

1991-03-23-HI-FEA - Head Start Purchase in South Kona

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS CHECKLIST

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EIS PREPARATION NOTICE

DOCUMENT TITLE: PRE SCHOOL SOUTH KONA HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL I

1. Identify the Applicant or Agency proposing the action.

2. Identify the Approving Agency.

3. Identify the Agencies consulted.

4. General Description of the proposed action:

A. Technical

B. Economic

C. Social

D. Environmental characteristics.

5. Summary description of the environment including

A. Site Maps.

6. Summary of the major impacts.

7. Alternatives considered.

8. Mitigation measures proposed. (if necessary)

9. Agency determination.

10. Findings and reasons to support the determination.

11. Agencies to be consulted if an EIS is prepared.

RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

DATE OF SUBMISSION: _____ DUE DATE: _____

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION IN OEQC BULLETIN: _____

APPROVED BY SENIOR PLANNER: _____ DATE OF PUBLICATION: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

FOR

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRE-SCHOOL IN SOUTH KONA

Prepared by

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council

March 5, 1991

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS CHECKLIST

1. APPLICANT AGENCY

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

2. APPROVING AGENCY

Office of Environmental Quality Control

3. IDENTIFICATION OF AGENCIES CONSULTED

Department of Health, Department of Education, County of Hawaii Planning Department of Human Services, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

4. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC) is proposing to establish a Head Start early childhood education program in an existing facility on the site of the former Department of Education, Alae school. The facility is located on a 7.05 acre parcel situated within the State Land Use (SLU) Agricultural District and the County Unplanned (U) zoned district in South Kona in the County of Hawaii, TMK 8-7-05-9. HCEOC will utilize the structures and land on an In-Kind basis under the DOE TYPE II category of use.

The Head Start program will provide an early childhood education school for 40 children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years of age. The program will be in operation Monday through Friday from 7: A.M. to 4:30 P. M. throughout the year. The facility will also be utilized in the evening and on weekends on an infrequent basis for workshops for Head Start parents and staff, Head Start Policy Council meetings, committee meetings and the like.

Funding to operate the program is already available.

The program will be licensed by the Department of Human Services and will be in compliance with that organization's RULES GOVERNING LICENSING OF GROUP DAY CARE CENTERS. These rules cover staffing requirements, staff/child ratios, health and physical facility standards, etc.

The goal of the Head Start program is to provide comprehensive developmental services, primarily to low-income preschool children. To help these children achieve their full potential, Head Start provides comprehensive health, nutrition, educational, social and other services. In addition, parents are directly involved in all aspects of the program, from assisting in the classroom to setting policy for Head Start through its Policy Council.

2.

The proposed project will serve the South Kona district with special emphasis on serving the populations of Miloli'i and families in the Ho'okena school district.

According to a Kamehameha Schools study conducted in this area, 65% of the students entering kindergarten in this district in school year 1988-89, scored in the first three stanines on the Missouri KIDS Language Skills "entering pre-test". 67% were 1 to 2 or more years below age equivalency on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test. These scores mean that overall 56% of the children entering kindergarten were seen as having "considerable needs" with an additional 22% seen as having "moderate needs". Over 50% of these children are of Hawaiian ancestry.

In particular need of Head Start services are the residents of a small Hawaiian village called Miloli'i. Miloli'i is a community inhabited primarily by Hawaiian and Part-Hawaiian families. The village is inhabited by approximately 120 families, 50% of whom are on some form of assistance. Community services are virtually non-existent. There is one store, and a small lunch wagon. There is no school in the community and students are bused to Ho'okena school 21 miles away. Dental needs are cited as being obvious and tied to nutritional needs and limited or no refrigeration, as there is no electricity in this small rural community.

The study also indicated that there appears to be a higher rate of birth defects in Miloli'i, and the report surmises that this is due perhaps to the fact that because this is such an isolated village and intermarrying of relatives is common.

5. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Geology

The Island of Hawaii is the youngest and the largest of the Hawaiian Islands. It consists of 4,038 + square miles and three of its five volcanoes have been active within the last two hundred years; Hualalai (8,271 feet), Mauna Loa (13,677 feet), and Kilauea (4,090 feet).

