public Works (DPW); Building Permits (Buildings, Electrical, Plumbing) DPW; Plan Review County of Kaua'i, Fire Department; Application for Water Service County of Kaua'i, Department of Water; Wastewater System Permit DOH Wastewater Branch; Electrical Connection/Extension KIUC

**Proposing/determining agency**

State of Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

**Agency jurisdiction**

State of Hawai'i

**Agency contact name**

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[Map It](#)

**Accepting authority contact name**

Governor Josh Green

**Accepting authority contact email or URL**

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/general-contact-information/>

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**Is there a consultant for this action?**

Yes

**Consultant**

SSFM International

**Consultant contact name**

Alice McLean

**Consultant contact email**

[amclean@ssfm.com](mailto:amclean@ssfm.com)

**Consultant contact phone**

(808) 356-1202

**Consultant address**

501 Sumner Street, Suite 620  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
United States  
[Map It](#)

**Action summary**

The State DCR is proposing to relocate the existing KCCC, currently located off of Kūhiō Highway across from the Waiulā Golf Course parking lot. The proposed KCCC will occupy approximately 20 to 30 acres of the 6,080-acre parcel. The proposed KCCC design has not been finalized but is expected to have a gross building area of

approximately 85,000 square feet (SF).

The KCCC, built in 1977, is being considered for relocation due to significant site constraints. The facility is located within a designated flood and tsunami zone and is affected by the Kūhiō Highway expansion project, which will result in the loss of one-third of its property. Originally designed to hold 12 male inmates, KCCC has expanded over time to accommodate up to 128 men and women, with temporary units added to increase capacity. The facility now faces persistent overcrowding and an increasing number of inmates with complex mental health needs, while resources, training, and infrastructure remain limited, underscoring the need for a new site.

This is a republishing of a previously submitted EISPN with a new date for the Public Scoping Meeting. The Public Scoping Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025 was cancelled due to a power outage. It is rescheduled for: January 20, 2026 from 5PM to 7PM at the Kauai Veterans Center, 3215 Kauai Veterans Memorial Hwy, Lihue, HI 96766, in the Silver and Bronze Conference Room.

#### **Attached documents (signed agency letter & EA/EIS)**

- [251231-KCCC-Facility-EISPN\\_v3-Final\\_letter.pdf](#)
- [251231-KCCC-Facility-EISPN-v3\\_Final.pdf](#)

#### **ADA Compliance certification (HRS §368-1.5):**

The authorized individual listed below acknowledges that they retain the responsibility for ADA compliance and are knowingly submitting documents that are unlocked, searchable, and may not be in an ADA compliant format for publication. Audio files do not include transcripts, captions, or alternative descriptions. The project files will be published without further ADA compliance changes from ERP, with the following statement included below the project summary in The Environmental Notice: "If you are experiencing any ADA compliance issues with the above project, please contact (authorized individual submitting the project at email)."

#### **Action location map**

- [KCCC\\_Project\\_Area2.zip](#)

#### **Authorized individual**

Alice McLean

#### **Authorized individual email**

[amclean@ssfm.com](mailto:amclean@ssfm.com)

#### **Authorized individual phone**

(808) 356-1202

#### **Authorization**

- The above named authorized individual hereby certifies that he/she has the authority to make this submission.



# Kaua'i Community Correctional Center Relocation

Island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i

Prepared for:

State of Hawai'i Department of  
Corrections and Rehabilitation



Prepared by:  
SSFM International, Inc.

**SSFM**  
International

December 2025

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# Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice

## Kaua'i Community Correctional Center Relocation

Island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i

*Prepared for:*

State of Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation



*Prepared by:*

SSFM International, Inc.



December 2025

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# Project Summary

<b>Project Name</b>	Kaua'i Community Correctional Center Relocation
<b>Location</b>	Lihu'e, Island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i
<b>District</b>	Lihu'e District
<b>Project Site Tax Map Key</b>	(4) 3-8-018:001 (6,072.97 acres)
<b>Landowners</b>	Grove Farm Co. Inc.; Kaua'i Memorial Gardens Inc.; Maalo Farms LLC; Hawai'i Golden Trading LLC
<b>Project Site Existing Uses</b>	Agriculture
<b>State Land Use</b>	A (Agricultural)
<b>County of Kaua'i Zoning</b>	A (Agricultural)
<b>Proposed Action</b>	See Section 2.0
<b>Anticipated Impacts</b>	The anticipated impacts of the relocated Kaua'i Community Correctional Center include changes in land use, infrastructure demand, traffic, and rural character at the proposed site.
<b>Proposing Agency</b>	State of Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
<b>Project Site Permits/ Approvals Required</b>	See Section 2.5
<b>EA Preparer</b>	SSFM International, Inc. 501 Sumner Street, Suite 620 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817 Contact: Alice McLean amclean@ssfm.com (808) 329-7736
<b>Consultations</b>	See Section 5

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# Acronyms

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
<b>ADC</b>	Agribusiness Development Corporation
<b>BMP</b>	Best Management Practice
<b>CDP</b>	Census Designated Place
<b>DCR</b>	Hawai‘i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
<b>DLNR</b>	Department of Land and Natural Resources
<b>DOH</b>	Department of Health
<b>DPS</b>	Department of Public Safety
<b>DPW</b>	Department of Public Works
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>HAR</b>	Hawai‘i Administrative Rules
<b>HDOT</b>	Hawai‘i Department of Transportation
<b>HIEMA</b>	Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency
<b>HRS</b>	Hawai‘i Revised Statutes
<b>IAL</b>	Important Agricultural Lands
<b>KCC</b>	Kaua‘i Community College
<b>KCCC</b>	Kaua‘i Community Correctional Center
<b>KIPA</b>	Kaulu Ika Pono Academy
<b>KIUC</b>	Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative
<b>LUO</b>	Land Use Ordinance
<b>NAAQS</b>	National ambient air quality standards
<b>NPDES</b>	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
<b>NWI</b>	National Wetland Inventory
<b>PV</b>	Photovoltaic
<b>SHPD</b>	State Historic Preservation Division
<b>SLUC</b>	State Land Use Commission
<b>STIP</b>	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
<b>TIAR</b>	Traffic Impact Analysis Report
<b>USFWS</b>	United States Fish and Wildlife Service



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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Identification of Proposing Agency

State of Hawai'i, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR)  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Contact: Alden C. Yago, Capital Improvements Program Coordinator  
Phone: (808) 587-3460  
Email: alden.c.yago@hawaii.gov

## 1.2 Identification of Accepting Authority

Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0034

## 1.3 Identification of Planning Consultant

SSFM International, Inc.  
501 Sumner Street, Suite 620  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
Contact: Alice McLean  
Email: amclean@ssfm.com  
Phone: (808) 329-7736

## 1.4 Compliance with Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

The proposed project triggers the State's environmental review process under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, as amended, because the action meets the following criteria under § 343-5:

- (1) Proposes the use of state funds; and
- (6) Proposes amendments to existing county general plans where the amendment would result in designations other than agriculture, conservation, or preservation.

### 1.4.1 Reasons Supporting the Determination to Prepare an EIS

Pursuant to HRS Chapter 343 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-200.1, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for the proposed project because it triggers the following criteria:

- **Use of State Funds:** Seeing the need for the relocation of the existing KCCC facility, the Hawai'i State Legislature has allocated \$20 million for the relocation and redevelopment of KCCC. This meets criteria triggering an EIS under § 343-5(1), as actions involving the expenditure of state funds or use of state lands are subject to environmental review to assess potential significant impacts.
- **Amendment to County General Plan Affecting Land Use:** The project includes a Kaua'i County General Plan amendment that would change the designation of lands from agricultural to urban use. This constitutes a significant change that may result in substantial impacts relating to land use, natural resources, and the community, and further triggers the need for an EIS under HRS § 343-5(6).

Based on a preliminary review, the proposed land use change from agriculture to urban is anticipated to have potentially significant environmental impacts, including:

- Loss of agricultural resources and open space.
- Alteration of the rural character of the region and increased urbanization pressures.
- Potential impacts on infrastructure, public services, and traffic due to increased development.
- Potential impacts to cultural, historical, and ecological resources in the area.
- Irreversible commitment of land and resources to urban uses, with long-term consequences for the region's sustainability.
- Public concern regarding the extent and implications of the proposed urban expansion.

In accordance with HAR 11-200.1-13, significance criteria including cumulative impacts, the irreversibility of the proposed action, and consistency with existing state and county plans have been considered. The scope and nature of the proposed actions, coupled with the substantial community, environmental, and socioeconomic impacts, warrant detailed analysis and public disclosure through the EIS process.

### 1.4.2 Studies Anticipated to be Included in the Draft EIS

The following studies are anticipated to be included in the Draft EIS (**Table 1**).

**Table 1.** *Studies Anticipated to be Included in the Draft EIS*

Study	Consultant
Archaeological Survey	Scientific Consultant Services Inc.
Cultural Impact Assessment	Scientific Consultant Services Inc.
Flora and Fauna	SWCA Environmental Consultants
Noise Study	D.L. Adams Associates, Ltd.
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Phase II if hazardous materials found)	State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development Environmental Review Program
Traffic Impact Assessment Study	SSFM International, Inc.

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## 2. Proposed Action

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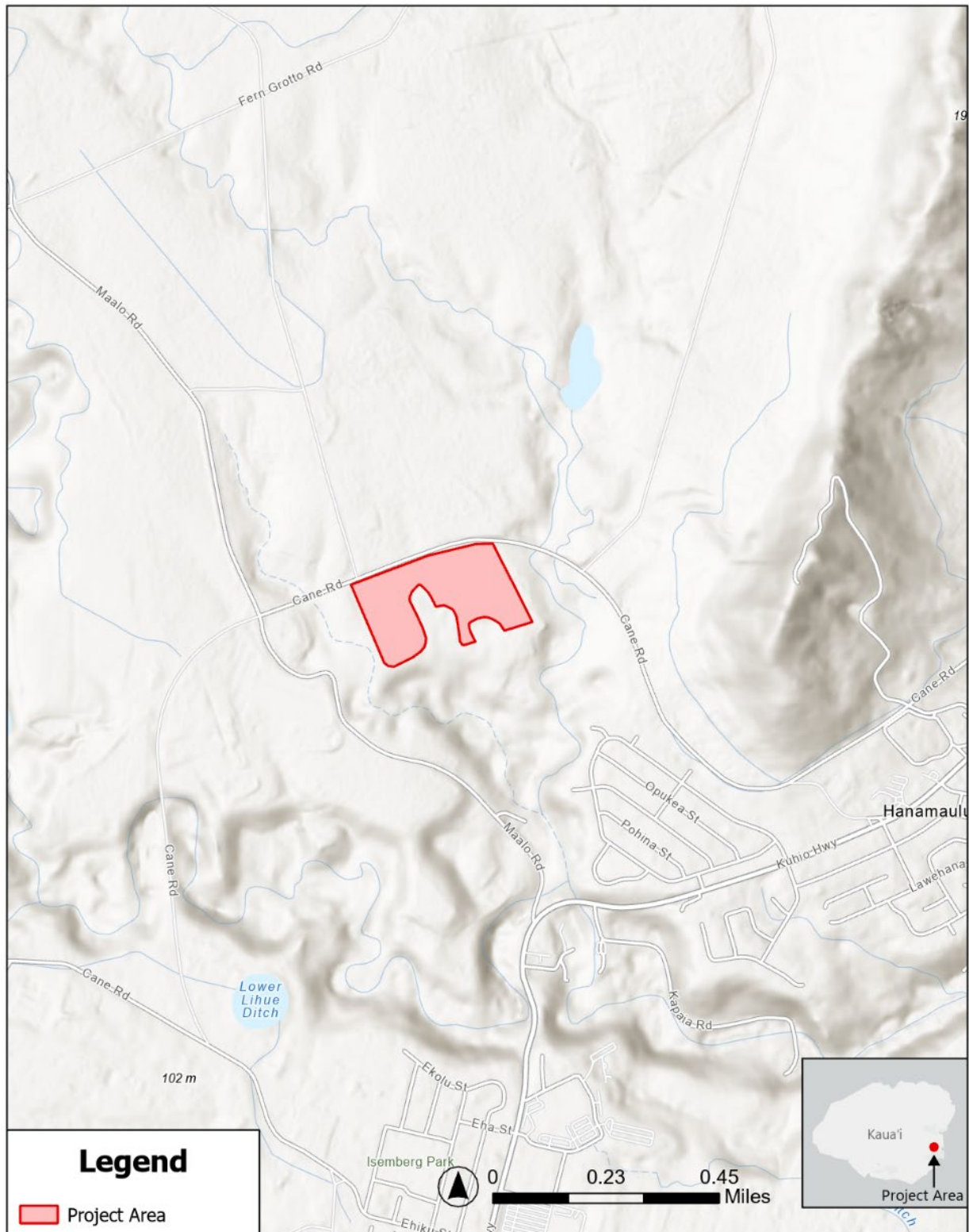
### 2.1 Project Location

