

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
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OFF. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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Mr. Brian J.J. Choy
Director
Office of Environmental
Quality Control
220 South King Street, Fourth Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

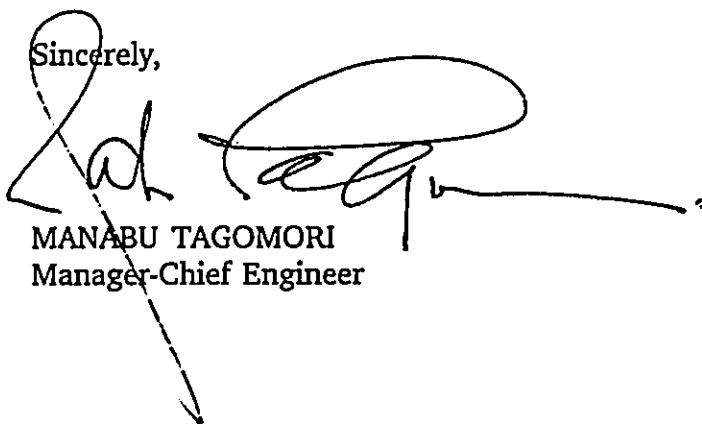
Dear Mr. Choy:

Job No. 8-HW-E, Keahole Pipeline, North Kona, Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 11 of the Environmental Impact Statement Rules, transmitted for processing are four (4) copies of the Final Environmental Assessment and Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration) for the subject project. Also attached is a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form.

If there are any questions on this matter, please have your staff contact Mr. Edward Lau of the Project Development Branch at Extension 70227.

Sincerely,



MANABU TAGOMORI
Manager-Chief Engineer

SL:lc

Enc.

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1992-12-08-HI-FEA-Keahole Pipeline, No. Kona

DEC - 8 1992

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Job No. 8-HW-E
Keahole Pipeline
North Kona, Hawaii

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Water and Land Development
November 1992

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION: Negative Declaration

FOR: Job No. 8-HW-E
Keahole Pipeline
North Kona, Hawaii

BY: Division of Water and Land Development
Department of Land and Natural Resources

The proposed action will have no significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. This Notice of Determination and Environmental Assessment are being filed as a Negative Declaration.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For
Job No. 8-HW-E
Keahole Pipeline
North Kona, Hawaii

I. APPLICANT/PROPOSING AGENCY

Division of Water and Land Development
Department of Land and Natural Resources

II. AGENCIES CONSULTED

County of Hawaii
Department of Water Supply
Planning Department

State of Hawaii
Historic Sites Preservation Division, DLNR

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Water and Land Development is proposing the installation of a new water line along the existing Kona Palisades access road in North Kona, Hawaii. (See Figures 1 and 2.) The proposed pipeline will include approximately 740 linear feet of 8" pipe connecting to the existing Kona Palisades system, and approximately 3572 linear feet of 20" pipe extending makai towards the Keahole Airport. The entire project is located on a acre parcel of State land, TMK: 7-3-10:33 (see Figure 3).

The resident population in the North Kona district was approximately 23,000 for 1989, an increase of almost 70 percent from the 1980 total of 13,748. All indications point to even more growth in the coming years. Due to this increase, as well as an accompanying growth in business activity in the area, the current water system has become inadequate to handle both the current demand and the new developments which are already being planned and constructed. The proposed pipeline will hopefully be the first in a series of projects to help alleviate this problem. Also proposed for the future is a 2.0 million gallon reservoir which will connect with the existing system via the new pipelines. A separate environmental assessment will be filed for the reservoir at a later date. Ultimately, the goal of this project is to provide adequate water supplies to the Keahole Agricultural Park, Keahole Airport, the Hawaii Ocean Science Technology (HOST) Park and the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELH).

