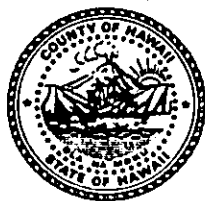


Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Donna Fay K. Kiyosaki
Chief Engineer

Riley W. Smith
Deputy Chief Engineer

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County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
25 Aupuni Street, Room 202 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8321 • Fax (808) 969-7138

January 5, 1995

Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 South King Street, Suite 400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

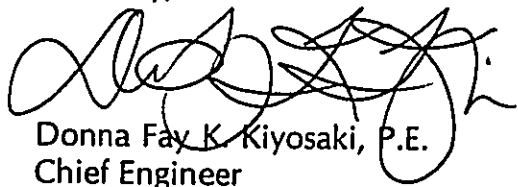
Gentlemen:

Subject: Negative Declaration for
KALOPA SAND GULCH BYPASS ROAD
TMK: 3rd Div. 4-4-09: 4 & 8, 4-4-02: 5
Papalele, Hamakua, Island of Hawaii

The Department of Public Works, County of Hawaii has not received written comments during the 30-day public comment period which began on November 8, 1994. The agency has determined that this project will not have significant environmental effect and has issued a negative declaration. Please publish this notice in the January 23, 1995 OEQC Bulletin.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form and four (4) copies of the final EA. Please contact Mr. Galen Kuba of our office at (808) 961-8327 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Donna Fay K. Kiyosaki, P.E.
Chief Engineer

1995-01-23-HI-PEA-

Kalopa Sand Gulch Bypass Road

FILE COPY

JAN 23 1995

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

KALOPA SAND GULCH BYPASS ROAD

**PAPALELE
DISTRICT OF HAMAKUA
ISLAND OF HAWAII, HAWAII**

Prepared in Fulfillment of the
Requirements of Chapter 343
Hawaii Revised Statutes

Prepared For
**COUNTY OF HAWAII
Department of Public Works
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720**

By
Inaba Engineering, Inc.

December 1994

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Project: Kalopa Sand Gulch Bypass Road

Applicant: Department of Public Works
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Determining Agency: Department of Public Works

Location: Papalele, Hamakua, Island of Hawaii

Tax Map Key: 3rd Division, 4-4-09: 4 & 8
4-4-02: 5

Landowner: Parcel 4: Abraham S. Ramos, Inc. (54 Acs.)
Parcel 8: Kamehameha Schools / Bishop Estate (8 Acs.)
Parcel 5: Kamehameha Schools / Bishop Estate (4 Acs.)

Land Area: Total area approximately 66 acres.
Right-of-Way area approximately 6 acres.

Existing Use: Abandoned Sugarcane Field

State Land Use Designation: Agricultural

General Plan: Intensive/Extensive Agriculture

Existing Zoning: Agricultural 40 Acres (Ag-40)

Contact Person: Ms. Donna Fay K. Kiyosaki, Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 961-8327

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| SECTION 1 | DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT |
| | A. Objectives of the Project |
| | B. Technical Characteristics |
| | C. Economic Characteristics |
| | D. Social Characteristics |
| SECTION 2 | DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT |
| SECTION 3 | SUMMARY POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES |
| | A. Short-term Impacts |
| | B. Long-term Impacts |
| SECTION 4 | ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION |
| | A. No Action |
| | B. Alternate Action |
| | C. Alternative Site |
| SECTION 5 | DETERMINATION |
| SECTION 6 | FINDINGS AND REASONS |
| SECTION 7 | AGENCIES AND GROUPS CONSULTED |
| SECTION 8 | COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT E.A. |

LIST OF FIGURES

| <u>Figure</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Location Map | 9 |
| 2 | Vicinity Map | 10 |
| 3 | USGS Topographic Map | 11 |

SECTION 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Department of Public Works, County of Hawaii proposes to construct an approximately 4,400 lineal feet bypass roadway on privately owned lands located in Papalele, Hamakua, Island of Hawaii, State of Hawaii. The resulting right-of-way is proposed to be given to the County of Hawaii by the current land owners.

