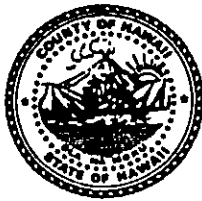


Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



William G. Davis
Managing Director

RECEIVED Henry Cho
Deputy Managing Director

'96 JAN 25 P12:50

County of Hawaii

25 Aupuni Street, Room 215 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252 • (808) 961-8211
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

January 19, 1996

Mr. Gary Gill, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 East King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Gill:

SUBJECT: Negative Declaration for Paho County Pool, Puna,
County of Hawaii, TMKS 1-5-001:003 and 1-5-002:018

The Hawaii County Mayor's Office has reviewed the comment letters received during the 30-day public comment period which began on December 8, 1995. We have determined that this project will not have significant environmental effects and we have issued a negative declaration. Please publish this notice in the February 8, 1996, Environmental Notice.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Environmental Notice Publication Form and four copies of the final EA.

Please contact Norm Olesen, Deputy Planning Director, at 961-8565 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve".

Stephen K. Yamashiro
MAYOR

Enclosures

1996-02-08-171-~~FEA~~-Pahoa County Pool

FEB 8 1996
FILE COPY

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(NEGATIVE DECLARATION)

PAHOA SWIMMING POOL

TMKs 1-5-001:003 (por.) and 1-5-002:018 (por.)
Waiakahiula (Pahoa Town), Puna, Island of Hawaii

February 1996

APPLICANT:

Hawaii County Parks and Recreation Department
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

CONSULTANT:

Ron Terry Ph.D.
HCR 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

APPROVING AGENCY:

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

CLASS OF ACTION:

Use of County funds

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PART 1: ACTION DESCRIPTION

1.1.1 Project Location

The proposed project is sited on portions of TMKs 1-5-001:003 and 1-5-002:018, in the town of Pahoa, Puna District, Island of Hawaii. Approximately 110,680 square feet would be acquired from the first parcel, and 20,000 square feet from the second, for a total of 3 acres, more or less. The site is adjacent to the County ballfield, the Pahoa Neighborhood Center, the Pahoa Fire Station, and the Pahoa Cash and Carry (Fig. 1).

1.2 Project Purpose, Objectives and Description

The purpose of the project is to provide a 50-meter pool for the school children and general public of Lower Puna. Pahoa High School is the only public high school in the County of Hawaii without convenient access to a swimming pool. Nearly 2,400 K-12 students at nearby schools would have access to the pool. In addition, the pool would have scheduled public swimming. The pool facility would complement recreational activities available at the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility and Ballfield.

The facility would be operated by the Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation. The pool would support school classes, general public swimming, training and competitive meets, water polo, water ballet, water aerobics and other activities. The 50-meter length of the pool would enable simultaneous multiple activities (e.g., a water polo game and swim training).

A notable feature of the pool is that it would be the only pool on the island where recorded times could be certified to Olympic standards.

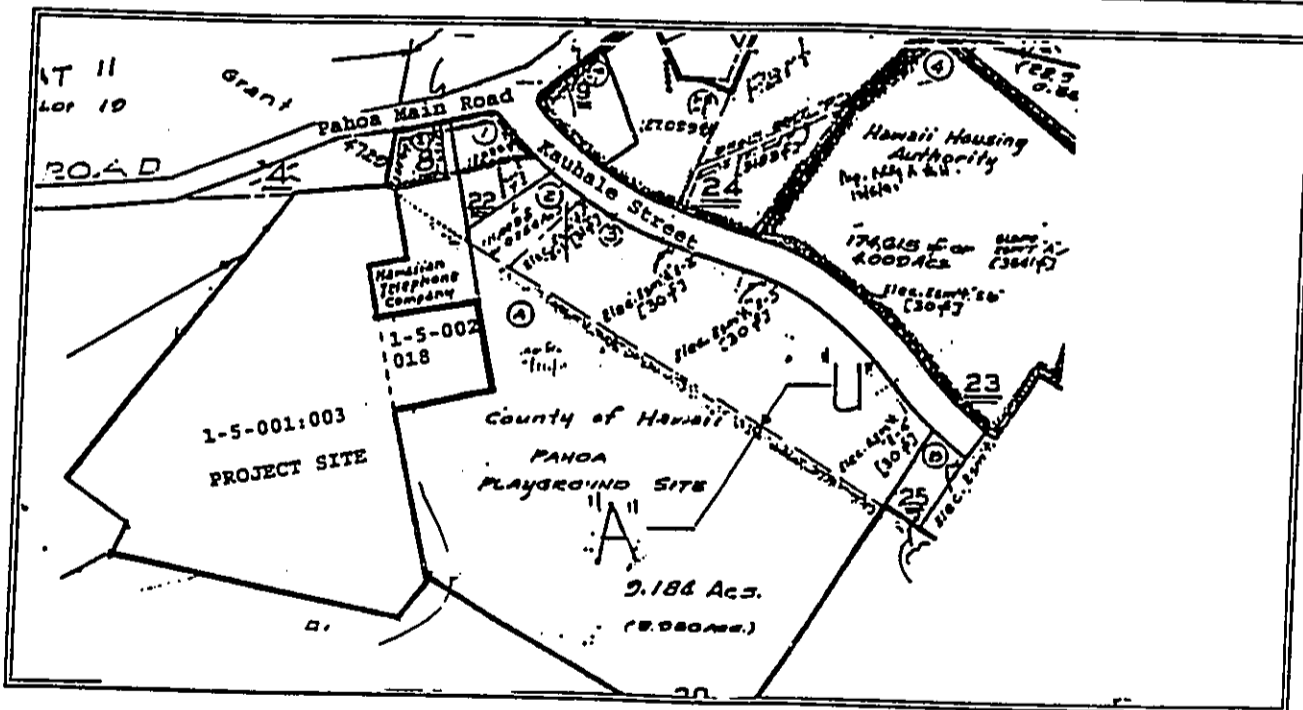
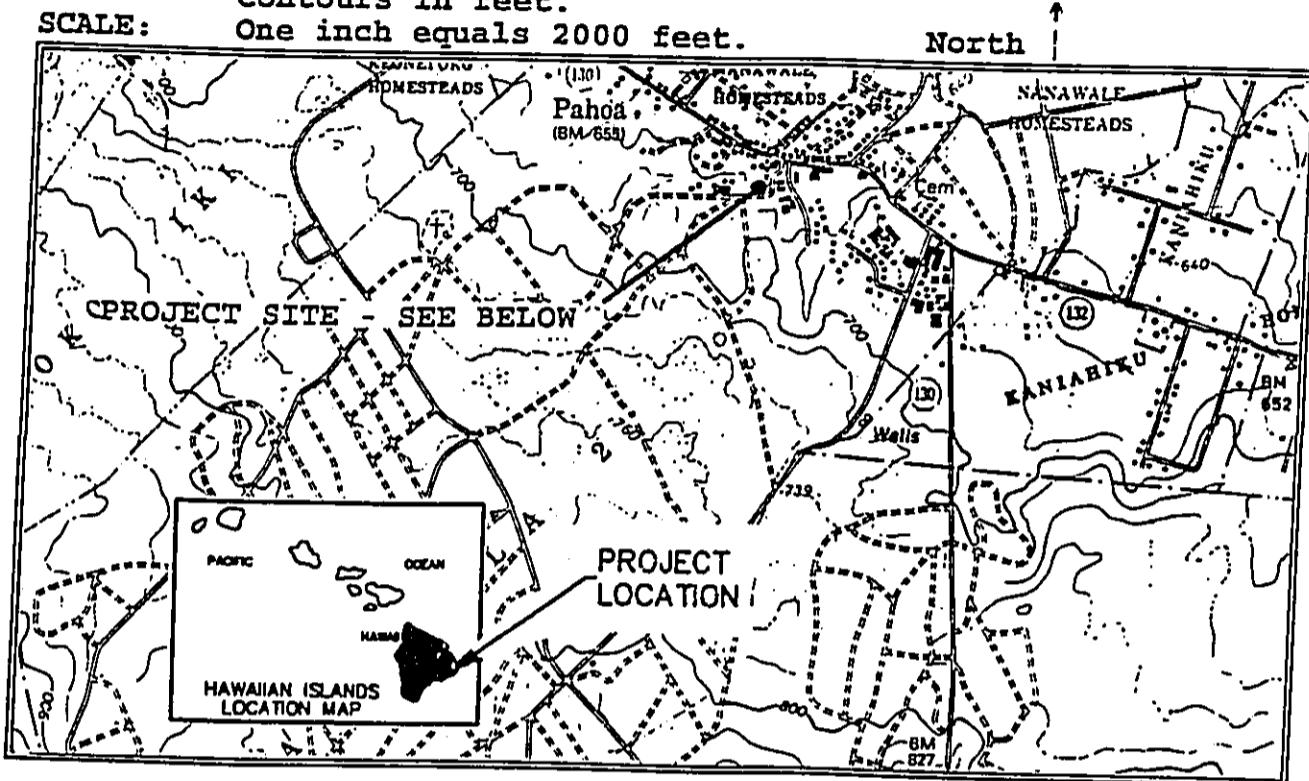
Project components (see Fig. 2) include:

