



Kilauea Forest &  
Kulani Corr. Fac.  
Fence Construction

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL

May 12, 1997

Mr. Gary Gill, Director  
State of Hawai'i  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
220 South King Street, Fourth Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Gill,

Having reviewed the comments received on the draft environmental assessment for the Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility Fence Construction, located at Waiakea, South Hilo, TMK: 1-9-01-1, and Kilauea, Ka'u, TMK: 9-9-01-7, during the thirty-day public review period which began on April 8, 1997, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, on behalf of the 'Ola'a Kilauea Group and Kulani Correctional Facility, has determined that this project will have no significant environmental effect and with this letter, issues a finding of no significant impact. Copies of letters offering comments on the draft EA area enclosed, along with appropriate responses. We request that you publish notice of this determination in the May 23, 1997 issue of the Environmental Notice.

Enclosed is a completed Bulletin publication form and four copies of the final environmental assessment. Please call Tanya Rubenstein, at 967-7396 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. STORMONT  
Natural Area Specialist

Attachments

c: Jon Giffin, DOFAW Hawaii Branch Manager  
Peter MacDonald, Administrator, Kulani Correctional Facility

68

1997-05-23-11-PEA- Kilauea Forest &  
Kulani Correctional Facility Fence  
Construction

MAY 23 1997

**FILE COPY**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for

**FENCE CONSTRUCTION**

**KILAUEA FOREST AND KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

in accordance with

**CHAPTER 343, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

**Proposed By:**

**THE 'OLA'A KILAUEA GROUP**

**State Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Kulani Correctional Facility  
National Park Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**March 1997**

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**I. SUMMARY**

Project Name: Fence Construction, Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility

Proposing Agencies: State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
(`Ola`a Kilauea Group) Division of Forestry and Wildlife

State Department of Public Safety  
Kulani Correctional Facility

U.S. Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

Approving Agency: State Department of Land and Natural Resources

Project Location: `Ola`a, Puna, Hawai`i, TMK: 1-9-01-1, and  
Kilauea, Ka`u, Hawai`i, TMK: 9-9-01-7

Agencies Consulted During EA Preparation:

Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Geological Survey Biological Resource Division  
National Park Service

State: Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife-Hawaii  
Division of Land Management-Hawaii  
Historic Preservation Division  
Natural Area Reserve System Commission  
Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs

Department of Public Safety  
Kulani Correctional Facility

County: Department of Water Supply  
Planning Department

Private: Bishop Museum  
Conservation Council for Hawaii  
Hawaii Audubon Society  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Native Hawaiian Advisory Commission  
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Peregrine Fund  
Pig Hunters of Hawaii  
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund  
Sierra Club, Moku Loa Group  
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii  
Volcano Community Association  
Wildlife Conservation Association of Hawaii, Hilo Chapter

Project Action Summary:

The 'Ola'a Kilauea Group (the Division of Forestry and Wildlife Natural Area Reserves (NAR) program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HVNP), Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), and Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate (KSBE)), proposes constructing a 320 yard fence line through forest on KCF lands. Project lands are within the Conservation District. Maps indicating land ownership and the proposed fence line are in Appendix A.

The project involves hand clearing a corridor no more than six feet wide through 320 yards of forest and erecting a fence using galvanized steel posts, one strand of barbed wire along the bottom, and thirty-nine inch hog wire.

This proposed fence will connect to existing fence and fence currently under construction to create a 2,660 acre management unit, the Pu'u Kipu Unit. This fenced unit will contain 1,746 acres of KCF and 914 acres of Kilauea Forest, owned by KSBE. The ultimate goal of the proposed fence is to control feral pig populations within the management unit to zero density. Fencing and subsequent pig control are part of ongoing cooperative efforts to protect native forest ecosystems, and rare, threatened, and/or endangered flora and fauna found within these ecosystems.

Project Purpose and Need:

Installation of the proposed fence will help to more efficiently and effectively control feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) in the project area. Feral pigs pose the greatest threat to existing intact native

wet forest areas. Pigs consume and trample understory plants, create conditions for non-native plant infestation and establishment, prevent the establishment of ground-rooting native plants, serve as vectors for the dispersal of non-native plants, and disrupt soil nutrient cycling. Their wallows create habitat for mosquitoes, which transmit avian malaria and pox to native forest birds. The cumulative effects are the decline of intact native forest ecosystems, including the decline of threatened and endangered forest birds, plants, and invertebrates. Removal of feral pigs has been proven to result in the recovery of native vegetation, particularly understory plants and tree ferns. Pig removal also inhibits or suppresses the spread of alien plants.

The project area provides habitat for six (6) endangered bird species, seven (7) endangered or rare plant species, and the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat. See Appendices B and C for a complete listing of endangered, threatened and rare flora and fauna in the project area.

The aim of this project is to protect ecosystems, or plant and animal communities, as opposed to particular species. If long-term viability of rare and endangered native organisms is to be achieved, protection of large tracts of land is essential. This is in keeping with the USFWS "ecosystem approach" policy which focuses on management of natural communities, and with the Hawaii Natural Area Reserve Law, which states a system of reserves be established to "...preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna..." (Chapter 195, Hawaii Revised Statutes). Protection and enhancement of endangered species is also mandated by both Federal and State Endangered Species Acts (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543, as amended; Chapter 195, Hawaii Revised Statutes).

## **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### General

The proposed fence is 320 yards long. The fence alignment will be hand cleared to a width of no more than 6 feet. This short portion of fence is located in forest heavily degraded by pigs, and the fence corridor will be along existing pig trails to reduce necessary clearing.

The proposed fence will create a large fenced unit by connecting to existing fence across Kilauea Forest and along the boundary between Keauhou Ranch and Kilauea Forest. The proposed fence will also connect to sections of fence currently under construction along existing roads and pasture on KCF and KSBE lands. Portions of the fenced unit currently under construction include 3.4 miles replacement of existing cattle fence with hog wire and 2.7 miles of fence along roads in previously disturbed areas.

### Location

The proposed project is located at KCF on the eastern flank of Mauna Loa. KCF is approximately 22 miles southwest of Hilo, and seven miles northwest of Volcano Village. See Appendix A for maps of the project area.

### Project Progression

Progression of the project is as follows: In the first phase, the fence alignment is marked with plastic flagging. No rare or endangered plants were found on the proposed alignment. If necessary, fence alignment will be shifted to avoid individual plants.

During the second phase, the corridor is cleared with hand and small power tools. The fence corridor will be no more than six feet in width.

The third phase is fence installation. Materials will be driven to the fence line along existing roads. No helicopter drops will be necessary. All construction will be with hand tools. Construction involves driving galvanized steel fence posts into the ground along the corridor no more than ten feet apart, attaching one strand of galvanized barbed wire along the posts at ground level, and stretching thirty-nine inch high, galvanized hog wire along the posts. Where necessary, anchor posts will be used along the fence, between the posts, to ensure the fencing is tight to the ground. Fence corridor clearing and fence installation will be done by a KCF inmate work crew.

The fourth phase is the animal control effort. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife, in cooperation with KCF, is planning a live trapping and removal effort during the fence construction phase. This will reduce the numbers of pigs within the fenced unit. Upon completion of the proposed fence, the National Park Service has been contracted by the USFWS to control and monitor feral pigs using staff hunters from HVNP.

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### Flora

The proposed fence corridor is primarily through forest on a relatively young pahoehoe flow. Low stature `ohi`a (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) trees are interspersed with native trees and shrubs such as pukiawe (*Styphelia tameiameia*), ohelo (*Vaccinium calycinum*), `akala (*Rubus hawaiiensis*), scattered low tree ferns, and patches of uluhe (*Dicranopteris linearis*). The ground cover includes numerous native and alien sedges, grasses, and a few ferns. No rare plants were discovered during a preliminary botanical survey in March 1997.

The area that will be protected by the large fenced unit and pig control is dominated by wet and mesic Koa (*Acacia koa*)/`Ohi`a Montane Forest with native shrub and hapu`u (tree fern, *Cibotium* spp.) in the understory. The unit is a mosaic of different lava flows and vegetation varies according to the age and type of lava. Natural communities within the project area are notable for their high degree of diversity and general lack of invasive, problematic weed species. The area also contains several plant species listed as endangered by both federal and state governments. Listed endangered species include *Clermontia lindseyana* and *Cyanea stictophylla*, members of the lobelia family, and *Phyllostegia velutina*, a native mint. A complete listing of

rare and endangered plants from the area can be found in Appendix B.

#### Fauna

Animal life consists of native and non-native bird species and invertebrates such as snails and insects, and both large and small mammals such as feral pigs, dogs, mongooses, rats, and cats. Cattle have, on occasion, gotten into the forest. The project area is notable for its populations of listed endangered native forest birds, and is considered essential habitat for the 'akepa (*Loxops coccineus*), Hawaii creeper (*Oreomystis mana*), 'akia pola'au (*Hemignathus munroi*), and the 'o'u (*Psittirostra psittacea*). The endangered Hawaiian Hawk, or 'i o (*Buteo solitarius*) and the nene (*Nesochen sandvicensis*), can also be found throughout the area. More common native forest birds found in the area include 'elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*), 'amakihī (*Hemignathus virens*), 'i'iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*), 'apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*), and 'oma'o (*Myadestes obscurus*). The endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) is also known from the area. A complete listing of the endangered and common native bird species found in the area is in Appendix C.

#### Sensitive Habitats

The entire project area can be considered sensitive habitat, particularly with regard to listed endangered plants and birds. The overall long-term management goal is protection of the intact native ecosystems in perpetuity. While fence line construction will entail some ground and noise disturbance, the long-term benefits of fencing and complete feral pig removal far outweighs the limited short-term effects of fence construction.

#### Socio-Economic Impacts

The fencing project will benefit KCF inmates by providing an opportunity to learn new skills such as fence construction, plant and bird identification, cultural values of native Hawaiian plants and animals, and management techniques to restore native Hawaiian ecosystems. This practical work experience and education may increase their employment opportunities upon release from KCF.

