

JOHN WAIHEE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



621  
WILLIAM W. PATY, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. BOX 621

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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OFC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL NOV 20 1990

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MANABU TAGOMORI  
RUSSELL N. FUKUMOTO

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LAND MANAGEMENT  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
STATE PARKS  
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

In reply, please refer to:  
REF: DOFAW

MEMORANDUM

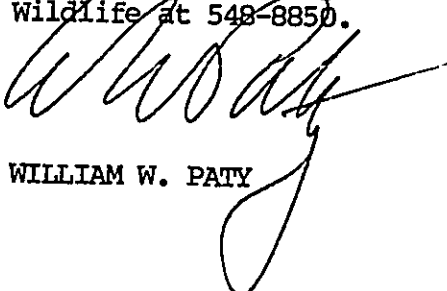
TO: HONORABLE BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Acting Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control

FROM: WILLIAM W. PATY, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment of Negative Declaration

Transmitted herewith are four copies of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's environmental assessment of negative declaration for the resurfacing of approximately 2.9 miles of the Polipoli Access Road on the island of Maui. Could you please review and process our agency's action of determination.

Should you have any questions regarding our project, please contact Carl Masaki of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 548-8850.

  
WILLIAM W. PATY

Attachments

261

1990-12-08-MA-FA

Environmental Assessment of  
Polipoli Access Road Improvement

FILE COPY

Proposing Agency

State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
54 S. High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

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Introduction

OFC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL

Polipoli Road, as outlined on TMK: 2-2-06 and 07 (Exhibit I), provides the main public vehicular access into the Kula and Kahikinui Forest Reserve/Game Management Area. The 5.5 miles of road was initially constructed in 1954, traversing the upper Kaonoulu land division which was deeded by Kaonoulu Ranch, Limited to the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation in 1961.

In 1961, five miles of the access road were surfaced with oiled cinder. This low durability surfacing rapidly deteriorated under use and adverse weather conditions. Beginning in 1969, 1.8 miles of the access road and several sharp turns were resurfaced with a cinder base and asphalt surface. Two years later, an additional 1.1 miles of road were paved.

In a letter dated September 27, 1985, the Director of Transportation, officially granted the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources the responsibility and jurisdiction for the maintenance and improvement of the Polipoli Road. In 1986, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved for the Polipoli easement to be an addition to the State Kula Forest Reserve. On July 1, 1986, then Governor George R. Ariyoshi signed Executive Order No. 3339, officially placing the easement into the Forest Reserve. These last two events were necessary before funds could be expended for the road's 1985 Capital Improvement Project of paving an additional 2.1 miles of road with a gravel base and asphalt surface. In 1987, an additional 2.1 miles of road were paved (Exhibit II).

Present Events

Act 299, Item D-4 of the 1990 Regular Legislative Session appropriated \$176,000.00 for the resurfacing of 2.9 miles of the Polipoli access road.

Since the construction of the Polipoli access road, the Kula and Kahikinui Forest Reserve/Game Management Area have become a favorite place for public outdoor recreation in the form of hiking, camping and hunting. With the expected growth of multiple recreational use has come the increase in vehicular traffic on the Polipoli State Park to both residents and visitors, the availability of four-wheel drive vehicles, and to such other recreational activities as jogging, mountain biking, handgliding and the flying of radio controlled model gliders.

The heavy use has caused many cracks in the paved surface and during rains, ruts readily develop, resurfacing is necessary to salvage the original road base.

#### Description

Polipoli Access Road traverses Kaonoulu Ranch land from about 3,800 feet to 6,400 feet. The proposed project portion of the road is in the agricultural zone.

The soils are deep fertile loam interbedded with lava flows. Cattle grazing and wood harvesting have produced ecological changes in the surrounding area. The area now contains open kikuyu, (Pennisetum clandestinum) grass lands with remnants of mamani (Sophora chrysophylla), ohelo (Vaccinium reticulatum) and pukiaue (Styphelia tamerameiae). Black wattle (Acacia decurrens) and firetree (Myrica faya), both noxious plants, have encroached into the grasslands and are spreading rapidly through the area. Three native forest birds, apapane (Himatione sanguinea), amakihi (Loxops virens) and creeper (Loxops maculatus) have managed to adapt to the areas altered condition. Game birds such as pheasants (Phasianus colchicus) and Japanese quail (Coturnix coturnix) occur in the brush-grassland habitat.

#### Purpose and Description of the Proposed Project

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife is proposing a road improvement project which upon completion will provide greater ease and safety for vehicular access to the Kula and Kahikinui Forest Reserve/Game Management Area.

