October 25, 1990

Dr. Bruce Anderson
Office of Environmental Quality Control
465 South King Street, Room 104
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Anderson:

SUBJECT: KOLOA REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

We are transmitting a completed OEQC form for Publication of EIS Documents in the OEQC Bulletin, and six (6) copies of the Environmental Assessment/Negative Declaration dated October 31, 1990, for your further processing.

Very truly yours,

KIYOJI MASAKI
Acting County Engineer

JH/cu
Attachment

cc: Austin Tsutsumi & Assoc.
RECEIVED
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

KOLOA REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

Department of Public Works
County of Kauai

PREPARED BY
AUSTIN, TSUTSUMI & ASSOCIATES, INC.
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

APPROVED BY:

Kiyoji Masaki,
Acting County Engineer
County of Kauai
November, 1990
I. SUMMARY

CHAPTER 343, HRS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Action: Agency
          Department of Public Works
          County of Kauai

Project Name: Koloa Refuse Transfer Station

Project Description: The proposed project consists of the design and
construction of a solid waste transfer station to ultimately accommodate the approximately 40 tons
per day to be delivered to the station by the Year 2010. Initial processing will be for 23 tons per day in
1990, and this will build to design capacity of 40 tons per day by 2010. The project will incorporate the
tipping floor concept to accommodate the refuse volume. Refuse will be loaded onto "open top"
transfer trailers and then transported to the Kekaha Landfill for final disposal.

Project Location: The site is located midway between Koloa and
Lawai towns, off Koloa Road.

Tax Map Key: 2-7-03: parcel 6 Koloa, Kauai

Area: 3.7 acres

State Land Use Designation: Agriculture

Zoning: Agriculture

Landowner: A. F. Knudsen and Eric A. Knudsen Trusts

Agent: Austin, Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc.

Contact: Environmental Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 536
Honolulu, HI 96809
Phone: 521-8391
II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Technical Characteristics

1. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a transfer station building 65' x 60' with provisions for future expansion to add another 60' of tipping floor. Of the total 40 tons per day generated within the Koloa District, only 23 tons per day will be delivered to the proposed station in 1990. The remaining waste will be delivered directly to the Kekaha Landfill. In 2010, only 40 tons of the 75 tons per day generated, will be processed at the transfer station. This increased refuse stream is based on resident population growth projections to 21,000 residents in the year 2010 from present day population of 12,500.

2. The transfer station will incorporate the tipping floor concept to accommodate the solid waste flow. (See Exhibit 5) As shown in the exhibit, a pre-engineered steel structure is proposed to house the facility and to shelter the refuse on the tipping floor and the transfer trailer from inclement weather and blowing winds. The upper unloading area or the tipping floor will be utilized by the County refuse trucks, the general public, and in the future, small commercial self-haul trucks. The lower area will be open only to County transfer trailers and employees. The tipping floor will be divided into three receiving bays and will be used typically by private citizen delivery trucks (one bay) and County refuse trucks (two bays). Once the County trucks have completed their deliveries, the three bays will be available to the general public.

3. With total Koloa District domestic solid waste generation projected to increase from 40 TPD in 1990 to a projected 75 TPD in 2010, the transfer station site will incorporate provisions for future expansion to accommodate this projected increase. Initial expansion provisions would include the addition of transfer trailers and backhoes. Future building expansion will not take place until 2010 or after unless actual refuse delivery and transfer station operations warrant building expansion before the Year 2010.
4. The site will also be designed to facilitate and maximize the recycling aspects of solid waste management. A bulk storage area for disposal of bulky objects such as appliances, furniture, and other miscellaneous large items will be provided for in the recycling area. An area for derelict vehicles may also be provided within the recycling area.

