

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

February 4, 1992

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

DEPUTIES

JOHN P. KEPPeler, II
DONA HANAIKE
SAE SHIKUMA

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
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CONVEYANCES,
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'92 FEB 12 1992
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

DOFAW

Mr. Brian Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
465 South King Street, Room 104
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Attached is a Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife's agency action determination of Negative Declaration for an arboretum improvement project. The improvement to take place will be the resurfacing of an existing roadway to provide improved access to the Keanae Arboretum, especially for handicapped visitors.

We are submitting this declaration for action as required in Environmental Quality Commission - Environmental Impact Statement Regulations.

Very truly yours,

John P. Keppeler II
WILLIAM W. PATY

Enclosure

cc: Maui District
DWRM

1992-02-23-MA-FDA-Keanae Arboretum Access Road Paving

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
JOB 62-MF-C
KEANAE ARBORETUM ACCESS ROAD PAVING, MAUI

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Maui District

1992

293-5352

I. PROPOSING AGENCY

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife-Maui District
54 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

II. APPROVING AGENCY

Department of Health
Office of Environmental Quality Control
465 South King Street, Room 104
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

III. AGENCIES CONSULTED

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resource Management

IV. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

A. Project Description

1. Project Environment

- a. Climate The Keanae area has a typical windward lowland climate. Rainfall ranges between 80 and 100 inches a year and is fairly evenly distributed but with occasional storms that result in flooding of stream channels. Temperatures are warm and humidity usually high. Summer weather is usually sunny and hot interspersed with frequent passing showers. Winter is characterized by clear, cooler weather in between periods of storms with heavy rains.
- b. Physiography The project site lies in a low elevation (160 ft.) valley about 30 feet above the valley bottom. The roadway was partly blasted out of the rocky slope in the 1920's with some full cut sections and some sections with stone revetments to form a route of uniform width and gentle grade.
- c. Soils The substrate is exclusively rock. It consists of recent lavas of the East Maui Hana series, and is rough and uneven. This surface has been altered by blasting and building up to form the road surface. Drainage through the crushed rock surface is excellent.
- d. Vegetation The valley bottom and steep sides are dense tropical forest. The forest is made up of introduced species and Polynesian

species. Tree species are Kukui (Aleurites moluccana), African tulip (Spathodea campanulata), coconut (Cocos nucifera), monkeypod (Samanea saman), Satin leaf (Chrysophyllum oliviforme), and hau (Hibiscus tiliaceus). Shrub and herbaceous species include yellow ginger (Hedychium flavescens), sword fern (Nephrolepis multiflora), ape (Alocasia macrorrhiza), impatiens (Impatiens wallerana), banana (Musa paradisiaca), and a begonia (Begonia hirtella).

The only native plants observed were a few individuals of an alaalawainui (Peperomia latifolia) growing on damp shaded rock faces. No rare or endangered native plants occur on or near the project site.

- e. Facilities This project site is a pedestrian and vehicular access to the Keanae Arboretum. It lies in a natural setting with no public facilities. There are no buildings or structures other than a gate across the entrance and there are no electrical, telephone, sewer or water utilities on or near the site.
- f. Wildlife This area contains several introduced species of birds including the common mynah (Acridotheres tristis), Lacerneck dove (Streptopelia chinensis), House finch (Carpodacus mexicanus), Japanese white-eye (Zosterops japonica), Northern cardinal (Richmondia cardinalis), and Hwa mei (Garulax canorus). Introduced mammals include mongoose (Herpestes auropunctatus), roof rat (Rattus rattus), house cat (Felix domesticus) and feral pig (Sus scrofa). No rare or endangered bird or mammal species occur on or near the project site. Piinaau Stream, lying about 250 ft. from the proposed project, contains four species of Hawaiian fresh water stream gobies.

2. Project Renovation

The project calls for the laying and compacting of a crushed rock basecourse and surfacing the 8 foot wide route with 2 inches of asphalt pavement. The route is 950 feet long.

B. Environmental Impact

1. Immediate Impact

When under construction this project will force the closure of Keanae Arboretum to the public. The Arboretum could conceivably be closed for up to a month. This would inconvenience over 100 visitors a day

to this popular area.

Construction related activities will result in a temporary increase in traffic along Hana Highway in the form of small dump trucks hauling gravel and asphalt, and road construction equipment. Approximately 46 round trips by 3 cubic yard dump trucks from Kahului and Keanae will be required over a one month period to get the materials to the site. This will cause some slowing of traffic flow along this winding road. There will also be some temporary increase in noise levels around the project site due to the operation of trucks, loaders, graders, asphalt layers and rollers.

There will be little effect on the flora and fauna as the work will be confined to the existing road surface and a narrow margin that is nearly devoid of vegetation.

2. Long Range Effects

Once the paving is in place there will be little further impact on the environment except that the improved access will result in increased levels of visitor use in the arboretum.

3. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The temporary inconveniences of increased traffic on the Hana Highway and the closure of Keanae Arboretum will be the only unavoidable adverse effects.

4. Relationship of the Project to Management Goals

This project will improve public access, especially for the handicapped, to this very popular and educational site. The vision for the arboretum is to improve the public access but without altering the natural setting.

V. ALTERNATIVES

There is but a single access route into Keanae Arboretum. This pedestrian access (a narrow road for management work) is a rough rocky surface that is difficult in places to walk on and is impossible for wheelchairs to traverse. The surfacing of this rocky road is designed to make the arboretum accessible to a broader spectrum of the public.