- o One 50-meter pool and one children's pool, both heated. The pools will have an open roof.
- o Two one-meter diving boards.
- o Support facilities including an office/first aid station, locker rooms, pool heating/pump house, electrical room, equipment storage room and bleachers.
- o Striped, standard parking spaces for approximately 150 vehicles.
- o Handicapped parking and 7 bus parking stalls.

FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP, PAHOA POOL

SOURCE: United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 Series
 Pahoa South Quad
 Contours in feet.

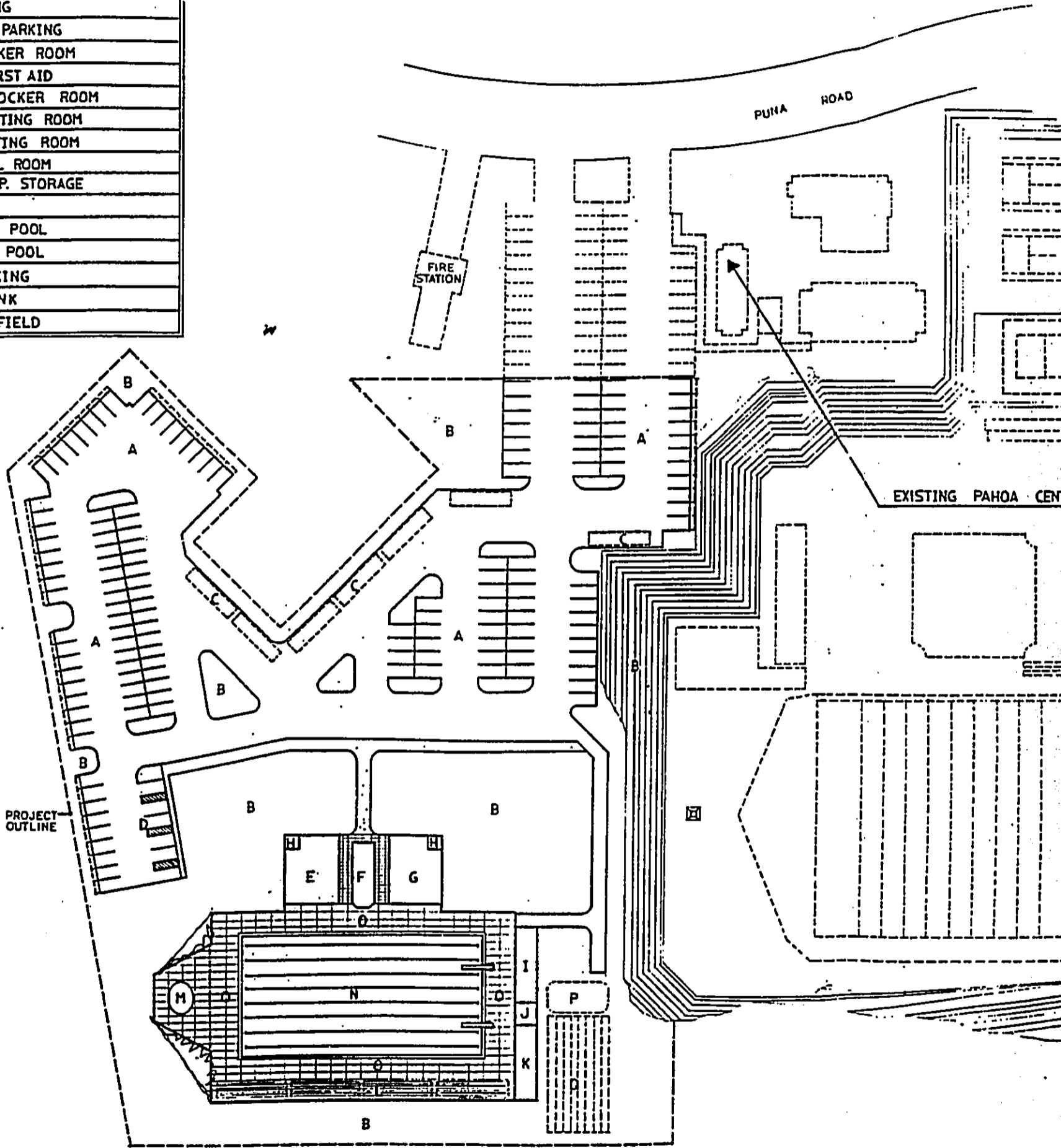
SCALE: One inch equals 2000 feet.