The project site is located on the eastern side of the mokupuni (island) of Kaua'i, north of Lihu'e and to the northwest of the Census Designated Place (CDP) of Hanamā'ulu. The project site sits within the ahupua'a (traditional land division) of Hanamā'ulu, in the district of Lihu'e. The site is located north of Kūhiō Highway, east of the Mā'alo Road and Cane Haul Road intersection (**Figure 1**), on TMK (4) 3-8-018:001. The proposed KCCC would occupy approximately 20 to 30 acres of the 6,080-acre parcel. The project site is located at an elevation of approximately 257 feet.

The preferred relocation site is located adjacent to the existing Kaulu Ika Pono Academy (KIPA) an education and drug treatment facility which was recently constructed by the County of Kaua'i on lands provided by Grove Farm. The facility is currently under a thirty (30) year lease from Grove Farm to a non-profit for use as a youth drug treatment facility. The KIPA facility is connected to infrastructure (i.e., water, drainage, electrical, etc.), thus these infrastructures are available at the relocation site. Sewer for the KIPA facility is provided by a septic system located on the property. A potential benefit of relocating near a drug treatment facility is the potential to share resources and collaborate on patient care between the two facilities.

The proposed parcel boundary would create a parcel abutting the KIPA parcel so no remnant parcels would be created. Generally, landowners do not leave strips of unusable lands when creating a new parcel as it makes it infeasible to sell at a later date. Considering the topography, the proposed 1,000 ft X 2,000 ft parcel would be approximately 2 million square feet or approximately 40 to 45 gross acres; however, the net usable area is approximately 20 to 30 acres (). The net usable area would meet the immediate and future needs of the relocated KCCC facility, including the construction of a sewer treatment facility (Package Plant). Any remaining area could be used for growing crops to be used by the KCCC facility.

**Figure 1. Proposed Project Area**





**Figure 2.** *Approximate Gross Area and Net Usable Area of the Relocation Parcel*



## 2.2 Land Use

The project area is located near Hanamā'ulu, Kaua'i, in a setting characterized by a mix of residential, agricultural, and commercial uses. Hanamā'ulu functions as a residential community adjacent to Līhu'e, with surrounding lands historically used for sugarcane cultivation and more recently for diversified agriculture and rural residential development. The parcel lies within a transitional area where urban uses associated with Līhu'e meet large tracts of open space and agricultural land, and nearby facilities include neighborhood housing, schools, parks, and small businesses serving local residents. This section describes the existing land uses on the subject property and its surrounding context to provide a baseline for evaluating potential impacts of the proposed action.

### 2.2.1 Existing and Surrounding Land Uses

The proposed project site parcel historically supported agricultural use, consistent with its designation. However, in recent years it has been underutilized and is not currently in active farming production. Drone photos taken in early 2025 show the site and its surrounding context (**Figure 3** and **Figure 4**).

**Figure 3.** *The Proposed Project Site (Gross Area) Positioned at the Northwest Corner Facing Southwest*





**Figure 4.** *The Proposed Project Site (Gross Area) Positioned at the East Side Facing West*



Grove Farm indicated that the bulk of its land along Mā‘alo Road will be sold to the State Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). ADC intends on providing these lands to farmers in small lots with the intent of providing a “value added” agricultural process facility in the area. Other existing uses in the area include the Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) power plant and a photovoltaic (PV) farm. These existing and future uses could provide work furlough opportunities for the inmates at KCCC and benefit the community.

The site is also located along a possible alignment for the proposed Līhu‘e bypass road which has been discussed in some form since the 1970s (**Figure 5**). The bypass road would be intended to alleviate congestion along Kūhiō Highway leading into and out of Līhu‘e. Should the bypass road be constructed in the future, it will also provide opportunities for public transit and provide more accessibility to the site.

**Figure 5. Proposed Lihue Bypass Road Alignment**



#### *State Land Use District*

The project site is designated Agriculture in the State Land Use designations. The Hawai'i Land Use Ordinance (LUO) agricultural designation generally intends to preserve lands primarily for agricultural activities, supporting the long-term viability of farming and related uses. According to HRS § 205-4.5, permissible uses within the agricultural district include cultivation of crops, raising livestock, farm dwellings and buildings related to animal husbandry and farming, agricultural-based commercial operations, agricultural support facilities, and open recreational uses compatible with agriculture such as parks and riding stables. The designation discourages fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, promoting sustainable agricultural productivity and infrastructure. It also includes provisions for agricultural parks and plantation community subdivisions, with restrictions on non-agricultural development to maintain the land's use for farming.

The project site is not classified as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) by the State Land Use Commission (SLUC) (**Figure 6**). IAL are high-value agricultural lands identified based on criteria such as current agricultural use, soil quality, water availability, and potential for sustained high yields when managed with accepted farming methods.

The Draft EIS will evaluate the need for a SLUC District Boundary Amendment by demonstrating that the proposed reclassification from Agricultural to Urban complies with regulatory criteria, aligns with existing plans, balances development with agricultural preservation, and supports public safety and welfare.

[illegible]



### *Kaua'i County Zoning*

The project site is zoned Agriculture under County zoning (**Figure 7**). The Agriculture District is established to protect and accommodate lands for existing and potential agricultural uses, ensuring a resource base sufficient for current and future agricultural needs. It aims to balance the availability and feasibility of agricultural activities while limiting residential and urban encroachment within these lands (Kaua'i County Code, § 8-8.1).

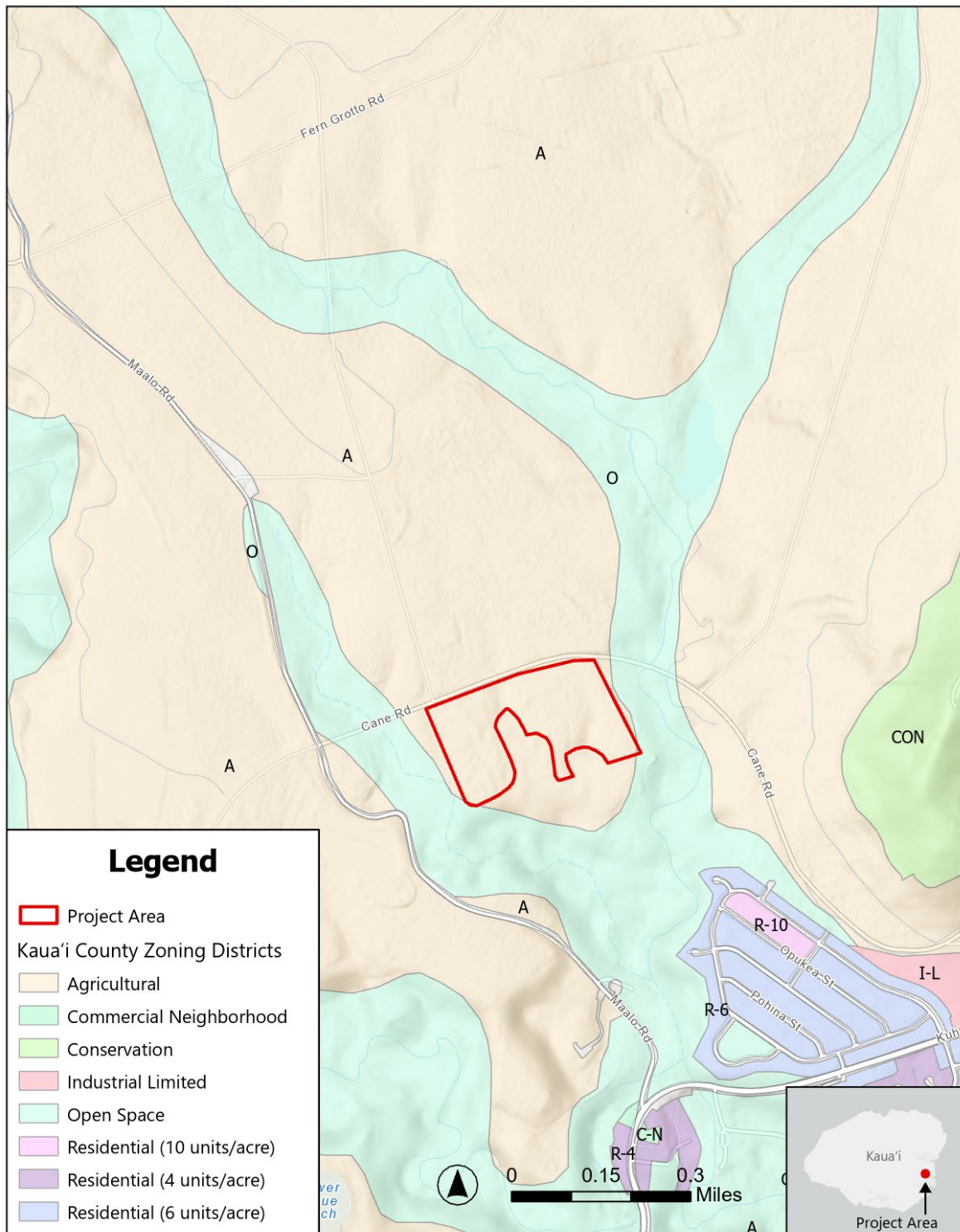
The Agriculture zoning designation is consistent with the parcel's historic use, however, the land is not under active cultivation. The Draft EIS will address the possible need for a County of Kaua'i Zoning Amendment.