The area in which the facility is located has been influenced by the lava flows from Mauna Loa. Between 1832 and 1975, the volcano has erupted thirty-eight times. Eight flows have reached down the slopes into North and South Kona and four flows have reached the ocean (1859, 1919, 1926 and 1950).

The proposed project will have no detrimental impact on the geologic characteristics at the site or in the surrounding area.

3.

B. CLIMATE

The climate is similar to that of other areas in the South Kona area. Though the island lies in the path of the northeast trade winds, the area is not influenced by them. Hualalai, Mauna Loa and Kilauea, because of their high elevations, force the trade winds upward. When the winds hit colder air at the higher elevations rain occurs. As the winds pass over the volcanoes they tend to remain at the higher elevations and do not descend to the lower elevations until they have passed well over the island. This action creates a "wind shadow" throughout the Kona District.

The median long-term rainfall data for the areas is about twenty-four inches. Temperatures in the area are fairly constant throughout the year. The average range in temperature is greater over the course of a day than it is from season to season. Based on the accepted standard for the Kona area the mean temperature is about 80 degrees F.

The project will not affect the climate at the site or in the surrounding area.

C. SOILS

The soils of the Kona District are representative of the fact that the area is geologically young. Soil classification in the project area is primarily Histosols as the soil overlies extensive areas of pahoehoe or aa lavas. The soil consists of leaves, twigs, roots or other plant parts, in all stages of decomposition, lying on top of the lava or mixed with the fragmental surface of the aa lava. Most of these are rocky due to the underlying lava outcropping at the surface. These organic residue are the results of well-distributed high rainfall that favors the accumulation of the residues from ohia, tree fern and other vegetation growing on the lava lands.

The proposed action will not require changes to the structure or the surrounding areas. As no new structures will be constructed and no changes made, the soil will not be disturbed.

D. WATER RESOURCES AND WATER USAGE

Currently the area for which the project is proposed is dependent upon catchment for its water supply. In times of drought and water shortfalls, residents use the county's water spigot at the intersection of the Ho'okena access road and Mamahaloa Highway.

4.

A new water tank will be installed to meet DOH requirements. Potable water will be purchased per DOH requirements for use at the facility. As the new tank will replace the old tank there will no major impact on the environment or the surrounding area.

E. NATURAL HAZARDS

Because of Hawaii's volcanic origins, earthquakes and tsunamis occur with some frequency. The threat from lava flows is ever present as witnessed by the presence of the 1926 flow, but this is not as frequent an occurrence as had been noted previously.

Since historic times (1778), two flows have entered the area (1919 and 1926). There are two fault zones in the Kona District and both are situated on the south-west flank of Mauna Loa in the Kapalilua area. The Kaholo fault system runs parallel to the shoreline just below the 1,000 foot elevation level between Papa Bay and Ki'ilae Bay. It has not been significantly active in historic times. The Kealakekua fault system however has generated a number of major earthquakes and small tsunamis. The project area is located in an area which is susceptible to damage from earthquakes and lava due to volcanic activity.

The project site is high enough in elevation to negate tsunami danger. Potential problems from future lava flows may occur but can not be predicted with any certainty.

The proposed project will not have any impact on the likelihood of natural hazards. Disaster warning devices are in the area and maintained by the County. An evacuation plan will be developed by HCEOC.

F. VEGETATION, FAUNA

The impact on existing vegetation or fauna as a result of the proposed project, if any will be minimal.

G. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

No documented archaeological sites have been found in the immediate area of the project site.

H. HISTORICAL SITES

No documented historical sites are in the immediate area of the proposed project.

5.

I. SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact on the socioeconomic characteristics of the area as it will provide opportunities for people on limited incomes to improve their quality of life through exposure to positive educational values, participation in programs that develop self-help skills and build self-esteem and by being able to seek employment because Head Start will provide daily child care services.

J. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The closest recreational resources are available at Miloli'i, eight miles away from the site. The area offers swimming, shore fishing, throw netting, gill netting and snorkeling. There is also a trail which begins at the county beach park and extends a number of miles southwards along the coast through Honomalino and Kapu'a. Future plans are to link the trail with another which winds its way northwards along the coast to Alika Bay and beyond.

