

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

RECEIVED

March 6, 1992

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

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

Dear Mr. Choy:

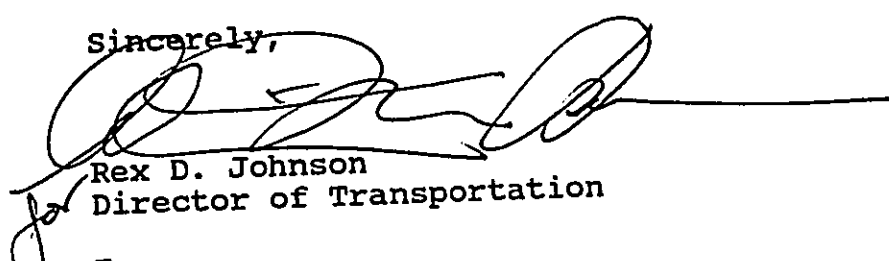
Subject: Yard Improvements at Hilo Harbor
Hilo, Hawaii
Job H. C. 5245

The Department of Transportation has reviewed the environmental assessment for the yard improvements at Hilo Harbor and has determined that the project will not have 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.

Should you have any question, please contact Vernon Nakamura at 587-1958.

Sincerely,


Rex D. Johnson
Director of Transportation

Enc.

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1992-03-23-23-HI-~~04~~-FEA-Hilo Harbor Yard Improvements

MAR 23 1992

NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
YARD IMPROVEMENTS AT HILO HARBOR
HILO, HAWAII
JOB H. C. 5245
February 28, 1992

A. APPLICANT

Harbors Division, Department of Transportation

B. APPROVING AGENCY

Office of Environmental Quality Control

C. AGENCIES CONSULTED

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, inter-island barge shipping company and other users of the pier were consulted. No other agencies were consulted in the preparation of this negative declaration. Past experiences have shown that similar projects within established commercial harbors have not had significant effects upon the environment. Our assessment of the proposed action has confirmed that this project will not have a significant impact. Permits from the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Land and Natural Resources will not be required because the project will not involve work in the water, nor on conservation land.

The Hawaii County Department of Public Works will review the project, and their approval for a grading permit will be solicited if required.

D. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION'S TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Technical (See attached map)

The proposed project consists of grading and paving approximately one acre adjoining the Pier 2 storage yard. Also included in the project scope is the removal of an existing structure and clearing, grading and paving of the approximately half acre Fumatorium site which is currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

There will be no dredging in this project.

2. Economic - Social

Hilo Harbor is the primary cargo handling facility for the East side of the Island of Hawaii therefore sufficient storage space is vital to efficient and safe operations at this harbor. The existing container yard and storage areas are being used to over 100% capacity with overflow onto unpaved project site. The volume of cargo at Hilo Harbor is steadily increasing and this project will provide needed container and cargo storage space.

3. Environmental

The proposed project will be constructed within the existing Hilo Harbor boundary and on fast land. It will not endanger any marine or other wildlife in the area.

The proposed project will not significantly change or disrupt the present use of the area.

E. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The adverse environmental effects described in paragraphs G and H are expected to be brief and associated only with the construction of the project. The harbor does not contain any historical or archaeological sites. No endangered wildlife live in the harbor.

F. DISCUSSION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The effect of this project upon the environment has been determined to be insignificant. The construction of the project will not:

1. Generate controversy;
2. Alter the existing topography of the land or character of its use;
3. Cause the displacement of any persons;
4. Affect any rare, threatened, or endangered species of animals, plants, or habitats;
5. Involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources, except for the labor and materials related to the construction of the improvements;
6. Curtail the beneficial uses of the environment;
7. Conflict with the State's long-term environmental policy goals, or guidelines; and
8. Degrade the environmental quality.

For the reasons above, the proposed project will not have any significant effect in the context of chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

G. IMPACTS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

During the construction period, there will be a temporary increase in noise, dust and emissions from internal combustion engines associated with the construction. However, these impacts will be minimal and intermittent in nature. Emissions from internal combustion engines will be readily dispersed in the open area.

All the planned improvements are vital for safe and efficient operations within the harbor.

The alternative of "no project" would perpetuate the inefficient operating condition of the present storage yard.

H. MITIGATION MEASURES

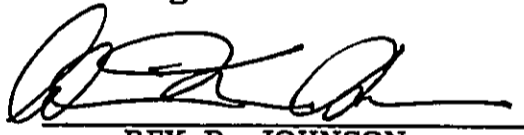
Provisions will be made in the project specifications to control and minimize the temporary adverse effects of construction.