### *Līhu'e Community Plan*

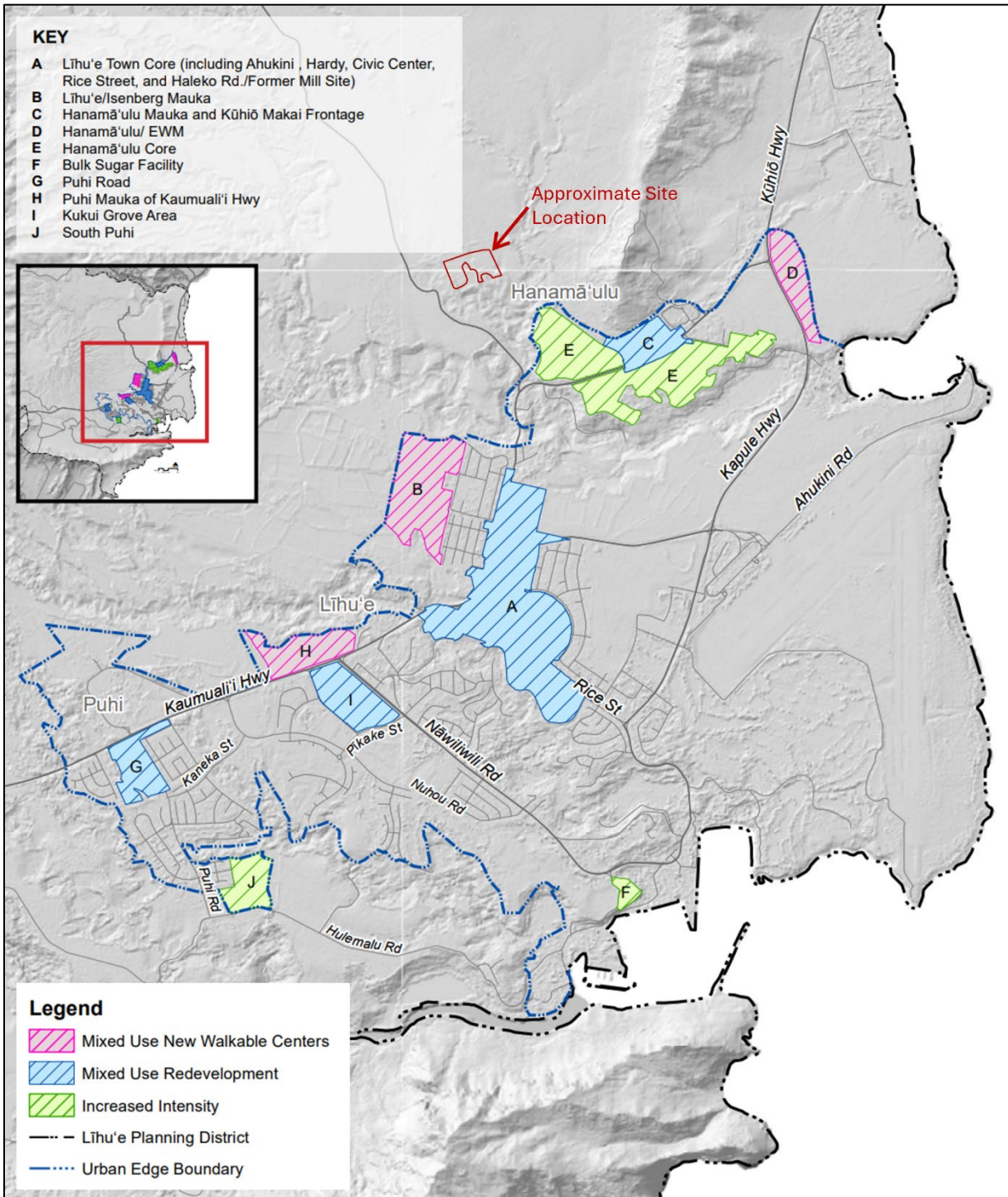
The Līhu'e Community Plan (2015) Land Use Map proposes that the project site remain in Agricultural use. The site is outside of the recommended Urban Edge Boundary that surrounds more urbanized areas of Līhu'e and is intended to preserve agricultural lands and use by focusing future growth and development within a designated area. While development of the parcel would not be consistent with this aim, the majority of the approximately 6,000-acre parcel would remain in agricultural use, since the proposed relocation would require the subdivision and purchase of an approximately 45-acre parcel area. There is also the potential of integrating crop cultivation on remaining agricultural lands with the KCCC facilities and programming, allowing inmates to get hands-on farming experience while ensuring that the land is actively cultivated.

The project site is located approximately 3,000 feet or 0.5 miles northwest from the nearest residence in Hanamā'ulu. There are three identified areas of increased intensity in Hanamā'ulu identified in the Līhu'e Community Plan (**Figure 8**). An area of increased intensity is defined as an area where an increase in development intensity is proposed, either by increasing the permitted density or changing the zoning and land use designation to allow for infill for new development (County of Kaua'i, 2015). The Plan identifies 1) Hanamā'ulu Mauka and the Kūhio Makai Frontage, 2) Hanamā'ulu /EWM Kaua'i LLC Property, and 3) Hanamā'ulu Core as areas where mixed use residential and commercial and increased residential density would be appropriate. There are several large privately owned developments covered in Grove Farm's Līhu'e-Hanamā'ulu Master Plan (1995), which includes development of residential, mixed use, and industrial uses on 550 acres within the Līhu'e District. The proposed KCCC facility would be consistent with the anticipated population growth in Hanamā'ulu and would serve the larger population by providing convenient and adequate space for inmates.

**Figure 7. County of Kaua'i Zoning**



**Figure 8.** Areas of Change in Līhu'e Community Plan (2015), With Approximate Site Location Added in Red





## 2.2.2 Regional Land Use History

Prior to the plantation period, oral histories and survey records indicate that the moku of Puna on Kaua'i (stretching from the stream valleys of Nāwiliwili in the south to Hanamā'ulu in the north) was home to thriving Native Hawai'ian communities. Early accounts describe nearly three miles of taro (kalo; *Colocasia esculenta*) lo'i cultivated along the Nāwiliwili River valley (Handy, 1940, as cited in Monahan and Hammatt, 2008). The surrounding kula, or open uplands, were used for dryland crops including sweet potato ('uala; *Ipomoea batatas*), breadfruit ('ulu; *Artocarpus altilis*), and calabash gourd (ipu; *Lagenaria siceraria*), often grown in small garden plots above the stream valleys. Higher elevations remained forested, providing timber for building houses and canoes, lauhala (*Pandanus tectorius*) and 'ie'ie vines (*Freycinetia arborea*) for weaving, paper mulberry (wauke; *Broussonetia papyrifera*) for kapa cloth, and an array of medicinal plants (Monahan & Hammatt, 2008; Blane & Chung, 2000). Grasslands dominated by pili (*Heteropogon contortus*) bordered the dryland fields, offering roofing thatch and habitat for native birds such as the Pacific golden plover (kōlea; *Pluvialis fulva*), which were traditionally hunted for food.

During the plantation era, beginning in the late 1800s and continuing into the mid-1900s, nearly all upcountry Līhu'e lands were converted to sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) fields, with cattle (*Bos taurus*) ranching as a secondary use. Both Grove Farm, which was established in 1856, and the neighboring Līhu'e Plantation Company built large irrigation systems to service thousands of acres of cane. Grove Farm records indicate that over its first century, about half of its roughly 22,000 acres were planted in sugarcane or maintained as cattle pasture (Grove Farm, 2025). Commercial sugar production in the region ended in the late twentieth century; Grove Farm closed its sugar operations in 1974 (Grove Farm, 2025), and Līhu'e Plantation stopped growing cane around 2000 (Curtis, 2001). Entrepreneur Steve Case purchased the two estates in 2000–2001, creating a Grove Farm land portfolio of about 40,000 acres. Most of this land remains zoned for agriculture or conservation and is leased to local farmers and ranchers (Curtis, 2001).

The transition from diverse traditional agriculture, forest stewardship, and wetland use to intensive sugarcane monoculture and ranching in upper Līhu'e led to a significant decline in native biodiversity. Native forests were cleared, wetlands were drained and altered, and complex ecosystems that once sustained endemic plants, birds, and invertebrates were reduced to simplified landscapes.

## 2.3 Purpose and Need

This section will outline the purpose and need of the proposed action.

### 2.3.1 Purpose of the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed project is to relocate the KCCC to provide a safe, modern and sufficiently large facility to house the inmate population and provide necessary services. KCCC currently holds up to 128 men and women for multiple purposes including those with pre-trial misdemeanors, pre-trial felons, sentenced misdemeanants, those on probation, and parole violators.

In addition to its jail functions, KCCC offers education, substance abuse treatment, religious counseling, cultural arts, and work furlough programs (Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, n.d.). KCCC inmates provide labor for county and non-profit projects. The facilities include a vegetable farm maintained by inmates. Produce is used for the facility's food service, and excess crops are donated to community organizations.

This relocation supports DCR's mission to provide a safe and secure correctional environment that fosters comprehensive rehabilitative, holistic, and wraparound re-entry services. These services include culturally based approaches that ensure individuals in DCR's custody are treated with professionalism, integrity, respect, and fairness. The overall goal is to reduce recidivism while enhancing public safety and security for the island of Kaua'i.

### 2.3.2 Need for the Proposed Action

There are several reasons for relocating the KCCC from its present location:

- a) **Kūhiō Highway Widening Project.** The planned Hawai'i Department of Transportation's (HDOT) Kūhiō Highway Widening project right-of-way (ROW) requirements are expected to encroach about 55 feet into the existing KCCC property and thus the existing KCCC will need to be relocated in advance. The project will widen Kūhiō Highway from Kapule Highway in Līhu'e to the vicinity of Wailuā Bridge. The project is included in the HDOT's 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project list, with funding allocated in 2028 and 2029 for ROW acquisition and construction.
- b) **Flood Zone.** The existing KCCC is located within Flood Zone A and in the "Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone." Flood Zone A are areas with 1% annual chance of flooding and a 25% chance of flooding over a 30-year mortgage. As such, the existing KCCC experiences flooding during heavy rains. The proposed KCCC is located within Flood Zone X and is not located in a tsunami evacuation zone. Flood Zone X has less than a 0.2% annual chance of flooding.
- c) **Population Growth and Expected KCCC Population.** The overall population of Kaua'i is expected to increase, and with it, potentially the general KCCC population. For example Grove Farm, which is a large landowner of properties in and around Līhu'e, is planning for large scale development of workforce housing on Kaua'i. The existing KCCC facility was built in 1977 and was originally designed to hold only 12 male inmates, and has expanded by adding temporary units over time to accommodate up to 128 men and women. The facility struggles with persistent overcrowding and an increasing number of inmates with complex mental health needs. Resources, training, and infrastructure remain limited and strained. A larger and modern facility that can accommodate a higher general population will be needed to prevent overcrowding and maintain humane and secured conditions for inmates and staff, meet current state energy conservation requirements, and support updated correctional programming standards that address growing mental health needs.
- d) **Potential Future Expansion.** The existing KCCC facility is on a 10-acre parcel with limited room for expansion. The widening of Kūhiō Highway will reduce the existing parcel size and will prohibit any facility expansion. Thus, the relocation site should be between 15 and 40 acres to allow for future expansion. The proposed location will allow for a larger facility with the possibility of future expansion.



