MEMORANDUM

TO:       Mr. Brian Choy, Director
           Office of Environmental Quality Control

FROM:    Honorable Keith W. Ahue, Chairperson
           Department of Land and Natural Resources

Subject: Negative Declaration to Remove an Earth and Rock Berm
           from Tax Map Key: 3-9-10: 1 at Muralua, Oahu

The Department of Land and Natural Resources has reviewed the comments
received during the 30-day public comment period which began on October 8,
1993. We have determined that this project will not have significant
environmental effect and have issued a negative declaration. Please publish
this notice in the OEQC Bulletin as soon as possible.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form and four copies
of the final EA. Please contact Cathy Tilton of our Office of Conservation
and Environmental Affairs at 587-0377, if you have any questions.

Enclosures
FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
USE OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAND

Maunalua, Oahu, Hawaii

Prepared in Fulfillment of the Requirements
of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes
and Title 11, Chapter 200, Administrative Rules
State of Hawaii

Prepared For
Mr. and Mrs. Yoke Mo

By
Gerald Park Urban Planner

December, 1993
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUMMARY INFORMATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **APPLICANT:** | Mr. and Mrs. Yoke Mo  
2121 Old Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, California 94304 |
| **DETERMINING AGENCY:** | Board of Land and Natural Resources |
| **LOCATION:** | Kamahameha Ridge Subdivision  
Oahu, Hawaii |
| **TAX MAP KEY:** | 3-9-10: por. 1 |
| **LAND AREA:** | 893.43 Acres |
| **LANDOWNER:** | Kamahameha Schools/  
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate |
| **STATE LAND USE DESIGNATION:** | Conservation |
| **DEVELOPMENT PLAN DESIGNATION:** | Preservation |
| **ZONING:** | P-1 Restricted Preservation District |
| **EXISTING USE:** | Vacant |
| **CONTACT PERSON:** | Gerald Park  
Gerald Park Urban Planner  
1245 Young Street Suite 201  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 |
| **Phone:** | 533-0018 |

Note: Revisions to the contents of the Draft Environmental Assessment are shown in bold type and underscored.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECTION 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Need for the Project</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Technical Characteristics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Economic Characteristics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Social Characteristics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION 3 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Assessment Process</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Short-term Impacts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Long-term Impacts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION 4 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION 5 AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX A Letter From Kamehameha Schools/ Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX B Comments and Responses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Location Map</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Existing Site Plan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 1
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Mr. and Mrs. Yoke Mo requests a Conservation District Use Permit to remove an earth and rock berm along and fronting the western edge of their residential lot located in the Kamehame Ridge Subdivision, Maunalua, Oahu, Honolulu, Hawaii. The berm is situated on tax map key 3-9-10: por. 1 which encompasses an area of approximately 894 acres. A Location Map is shown in Figure 1.

A. Need for the Project
The berm is neither part of nor on applicant’s property. At one time approximately one-half of the feature was on applicant’s lot and was removed by rough grading. Removing the remaining portion will improve a panoramic view of Hawaii Kai from applicant’s lot.

B. Technical Characteristics
The triangular shaped earth and rock berm abuts approximately three-fourths of the west edge of the Mo Property (TMK: 3-9-106: 71). Beginning in the southwest corner, the berm measures about 30’0” wide at its base (south side), stands approximately 60” high on its downslope side which tapers to approximately 30” high on the upslope side, and is approximately 110 feet in length. Its area is estimated at 1,650 square feet and its volume at 185 cubic yards.

The berm will be removed using conventional construction equipment (a backhoe) and rough graded to approximately elevation 475’. The excavated material will be hauled away by the Contractor.

Applicant also requests permission to erect a temporary barrier or fence downslope of the work site. The barrier would be used to trap material that may be accidentally dislodged during grading. The size of the barrier and material to be used (wood planks or sheets, heavy duty plastic chain link matting) for trapping debris will be determined by the consulting engineer and contractor. The temporary barrier will be removed after grading is completed and the fence line restored to pre-construction conditions.