A. Purpose of Project

The Kalopa Community Association (KCA) initiated action with the Department of Public Works, County of Hawaii to provide for a bypass road that will avoid the dangerous Sand Gulch hairpin curve section of the Kaapahu Homestead Road. The existing roadway is narrow and without adequate shoulders that drop off into Kalopa Gulch and crosses an old one lane bridge. The KCA's concerns are that during the school year, the school bus must travel this hazardous section of roadway, as well as daily travel by local residents. The construction of the bypass road would eliminate the need for the school bus and members of the general public from using this route. A single lane wooden bridge at the lower portion of the old Government Main Road near the State Highway may also be bypassed with this project.

B. Technical Characteristics

The roadway will be constructed to applicable standards of the County of Hawaii and State of Hawaii Department of Transportation. Typical roadway section will consist of 60 feet right-of-way with 10 feet lane widths and 8 feet shoulders. The project will involve clearing and grubbing operations, excavation, embankment, base course and asphalt concrete paving, pavement striping and signage. The site averages about 11 percent slope from Kaapahu Homestead Road at the top to the State Highway at the bottom. Access is provided to the State Highway (FAP F-019-2(4)) via parcel 8.

C. Economic Characteristics

The construction of the bypass roadway will provide economic gain in terms of direct short term employment for particular construction trades and the need for ancillary services required during the construction period from local area vendors. Construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$850,000.00.

SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

State Land Use Designation for both parcels is "Agricultural." County of Hawaii General Plan designation is for Intensive/Extensive Agriculture. Intensive being sugar, orchard, diversified agriculture, and floriculture. Extensive being pasturage and range lands.

A. Existing Use

The land is currently vacant and lies fallow. Until recently, the land was leased by Hamakua Sugar Company and in sugarcane production for over 80 years. The land is bounded by Mamalahoa Highway to the North (makai), Old Mamalahoa Highway to the South (mauka) and by gulches on either side. Waikaaalulu Gulch is to the east (Hilo direction) and Kalopa Gulch to the west (Honokaa direction). A cane haul road winds up along the west side of the property. The lower Hamakua ditch crosses at a west to east direction via a tunnel at the lower portion of parcel 4.

Surrounding land use is also abandoned or soon to be abandoned sugarcane fields. Hamakua Sugar Company is currently in its final phase of harvesting operations before permanently shutting down.

B. Topography

The site slopes from south to north at an average slope of about 11 percent. Elevation ranges from approximately 780 feet to 1250 feet.

C. Soils

Site soils are identified as Kukaiau Series (KuC), Hydrologic Group A and Erosion Resistance Group II, per the "Soil Survey of Island of Hawaii, State of Hawaii," by the Soil Conservation Service. The Kukaiau Series consists of well-drained silty clay loams that formed in volcanic ash at 6-12 percent slopes. Permeability is moderately rapid, runoff is slow, and the erosion hazard is slight. This soil is used mostly for sugarcane.

D. Flood Hazard and Drainage

Per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Hawaii County, the site is identified as being in Zone X. Zone X is described as areas determined to be outside 500-year flood plain.

E. Flora and Fauna

Scrub sugar cane, grasses and weeds make up the vegetation which is typical of abandoned sugarcane fields in the area. Scattered pine trees were located on the lower portions of the lot. The site had been cultivated for over 80 years before being abandoned recently. Under these conditions, it is unlikely any plant species in need of conservation or protection would be present.

Although no animals were observed on several visits to the site, one could presume that animal life such as birds, mongoose, mice and rats might frequent the area. Again, due to cultivation of the lands it is unlikely any endangered animal would be found on the property. The existing animal life should have no trouble in relocating to areas adjacent to the proposed new roadway.

F. Historic Sites

Due to the constant cultivation of sugarcane on these lands previously, any archaeological features would probably have been eliminated. No archaeological features are anticipated on this site.

