

JOHN WAIHEE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

January 26, 1993

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

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LAND MANAGEMENT  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
STATE PARKS  
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

In reply, please refer to:  
REF: DOFAW

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL

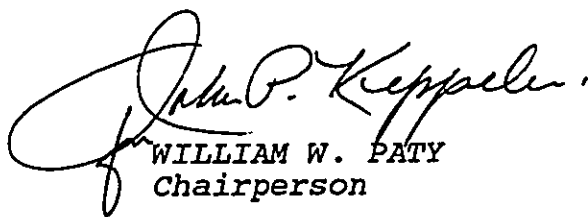
Mr. Brian Choy, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
465 South King Street, Room 104  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Forwarded for your review and appropriate action is our agency's Negative Declaration Notice and final EA for a native plant species reforestation project at Honomalino, S. Kona on the island of Hawaii. Only one request for a copy of the draft EA was received during the comment period of December 8, 1992 through on January 7, 1993.

May we ask that the Declaration Notice be published in the February 10, 1993 issue of your OEQC bulletin. Enclosed is a completed Publication Form and four copies of the final EA.

Please contact Mr. Howard H. Horiuchi of our Hilo office at 933-4221 if you have any questions.

  
WILLIAM W. PATY  
Chairperson

Enclosure

cc: Hawaii Branch

2 - 8 1993

1993-02-08 - Honomalino Native Plant Species Reforestation

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR  
NATIVE PLANT SPECIES REFORESTATION  
AT  
HONOMALINO, SOUTH KONA FOREST RESERVE

I. SCOPE:

This final environmental assessment will address the area(s) that will be directly involved with the reforestation project in the Honomalino forest parcel. Reference to the conceptual management plan for the newly acquired Honomalino forest parcel will be mentioned to establish a need for the proposed project.

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

1. History of the Honomalino Forest Parcel

On February 23, 1990, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved the addition of four parcels of unencumbered State lands to the South Kona Forest Reserve. The Honomalino parcel contained 2,701 acres and was the largest of the four parcels. State and County of Hawaii's regional plans for West Hawaii recognize the need for more forested lands, especially native forest, to increase the forested watershed area, additional areas for forest recreation and

wildlife, and for more accesses to forest reserve lands that have no access. This parcel of land was first leased by the State for cattle grazing in 1950 and continued until 1974.

2. Project's Environment:

The area that has been selected for the initial native plant species reforestation is a 30-acre open grass area that sustains some ohia saplings at 3,400 feet elevation. In the early 1960s, large dozer(s) was used to clear the area of all existing vegetation, and the cleared area was planted with kikuyu and pangola grasses. Fortunately, this type of intensive pasture improvement was limited to about 200 acres. The 30-acre grass area is surrounded by "a'a" lava flows on the south and north, a dense native forest exist along the west and private property adjoins on the east.

3. Native Plant Species Reforestation

Herbicide will be used to prepare the selected planting sites which will be randomly located throughout the open grass area. Ohia and koa seedlings will be the first list of native plant species which will be planted to establish the main canopy, and hoawa, maua, olopua, mehame, papala, kawau, loulu and iliahi will be planted to

establish the middle canopy. Many of the forest floor plants species are expected to be introduced by the forces of Nature and by animals. This project is expected to take many years to be completed because of the shortage of funds, work force and the limited information on the subject of planting native plant species to establish a "desired" native forest.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FROM PROPOSED PROJECTS:

1. Biota

There will be little, if any, adverse impact to the native biota. The vegetation that will be displaced are exotic grasses that were planted for pasture improvement in the 1960s. The native biota will be protected and preserved to enhance the wildlife habitat. The grass area will be reforested with native plant species that will provide shelter and food for the native forest birds.

2. Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The proposed project will require management personnel to increase access to the area which may introduce undesirable plant species to the area. The use of herbicide (roundup) for tree planting preparation will be carefully supervised and monitored by the project leader.

3. Long Range Effects

The long range effects from this proposed project are mostly positive. The wildlife habitat and the forested watershed area will be increased, enhanced. More native plant species will be added to the plant species list for the Honomalino forest parcel. And important information on native forest establishment will be documented.

4. Relationship of Project to Management's Goal

DOFAW has a responsibility to increase the native forest area in West Hawaii, engage in native plant species reforestation, protect and increase wildlife habitat, watershed, native plant communities and other forest resources. This project is consistent with DOFAW's program goals.

II. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

A. Alternative Sites

There are many other sites that need to be reforested with native plant species. This project is one of many that DOFAW will pursue in West Hawaii. But because of limited resources of funds and personnel, this project is the only one that is currently being considered by the Hawaii Branch, DOFAW at this time which requires an Environmental Assessment.