C. Economic Characteristics
The cost of the proposed activity is estimated at $15,000.00. Work will commence after all necessary approvals are received and will be completed within three (3) months.

The subject property is owned by Kamehameha School/Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate. The Estate through its land manager has approved applicant’s request to remove the berm (See Appendix A).

D. Social Characteristics
Applicant’s lot and neighboring lots on either side are vacant. The owner of the lot to the north is erecting retaining walls as a prelude to construction of a dwelling.
EXISTING CONDITIONS SHOWN WERE TAKEN FROM CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND SHALL BE FIELD VERIFIED PRIOR TO DEVELOPING BUILDING SITE PLANS. BEDFORD PROPERTIES, INC. AND THEIR AGENTS ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DIFFERENCES FROM ACTUAL FIELD CONDITIONS.

Figure 2
EXISTING SITE PLAN
KAMEHAME RIDGE SUBDIVISION
UNIT II, PHASE IIA, LOT 45
SCALE: 1"=30'
PREPARED: 26FEB91

NA PALI HANEO
F.P. 2028 LOT 7
SECTION 2
DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The 6-foot high berm is located along a short section Kamehame Ridge overlooking Kamioloiki Valley. The valley and flat lands below comprise Hawaii Kai—East Honolulu’s largest suburban residential community. Kamehame Ridge is one of the newer single-family residential developments in Hawaii Kai.

The top of the berm is at approximately elevation 480 which is about 5 feet higher than finished grade of the Mo parcel (475' elevation). The berm straddles the west boundary line of the Mo property and that half on the Mo property has been graded. The remaining half is not part of the subdivision and apparently was left as is. On its downslope side, the terrain slopes steeply (50%) to the valley floor. No improvements of any kind were observed immediately below the berm.

The berm is primarily basaltic lava about 5 1/2 to 6 feet thick and topped by a thin soil layer. This soil is classified Rock Land by the Soil Conservation Service (1972). The thin soil supports dry pili grass on top and scattered koa haole (Leucaena leucocephala) and small opiuma (Pithecellobium dulce) trees on its downslope side. The vegetation types are common throughout Hawaii and are not considered rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Flood insurance rate maps classify the area as Zone D which is defined as “areas in which flood hazards are undetermined” (FEMA, 1990). This rating combined with an evaluation of the soil type strongly suggests that the land is not susceptible to soil erosion.

There are no archaeological or cultural features on the berm (Field Observation, 1993).

No wildlife was observed at the time of our field survey.

The berm is part of a larger parcel (approximately 894 acres) classified Conservation by the State Land Use Commission and designated Limited Subzone by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. It is general planned Preservation (East Honolulu Development Plan Land Use Map) and zoned P-1 Restricted Preservation by the City and County of Honolulu.

Although the Mo property is served by all major utilities and accessible from Waipili Place, there is no utility service to the subject property. However, a 5-foot wide easement over the Mo property along the north property boundary is reserved in favor of Hawaiian Electric Company for maintenance access (Department of Land Utilization, 92/PU-15).
SECTION 3

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS

A. Assessment Process

The scope of the project was discussed with applicant's local representative and staff of the Conservation and Resource Enforcement Division, Department of Land and Natural Resources. State and county agencies were consulted for information relative to their areas of expertise. Time was spent in the field noting site conditions and conditions in the vicinity of the project area. The discussions and field investigations allowed us to identify existing conditions which could affect or be affected by the project. These conditions are:

- The downslope section of the berm is part of a steep ridge;
- Part of the berm was previously removed by grading of applicant's lot;
- There are no cultural features on the ground surface;
- There are no threatened or endangered flora or fauna on the premises;

A. Short-term Impacts

Removing the berm is expected to be completed within three (3) months. The action will raise fugitive dust, create noise, and alter the contour of a small section of the Conservation district.

Grading will raise fugitive dust. Dust cannot be eliminated entirely but can be controlled by sprinkling water over exposed areas or by employing other dust suppression measures stipulated in Chapter 60 (Air Pollution Control), Title 11, Administrative Rules, State Department of Health.

