

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

DEPUTIES

MANABU TAOKAMORE
DAN T. KOEHL

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM
AQUATIC RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
CONSERVATION AND
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PROGRAM
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

'92 JAN 28 A8:06

JAN 27 1992

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

Ref: LM-DU

OD-91-687d

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

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Negative Declaration for the Proposed
Equestrian Trails and Equestrian Center at
Waimanalo, Oahu (TMK 4-1-8:13)

The Department of Land and Natural Resources has reviewed the environmental assessment for the proposed equestrian trails and equestrian center, and has determined that the project will not have any significant impacts on the environment. Based on our determination, we are filing a negative declaration for this project.

Enclosed are four copies of the environmental assessment.

Please contact Mr. Dean Uchida at 587-0414 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William W. Paty".

WILLIAM W. PATY

Enclosures 4

cc: Ms. S. Himeno
Mr. T.C. Yim

1992-02-08-0A-FEA-Waimanalo Equestrian Trail

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE WAIMANALO EQUESTRIAN AREA AND TRAIL

SECTION I

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. Proposing Agency: Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association (HETA), P. O. Box 4145, Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744.
- B. Approving Agency: DLNR, DOFAW.
- C. Agencies Consulted: DLNR Divisions, Hawaii State Legislature, Na Ala Hele Program.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association proposes to construct a trail on State owned land in the Waimanalo area for the purpose of developing and perpetuating the equine sport and access to equine animals and activities by the people of Hawaii. Development of the equestrian area, related facilities and dedicated trails will preserve open spaces for equine sports events, nature activities, cultural events and a variety of projects targeted to expanding life experience for such groups as, and including but not limited to, the general public, senior citizens, the youth, the blind, the disabled and the handicapped.

The peaceful and harmonious forest setting will have picnic and sitting areas in addition to equestrian facilities and trails which will offer a nurturing atmosphere for the people of Hawaii, many of whose living experience is primarily urban and who have limited or no opportunity to encounter the therapeutic aspects of interaction with large animals in a restorative and wholesome natural setting.

III. PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the proposed project is to develop and preserve rapidly diminishing land areas for equine sports and related outdoor recreational opportunities such as; trail and pleasure horseback riding and a variety of equestrian events which are growing in popularity among all age groups.

Educational youth activities designed to link senior citizen participation and involvement will bridge these two

important groups and provide societal benefit by including opportunities for various groups to explore natural settings and relate to animals within an otherwise inaccessible area for enhanced learning and life experience. In addition, special activities are intended to benefit the blind who will experience the sounds, scents and movement of the forest from horsedrawn wagons, the disadvantaged who will experience the therapeutic aspects of interaction with animals and nature, and the disabled and handicapped who will experience enrichment through exposure and participation in the areas activities.

IV. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

As mentioned in the introduction, the Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association will construct an equestrian base area and trail corridor in Waimanalo on the eastern portion of Aniani Nui Ridge and Mount Olomana and provide a linkage to the Maunawili Demonstration Trail and other proposed Na Ala Hele trails within the Olomana area.

The proposed project consists of an equestrian area with related facilities; a riding arena, holding stalls, tie racks, wash racks, youth/senior citizens center, picnic areas, sitting areas, foot paths, parking, restrooms, meeting/cultural areas and equestrian riding trails. Trail specifications will conform to the stated Na Ala Hele equestrian trail requirements which include required signage and safety measures.

SECTION II

DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

I. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

A. Climate/Topography

The condition of the Equestrian area and trail is generally wet, receiving approximately 50-60 inches of rain annually. Trail construction techniques include following abandoned irrigation ditches, topographic features and vegetation types in order to minimize erosion and impact to the existing vegetation.

The majority of the proposed project lies on steep slopes that contain numerous small valleys and gullies. Surface soils are deep and well-drained. Some section of the trail will cross small drainages, which are composed of stone and shallow soil.

B. Noise

The area is far-removed from any residential area

and is buffered by the agricultural farm lots, the Aniani Niu Ridge and Mount Olomana. No adverse impact due to noise can be attributed to use of the trails.

C. Economics

The area of the proposed trails was excluded in the prior selection of the agricultural farm lots as it was determined to be too steep and remote from existing roadways. The nearest roadway is Mahiku Place.

D. Historical/Archaeological

There are no recorded historical/archaeological features located within the equestrian facility area and trail alignment. The Department of Land and Natural Resources personnel will be on site to monitor the project should any of these features be encountered. Should any new historical/archaeologic sites be found, the Historic Preservation Office of the DLNR will immediately be notified and all work will stop.

II. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

A biological survey was made of the proposed equestrian area and trail alignment. There are no known rare or endangered native flora or fauna in the areas and none were detected during reconnaissance.