SOURCE: Hawaii County Tax Maps
SCALE: One inch equals 300 feet.

LEGEND

A	- PARKING
B	- LANDSCAPING
C	- BUS PARKING
D	- HANDICAP PARKING
E	- MEN'S LOCKER ROOM
F	- OFFICE/FIRST AID
G	- WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM
H	- SOLAR HEATING ROOM
I	- POOL HEATING ROOM
J	- ELECTRICAL ROOM
K	- POOL EQUIP. STORAGE
L	- BLEACHERS
M	- CHILDREN'S POOL
N	- 50 METER POOL
O	- POOL DECKING
P	- SEPTIC TANK
Q	- LEACHING FIELD



SITE LAYOUT PLAN



**B ASSOCIATES:
DISCIPLINE IN
ARCHITECTURE**

beimbom/kekoa assoc
architects/planners

James r. beimbom
kailua, kona
(808) 328-2324

conrad k. kekoa
honolulu, hawaii

supervision of construction to be as defined
in section 12, chapter 10, title VII professional
and vocational licensing division department
of regulatory agencies, state of hawaii.

this work was prepared
by me or under my
supervision and con-
struction of this job
will be under my direct
vision.

revision no.	date	description

job: PAHOA COMMUNITY
AQUATIC CENTRE

sheet title: SITE LAYOUT
PLAN

print date: 11/1/95

job no. _____
date _____
scale _____

contractor to verify
all dimensions and
conditions of the job
site.

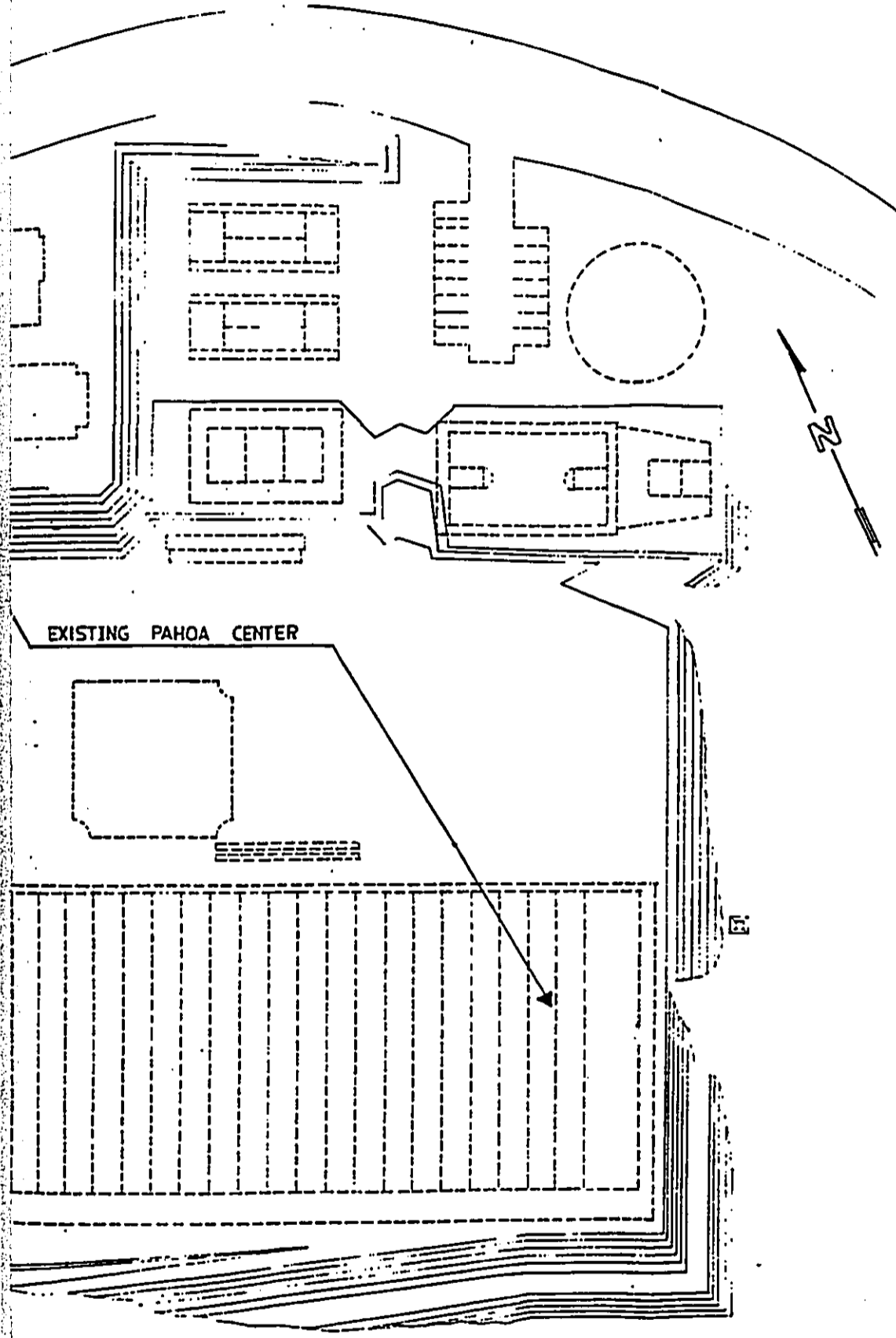


FIGURE 2

- o Extensive landscaping, including 20-30 foot wide buffers between parking and adjacent parcels. Community groups will be consulted during formulation of the landscaping plan.
- o The entire facility will be surrounded by a chain-link fence, and the pool itself will be contained within an 8-foot CRM wall for wind protection.

Access to the facility would be via the Pahoa Road to Kauhale Street, and then through the existing driveway of the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility.

A staff of 5 is projected for the pool facility - 2 full time and 2 part-time lifeguards, and one maintenance worker.

The estimated cost for the pool and related improvements is approximately \$3,000,000. The funding source will be General Obligation Bonds. The County Council has authorized an appropriation of \$3,550,000 for the project. Expenditures so far total \$154,000 for the design contract.

Project construction is scheduled for March or April of 1996, and the target for opening the pool is November 1996.

1.3 Ownership

TMK 1-5-001:003 is an 1,189.743-acre parcel owned by the Roman Catholic Church. TMK 1-5-002:018 is a 45,541 square foot parcel owned by Hawaiian Telephone Company. The portions of the parcels required for the project would be acquired through condemnation (with owner consent). Ownership of these portions would be transferred to the County of Hawaii. A subdivision/consolidation process would unite these portions with the County-owned parcel currently containing the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility and the Pahoa Ballfield/Playground (TMK 1-5-002-20).

1.4 Land Use Designation and Controls

The parcel portions are zoned A-1a (Agriculture, 1 acre) by the County and are located in the State Land Use Agriculture District. Recreational facilities are, in general, permitted and/or identified uses within these zones.

Adjacent areas have similar designation or are in the Urban District and have CV (village commercial) or RS-15 (Residential, 15,000 square foot minimum) zoning.

A 1 November 1995 comment letter from the Hawaii County Planning Department (see Appendix 1) expressed concern about the subdivision of parcel 1-5-02:18, because this would leave a remnant lot smaller than the permitted size for

State Land Use Agriculture and County A-1a zoning. However, section 23-11 of the County Zoning Code states that "the requirements, including lot sizes, and standards of this chapter shall not be applicable to public utility or public rights-of-way subdivisions and their remnant parcels..." Parcel 18 is owned by Hawaiian Telephone and used for public utility purposes and is thus exempt from the minimum lot size requirement. Chapter 205, HRS (State Land Use Law) in Section §205-5(b) delegates authority to waive minimum lot sizes under these conditions to the counties.

The letter from the Planning Department also noted that in order for the project to be exempt from the Special Permit requirements, the project must conform to the "open area type of recreational uses" under State Land Use Law and County Zoning. The Department of Parks and Recreation has stated that open-air pools such as the facility in question qualify as an open area recreational use and that the project is therefore exempt from the requirement to obtain a Special Permit.

1.5 Consultation With Government Agencies

The following agencies and organizations were contacted in the preparation of this Environmental Assessment (EA).

County: Planning Department Department of Public Works
County Council Department of Water Supply

State: State Historic Preservation Division
Department of Health, Clean Water Branch

Private: Pahoia Main Street

Copies of replies from those agencies with substantive comments are provided as Appendix 1 and discussed in the appropriate sections of the Environmental Assessment.

The project has been discussed at meetings of the Pahoia Main Street Program, Pahoia School, and other forums. The project has received widespread support and no known opposition to date. An advisory committee was set up to encourage involvement of school, business and community leaders. A public meeting for the project took place on December 16, 1995, at the Pahoia Neighborhood Facility (see Section 2.2).

Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for this project was published on December 8, 1995. The 30-day comment period elapsed on January 7, 1996. One no-objection letter was received and is included at the end of Appendix 1.

PART 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1 Physical Environment Characteristics

2.1.1 Geology, Soils, Hydrology, and Hazards

Existing Environment

The surface geology of the site consists of well-weathered lava between 400-750 years in age (Moore and Trusdell 1991). Elevation on the site averages 720 feet above mean sea level, with minor regional slope and the local topographic variation associated with lava flows.

The soil type on the site is classified as Keaukaha Extremely Rocky Muck, which is a well-drained, thin organic soil overlying pahoehoe. The soil above the lava is rapidly permeable. The pahoehoe lava is very slowly permeable, but water moves rapidly through the cracks. Runoff is medium and the erosion hazard is slight (U.S. Soil Conservation Service 1973).

The site, along with much of the Big Island, is subject to geologic hazards, especially lava flows and earthquakes. The location of the property adjacent to and downslope from the Kilauea's East Rift Zone earns it a rating of Lava Flow Hazard Zone 2 (on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1). Zone 2 areas have had 15 to 25 percent of their surfaces covered by lava since 1800, and 25 to 75 percent covered within the past 750 years. As such, there is considerable risk of lava inundation over relatively short time scales (see Heliker 1990).

Seismically the area shares with the entire island of Hawaii a Zone 3 on a scale of ascending risk 1 to 4 in the Seismic Probability Rating (Furumoto et al 1973:34). Major damage corresponding to a score of 7 or above on the Modified Mercalli Scale is possible.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

In general, geologic conditions impose no constraints on the project. All construction should conform with lateral load specifications according the Uniform Building Code.

2.1.2 Flora, Fauna and Ecosystems

Existing Environment

A botanical survey was conducted by the author on November 5, 1995.

The original vegetation of the project area was Lowland Wet Forest (Gagne and Cuddihy 1990), but the project parcel has been modified through sugar cane cultivation and plantation housing and the general effects of Western flora and fauna introductions.

The site of the proposed project today is almost entirely covered with alien plants. The vegetation in the area is a mosaic of California grass (Brachiaria mutica) with guava (Psidium guajava), warabi fern, and miscellaneous forest, in which the understory consists of herbaceous species, shrubs, vines and ferns, few of which are native. Prominent species include albizia (Albizia falcataria), trumpet tree (Cecropia obtusifolia), mango (Mangifera indica), avocado (Persea americana), banana (Musa x. paradisiaca), gunpowder tree (Trema orientalis), chinese banyan (Ficus microcarpa), coconut (Cocos nucifera), royal palms (Roystonea regia), bingabing (Macaranga mappa), coffee (Coffea arabica), thimble berry (Rubus rosifolius), Wedelia trilobata, honohono (Commelina diffusa), and taro (Colocasia esculenta). Many other aliens are also present.

Native fauna in such disturbed lowland habitats is not abundant. No native bird species are likely to frequent the site. The two Hawaiian raptors, the Hawaiian hawk or 'io (Buteo solitarius) and the Hawaiian owl or pueo (Asio flammeus sandwichensis) are often seen around Pahoehoe. Although the Hawaiian hawk is an endangered species, the subject property is not considered to be part of its essential habitat, and no hawk nests are known to exist on the site. The project will probably have little or no effect on hawk activity.

No listed, candidate or proposed endangered animal or plant species are found on the property. In terms of conservation value, no botanical or zoological resources requiring special protection are present.

Impacts

No adverse impact to flora, fauna or ecosystems would result from the proposed project.

2.1.3 Air Quality, Noise and Scenic Resources

Existing Environment

Air pollution in the area is minimal, although air quality is subject to periodic deterioration to volcanic emissions ("vog") during southerly winds. Ambient noise is low, and

comes mainly from the traffic, especially trucks and buses, on the Pahoa Road. Residential activities such as lawnmowing, music, and home repair also produce intermittent noise. There are no scenic views from or of the site.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Automobiles, buses and trucks would make use of an area currently without roads. Minor amounts of automotive exhaust pollution would be generated. The large size of the site (3 acres) would itself mitigate any problems.

Noise derived from motor vehicles and school children would emanate from the site. No sensitive land uses are located nearby. Again, the large area of the site would buffer the slight noise increase to minor levels.

Landscaping is a key component of project design and will provide a pleasant environment for the pool users and also provide a buffer between the site and adjacent land uses.

2.2 Social, Cultural and Economic Setting

2.2.1 Land Use in Project Vicinity

Existing Environment

Currently the land is vacant and has no active land uses. Formerly the land was part of Puna Sugar's housing and sugar cultivation areas. The land was reportedly bulldozed during the 1970s to restore it to its former condition, in accordance with the lease termination agreement with the Catholic Church.

Immediately adjacent is the County recreational complex, which contains the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility and the ballfield, where there is one basketball court along with two baseball diamonds and a soccer field diagonally overlaid between them. Other adjacent land uses are the Pahoa Fire Station, a Hawaiian Telephone facility, a grocery store with two parking lots, and several residential lots.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project would fill in vacant land near the center of Pahoa and thus increase the density of structures. It would add to the range of public services available within Pahoa. The public pool is compatible with surrounding land uses and other than the landscape buffer and fencing that are part of the project, no mitigation is planned or necessary.

2.2.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics

Existing Environment

No other public swimming pools exist in the Puna District. The only other public swimming site of any kind is located at Pualaa County Beach Park in Pohoiki, where geothermally-heated, brackish ground water fills a natural depression that has been enlarged to form a wide pond. Although the Pualaa site provides excellent recreation, it is not appropriate for pool activities such as competitive swimming.

The proposed project is designed for and would affect two overlapping populations: Lower Puna schoolchildren and residents.

The following is the current (November 1995) distribution of public school students in this area of Puna:

Pahoa Elementary School, K-6:	685
Pahoa High and Intermediate School, 7-12	1,010
Keonepoko Elementary School, K-6	688 ¹

Data from the 1990 Census of Population showed a total of 10,575 persons living in Eastern Lower Puna (for purposes here, this is defined as Pahoa, Hawaiian Beaches, Nanawale, Kapoho, Pohoiki, Opihikao, Kalapana and intermediate areas). Adjacent areas also likely to use the facility include Hawaiian Paradise Park, with 3,389 residents, and the subdivisions across Highway 130, which had approximately 2,000 residents. Lower Puna has shown growth rates of over 50 percent per decade in the last twenty years. By 1996, it is likely that the proposed facility would serve a resident population exceeding 20,000. A few visitors and non-residents of the area may also be expected to use the pool.

The population of Lower Puna has certain characteristics suggesting a greater than average demand for swimming areas. The median age for the Kalapana-to-Hawaiian Beaches area is 31.4 years, as compared to 34.3 for Hawaii County and 35.2 for the Hilo District. Contributing to this low median age (the lowest of all areas in the county) is the proportion of the population under 16, which is at 30.9 percent, as compared to 25.9 percent for Hawaii County as a whole.²

¹ Source: School registrars.

² Source: Assorted publications of U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Impacts

The proposed project would have a beneficial impact on the recreational options of school children and residents of Lower Puna, as public input has demonstrated. A public meeting for the project advertised by flyers and newspaper announcements took place on December 16, 1995, at the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility. Testimony on the facility was received from many civic, youth, educational, and business organizations as well as individuals and was almost unanimously favorable. The great need for swimming facilities for the students and residents of Puna was cited by most speakers, and the selected site was considered particularly well-suited. One member of the public identified a potential historic feature, which led to consultation with the State Historic Preservation Division (see Section 2.4).

2.3 Public Facilities and Services

2.3.1 Roads and Traffic

Existing Setting

The site would be accessed via Kauhale Street, which is a dead-end street that branches off Pahoa Road near the center of Pahoa (see Fig. 1). Kauhale Street currently provides access to the Pahoa Young Buddhist Association building, the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility and the 31-unit Nani O Puna housing project managed by Hawaii Housing Authority. The street is approximately 40 feet wide and has curbs and a sidewalk on its west side.

Traffic levels on the intersection of Kauhale Street and Pahoa Road have not been monitored by the County. Observations by the author during the AM and PM peak hours found the intersection operating at satisfactory levels with little or no queuing.

Impacts

The proposed project would add traffic to a 200-foot long segment of Kauhale Street. The pool may be expected to generate several hundred trips per day, with occasionally larger volumes during swim meets.

The County Department of Public Works stated in a 26 October 1995 comment letter on the project that a traffic impact analysis may be necessary (see Appendix 1). The Parks and Recreation Department believes that traffic impact would be

minor and does not plan to initiate a traffic study at this time. Among the mitigating factors they cite are the fact that most of the weekday pool users will be students who will arrive on buses, which produce far less traffic impact than their passenger equivalent in automobiles. Also, the highest level of automobile traffic will be during weekends, when work and commute-related traffic is light. Furthermore, the location of the access 200 feet up a side-street and not on the main street of Pahoa will lessen impacts. In sum, the additional traffic associated with the pool is not expected to induce noticeable delays at the Kauhale Street/Pahoa Road intersection except briefly after particularly well-attended swim meets.

The project would also route traffic destined to the pool through the lower portion of the existing parking lot for the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility (see Fig. 2). This would cause minor interference with parking and other activities currently occurring in the parking lot. The project will add parking spaces for use by both the pool and the Neighborhood Facility. This would mitigate some of the impact to the Neighborhood Facility's parking area.

It is recommended that traffic control features such as speed bumps be considered in order to ensure the safety in both the pool and the Neighborhood Facility parking areas.

2.3.2 Electricity and Phone

Electric and phone lines are available at the site. No impact to these services is expected as a result of the project.

2.3.3 Water Supply

Existing Setting

Pahoa has been the beneficiary of several water supply improvement projects in the recent past and is adequately supplied with water. Pahoa Town has relatively narrow distribution lines. Water for the project is available from an existing 8-inch waterline along the Pahoa Road.

Impacts

The pool would require approximately 750,000 gallons to fill. Afterwards, the average water consumption of the pool would be approximately 500-800 gallons per day (gpd), primarily due to evaporation. The restroom and shower

facilities would require another 2,000 gpd. A 14 November 1995 comment letter from the Department of Water Supply (DWS) stated that the service available would be a 1-inch meter with a maximum allocation of 4,200 gpd, which would be adequate for the facility (see Appendix 1).

2.3.4 Wastewater and Hazardous Materials

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Wastewater will be disposed of in an approved septic tank facility in accordance with Department of Health regulations.

Swimming pools require the use of potentially toxic chemicals such as chlorine, soda ash, and muriatic acid. Pool operators undergo extensive training to ensure that these chemicals are handled correctly and that neither workers nor the public are exposed to danger. Hazardous materials are inventoried through a Tier-2 Reporting Form and this information is filed with State and County Civil Defense Agencies and the County Fire Department. Procedures to contain spills and evacuate during emergencies are part of this training. In addition, fire department personnel are also trained to respond to hazardous material situations.

2.3.5 Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Existing Setting

The Hawaii County Police Department maintains a substation in Pahoa. A "beat cop" to patrol downtown Pahoa on foot was recently added to the services provided. The Pahoa Fire Station, which is staffed 24-hours a day, is located adjacent to the proposed pool site. The fire station currently has an average of five firemen per shift, with one MICT (Mobile Intensive Care Technician) on duty at all times.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

At least one certified lifeguard will be on-site during all hours of operation. Although fire and police responses to the site may occasionally be necessary, no adverse impact on these services is to be expected as a result of the project.

2.4 Archaeology and Historic Sites

Existing Environment

The site was part of Puna Sugar's operations during most of the 20th century and was then reportedly bulldozed during the 1970s. The dense vegetation currently covering the site hides much of the surface. However, there is little chance of archaeological discoveries. No known cemeteries or burials are found on or adjacent to the site.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) was contacted during the preparation of this Environmental Assessment. In a letter of 16 November 1995 (see Appendix 1), SHPD stated that based on a review of historic site records and the land use context of the parcel, it is very unlikely that significant historic sites would be present.

At the public meeting held on December 16, 1995, a long-time resident of Puna noted that a rock and earthen ridge that was formerly part of a railroad bed was likely to be present on the site. He said that all ties and tracks had been removed. A field inspection of the overgrown area immediately afterward yielded ambiguous results, but subsequent analysis of the topographic maps identified several disconnected segments of this former bed, which had been extensively disturbed by bulldozing in the 1970s. The SHPD was informed, and they have determined that the discontinuous ridge does not constitute a significant historic site. The longest segment of the ridge occurs in an area designated as an open space buffer zone, and in any case will not be disturbed by the project.

As with any project in lowland Hawaii, there is at least a slight possibility that grading may unearth artifacts or burials. Should any human burials, artifacts or charcoal deposits be found, work shall stop in the immediate vicinity and the SHPD shall be contacted. The significance of these finds shall then be determined and approved by the SHPD, and an acceptable mitigation plan (if needed) shall be approved by the SHPD. The County of Hawaii is actively consulting with the SHPD to arrive at an appropriate monitoring plan.

2.5 Government Plans and Approvals

2.5.1 Consistency with Plans

The General Plan for the County of Hawaii is a policy document for the long-range comprehensive development of the island of Hawaii (Hawaii County Planning Department 1989). The General Plan specifically identifies the proposed project under its recommended courses of action:

A. Puna: (6) Recreation:

"A swimming pool should be provided in Pahoa in cooperation with the Department of Education."

The project is also listed in the (draft) Puna Community Development Plan. In addition, the Pahoa Main Street Program's Five-Year Plan identifies the need for a public swimming pool within Pahoa and recommends the proposed site.

2.5.2 Required Permits and Approvals

Hawaii County Planning Department:
Subdivision/Consolidation Approval

Hawaii State Department of Health
Chapter 13A Public Swimming Pool Approvals

PART 3: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PROPOSED
MITIGATION MEASURES

3.1 Short Term Impacts

Construction Impacts: Short term impacts will result from landclearing and construction activities. The impacts will consist of temporary noise, dust and exhaust from machinery and heavy equipment.

Mitigation: The applicant should restrict construction activity in the easement to daylight hours to the greatest extent feasible. Professional traffic control should be utilized as necessary. Dust and noise control should be implemented during construction. Best management practices should be observed to control excess runoff during construction.

3.2 Long Term Impacts

Impacts to Air Quality, Noise and Scenic Resources:

Automobiles, buses and trucks would make use of an area currently without roads. Minor amounts of automotive exhaust pollution would be generated. Noise from motor vehicles and particularly school children would emanate from the site. No sensitive land uses are located nearby.

Mitigation:

The large size of the site (nearly 3 acres) will provide substantial mitigation for any problems of exhaust and noise. Landscaping is a key component of project design and will provide a pleasant environment for the pool users and also provide a buffer between the site and adjacent land.

Traffic Impacts:

The proposed project would add traffic to a 200-foot long segment of Kauhale Street. The pool may be expected to generate several hundred trips per day, with occasionally larger volumes during swim meets. This level of traffic is not expected to induce noticeable delays at the Kauhale Street/Pahoa Road intersection except perhaps during special events.

The project would also route traffic destined to the pool through the lower portion of the existing parking lot for the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility. This would cause minor

interference with parking and other activities currently occurring in the parking lot.

Mitigation:

The Parks and Recreation Department believes that traffic impact would be minor due to the facts that the site is not accessed by the main road, most weekday visitors would be school children arriving by bus, and automobile visits would peak on the weekends, not weekdays. Therefore, no mitigation is planned.

The project will add parking spaces that would be available for both the pool and the Neighborhood Facility. This would mitigate some of the impact to the Facility's parking area.

It is recommended that traffic control features such as speed bumps be considered in order to ensure the safety for both the pool and the Neighborhood Facility parking areas.

PART 4: ALTERNATIVES

4.1 No Action

If no pool is constructed in the Lower Puna area, the school children and residents of Puna will continue to lack a site for competitive swimming, swim training, physical education swimming, and other pool-related activities.

4.2 Alternative Site Locations

The site offers the ideal location for the proposed project because it is adjacent to existing County recreational areas, is close to Pahoa School, and has sufficient land for full project development. Although other sites have been examined, the Department of Parks and Recreation has given serious consideration to this site only.

4.3 Alternative Concepts

During planning for the project the County of Hawaii considered the concept of two 25-meter pools, one in Keaau and one in Pahoa. Several factors weighed against this alternative, principally the issues of cost, efficiency, and the lack of flexibility in activity scheduling entailed by a smaller design.

PART 5: DETERMINATION

The proposed project will not significantly alter the environment and impacts will be minimal. Therefore, the Hawaii County Mayor's Office has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted (see cover letter).

PART 6: FINDINGS AND REASONS

1. The proposed project does not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources. No valuable vegetation, historic sites, or other resources are involved.
2. The proposed project does not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.
3. The proposed project does not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions or executive orders.
4. The proposed project does not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or State.
5. The proposed project does not substantially affect public health in any detrimental way and will in fact improve public health through the provision of exercise facilities.
6. The proposed project does not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.
7. The proposed project does not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality. No degradation whatsoever is expected as a result of the project.
8. The proposed project is not one which is individually limited but cumulatively may have considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions. The pool is a stand-alone project.
9. The proposed project does not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species or its habitat. No such species or habitat is on or near the project site.
10. The proposed project does not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels, although minor increases in noise are expected.
11. Although the proposed project is located in an zone exposed to some earthquake and volcanic hazard, there are no reasonable alternatives. The proposed action would not expose any person to unreasonable risks.

For these reasons, the proposed project will not have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

REFERENCES

- Furumoto, A.S., N.N. Nielsen, and W.R. Phillips. 1973. *A Study of Past Earthquakes, Isoseismic Zones of Intensity, and Recommended Zones for Structural Design for Hawaii*. Honolulu: Hawaii Institute of Geophysics.
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- Hawaii County Planning Department. 1989. *The General Plan, Hawaii County*. Hilo.
- Heliker, C. 1990. *Volcanic and Seismic Hazards on the Island of Hawaii*. Washington: U.S. GPO.
- Moore, R.B., and F.A. Trusdell. 1991. *Geologic Map of the Lower East Rift Zone of Kilauea Volcano, Hawaii*. U.S. Geological Survey Misc. Investigation Series Map I-2225. Washington, D.C.
- United States Soil Conservation Service. 1973. *Soil Survey of Island of Hawaii, State of Hawaii*. Washington: U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service.
- University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dept. of Geography. 1983. *Atlas of Hawaii*. 2nd ed. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1991. *1990 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics*. 1990 CP-1-13. Washington: GPO.

APPENDIX 1

AGENCY LETTERS

AND COMMENTS TO DRAFT EA

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Donna Fay K. Kiyosaki
Chief Engineer

Jiro A. Sumada
Deputy Chief Engineer

County of Hawaii

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

October 26, 1995

Ron Terry PhD
Geo Metrician
HCR 9575
Keaau Hawaii 96749

SUBJECT : DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Pahoa County Pool
Waiakahiula, Puna, Hawaii
TMK: 3 / 1-5-01: 03 & 1-5-02: 018

We acknowledge receipt of your letter concerning the subject assessment. As requested, our comments on any special conditions or impacts are as follows:

1. Any building construction shall conform to all requirements of code and statutes of the County.
2. Any work within the County right-of-way shall be in conformance with Chapter 22, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Hawaii County Code.
3. All development generated runoff shall be disposed on site and shall not be directed toward any adjacent properties.
4. All earthwork and grading shall be in conformance with Chapter 10, Erosion and Sediment Control, of the Hawaii County Code.
5. Wastewater disposal shall meet with the requirements of the DPW, Wastewater Division.
6. A traffic impact analysis report may be required to enable proper design of roadways and accesses.

Should there be any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact Mr. Casey Yanagihara in our Engineering Division at (808) 961-8327.

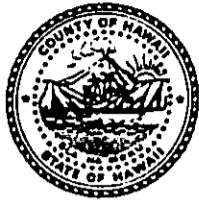
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Galen M. Kuba".

Galen M. Kuba, Division Chief
Engineering Division

CKY

cc : Planning Department

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein
Director

Norman Olesen
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-9615

November 1, 1995

Mr. Ron Terry, Ph.D.
Geo Metrician
HCR 9575
Keaau, HI 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

Request for Comments Regarding Preparation of Draft
Environmental Assessment for the Pahoa County Pool
Tax Map Key: 1-5-01: Por. of 3 and 1-5-02: Por. of 18,
Waiakahiula, Puna, Hawaii

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 26, 1995, requesting comments regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment for the construction of the Pahoa County Pool on portions of the affected properties, and have the following comments to offer:

1. Parcel 3 and Parcel 18 consist of approximately 1,190 acres and 45,541 square feet of land, respectively. The proposal would require the County's purchase of approximately 120,000 square feet between the two properties. Parcel 18, and the portion of Parcel 3 affected by the proposal, are presently designated Agricultural (A) by the State Land Use Commission and zoned Agricultural-1 acre (A-1a) by the County. Both the State Land Use Law (Chapter 205, HRS) and the County Zoning Code (Chapter 25, County Code) specifies a minimum lot size of one (1) acre within these land use districts. Therefore, the proposed subdivision of Parcel 18 to accommodate the proposed pool site will not be possible since it would create a residual Parcel 18 which will be less than one acre in size.
2. State Land Use Law and County Zoning both permit the establishment of "open area type of recreational uses" on lands situated within the Agricultural District. The environmental assessment must justify the proposed pool

Mr. Ron Terry, Ph.D.
Geo Metrician
Page 2
November 1, 1995

improvements against this definition of recreation. If the proposed pool improvements cannot be justified under the "open area type recreational use" definition, then a Special Permit must be secured from the Planning Commission.