## 2.4 Description of the Proposed Action

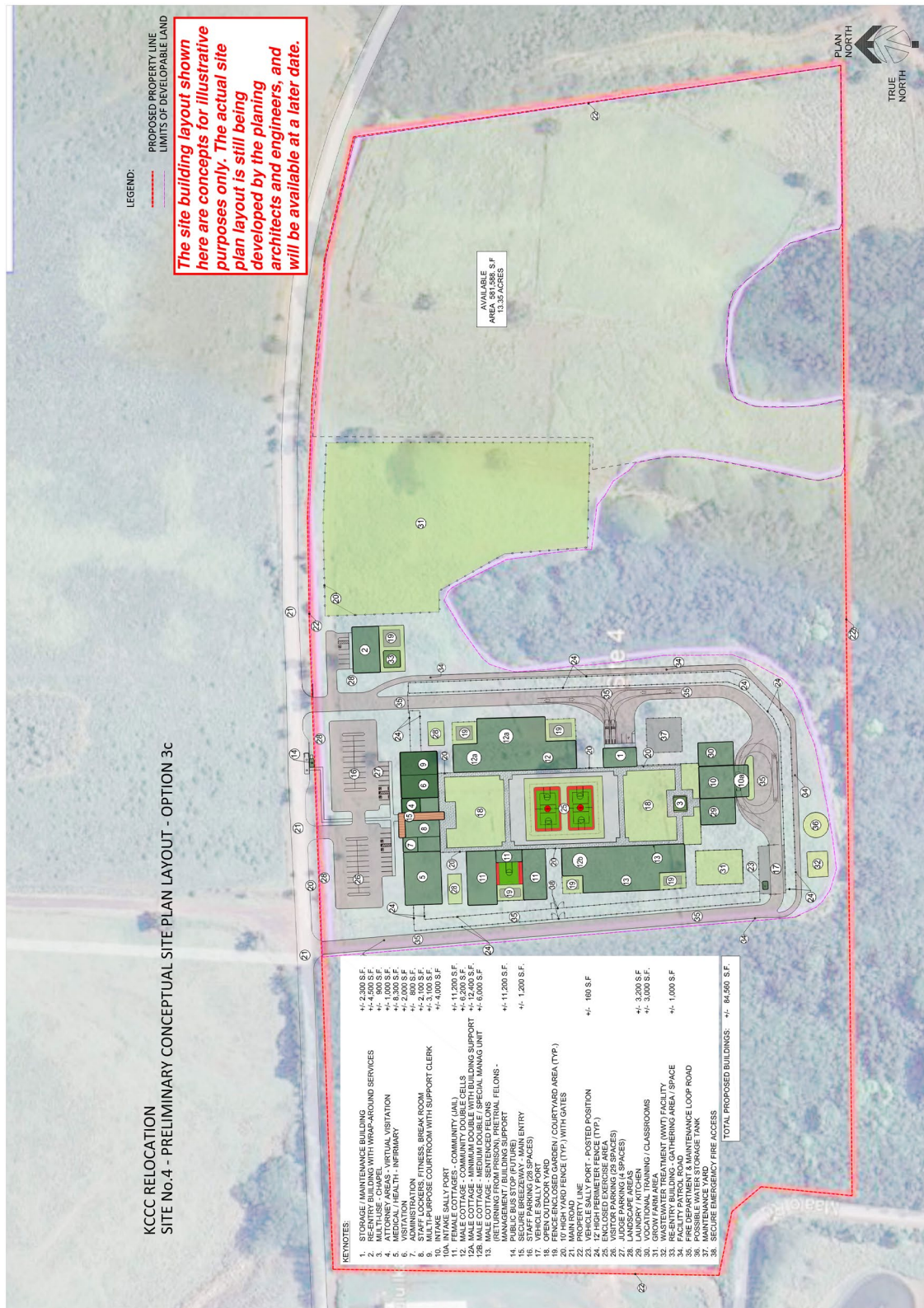
The State DCR is proposing to relocate the existing KCCC, currently located off of Kūhiō Highway across from the Wailuā Golf Course parking lot. The proposed KCCC will occupy approximately 20 to 30 acres of the 6,080-acre parcel. The proposed KCCC design has not been finalized but is expected to have a gross building area of approximately 85,000 square feet (SF) (**Figure 9**).

A preliminary estimate of the site plan list is below. This represents the best estimate at the time of this writing and is subject to change. An updated site plan will be included in the Draft EIS.

### Preliminary Site Plan List as of July 24, 2025

<u>BUILDING/STRUCTURE</u>	<u>FOOTPRINT</u>
1. STORAGE / MAINTENANCE BUILDING.....	+/- 2,300 S.F.
2. RE-ENTRY BUILDING WITH WRAP-AROUND SERVICES.....	+/-4,500 S.F.
3. MULTI-USE – CHAPEL.....	+/- 900 S.F.
4. ATTORNEY AREAS - VIRTUAL VISITATION.....	+/- 1,000 S.F.
5. MEDICAL / HEALTH – INFIRMARY.....	+/- 8,300 S.F.
6. VISITATION.....	+/- 2,000 S.F.
7. ADMINISTRATION.....	+/- 800 S.F.
8. STAFF LOCKERS, FITNESS, BREAK ROOM.....	+/- 2,100 S.F.
9. MULTI-PURPOSE COURTROOM WITH SUPPORT CLERK.....	+/- 3,100 S.F.
10. INTAKE.....	+/- 4,000 S.F.
10A. INTAKE SALLY PORT	
11. FEMALE COTTAGES - COMMUNITY (JAIL).....	+/- 11,200 S.F.
12. MALE COTTAGE - COMMUNITY DOUBLE CELLS.....	+/- 6,200 S.F.
12A. MALE COTTAGE - MINIMUM DOUBLE WITH BUILDING SUPPORT.....	+/- 12,400 S.F.
12B. MALE COTTAGE - MEDIUM DOUBLE / SPECIAL MANAG UNIT.....	+/- 6,000 S.F.
13. MALE COTTAGE - SENTENCED FELONS (RETURNING FROM PRISON), PRETRIAL FELONS - MANAGEMENT / BUILDING SUPPORT.....	+/- 11,200 S.F.
14. PUBLIC BUS STOP (FUTURE)	
15. SECURE BREEZEWAY - MAIN ENTRY.....	+/- 1,200 S.F.
16. STAFF PARKING (28 SPACES)	
17. VEHICLE SALLY PORT	
18. OPEN OUTDOOR YARD	
19. FENCE-ENCLOSED GARDEN / COURTYARD AREA (TYP.)	
20. 10' HIGH YARD FENCE (TYP.) WITH GATES	
21. MAIN ROAD	
22. PROPERTY LINE	
23. VEHICLE SALLY PORT - POSTED POSITION.....	+/- 160 S.F.
24. 12' HIGH PERIMETER FENCE (TYP.)	
25. ENCLOSED EXERCISE AREA	
26. VISITOR PARKING (29 SPACES)	
27. JUDGE PARKING (4 SPACES)	
28. LANDSCAPE AREAS	
29. LAUNDRY / KITCHEN.....	+/- 3,200 S.F.
30. VOCATIONAL TRAINING / CLASSROOMS.....	+/- 3,000 S.F.
31. GROW FARM AREA	
32. WASTEWATER TREATMENT (WWT) FACILITY	
33. RE-ENTRY BUILDING - GATHERING AREA / SPACE.....	+/- 1,000 S.F.
34. FACILITY PATROL ROAD	
35. FIRE DEPARTMENT & MAINTENANCE LOOP ROAD	
36. POSSIBLE WATER STORAGE TANK	
37. MAINTENANCE YARD	
38. SECURE EMERGENCY FIRE ACCESS	

**Figure 9. Preliminary Conceptual Site Plan Layout dated July 24, 2025**



### 2.4.1 Background

In 1995, the HDOT informed the DCR, formerly known as the Department of Public Safety (PSD), that Kūhiō Highway was being planned for roadway widening. The proposed road widening would address a traffic congestion problem that has gotten worse over time, especially during morning and afternoon rush hours. At the time, HDOT was proposing to widen Kūhiō Highway into a six (6) lane divided highway. This would require adding approximately fifty-five (55) feet to the mauka edge of Kūhiō Highway and directly impact the existing KCCC facilities.

In 2019, HDOT informed DCR that the proposed Kūhiō Highway widening project would take five (5) years to complete the design and construction, and the project would be initiated once funding was available. According to a letter prepared by HDOT dated March 12, 2021, the project was intended to be funded by the rental car revenue surcharge; however, the rental car revenue experienced a precipitous decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the project was postponed but not cancelled.

The HDOT Kūhiō Highway Widening Project will proceed once HDOT's revenue sources improve. When this occurs, the proposed 55-foot setback may greatly impact the KCCC facilities current operations.

The current KCCC site is located in a Flood Zone A, defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) as an area with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

The current KCCC site is also located in the Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone, which is defined by HIEMA as an area deemed to be at risk during an "extreme tsunami," a new class of seismic event that has been modeled but not observed historically.

Historically, the existing site experiences flooding during heavy rain events and is adjacent to an area that floods frequently. The current site is also less than ten (10) acres in size with no room for future expansion to accommodate the comprehensive services that DCR provides. In addition, the Kūhiō Highway Road widening project would necessitate using portions of the current KCCC site to complete its planned expansion.

### 2.4.2 Objectives

The objectives of the proposed relocation are as follows:

- Facilitate the HDOT Kūhiō Highway Widening Project by relocating KCCC ahead of right-of-way acquisition and construction, thus ensuring uninterrupted correctional operations and compliance with state transportation plans.
- Relocate the facility to a safe site outside Flood Zone A and the Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone in an area not subject to coastal hazards in order to reduce vulnerability to flooding, enhance safety, and improve long-term resilience.

- Design and construct a larger, modern facility that accommodates projected population growth and prevents overcrowding while maintaining humane and secure conditions for inmates and staff.
- Select a relocation site between approximately 15 and 40 acres to provide sufficient space for current operations and allow for future expansion as correctional and population needs evolve.
- Ensure the new site supports operational efficiency, accessibility, and coordination with county and state services to sustain effective correctional operations on Kaua‘i.

### 2.4.3 Summary of the Proposed Action

The KCCC, built in 1977, is being considered for relocation due to significant site constraints. The facility is located within a designated flood and tsunami zone and is affected by the Kūhiō Highway expansion project, which will result in the loss of one-third of its property. Originally designed to hold 12 male inmates, KCCC has expanded over time to accommodate up to 128 men and women, with temporary units added to increase capacity. The facility now faces persistent overcrowding and an increasing number of inmates with complex mental health needs, while resources, training, and infrastructure remain limited, underscoring the need for a new site.

The Hawai‘i State Legislature has allocated \$20 million for the relocation and redevelopment of KCCC, with the DCR identifying a preferred new site off Mā‘alo Road in Līhu‘e on land privately owned by Grove Farm. This location was selected following extensive community outreach and engagement efforts, along with quantitative site selection analysis. The selection was due in part to its proximity to support services, including KIPA, and availability of suitable land. Additionally, the community has voiced strong support for the Mā‘alo Road site (see Section 5.1). The proposed KCCC site would require both a State Land Use District Boundary Amendment and a County zoning map amendment to reclassify the project site from the Agricultural District to the Urban District, thereby permitting the transition from agricultural use to urban development consistent with the proposed action.

## 2.5 Permits and Approvals That May Be Required

The following list identifies the anticipated major land use entitlements, permits, and approvals required for the project’s implementation (**Table 2**). A comprehensive list of the various site, building, construction, and infrastructure approvals will be provided in the Draft EIS.