Specifically, the proposed project provides resurfacing of 2.9 miles of the lower section of Polipoli access road (Exhibit II). The primary objectives of the project are to provide safe driving conditions and to salvage the original road base.

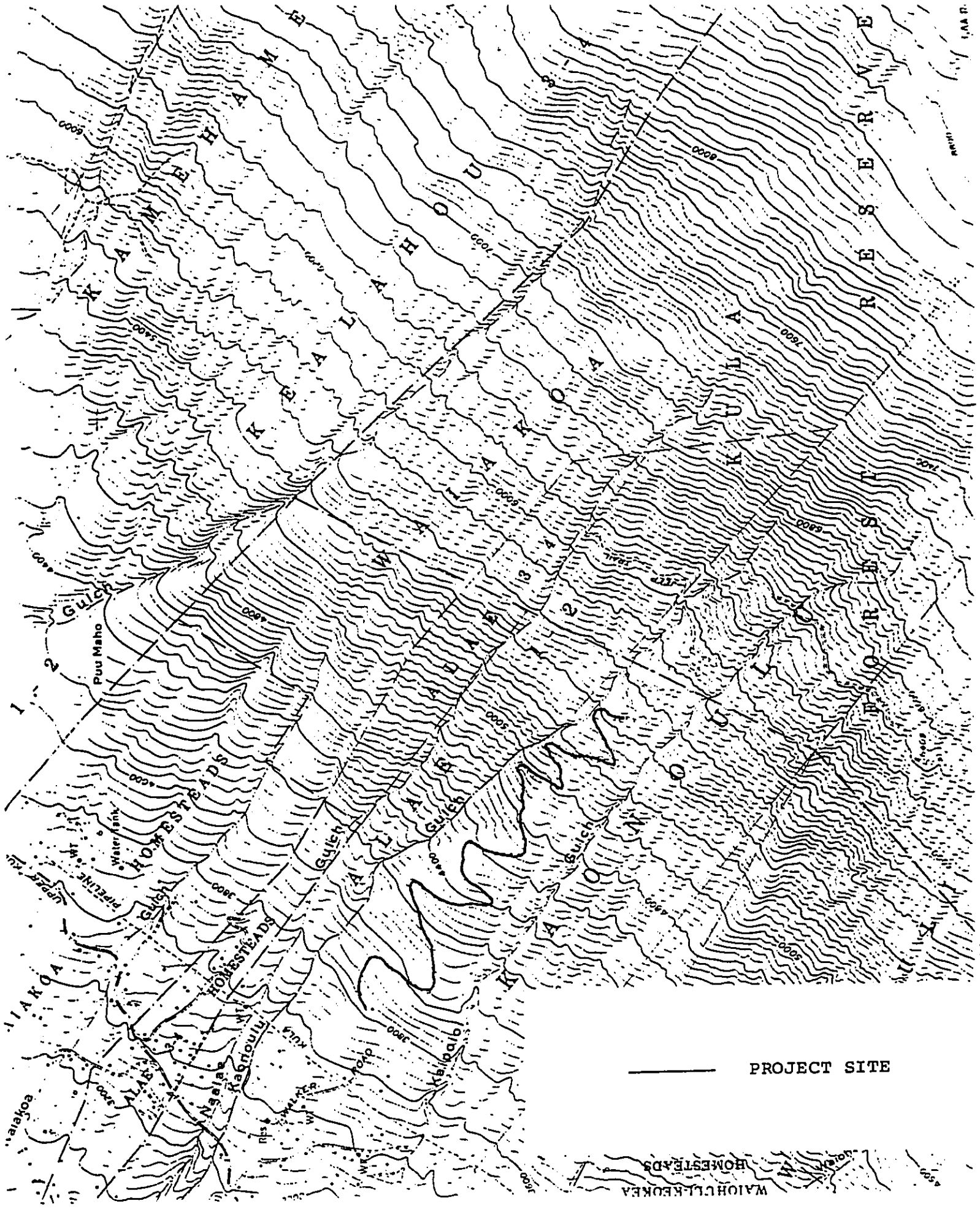
#### Potential Environmental Effects

Short-term adverse effects of the proposed are related to the undesirable conditions which will exist during the progress of the work. There will be noise generated from the equipment during construction, but since the project site is far removed from residential areas, residents should be unaffected. A limited amount of pollution of the environment may occur from small amounts of oil, lubricants and exhaust fumes from the construction equipment. Disturbance to wildlife in the area will be minimal during construction. All of these adverse effects will dissipate once the construction phase is complete and conditions stabilize follow the development, hence no special mitigation is needed.

