CHAPTER 343, HRS
Environmental Assessment/Determination
Negative Declaration

Recorded Owner: State of Hawaii
Applicant: DAV Kehei Lagoon Memorial Management Committee
Agent: Ernest H. Hara & Associates, Inc.
Location: 2685 North Nimitz Highway
Tax Map Key: 1-1-3: 4
Request: To demolish the existing Memorial Hall Building (Meeting Facility) and to construct a new memorial hall and install 10 additional parking spaces
Determination: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Not Required

Attached and incorporated by reference is the environmental assessment prepared by the applicant for the project.

On the basis of the environmental assessment, we have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

APPROVED
DONALD A. CLEGG
Director of Land Utilization

DAC:cct
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE NEW HAWAII DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

PROPOSING GROUP
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII
KEEHI LAGOON MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY
TOMMY KAKESAKO  CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE  1959-1965
       VICE CHAIRMAN-SECRETARY  1965-1991
       CHAIRMAN  1991-1992

WITH CONSULTATION
ERNEST H. HARA & ASSOCIATES, INC.  ARCHITECTS
FUJITA & ASSOCIATES, INC.  CIVIL ENGINEERS

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 343, HRS
1. INTRODUCTION:

The DAV Keeaumoku Memorial is located within the City and County of Honolulu, Tax Map Key 1-1-03:04, address: 2685 Nimitz Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819.

The Memorial is under the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii, Land and Natural Resources. Control and Supervision of said parcel, encompassing 11 acres was vested with the Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters under Governor’s Executive Order No. 1550 issued to the Pacific War Memorial Commission. The Commission was disbanded and its duties were transferred to the Department of Land Natural Resources via Act 135 of S.L.N. 1981. This was subject to the agreement reached on August 3, 1961 between the Pacific War Memorial Commission and the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Hawaii, which allows the DAV to use the land in compliance with said executive order.

This project of replacing an old building and this assessment concern building a building of similar size in the same location.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

OBJECTIVES

The proposed project (hereinafter referred to as the project) concerns a 7,500 square feet area in the complex of 11 acres. The north boundary faces Nimitz Highway 300 feet away, the east elevation faces 250 feet from Moanalua Stream, the west elevation faces the Keeaumoku park 200 feet away. The south elevation is 800 feet from the ocean. The existing building is shown in Figure 1.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Disabled American Veterans, Keeaumoku Memorial Management Committee proposes to construct a one story structure, connecting all existing sewers, water and electrical connection to the new building.

The design and construction of the proposed building will be based on standards approved and/or adopted by the City and County of Honolulu. The project require no road work and all work will be performed in accordance with State of Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health regulations.

ECONOMIC-SOCIAL

This area and complex of the Keeaumoku Memorial was primarily built as a living memorial to honor those that have made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.
A large part of the area is developed as a youth activity center with camping and recreational facilities. This includes a baseball and soccer field, that could be utilized for other outdoor activities as picnic and other competitive sports. A fine camping area with trees are available. A Youth Pavilion and two additional buildings are available for youth activities or lodgings.

The construction of this new building will:

1) Create a better environment for use for the community.
2) Improve the general environment for the public by upgrading the building (existing) and beautifying the surroundings.

Other advantages to this project include the benefits to the job market in the construction industry. Various construction trades will be utilized for the construction. It will also result in the purchase of construction supplies, equipment and services which will generate revenues for these companies and to the government.

LAND USE

The western end of the project area is bordered by the city Keeaumoku Park. No aspect of this project will affect the park.

AIR QUALITY

There will be minimum problem with dust resulting from excavation and/or compacting and construction activities. As there are no residents in the vicinity, except for one family who are the custodians, we foresee no respiritory problem to the public.

WATER QUALITY

This project will not disturb the water system as all the necessary water connection will utilize the existing system.

3. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

PHYSICAL

This section is already well developed. There are several buildings utilized for public service and youth activities and only one family residence. The only adjacent property is the city Keeaumoku Park.

There are no known or endangered species of plants or wildlife inhabiting the project area. Also there are no protected Exceptional Trees within the area. There are no known archeological or historical sites in the project area.

The project will have no effect on the Keeaumoku Park.

GEOLOGICAL

The soil at the project site are fill material donated from excavation during the construction of the H1 freeway and consist of rocks, gravel and soil.
HYDROLOGICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL

The rainfall for the area in which the project is located is estimated around 25 inches per year, varying 10 to 20 percent from month to month. The ground is fairly dry and surface water is quickly drained.

4. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

AIR

During excavation, filling and construction phases of the project, dust and noise will be generated. There will be some air emissions from construction machinery, some fugitive emissions from excavation and construction activities. These air emissions will be minimal and will be controlled with good maintenance and good construction practices.

AESTHETIC

For the short term, construction activities will effect aesthetic for the visitors; however, upon completion all land surfaces will be restored to a condition better than previously existed and will be improved with major beautification.

WATER QUALITY

There will be no water quality impacts. It is not expected that any activities will result in a discharge to any body of water.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

The immediate economic impact is in the creation of jobs during the construction phase.

Long term social and economic impacts are best illustrated by noting what will happen if the project is not built. The result will be a slow deterioration of the property both in aesthetic and community use.

TRAFFIC

There will be no disruption to traffic.

NOISE

The State Department of Health Noise and Radiation branch limit construction activities as a means of curbing the noise nuisance created. Noise Regulations require that heavy demolition equipment only operate Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., while general construction work can operate Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We foresee no noise problem due to the non existence of residence in the area. The total project is expected to last six months.
UTILITIES

There will be no disruption or rerouting of any utilities including electricity, telephone, water, sewage and street lighting as the project site will be the same area of the old building and all utilities will be reconnected.

5. ALTERNATIVES

There are two alternatives to this project:

1) Leave the old building as is;
2) Demolish old building and replace it with a new building.

Alternative one would be least expensive but would be an eyesore as the building deteriorates.

Alternative two would be most desirable as to aesthetics, building stability, better utilisation and better beautification.

6. DETERMINATION

Based on the preceding sections, it is anticipated that the impacts as described by this proposed action are insignificant and will result in no significant adverse impacts. As a result a Negative Declaration is respectfully recommended and requested.

7. FINDINGS AND REASONS SUPPORTING DETERMINATION:

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

1. Involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource;
2. Curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment;
3. Conflict with the state's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any revisions thereof and amendment thereto, court decisions or executive orders;
4. Substantially affect the economic and social welfare of the community or State;
5. Substantially affect public health;
6. Involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities;
7. Involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality;
8. Have either an individual or cumulative effect upon the environment or involve a commitment for larger actions;
9. Substantially affect a rare, threatened or endangered species, or its habitat;
10. Detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels; or
11. Affect an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters.

REASONS

This project will have beneficial effects for the people of the State. The project will be compatible with the surrounding landscape and appropriate to the physical conditions of the area. Potential adverse environmental impacts resulting from the project will be insignificant. The applicant will be responsible for and comply with all applicable statues, ordinances, and the rules of the federal, state, and county governments.
TAX MAP OF PROJECT AREA

1-1-1-3-4
Addr: 2685 N NIMITZ HWY
Owner: STATE OF HAWAII
Tax Payer: STATE OF HAWAII
Tenure: G Semi-Annual Tax:
Assessed value
Land: 7,228.100
Bldg: 488,900
Exemption
7,228.100
488,900
11.69 acres
0 sq ft
Size
Buildings: 0
Dwellings: 0
Zoning: P-2
PITT: 480
Use: 418
Nhood: 1119
AERIAL PHOTO OF DAV KEENI LAGOON MEMORIAL