I. DETERMINATION

Since no major adverse impacts are anticipated, costly detailed studies were considered inappropriate. Consequently, a determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required.

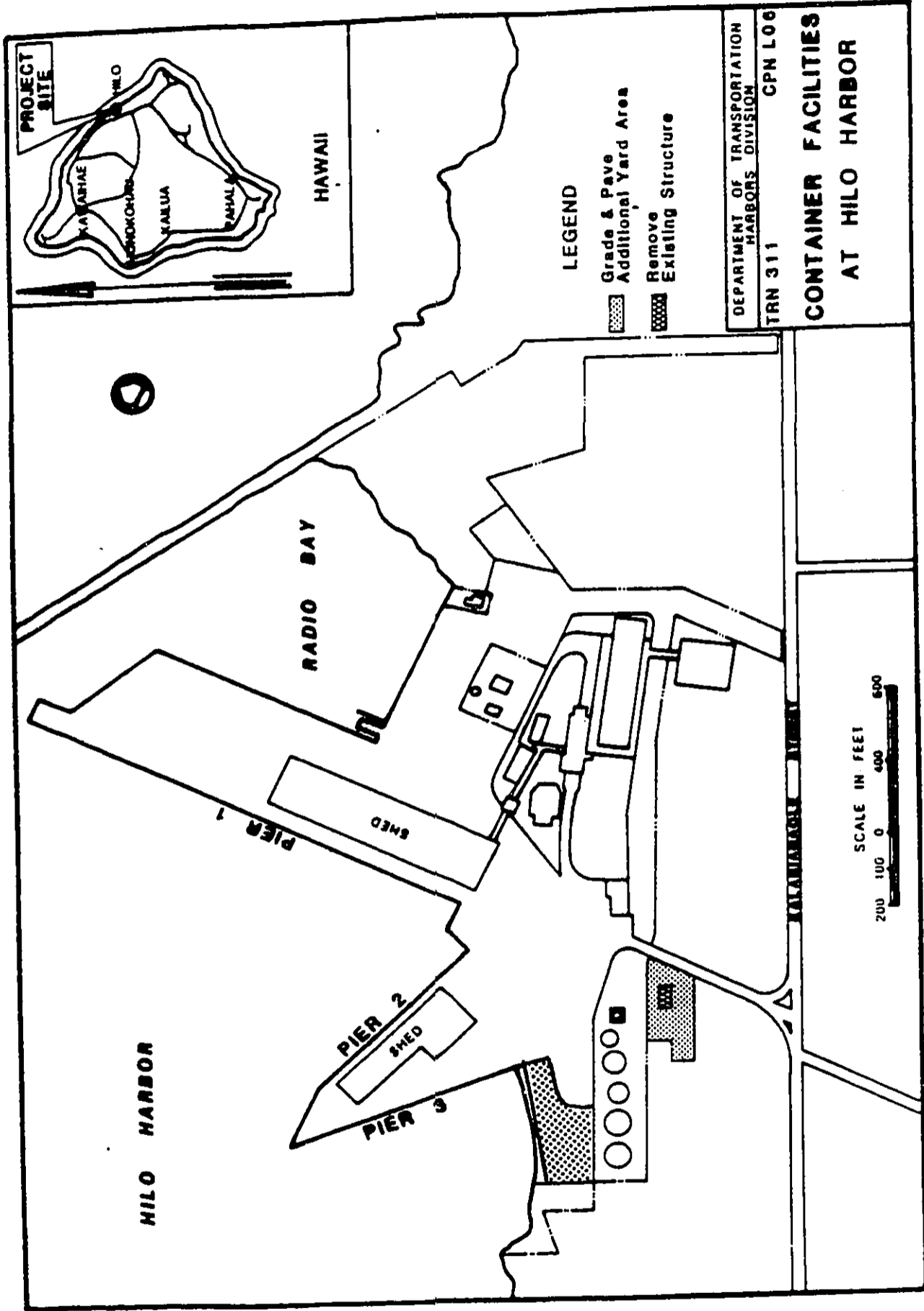
J. REASONS

Reasons supporting the "no EIS" determination are outlined in Sections F and G of this Negative Declaration. Any adverse environmental impact resulting from this project has been determined to be insignificant. Past experience has shown that this type of construction within an established harbor has an insignificant effect on the environment, both short and long term.



REX D. JOHNSON
Director of Transportation

3/11/92
Date



PROJECT TITLE: YARD IMPROVEMENTS AT HILO HARBOR
 PROJECT No.: H.C. 5245
 LOCATION: HILO, HAWAII
 AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION