

COUNTY OF KAUAI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Division of Parks & Recreation
4193 Hardy Street
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766
241-6670
Fax 241-6409

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

October 10, 1994

Mr. Brian J. J. Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 S. King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Negative Declaration for Kamalani Playground, Lydgate Park
TMK 3-9-06-1, Wailua, Kauai, Hawaii

The County of Kauai, Dept. of Public Works, Div. of Parks & Recreation has received no comments during the 30-day public comment period which began on September 8, 1994. We have determined that this project will not have a significant environmental effect and has issued a negative declaration. Please publish this notice in the October 23, 1994.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form and four copies of the final EA. Please contact me at 241-6668 if you have any questions.



Carl T. Emura
Park Planner

Enclosures

1994-10-23-KA-PEA-Kamalani Playground at
Lydgate Park

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Kamalani Playground
Lydgate Park
Wailua, Kauai, Hawaii**

Prepared by
**County of Kauai
Department of Public Works
Division of Parks and Recreation
4193 Hardy Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766**

October 10, 1994

OEQC BULLETIN PUBLICATION FORM

TITLE OF PROJECT: Kamalani Playground
Lydgate Park, Wailua
LOCATION: ISLAND Kauai DISTRICT Kawaihau
TAX MAP KEY : 3-9-06-1

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Type of Action: AGENCY APPLICANT _____

Applicable State or Federal Statute:

Chapter 343, HRS _____ Chapter 205A, HRS _____ NEPA (Federal Actions Only) _____

Type of Document:

<input type="checkbox"/> Draft Environmental Assessment (Negative Declaration anticipated)	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> NEPA NOP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final Environmental Assessment (Negative Declaration)	<input type="checkbox"/> Final EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> NEPA Draft EIS
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Environmental Assessment (EIS Preparation Notice)	<input type="checkbox"/> NEPA FONSI	<input type="checkbox"/> NEPA Final EIS

Type of Revision (if applicable):

Revised _____ Supplemental _____ Addendum _____ Other (please explain) _____

Prior to general distribution, please submit to OEQC: 4 copies of the Draft EA, Final EA (Negative Declaration or EIS Preparation Notice), 4 copies of the Draft EIS or Final EIS (For Draft and Final EISs an additional copy is mailed to OEQC.)

PROPOSING AGENCY OR APPLICANT SHOULD SUBMIT COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS TO THE APPROVING AGENCY OR ACCEPTING AUTHORITY PRIOR TO SUBMITTING COPIES TO OEQC.

APPROVING AGENCY OR

ACCEPTING AUTHORITY: County of Kauai
Planning Dept.
ADDRESS: 4444 Rice Street
Lihue, Kauai 96766
CONTACT: Brian Mamaclay PHONE: 241-6677

PROPOSING AGENCY OR

APPLICANT: County of Kauai
Division of Parks and Recreation
ADDRESS: 4193 Hardy Street
Lihue, Kauai 96766
CONTACT: Carl T. Emura PHONE: 241-6668

CONSULTANT: _____
ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT: _____ PHONE: _____

COMMENT PERIOD END DATE: October 8, 1994

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CONDITIONS WHICH TRIGGERED THE EIS LAW: PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE PROPOSED ACTION.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Use of State or County lands or funds
HRS 343-5(a)(1)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Use of lands in the Waikiki Special District
HRS 343-5(a)(5)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Use of Conservation District Lands
HRS 343-5(a)(2)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Amendment to a County General Plan
HRS 343-5(a)(6)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Use of Shoreline Setback Area
HRS 343-5(a)(3)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reclassification of Conservation Lands
HRS 343-5(a)(7)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Use of Historic Site or District
HRS 343-5(a)(4)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Construction or modification of helicopter facilities
HRS 343-5(a)(8)</i> |

OTHER CONDITIONS:

- Use of Special Management Area (City & County of Honolulu)*
- Other* _____*

* *If the project does not trigger HRS 343, please explain why document is being submitted to OEQC.*

SUMMARY of the proposed action or project to be published in the OEQC Bulletin. Please submit it as a summary ready for publication. The description should be brief (300 words or less), yet provide sufficient detail to convey the full impact of the proposed action.

NOTE: Since the deadline for EIS submittal is so close to the publication date for the OEQC Bulletin, please assist us by bringing the Document for Publication Form and a computer disk with the project description (size 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" disk are acceptable; preferably WordPerfect 5.1 or ASCII text format) to the Office of Environmental Quality Control as early as possible. Thank you.

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1. Location Map
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This environmental assessment (EA) is prepared pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The proposed action is an agency action, involving the expenditure of County funds and use of County lands.

The proposed action being assessed herein is the construction of the Kamalani Playground on the grounds of Lydgate Park adjacent to the Kauai Resort Hotel.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Kamalani Playground will encompass approximately 16,000 square feet of land area within the Lydgate park complex. It will include play areas for two age groups, children 5 years and below and those over 5 years. There are over 60 play stations for the children to interact with. Some of the stations include: swings, slides, platforms, ladders, tactile games, etc. Bark surface material will be provided in portions of the playground making the park accessible to disabled children. A six-foot walkway will provide access from the parking lot to the playground as well as to the existing large and small pavilions. The walkway does not exceed a 3 1/2% slope. The playground will be centered in the flat area between the large pavilion, the County sewage treatment plant and the Kauai Resort Cabanas.

Funding for the improvements are jointly being provided for by the County of Kauai and private donations. The playground will be built by community volunteers between Oct 13-15 and Oct 19-23. Lydgate Park was selected because of it's high usage by the local community, it's central location between Kauai's major population center and it's central location on the island.

Maintenance of the facilities and site will be provided by community volunteers. The "Friends of Kamalani Playground" has been formed to provide this service. The maintenance effort will be aided by \$25,000, which will be set aside specifically for this purpose.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Physical Characteristics

3.1.1 Location

The proposed playground will be situated on the grounds of the County's Lydgate Park, adjacent to and south of the Kauai Resort Hotel. The proposed playground facilities will be constructed between the County's wastewater treatment plant and the large pavilion on the property. To the west of Lydgate Park is a cane field on State land leased by Lihue Plantation Company. To the east, across the Lydgate driveway, are two popular swimming ponds on the beach.

The property is further identified as TMK: 3-9-06: 1. The portion of the Tax parcel upon which the facility will be located is approximately 24 acres.

3.1.2 Climate and Air Quality

The island of Kauai is a semitropical environment. Annual rainfall varies around the island. The subject site receives approximately 40 to 50 inches per year. Winds are predominantly out of the northeast averaging between 10 to 13 knots. Average temperatures range between 67 degree Fahrenheit (low) to 85 degree Fahrenheit (high)

3.1.3 Geology

The island of Kauai is the oldest, northernmost, and most complicated structurally of the eight major islands. The Kauai land mass is believed to be attributed to two major volcanic activities, the Waimea Canyon volcanic series and the Koloa volcanic series.

The Waimea Canyon volcanic series is thought to have originated from a huge shield volcano. Principal volcanic activity of this series began and ended in the Pleistocene Epoch of the Tertiary period.

The Koloa volcanic series occurred after a long period of inactivity. Lava from this series covered the older Waimea Canyon series. The Koloa volcanic series are mostly dense to moderately dense. The lava flows are predominantly of a`a, although pahoehoe is also present.

3.1.4 Topography

The proposed site is on a sea-level plain south of Wailua Bay. The site is at an elevation of approximately 5 feet above mean sea level.

3.1.5 Flood Hazard

According to Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 150002-0140 C, dated March 4, 1987, the proposed site is not in the tsunami zone. Portions of the property are in the AE and VE zones but these zones do not extend to the proposed playground area.

3.1.6 Water Quality

3.1.6.1 Surface Water

Lydgate Park is situated at the lower elevation than the surrounding parcels and the sand dunes across the driveway extension of Nalu Road. Therefore, the property acts as a retention basin for storm waters during periods of heavy rains. No surface runoff from the proposed facility or the property will enter the ocean.

3.1.6.2 Marine Waters

The site is approximately 500 feet west of the Pacific Ocean. The State DOH classifies the ocean outside of Lydgate Park as Class "A" water. The DOH objective for Class "A" waters is that they be used for recreational purposes and that aesthetic enjoyment is protected. The proposed playground will not interfere with the propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and will be compatible with recreation in these waters.

3.1.7 Flora and Fauna

3.1.7.1 Flora

No rare or endangered plant species have been observed on the subject property. Endemic plant species on the property and in the general area include ti (*Cordyline terminalis*), staghorn fern (*Dicranopteris linearis*), and hau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*). Exotic plant species observed in the Wailua vicinity include: radiate fingergrass (*Chloris radiata*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), demanthus (*Demanthus virgatus*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*), hilo grass (*Paspalum conjugatum*), guava (*Psidium guava*), bristly foxtail (*Setaria verticillata*), and cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*)

3.1.7.2 Fauna

Native water birds are present and have been observed on site. However, because of the low elevation, few nesting areas are in the vicinity of the project site. As the property is void of any water feature, standing water or wetland, none of the endangered species, the Koloa duck, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian Gallinule, Hawaiian stilt or the Nene goose have been observed. Birds such as the American dove, mourning dove, golden plover, sandpiper, mynah, white-eye, Brazilian cardinal, Red Cardinal, and feral chicken have also been observed.

Mammals typically found in the project site vicinity include the black rat, Hawaiian rat, house mouse, and feral cat.

3.2 Social and Economic Characteristics

3.2.1 Noise

The ambient noise levels are generally low to moderate at the park. As the site is relatively isolated from any noxious activity no adverse noise impacts are anticipated.

3.2.2 Aesthetics

Based on the proposed design of the playground, it anticipated that the facility will blend quite nicely with the existing park structures. The playground will enhance, rather than detract from the recreational aspects of the Lydgate park.

3.2.3 Land Ownership and Use

Lydgate park is currently owned by the County of Kauai. It is considered a beach park and was formerly owned by the State of Hawaii, under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Parks Division. Ownership of the park was exchanged several years ago. The property is a very popular regional recreational destination for all residents of the island.

3.2.3.2 Lihue Development Plan

The Lihue Development Plan is used as an administrative guide to the long range policies for development outlined in the County General Plan. The project area is designated Park in the development plan and therefore the proposed use is consistent with this planning guide.

3.2.3.2 County Zoning

Like the development plan, the zoning for the property is conducive for the proposed action. The Kauai Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) regulates type, size, placement, and control for structures within various zoning use districts. The property is zoned Open District (O), which is consistent for parks, playgrounds, day use areas, etc.

3.2.3.3 State Land Use

The State Land Use Rules and Regulations classify lands into four categories - Urban, Rural, Agricultural and Conservation. The subject property is within the Urban District which places zoning jurisdiction with the County of Kauai.

3.2.4 Historical/Cultural Resources

Although there is a heiau complex in close proximity to the park area, based on sample coring and pipeline excavations around the large pavilion on the premises, no archaeological deposits or burials were discovered. (Martha Yent, State Archaeologist, 7-28-94). Should any artifacts be discovered during the development of the project site, work in the area will stop immediately and an archaeological reconnaissance study will be conducted prior to continuing construction.

3.2.5 Demography and Employment

Kauai had an estimated total resident population of 51,000 in 1990. The largest towns on Kauai are Kapaa, with 8,149 residents, and Lihue, with 5,536. Lihue is the primary commercial, business, and governmental center of Kauai. The majority of the residents in these two towns are employed between Lihue and Kapaa.

Major deviations in the demography of the island and in employment trends will not affect the use of the proposed facility.

3.2.6 Traffic and Utilities

Access to the site will be via Kuhio Highway, Leho Drive and Nalu Road. Leho Drive loops and connects with Kuhio Highway at two separate points which helps to facilitate traffic movement in and out of the park. In addition, Kuhio was recently widened to three lanes and left and right turn storage lanes have been installed to further enhance these movements.

