June 13, 1995

Gary Gill, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 South King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Gill:

Subject: Negative Declaration for the Kaaawa Fire Station
         Replacement Project and Construction of a
         Temporary Fire Station at Swanzy Beach Park
         TMKS: 5-1-11:51, 57, & 5-1-12:11
         Kaaawa, Oahu, Hawaii

We have reviewed the environmental assessment for the
subject project and have determined that the project will not
have any significant impacts on the environment. Based on our
determination, we are filing a negative declaration for this
project.

Enclosed are the "Document for Publication in the OEQC
Bulletin" and four (4) copies of the environmental assessment.

Should there be any questions, please have your staff call
Clifford Lau at 527-6373.

Very truly yours,

RANDALL K. FUJIKI
Director and Building Superintendent

Attach.
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

KAAAWA FIRE STATION REPLACEMENT and
CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY FIRE
STATION AT SWANZY BEACH PARK
Kaaawa, Koolauloa District, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

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

Responsible Official: [Signature]
Randall K. Fujii
Director and Building Superintendent

Date: June 8, 1995

Prepared For

Building Department
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Prepared By

Matsushita Saito Associates
and
Gerald Park Urban Planner

June, 1995
SUMMARY INFORMATION

PROPOSED ACTION: Kaaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Fire Station at Swamy Beach Park

PROPOSING AGENCY: Building Department
City and County of Honolulu

DETERMINING AGENCY: Building Department

LOCATION: Kaaawa, Koolauloa District, Oahu

TAX MAP KEY: 5-1-11: 51, 57
Temporary Station: 5-1-12: 11

LAND AREA: 51: 12,514 sf
57: 2,979 sf
Temporary Station: 4,300 sf (Approximate)

LAND OWNER: 51: City and County of Honolulu
57: State of Hawaii
Temporary Station: City and County of Honolulu

STATE LAND USE DISTRICT: Urban

GENERAL PLAN: Rural

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AREA: Koolauloa
Land Use Map: 51: Public Facility, 57: Residential Park
Temporary Station: Fire Station Modification within 6 Years
Public Facility Map:

ZONING: R-5 Residential
Temporary Station: P-2 General Preservation

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA: Within Special Management Area

EXISTING USE: Fire Station
Temporary Station: Beach Park

CONTACT PERSON: Clifford Lau
Building Department
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: 527-6373

Note: Revisions to the Draft Environmental Assessment are italicized and printed in bold type. Deleted text is enclosed by brackets [ ].
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SECTION 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Building Department, City and County of Honolulu, proposes to demolish the existing Kaaawa Fire Station and to build a new station on the same site. The site is comprised of two parcels identified as Tax Map Keys 5-1-11: 51 and 5-1-11: 57 encompassing a land area of 12,514 and 2,979 square feet respectively located at Kaaawa, Koolauloa District, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii. A Location Map is shown in Figure 1.

A. Purpose of the Project

The Fire Department has determined that the existing Kaaawa Fire Station is too small (2,290 sf) to accommodate the living, working, and equipment storage needs of the engine company. In addition, the existing wood framed main building that houses an office and kitchen/dining room is termite infested and in poor structural condition. The building was formerly a residential dwelling on the property that was converted for use as a fire station during the 1950’s. The age of the structure is unknown. The apparatus garage and men’s dormitory were added to the main building in 1965 as temporary structures and they also are in poor condition.

B. Technical Characteristics

1. Kaaawa Fire Station

The main building, covered garage, and men’s dormitory will be demolished and concrete and a.c. pavement, landscaping, and low retaining walls removed. The water system will be cut, plugged, and lines abandoned in place (or removed), the cesspool pumped and filled, and electrical and communication services disconnected.

The proposed Kaaawa Fire Station is an attached structure consisting of living/working quarters for the fire fighters and an apparatus bay. The main building will be erected on a concrete slab on grade with 8” CMU exterior walls (10” CMU walls for the apparatus bay), and topped by a composition shingle roof. The apparatus bay will be enclosed by roll up metal doors at front and rear.

Interior space is allocated for the fire apparatus, water craft, and equipment lockers (1,340 sf), office use (200 sf), officers dormitory and shower (300 sf), men’s dormitory and shower (693 sf), kitchen and dining room (296 sf), exercise room (135 sf), emergency generator room (100 sf), tool room, and miscellaneous storage. The station has a floor area of 3,585 square feet and is about 1.5 times the size of the existing station.

The height of the single-story structure will not exceed the 25 foot maximum height allowable in the zoning district. The apparatus bay measures 25’ 27 feet high from finished grade to top of the roof ridge and the top of the dormitory roof stands 17 feet above finish grade.

The front driveway and rear driveway/recreation area will be demolished and new driveways constructed. Uncovered off-street parking for seven vehicles is proposed at the back of the station within the side and rear yards on the Kualoa side of the property. The parking area will also serve as a recreation area. Two accessible parking stalls are located off the front driveway.
Water demand is estimated at 500 gallons per day. Water will be drawn from a Board of Water Supply line running along Kamehameha Highway.