Temporary and unavoidable construction noise is expected. However, there are no noise sensitive locations in the immediate vicinity of the Mo property and the existing acoustical environment already is conditioned by construction noises from nearby job sites.

The site of the berm will be graded to match the grade of the Mo property which is approximately elevation 475 feet. Given its relatively small size and location in an area that already has been improved suggests that the proposed action will neither significantly affect the ground surface and soil regime nor create erosion problems. The berm site will be sloped slightly to drain into applicant's lot and and the drainage gradient created for the lot. A grading permit will be obtained from the Department of Public Works. City and County of Honolulu before any work is started.

There have been no recent reports of failing rock resulting from residential development on the ridge. To ensure the safety of residences on the valley floor below, applicant will erect a temporary barrier or fence downslope of the work area. The barrier would trap material that could be accidentally dislodged during construction. The temporary barrier will be removed following completion of the proposed activity.
C. Long-term Impacts

Removing the berm will neither significantly alter the character of the land nor conflict with the objectives of the Limited subzone designation of the Conservation district. The berm is the remnant of a minor natural feature, is indistinguishable from the many rock outcrops along the ridge, serves no real purpose, and already has been partially altered.

This section of the conservation district is unused and the steep slopes preclude access by the public.

Applicant's request is considered unique because their property fronts a 6-foot high berm situated on Conservation land. A survey of adjoining properties reveals that applicant's lot is the only one with this unusual condition. It is uncertain if the proposed action would establish a precedent for similar requests. Requests for the use of conservation lands similar to applicant's would have to be evaluated on a case by case basis.

The landowner, Kamehamea Schools/Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate, does not object to removing the berm (See Appendix A) and applicant does not propose to use any portion of the conservation land after the berm is removed. All residential improvements will be confined to within the boundaries of their property. However, if required, applicant is willing to plant and maintain drought resistant groundcover to negate potential soil loss. The type of groundcover to be planted will be determined at a later time.

Removing the berm will enhance applicant's view of areas below but should not degrade the public view of the ridge from areas below. Applicant's lot is approximately 800-900 feet away from house lots on the valley floor and is the only lot with an earthen berm on its downslope side. At this distance, the removal of a 6-foot high by 110 foot long outcrop (in relationship to surrounding residential lots) should not be noticeable. Without the berm, the downslope edge of applicant's lot will be similar in form and appearance as that of adjoining lots on either side.
SECTION 4

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

The only real alternative is the no action alternative. Maintaining the status quo would preclude all environmental impacts both beneficial and adverse, short and long-term, described in this Assessment.
SECTION 5

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED IN THE
PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

State
*Department of Health
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Department of Land and Natural Resources
*Aquatic Resources
*Forestry and Wildlife
*Historic Preservation Division
*Natural Area Reserves Systems
*State Parks
*Water and Land Development

County
*Department of Public Works
*Planning Department

Other
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.
APPENDIX A

Letter from Kamehameha Schools/
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate
August 18, 1992

Mr. Yoke K. No
2121 Old Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Dear Mr. No:

Request to Enter Conservation Land, TMK 139-016-071, Kamehame Ridge Subdivision, Unit II, Maunalua

This is in response to your letter of August 5, 1992 regarding the above subject.

Upon review of the construction plans for this subdivision in our files, we can find no evidence of any earthwork barrier erected by our developer on Conservation land outside of the North boundary of this lot as part of the subdivision improvements. Since it does not appear that the two-foot high berm serves any construction purpose, we have no objection to your removing the existing "barrier" only along the length of the lot for the purpose of improving his view subject to the following conditions:

1. Obtaining State approval of a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) and submitting a copy to our office.

2. Obtaining City approval of a grading plan and permit and submitting a copy to our office.

3. Issuance of a Right-of-Entry permit by our office for access to the subject area (this may be obtained upon request once conditions one and two have been completed).