**Table 2.** *List of Potential Required Permits and Approvals*

Entitlement, Permit or Approval	Approving Authority
Environmental Impact Statement Acceptance	Governor of Hawai'i
State Land Use District Boundary Amendment to redesignate land within the Agricultural District to the Urban District	SLUC
Subdivision Approval	County of Kaua'i, Department of Planning
County of Kaua'i General Plan Amendment	County of Kaua'i, Department of Planning
County of Kaua'i Zoning Amendment	County of Kaua'i, Department of Planning
Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 6E Compliance	State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater Permit	State of Hawai'i, Department of Health (DOH)
Community Noise Permit or Community Noise Variance	DOH
Grading, Grubbing, Trenching and Stockpiling Permits	County of Kaua'i, Department of Public Works (DPW)
Building Permits (Buildings, Electrical, Plumbing)	DPW
Plan Review	County of Kaua'i, Fire Department
Application for Water Service	County of Kaua'i, Department of Water
Wastewater System Permit	DOH Wastewater Branch
Electrical Connection/Extension	KIUC

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## 3. Affected Environment

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### 3.1 Air Quality

The Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Air Branch, monitors the ambient air in the State for multiple gaseous and particulate air pollutants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, ozone, and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) (Department of Health, 2025). Hawai'i has also established a state ambient air standard for hydrogen sulfide.

There is one air monitoring station on Kaua'i, which is located near Lihu'e in the Niumalu residential subdivision (2342 Hulemalu Road). The predominant air pollution concern on Kaua'i has been cruise ship emissions from Nāwiliwili Harbor approximately one mile upwind, which is the primary objective of the Niumalu station (Department of Health, 2025). While it used to monitor for three parameters, it discontinued tracking nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5 in 2022. The data from 2015 to 2022 shows that annual average values for all three parameters were below maximum levels, and this trend of compliance has continued for sulfur dioxide in the most recently reported data (Department of Health Clean Air Branch, 2025).

#### **Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

The proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant adverse impact on air quality in the region. Best management practices (BMPs) will be included in the Draft EIS as applicable to address potential air pollution related to construction activities.

### 3.2 Climate and Climate Change

Climate change is a long-term shift in patterns of temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind, and seasons. Scientific data show that earth's climate has been warming. This warming is mostly attributable to rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases generated by human activity. East Kaua'i experiences a humid, tropical climate, with period showers throughout the year and small seasonal variations in temperature. Daily temperature ranges from high 70s to mid-60s in winter, and mid-80s to low 70s during the summer months. In general, Kaua'i experiences more rainfall with other islands, and the windward (northeast) side is wetter than the leeward (southwest) side. The average annual rainfall in Lihu'e ranges between 30 to 45 inches, which is moderate compared to wetter windward mountain areas and drier leeward zones. Winds are generally mild with low wind speeds in the morning and northeasterly trade winds in the late afternoon.

Climate change projections for Kaua'i indicate probably increases in temperature consistent with overall warming trends in Hawai'i and the Pacific (Frazier et al., 2023). Rainfall patterns may shift, with potential increases of high-intensity rainfall events, and more variability in seasonal rainfall totals, possibly including longer dry periods. Changes in humidity, cloud cover, and trade wind patterns may indirectly influence local microclimates around Lihu'e.



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### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project is not anticipated to have a significant adverse effect on the region's climate.

### 3.3 Natural Hazards

The project site is mapped within FEMA Flood Zone X, indicating a very low risk of flooding (less than 0.2 percent annual chance) (**Figure 10**). The proposed site is outside of the tsunami evacuation zone (**Figure 11**) and the sea level rise exposure area, as it is located approximately 1.75 miles from the nearest coastline.

The volcanic-seismic hazard is ranked low along the Hanamā'ulu coast as it is around the entire island of Kaua'i (Fletcher et al., 2002).

### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project site is not anticipated to be adversely affected by flood hazards, tsunamis, sea level rise, other coastal hazards, and/or volcanic seismic activity.

### 3.4 Geology and Topography

The site sits within the Lihue basin, a broad, gently sloping region averaging 100–120 meters (328–394 feet) above sea level (Reiners et al., 1998). The topography consists mainly of low hills, with steeper terrain to the west along Mā'alo Road and rocky headlands near Hanamā'ulu Bay. The Lihue region is mostly sloping, except where major streams have cut canyons that now create gulches with steep topography (Moberly, 1963). The resulting topography provides natural divisions between residential communities. Geological substrates are predominantly volcanic basalts from the Kōloa Volcanics, overlain by alluvial soils and weathered volcanic material.

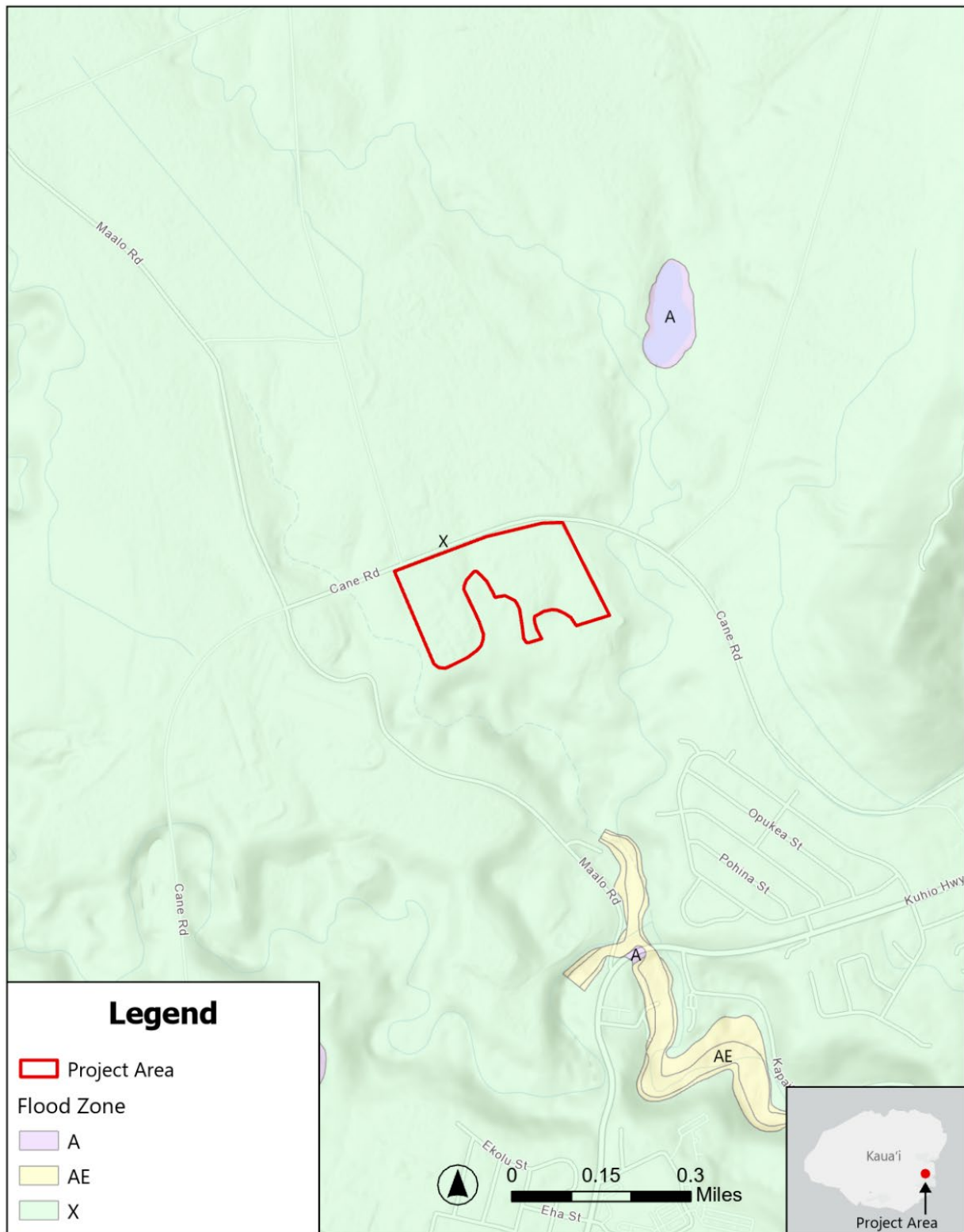
### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The project site has been selected in part due to local topography, which provides a natural buffer between the proposed facilities and the nearest residential communities and major highways. The Draft EIS will identify any potential impacts and mitigation measures concerning the topography of the site.

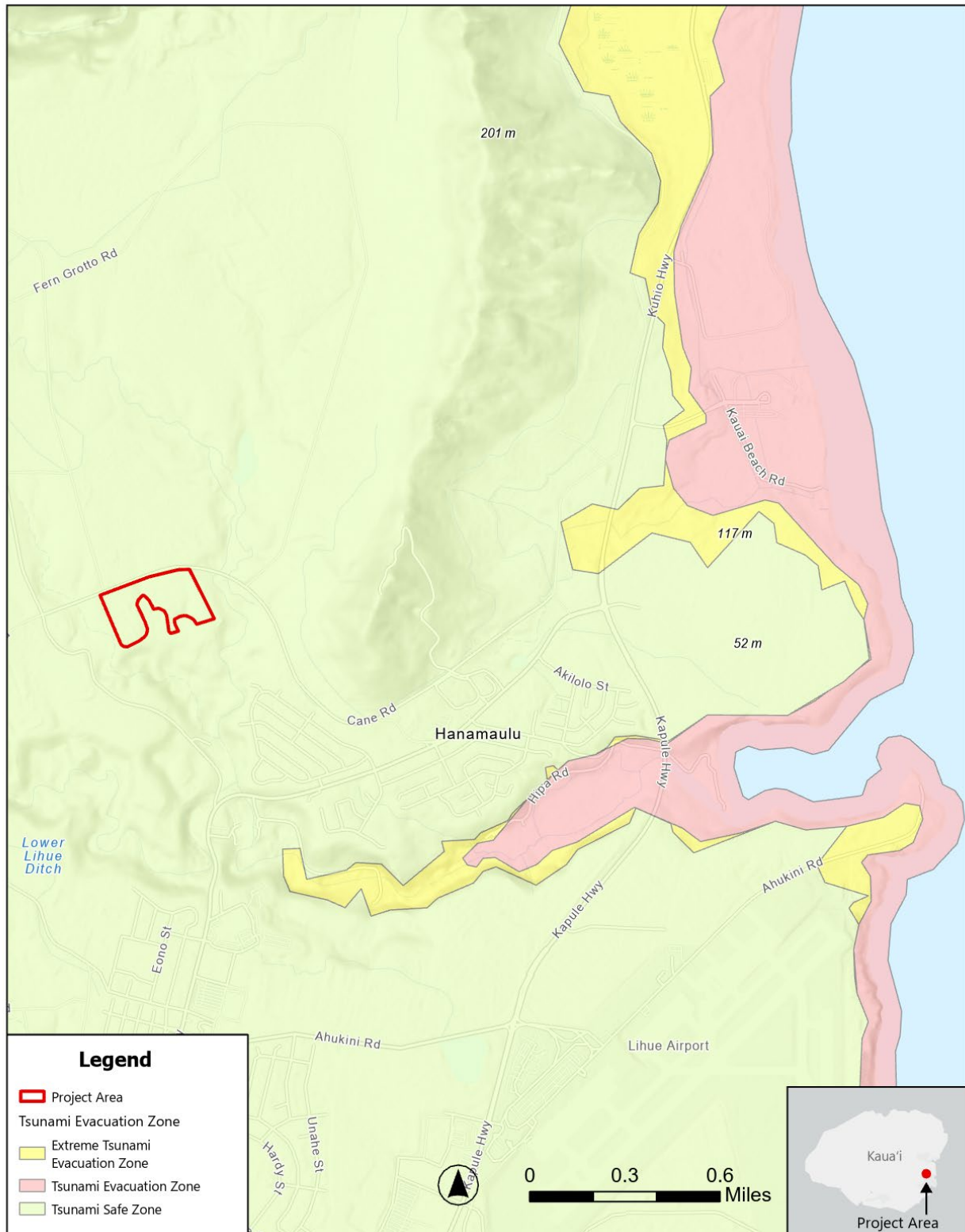
### 3.5 Soils

The geology underlying the project area consists mostly of eroded lava flows overlain by soils of the Puhi silty clay series and the Lihue silty clay series (**Figure 12**). Most of the proposed project footprint falls within an area mapped as Lihue silty clay with 0 to 40% slopes and Puhi silty clay loam with a 3% to 8% slope (Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2025).