SECTION 3

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Short Term Construction Impacts

Construction activity related to the proposed roadway will create noticeable short term impacts on the environment such as noise, dust, soil erosion, sedimentation, runoff and traffic impacts. These impacts would occur only during the construction phase of the project and is temporary in nature.

Heavy equipment noise will be mitigated by allowing work only during normal working hours. Night work is not anticipated. The contractor shall also be required to maintain his equipment with appropriate mufflers and noise suppressors.

Ambient air quality will be affected by equipment emissions and construction generated dust. Dust can be managed by the Contractor using water sprinkling, limiting exposed areas, and planting the exposed areas with grassing as soon as practicable. Equipment must be properly maintained to assure efficient operation in terms of fuel combustion to assure the cleanest possible exhaust emissions. Emissions from construction activities are not expected to impact any more than past or current sugarcane cultivating activities.

To minimize soil erosion, runoff, and sedimentation, the Contractor shall employ necessary measures to insure compliance with the County of Hawaii Grading Ordinance, and the applicable State Department of Health Pollution Control Standards. The Contractor shall also be required to implement a Best Management Practices Plan as prescribed by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit as administered by the State Department of Health.

Traffic impacts will be mitigated by instituting a traffic control plan approved by the Department of Public Works. Construction roadwork and material deliveries shall be scheduled during periods of low flow to minimize the disruption to traffic.

LONG TERM IMPACTS

No long term major negative impacts are expected as a result of this project. This project will benefit the local community and the users of Kalopa State Park who will use portions of the bypass road. Benefits will also be realized by the appropriate County services (Police, Fire Ambulance) by providing safer access and faster response times to these remote areas that will be serviced by the bypass road. Psychological benefit will be realized by families with school

aged children who will no longer have to endure school bus rides through the hazardous Kalopa Sand Gulch section of roadway. The local community is anxious to get this proposed bypass roadway constructed.

A minor negative impact would be the loss of approximately 6 acres of agricultural lands. With the impending closure of Hamakua Sugar Co., future utilization of sugarcane lands in the Hamakua district are uncertain.

SECTION 4

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. No Action

The "No Action" alternative will not allow the objectives of the proposed bypass roadway to be achieved. This alternative will result in no physical change to the property and have no impacts. The land will remain unused and lie fallow.

There will be no benefits realized by the community.

B. Alternate Action

One option would be to improve the existing roadway through the Kalopa Sand Gulch area. Improving the existing situation would probably cost more than building the new bypass road and would not solve the problem of passing through the Sand Gulch Area.

C. Alternative Site

The Kalopa Community Association and the County of Hawaii have not identified alternate sites.

SECTION 5

DETERMINATION

The proposed project is not expected to significantly alter the environment and negative impacts will be mainly short term and minimal. Therefore, it is determined that the issuance of a Negative Declaration is appropriate.

SECTION 6

FINDINGS AND REASONS

In determining the issuance of a Negative Declaration, the proposed action was reviewed and found to have no significant impact on the following significance criteria.

- ▶ The proposed project will not involve the loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource.
- ▶ The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.
- ▶ The proposed project will not conflict with the State's long-term goals or guidelines and expressed in Chapter 344 HRS.
- ▶ The proposed project will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or state.
- ▶ The proposed project will not substantially affect public health.
- ▶ The proposed project will not have substantial secondary effects such as population changes or infrastructure demands.
- ▶ The proposed project does not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.
- ▶ The proposed project does not involve a commitment to larger actions.

- ▶ The proposed project will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat. There are no known endangered or threatened flora or fauna that exist on the site.
- ▶ The proposed project will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.
- ▶ The proposed project is not located in a flood plain, tsunami zone or erosion prone area. The project will not affect any known environmentally sensitive areas.

SECTION 7

AGENCIES AND GROUPS CONSULTED

COUNTY OF HAWAII

Department of Public Works
Planning Department
Department of Water Supply

STATE OF HAWAII

Department of Transportation, Hawaii District

Kalopa Community Association

Kamehameha Schools / Bishop Estate

CONSULTANT

Inaba Engineering, Inc.
273 Waianuenue Ave.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 961-3727
Contact: Jason Inaba

SECTION 8

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT E.A.