Some of the flora identified are; Java Plum (*Eugenia cuminii*), Formosa koa (*Acacia confusa*), Umbrella tree (*Brassaia actinophylla*), Monkeypod (*Pithecellobium saman*), Albizia moluccana, Ironwood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), Pride of India (*Melia azedarach*), Koa-Haole (*Leucaena glauca*), Guava (*Psidium guajava*), African tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*), Joee (*Verbena litoralis*), Allspice (*Pimenta dioica*), Pluchea (*Pluchea indica*), Ulei (*Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*), - the sole native species detected - ; plus a few species of introduced vines and mixed grasses such as Gunea (*Panicum maximum*), Hilo grass (*Paspalum conjugatum*) and California grass. One common native Sword fern (*Nephrolepis* spp.) was found along the trail alignment.

Other than the mongoose, the fauna in the area were primarily introduced avifauna. Observed species were; the common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*), Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*), Japanese White-eye (*Zosterops japonica*), Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*), Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*), Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), and the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The above species of birds were identified by sound, sight, or both.

III. SOCIO/ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

A. Population

The equestrian area and trail will be located above and to the west of the community of Waimanalo, with an access located at the cul-de-sac end of Mahiku Place which parallels Kumuhau Street. As an equestrian community, the residents of Waimanalo highly support the project which will provide necessary horseback riding areas and reduce the need for roadside riding which involves safety concerns and competition for space with vehicular traffic.

B. Land Use

Land use in the project area is primarily watershed and open space. The State Land Use designation for the proposed project is Agriculture. Adjacent land use located below the proposed project consists of State owned agricultural lots which are leased.

IV. LAND TENURE

Land tenure is under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii.

SECTION III

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS

The project consists of two sites; the equestrian facilities area and the trail alignments.

The equestrian area is adjacent to an intermittent stream on a flat alluvial area which is vegetated with introduced species of grasses, shrubs and trees. Development of this site will include very minor earth moving and the removal of vines and few trees, leaving the existing, larger, mature trees intact. A bridge or culverted roadway will be constructed over the intermittent stream as singular, controlled access to the proposed area.

The lower trail alignment follows the abandoned Maunawili Ditch irrigation system, the existing Government Road on the Waimanalo side and an upper alignment that impacts primarily on introduced species as noted under the Biological Characteristics section.

I. SHORT-TERM IMPACTS

A. Noise

There will be a short-term increase in the ambient

noise levels due to the use of motorized construction equipment such as small bulldozers and chainsaws, however, the area is far-removed from any residential housing with the nearest resident approximately one-quarter of a mile away.

B. Air Quality

There will be no significant effects to the air quality during construction.

C. Water Quality

No adverse affect to water quality is anticipated. There are no free-flowing streams in the area and construction will be along contours and grades in order to minimize erosion.

II. LONG TERM IMPACTS

As a result of developing the proposed areas, rapidly diminishing open spaces will be preserved and currently inaccessible areas will become available for multiple use. Since the area already contains mostly introduced vegetation, this project does not constitute a significant impact biologically. However, the long term sociological impact can be considered very positive and beneficial. The presently inaccessible area, containing beautiful plant and bird life, mature trees and exceptional areas of aesthetic value will offer enhanced life experience for equestrian enthusiasts and multiple users, including the general public.

The beneficial aspects of a peaceful, natural setting coupled with the development and preservation of an equestrian area facility and trails will provide a healthy, positive long term impact.

SECTION IV

ALTERNATIVES

I. NO ACTION

Recreational areas are available for numerous other forms of sports. There are public boat ramps, piers and harbors, tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, golf courses, skateboard ramps, beach facilities, bicycle lanes, accomodation of running and bicycle marathons, public parks and the like, however, there are no specific areas for equine enthusiasts who are presently relegated to costly privately owned facilities or public roads where they must compete with vehicular traffic.

Rapidly diminishing open spaces and access to public lands has severely limited the growing equestrian sport on Oahu.

Together with the Na Ala Hele program, the Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association (HETA) intends to establish in perpetuity, an area of multiple use for the equestrian, the public and special groups to benefit our communities overall.

A no action alternative is unacceptable.

SECTION V

IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

The irreversible resources committed would be the minimal removal of some of the introduced vegetation and minimal alteration of the topography.

SECTION VI

SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project will have very minor impact on the environment. This impact will manifest itself primarily in the construction and general use of the trail. Some erosion and the expansion of introduced species may occur. However, following proper trail construction techniques, monitoring and maintenance, this equestrian area and trail development will be of minimal direct impact to the surrounding environment. Conversely, monitored regular use of the area will enhance the aesthetic value of the land by preventing the dumping and junking of automobiles, trash and materials as well as illegal use by motorized vehicles which is presently damaging to the vegetation and greatly accelerates soil erosion and sediment pollution of our streams and coastal waters.

The project is considered wise use of non-committed land with insignificant to minimal impact to the environment. As indicated previously, there are no known native plants and no recorded historical/archaeological features within the equestrian facility area and trail alignment. Though minimal, the impact to the environment is acceptable, particularly when considering the full range of far-reaching benefits. As a result of these and other factors presented in this Assessment, it is recommended that an Environmental Impact Statement not be required.