B. No Action

A "no action" plan cannot be accepted. DOFAW has the

responsibility, by State law, to manage and protect natural resources in forest reservations and, at times, outside of forest reservations.

III. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES:

Labor, vehicle, equipment, material costs will be irretrievable commitments to this project. The native plants that will be planted in the Honomalino forest parcel will be irretrievable because those plants would have been grown from seed sources at Honomalino forest or close proximity to Honomalino reforestation project.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT'S IMPACT:

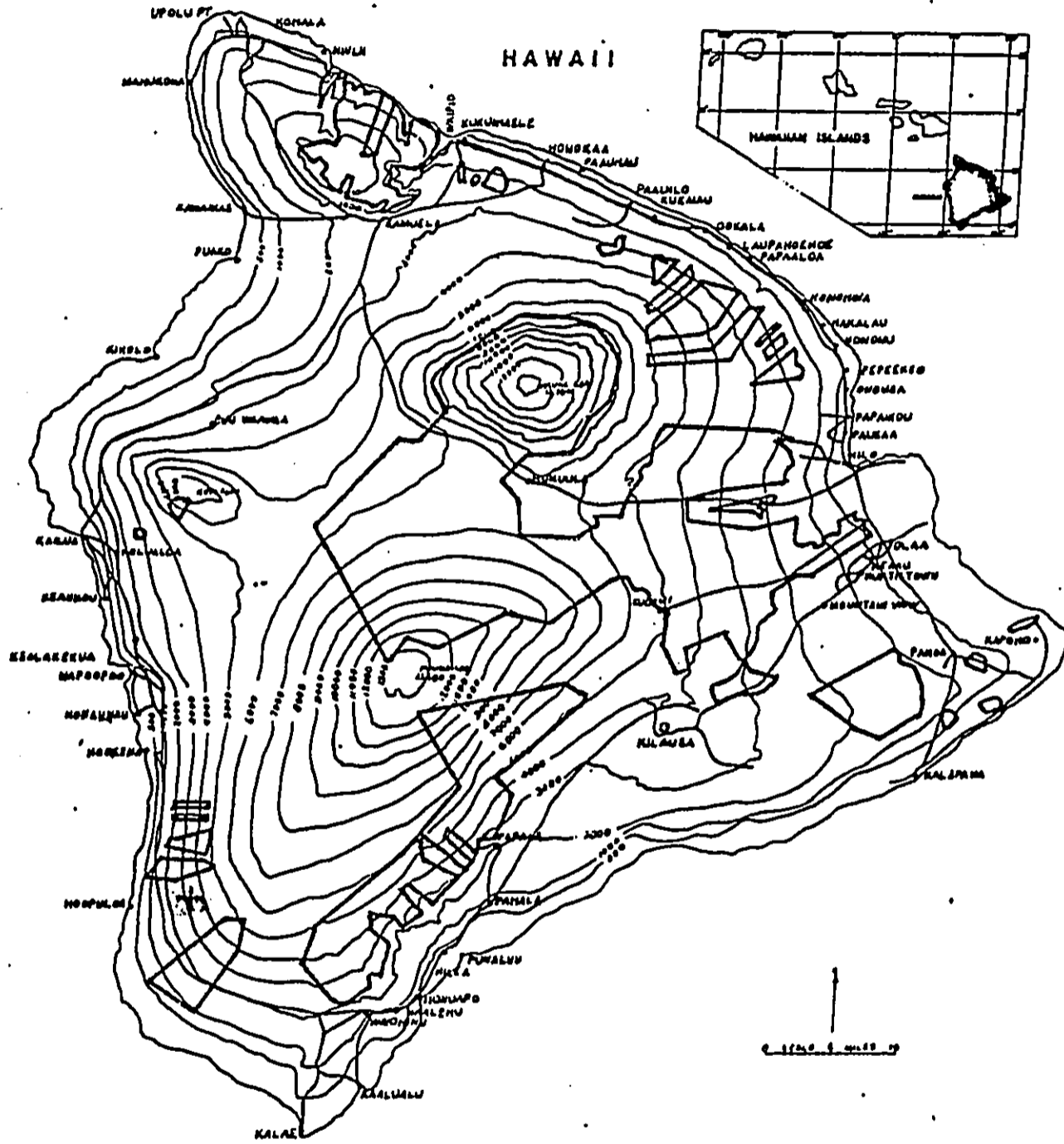
The project's impact are positive for DOFAW's program goals. The wildlife habitat and the forested watershed area will be increased, enhanced. More native plant species will be added to the plant species list for the Honomalino forest parcel. And important information on native forest establishment will be documented. This project is a major undertaking for the Hawaii Branch, DOFAW when considering the availability of personnel and funding. Reforestation projects using native plant species will be an ever increasing work load for the Branch.