No written comments received.

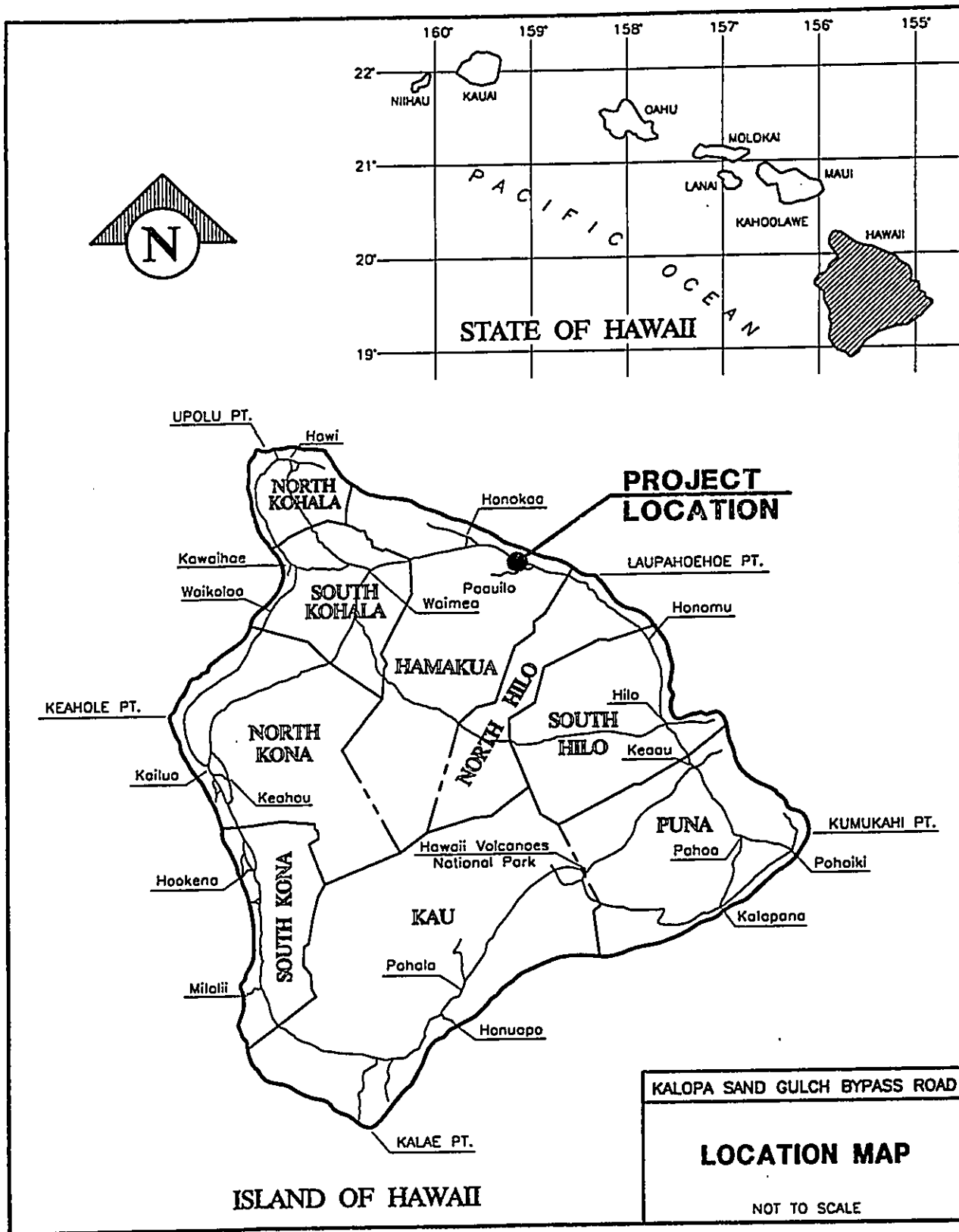