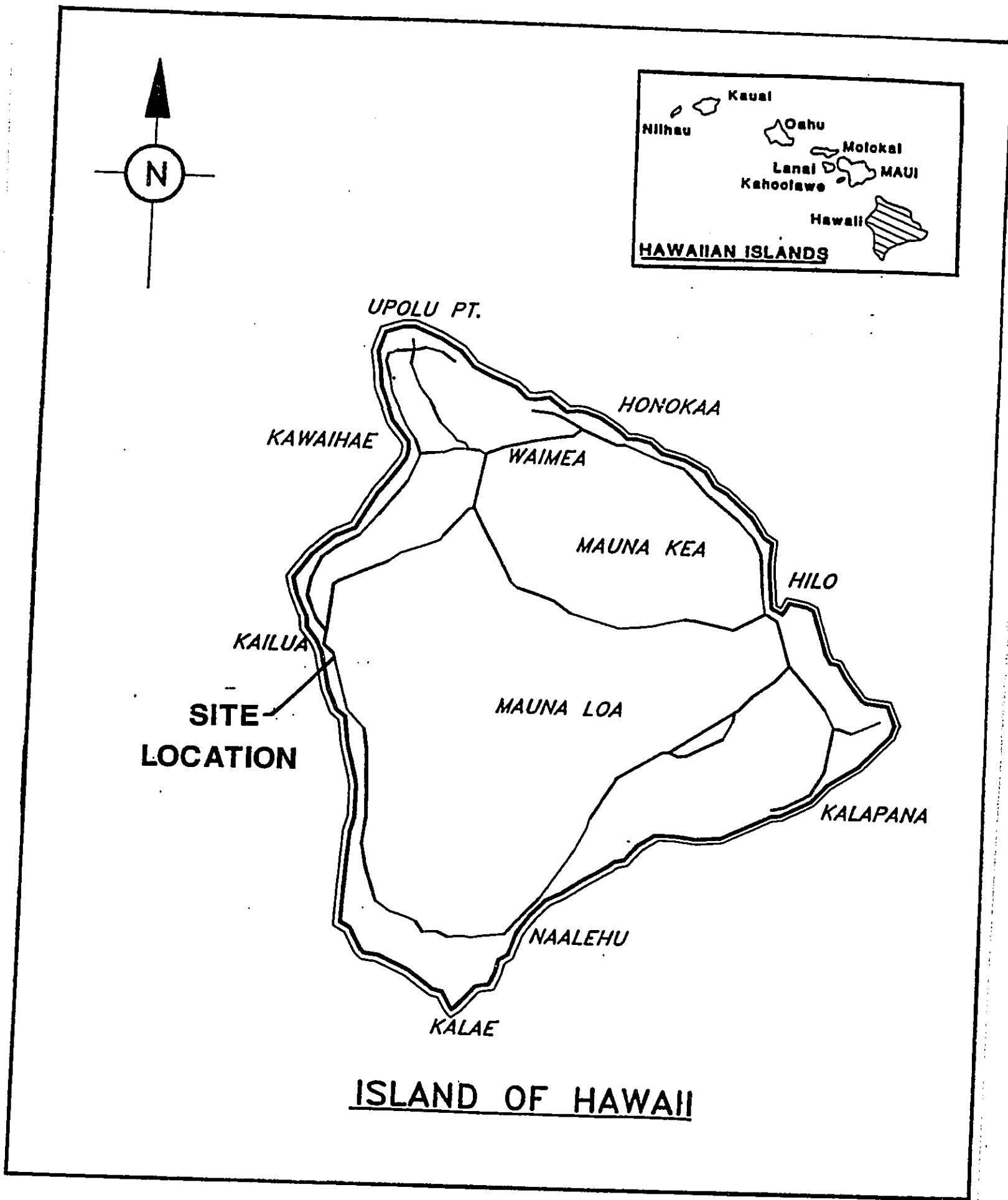


FIGURE 1

IV. PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COST ESTIMATE

The construction portion of the project should be completed 210 days after receipt of notice to proceed. The preliminary construction cost estimate for the project is \$ 622,000.

V. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Short Term Impacts

Short term impacts of the proposed project will include noise and exhaust emissions from the excavation equipment, as well as possible diversion of traffic during work hours. Dust nuisance and vehicle emissions will be mitigated by strict conformance to environmental regulations. Equipment movement and storage will be governed by current public convenience and safety standards. At least one lane for traffic movement will be required at all times, with two lanes open during the hours of 3:30 P.M. to 8:00 A.M.. All other short term impacts will be mitigated by normal construction practices.