A septic tank and on-site disposal system will be used for the treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater. In accordance with Department of Health regulations, soil percolation tests will be conducted to determine the size of the system and the method of effluent disposal.

Power and communication lines will be encased in underground conduits.

An above ground 250 gallon LPG tank will be placed in the rear yard between the kitchen and Lihimaua Road. Propane gas will be used primarily for cooking and underground gas lines will extend from the tank to the kitchen. The tank is sited in excess of 10 feet away from the building per fire code requirements.

A 1,000 gallon diesel fuel tank will be placed above ground on the Kaneohe side of the rear driveway. The tank contains flammable and combustible fluids and is subject to regulation by local building codes and the Honolulu Fire Department.

An existing 1,000 gallon LPG tank and an existing emergency generator will be removed from a Honolulu Police Department (HPD) telecommunications facility sited in the southwest corner of parcel 51. A new 50 KVA generator will be installed inside the new fire station and will supply emergency power to both the fire station and the HPD telecommunications facility. Fuel for the generator and the fire apparatus will be supplied from the above ground diesel tank. Except for the removal of the LPG tank and generator, the telecommunications facility will remain on-site with the new fire station built around it.

The station will be air conditioned for noise attenuation and comfort. Compressors and condensing units will be enclosed for noise attenuation. A solar water heating system will supplement hot water heaters.

It has not been determined if the fire apparatus will be washed or wiped on a regular basis. If the apparatus is to be washed, then a treatment system will be needed to collect, treat, and dispose of the wash water. Alternatively, treated wash water may be allowed to drain onto the yard and percolate into the ground as a means of disposal. If the apparatus is to be wiped, there is no need to treat the wash water.

Ungated areas will be landscaped with grass, groundcover, hedges, and trees. There are no plans to enclose the station with fencing.

2. Temporary Fire Station

Engine 21 will relocate to a temporary fire station to be located at Swansea Beach Park. The temporary station will be sited within a 3,500 square foot enclosure (88' X 40') on the Kaneohe side of the park between an existing beach pavilion and beach access road. The temporary station will consist of two portable trailers (12' X 44') and a covered garage for the fire apparatus and water craft. A driveway will be built to connect the garage with the beach access road. The entire site will be enclosed by a 6-foot high chain link fence. A Site Plan is shown in Figure 3.
Water is available from an existing line in Kamehameha Highway. An existing cesspool is located just makai of the temporary station. The cesspool receives untreated wastewater from the pavilion restrooms. A septic tank will be installed to receive wastewater from the temporary station. In addition, waste lines from restrooms in the pavilion will be connected to the septic tank where its wastewater can be treated. Treated effluent from both the temporary station and restrooms will then be discharged into the existing cesspool. The cesspool can be used as a seepage pit because it would receive treated effluent. When the temporary fire station is removed, the septic tank will be left in place for Department of Parks and Recreation use.

Fire fighters will be permitted to park behind the pavilion in a parking lot reserved for parks staff. The Department of Land Utilization has indicated that there is a deficit of off-street parking for the park. Use of parking stalls by fire fighters will add to the deficit. A waiver will be requested to allow for the temporary added deficit in parking.

A temporary warning light (and audible alarm) will be provided at the intersection of Kamehameha Highway and the beach access road to alert motorists of a fire response in progress. The warning light is about 10-feet in height and mounted on a pole. The light will be placed within the right-of-way of Kamehameha Highway.

C. Economic Characteristics

The construction cost for the new and temporary stations is estimated at $2.1 million and will be funded by the City and County of Honolulu General Improvement Bond Fund. The station will be built in one construction phase tentatively scheduled to begin in early 1996 with completion projected for early 1997.

Parcel 51 is owned by the City and County of Honolulu. Parcel 57 is owned by the State of Hawaii but was transferred to the City and County of Honolulu by Executive Order (2243). Swansea Beach Park is owned by the City and County of Honolulu. Applicant will request approval for joint development of both parcels.

D. Social Characteristics

No residences or business establishments will be displaced by construction of the new or temporary stations.
SITE PLAN

KAOWA FIRE STATION REPLACEMENT
AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY FIRE
STATION AT SWANZY BEACH PARK
SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Kaaawa Fire Station

1. Existing Improvements

Located across Swanzy Beach Park, the Kaaawa Fire Station is bounded by Kamelameha Highway to the north, Lihimauna Road to the south, a residential dwelling to the east, and Street to the west. With the exception of Swanzy Beach Park, the station is surrounded by residential uses.

The station consists of two detached structures joined by a covered garage. The smaller structure, a converted single family dwelling of about 690 square feet, houses a kitchen and dining room, meeting room, and office. The building is single-story, wood-framed with single-walls, topped with an asphalt shingle roof, and posted about 5 feet above ground (See Photograph 1).