HAWAII EQUESTRIAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION - HETA

WAIMANALO EQUESTRIAN AREA AND TRAILS - PROPOSED
CAPITAL EXPENSE AND PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

PHASE I - FIRST YEAR

A. DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER TRAIL ALIGNMENT

The development of the upper trail alignment will be done in a later phase. The development of the lower trail alignment will follow the existing irrigation ditch and require minimal alteration to the land area. Meets and bounds survey time to be donated.

Alignment, survey, bulldozing, reconnaissance, labor, materials and supplies are considered fully financed through donations and the volunteer efforts of skilled operators and individuals experienced in the required disciplines necessary to accomplish completion of the lower trail alignment to meet stated standards and to construct a bridge or culverted roadway over the intermittent stream at the cul-de-sac end of Mahiku Place to provide a singular, controlled access to the area.

Any miscellaneous supplies or material costs not covered by donations will be financed directly by HETA through membership fees, fund-raisers or other revenue sources. There are no major capital expenses expected to develop the initial phase of the trail.

B. INSTALLATION OF ARENA AND WASHRACKS IN BASE AREA

Preparation of the flat, alluvial area and construction of the arena and washracks will also be accomplished through the use of donated equipment, materials, supplies and labor. The expense of these capital improvements is expected to be approximately \$400 for concrete and \$1,500 for piping and water system installation. These costs will be financed directly by HETA through membership fees, user fees, fund-raisers or other revenue sources such as corporate and private contributions.

Modification of the base area will create beautification and refinement as well as enrichment planting of trees, brush, grass and other shrubbery which will take place in the initial phase and be maintained thereafter.

PHASE II - SECOND AND THIRD YEARS

A. HOLDING AREA STALLS

A multiple horse holding stall area will be developed to include covered, box stalls, presently proposed out of durable, pipe formed material. Major cost should not exceed \$6,000 as donated materials, supplies, equipment and skilled volunteer labor are anticipated to provide completion of the stalls.

B. YOUTH CENTER, OFFICES AND RESTROOMS

Further planning for the remaining base area facilities will be undertaken during Phase II. Continued evaluation and refinement of the area during Phase I will enhance the direction and completion of the remaining proposed facilities.

Additional funding sources will be developed to accomplish Phase II which will include direct HETA financing, corporate support, private contributions, legislative funding, fund-raisers, user fees and other revenue sources.

NOTICE OF
DETERMINATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION
WAIMANALO EQUESTRIAN AREA AND TRAILS

- I. Proposing Agency: Hawaii Equestrian Trails
Association - HETA
P. O. Box 4145
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
- II. Approving Agency: Department of Land and Natural
Resources, Division of Forestry
and Wildlife

III. Summary of Proposed Action:

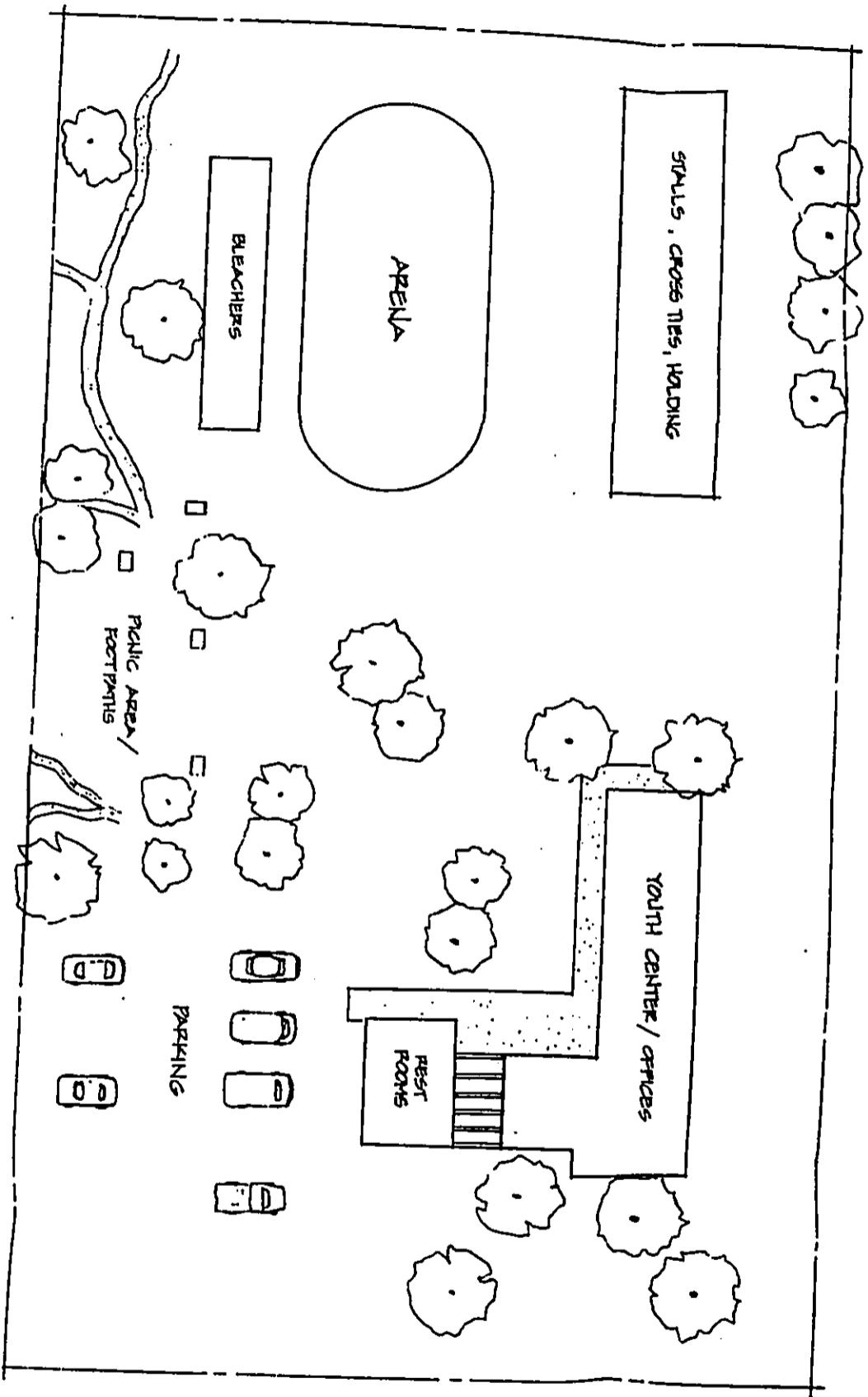
The Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association proposes to construct an equestrian area and trail on State owned land in the Waimanalo area on the eastern portion of Aniani Nui ridge and Mount Olomana. Upon completion of this project recreational opportunities will be greatly enhanced for equestrian enthusiasts, the general public and special interest groups. Accordingly, HETA requests to lease portions of the trail and base area as shown in yellow on the attached map and tax map key.