Long Term Impacts

The proposed pipeline should enhance the current water system in North Kona and especially in the Keahole Agricultural Park, where tenants have complained of inadequate water pressure for years. A series of wells proposed along the 1800-foot elevation in North Kona will hopefully augment the water supply in the near future, and the construction of the proposed 2.0 MG reservoir will mean adequate water storage for the Keahole water users. Eventually, it is hoped that water will be brought down to these lower elevations through the future 20-inch Kaloko pipeline.

VI. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Alternative Site

Any other site for this project would not be feasible, since it is at the Kona Palisades access road that the waterline is needed most. Initial impacts to the area will be small, since the new pipeline will be installed but there will be no increase in water storage. However, if the 2.0 MG reservoir is constructed and connected to the new pipeline, the agencies in the area will then have access to adequate water pressure. No adverse long term environmental impacts are anticipated from this project.

No Action

The proposed pipeline and future reservoir are desperately needed in this area, where the existing pipelines are too small and the existing storage facilities too few to provide acceptable water pressure, much less keep up with overall growth. No action would hinder this growth and may place some agencies in violation of fire flow

regulations. Water pressure would continue to be too low, and the agencies and tenants in the area would continue to have the same problems.

VII. DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA

In considering the significance of potential environmental impacts, both short term and long term, with respect to the criteria as defined in Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 1:31, it has been determined that:

1. The proposed action does not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss of or destruction of any natural or cultural resource:

The project site is located within a utility easement beneath Kona Palisades access road. There are no natural or cultural resources associated with the site.

2. The proposed action does not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment:

The proposed project is consistent with the County's general plan and the Department of Water Supply policy and would not curtail beneficial uses of the environment in the area. The proposed project will be compatible with the uses of the surrounding area.

3. The proposed action is in concert with the state's long-term environmental policies, goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 343, HRS, and any revisions and amendments thereto, court decisions and executive orders:

The proposed project is consistent with the State Land Use Plan and Hawaii Water Plan, which is in concert with all applicable policies, goals, and guidelines. No long term environmental conflicts are foreseen.

4. The proposed action does not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or state:

The proposed project will benefit the community, but will not in itself cause any major economic or social changes.

5. The proposed action does not involve substantial secondary impacts such as population changes or effects on public facilities:

The proposed project is meant to accommodate existing facilities only, and should not result in an increase in population, nor should it affect normal population growth in the area.

6. The proposed action does not substantially affect public health:

Construction activities will be regulated to minimize noise, dust and erosion. There are no residences in the vicinity of the construction site, which runs through Keahole Agricultural Park.

7. The proposed action does not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality:

The existing physical aspects of the surrounding area will be preserved. Once completed, the pipeline will be underground and therefore will not generate any noise nor will it have any adverse impact on air quality.

8. The proposed action is individually limited and cumulatively, does not have a considerable effect upon the environment or involve a commitment for larger actions:

The proposed pipeline will have little or no effect on the environment once it is installed. A 2.0 MG reservoir is proposed for future connection to the pipeline. The system will benefit from the reservoir but is not dependent upon it.

9. The proposed action does not substantially affect rare, threatened or endangered species or habitats:

The project is located within a utility right-of-way, underneath the existing asphalt roadway. There are no known rare, threatened or endangered species or habitats associated with the project site.

10. The proposed action does not affect areas of archaeological interest:

The proposed project site has been previously cleared, graded and excavated for the installation of the existing waterlines. It is extremely unlikely that any historical sites are still present. However, if any unanticipated sites or artifacts are discovered during construction, the work will be halted and the State Historic Preservation Division will be contacted.

11. The proposed action does not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels:

Any negative impacts on air quality and noise caused by this project will be mitigated by normal construction practices. Once construction is completed, the pipeline will generate no noise and should have no effect on air or water quality.

VIII. Determination

In accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, it is determined that the proposed project would not have any significant adverse effects on the environment. Any potentially negative effects have been identified along with suggested mitigative measures. Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and this Environmental Assessment is hereby being filed as a Negative Declaration.

APPENDIX A

Comments and Responses
to the
Draft Environmental Assessment



NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

1088 Bishop Street, Suite 1204, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone (808) 523-1445

Facsimile (808) 599-4380

1992 September 18

State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Water and Land Development

RE: COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR JOB NO. HW-
KEAHOLE PIPELINE
NORTH KONA, HAWAII

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The EA should note the land title status of the State land involved and describe the plans for compensation to ceded lands trust where appropriate.