The larger structure (860 sf) is the living quarters for officers and men. This structure is wood framed, of single-wall construction, topped with a composition roof, and posted about 2 feet above ground.

The fire apparatus and water craft are parked under a covered garage between the office building and the living quarters.

Off-street parking is located in the back of the station. Most of the backyard has been paved for parking and recreation use (See Photograph 2).

Fifteen fire fighters are assigned to the Kaaawa Fire Station (Station 21) and a platoon of five (5) fire fighters are on duty at all times. Three platoons work a rotation shift. Their primary equipment includes the fire apparatus (pumper) and a 5-man inflatable craft for ocean rescues. Engine 21’s first response area extends from Johnson Road in Kualoa to the north point of Kahana Bay. Engine 15 from Haulea, Engine 37 from Kahaiau, and Ladder 17 from Kaneohe serve as backup units for the Kaaawa area. In addition to fire suppression functions, the station is equipped and personnel trained in ocean and mountain rescues.

A Honolulu Police Department telecommunications facility is located in the southwest corner of parcel 51. The facility consists of a single-story, 415 square foot equipment building, a 1,000 gallon above ground LPG fuel tank, and a 100-foot high self-supported tower (Lacayo Planning, 1992). Microwave dish and whip antennas are mounted at various heights on the tower. A 6-foot high chain link fence encloses the facility.

2. Physical Characteristics

The site slopes mauka to makai from a high elevation of about 25 feet in the southeast corner to a low of 17 feet in the northwest corner. Areas immediately around the station are sloped to drain outward to the side yard or in the direction of Kamelameha Highway.
Photograph 1. Mauka View of Station from Kamahameha Highway.

Photograph 2. Backyard View of Station from Lihimauna Road.
In profile, the station sits on a double terraced lot. The two main buildings which are about in the center of the lot are at elevation 19 feet. In comparison, Kamehameha Highway is lower at elevation 14-15 feet and the parking lot behind the station is higher at elevation 22 feet.

According to the Soil Conservation Service (1972), soils in the area are of the Hanalei series. This poorly drained, stony silty clay does not pose a significant erosion hazard.

A small section of parcel 57 fronting Kamehameha Highway (estimated at 150 square feet) falls within the 100-year flood hazard area and is designated Zone VE which is defined as "coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action)". The base flood height is estimated at 10 feet (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1987). The station stands about 5 feet higher than Kamehameha Highway and generally is not susceptible to coastal high waves.

Fire fighters also indicated that the station generally does not experience flooding. A low retaining wall and small berm across the driveway at the rear of the station divert runoff along Lihimauna Road and down Huamalani Street. In addition, the ground is quite porous and quickly absorbs water that may collect on-site.

Lead concentrations have been detected on painted surfaces of the station. These surfaces include the exterior walls, exterior louvers, exterior eaves and beams, and window frames of the main building (Muranaka Environmental Consultants, 1993). The Kaaawa Fire Station is free of asbestos containing materials (Industrial Analytical Laboratory, 1993).

The station is functionally landscaped and well maintained. Grass is the primary plant material with naupaka, star jasmine, and brassica trees used to landscape the Street side of the station. The brassica are planted in the road right-of-way. Common plant stock such as oleander, ti, papaya, chili pepper, banana, and aloe grow around both buildings. A noni tree about 20-feet in height grows next to the stairway leading to the kitchen/dining room.

No wildlife was seen but barking dogs were heard and a strutting rooster was observed.

There are no archaeological features on the premises. Although one of the structures is 50+ years old, it does not exhibit any unique architectural design or style of historical significance.

Makaawa Stream flows in a vegetation lined channel on the Kahuku side of Street about 60 feet from the fire station. A section of a vacant lot separates the stream from Street. The channel is approximately 6-8 feet deep and 15-18 feet wide before it passes beneath Kamehameha Highway.

3. Land Use Controls

The community of Kaaawa is general planned Rural on the Oahu General Plan. The station site is classified Public Facility on the Koolauloa Development Plan Land Use Map, symbolized: Fire station modification, site determined, within six years on the Public Facilities Map (Ordinance No. 93-34), and zoned R-5. Some of the existing structures on the premises encroach into the yards established for residential districts by the Land Use Ordinance. The property is located in the county delineated Special Management Area and a Special Management Area Use Permit will be obtained prior to construction.
According to Chu (1987), the visual quality of coastal views in the Kaaawa area is based primarily on its rural intactness and vivid lateral views from the coastal highway. These include several areas (such as Swanzy Beach Park) from which views of the ocean from Kamehameha Highway are unobstructed by development. Chu also cited Swanzy Beach Park as providing significant stationary views of the coastline.

4. Public Facilities

Kamehameha Highway, one of the major roads on Oahu, links Kaaawa with other shoreline communities in both the Koolauloa and North Shore districts, Central Oahu, East Honolulu, and Honolulu. Near the Kaaawa Fire Station, two 10-foot travel lanes are accommodated within a 50-foot right of way. There are no curbs, gutters, or sidewalks although the road shoulder opposite the station has been widened for a bus stop. Sight distance from the fire station in the Kaneohe direction is poor because of a curve in the road.

