January 27, 1992

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

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Negative Declaration for Master Plan and Design of Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park

We are forwarding for your review and publication in the OEQC Bulletin four copies of the Negative Declaration for the Master Plan and Design of Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park.

The proposed action consists of the preparation of a Master Plan and construction plans including clearing and grubbing, a comfort station, paved parking lot, lighting system for the parking lot, irrigation system, and landscaping for a new 11.115-acre public beach park identified by Tax Map Key: 5-5-01: 54.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

WALTER M. OZAWA, Director

WMO:gf

Attach.
1992-02-08-0A- FEA- Kakela Beach Park Master Plan

Environmental Assessment for Master Plan and Design of Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park, Koolauloa, Hawaii
Tax Map Key: 5-5-01: 54

Proposing Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation City and County of Honolulu 650 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Consulted Parties: The following parties were asked for input.

Department of the Army (Corps of Engineers) Department of Land and Natural Resources Department of Health University of Hawaii, Environmental Center Department of Land Utilization Department of General Planning Department of Public Works Board of Water Supply Honolulu Police Department Honolulu Fire Department Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. Hawaiian Telephone Company Zions Securities Corporation Koolauloa Neighborhood Board No. 28

I. PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Summary

The proposed action consists of the preparation of a Master Plan and construction plans including clearing and grubbing, a comfort station, paved parking lot, lighting system for the parking lot, irrigation system, and landscaping for a new 11.115-acre public beach park identified by Tax Map Key: 5-5-01: 54.

B. Technical Characteristics

Master Planning scope will include topographical survey with shoreline certification, site layout master plans to include utilities, cost estimating, and archaeological subsurface survey and report in accordance with State Department of Land and Natural Resources requirements.
Design scope of work shall include the preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates for construction of the approved master-planned improvements. Work shall include but not limited to the following:

1. New bathhouse (comfort station with shower).
2. Fencing including vehicular barrier walls.
3. Manual irrigation system, potable water and sewer systems.
4. Camping area including boundaries, play areas, etc.
5. Picnic tables and charcoal pits.
6. Landscaping including trimming and/or removal of trees, etc.
7. Parking lot including drainage system, barriers, handicap parking, landscaping, etc.
8. Installation of backflow preventer just after existing water meter at Kakela Beach Park.
9. Electrical lighting system.

C. Economic Characteristics

Capital improvements costs estimated at $7 million for land acquisition and approximately $587,000 for construction will be borne by the City and County of Honolulu. The City will also bear the annual operating and maintenance costs which are estimated at $20,000 to $40,000.

D. Social Characteristics

Implementing the proposed action will not require displacement of individuals or families.

The social fabric and community structure in the Laie/Hauula area will not be altered.

The property until its recent acquisition by the City was managed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints under the name Kakela Beach Park. The area is extremely popular with formal and informal organizations formed by Church members (e.g. Boy Scout troops). Use of the property now requires a permit from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

City operation of Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park will allow casual public day use without any permits for picnicing. However, organized group outings and camping will require permits from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

E. Applicable Land Use Controls

The property is designated Park on the Koolauloa Development Plan Public Facilities Map.

Other land use controls (applicable to possible future improvements of the property) include the following:
1. Residential designation on the Koolauloa Development Plan Land Use Map, R-5 zoning, inclusion of a 40-foot strip along the property’s shoreline within the City shoreline setback area.

2. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panel 150001-0015-C, dated September 28, 1990, the project site is within Zone AE (with a projected 100-year tsunami inundation height of 8 feet above mean sea level) and Zone X (areas determined to be outside of the 500-year floodplain).

II. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A. Topography

Most of the property ranges in elevation between 9 and 18 feet above mean sea level. The highest part of the property is a vegetated shoreline dune typically ranging between 14 and 18 feet in elevation. This dune blocks most views of the ocean from the nearest coastal road (Kamehameha Highway).

B. Soils

Soils at Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park are predominantly calcareous sand. They are extremely permeable and have low shrink swell.

C. Climate

There is usually between 40 to 50 inches of rainfall a year at Kakela Beach. The predominant tradewinds blow onshore. Temperatures typically are between 70°F and 90°F.

D. Drainage/Water Resources

There are no well-defined drainage channels across the property. There are no surface water bodies on-site and no potable ground water aquifers underlying the property.