The project will not have an adverse impact on existing recreational facilities in the area.

K. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

o Water Distribution

Currently water needs are provided through water catchment systems attached to residences. A county water source does exist at the intersection of Ho'okena Access Road and Mamalahoa Highway for residents needing additional water.

o Sewage disposal

Cesspools and septic tank systems are available for sewage disposal. The sewage system at the proposed site meets the minimum requirements of Department of Health Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 62, entitled "Wastewater".

o Solid Waste Disposal

A county refuse transfer station (Wailea Refuse) is located 2 miles from the site of the proposed project.

o Drainage

Rapid natural drainage occurs because of the porous nature of the lava.

6.

o Traffic and Roads.

The proposed site is situated on property adjacent to the Mamalahoa Highway. Traffic counts taken on the highway at this location indicated that during a given-24 hour day, traffic averages about 900 vehicles, with an A.M. peak hour traffic close to 100 vehicles per hour going both directions, and P.M. peak hour traffic going both directions averaging about 70 vehicles per hour. The highway is designed to handle an hourly volume of 2,000 vehicles.

The impact of the proposed project will be minimal as children will be bussed to and from the site in a 20 passenger mini-bus.

o Emergency Services

The closest emergency service for the area is in Captain Cook, about six miles away. Under ideal conditions response time to the area is about fifteen minutes.

o Schools

The State Department of Education buses children living in the area to school in the Kona District. A majority attend Ho'okena Elementary/Intermediate School in Captain Cook. High School students attend Konawaena High School in Kealahou.

The establishment of this preschool will not unreasonably burden public agencies to provide roads and streets, sewer, water, drainage, schools, police and fire protection and other related infrastructure. The site is already served by all essential utilities and services.

6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No significant adverse impacts upon land use patterns, social or economic issues, or physical environmental qualities are indicated by the establishment of this project. In addition, it is not evident that significant additional demands will be placed on governmental or private services by the proposed project.

The proposed project shows no considerable effect upon the environment and does not involve a commitment for larger action.

No major impacts are anticipated from the proposed project.

7. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No other alternatives are being considered.

7.

8. MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED.

The proposed project will conform to all County, State and Federal regulations pertaining to air, water and noise pollution.

9. AGENCY DETERMINATION

Chapter 200 of Title 11, Administrative Rules of the Department of Health entitled "Environmental Impact Statement Rules" establishes criteria for evaluating whether an action may have a significant effect on the environment. The relationship of the proposed project to these criteria are discussed below:

A. Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.

As the existing facility and its surrounding area will be utilized as is, no existing vegetation of any kind will be affected. No archaeological or other cultural artifacts or sites will be affected by this project.

B. Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

The proposed project does not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment as no structures will be constructed and no new disturbing of soil, no changes to drainage and runoff patterns will occur.

C. Conflicts with the State's long term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions or executive orders.

The project does not conflict with any of the above.

D. Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or State; and

E. Substantially affects public health.

The proposed project will not substantially affect the social or economic welfare of the community or its health. The effects the project will have on the above will be positive as Head Start assists families who are economically disadvantaged to become self-sufficient. Related educational services will only be positively impacted by this programs contribution to early childhood education, health care and parenting education and development.

B.

F. Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.

The project will have minimal secondary impacts.

G. Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality.

No degradation of environmental quality is foreseen.

H. Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger action.

No cumulative effect or larger commitment is involved.

I. Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species, or its habitat.

No such affects will be a consequence of this project.

J. Detrimentally affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels.

No such detrimental affects will result

K. Affects an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water or coastal waters.

No such affects will be a consequence of this project.

10. FINDINGS AND REASONS TO SUPPORT THE DETERMINATION

No significant adverse impacts were found by the Environmental Assessment made in support of this declaration.