The edge of pavement of Kamehameha Highway does not demarcate the highway right-of-way. The actual right-of-way extends approximately 10 feet mauka of the highway and has been improved with an a.c. driveway, earth embankment, and landscape plantings. In short, the front of the fire station, an area of about 102' x 10' or 1,020 square feet encroaches into the highway right-of-way.

Huamalani Street and Lihimauna Road are residential streets with 40 foot rights-of-way. Both have a pavement width of about 22 feet but are without curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.

Water is drawn from a 5/8-inch meter in Kamehameha Highway.

Power and communication systems are brought to the site from overhead lines along Kamehameha Highway and Lihimauna Road.

Wastewater is discharged into a cesspool located at the rear of the station. The station is located in a non-sewered area, below the Underground Injection Control line, and in a critical wastewater disposal area as determined by the Oahu Wastewater Advisory Committee (Note: all Oahu has been declared a critical wastewater disposal area).

B. Temporary Station

A temporary fire station will be constructed in the southeast section of Swanzy Beach Park between an existing beach pavilion and paved beach access road. This area, which is shaded from the coastal sun by a grove of coconut palms and trees, is used for picnicking and lounging (See Photograph 3).

The site is relatively flat with an average elevation of 9 feet above sea level. There is a slight mauka to makai slope from a high elevation of 9 feet near the parking lot to a low of 8.5 feet at the center of the pavilion. The site has been modified by man and the soils are primarily a mixture of sand and earth and appear to be very porous.

Swanzy Beach Park is located within a coastal high hazard area and is subject to inundation to a depth of 11 feet above mean sea level (or +2 feet above existing grade). The trailers will be
elevated about 3 feet above existing grade. Coupled with existing grade (+9 feet), the finish floor of the station should be about 1-2 feet above the calculated base flood elevation of 10-11 feet.

There are no archaeological features on the site of the temporary station. Vegetation consists primarily of common Bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon), coconut palms (Cocos nucifera), and kamani trees (Calophyllum inophyllum) planted alongside the beach access road.

The beach park is zoned P-2 General Preservation. Public uses and structures are a permitted use in the zoning district. Swanzy Beach Park is within the County delineated Special Management Area and a Special Management Area use permit will be obtained prior to construction.

The beach access road leads to a parking lot on the ocean side of the pavilion. The lot is reserved for the use of park staff.

Water and power are available for fire station use. An 18-inch drain line in the beach access road conveys runoff to the ocean. Wastewater from restrooms in the pavilion is discharged into a cesspool on the Kaneohe side of the pavilion.
Photograph 3. Mauka View of Temporary Fire Station Site.
SECTION 3  SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS

A. Assessment Process

The scope of the project was discussed with staff of the Building Department, Fire Department
administrators, the consulting architect, and others comprising the design team. State and County
agencies were contacted for information relative to their areas of expertise. Time was spent in the
field noting site conditions and conditions in the vicinity of the Kaaawa Fire Station and the
temporary station. From the discussions and field investigations existing conditions and features
were identified which could affect or be affected by the project. These conditions are:

- The new fire station will be constructed on the site of the existing station;
- No change in public use is proposed;
- The site is in a residential area that has been altered by roads, public infrastructure, and dwellings;
- There are no rare or endangered flora or fauna on the premises;
- There are no archaeological features on the premises;
- A small section of the site is identified as a flood hazard area and the temporary station
  will be located in a coastal high hazard area; and
- Water, power, and telephone systems are adequate to service the new station.

The short-term impacts discussed below generally apply to construction of the new fire station.
Although the various actions necessary to build the new and temporary fire stations are different,
similar construction related impacts can be expected. To avoid redundancy, we have not made
distinctions between impacts resulting from construction of the new station and the temporary
station except where differences are apparent.

B. Short-term Impacts

Prior to construction, utility service will be discontinued, irrigation lines cut and plugged, trees and
other plant material removed, concrete curbs and swales demolished, the cesspool drained and
filled with suitable material, and the three structures razed. Demolition should take less than one
month. This phase of the project will raise fugitive dust, create noise, and increase traffic on
Kamehameha Highway, Street, and Lihimauna Road as debris is hauled away from the site.

The existing Honolulu Police Department telecommunications facility will remain in operation
during construction. There are no plans to remove the self-supporting tower, equipment building,
and fencing as part of the proposed project.
Fugitive dust can and will be controlled by sprinkling water over exposed areas or by the application of other dust suppression measures stipulated in Chapter 60 (Air Pollution Control) of Title 11, Administrative Rules of the State Department of Health.

Construction noise will persist for the projected one year construction period. Noise will be most pronounced during the early stages of development (site work) to erection of the structure. Noise will diminish as interior work commences as most noise should be confined to inside the building. Construction noise may annoy residents living in the vicinity of the station.

