Dear Sir:

Subject: Negative Declaration for Road Easement over Hauula Playground

We are forwarding for publication in the DEQC Bulletin a Negative Declaration and four copies of the Environmental Assessment for a proposed private road easement over Hauula Playground to serve a landlocked kuleana.

Sincerely,

WALTER M. OZAWA, Director

WHO: sl
Attach.

cc: Department of Public Works, Land Division
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR ROAD EASEMENT OVR HAUULA PLAYGROUND
KOOLUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Proposing Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation
City and County of Honolulu

Accepting Agency: Not applicable

Proposed Action: Sale of a 10-foot-wide road easement across an
unimproved portion of Hauula Playground to serve a
landlocked kuleana identified by Tax Map Key: 5-4-08:14

Determination: An environmental impact statement is not required
pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Rationale: No significant environmental effects are anticipated.
Conveyance of the easement will not require new
development and will not adversely affect park use. The
easement can be relocated to facilitate park
improvements in the unlikely event that this becomes
necessary.

Agencies Consulted: An Environmental Assessment was prepared by the
Department of Parks and Recreation in consultation with
the City Department of Public Works

Contact Person: Walter Ozawa, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR ROAD EASEMENT OVER HAULA PLAYGROUND
KOOLAULOA, OAHU, HAWAII

I. PROPOSED PROJECT

The City Department of Parks and Recreation is proposing to sell a
10-foot-wide road easement across an unimproved portion of Hauula
Playground to serve a landlocked kuleana owned by the Nihipali family.
The easement will be located on a portion of Tax Map Key (TMK): 5-4-01:
18. The Kuleana which will be served by the easement is identified by
TMK: 5-4-08: 14. The 1,354-square-foot easement will be sold by public
auction with an upset price of $5,000. The City Council has authorized
the sale with Resolution No. 90-325.

Conveyance of the easement will not require new development or
relocation of any existing structures. The site of the easement is
currently used for private vehicular access to the Nihipali kuleana and
for public vehicular access to an unimproved overflow parking lot. (See
attached maps.) The easement can be relocated to facilitate park
improvements in the unlikely event that this becomes necessary.

The 0.78-acre Nihipali kuleana has been in their family for over a
century. The property was originally used as a taro patch. In 1964 the
site was elevated by filling and a dwelling built. At the time, the
property was not landlocked. Access was from Hauula Homestead Road on
an unrecorded trail across TMK: 5-4-08: 10 and 11 owned by Henry
Wilkins. After his death, his heirs refused to allow the Nihipali
family to cross these parcels to reach Hauula Homestead Road.

II. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Hauula Playground has direct road access from the mauka side of
Kamehameha Highway. A 10-foot-wide State-owned road is sandwiched
between Hauula Elementary School and the improved portion of the park
property. This road also provides access to an unimproved portion of
the park used as an overflow parking lot during softball games. The
proposed easement is located along the mauka side of an existing park
fence which separates the overflow parking lot from an improved playing
field.

About one-half of the 10.39-acre site of Hauula Playground is an
unimproved wetland. The wetland is separated from park improvements by
a fence. (See attached map.) Current Federal wetland policy precludes
placement of fill material to create playing fields and other park
amenities within wetlands.
III. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Conveyance of the road easement will not require new development and will not affect park use. No new uses of the park land will be created. No significant environmental impacts are anticipated.

A 10-foot-wide easement would not meet City Department of Land Utilization requirements for road access to new subdivisions. At most, the Niihipali family would only be permitted to build one more house on their unsubdivided parcel.

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The no-action alternative was considered and rejected. It is the general policy of the City Department of Parks and Recreation to accommodate the needs of abutting property owners when there will be no adverse effects on park use.

V. DETERMINATION

An environmental impact statement is not required pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

VI. REASONS SUPPORTING DETERMINATION

Conveyance of the proposed easement will neither create nor facilitate significant direct or indirect impacts.