Alternatives to this proposed surfacing are:

1. To surface the road with gravel alone.
2. To leave the road as it is.

Alternative 1 would not provide a long lasting surface. Torrential rains would erode the gravel in a year or two. This alternative would be cheaper than the proposed action but would not be cost effective.

Alternative 2 has no cost but would leave the route into the arboretum inaccessible to handicapped people. This is not consistent with our vision for the area.

VI. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Biologically there are no irretrievable resources at stake. The only resources that will be irreversibly committed will be monetary.

VII. PROPOSED MITIGATION

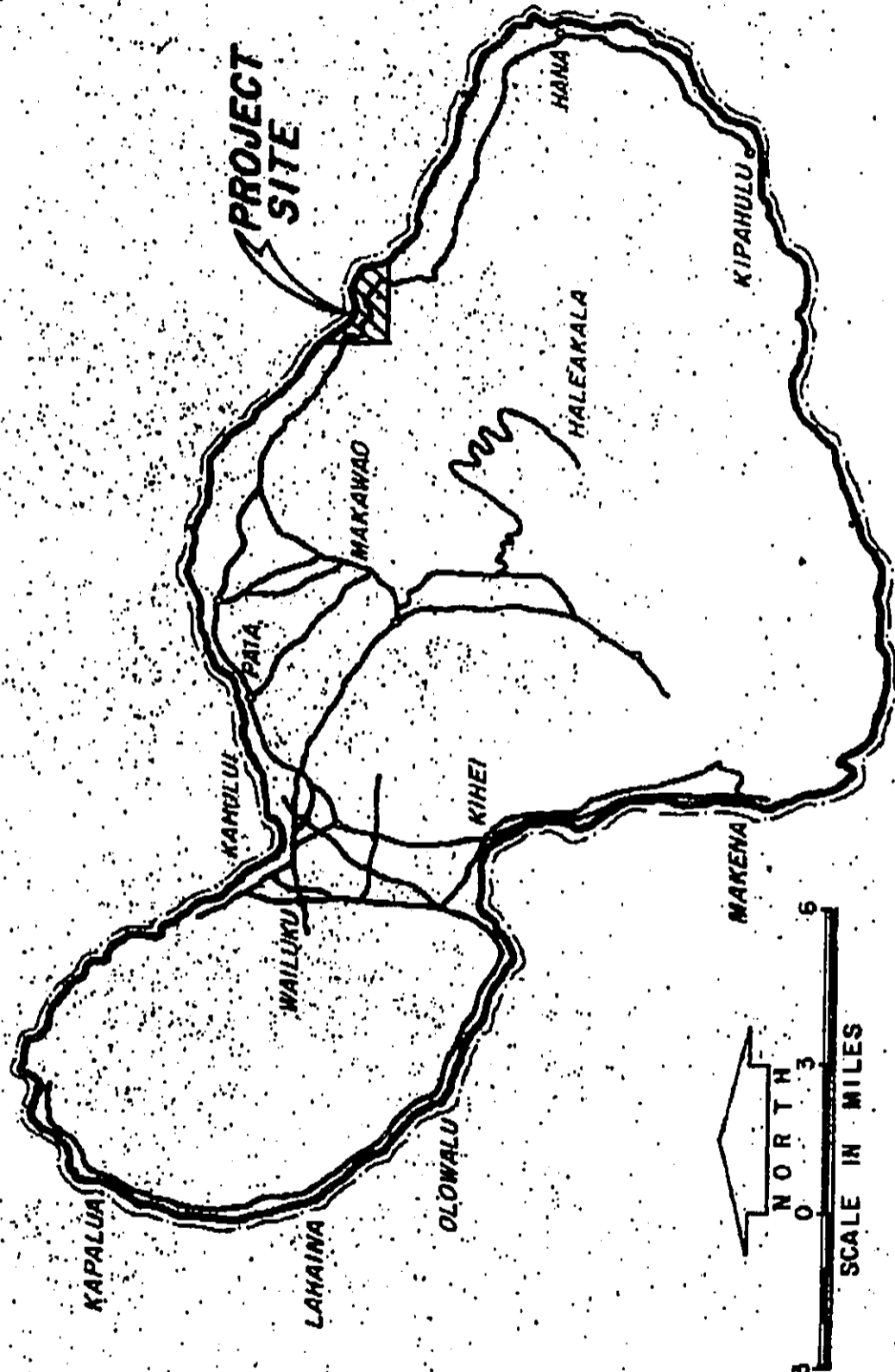
Since there is no loss of biological resources involved in this project, no mitigation is proposed.

VIII. SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT IMPACTS AND DETERMINATION OF PROS AND CONS

This project will result in increased use of Keanae Arboretum by many sectors of the public. School teachers will use it more for environmental field trips, handicapped people will find it more accessible and the local and visitor public will increase their usage. There will be increased opportunities for environmental education and interpretation programs. The only negative effects will be the temporary inconveniences of the congestion of traffic along Hana Highway and the closure of the arboretum during construction. It would seem that the advantages of completing the proposed project far outweigh any negatives.

IX. DETERMINATION

That a Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project.



ISLAND OF MAUI

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
Department of Land and Natural Resources
54 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
FAX No. (808) 243-5006
Phone No. (808) 243-5352

FAX'd TO:

Date: 2/20/92

To: Jeyan Thirugnanam

Organization: OEQC

FAX Number: 588 2452

Phone Number: 586-4185

FAX'd FROM:

From: Bob Hobby

No. of Pages FAX'd (+ cover): 5

Original is to be Mailed: Yes No

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO RECIPIENT:

Re Keane Arboretum Access Road Paving
Job 62-MF-C
Maui, Hawaii