Allowable daytime noise levels for residential zoning districts set by the State Department of Health is 55 dBA measured at the property line. Construction work will temporarily exceed this standard and, per Administrative Rules (Chapter 43) of the Department of Health, the Contractor will obtain a noise permit prior to construction. Construction will be limited to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Most on-site vegetation will be grubbed in order to site the improvements. All plants and trees on the premises are commonly found on Oahu and none are considered rare or endangered. The noni tree (or its cuttings or seeds) may be replanted on site.

Erosion control measures will be implemented during construction. Temporary and permanent measures will be identified in an erosion control plan or Best Management Practice (BMP) plan to be submitted with grading plans to the Department of Public Works for review and approval.

Should any subsurface archaeological features be unearthed, work in the immediate area will cease and historic authorities consulted for proper disposition of the finds.

A construction fence will be erected around the property for security and safety purposes. The fence will be removed after construction is completed.

Engine 21 will relocate to a temporary station to be built at Swanzey Beach Park and fire protection and ocean/mountain rescue operations will be maintained without interruption throughout the company’s service area from the temporary station.

The temporary station has been sited at this location to minimize interference with park users and open play areas. In order to build the temporary station, several coconut trees and a kamani tree will be removed and may be relocated elsewhere in the park or used for landscaping another city project. In addition, one off-street parking stall fronting the pavilion will be removed.

The trailers will be posted above the base flood height delineated for the park to minimize potential damages from flooding. The apparatus bay is not enclosed so there should be no damage to the structure.

Following construction of the new station, the temporary facility will be removed and the site restored to as near pre-construction conditions as possible except for the septic tank which will remain for Department of Parks and Recreation use.
C. Long-term Impacts

The project will ensure the safety and welfare of personnel assigned to the Kaaawa Fire Station. Fire fighters would not have to contend with a deteriorating building and having to work and reside in a structure that is recommended for replacement. The project is part of an on-going program by the Fire Department to modernize fire stations throughout the City and County of Honolulu.

No change in manpower requirements and response times to fire alarms within the first response area are anticipated because of the project.

The project should not place additional demands on existing utility systems servicing the fire station. Manpower levels will remain unchanged thus there should be no appreciable change in the amount of water used and wastewater discharged per day. Power usage will increase because the station will be air conditioned. This is desirable to help amelinate noise from passing traffic and for the comfort of the fire fighters.

The proposed project is consistent with existing land use controls and facility plans for the area. Rebuilding the station on the same site of the existing station for the same public safety use will not adversely affect or alter the use of adjoining residential and park lands. Waivers to the general development standards of the Land Use Ordinance pertaining to encroachments into required yards and for exceeding the 25 foot building height of the residential zoning district will be requested. The waivers requested for the proposed use should not adversely affect the health and safety of neighboring residents and should not be detrimental to nearby property improvements.

*Landscaping improvements at the Kanehameha Highway driveway will be of the type that will not obstruct sight distance in either direction.*

An above ground fuel tank is included as part of the improvements to the station. At the present time, there is no underground or above ground fuel tank for fire station use on the premises. The tank will be equipped and maintained to prevent petrochemical fluids from discharging into the environment. Design protective measures will be erected around the tank to prevent possible damage from external causes. The emergency generator will be fueled by underground lines from the diesel tank.

A modern, new fire station will replace a fire station that has been a recognizable part of the Kaaawa community for some 40+ years. Although there are major architectural differences between the new station and the old, the low-rise form, design character, and choice of building materials will help the new station to maintain the residential character of the neighborhood in which it is located. In addition, the attached building has been sited on the lot in consideration of residential yard requirements to further the visual image of a residential dwelling. The height of the apparatus room and its roll up metal doors are perhaps the only distinguishing features that would identify the building as a fire station rather than a dwelling.
SECTION 4

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. No Action

A no action alternative would preclude the occurrence of all impacts, short and long term, beneficial and adverse described in this Assessment. For reasons presented in the need for the project, the no action alternative is not a desired course of action.

B. Alternative Sites

The City and County of Honolulu has no alternative sites available in the Kaaawa area on which to build a new fire station.

C. Alternative Site Plans

Alternative site plans prepared by the consulting architect were evaluated and dismissed by the Building Department. These plans suggested a slightly different location for the main structure which affected the location of ancillary facilities such as the driveway, propane tank, and location of off-street parking. The alternative site plans would not have resulted in environmental impacts significantly different from that described in this Assessment.
SECTION 5  AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Notice of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kaaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Fire Station at Swamy Beach Park was published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) Bulletin of May 8, 1995. The Draft Environmental Assessment was distributed to the agencies and organizations listed below. Publication in the OEQC Bulletin initiated a 30-day public review period which ended on June 7, 1995. An * identifies agencies and organizations that submitted written comments. Comment letters and responses are found in Appendix A.