Water, electrical and telephone services are available to the sewage treatment plant. The water system is in poor condition but no new restrooms or showers are being proposed.

4.0 PROBABLE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

The proposed Kamalani playground is intended for the use and enjoyment of all residents of Kauai. The proposed facility will be constructed by members of the Kauai community. It is the first playground of its kind for the island of Kauai and is intended to combine physical stimulation, creative fantasy, cultural expression, environmental enjoyment, and personal safety.

The proposed action does not conflict with the current use of the Lydgate Park. It is intended, rather, to enhance and complement the recreational aspects of the park. It addresses the needs of the younger element of the community and expands the versatility of this very popular family destination.

The siting of the facility within the park boundaries is such that normal use will not be affected during the construction phase. Typical construction noise and dust nuisances are anticipated but are temporary in nature and will not create serious harmful threats to health and safety.

Construction of the proposed facility will not impact the water quality of ground, surface or marine waters. Storm water runoff will be contained on-site and because of the topography of the property and surroundings, no runoff will drain into the ocean.

There are no endangered plant or animal species on the property. Therefore, no impacts to the wildlife community is expected.

The playground stations is well conceived and designed. As such no adverse visual impacts will be created.

The area is rich in cultural and archaeological sites. The area immediately adjacent to the large pavilion was tested with core sampling and trenching for a water line did not indicate traces of historical artifacts. The proposed project does not intend to disturb archaeological features of any kind nor desecrate ancient

burials, if any. Upon any uncovering of artifacts or ancient remains, authorities will be notified immediately.

The benefits to be derived upon the completion of the playground will far outweigh the temporary inconveniences. Furthermore, there is a program and budget for maintenance of the facility with the help of a volunteer community group.

4.1 Public Input

The subject action requires a Special Management Area Use Permit which involves a public hearing before the County Planning Commission. The public hearing, held on September 8, 1994, informed the public the details of the playground plan and afforded testimony for and against the project.

5.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

5.1 "No Action" Alternative

A "No Action" alternative is normally considered upon findings that a proposed action is not feasible or determined to be so environmentally harmful which impacts cannot be satisfactorily mitigated. In this action, the effort put forth thus far and the energies expended by the Kauai community completely eliminates utilization of this alternative. Substantial funding for the project is in place and the volunteer labor force has been formed to implement the plan.

5.2 Alternate Site Selection

Although several sites were considered, the Lydgate Park was chosen because of its popularity as a regional beach park and its centrality. The site is ideally suited as it is easily accessible. Other park accommodations (comfort stations, showers, etc.) are currently available on the property which will facilitate the construction. The playground will be compatible with these other park facilities as well as the ocean recreation aspects of Lydgate.

6.0 SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA

In accordance with the environmental assessment procedure, the proposed Kamalani playground does not have a significant adverse effects on the environment as follows:

- **Involves a loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource.** Although, the area is in close proximity to a heiau there is no evidence of any natural or cultural resources. If for some reason artifacts are discovered in the construction process, proper authorities will be immediately contacted.
- **Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment.** The proposed project will not detract from the general recreational use of the existing park. The park is properly zoned for such facilities and is compatible with the objectives of the long range policies of the County.
- **Conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines.** The proposed project will comply with state environmental guidelines and regulations for the construction of the proposed playground.
- **Substantially affects public health.** In obtaining building permits for the facility all necessary environmental and health regulations must be complied with.
- **Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality.** The playground stations and implements will not involve mechanical equipment and therefore, no degradation of the environment is anticipated. Temporary construction inconveniences are anticipated but these will be short lived.

7.0 AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

The following agencies and organizations were consulted regarding this environmental assessment.

