

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

P. O. BOX 373

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OFC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

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Mr. Brian J.J. Choy
Director
Office of Environmental
Quality Control
220 S. King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Job No. 9-OF-J
Hakipuu Stream Flood Control Improvements
Hakipuu, Oahu, Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 11 of the Environmental Impact Statement Rules, transmitted for processing are four (4) copies of the Environmental Assessment and Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration) for the subject project. Also attached is a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form.

If there are any questions on this matter, please have your staff contact Mr. Edward Lau of the Planning Branch at extension 8-7496.

Sincerely,

Edward Lau
for KAZUO G. AKITA
Manager-Chief Engineer

AM:lc

Enc.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT⁹¹ APR 22 P3:48

AND

DEPT. OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
QUALITY

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Job No. 9-OF-J

Hakipuu Stream Flood Control Improvements

Hakipuu, Oahu, Hawaii

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resource Management
March 1991

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION: Negative Declaration

**FOR: Job No. 9-OF-J
Hakipuu Stream Flood Control Improvements
Hakipuu, Oahu, Hawaii**

**BY: Division of Water Resource Management
Department of Land and Natural Resources**

The proposed action will have no significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. This Notice of Determination and Environmental Assessment are being filed as a Negative Declaration.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For

Job No. 9-OF-J
Hakipuu Stream Flood Control Improvements
Hakipuu, Oahu, Hawaii

I. Applicant/Proposing Agency

Division of Water Resource Management
Department of Land and Natural Resources

II. Agencies Consulted

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
University of Hawaii

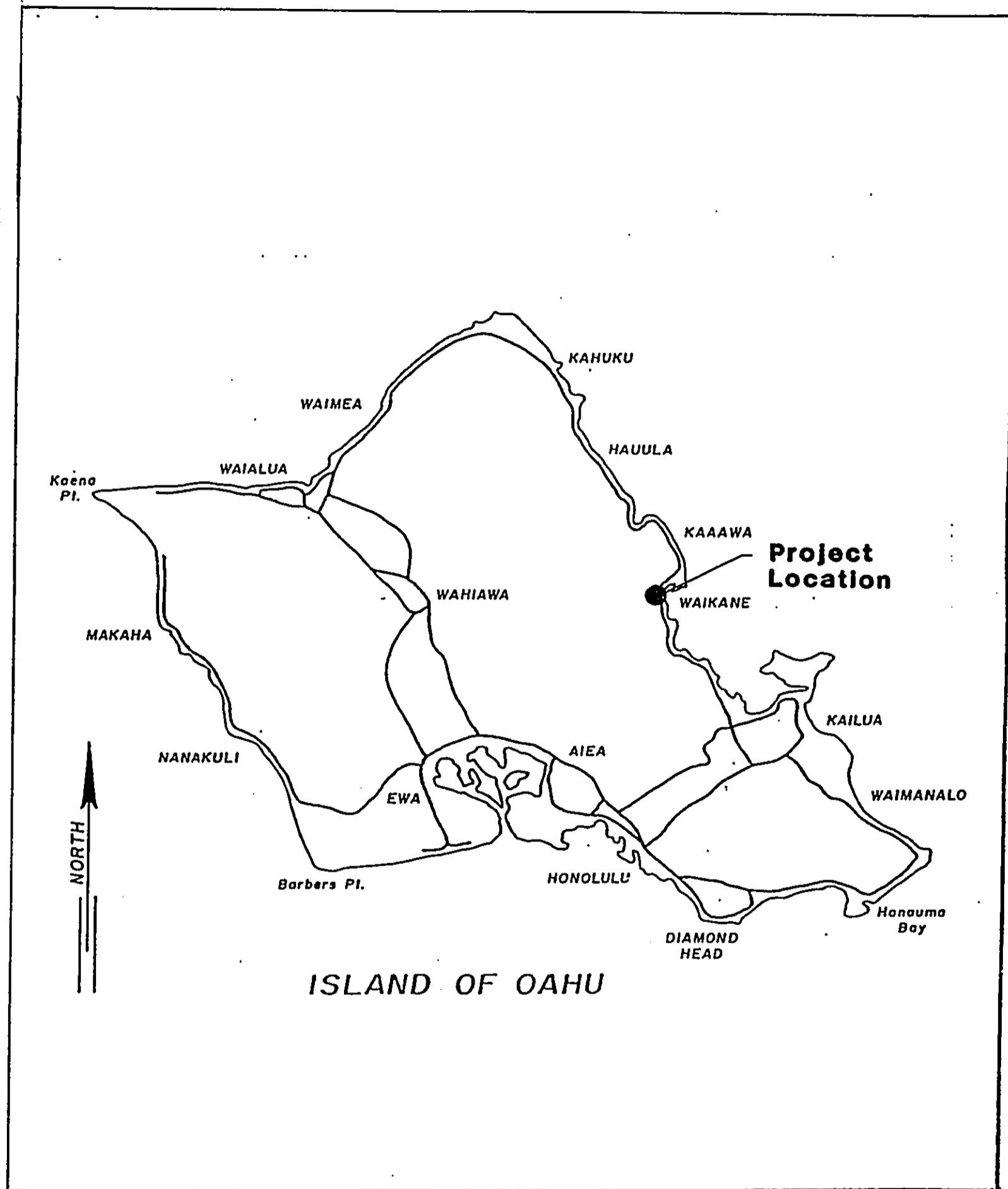
U.S. Government
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