E. Shoreline/Offshore Conditions

Offshore water conditions are calm except during episodic periods of large surf generated by winter storms in the North Pacific. Near shore waters off the project site are classified as Class A according to standards established by the State's Department of Health. These waters are used for recreation, aesthetic enjoyment and the propagation of aquatic life. The area is popular for spear fishing, pole fishing, net fishing and swimming. The beach fronting the park is normally over 100 feet wide and is of high recreational value. A winter surf site named "Statues", located offshore of the property requires either calm or southerly winds for use. Offshore tradewinds generate choppy conditions.
F. Natural Hazards

A small portion of the shoreline of Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park is at risk from tsunami inundation. The 1988 City and County of Honolulu, Department of Land Utilization Oahu Shoreline Study indicates that a representative transect along the property’s shoreline fluctuated within a 19-foot range (but moved seaward by a net distance of 6-feet) between September 1949 and February 1988. Hence, there seems relatively little risk of beach retreat.

The report, Beach Changes on Oahu as Revealed by Aerial Photographs, prepared in 1981, indicated that the beach along the project site had been relatively stable over a 26-year period from 1949 to 1975. Assuming that this trend has and will remain constant, the City will not be burdened by the intangible costs attributed to the construction of beach erosion control improvements.

G. Vegetation

There are no rare species on the property. Predominant grasses are Bermuda and St. Augustine. Predominant trees are Ironwood, False Kamani, and I'au. There are a few Coconut palms and Pandanus clump. All of these species were introduced to Hawaii by human action. Beach morning glory found along the shoreline occurs naturally throughout the Pacific.

H. Fauna

The area is highly disturbed and contains no rare native fauna.

I. Existing Land Uses

Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park is currently restrictively managed. Use is allowed by special permit from the Department of Parks and Recreation. There is heavy use by Public and Church groups. Present structures include a 2.5-foot high rock wall on the property’s mauka side (abutting Kanehameha Highway), a caretaker’s house, two restrooms for park users, a telephone booth, and several wooden tables.

J. Historic Sites and Archaeological Resources

There are no significant surface historic or prehistoric resources. Subsurface archaeological resources may be present. Known and newly found graves will be noted and marked.
K. Utilities

Water is currently being supplied by Zions Securities Corporation’s private water system. Water service for this project will be obtained from the existing Department of Parks and Recreation’s 2-1/2” potable water line located in existing Kakela Beach Park.

The Board of Water Supply has indicated that based on water system standards, the area lacks fire protection. Since no major structures are planned, the Department of Parks and Recreation has determined that the larger water lines are not required at this time.

There are no municipal sewers in the area and none are planned in the future. Septic tanks and related improvements will be provided.

L. Air Quality, Noise, and Nuisances

There are no significant sources of air pollution, noise, or nuisances at Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park.

M. Traffic and Road

Kamehameha Highway abuts the property. The two-lane undivided road’s capacity at Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park is about 1,300 vehicles per hour. Peak-hour traffic is less than half this much. Peak usage of park facilities will not occur during the normal working day rush hours. Therefore, traffic congestion is not anticipated.

III. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

With the development of Kokololio (Kakela) Beach Park the existing 4.4-acre City beach park will expand to 15.5 acres. City development will improve public beach access and encourage casual public recreational use. Use of the property by organized groups will be regulated with City permits.

Noise generated by park users will be minimized by proper landscaping and/or mounding along the periphery of the park. The landscape will be planned to avoid view impediments.

Sediment and other materials generated during construction may enter the near shore waters during periods of heavy rainfall. Contractors will be responsible for maintaining a debris-sediment trap system to reduce or eliminate contaminants from entering the receiving waters. Contractors are expected to comply with the Department of Health Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-54, Water Quality Standards, open coastal and recreational waters criteria.
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Impacts directly resulting from construction activities (noise and air) pollution will be short term and negligible. Activities will be restricted to normal daylight working hours and confined within specified area. Contractors are expected to comply with State Department of Health Regulations, Chapter 448, Community Noise Control and Chapter 43, Air Pollution Control.

The project site will be archaeologically tested by Archaeological Consultants of Hawaii for subsurface deposits and monitored during construction. Significant findings will be reported to the State Historic Preservation Officer and program for data recovery will be established.

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The no-action alternative was considered. If the City chose not to acquire and develop Kokololo (Kakela) Beach Park, there was a risk that the property would be developed and sold for private housing. Housing development would have the effect of eliminating traditional public recreational uses.

V. DETERMINATION

After completing an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, it as been determined that an environmental impact statement is not required. Therefore, this document constitutes as a Notice of Negative Declaration.

VI. FINDINGS AND REASONS SUPPORTING DETERMINATION

The following reasons support the filing of a Negative Declaration:

A. No long-term adverse impacts of the physical and social characteristics are anticipated by the proposed action.

B. The site is already being used for recreational purposes. Thus, changing the existing land use from private to public will not alter the use of the land.

C. Impacts associated with construction activities will be short-term and negligible.

D. Implementing the proposed action will benefit the residents as well as the general public.

E. There are no known endangered plant species on the project site.
OVERSIZED DRAWING/MAP

PLEASE SEE 35MM ROLL

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