Environmental Assessment for Proposed Installation of Overhead Electrical Facilities Anchor Easement in State Land Pahoa, Puna, Hawaii

I. Applicant

Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.
Hawaiian Telephone Company

II. Project Description

A. Location


B. Proposed Action

Utilization of perpetual anchor easements as detailed on Drawing No. 84-E-849, Sht. 2 of 3, attached.

C. Remarks

The applicant is proposing the installation of four (4) anchors and guy wires in conjunction with the relocation of poles due to State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Pahoa Town By Pass Project No. RS-0130(20). This project is from Kahakai Blvd. to Kalapana Road.

This proposed relocation will traverse along Kahakai Blvd. and Kalapana Road but will require encroachment of anchors into State Land.

III. Description of Affected Environment

A. Existing Use

The easement area, situated along roadway, is overgrown with vegetation commonly found in the Puna District.
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B. Topography and Soils

The terrain primarily consists of pahoehoe (rLW) lava with little or no soil cover. The easement area for Tax Map Key No. 1-5-116: Parcels 18, 19, and 46 are at an elevation of approximately 600 ft. with gradual slope. The easement area for Tax Map Key No. 1-5-03: Parcel 45 is at an elevation of 680 ft.

C. Flora and Fauna

Vegetation is basically uluhe (staghorn fern) and sparse young Ohia.

D. Drainage

The rainfall average is about 80 to 110 inches annually with no evidence of drainage problems.

E. Historic and Archaeological

The field survey by the applicant concludes that no structures or features of historical and/or archaeological significance were observed in the area.

F. Surrounding Land Use

The surrounding land area is barren lava and covered with staghorn fern and young Ohia trees. Scattered single family dwellings are located on several of the adjacent farmlots.

G. Utilities and Services

There are existing electrical, telephone and water available in the immediate vicinity.

IV. Probable Impacts

A. Short Term

Temporary anticipated short term impacts evident at time of excavation will be noise, dust, fuel emissions and traffic inconvenience during construction.

B. Long Term

No long term impacts are expected except for minimum clearing of vegetation which should not disturb the ecological and biological environment.
V. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Rejection of the easements shall delay the construction start date of this project. Alternate relocation designs will need to be considered which would most likely increase the cost to our customer.

VI. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The only resources that would be irretrievably committed are lava landforms and loss of vegetation within the easement area.

VII. Mitigating Measures

Construction of utility lines shall conform to all governmental rules and regulations.

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OVERSIZED DRAWING/MAP

PLEASE SEE 35MM ROLL

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
Proposed Pole Line Relocation to Accommodate County of Hawaii Road Resurfacing Project, Pahoa Town Road, Puna
Anchor Easement in State Land, Pahoa, Puna, Hawaii

I. Applicant

Hawaii Electric Light Co., Inc.  Division of Land Management
P.O. Box 1027  Department of Land and
Hilo, Hawaii 96721-1027  Natural Resources

II. Project Description

A. Location: State land situated at Pahoa, Puna, Hawaii, identified by Tax Map Key No. 1-5-117: Parcel 24 encumbered by General Lease No. S-4698 to Kinoole Baptist Church.

B. Proposed Action: Utilization of a perpetual 5'-0" x 5'-0" anchor easement per Drawing No. 88-A-672A.

C. Remarks: The proposed pole line will be located within the road right-of-way, but will require encroachment into Parcel 24 for the installation of an anchor rod and guy wires necessary to stabilize the pole line.

III. Description of Affected Environment

A. Existing Use: The easement area is within the yard of a day-care center.

B. Topography and Soils: The terrain is fairly level and consists of a thin layer of soil concealing lava.

C. Flora and Fauna: The vegetation is grass. No fauna were observed.

D. Drainage: The rainfall averages 146.88 inches annually with no evidence of drainage problems.

E. Historic and Archaeological: The field survey by the applicant concludes that no structures or features of historical and/or archaeological significance were observed in the area.

F. Surrounding Land Use: The adjoining area is residential.
G. Utilities and Services: There are electrical, telephone, cable TV and water utilities available fronting the subject area.

IV. Probable Impacts

A. Short Term: Temporary anticipated short term impacts evident at time of excavation will be noise, dust, fuel emissions and traffic inconvenience during construction.

B. Long Term: No long term impacts are expected.

V. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Rejection of the easement will delay relocation of the pole line out of the resurfaced road right-of-way, where it is presently a possible hazard to traffic. Alternative routes would require large encroachment into private lands where structures are built close to the roadway.

VI. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There are no adverse and irretrievable effects due to this installation.

VII. Mitigating Measures

Relocation of this pole line shall conform to all governmental rules and regulations.