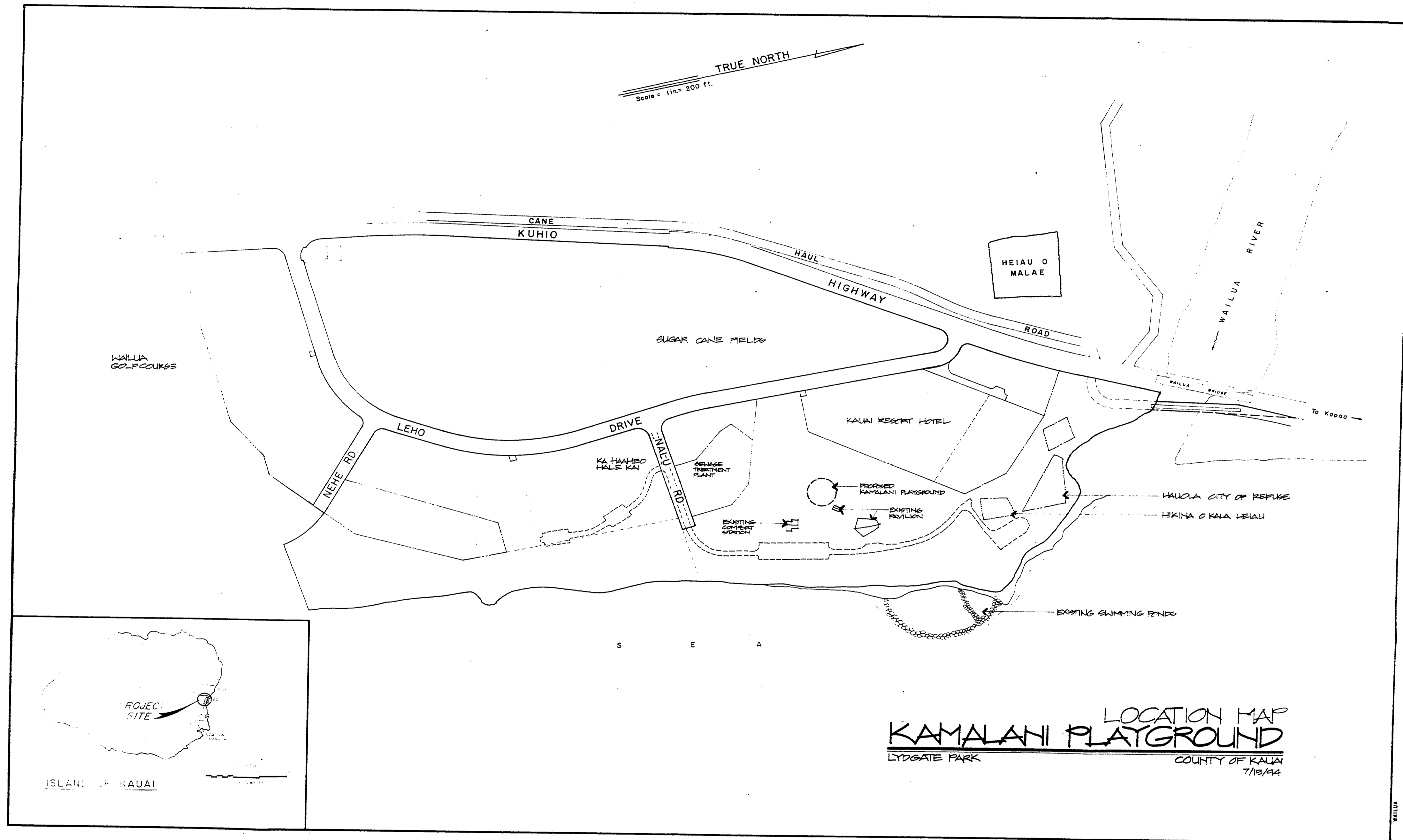
- County of Kauai, Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Section
- County of Kauai, Planning Department
- County of Kauai, Department of Water
- State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources
- State of Hawaii, *Historic Preservation Office*
- State of Hawaii, Department of Health