Federal
*US Army Corps of Engineers

State
Department of Land and Natural Resources
*Department of Transportation
Department of Health

City and County of Honolulu
*Department of Land Utilization
*Department of Public Works
*Department of Wastewater Management
*Department of Parks and Recreation
*Department of Planning
*Department of Transportation Services
*Police Department
*Fire Department
*Board of Water Supply

Other
*Hawaiian Electric Company
GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company
Kaaawa Community Association
Koolauloa Neighborhood Board
Councilman Steve Holmes
SECTION 6

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chapter 200 (Environmental Impact Statement Rules) of Title 11, Administrative Rules of the State Department of Health, establishes criteria for determining whether an action may have significant effects on the environment (11-200-12). The relationship of the proposed project to these criteria is discussed below.

1) Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource;

There are no natural or cultural resources on the premises.

2) Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment;

The project does not curtail the beneficial uses of the environment. The new fire station will be constructed on the site of the existing fire station.

3) 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 and amendments thereto, court decisions or executive orders;

The project does not conflict with long-term environmental policies, goals, and guidelines of the State of Hawaii.

4) Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or State;

The project will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the State. It is anticipated that the new fire station will enhance living and working conditions for personnel assigned to the station.

5) Substantially affects public health;

Public health will not be adversely affected by the proposed project.

6) Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities;

Substantial secondary impacts are not anticipated.

7) Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality;

Environmental quality of the site and surrounding neighborhood will not be degraded.
8) Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions;

The project is not the precursor for a larger action. It is, however, part of an on-going capital improvement program to modernize aged fire stations in the City and County of Honolulu.

9) Substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species, or its habitat;

There are no rare, threatened or endangered flora or fauna on the premises.

10) Detrimentally affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels; or

Ambient air quality will be affected by fugitive dust and combustion emissions but can be controlled by measures stipulated in this Assessment. Construction noise will be pronounced during site preparation work but should diminish once the building is erected. All construction activities will comply with air quality and noise pollution regulations of the State Department of Health.

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

The temporary fire station is located in a coastal high hazard area. However, almost all of the coastal areas comprising the community of Kaawa are also located in a coastal high hazard area. At this time, Swanzy Beach Park is the only city owned property on which the temporary fire station can be located.

Based on the above criteria, replacement of the existing Kaawa Fire Station and construction of a temporary fire station at Swanzy Beach Park will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts and an Environmental Impact Statement should not be required.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX A

COMMENT LETTERS AND RESPONSES
May 3, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Kasawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Swamy Beach Park
Kasawa, Koolaau District, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thank you for your transmittal of April 20, 1995, requesting our comments.

The subject project will not impact our State transportation facilities.

All plans for construction work within the State highway right-of-way must be submitted for our review and approval.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Very truly yours,

KAZU HAYASHIDA
Director of Transportation

May 3, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park, Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Kasawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Swamy Beach Park
Kasawa, Koolaau District, Honolulu, Hawaii

We have reviewed the subject material provided and have no additional comments.

Should you have any questions, please call Acting Assistant Chief Abin Tomita of our Administrative Services Bureau at 831-7775.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

GW/my

Acting Fire Chief
Planning Division

May 9, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park, Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kaka'ako Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Swiny Beach Park, Kaka'ako, Oahu (TMDA 5-1-11: 51, 57 and 5-1-12: 111). The following comments are provided pursuant to Corps of Engineers authorities to disseminate flood hazard information under the Flood Control Act of 1960 and to issue Department of the Army (DA) permits under the Clean Water Act; the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

a. A DA permit may be required for work in Kaka'ako Stream. In addition, the Hanalei soil series sometimes support wetlands if they are present. If this is the case, the wetlands will be impacted. Please contact Mr. Jim Harrington of our Regulatory Branch for further information at 688-9228 and refer to file number FCEN-039.

b. The flood hazard information provided on page 9 of the environmental assessment is correct.

Sincerely,

Ray H. Jyo, P.E.
Director of Engineering

June 13, 1995

Ray H. Jyo, P.E.
Chief of Engineering
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
P. O. Box, Hawaii 96818-5440

Dear Mr. Jyo:

Subject: Kaka'ako Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Swiny Beach Park

Kaka'ako, Kokohead District, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment for the subject project and providing review comments. Our response is intended to correspond with your comments.

a. No construction work is planned within Kaka'ako Stream. The stream is located on the Kahului side of the fire station about 60 feet away and separated from the station by Honolulu Street and a narrow, vacant parcel of land.

Although the Hanalei series are of the Hanalei Series, there are no wetlands on the premises. The site has been continuously used as a fire station since the early 1950s.

Thank you for participating in the Environmental Assessment review process.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK, URBAN PLANNER

C. Lui, Building Department
D. Salu, MSA
May 9, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii  96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Kaaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Ewa Bay Beach Park. WDP 40-12-11-12.

We have reviewed the subject Draft Environmental Assessment and have no objections to the proposal. The City does not have municipal wastewater collection and treatment facilities in the Kaaawa area. The Kaaawa Fire Station project proposes a privately owned and operated wastewater system, thereby falling under the State Department of Health's jurisdiction.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tessa Yuen of the Division of Planning and Service Control at 527-6732.