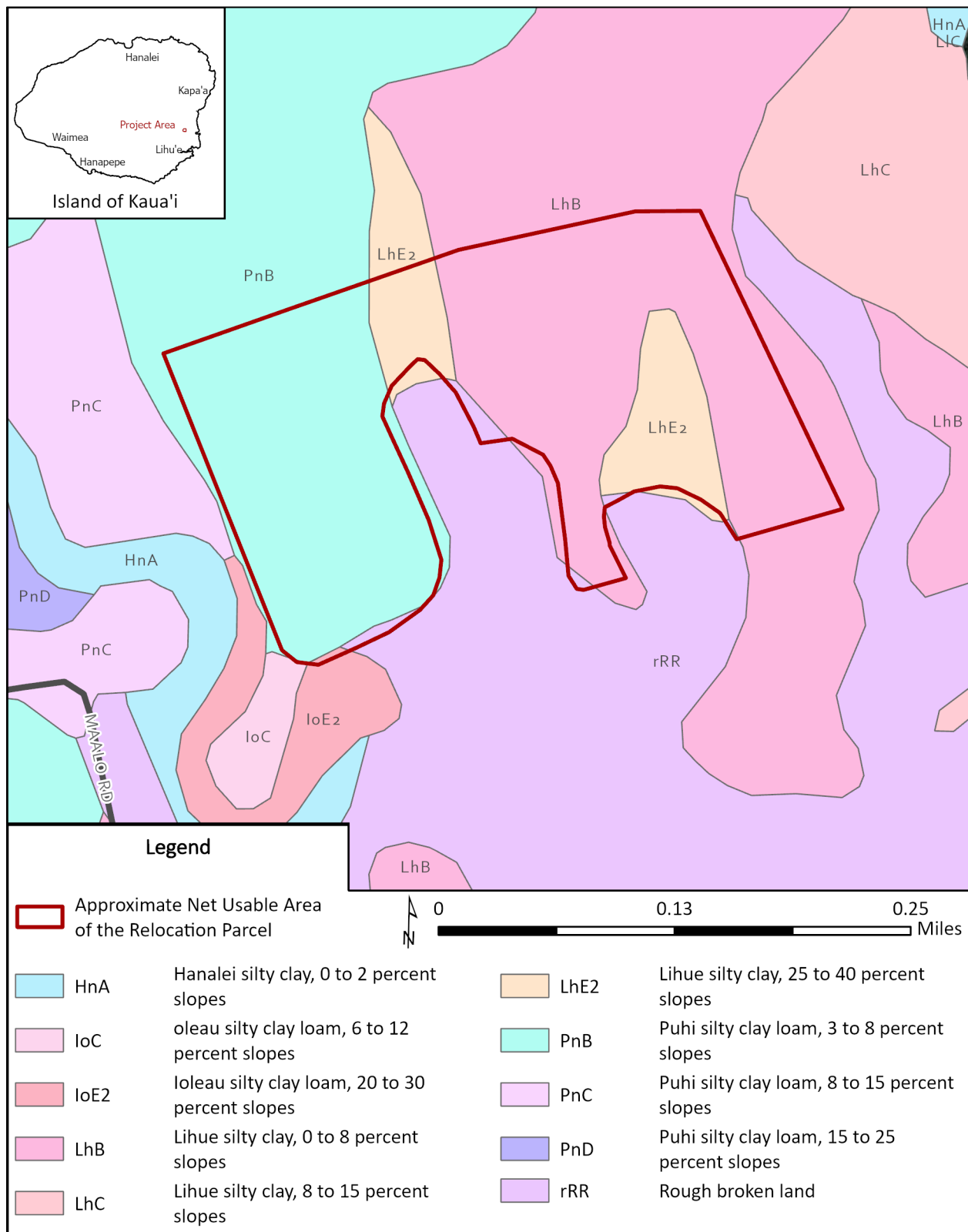
**Figure 10. Flood Zones**



**Figure 11. Tsunami Evacuation Zones**



**Figure 12. Soil Map**



The Puhi soil series consists of deep, very fine-textured soils commonly found in upland areas of Kaua'i at elevations between 175 and 500 feet. These well-drained soils occur on slopes ranging from 3% to 40%. They are rich in iron, which gives them a distinctive reddish color, and contain a high amount of organic matter (Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2025). This soil type is considered prime farmland and is used for cultivating sugarcane, a variety of vegetables, and orchard crops. Non-cultivated land of this soil type is often dominated by guava (*Psidium* spp.), java plum (*Syzygium cumini*), and kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) (Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2025).

A small portion of the parcel, which is not identified as the primary area of development, is characterized as Lihu'e silty clay (LhE2, letter C on the map shown in **Figure 12**). This soil type is characterized as eroded, with slopes between 25% to 40%.

### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Draft EIS will identify any potential impacts and mitigation measures concerning the soils at the project site.

## 3.6 Surface and Ground Water

The site is located within the Hanamā'ulu watershed, which is an estimated 7,305 acres (County of Kaua'i, 2015). Numerous perennial streams, including Hanamā'ulu Stream to the east and minor tributaries from upland areas, characterize the hydrology (**Figure 13**). Groundwater beneath this part of the Lihue basin is used primarily for municipal and agricultural supply (Izuka & Gingerich, 1998). Simulations indicate modest drawdown impacts from local well withdrawals, and recharge is supported by the region's relatively high rainfall (Izuka & Oki, 2002).

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) dataset, there are several water bodies in proximity to the project site, though none are present on the project parcel itself (**Figure 14**). The stream directly south of the parcel is classified as a riverine system, upper perennial subsystem, unconsolidated bottom class, and permanently flooded water regime (R3UBH) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2019). This classification includes wetlands and deep-water habitats where some water covers the substrate throughout the year. Within proximity to the project site are also freshwater ponds and freshwater emergent wetlands.

The project site is not within proximity to any marine or coastal waters.

### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Draft EIS will examine the potential impacts and mitigation measures to nearby surface and ground water.



**Figure 13. Streams**





**Figure 14. Wetlands**





### 3.7 Biological Resources

The eastern region of Kaua'i has undergone significant agricultural conversion and urbanization, leading to the fragmentation of native habitats. Remaining undeveloped areas, particularly upland and riparian zones, still contain some native and early Polynesian-introduced plant species, though most lowland areas are now dominated by non-native vegetation (SWCA Environmental Consultants, 2025).

The project area does not overlap with any federally designated critical habitat. Within the proposed project site, surveys documented only one species classified under federal or state threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate status (collectively referred to as special-status species): the Hawai'ian stilt, or a'e'o (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), which was observed foraging in the area. The location contains suitable habitat for foraging and nesting by nēnē, or Hawai'ian goose (*Branta sandvicensis*). Three other endangered Hawai'ian waterbirds—Hawai'ian common gallinule, or 'alae 'ula (*Gallinula galeata sandvicensis*); Hawai'ian coot, or 'alae ke'oke'o (*Fulica alai*); and Hawai'ian duck, or koloa maoli (*Anas wyvilliana*)—may also forage within the project site, but the lack of nearby water sources makes nesting unlikely.

Several trees present within the project area could serve as roosting sites for the Hawai'ian hoary bat, or 'ope'ape'a (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), which is listed as endangered at both the federal and state levels. In addition, special-status Hawai'ian seabirds—including band-rumped storm-petrel, or 'ake'ake (*Hydrobates castro*); Hawai'ian petrel, or 'ua'u (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*); and Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus newelli*)—may pass over the project site while in transit.

#### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The biological survey report will include results of the biological survey and outline potential impacts on species found at the site. The survey will also include specific avoidance and minimization measures to protect the special-status species identified at the site. With these measures in place, the project is not expected to result in significant adverse effects on these species, their habitats, or other terrestrial biological resources. This report and its finding will be included in the Draft EIS.

### 3.8 Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources

Kaua'i's east side contains numerous documented historic and cultural sites, including heiau (temple sites), traditional agricultural terraces, and sites associated with sugar plantation history (Kaua'i Historical Society, n.d.). Lihue and Hanamā'ulu also feature landmarks related to early Hawai'ian settlement and more recent multicultural heritage, such as the Grove Farm Homestead and significant sugar mill remnants. Consultation with Native Hawai'ian organizations and cultural practitioners is anticipated to identify and avoid impacts to any undocumented resources.

#### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

A Cultural Impact Assessment report will be prepared for the Draft EIS. Additionally, an archaeological survey will be conducted for the project area and included in the Draft EIS. These reports will outline potential impacts and mitigation measures in detail.

### 3.9 Visual Resources

The landscape provides a mix of open agricultural fields, remnant forest, gently rolling hills, and views of surrounding mountain ridges with intermittent ocean views. The project site's visual character is influenced by adjacent rural infrastructure and scenic backdrops, with Kūhiō Highway and Hanamā'ulu Bay nearby. Sunrises over Hanamā'ulu and panoramic views of upland ridges offer valued aesthetic qualities.

#### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project would preserve the majority of the parcel in open space and agriculture, though the extent to which the parcel would remain undeveloped depends on plans for future expansion of the facilities. The project location takes advantage of topography to provide a natural buffer from the surrounding community, mitigating some impacts to view planes and other scenic resources. The Draft EIS will explore the impact and potential mitigations to visual resources in more depth.

### 3.10 Noise

Current ambient noise levels are dominated by Kūhiō Highway traffic, agricultural operations, and scattered residential activity. Absent major industry, background levels are typical for a semi-rural setting and intermittent, with potential increases in noise during peak commuting hours and farming periods.

A noise assessment report is being prepared for this project and will be included in the Draft EIS. The report will analyze the proposed construction and operational impacts of the FRTC to the existing noise conditions in the surrounding area.