We will reserve further comment until such time we are in receipt of the draft environmental assessment. Please feel free to contact Daryn Arai of this office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN
Planning Director

DSA:mjs
LGeoMe01.dsa

xc: Department of Parks and Recreation



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

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

November 14, 1995

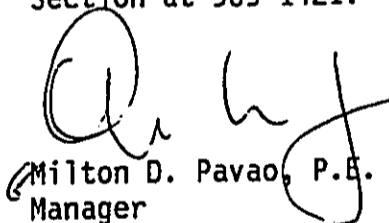
Mr. Ron Terry
Geo Metrician
HCR 9575
Keaau, HI 96749

COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR A
COUNTY POOL AT PAHOA TOWN
TAX MAP KEY 1-5-1:PORTION OF 03 AND 1-5-2:PORTION OF 18

The following are our comments for your use in preparing the environmental assessment for the subject project.

Water is available from an existing 8-inch waterline along the Keaau-Pahoia Road. Based on our current water availability situation, water is limited to a 1-inch meter and 4,200 gallons per day per existing zoned lot of record or for special permit applications. Pursuant to your telephone conversation with Mr. William Atkins of our staff, you had confirmed that upon completion of the project, the maximum daily water usage would be about 3,800 gallons per day. For your information, the prevailing facilities charge for this usage is \$16,650.00.

Should you have any questions, please call our Water Resources and Planning Section at 969-1421.


Milton D. Pavao, P.E.
Manager

GK/WA

... Water brings progress...

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
33 SOUTH KING STREET, 6TH FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MICHAEL D. WILSON, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPUTY
GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM
AQUATIC RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
CONSERVATION AND
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

November 16, 1995

Mr. Ron Terry
Geo Metrician
HCR 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

LOG NO: 15969 ✓
DOC NO: 9510ms11

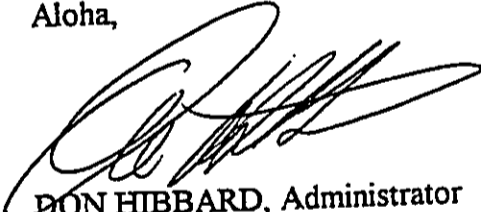
Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Request for information concerning significant historic sites at the proposed
Pahoa swimming pool location
Keaau, Puna, Hawaii Island
TMK: 1-5-01:3 and TMK: 1-5-02:18**

Our records do not show any significant historic sites on the subject parcels. Also, based on historic aerial photos, it appears that the parcel has been used as sugarcane land, hence making it very unlikely that any significant historic sites would be present. We believe that the proposed action of developing a 50-meter swimming pool will have "no effect" on significant historic sites.

If you should have any further questions, please contact Patrick McCoy at 587-0006 (Honolulu), or Marc Smith at 933-4346 (Hilo).

Aloha,


DON HIBBARD, Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division

MS:amk

c: Virginia Goldstein, County of Hawaii Planning Department

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAYS DIVISION**

HAWAII DISTRICT
50 MAKAALA STREET
P.O. BOX 4277
HILO, HAWAII 96720
TELEPHONE (808) 833-4640 • FAX (808) 833-4738

December 26, 1995

KAZU HAYASHIDA
DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTORS
JERRY M. MATSUDA
GLENN M. OKIMOTO

IN REPLY REFER TO:

HWY-H
95-2.1294

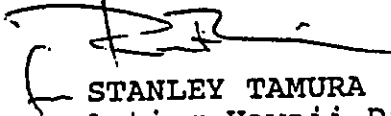
Mr. Ron Terry
Geo Metrician
HCR 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

SUBJECT: Pahoa Swimming Pool Draft Environmental Assessment

We have no objections to the subject project.

Very truly yours,


STANLEY TAMURA
Acting Hawaii District Engineer

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF ATTENDEES AT

16 DECEMBER 1996 MEETING

Mr. Wally Patch
Mainstreet Pahoa
P.O. Box 2
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Bud Almada, President
Mainstreet Pahoa
P.O. Box 1546
Pahoa, HI 96778

Oly Kern
Royal Gardens Community Assn.
P.O. Box 1026
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Pat Rocco
R.R.2, 12-7007 Kaehukai Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Tisha Fajardo
BIASC
P.O. Box 992
Keaau, HI 96749

Mr. Brian Walters
United Christian Youth Endeavor
15-595 Kahakai Boulevard
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. John Roberts
P.O. Box 10219
Hilo, HI 96721

Mr. Archie Hapai
Big Island Masters
Swim Association
P.O. Box 707
Kurtistown, HI 96760

Bernalda Amaral
Church on a Sure Foundation
P.O. Box 327
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Ginny Aste
Hui Kahakai - Hands Helping Puna
15-242 Puni Makai
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Rene Siracusa
Puna Outdoor Circle
P.O. Box 1085
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Don Romero, Principal
Pahoa High & Intemediate School
15-3038 Puna Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Ron Terry
Paradise Hui Hanalike
HCR 9575
Keaau, HI 96749

Ms. Jackie Kaluna
Seniors of Paradise
P.O. Box 103
Pahoa, HI 96778

Reverend Alapaki K. Kim
Pahoa Sacred Heart Church
P.O. Box 17
Pahoa, HI 96778

Share Trust-Kern
Kalapana Ohana Association
P.O. Box 1026
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Hiroo Sato
P.O. Box 385
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Alana Hirdle
New Hope Puna
P.O. Box 2237
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Richard D. Hilliard
P.O. Box 58
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Jim Chow
Puna Lions Club
15-3203 Puna Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Tom Van Hoven
Pahoa Little League
13-33531 Alapai Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Pat Kroger
Nani-O-Puna Apartments
P.O. Box 1418
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Rosana McGovern
P.O. Box 3920
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Jon Olson
Hinalo Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

Mr. Thomas J. Goodson
R.R.2, Box 237
Pahoa, HI 96778

Ms. Rita T. Goodson
R.R. 2 Box 2370
Pahoa, HI 96778