IV. Determination

With this Notice, the Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association hereby files a Notice of Negative Declaration. Evidence presented in the attached Environmental Assessment indicates that no endangered or rare flora and fauna are present in the project area. There are no known historical/archaeological features present in the proposed project area and trail alignment. However, the Department of Land and Natural Resources personnel will be on site during construction to monitor the project should any of the above be encountered. In addition, the proposed project is consistent with the Land Use designations.

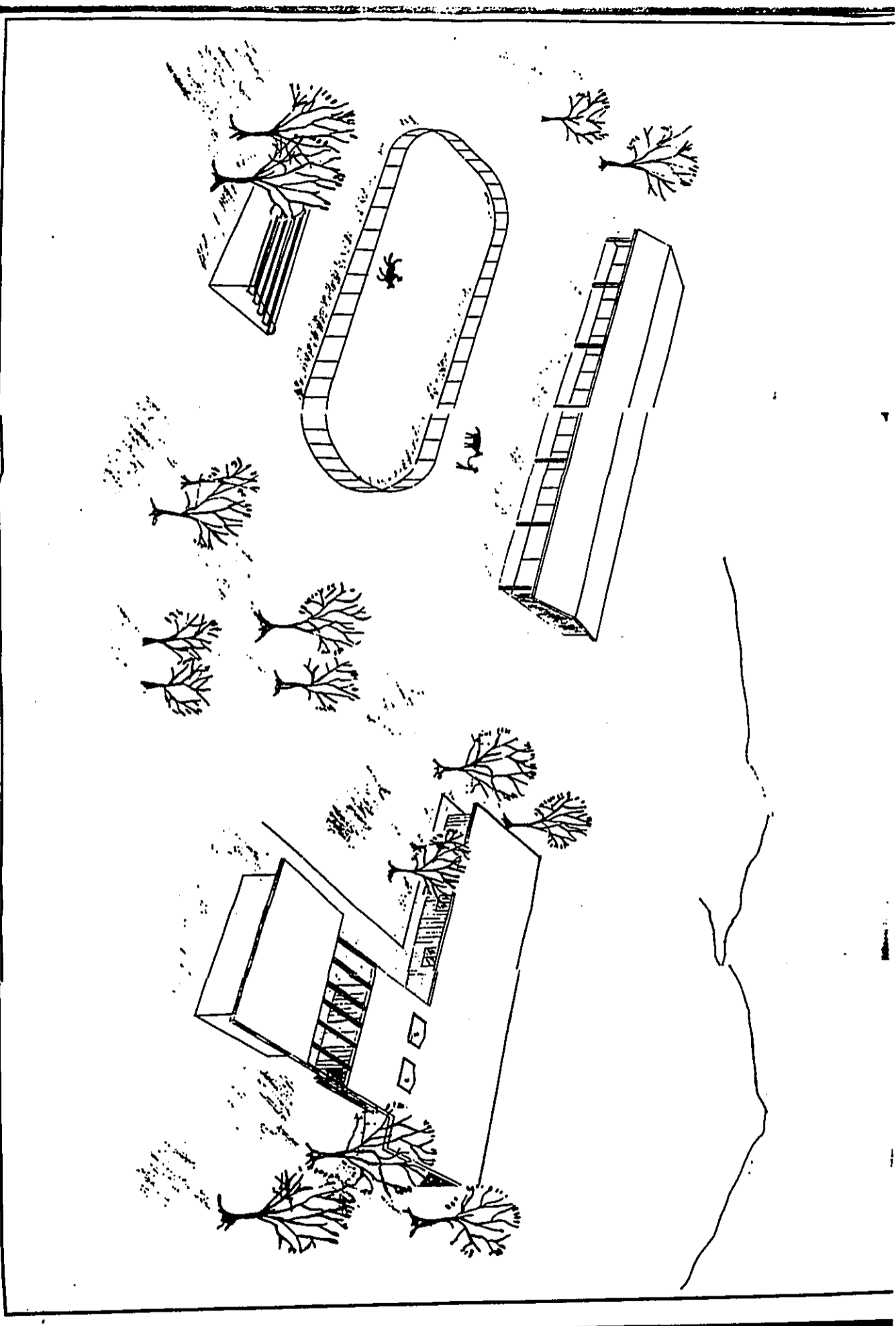
V. Further Information

Art Erwin, President
Hawaii Equestrian Trails Association - HETA
P. O. Box 4145
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Telephone: (808) 487-0055