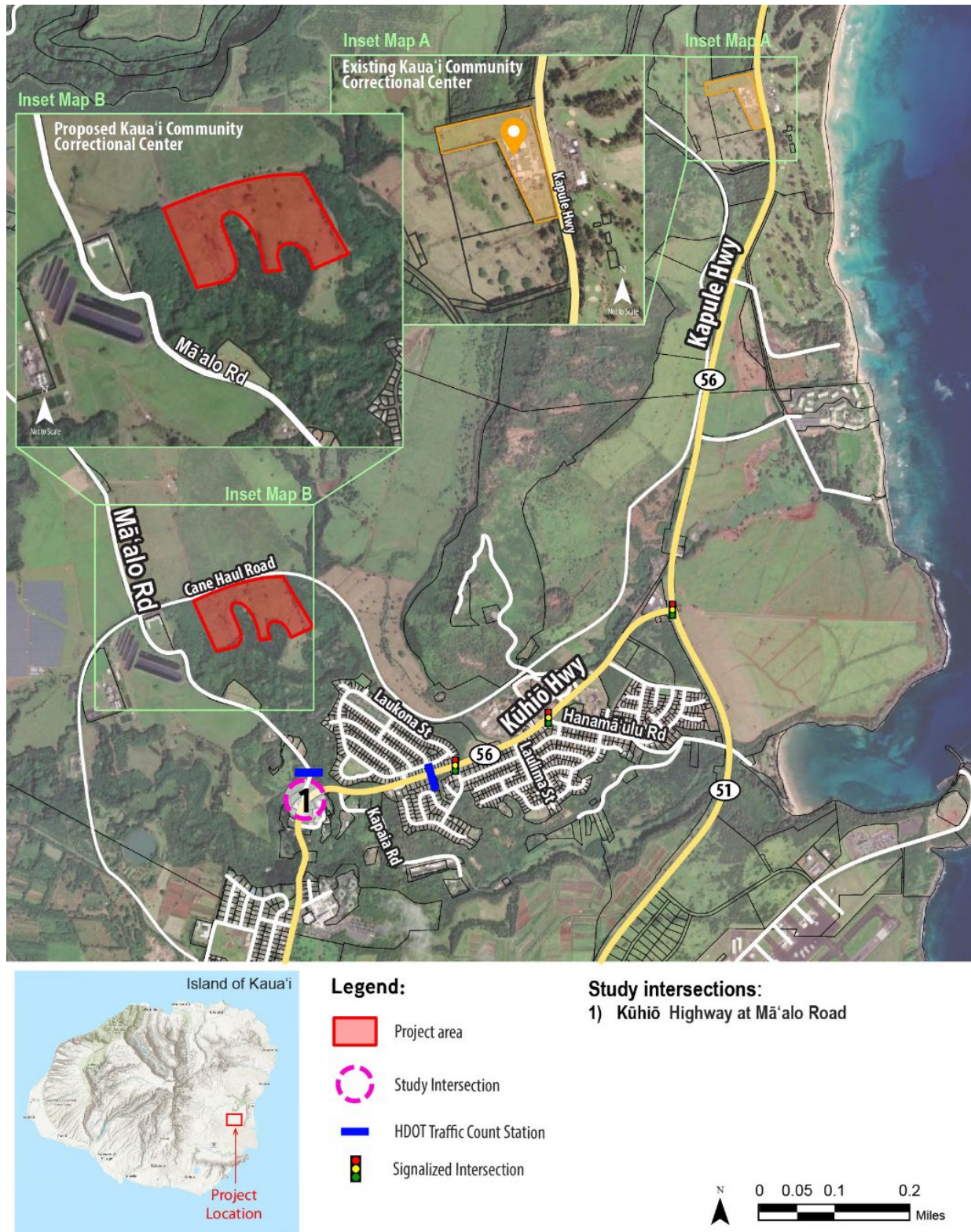
#### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed KCCC will increase the noise levels within the area due to the operations and functions at the facility. There will also be temporary impacts to the noise quality from construction related activities. The noise assessment report will further examine the potential impacts and mitigation measures anticipated from the FRTC from construction and post-construction/operational activities, which will be included in the Draft EIS.

### 3.11 Transportation and Traffic

The proposed KCCC location is on undeveloped land on the south side of Cane Haul Road, at the Mā'alo Road and Cane Haul Road intersection (**Figure 15**). Kūhiō Highway (Route 56) is the principal corridor in the region, providing access to Lihue, Hanamā'ulu, and the north shore. Mā'alo Road and Cane Haul Road serve local and agricultural traffic. Kūhiō Highway (Route 56) is State-owned, Principal Arterial extending 28.12 miles from Rice Street in the west to the intersection of Ka Haku Road in the north, at which point the roadway transitions into Kūhiō Highway (Route 560). At Mā'alo Road, Kūhiō Highway is a two-lane roadway running in the north-south orientation to the west of Mā'alo Road and in the east-west direction to the east of Mā'alo Road.

**Figure 15. Project Location Map and Study Intersections for the Traffic Impact Analysis Report**





A Traffic Impact Analysis Report (TIAR) is being conducted to support the proposed project. The TIAR will assess vehicle access to the proposed KCCC through the intersection of Kūhiō Highway at Mā'alo Road, which is the only available access to the site. The TIAR will analyze Existing (2025), Future (2030) Without Project, and Future (2030) With Project conditions during the AM and PM peak hours at Kūhiō Highway and Mā'alo Road.

#### **Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

A TIAR is being completed for the proposed project, and will be included in the Draft EIS.

### **3.12 Socioeconomics**

The region is characterized by a blend of residential, agricultural, and commercial land uses, with Lihue serving as the primary economic center for east Kaua'i. Socioeconomic indicators reflect a diverse population, access to healthcare and workforce opportunities, and a strong agricultural and tourism sector. The assessment will include general population analysis as well as more targeted analysis on the KCCC population demographics and forecasts. The table below summarizes the population, age, household and ethnicity demographics for Hanamā'ulu, the closest CDP (**Table 3**). In 2020, the Hanamā'ulu CDP population was 4,994 which accounted for approximately 6.8% of the island wide population.

#### **Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

A KCCC Population Forecast Report will assess KCCC population demographics and forecasts for future population changes. Additional socioeconomic data and demographics will be included in the Draft EIS to identify potential impacts of and mitigation measures for the proposed project.

### **3.13 Public Services and Utilities**

The project site is in close proximity to the Lihu'e town center, providing quick access to support services including the police station, courthouse, and hospital.

The project site is located adjacent to the KIPA facility, which is connected to infrastructure (i.e., water, drainage, electrical, etc.). These infrastructures are available at the relocation site. Sewer for the KIPA facility is provided by a septic system located on the property. The project would include construction of a sewer treatment facility (Package Plant) to service the facility.

#### **Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

The Draft EIS will further examine the features of the built environment proposed for the project, such as anticipated infrastructure demands; impacts to roadways and surrounding traffic; water and wastewater; stormwater runoff and drainage; and power, cable, and telecommunications systems. The Draft EIS will also include potential impacts to the surrounding environment and mitigation measures.

## 4. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The Draft EIS will evaluate feasible alternatives to the Proposed Action and describe the associated impacts to the surrounding environment. Several alternatives have already been identified and vetted through a separate site selection process. This process and its outcomes are outlined in a separate Site Selection Report that will be attached to the Draft EIS. Preliminary alternatives considered in that report are listed below.

The process for finding a new site for the KCCC facility involves finding an attainable site while addressing a complex mix of physical and community issues. The initial preference was to pursue government-owned lands, however due to the limited availability of government-owned lands, privately-owned lands were also examined. The initial approach resulted in six (6) potential sites: three (3) on government-owned land (Department of Land and Natural Resources) and three (3) on privately-owned land (Grove Farm) (**Figure 16**).

While issues of size, access, location, etc., are important in evaluating new potential sites, proper consideration must also be given to the needs and desires of the residents of Kaua'i in finding an appropriate relocation site. Community engagement conducted as part of the Site Selection Report is outlined in Section 5.1.

The potential sites were evaluated according to the following categories:

- Physical Characteristics and Ownership
- Access to Support Services
- Availability of Infrastructure
- Development Issues

The approach taken was to use a criteria rating system that was as objective as possible by using quantitative values as much as possible. Each site was assessed on more specific criteria under each of the categories. A score between 0 and 5 was given for each parcel based on the above criteria (**Table 3**). A score of "0" indicates the potential site is likely infeasible or impossible to meet the criteria whereas a score of "5" indicates the characteristics of the site is highly favorable for the given criteria. As a basis for comparison, the existing KCCC site (designated herein as Site #1) was also scored using the same criteria rating system resulting in a total of seven (7) sites being evaluated in the Site Selection Report. The locations of the sites and their respective rankings are presented in the following figure and table. The project location presented in this EISPN is represented in this section as Option #4: Grove Farm Mā'alo Site.



**Figure 16.** Selected sites evaluated using Criteria Rating System in the Site Selection Report



**Table 3.** All Sites Considered and Ranked in the Site Selection Report

Ranking	Score	Site
1	103	Site #4 Grove Farm (4590 Mā'alo Rd, Līhu'e, HI 96766)
2	96	Site #5 Grove Farm (Puih) (Kaumualii Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)
3	83	Site #2 Adjacent Parcel (Kuhio Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)
3	83	Site #3 Adjacent Parcel (Kuhio Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)
5	82	Site #1 Existing Site (3-5351 Kuhio Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766) (Red Location Pin on Figure 16)
6	78	Site #6 Grove Farm (Kuhio Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)
7	75	Site #7 State (DLNR) (Lele Rd, Hanapepe, HI 96716)

## 4.1 Alternatives Considered

### *Site #5 Grove Farm (Puhi) (Kaumuali'i Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)*

Site #5 ranked second in the Site Selection Study, and thus was considered as an alternative location for the proposed KCCC relocation. This is another large (2,913 acre) parcel with an estimated net total of 20-30 usable acres that would allow for the potential of future expansion. It is zoned in agriculture and open space. It is not in a flood zone or tsunami evacuation zone. However, its location on along Kaumuali'i Highway means that the facility would be highly visible, compared with the proposed site considered in this EISPN which is not visible from any main roads. This alternative will be explored further in the Draft EIS.

## 4.2 Alternatives Considered But Dismissed From Further Evaluation

The following alternatives were considered but ultimately dismissed from further evaluation in the Draft EIS for not meeting the purpose and need.

### *Site #2 Adjacent Parcel (Kūhiō Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)*

This site is a parcel adjacent for the existing KCCC site. It is zoned for agriculture. Being in the low-lying coastal area, this site is vulnerable to coastal hazards. It is in the Extreme Tsunami Evaluation Zone and Flood Zone (A). Additionally, the site is highly visible from surrounding areas, making it less ideal for the project. Its total size is 11.28 acres, hindering the potential for future expansion.

### *Site #3 Adjacent Parcel (Kūhiō Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)*

This site is another adjacent parcel to the existing KCCC site. It is zoned for agriculture. It is in the Extreme Tsunami Evaluation Zone and Flood Zone (A). Additionally, the site is highly visible from surrounding areas, making it less ideal for the project. Its total size is 10.05 acres, hindering the potential for future expansion.

### *Site #1 Existing Site (3-5351 Kūhiō Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766) (Red Location Pin)*

This is the current site of the KCCC facility. This alternative is described in further detail in Section 4.3.

### *Site #6 Grove Farm (Kūhiō Hwy, Līhu'e, HI 96766)*

This site is a large (approximately 40 acre) parcel with an estimated 20-30 net usable acres. It is zoned for agriculture and open space. However, it is not available for purchase at the time of this writing, and it is highly visible. Furthermore, it is in the Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone. It is in Flood Zone X.

### *Site #7 State (DLNR) (Lele Rd, Hanapēpē, HI 96716)*

The final site considered was a parcel owned by the State DLNR in Hanapēpē. This 17.53 acre parcel has approximately 17 usable acres which would allow for future expansion. It is zoned for open space and residential. It is in the Tsunami Evacuation Zone, however it is not in a major flood zone (Flood Zone X). It is highly visible, making it less ideal for this development. This site received the lowest score in the ranking system devised for this purpose (Table 3).