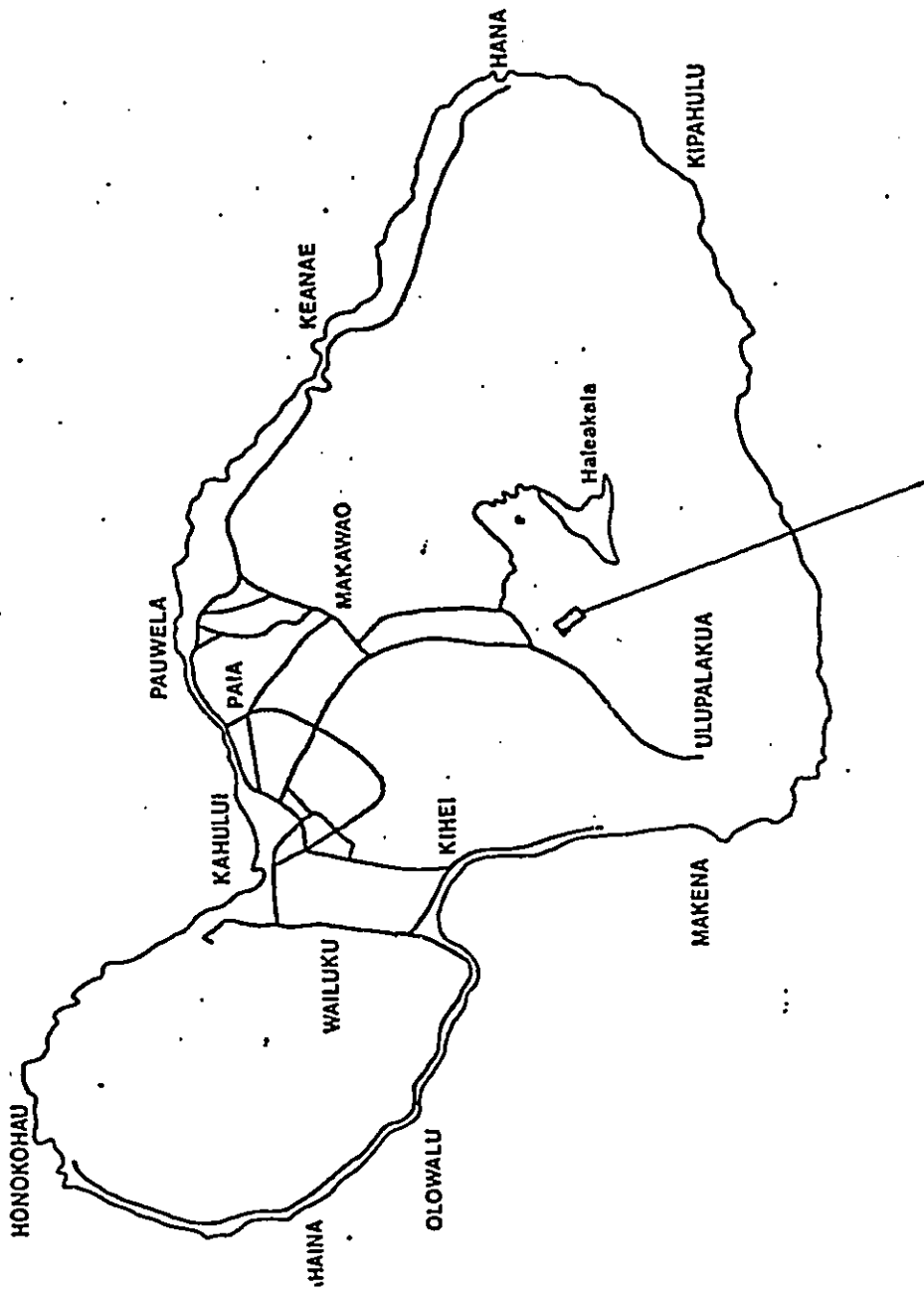
#### Beneficial Effects

Beneficial effects of the proposed project are related to greater ease and safer vehicular accessibility to the multiple use

recreational area. The primary benefit of the project is the reduction of accelerated deterioration of the present road surface and base.