Given the combination of projects which might attach to the proposed project, it seems that this EA may be attempting to circumvent statutory requirements that component sub-projects of a single large project may not be separated for environmental assessment purposes. This is especially true since there appears to be no forum planned for addressing the cumulative impacts of these various water system improvements and the facilities they serve.

V. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Long Term Impacts

"A series of wells planned along the 1800-foot elevation in North Kona will augment the water supply ..."

On whose property will these wells be developed? If it is State land and government water, how will the distribution system accommodate calls on the water source by Hawaiian Home Lands and/or OHA?

VII. DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA

5. The proposed action is meant to accommodate existing facilities only, and should not result in an increase in population, nor should it affect population growth in the area.

This is inconsistent with the statement on page 1 that "Ultimately, the goal of this project is to provide adequate water supplies to the Keahole Agricultural Park, the Hawaii Ocean Science Technology (HOST) Park and the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELH)," all of which are slated for expansion. Thus it appears that the

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proposed project does indeed involve substantial secondary impacts such as population changes or effects on public facilities.

It is also questionable whether the action is truly "individually limited and cumulatively does not have a considerable effect on the environment or involve a commitment for larger actions."

Mahalo,

David L. Martin

David L. Martin, Vice-President

pc: Office of Environmental Quality Control
State of Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management
Water Commissioners

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

NOV 20 1992

Mr. David L. Martin
c/o Native Hawaiian Advisory Council
1088 Bishop Street, Suite 1204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Martin:

Draft Environmental Assessment for
Keahole Pipeline, North Kona, Hawaii

Thank you for your comments regarding the subject project.

This project involves the installation of a new pipeline. All work will be done within the County right-of-way, and the pipeline will be situated under the existing roadway. No ceded lands are involved.

The only future project which could justifiably be connected with this pipeline is the proposed 2.0 million gallon reservoir. This job was initially intended to encompass both reservoir and pipeline. However, due to very limited construction funds, the project scope was pared down to consist of the pipeline installation only. We felt that of all the possible stages of the water system improvement, the pipeline was the only one that could stand on its own and still offer a tangible, if somewhat limited, improvement to the current situation. Because of the way this pipeline was designed, it does not require the new reservoir in order to be functional.

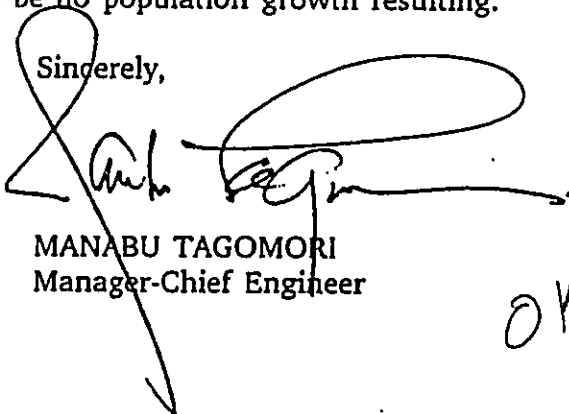
It was stated in the assessment that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA), which represents both HOST Park and NELH, and Keahole Agricultural Park (KAP) will ultimately benefit from a new pipeline. The proposed pipeline as depicted in the project plans ends just short of the Queen Kaahumanu Highway transmission line. This means that while KAP will be afforded immediate relief from its low pressure problems, NELHA will not benefit at all unless the reservoir and remaining pipe segment are completed.

Mr. David L. Martin
NOV 20 1992
Page 2

A new pipeline does not entitle either NELH or KAP to more water. Through the construction of the proposed water line, the higher-elevation tenants of KAP will have adequate water pressure for irrigation. Any agency increase in water supplies in the future hinge on State water development.

Installing a new pipeline does not mean that more water will be available to the area. It will certainly make water more accessible to those located near the pipeline, but the overall water supply in the area will remain unchanged. Since the pipeline runs through the Keahole Agricultural Park but the Department of Agriculture anticipates little change in tenancy for the future, there should be no population growth resulting.

Sincerely,



MANABU TAGOMORI
Manager-Chief Engineer

OK!

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