An executed copy of the CDUA is enclosed for your transmittal to the State.

Please call me at 523-6247 if I can be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,

Alike Neves
Land Manager
Urban Oahu

AN:ich
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Stan Maeda
TO: Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS Conservation District Use Application

APPLICANT: Yoko K. Ho

FILE NO.: OA-2667

REQUEST: Remove an Earth Berm

LOCATION: Kamehameha Ridge Subdivision, Honolulu, Oahu

TIME(S): 3-9-96; por. 1

PUBLIC HEARING: YES || NO X

EXCHANGE: Please conduct a field inspection on this project. Should you require additional information, please call Cathy Tilton at 7-0377.

If no response is received by the suspense date, we will assume there are no comments.

Attachment(s)

OGDEN HAS NO COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REQUEST.

cc: Oahu District

Attachment(s)

OGDEN HAS NO COMMENTS ON OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REQUEST.

cc: Oahu District
TO: Mr. Roger Evans, Administrator
Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs

FROM: Manabu Tagomori, Manager-Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: 93-2567, Earth Berm at Kanehuna Ridge, Hawaii Kai

The earth berm removal grading work should be done in such a manner so as to prevent erosion during and after grading and maintain the existing drainage pattern. Redirecting and increasing run-off should be avoided.

GAfC
November 29, 1993

Rafaela Nagas
State Parks Administrator
State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Nagas:

Subject: Conservation District Use Permit

TMR: 5-9-10
File No. OA-91/93-2667

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the subject project. We offer the following response to your comments.

Removing the berm will enhance applicant's view of area below but should not degrade the public view of the ridge from area above. Applicant's lot is approximately 300-500 feet away from house on the valley floor and is the only lot on an earth berm on its downslope side. At this distance, the removal of a 4-foot high by 110 feet long berm in relationship to surrounding residential lots should not be noticeable. Without the berm, the downslope edge of applicant's lot will be similar in form and appearance as that of adjoining lots on either side.

Your comments will be included in the Final Environmental Assessment. Please call me at 533-0618 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK URBAN PLANNER

Gerald Park

cc: Y. Mo
K. Titon, DLNR-OSEA

---

Dean Charles

Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs
Honolulu, Hawaii

FILE NO.: OA-91/93-2667
180-Day Exp. Date: 2/28/94
DEPARTMENT DUE: 31 Days
DOC. NO.: 3467

SEP 23 93

☑

SEVERE

Aquatic Resources; Conservation & Resources Enforcement; Forestry & Wildlife; Historic Preservation Division; Land Management; Natural Area Reserve System; State Parks; Water and Land Development; Commission on Water Resource Management

OFFICE: Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS Conservation District Use Application

APPLICANT: Yoke K. Ho

FILE NO.: OA-9967

REQUEST: Remove an Earth Berm

LOCATION: Kenmune Ridge Subdivision, Honolulu, Oahu

DM(s): 3-9-10; par. 1

PUBLIC HEARING: YES ☐ NO ☑

REOUIRED: Please conduct a field inspection on this project. Should you require additional information, please call Cathy Titon at 733-1377.

If no response is received by the response date, we will assume there are no comments.

September 28, 1993

We do not see any public benefit by this request. If anything, a view enhancement from the applicant's perspective would probably result in a degradation of the public view looking up toward this area.

Rafaela Nagas, State Parks Administrator
MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger C. Evans, Administrator
Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs

FROM: Don Hibbard, Administrator
Historic Preservation Division

SUBJECT: Conservation District Use Application, Remove an Earth Berm at Kamahana Ridge Subdivision (File No. OA-93-02-2667)
Massena, Kaneohe, O'ahu
DATE: 3-8-93

October 13, 1993

LOG NO: 9604
DOC NO: 9310712

Honorable Keith M. Aube, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 623
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Attention: Ms. Cathy Tilton

Dear Ms. Tilton:

Conservation District Use Application OA-2667 to remove an earth and rock berm from Tax Map Key: 1-8-58 at Kamahana Ridge Subdivision, Kaneohe, O'ahu.