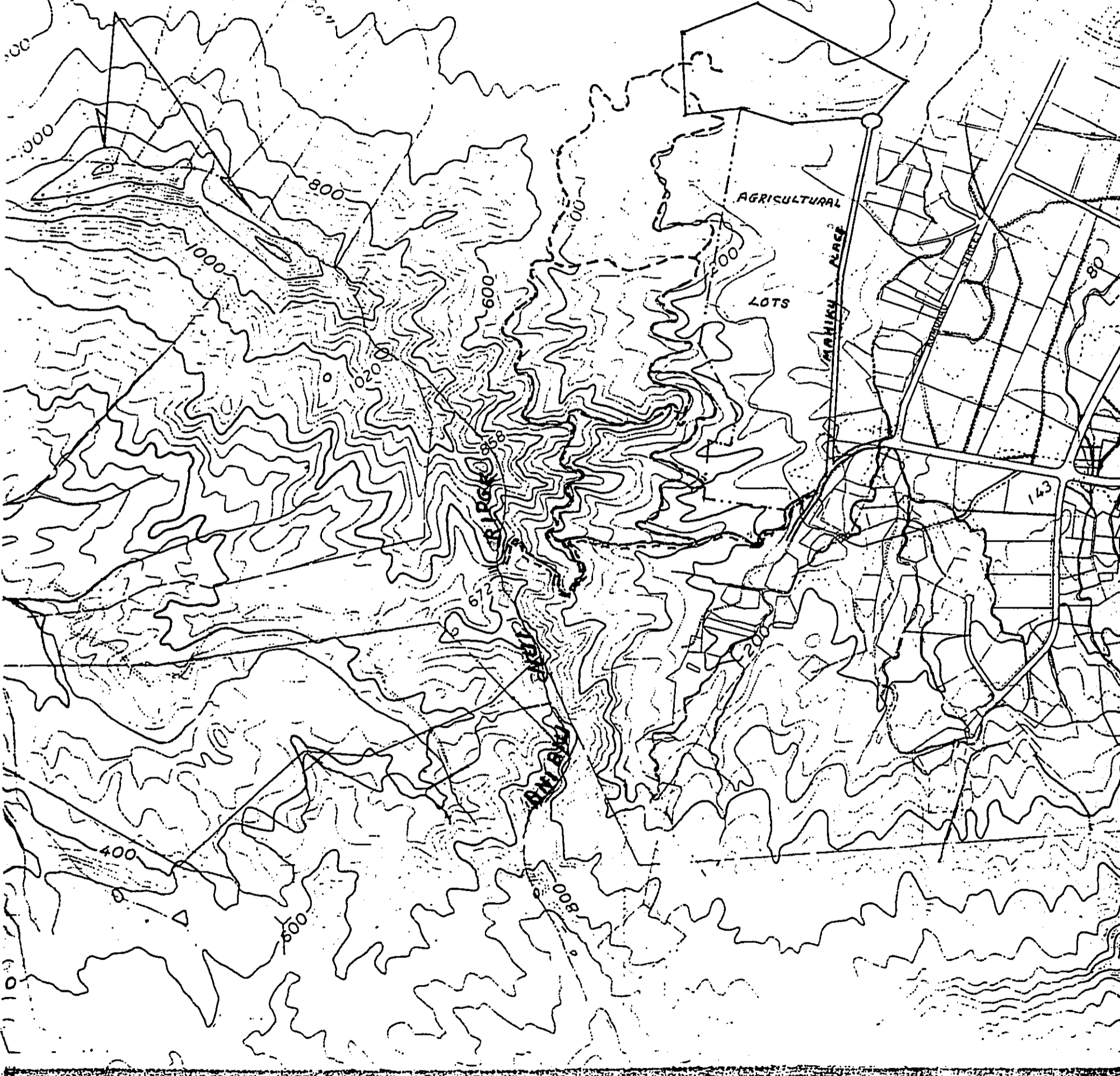


PLOT PLAN

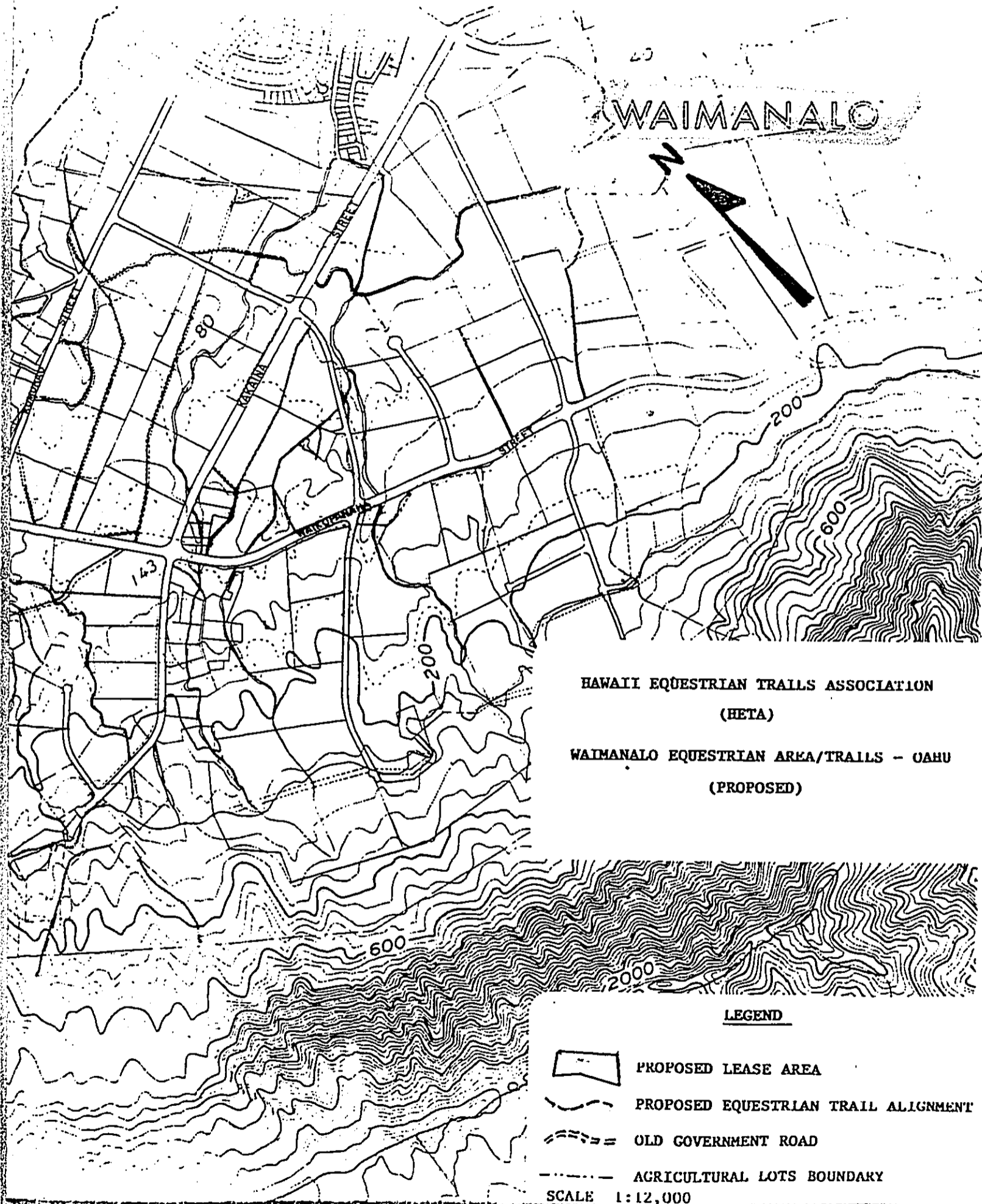
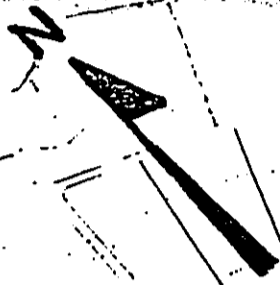
10
 SHEET
 JOB
 DRAW
 SCALE
 DATE
 PROPOSED HAWAII EQUESTRIAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION HOME BASE FACILITIES
 NAHIKI TRAILHEAD - NAIKAWANO, OAHU, HAWAII
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100



OLOMANA PEAKS





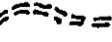
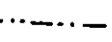
WAIMANALO