B. Social and Economic Characteristics

1. The proposed Koloa Refuse Transfer Station will consolidate refuse collected from different generation points within the Koloa District. One 105 cubic yard capacity refuse transfer trailer will be able to accommodate four to five County refuse collection trucks. This will reduce the present practice of the collection trucks with full crews making their deliveries to the Hanapepe Refuse Transfer Station for further transshipment to the landfill at Kekaha for final disposal. Upon completion of the Koloa Refuse Transfer Station in 1991, one transfer trailer load a day from Koloa to the Kekaha Landfill will be the normal daily delivery. By the year 2010, transfer trailer loads will be doubled, based on population growth projections and accompanying refuse generation increases. This facility will in effect, reduce present practices of refuse collection trucks delivering refuse to the Hanapepe Transfer Station, and result in cost savings due to reduced time and fuel expended for non-collection activity. The general public in the Koloa District will also realize cost savings by utilizing the proposed Koloa Transfer Station, instead of driving to Hanapepe.

2. The site development cost for the proposed Koloa Refuse Transfer Station is estimated at $1,800,000. Construction time schedule would commence upon final permit approvals and would be done in one continuous phase, with completion scheduled for December, 1991.

C. Environmental Characteristics

The proposed project will provide significant relief for the Koloa District in terms of solid waste management. The design and layout of the site will be done to minimize visual impacts for a facility of this type. This will be emphasized by establishing a clear landscaped area at the entrance of the transfer station access.
road to discourage illegal, after hour refuse dumping. In addition to providing landscape barriers along the north side of realigned cane haul road, metal gates will also be provided near the cane haul and access road intersection, to prevent the public from entering the private cane haul road. (See Exhibit 6 for off-site landscaping improvements.)
III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Geographical Characteristics

1. Topography

The Koloa Region is located in the southeast sector of the island of Kauai. (See Exhibit 1). The area consists of a coastal plain surrounded by highlands on three sides. Several deep gullies and small valleys traverse the plain, running in a north to south direction from the mountains to the ocean. The area has numerous reservoirs, including the Waita Reservoir, the largest in the State.  

The proposed site is located 1200 feet south of Koloa Road, next to a deep gully along one edge of a sugar cane field. There will be extensive site preparation work required to provide the final grade necessary for the structural improvements (See Exhibit 6).

2. Soils

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, the soils at the proposed site consist of Puhi silty clay loam (PnE) of steep slopes. Runoff is rapid and the erosion hazard is severe. Permeability is rapid.

B. Hydrological Characteristics

1. Drainage

The existing drainage flow pattern in the vicinity of the proposed transfer station travels from east to west across the site. The runoff drains towards an existing gully, meanders for about a mile via a small stream and discharges into the Aepohe Reservoir. Based upon a 10 year design storm, the proposed project will generate approximately 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) of storm runoff, which is an increase of 8 cfs over the runoff presently generated at the site. This additional flow should not present any adverse effects downstream of the site.
Once the transfer station is constructed, approximately 75%, or 11 cfs, of the total 10 year design storm runoff will flow into an on-site desilting basin. The basin will detain the storm runoff before draining into the gully, thus causing the sediments to be retained in the basin. The remaining runoff will drain directly into the gully via a surface swale. On-site drainage will be controlled by roadside swales and surface sheet flow. Any off-site drainage affected by the work at the proposed site and access road will be properly adjusted to divert around the site.

2. Coastal Zone Management Program

Implementation of this proposed project is not expected to violate any of the provisions or objectives of the State of Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Act.

C. Biological Characteristics

Field investigations revealed no known endangered species of flora or fauna on the project site. The historic sugar cane cultivation use on the parcel and subsequent alteration of the land precludes this possible find.
IV. SUMMARY OF MAJOR IMPACTS AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

Short-term impacts, beneficial and adverse, generally result from construction related activities. However, these impacts are of short duration and are limited to the term of the construction phase of the proposed action. Mitigation measures can be imposed on the contractor to adhere to applicable County, State, and Federal guidelines on Noise, Air, and Runoff impacts.