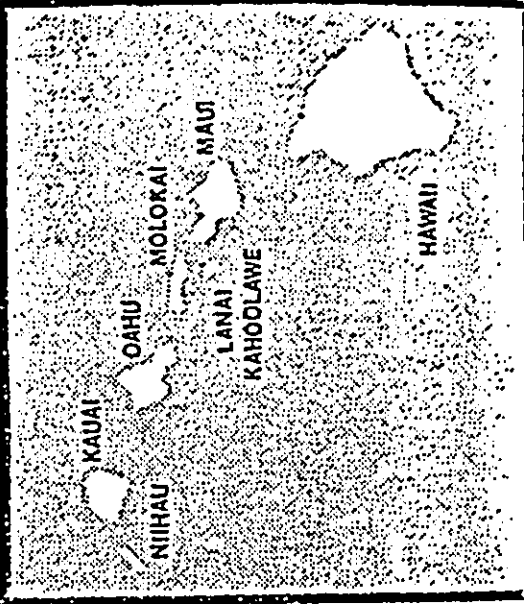


PROJECT SITE



ISLAND OF MAUI

PROJECT SITE



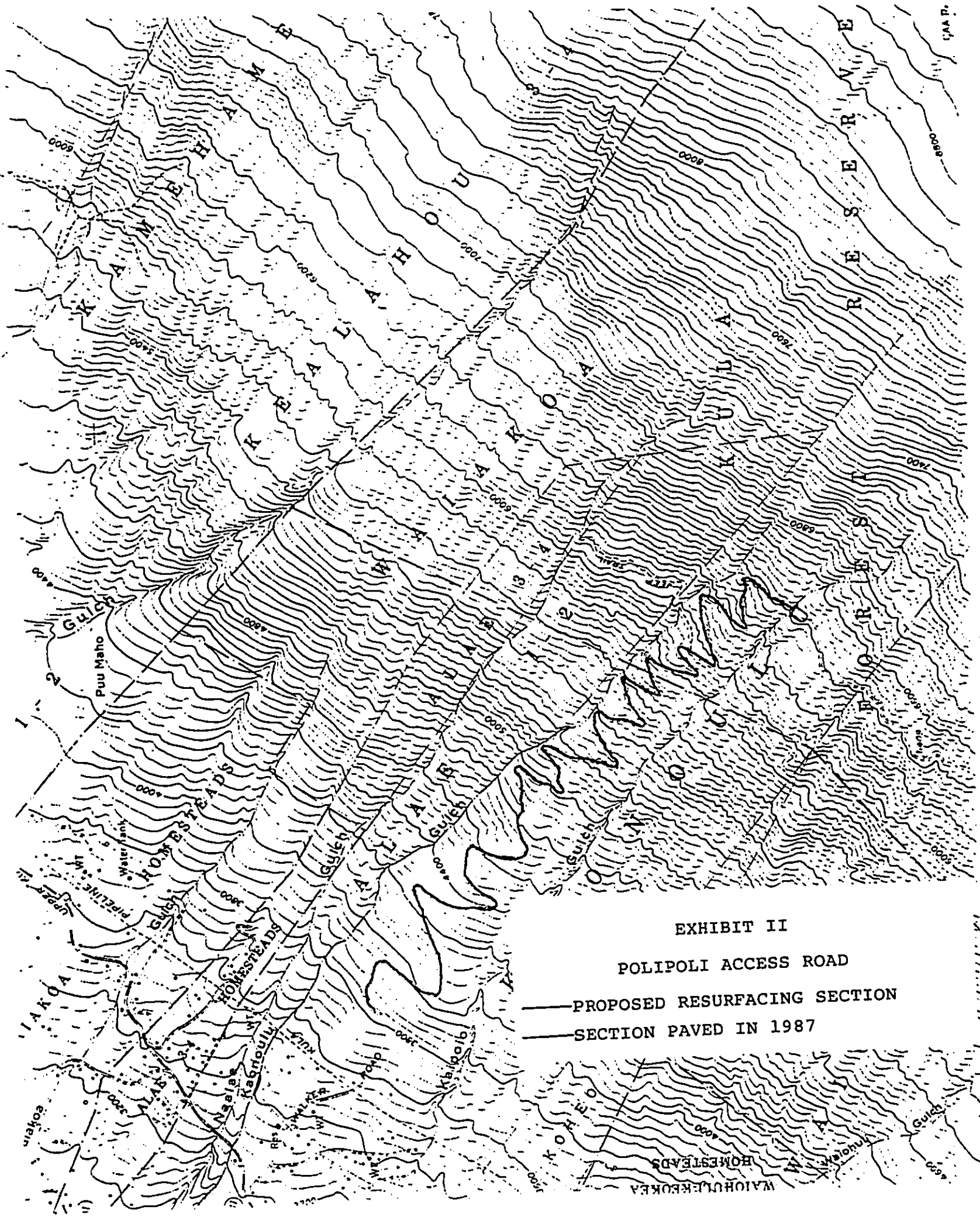


EXHIBIT II  
POLIPOLI ACCESS ROAD  
— PROPOSED RESURFACING SECTION  
- - SECTION PAVED IN 1987