11. AGENCIES TO BE CONSULTED IF AN EIS IS PREPARED:

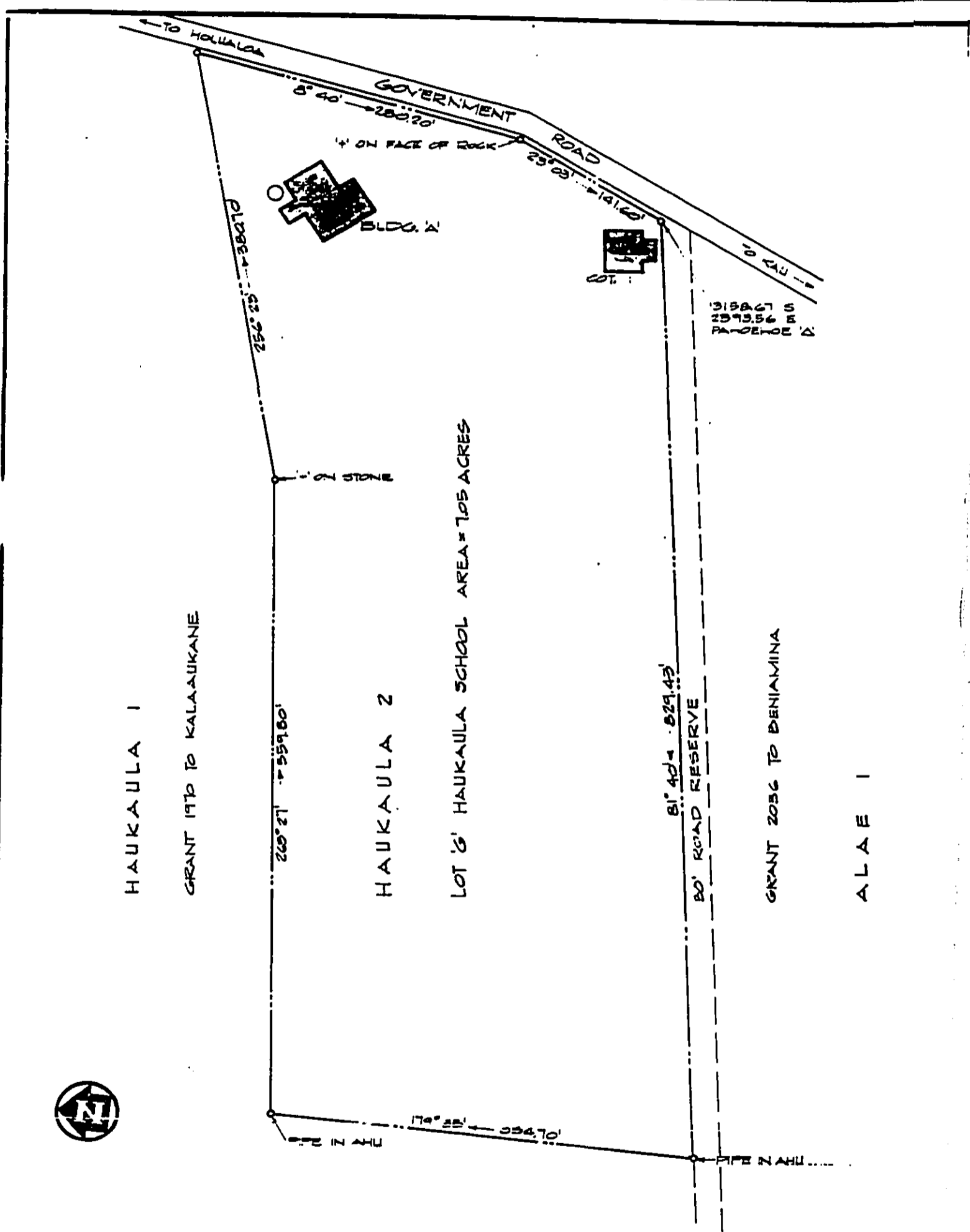
Department of Education

Hawaii County Planning Department

Department of Land and Natural Resources

EXISTING USE Building A
 EXISTING USE Cottage
 Vacant
 Vacant

PROPOSED USE Building A
 PROPOSED USE Cottage
 Child Care Center
 Storage



PLOT PLAN / SCALE: 1" = 100'
ALAE SCHOOL
 DISTRICT OF S. KONA, COUNTY OF HAWAII
 OCTOBER 29, 1968

TAX MAP KEY: 8-7-05-9

ISLAND OF HAWAII

PACIFIC

OCEAN