FIGURE 1

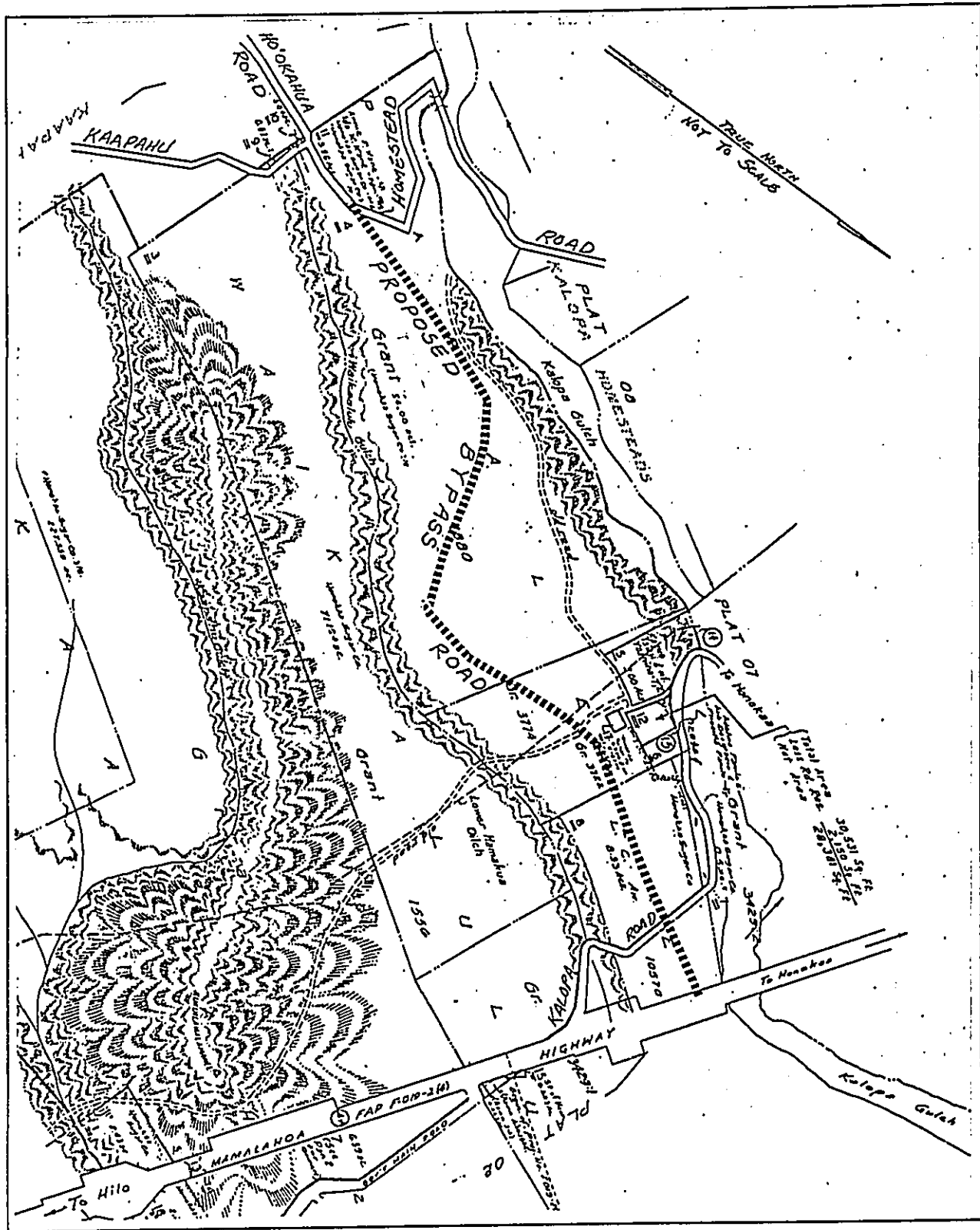


FIGURE 2