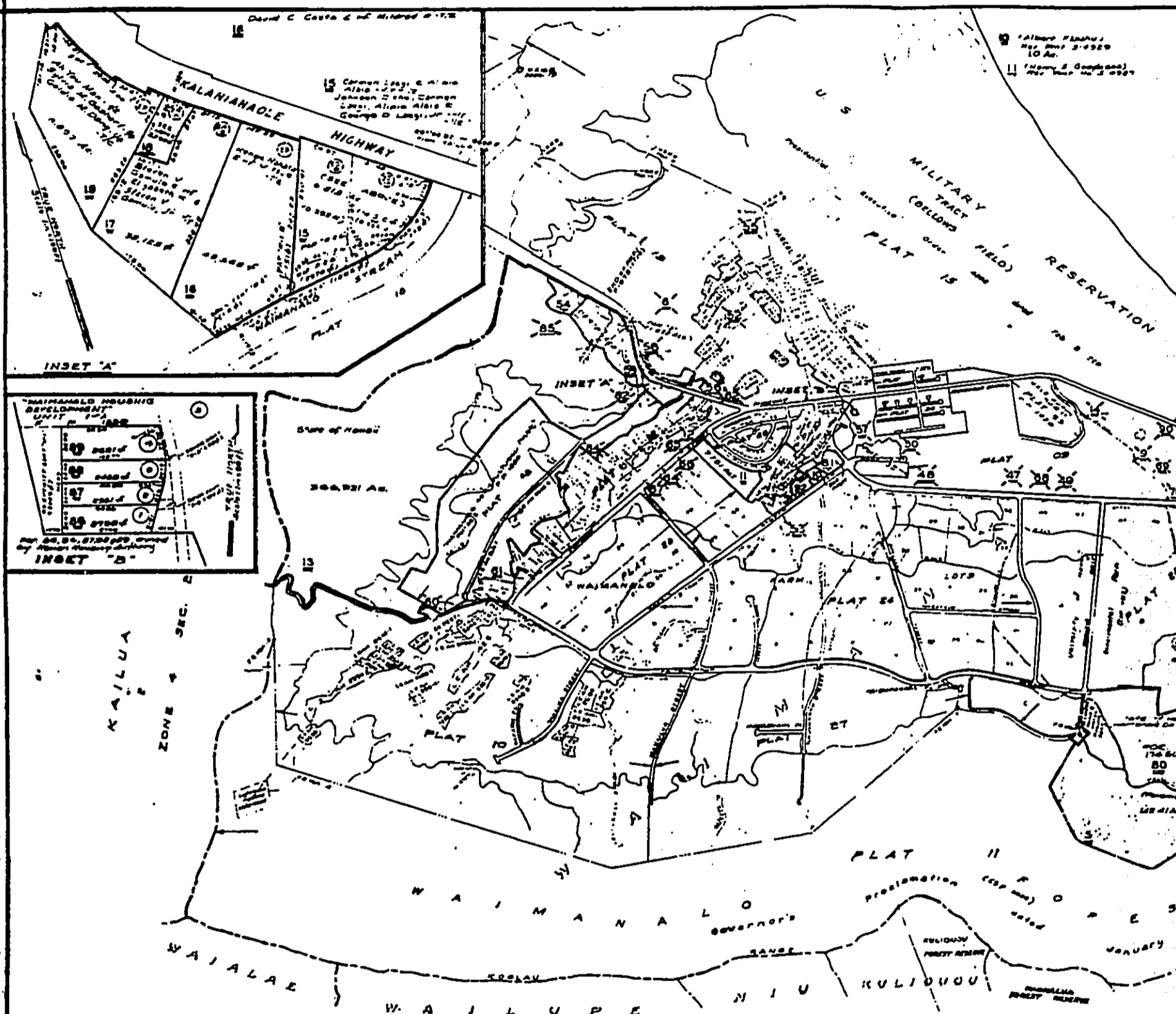


HAWAII EQUESTRIAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION
(HETA)

WAIMANALO EQUESTRIAN AREA/TRAILS - OAHU
(PROPOSED)

LEGEND

-  PROPOSED LEASE AREA
 -  PROPOSED EQUESTRIAN TRAIL ALIGNMENT
 -  OLD GOVERNMENT ROAD
 -  AGRICULTURAL LOTS BOUNDARY
- SCALE 1:12,000

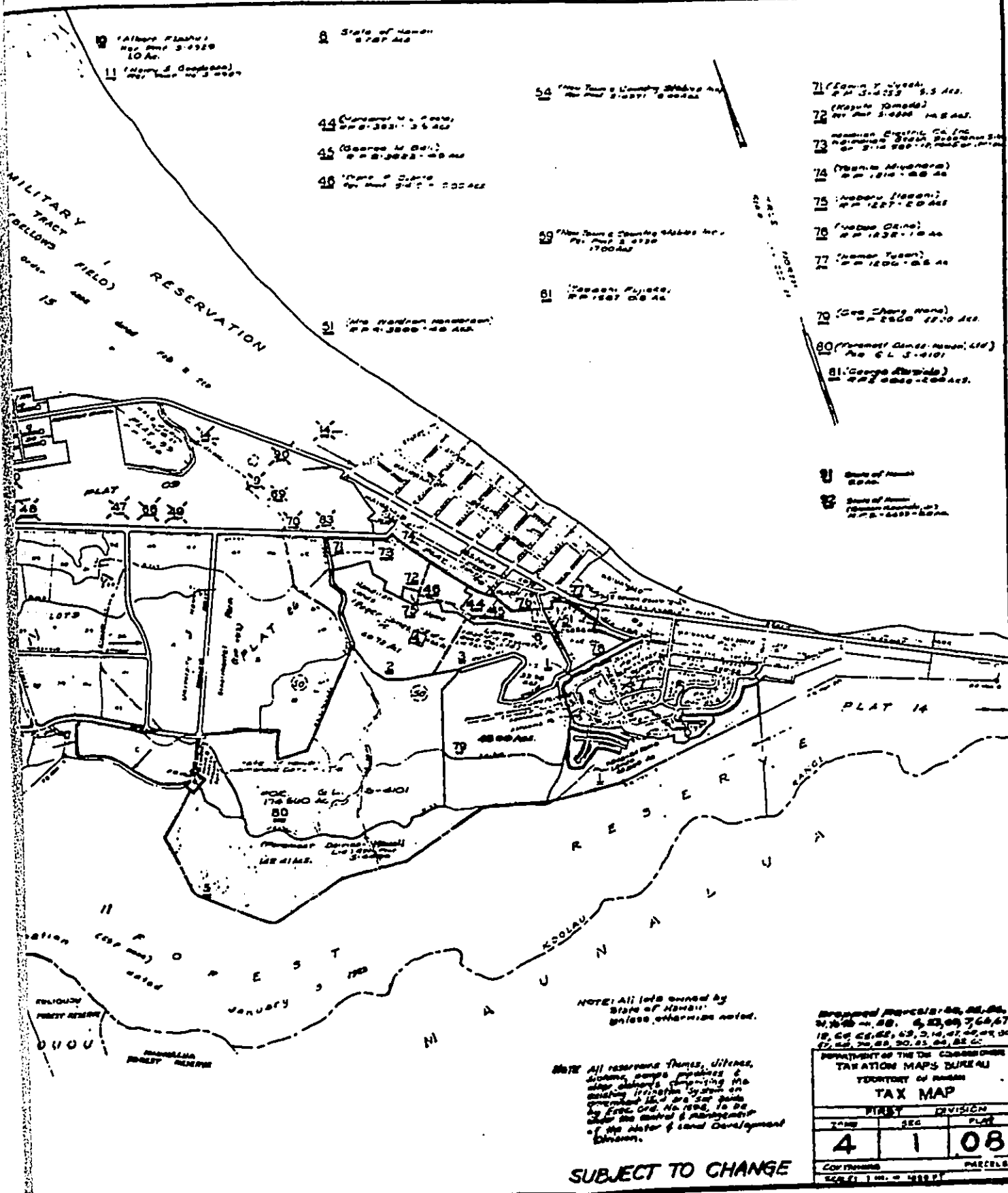


Albert Flaherty
 Reg. Plat 3-4220
 10 Ac.
 (Henry S. Goughland)
 Reg. Plat No. 3-4220

WAIMANALO HOUSING
 DEVELOPMENT
 UNIT
 LOT 16
 LOT 17
 LOT 18
 Reg. Plat No. 3-4220
 by Albert Flaherty
 INSET B

1 1192
 FOR WAIMANALO, KOOLAUPOKO, OAHU, T.H. (Formerly parts of 4-1-08, 09, 10, 11 & 12)

Scale
 1" = 100'
 1/2" = 50'
 1/4" = 25'



10 (Albert Fisher)
10 Ac.
11 (Henry S. Goodson)
10 Ac.

8 State of Hawaii
67.67 Ac.

44 (George M. Galt)
57.333 - 00 Ac.

45 (George M. Galt)
57.333 - 00 Ac.

46 (State of Hawaii)
100.000 - 00 Ac.

54 (New Town & Country Builders Inc.)
1700.000 - 00 Ac.

59 (New Town & Country Builders Inc.)
1700.000 - 00 Ac.

61 (Thomas F. Fudge)
100.000 - 00 Ac.

72 (Mrs. Frank M. Johnson)
100.000 - 00 Ac.

71 (John T. Lynch)
5.5 Ac.

72 (Kaslo Yoneda)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

73 (Kaslo Yoneda)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

74 (Thomas M. Johnson)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

75 (Thomas M. Johnson)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

76 (Thomas M. Johnson)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

77 (Thomas M. Johnson)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

78 (Mrs. Frank M. Johnson)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

80 (Thomas M. Johnson)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

81 (George M. Galt)
10.000 - 00 Ac.

U State of Hawaii
100.000 - 00 Ac.

V Hawaii Land Company
100.000 - 00 Ac.

NOTE: All lots owned by State of Hawaii unless otherwise noted.

NOTE: All reservations shown, ditches, dikes, ponds, pipelines & other structures, including the existing irrigation system on parcels 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, are shown as they appear on the ground & are not to be taken as a warranty of accuracy by the State of Hawaii.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Mapped parcels: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER		
TAXATION MAPS BUREAU		
TERRITORY OF HAWAII		
TAX MAP		
FIRST DIVISION		
TRIM	SEC	PLAT
4	1	08
CONTAINS		PARCELS
SCALE: 1" = 400 FT.		