### 4.3 No Action Alternative

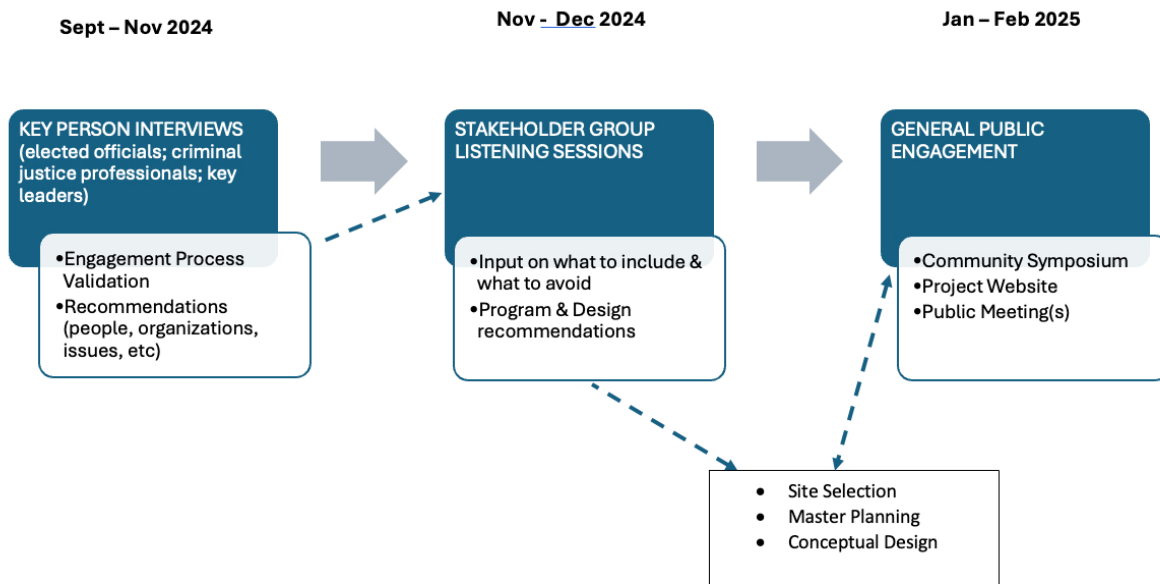
A No Action Alternative will be included in the EIS to establish a baseline for comparison with impacts of the proposed actions. The No Action Alternative would consist of a continuation of current conditions. The existing KCCC facility would be left in place. This would pose significant complication to the HDOT Kūhiō Highway Widening project expected to encroach about 55 feet into the existing KCCC property. Furthermore, leaving KCCC in place would mean that it would continue to provide inadequate facilities for the incarcerated population due to overcrowding. In the longer term, risks from coastal hazards would continue to intensify as sea level rise continues. This site is in Flood Zone (A) and the Extreme Tsunami Zone.

## 5. Consultations

### 5.1 Community Engagement

A separate community engagement process was conducted while site analyses were being done. The community engagement process is illustrated in the flow chart (**Figure 17**).

**Figure 17.** KCCC Relocation Community Engagement Process



The community engagement process began with key person interviews and proceeded to Listening Sessions with small groups of distinct types of stakeholders. These first two phases of community engagement were completed on December 11, 2024. The interviews and Listening Sessions focused on programming and design attributes of a new correctional facility that the community would like to see. The site analysis and selection processes were briefly described, but not discussed in any detail since there were no preferred sites at that time, and the community engagement process was focused on getting early community input before site selection. Participants were told to anticipate the preferred site would be within a five-mile radius from the primary institutions in Līhu'e (e.g., court, airport, hospital, police station). The current KCCC is within this same five-mile radius. The third phase of community engagement will engage the general public beginning in early 2026. The exact types and sequence of events will be dependent on when and how preferred site selection are determined and announced. There is flexibility to adjust schedules, venues, and approaches to meet the needs of the project.

A Community Symposium was hosted by the DCR and SSFM International on January 25, 2025 at the KCC. The intent of the Symposium was to elaborate on models and methods for rehabilitation, drawing upon Kaua'i's experiences in recent years. The Symposium also explored program and

design concepts that could be incorporated into a better environment for healing, rehabilitation, and inmates’ successful re-entry to the community. These could become the basis for planning a new KCCC facility.

The seven sites evaluated within this report were presented during the Symposium. Kaua‘i residents were asked to provide their input on the site selection process for the new KCCC facility through a website feedback module. This occurred from January 25 through February 25, 2025.

The feedback received was overall strong support for Site #4 on Mā‘alo Road due to its proximity to essential government and institutional services, while still maintaining distance from local residential areas. There are concerns about traffic impacts to Mā‘alo Road, particularly its intersection with Kūhiō Highway. Some respondents commented on the potential for the new site to support more effective facilities and services that can enhance rehabilitation. These include agricultural and educational training, more appropriate spaces for religious groups and services, and more facilities to support volunteer groups.

### 5.1.1 Key Person Interviews

Forty-eight people were individually interviewed between September 2024 and January 2025 by Keith Mattson, the Community Engagement leader. Most of these individuals were recommended by KCCC Warden Jerry Jona and by Kaua‘i’s top elected officials. Nearly all live and work on Kaua‘i and can be organized into the following categories:

1. Kaua‘i Elected Officials
2. Criminal Justice Officials and Professionals
3. Civic, Education, Cultural, and Religious Leaders
4. Health and Social Service Professionals
5. Kaua‘i Employers and Business Leaders

The individual interviews provided extremely valuable insights about the current KCCC facility, its perception within the broad community and how that might impact efforts to relocate it. The interviews also solicited suggestions for other people to interview and/or invite to participate in small group listening sessions. Additional questions were based on individual’s specific area(s) of experience and knowledge. Details of the Key Person Interviews will be provided in the Community Engagement Report attached to the Draft EIS.

During the interviews, the Community Engagement leader also explained the process the Planning Team developed for community engagement and asked for comments and suggestions. Overall, there was appreciation for the way community engagement was to be conducted, and several interviewees expressed that they think the Team is doing this the ‘right way.’

### 5.1.2 Stakeholder Group Listening Sessions

Five different stakeholder group listening sessions were held on Kaua‘i during November and December 2024. A total of 38 people participated in the sessions which were broken down into the following categories:



1. Criminal Justice, Health Care, and Social Service Professionals
2. Employers and Business Leaders
3. Current and Former KCCC Staff
4. Former KCCC Inmates and Family
5. Civic, Education, Cultural, and Religious Group Leaders

The small group listening sessions assembled multiple stakeholders with similar positions, responsibilities, and experiences for their individual and combined comments and suggestions. Convening these groups reduced the potential for individual biases and/or knowledge gaps to diminish the input desired. Convening the groups also allowed the Planning Team to better gauge overall levels of support or opposition to specific concepts or options. Listening sessions were three hours long each and took place at the KCCC campus. KCCC Warden Jerry Jona and other KCCC administrative staff participated in each listening session so that specific questions about KCCC could be addressed. An architect from the Planning Team attended each listening session to take detailed notes on recommendations related to facility programming and design.

Detailed recommendations from the five different listening sessions were summarized and provided to the design and programming members of the Planning Team. These will be included in the Community Engagement Report attached to the Draft EIS.

### 5.1.3 General Public Engagement

General public engagement began with a Community Symposium on KCCC relocation on January 26, 2025 at the KCC Performing Arts Center. The Symposium was also shown live on a Zoom webinar for those unable to attend. The intent of the Symposium was to kickoff broader public outreach during later phases of the project. The Symposium included opening remarks by Kaua'i Mayor Derek Kawakami and DCR Director Tommy Johnson. Director Johnson explained DCR's new emphasis on inmate rehabilitation with examples of the types of supporting programs initiated, under development, or proposed. Two panel discussions focused on how criminal justice professionals view successful rehabilitation on Kaua'i, and the experiences of former KCCC inmates who were able to turn their lives around and become successful community members. The Planning Team also summarized the various site options being analyzed, how the site selection process will work, and some preliminary design and programming concepts based on the input received from the key person interviews and small group listening sessions.

Additional public engagement will be conducted in conjunction with the project's EIS, and later when the proposed site is acquired. Additional engagement with the residents of nearby Hanamā'ulu will be conducted to hear any concerns they may have with the siting of the KCCC facility, and share DCR's commitment to the safety and security of the nearby community.

The main themes that came out of public community engagement to date are outlined below.

#### *COMMUNITY'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES FOR A NEW KCCC*

1. Keep more of Kaua'i's incarcerated residents on Kaua'i where they can receive more support from family and community.
2. New KCCC should be safe from flooding/inundation and other natural disasters

3. New KCCC should be a place for healing and learning/relearning how to be a productive member of community
4. Create stronger connections with aina and Kaua'i's cultural values and traditions
5. Transitional housing for re-entering inmates is major need
6. Make new KCCC an easier place for family and community members to visit, and for professionals to conduct their work with inmates

#### ***MOST DESIRABLE FACILITY DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS***

1. Space for effective treatment programs (e.g. substance abuse, anger management, sex offender counseling, mental health)
2. Design should incorporate natural features to degree possible and have a good connection with the surrounding landscape. Don't make it 'stand out' within the surrounding landscape
3. Gardening and food production capabilities on site
4. Education and training facilities that enable non-KCCC instructors to teach inmates important skills
5. Suitable and sufficient multi-purpose space for different counseling and group activities
6. Separate entry/exit gates for inmate transportation and worker/vendor/visitor access
7. Separate housing units for inmates with mental health issues
8. Separate exercise areas for male and female inmates
9. Gender specific work training and work furlough programs
10. Facilities to do arts and crafts
11. Creation of re-entry pathway with specific milestones for inmates to achieve in order to advance and receive more liberties while still in KCCC
12. Family visiting areas with greater privacy from other inmates & visitors
13. Co-location of Intake Services withing new facility
14. More interaction between inmates and community (e.g. delivering vegetables to seniors, performance nights, inmates helping with community fund raisers, etc.)
15. Spaces for meditation and learning/practicing traditional cultural practices
16. Ensure suitable meeting spaces for professional services, such as attorneys, parole officers, substance abuse counselors, and mental health practitioners.
17. Facilities for online activities, including professional counseling and advising, selected court proceedings, telehealth consultations, and family visits.
18. Greater emphasis on financial literacy and life management skills.
19. Use of new KCCC maintenance shops for specific inmate training activities (e.g. carpentry, auto repair, plumbing, etc.)
20. Larger and better equipped medical center with an infirmary
21. Stronger re-entry preparation and counseling that includes assistance acquiring/reacquiring necessary documents
22. More facilities on site for KCCC staff to decompress, work out, and have private conversations.
23. Separate housing areas for inmates returning from Halawa or mainland prisons.

## 5.2 Scoping Meeting

An EIS public scoping meeting is required to be held during the public review period, per HAR §11-200.1-23. The Public Scoping Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025, was cancelled due to a widespread power outage impacting the meeting venue. The Public Scoping Meeting is rescheduled for: January 20, 2026, from 5PM to 7PM at the Kaua'i Veterans Center, 3215 Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hwy, Lihu'e, HI 96766, in the Silver and Bronze Conference Room.

## 5.3 Draft EIS Consultation

This document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Hawai'i's Environmental Protection Act, HRS Chapter 343, and HAR §11-200.1-23. Following the publication of this EISPN in The Environmental Notice published by the State's Environmental Review Program is a 30-day public review and comment period, in which the public can provide written comments regarding the environmental effects of the proposed action. All written comments and responses provided will be included in the Draft EIS.

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