Very truly yours,

Felix L. Limtiaco
Director

May 26, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii  96814

Dear Mr. Park:

This is in response to your letter of April 20, 1995, requesting comments on a draft environmental assessment for the replacement and construction of the Kaaawa Fire Station located at Ewa Bay Beach Park.

This project should have no significant impact on the operations of the Honolulu Police Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL S. NAKAMURA
Chief of Police

By
EUGENE UCHIDA, Assistant Chief
Administrative Bureau
June 13, 1995

Kenneth E. Sprague
Director and Chief Engineer
Department of Public Works
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sprague:

Subject: Kaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction
of a Temporary Fire Station at Swamy Beach Park
Kaawa, Ko olaua District, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment for the
subject project and providing review comments. Our responses
are numbered to correspond with your comments.

1. The new fire station building is not located within the VE flood hazard
zone. The temporary fire station will be elevated on blocks (or piers) 3
feet above existing grade. Coupled with existing grade (99 feet), the finish
floor of the station should be about 1-2 feet above the calculated base flood
elevation of 12-13 feet.

2. Frontage improvements, if any, will comply with City standards and
Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Thank you for participating in the Environmental Assessment review
process.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK URBAN PLANNER

[Signature]

Gerald Park

cc: C. Lau, Building Department
D. Salo, MSA
May 31, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park, UPR, Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Hollywood, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Kaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Waianae Beach Park, Kaawa, Koolau District, Hawaii.

In response to your request of April 20, 1995, we have reviewed the subject DEA and offer the following comments:

1. The Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) should indicate that:
   - Tax Map Key: 5-4-12: 51 is designated for Public Facilities use;
   - Tax Map Key: 5-4-11: 57 is designated for Residential use; and
   - Tax Map Key: 5-4-13: 11 is designated for Park use on the Koolau Development Plan Lot Use Map.

2. The FEA should also indicate that the proposed project is consistent with the Koolau Development Plan Public Facilities Map, which shows a symbol for a publicly funded fire station modification, site determined, within six years, for the proposed Kaawa Fire Station (Ordinance No. 93-54).

3. We have no objections to the proposed Kaawa Fire Station and construction of a temporary station at Waianae Beach Park.

Mr. Gerald Park
May 31, 1995
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please contact Mathew Higashida of our staff at 327-6056.

Sincerely,

Cheryl D. Soon
Chief Planning Officer

City and County of Honolulu
Planning Department

May 31, 1995
June 13, 1995

Cheryl D. Soon
Chief Planning Officer
Planning Department
City and County of Honolulu
699 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Soon:

Subject: Kaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction
of a Temporary Station at Swamy Beach Park

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for
the subject project. The Final Environmental Assessment will indicate the
land use designations for the three parcels as recommended. We will also
indicate that the proposed project is consistent with the Ko'olaula
Development Plan Public Facilities Map.

Thank you for participating in the Environmental Assessment review
process.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK, URBAN PLANNER

Ann Chai

cc: C. Lau, Building Department
    D. Sato, MSA

GERALD PARK, URBAN PLANNER

City and County of Honolulu
Planning Department
699 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

May 9, 1995

Mr. Park:

Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
Kawaiahaö Fire Station Replacement and
Temporary Station at Swanny Beach Park
Tax Map Rev: 5-1-111: 51 & 57. and 5-1-121: 11

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above-referenced
document. We have the following comments:

1. The proposed work is located within the Special Management
Area (SMA) and requires a SMA Use Permit.

Replacement Fire Station

2. Before applying for building permits, the applicant should
consolidate or obtain approval for joint development of
parcels 21 and 27.

3. Encroachments into the required yards will require a waiver.
   * Diesel and LPG fuel tanks appear to encroach into yards.
   * Will the air conditioning units be located in the
     required yards?

4. The site is subject to a 25-foot height limit.
   * The DEA states "...apparatus bay measures 25 feet...from
     finished grade". Maximum building height is measured
     from existing or finished grade, whichever is lower. Is
     the finished grade lower than the existing grade?

     Heights exceeding 25 feet will require a waiver.

5. Where is the trailer to be located outside the 30-foot front yard?
6. Where is the temporary warning light/alarm located? What is
   its height and its setback from the property lines?

7. Our department has previously issued a waiver (File No.
   90/134-2) to allow expansion of the facility at Swanny Beach
   Park without the required off-street parking spaces. The file
   shows that 28 spaces are required and 12 spaces are provided.
   The current proposal to delete one parking space and provide
   parking for Fire Department personnel will create a greater
   deficit in required off-street parking spaces. Another waiver
   will be required.

Should you have any questions, please call Joan Takano of our staff
at 527-5081.

Very truly yours,

John T. Ohaza
Director of Land Utilization
June 13, 1995

Patrick T. Onishi, Director
Department of Land Utilization
City and County of Honolulu
450 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Onishi:

Subject: Kaaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Fire Station at Swamy Beach Park
Kaaawa, Koolau District, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared for the subject project. Our responses are numbered to coincide with your comments.