V. REASON FOR FILING A NON-IMPACT STATEMENT:

The native plant species reforestation project is not expected to have a significant impact on the native biota and should not need to be addressed with a formal environmental impact statement. The proposed project will

enhance, increase the native forest resources in the State  
of Hawaii.

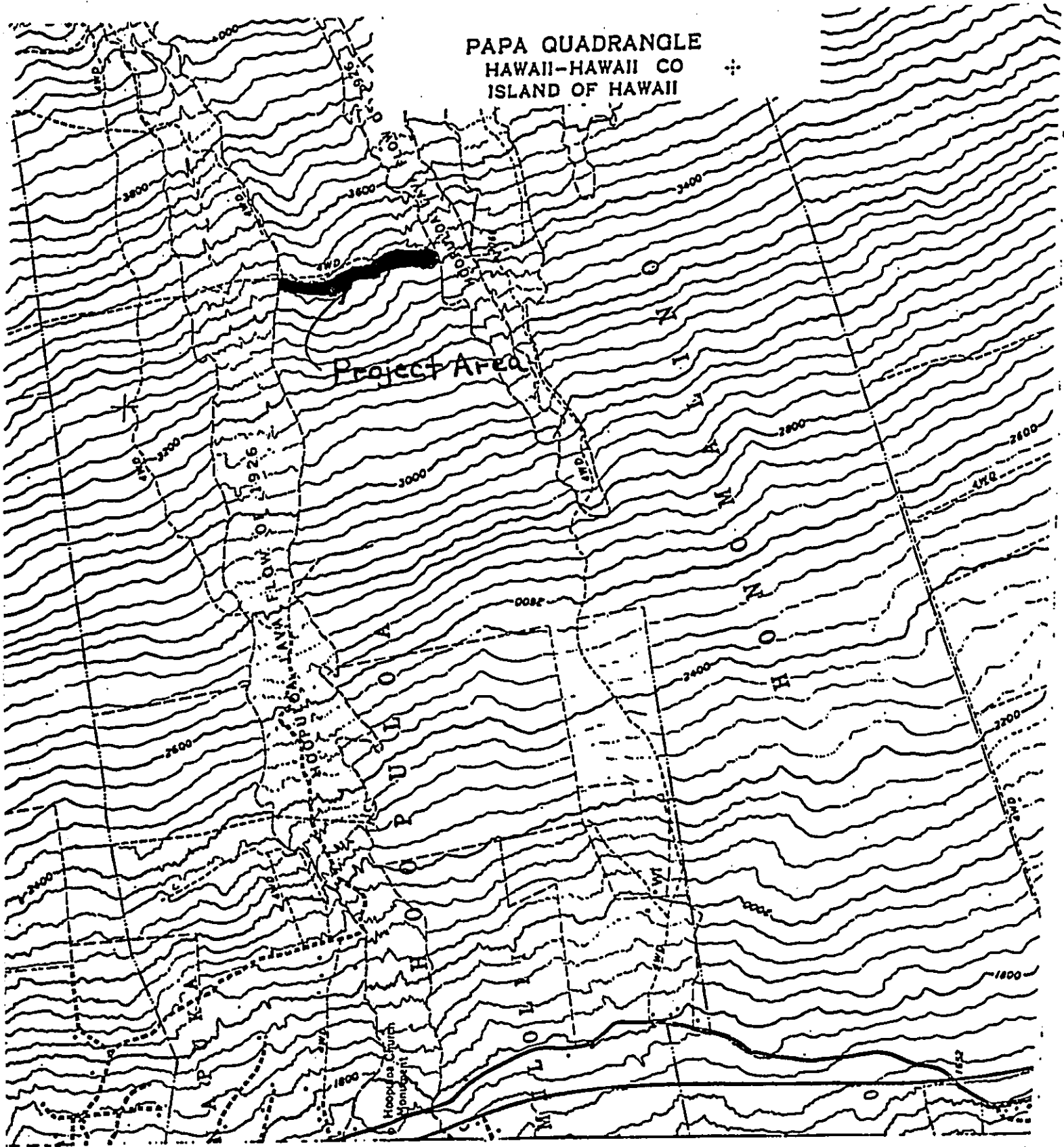
LOCATION MAP  
for  
Native Plant Species Reforestation  
at  
Honomalino, South Kona Forest Reserve



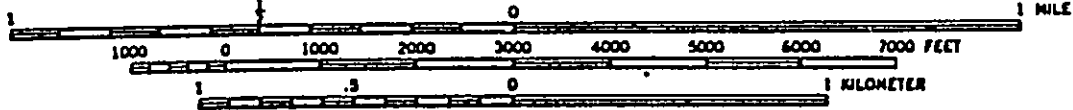
⊕ Project Site



PAPA QUADRANGLE  
HAWAII-HAWAII CO  
ISLAND OF HAWAII



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL