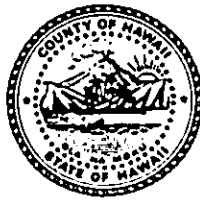


Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



RECEIVED

'93 APR 29 AIO:MS

George Yoshida
Director

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL
County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8311

April 28, 1993

Brian Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 South King Street, Fourth Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Negative Declaration for Hawaiian Beaches Headstart
and Preschool Facility, Puna, Hawaii
TMK: 1-5-67: 35

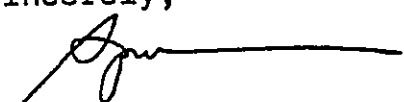
Dear Mr. Choy:

The Department of Parks & Recreation, County of Hawaii has reviewed comments received during the thirty day public comment period which began on October 8, 1992. The department has determined that this project will not have any significant environmental impact and has issued a negative declaration.

Enclosed is a completed OEQC Bulletin publication form and four copies of the final environmental assessment for publication in the May 8, 1993 OEQC Bulletin.

Thank you and please contact Glenn Miyao at 961-8311 if any questions should arise.

Sincerely,


George Yoshida
Director

encl

61

1993-05-08-HI-PEA- Hawaiian Beaches Head Start

MAY - 8 1993

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for proposed

HAWAIIAN BEACHES HEADSTART AND PRESCHOOL FACILITY

Applicant:

HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

Diana Kahler, Deputy Director

Agency:

COUNTY OF HAWAII

Department Of Parks & Recreation

George Yoshida, Director

Prepared by:

Plan Management Corporation

Kamuela, Hawaii

PREFACE

This document is prepared pursuant to the requirements of Chapters 341 and 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 200 of Title 11, Administrative Rules. It is prepared in support of an application for rezone of the project site.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

(1) Proposing Agency:

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council
34 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Telephone: 808-961-2681
Executive Director: George Yokoyama

(2) Approving Agency:

County of Hawaii
Office of Mayor
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Mayor: Stephen K. Yamashiro
Telephone: 808-961-8211

(3) Agencies Consulted in this Assessment:

See list in attached Appendix B.

(4) General Description of Proposed Action:

A. Technical

Construction of a one story, 6068 sq. ft. preschool building containing five classrooms, a covered central lanai play area and auxiliary office and support rooms. Paved drive way and parking cover approximately 6,000 sq. ft. of the 48,000 sq. ft. total project area, with the remaining area landscaped primarily with grass and small shrubs. The preschool will be serving approximately 100 children of qualifying low-income families.

B. Social and Economic

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council is a private, non-profit corporation whose mission is the alleviation of poverty and the conditions which cause poverty.

The Head Start program proposed for this project will provide and early childhood education for 100 children, ages 2 1/2 to 5 years. The program will be in operation from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM throughout the year. The facility will also be utilized in the evenings and on the weekends on an infrequent basis for workshops for Head Start parents and staff.

The program will be licensed by the Department of Human Services and will be in compliance with that agency's Rules Governing Licensing of Group Day Care Centers.

The goal of the Head Start program is to provide comprehensive developmental services, primarily to low-income preschool children. To help these children achieve their full potential Head Start provides comprehensive health, nutrition, educational, social and other services. In addition, parents are directly involved in all aspects of the program, from assisting in the classroom to setting policy for Head Start through it's Policy Council.

Approximately 300 children in the Pahoa area which surrounds the proposed facility have been identified by the Department of Human Services as surviving at or below the poverty level.

The Head Start program has been shown to help provide the opportunity for children and their families to break the cycles of failure and the resulting low self esteem which can perpetuate poverty.

C. Environmental Characteristics

Environmental disturbances during the construction of the facility may include some generation of dust and noise from the construction process. Truck deliveries of building materials will be less than one per day (average) during the six month construction period. Construction techniques are similar to those involved in residential construction.

During operation of the facility, traffic will increase by six to seven van-type bus arrivals and departures in both the morning and evening as well as arrivals and departures of six to eight private vehicles used by staff members.

(5) Description of Affected Environment:

A. Flora:

The project site is predominantly forested in Ohia, Lehua (*Metrosideros collina*), guava (*Psidium guajava*), hala (*Pandanus odoratissimus*), and strawberry guava (*Psidium cattelianum*). Understory vegetation consists primarily of Boston fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata bostoniensis*), Hilo grass (*Paspalum conjugatum*), basket grass (*Oplismenus hirtellus*), bamboo orchid and false staghorn fern (*Dicranopteris linearis*).

The surrounding vicinity has been heavily impacted by residential construction and the resultant introduction of imported landscaping plants. The project site is also adjacent to a ballfield and play area which is principally grass cover. The project area has been subject to this development and the intrusion of imported flora.

B. Fauna

Birds found in the project vicinity include: myna, golden plover, spotted dove, i'iwi, mockingbird, and cardinal.

Other animals include: mongoose, house mice, Norway rats, roof rats, polynesian rats and domesticated dogs and cats. Feral cats may also be found in the area.

C. Historical/Archeological and Cultural Sites

A survey of the project area revealed no evidence of archeological or cultural sites (See attached consultant comments).

D. Adjacent Natural Resources

The project site is approximately 1 1/2 mile from the coast. There are no known significant natural resources in the vicinity of the project other than potable water in the basal lens at sea level under the project site. However, since this lens persists under most of the island of Hawaii it is not a special resource.

E. Sensitive Habitats

There are no sensitive habitats that would be affected by the project.

F. Geologic and Climatic Features

Hawaii Island is the youngest of the Hawaiian Islands and is still in the process of formation by volcanic deposition. The project is in an area that is covered by olivine basaltic lava every several hundred years. Thus the soils are thin to non-existent. Agriculture is possible only by extensive preparation of the ground or importation of a planting medium.

Because the basaltic lava is very permeable, there are no surface water resources in the project area.

Slopes are less than 10% in the project area with no notable surface features.

The climate of the project area is tropical. The prevailing winds are northeast trade winds. The daily average temperature ranges from 75 degrees in the winter to 80 degrees in the summer. Rainfall averages 150 inches per year.

G. Recreational Resources

The closest recreational facilities are the county park facilities several hundred feet to northwest. These include picnic and pavilion areas, a baseball field and grass play area with playground equipment.

H. Infrastructure and Public Resources

Water is available from the Hawaiian Beaches private water system and is adequate for the proposed project. The site is served with electric power. No waste water sewer system is available in the area. Solid waste disposal services are available.

Paved road access lies along two sides of the project area. Emergency services of police, fire and ambulance are available from Pahoa town, three miles away.

(6) Identification and Summary of Major Impacts and Alternatives:

No significant adverse impacts upon land use patterns, infrastructural services, emergency services or the natural environment are anticipated. No other alternative sites are being considered.

(7) Proposed Mitigation Measures:

The proposed project will conform to all County, State and Federal regulations pertaining to air, water and noise pollution.

The design of the project calls for retention of existing vegetation whenever possible to provide visual and acoustic buffers.

(8) Determination:

See Draft Notice of Determination in attached Appendix A.

(9) Evidence Supporting the Determination:

See Draft Notice of Determination in attached Appendix A.

See attached Appendix C for agency comments and their responses.

ages 2 1/2 to 5 years. The program will be in operation from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM throughout the year. The facility will also be utilized in the evenings and on the weekends on an infrequent basis for workshops for Head Start parents and staff.

The program will be licensed by the Department of Human Services and will be in compliance with that agency's Rules Governing Licensing of Group Day Care Centers.

The goal of the Head Start program is to provide comprehensive developmental services, primarily to low-income preschool children. To help these children achieve their full potential Head Start provides comprehensive health, nutrition, educational, social and other services. In addition, parents are directly involved in all aspects of the program, from assisting in the classroom to setting policy for Head Start through it's Policy Council.

Approximately 300 children in the Pahoehoe area which surrounds the proposed facility have been identified by the Department of Human Services as surviving at or below the poverty level.

The Head Start program has been shown to help provide the opportunity for children and their families to break the cycles of failure and the resulting low self esteem which can perpetuate poverty.

C. Environmental Characteristics

Environmental disturbances during the construction of the facility may include some generation of dust and noise from the construction process. Truck deliveries of building materials will be less than one per day (average) during the six month construction period. Construction techniques are similar to those involved in residential construction.

During operation of the facility, traffic will increase by six to seven van-type bus arrivals and departures in both the morning and evening as well as arrivals and departures of six to eight private vehicles used by staff members.

(4) Determination

It is determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

(5) Reasons Supporting the Determination

Chapter 200 of Title 11, Administrative Rules of the Department of Health entitled "Environmental Impact Statement Rules" establishes criteria for evaluating whether an action may have a significant effect on the environment. The relationship of the proposed project to these criteria are discussed below:

- A. Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.

Due to the limited size of the project and the nature of the soils, flora and fauna present in the area that will be disturbed by the project, the project area cannot be considered a natural resource. No archeological, historical or cultural resources are present in the vicinity of the project area, or will be affected by the project outside the project area.

- B. Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

The project will not significantly affect drainage or runoff patterns, the nature of the prevailing flora or fauna beyond the project perimeter, or quality of water and air resources.

- C. Conflicts with the State's long term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any revisions thereof.

The project does not conflict with the above.

- D. Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or state; and

- E. Substantially affects public health.

Although the project will have positive effects on economic and social welfare and also, minimally, on public health, the project will not do so at a level that by itself could be considered significant.

- F. Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.

The project will have minimal, if any, secondary impacts.

APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

(1) Proposing Agency:

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council
34 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Telephone: 808-961-2681
Executive Director: George Yokoyama

(2) Approving Agency:

County of Hawaii
Office of Mayor
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Mayor: Lorraine Inouye
Telephone: 808-961-8211

(3) General Description of Proposed Action:

A. Technical

Construction of a one story, 6068 sq. ft. preschool building containing five classrooms, a covered central lanai play area and auxiliary office and support rooms. Paved drive way and parking cover approximately 6,000 sq. ft. of the 48,000 sq. ft. total project area, with the remaining area landscaped primarily with grass and small shrubs. The preschool will be serving approximately 100 children of qualifying low-income families.

B. Social and Economic

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council is a private, non-profit corporation whose mission is the alleviation of poverty and the conditions which cause poverty.

The Head Start program proposed for this project will provide and early childhood education for 100 children,

- G. Involves substantial degradation of environmental quality.

No substantial degradation of environmental quality will be caused by this project. The nature of the project involves no high risk components.

- H. Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger action.

The project will have minimal cumulative effect and since it is programmatically self-contained and complete it involves no commitment for future larger action.

- I. Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat.

No such species or habitats will be affected.

- J. Detrimentally affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels.

No detrimental effects on air or water quality. The slight increase in the ambient noise level from children at play is well within the existing ambient norm.

- K. Affects an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion prone area, geographically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters.

None of the above are present in the project area to be affected.

(6) Contact person for further information:

Diana Kahler
Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council
34 Rainbow Dr.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

APPENDIX B

IDENTIFICATION OF AGENCIES CONSULTED

Federal:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 50004
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96850

State of Hawaii:

Department of Health
1251 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Department of Education
1390 Miller St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

USO:

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
CRAWFORD 317
2550 CAMPUS RD.
HONOLULU, HI., 96822

TMK 1-5-67:35

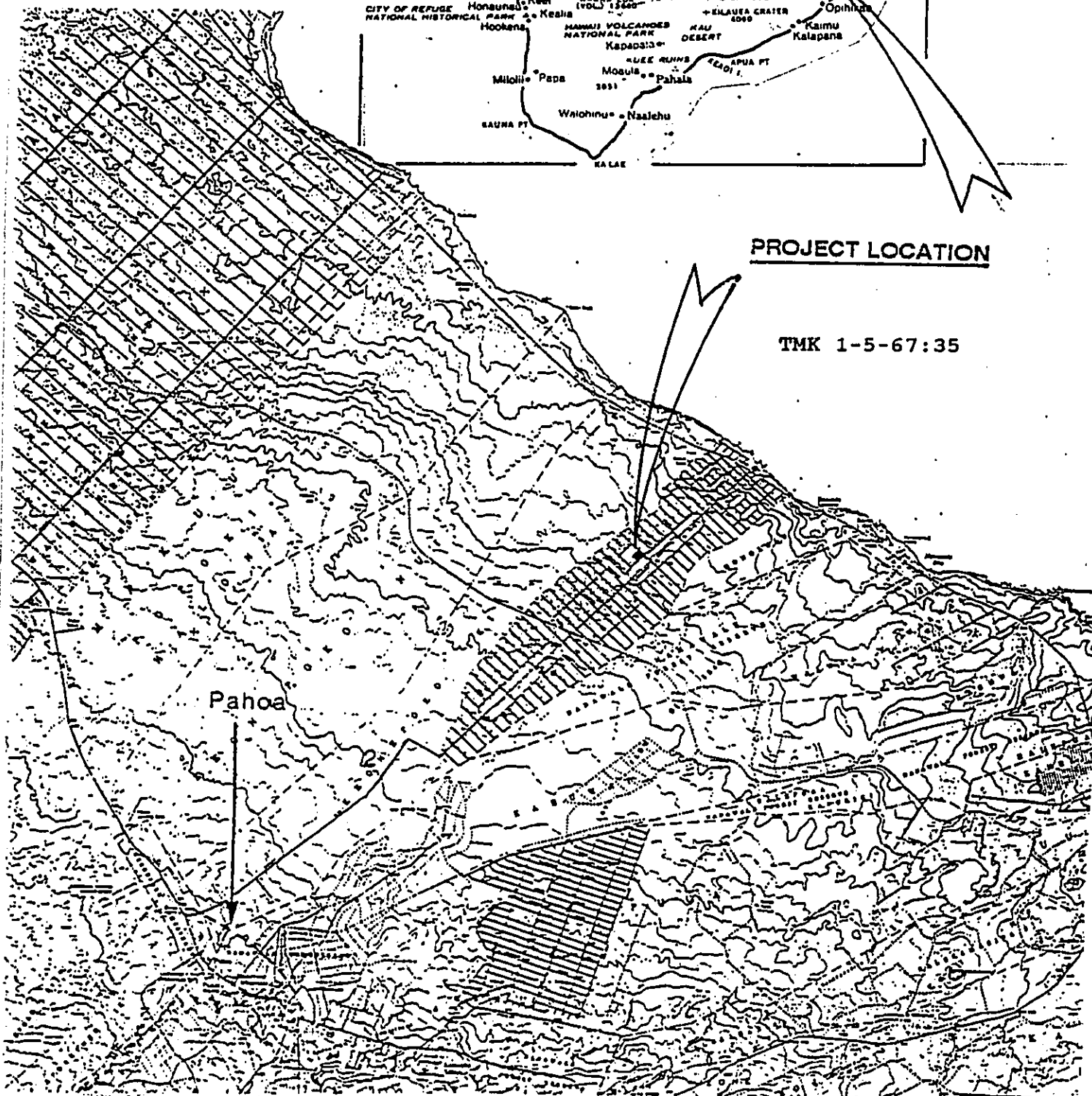
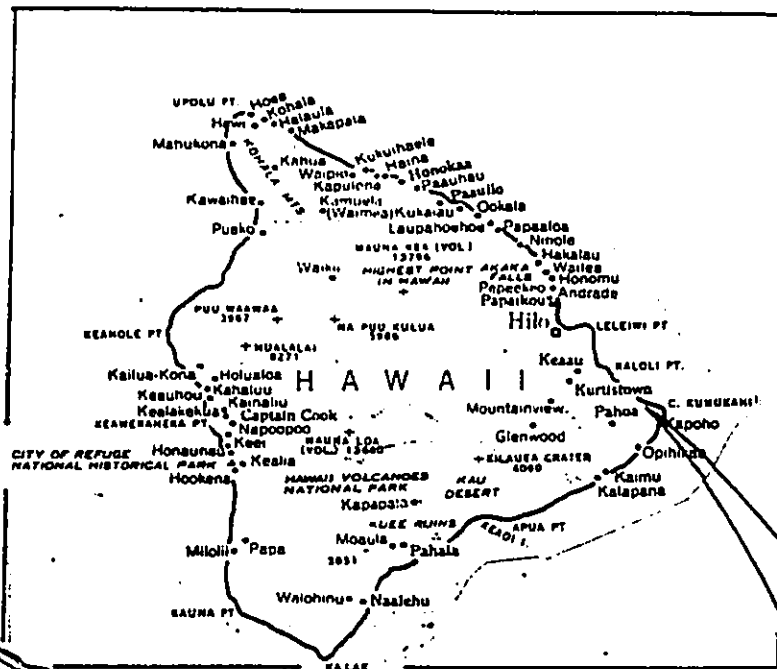
Department of Public Works
25 Aupuni St.
Hilo, HI 96720

Department of Water Supply
25 Aupuni St.
Hilo, HI 96720

APPENDIX C

Maps, Consultant Reports, Agency Comments

TMK 1-5-67:35



PROJECT LOCATION

TMK 1-5-67:35

CHINIAGO INC.

Archaeological Consulting
P. O. Box 2649
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
(808) 885-7262
FAX: 885-5655

August 8, 1992

Mr. William McCowatt
Plan Management Corporation
P. O. Box 2685
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Dear Mr. McCowatt:

Subject: Archaeological Reconnaissance in Puna [TMK: 1-5-67: 35]

On Friday, August 7, 1992 I conducted an archaeological reconnaissance of the above-referenced parcel of approximately two acres size. Approximately one-half of the parcel appears to have been bulldozed, probably at the time this sub-division was first established. The remainder of the property is primarily pahoehoe lava bedrock right at the surface with a vegetation cover of guava, ohia and ti, with occasional pandanus trees. This vegetation was relatively open and presented little hindrance to the conduct of the reconnaissance.

No archaeological or historical sites of any kind are present on the surface of the property. There is the remote possibility that a lava tube containing such remains may run beneath the property, and caution should therefore be exercised during grubbing and grading. If a lava tube should be broken into, the bulldozing should cease immediately and the Historic Preservation Division of the State of Hawaii should be notified.

If you have any questions, or if there is any way in which I might be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

William Barrera, Jr.
President

cc: Joe Clarkson



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
A Unit of Water Resources Research Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7361
Facsimile 956-3980

November 5, 1992
EA:00005

Ms. Charmaine Kamaka
County of Hawaii
Department of Parks and Recreation
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Ms. Kamaka:

Draft Environmental Assessment
Hawaiian Beaches Head Start and Preschool Facility
Puna, Hawaii

The proposed action involves construction of a one story, 6068 sq. ft. preschool building containing five classrooms, a covered central lanai play area and auxiliary office and support rooms. It also includes paving approximately 6,000 sq. ft. of the total 48,000 sq. ft. for a driveway and parking area. The facility is designed to serve approximately 100 children of qualifying low-income families.

The Environmental Center has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment, and we support the efforts of the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council to provide educational opportunities for children of low-income families in Puna. However, we do have some comments and suggestions concerning the content of the Draft Environmental Assessment.

Infrastructure and Public Resources

Firstly, the document states there is no waste water sewer system available (p.5), but an alternative waste water disposal system is not described in the project description. How is the waste water of 100 pupils and teachers going to be accommodated and what are the potential environmental impacts of an alternative waste water disposal system for the area? If the waste water disposal system includes septic tanks or cesspools how will these function relation to the highly permeable geologic conditions in the project area?

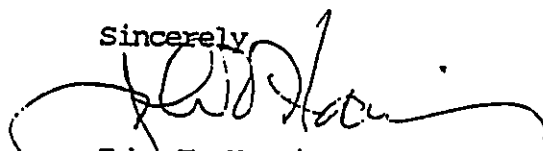
Ms. Charmaine Kamaka
November 5, 1992
Page 2

Proposed Mitigating Measures

Secondly, the document does not discuss any mitigating measures to accommodate an archaeological find in the project area. Will the project area be monitored for archaeological sites during construction and grading? We suggest that the state be notified if any archaeological sites are discovered during construction.

Again, the Environmental Center supports the intent of this action, and we hope our comments and suggestions have been helpful.

Sincerely,



John T. Harrison, PhD
Environmental Coordinator

cc: OEQC
Roger Fujioka
Diana Kahler ✓
Andrew Tomlinson

ll

Plan Management Corporation

P.O. Box 2685
Kamuela, HI 96743
Ph 808 . 885 . 8602
Fax 808 . 885 . 8602

4-22-93

John T. Harrison, PhD
Environmental Center
Crawford 317, 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822

Dr. Harrison

This letter is in response to your letter of comment in regards to:

Draft Environmental Assessment
Hawaiian Beaches Head Start Preschool Facility
Puna Hawaii

Infrastructure and Public Resources:

In response to your question regarding the handling of Wastewater for the students and staff you will find enclosed a letter from the State Department of Health approving our design for an Individual Wastewater System (septic system).

Proposed Mitigating Measures

No archeological evidence of habitation was found. The Archeological document did however state the possibility of the presence of lava tubes in the area and requires grading to cease in the event one is uncovered. A further Archeological inspection for possible burial sites would then be ordered and due mitigation determined by the contents (if any) that are discovered.

This letter should satisfy your inquiry.

Your office was the only agency or private party to make a comment in regard to our Draft Environmental Assessment and we plan to publish our final Environmental Assessment along with a Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact noted in the May 8, 1993 edition of the bulletin of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Sincerely



William McCowatt
Plan Management Corporation
For Hawaii County Eco. Opp. Council

attached:

approval letter - State Department of Health dated 4-19-93
comment letter - Environmental Center dated 11-5-92

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



JOHN C. LEWIN, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

April 19, 1993

In reply, please refer to:
EMD/WB

File No. 3085

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC)
c/o William McCowatt
P. O. Box 2685
Kamuela, HI 96743

Dear Mr. McCowatt:

Subject: Engineering Report
Individual Wastewater System
Owner: (HCEOC)
Location: Puni Makai Street, Hawaiian Beaches
TMK: (3) 1-5-67: 35

The plans for an individual wastewater system (IWS) serving a Head Start Facility on the subject property ~~have been approved~~ by the Department. The plans are in compliance with all applicable provisions of Title 11, Chapter 62, Hawaii Administrative Rules, "Wastewater Systems" and construction of the IWS may begin provided the following items are complied with:

1. Three feet of suitable soil, such as #4 sand, is placed below the gravel bed at the bottom of the trenches.
2. Section 11-62-08(g) required that an IWS be installed by a licensed contractor. In order for the Department to verify compliance with this provision, the attached contractor information form must be completed, signed and returned to the following address as soon as possible:

Jerry Nunogawa
Wastewater Branch
1582 Kamehameha Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Final inspection may be delayed without the completed form.

Please be informed that we are requiring that your engineer concur or approve of any changes to the wastewater system plans submitted to the Department. Such changes that require resubmission to the Department include, but are not limited to changes in the wastewater treatment unit or disposal system location, changes in materials originally specified for the treatment units or disposal system and changes in brand names of

products originally specified.

You must have the completed IWS inspected and approved in writing before the IWS can be used. Arrangements for the final inspection can be made by calling the Wastewater Branch at 933-4552 in Hilo. Please call 2 to 3 working days prior to the inspection date. At the present time, inspections are conducted on Wednesdays and Fridays.

As part of the final inspection, the absorption bed shall be constructed to the gravel layer over the drainpipe. Fabric cover may be installed, however, do not backfill over fabric. The following are additional requirements for inspection:

1. Top of septic tank shall be left uncovered. The sides of the tank may be backfilled.
2. Sewer pipe from the septic tank to D-box shall be uncovered to verify pipe slope.
3. Expose all drain pipe elbow and ends of drain pipe for measurement.
4. Under one of the drain pipe elbow, a hole shall be dug to expose the top of the soil replacement.
5. The invoice for soil replacement will be required at the time of inspection.

If the above items nos. 1-4 are not open at the time of inspection, we may require that you dig or re-expose the items for our inspection. Note: A copy of this letter should be given to your contractor so he knows the requirements for inspection.

Please be aware per Section 11-62-06(m), plans compliance and approval by the Department does not guarantee that your wastewater system will function or perform properly for any given period of time.

Should you have any questions, please call Jerry Nunogawa at 933-4552 in Hilo.

Sincerely,


DENNIS TULANG, P.E.
Chief, Wastewater Branch

Attachment: Contractor's Information Sheet

c: Septic Engineering, Hilo
H. Yee, WB, Honolulu



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720
TELEPHONE (808) 969-1421 • FAX (808) 969-6996


August 26, 1992

Plan Management Corporation
P.O. Box 2685
Kamuela, HI 96743

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED HAWAIIAN BEACHES HEADSTART AND PRESCHOOL FACILITY

Please be informed that the water system in the area is privately owned and operated.

The private water purveyor should be contacted for water concerns.


H. William Sewake
Manager

WA

... *Water brings progress...*

20

JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR



CHARLES T. TOGUCHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P. O. BOX 2380
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 27, 1992

Mr. Joseph R. Clarkson
Plan Management Corporation
P. O. Box 2685
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Dear Mr. Clarkson:

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment
Hawaiian Beaches Headstart and Preschool Facility
Puna, Hawaii TMK: 1-5-67: 35

We have reviewed the subject draft environmental assessment and ~~have no comment to make at this time.~~ We support efforts by the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council to provide early educational opportunities for the youngsters in the Puna District.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,


Charles T. Toguchi
Superintendent

CTT:hy

cc: A. Suga
A. Garson

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