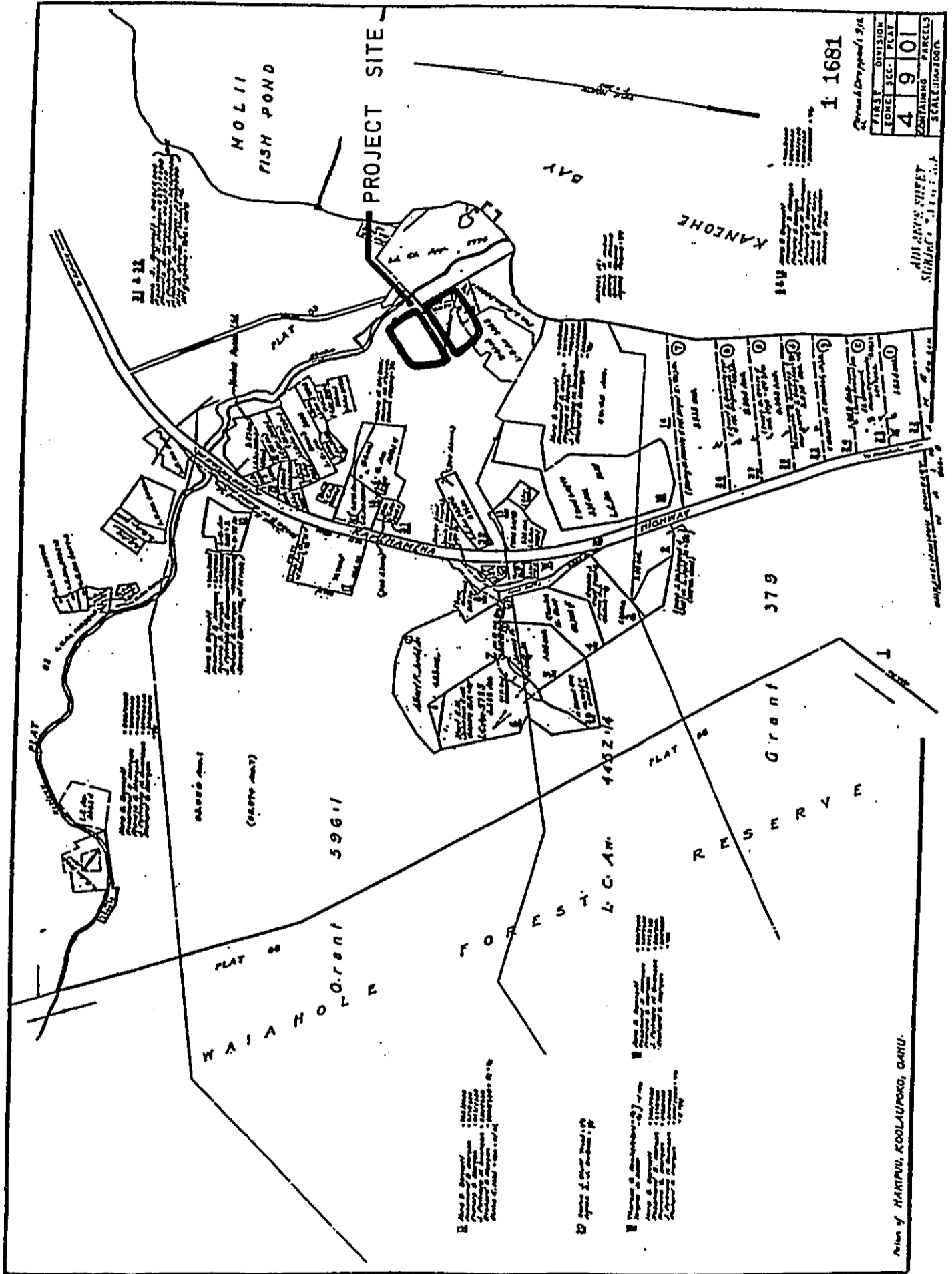
City and County of Honolulu
Department of Land Utilization

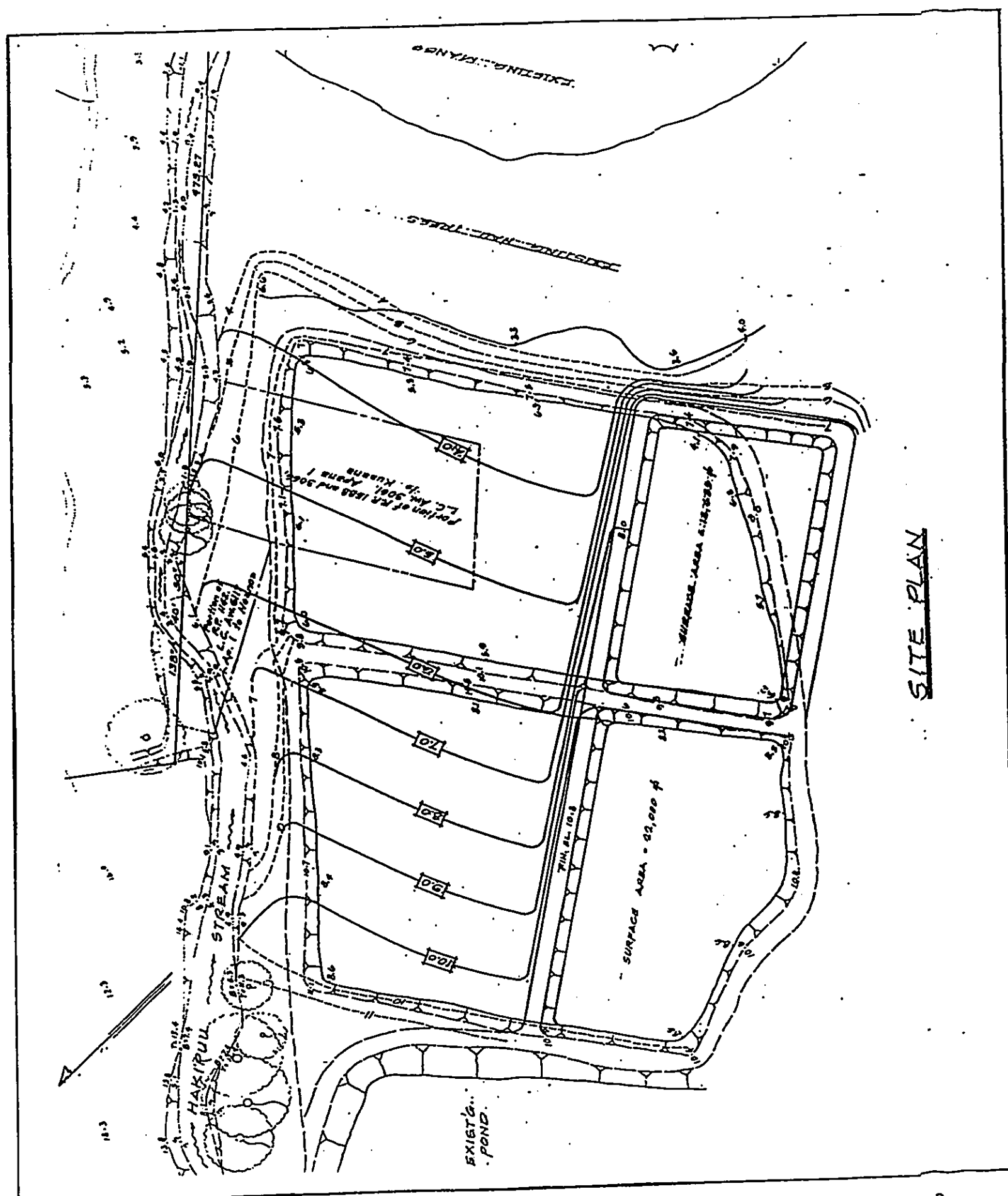
III. Project Description

The proposed project is located in Hakipuu Valley, Kaneohe, Oahu, and encompasses parts of Tax Map Keys 4-9-01:12 & 14 (see figures 1 and 2). The project site is zoned as agricultural land and is currently a part of the Mariculture Research and Training Center, an aquafarm facility which is leased and operated by the University of Hawaii.

The proposed project involves the grading and draining of half of the two lowermost aquaculture ponds and readjusting one or both of the remaining half-ponds at the facility (see figure 3). The primary purpose is to minimize the flooding of properties immediately abutting Hakipuu Stream across from the two affected ponds during storms or rainy periods. Essentially, the intent of the project is to restore the site to its original condition, prior to the construction of the ponds.







SITE PLAN

FIGURE 3

The readjustment of one or both of the remaining half-ponds into a rectangular shape is to provide a controlled area for statistic purposes.

The population of Oahu in 1988 was about 838,500, which showed a 10% increase from 1980. The Kahaluu neighborhood population is estimated at about 13,000 residents. Hakipuu itself has a very small population, estimated at less than 100. The land is used almost exclusively for agriculture.

IV. Project Schedule and Cost Estimate

The construction portion of this project should be completed within 180 days from the date of written notice to commence. The construction cost for the project is approximately \$439,000.00.

V. Potential Impacts

Short Term Impacts

Short term impacts of the proposed project should be minimal. Noise from equipment should be the primary impact during excavating and grading of the site. Erosion and sediment, as well as dust will be controlled and minimized. All short term impacts related to construction will be mitigated by normal construction practices.

Long Term Impacts

The grading and landscaping of the project site should have a positive effect on the environment. The elimination of half of the two existing ponds will leave the area better equipped to handle floods or prolonged periods of heavy rain. No adverse ecological or socio-economic impacts are anticipated.

VI. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Alternative Site

Water diverted by the ponds has reportedly resulted in flooding the neighboring properties. Since it appears these two ponds are the main cause of the problem, it would be impractical to overlook them in favor of a different site.

No Action

Taking no action would not alleviate the problem, and flooding would continue to be a serious concern during periods of heavy rain. As such, this alternative is not considered a viable option.

VII. Discussion of Significant Criteria

In considering the significance of potential environmental impacts, both short term and long term, with respect to the criteria as defined in Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 1:31, it has been determined that:

1. The proposed action does not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss of or destruction of any natural cultural resource:

This project involves limited grading and draining at the site of two existing man made ponds. Once completed, the graded area will be grassed and returned as much as practicable to its original pre-pond state. No commitment or loss of or destruction of any natural or cultural source will result.

2. The proposed action does not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment:

The proposed project will be compatible with the uses of the surrounding area. It will alleviate damage due to flooding while helping to restore the original appearance of the area.

3. The proposed action is in concert with the state's long-term environmental policies, goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 343, HRS, and any revisions and amendments thereto, court decisions and executive orders:

The proposed project is consistent with the State Land Use Plan which is in concert with all applicable policies, goals, and guidelines. No long term environmental conflicts are foreseen.

4. The proposed action does not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or state:

The economic impact will be affected by the short term construction related activities. There should be no significant economic or social impacts resulting from this project.

5. The proposed action does not involve substantial secondary impacts such as population changes or effects on public facilities:

The proposed project should not result in an increase in population, nor should it affect normal population growth in the area. No public facilities should be affected.

6. The proposed action does not substantially affect public health:
Construction activities will be regulated to minimize noise, dust and erosion. Once the project is completed, no adverse effects are expected.
7. The proposed action does not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality:
The existing physical aspects of the surrounding area will be preserved. By diminishing the extent of flooding in the vicinity, the proposed project should have a positive impact on the environmental quality.
8. The proposed action is individually limited and cumulatively, does not have a considerable effect upon the environment or involve a commitment for larger actions:
The proposed project pertains only to the floodwater runoff plain and the two aquaculture ponds which are currently situated therein. Partial restoration of the plain to its original state should sufficiently alleviate the flooding problem. Approval of the project does not involve a commitment for any larger action.
9. The proposed action does not substantially affect rare, threatened or endangered species or habitats:
Two types of Hawaiian waterbirds have reportedly been seen nesting among the twelve mariculture ponds. Should any birds be found at the project site, they can be relocated to the other aquaculture ponds which are still in operation.
10. The proposed action does not affect areas of archaeological interest:
The site of the proposed project has been previously graded. It has been used extensively for the cultivation of taro and rice, as well as for cattle grazing in recent years. No historic or archaeologically significant locations have been identified at the site.
11. The proposed action does not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels:
Short term impacts on air quality and noise levels will occur during the construction period but will be mitigated by normal construction practices. Water quality will only be affected in the sense that the excessive runoff of

silt and debris into Kaneohe Bay will be minimized. There should be no adverse environmental impacts subsequent to the completion of the project.

VIII. Determination

In accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, it is determined that the proposed project would not have any significant adverse effects on the environment. Any potentially negative effects have been identified along with suggested mitigative measures. Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and this Environmental Assessment is hereby being filed as a Negative Declaration.

REFERENCES

1. Meller, Douglas, Summary Report on Flooding of Private Property North of Hakiipu Stream, September 1985.
2. State of Hawaii, Department of Business and Economic Development, The State of Hawaii Data Book 1990.
3. Aquatic Farms, Ltd., Environmental Assessment Report for a Proposed Aquafarm in Hakiipu, Oahu, Hawaii, April 1976.