In response to your letter of September 23, 1993, we have reviewed the subject application and have no objections to the proposed project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Tim Hata of our staff at 587-6676.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

ROBIN FOSTER
Chief Planning Officer

October 11, 1993

[Stamp]
November 29, 1993

John C. Lewis, M.D., Director
Department of Health
State of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Dear Dr. Lewis:

Subject: Conservation District Use Permit

Yoke K. Mo
DOH File: 93-2131/vpp

Thank you for your comments to the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the subject project. We offer the following responses to your comments:

a. If this CDUA request is approved, applicant plans to grade the berm during the low rainfall months as you suggest.

b. Applicant is willing to plant and maintain drought resistant groundcover to reduce potential soil loss. The type of groundcover to be planted will be determined at a later date.

c. The berm site will be graded to slope slightly into catchment for and the drainage gravel area used for the toe.

d. A grading permit will be obtained from the Department of Public Works, City and County of Honolulu before any work is started.

Your comments will be included in the final Environmental Assessment. Please call me at 468-4001 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK URBAN PLANNER

Gerald Park

cc: Y. Mo, K. Yim, DLNR-OCEA

To: The Honorable Keith W. Aune, Chairperson
Department of Land & Natural Resources

From: John C. Lewis, M.D., Director of Health

Subject: Conservation District Use Application

Applicant: Yoke K. Mo
File No.: 93-2131/vpp
Request: Removal of Earth Berm
Location: Kaaahoe Ridge Subdivision

Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the subject request. We have the following comments to offer:

Nonpoint Source Pollution Concerns

Steps should be taken to minimize erosion from construction activities. Proper planning, design and use of erosion control measures substantially reduce the total volume of runoff generated, thereby decreasing sediment load. Suggested measures that should be considered are:

a. Conduct grading and grading activities during the low rainfall months (April - October).

b. Replant or cover bare areas with drought resistant plants as soon as possible after grading, or construction is completed. New plantings will require soil amendments, fertilizers, and temporary irrigation to become established.

c. Drainage pattern for this property should not be altered to prevent erosion of newly graded area.

A grading permit for this project should be obtained from the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Public Works before any work is started. As there is a great potential for soil erosion with this project, strict adherence to the City & County's grading permit conditions must be observed.

If you should have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Shirley Nakamura of the Environmental Planning Office at 506-4137.

C: Environmental Planning Office
October 18, 1993

Mr. Keiki W. Ahue
Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
P.O. Box 821
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Ahue:

Subject: Your Letter of September 23, 1993, Relating to a Conservation District Use Permit Application No. 01-2667 to Remove an Earth and Rock Berm in Kahaluu Ridge Subdivision. Tax Map Rev. 3-5-10-61

We have reviewed the application and have the following comments:

ENGINEERING:

Access onto the subject area shall be through the applicant's property.

Existing roadway improvements on the access road to the project site that are disturbed during the removal work shall be restored to its original or better condition at no cost to the City.

The applicant should check if the berm is historical burial ground.

Should there be any questions, please call Faith Kunimoto at extension 5984.

REFUSE COLLECTION:

None.

Very truly yours,

C. Michael Street
Director and Chief Engineer

November 29, 1993

C. Michael Street, Director and Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Street:

Subject: Conservation District Use Permit

TMX: 3-9-10-61
DFW No. 93-14-0730

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the subject project. We offer the following responses to your comments.

a. Access to the subject area during construction will be through applicant's property.

b. Applicant and the contractor will be responsible for repairing damages to the access road to the project site that are disturbed by removal work.

c. The Historic Preservation Division, DLNR has indicated that the berm is not a historic site. Should subsurface deposits be uncovered during construction work in the affected area will cause and historic authorities summoned to inspect the site.

Your comments will be included in the final Environmental Assessment. Please call me at 533-0618 if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK URBAN PLANNER

Gerald Park

cc: Y. Mo
K. Tilton, DLNR-OCEA

Very truly yours,