Long term impacts that will result from the implementation and operation of the transfer station could occur with improper refuse handling (littering and illegal after hours dumping), traffic congestion at the newly completed roadway intersection, and possible increased noise from the operation of equipment at the station.

Mitigation measures will include the design and construction of a clear view landscaped area at the entrance of the transfer station access road to discourage illegal, after hours refuse dumping. Further, landscape barriers along the north side of the realigned cane haul road, and metal gates on this same road near the cane haul road and access road intersection, will prevent the public from entering the cane haul road during non-operating hours. (See Exhibit 6).

Operational noise should be of minor significance since the selected site is located well away from existing residential sectors and operations are conducted during normal County day time work schedules.


Minimal impacts on the adjacent environment are anticipated as the result of this project development.
V. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Kauai County's Solid Waste Management Plan provides guidelines for solid waste disposal through 1990. The proposed Koloa Refuse Transfer Station is part of this Solid Waste Management Plan. The Koloa open dump was closed in 1978 as part of the State's campaign to eliminate open dump disposal of refuse and to comply with Federal and State regulations on solid waste management. Since the closure of the open dump, residents of the district have to dispose of their refuse either at the Hanapepe Refuse Transfer Station, or at the sanitary landfills at Kekaha or Halehaka. Halehaka will close at the end of 1990 and this will leave only the Kekaha Landfill as the sole disposal site for domestic refuse. The proposed Koloa Refuse Transfer Station will replace the former open dump and eliminate the need for Koloa residents to drive long distances to dispose of their refuse.

A site selection survey was conducted and four sites were evaluated as potential transfer station locations. (See Exhibit 7). These sites were:

1. Along Maluhia Road, north of Koloa Town
2. East of Koloa Town at the base of Waiohunu Mound
3. Poeleele Valley, off Omao Road
4. Two sites (A & B) off Koloa Road, midway between Koloa and Lawai Towns.

For a detailed evaluation of the four potential transfer station locations, refer to a report entitled "Engineering Report for the Koloa Refuse Transfer Station" dated November, 1979, by Austin, Tsutsumi and Associates, Inc.

The County selected site 4B as the location for the Koloa Refuse Transfer Station and this decision was supplemented by the willingness of the landowners, A.F. Knudsen and Eric A. Knudsen Trusts to locate the transfer station at that location. This facility will serve part of Kalaheo, Lawai, Omao, Koloa, and Poipu areas which currently generate approximately 20% of the County's domestic solid waste stream. (See Exhibit 2).
VI. DETERMINATION FINDINGS AND REASONS SUPPORTING DETERMINATION

After completing an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, it has been determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Therefore, this document constitutes a Notice of Negative Declaration.

Reasons supporting the Negative Declaration determination are as follows, using as the criteria, the policy, guideline and provisions of Chapters 342, 343, and 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

1. The proposed action will consist of the development of structural improvements on marginal sugar cane lands and will not adversely affect the physical and social environment.

2. There will be no permanent degradation of existing ambient air and noise levels resulting from this project. During the construction phase, air quality and noise levels, together with traffic disruptions are expected to affect normal existing conditions, but these are considered temporary and minor.

3. There will be no displacement of residences or businesses by this proposed action. A loss of 2.5 acres of cane land will be realized.

4. There are no known endangered species of animal or plants within the project limits.

5. There are no natural, historic, or archaeological sites within the project limits.

6. Site grading will be required to accommodate the transfer station buildings. Minimal grading will also be required to realign the cane haul road with the station access road. Expansion capacity is also a consideration when future population growth dictates additional equipment and covered areas.

7. Future planning for development growth in terms of population increases and increased solid waste generation will be accommodated by this facility.
VII. LIST OF PREPARERS

Department of Public Works
County of Kauai
Proposing Agency

Austin, Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc.
Civil Engineering Consultants

Environmental Communications, Inc.
Environmental Assessment