**OVERSIZED
DRAWING/MAP**

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35MM ROLL**

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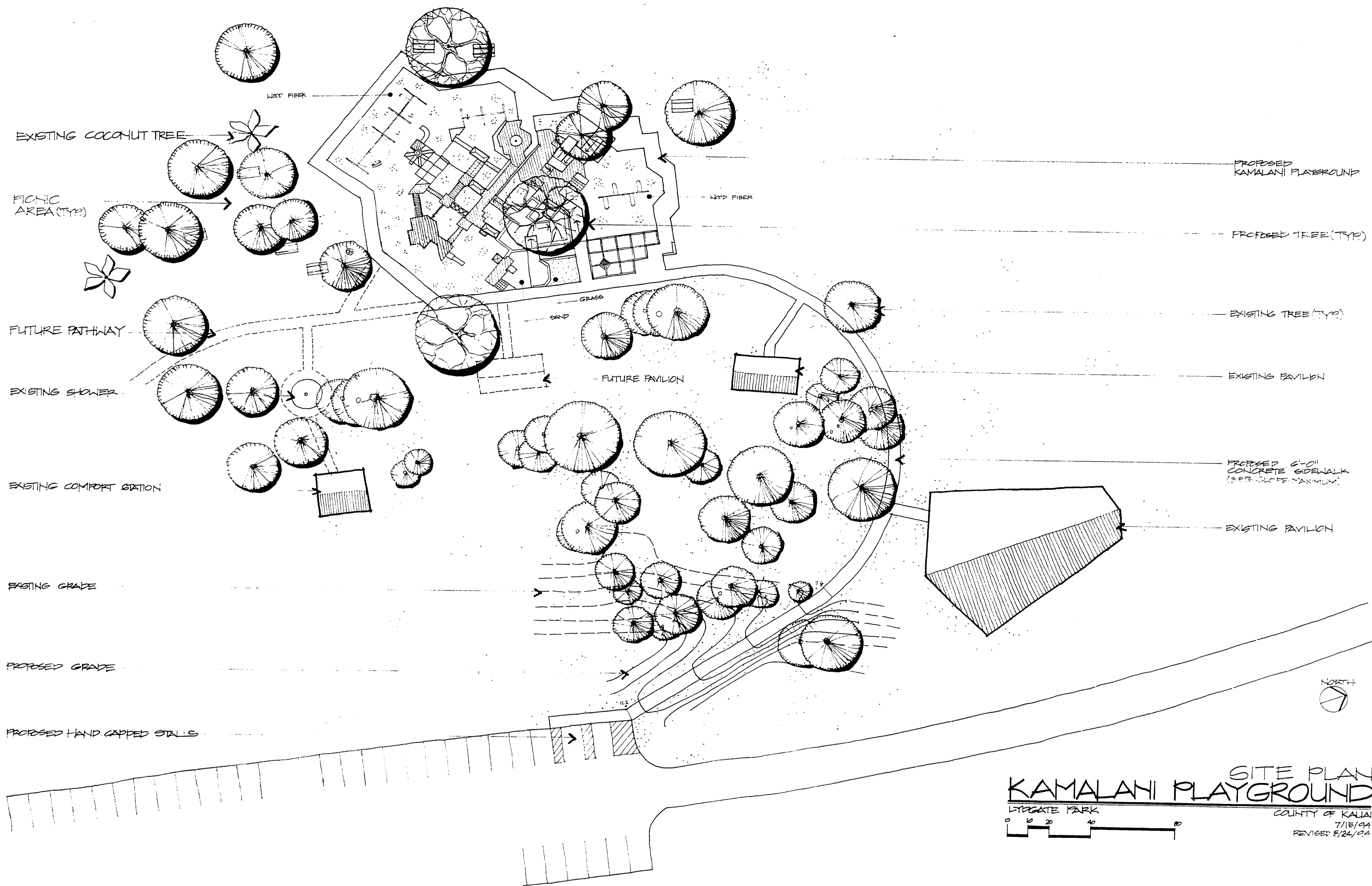


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SITE PLAN
KAMALANI PLAYGROUND
HYDRA PARK
COUNTY OF KAUAI
7/18/94
REVISED 6/24/94