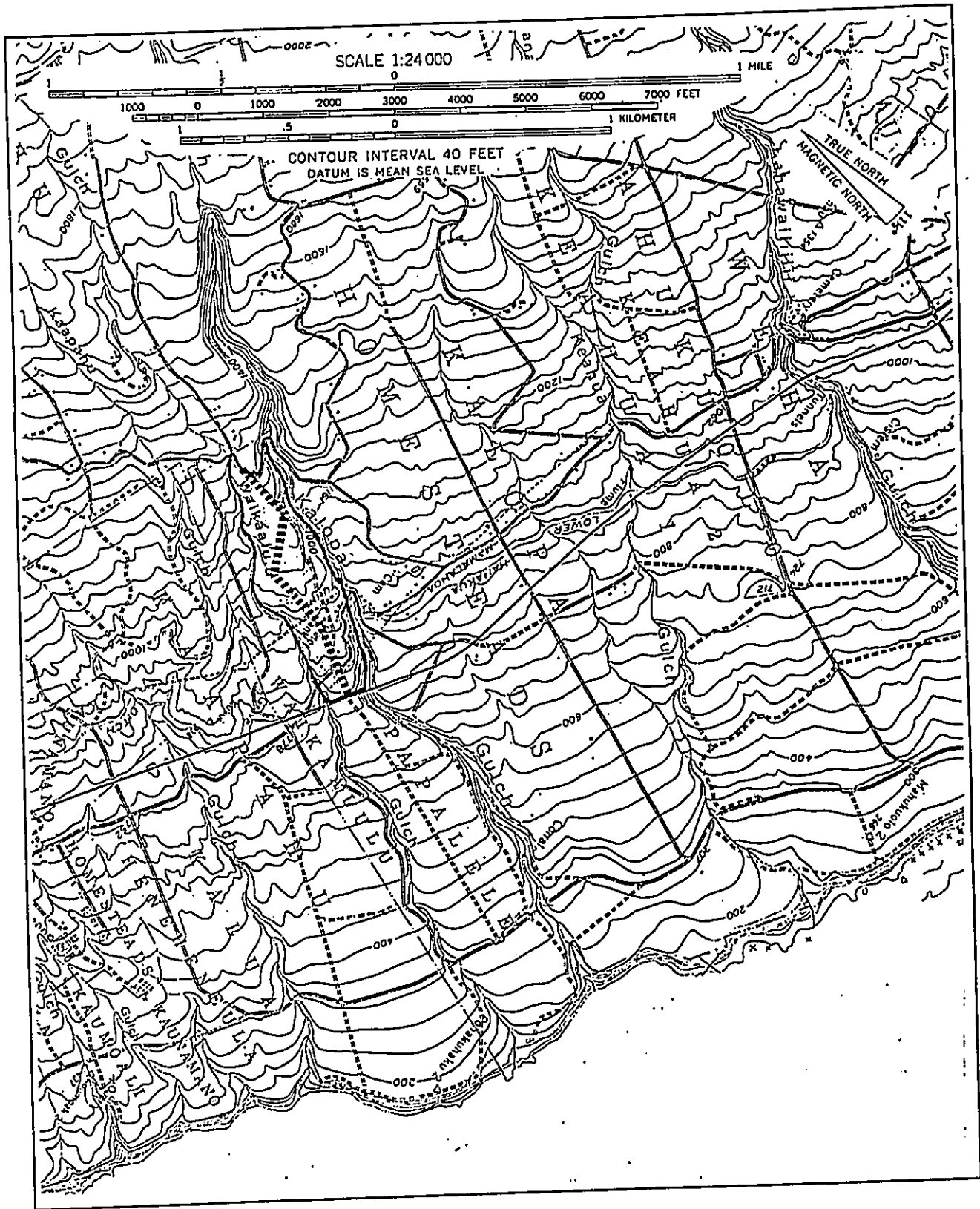


FIGURE 3

KALOPA SAND GULCH BYPASS ROAD