1. We will apply for a Special Management Area Use Permit after completing the Environmental Assessment process.

2. Applicant will submit an application for joint development of parcels 21 and 27.

3. Waivers will be requested for encroachments into required yards and for exceeding development standards of the zoning districts. The request for waivers will include the diesel and LPG tanks and other "structures" greater than 30 inches in height.

4. Finish grade is higher than existing grade. The apparatus bay may be 26-27 feet in height when measured from finished grade. Applicant will be requesting a waiver of the 25-foot height requirement.

5. A section of one of the trailers comprising the temporary station will encroach into the 30-foot front yard of Swamy Beach Park. A waiver for the encroachment will be requested.

6. The temporary warning light is approximately 10 feet in height and mounted on a free standing pole. The light will be placed within the right-of-way of Kamahameha Highway at a location to be determined after consulting with the Fire Department and State Department of Transportation.

7. A waiver will be requested to account for the deficit in off-street parking to be created by fire personnel using several of the existing parking stalls.

We will incorporate the responses into the Final Environmental Assessment. Thank you for participating in the Environmental Assessment review process. Please call me at 596-0018 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK
URBAN PLANNER

Gerald Park

cc: C. Lau, Building Department
    D. Sales, MSA
June 7, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kaaua Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Swanzy Beach Park

Kaaawa, Koolau District, Oahu, Hawaii
Tax Map Keys 5-1-12: 31 2 77
5-1-12: 11

Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to comment on your draft environmental assessment for the proposed Kaaawa Fire Station replacement and construction of a temporary station at Swanzy Beach Park.

We have completed our review of the proposed project and have no comments to offer at this time.

If you have any questions, please call John Norihara of our Advance Planning Branch at 522-4246.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

For OHIA L. HAMAKE
Director

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. - PO Box 2750 - Honolulu, HI 96810-2750

June 7, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Kaaua Fire Station Replacement and Construction

of a Temporary Station at Swanzy Beach Park

Kaaawa, Koolau District, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your April 20, 1995 Environmental Assessment report for the Kaaua Fire Station Replacement project, as prepared by the Building Department of the City and County of Honolulu. We have reviewed the subject document and have no comments at this time on the proposed project. HECO shall reserve further comments pending in the protection of habitat areas which bordering the project area until construction plans are finalized.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
June 9, 1995

Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1245 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Kaawa Fire Station
Draft Environmental Assessment

This is in response to your letter dated April 20, 1995
requesting our comments on the subject project.

We have the following traffic concerns:

1. The driveway on Lihimauna Road should be relocated as far
   from Nuuanu Avenue as practical.
2. Any landscaping, walls or fencing in the vicinity of the
   driveways should be the type that will not obstruct
   visibility to vehicles and pedestrians.

Should you have any questions, please contact Wayne Nakamoto of
my staff at 523-4190.

Respectfully,

Charles O. Swanson
Director

June 13, 1995

Charles O. Swanson, Director
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
Pacifica Park Plaza
311 Kapahulu Boulevard, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Swanson:

Subject: Kaawa Fire Station Replacement and Construction
of a Temporary Fire Station at Swanay Beach Park

Thank you for reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment for the subject
project and providing review comments. The design plan for the new station
incorporates your concerns about not obstructing visibility of vehicles and
pedestrians in the vicinity of the driveways. This is especially true for the
driveway at Kanehikashi Highway where the sight distance in the direction of
Kaneole is poor because of a curve in the road.

Thank you for participating in the Environmental Assessment review process.

Sincerely,

GERALD PARK URBAN PLANNER

Gerald Park

cc: C. Lau, Building Department
D. Salas, MSA
Mr. Gerald Park
Gerald Park Urban Planner
1205 Young Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Park:

Subject: Your Letter of May 2, 1995 on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Keeaumoku Fire Station Replacement and Construction of a Temporary Station at Swamy Beach Park, TMK: 2-1-11, 2-1-12, 3-1-11, 3-1-12, South Kona, Hawaii

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed fire station projects. We have the following comments to offer:

1. The existing water system is presently adequate to accommodate the proposed fire stations. There is an existing water meter currently serving both proposed project sites.

2. The availability of water will be confirmed when the building permit application is submitted for our review and approval. When water is made available, the applicant will be required to pay our Water System Facilities Charges for resource development, transmission and daily storage.

3. If a three-inch or larger meter is required for the Keeaumoku Fire Station site, the construction drawings showing the installation of the meter should be submitted for our review and approval.

4. The proposed project is subject to our cross-connection control requirements prior to the issuance of the building permits. An approved reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly is required to be installed immediately after the domestic water meter serving the Keeaumoku Fire Station site.

If you have any questions, please contact Barry Lingswa at 537-5235.

Very truly yours,

Raymond N. Sato
Manager and Chief Engineer