The project area is not available to public hunters. KCF and KSBE do not permit public hunting because of security and liability concerns.

In early 1994, DOFAW formed the Natural Areas Working Group to discuss and solve differences among the hunting community, government land managers, and the environmental community. Also involved in the group are community associations, native Hawaiian interests, and a state legislator. The group's goal is to find solutions whereby each particular interest is met. It has been agreed that there should be areas where ungulate populations will be kept low, and conversely, other areas managed for high animal/hunting yields. KCF and KSBE, along with the balance of the 'Ola'a Kilauea Group members, feel that the proposed project area is a high



priority for protection and needs active, sustained management. Consequently, the group feels it appropriate to proceed with the proposed fence, while continuing to participate in the ongoing process designed to address community concerns within the project area and adjacent lands.

#### **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

##### Short-Term Impacts

In the short-term, the actual clearing of the line will disturb plants cut or removed to create the corridor. All hapu`u cut for corridor clearance will be replanted off the line. All rare plants will be clearly marked and pointed out to the work crew to ensure they are not harmed in any way. Soil disturbance is expected to be minimal, and no changes in normal rainwater runoff or percolation are expected. Nor do we anticipate any adverse effects on avifauna and invertebrate fauna.

Fence construction can increase the introduction of non-native weed seeds along the fence corridor by personnel traversing the site regularly, and pooling or congregating of feral animals as normal movement patterns may be disturbed. These short-term impacts will be far outweighed by the positive long-term benefits discussed below.

##### Long-Term Impacts

This fencing project will provide long-term benefits by allowing for effective control of feral pigs and restoration of 2,660 acres of nearly pristine koa-ohia forest. Removal of feral ungulates from wet forest ecosystems, both in the `Ola`a/Kilauea region and elsewhere in the State, will remove the primary threat to their continued survival and restore native ecosystems to a healthier state. Ample evidence exists to show that damage caused by feral pigs can lead to the eventual replacement of unique Hawaiian vegetation by introduced weeds. If pigs are removed before disturbance becomes too severe, native vegetation is able to recover naturally and the spread of weeds slowed or even reversed. It has been well documented that Kulani and Kilauea Forest are excellent examples of native Hawaiian montane forest ecosystems. A level of active management is necessary to neutralize existing and future ecosystem threats.

#### **V. MITIGATION MEASURES**

The short-term effects identified above are unavoidable. Prior to clearing the line, any endangered or rare plant species will be marked and identified to the crew and crew leader to ensure their protection. No trees or plants larger than three inches in DBH (diameter at breast height) will be cut or damaged. Any hapu`u cut down will be replanted off the line.

Routine fence line inspections will take place at no greater than two months intervals, and with each inspection, personnel will watch for new weed introductions along the fence. If weed seedlings are detected, they will either be pulled immediately or a weed control effort will be

organized and implemented by the 'Ola'a Kilauea Management Group. Inspections will be done by 'Ola'a Kilauea Management Group personnel and KCF inmates trained in identifying non-native plant species, particularly those that pose the most serious threats. Pooling or congregating of animals will be minimized because staff from HVNP will be regularly monitoring transects throughout the project area during the pig control effort.

If any signs indicating the existence of archaeological sites or ruins are found, work on the project will halt immediately and the proper authorities notified. Work on the fence will resume only after an appropriate evaluation of the site is completed and a successful plan to avoid impacts to the site is accepted.

## **VI. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Three alternatives are identified and discussed here.

### Alternative 1. Build Proposed Fence

Follow through with project to full scope and construct fence. The short portion of fence (320 yards) requiring clearing of a forest corridor starts at the top of the KCF water catchment system and goes through the forest to connect with the pasture road above the KCF piggery.

This is the preferred alternative.

### Alternative 2. Build Proposed Fence with Alternative Alignment

The 'Ola'a Kilauea Management Group considered alternative alignments for the proposed fence to avoid all forest clearing. The primary alternative alignment considered avoided forest clearing by following existing roads in KCF. However, this alignment is not feasible because it conflicts with current and potential future KCF operations. Water trucks currently need to access the reservoir 24 hours a day. A fence with a gate across the access road would inhibit access as well as hinder pig control efforts if accidentally left open. The alternative fence alignment considered would also need to be relocated if the KCF expands.

### Alternative 3. No Action

This alternative effectively accepts deterioration of this unique resource by allowing feral animals to remain.

## **VII. DETERMINATION**

Having reviewed the comments received on the draft environmental assessment the Ola'a - Kilauea Group has determined that this project will have no significant environmental effect and issues a finding of no significant impact.

## **VIII. FINDINGS, AND REASONS SUPPORTING THE DETERMINATION**

The intent of this project is to benefit native species in the project area. Creating a permanent barrier to exclude pigs from these fragile plant communities will remove the primary threat to their continued survival. Ample evidence exists to show damage caused by feral pigs leads to eventual replacement of unique Hawaiian vegetation by introduced weeds. If pigs are removed before disturbance becomes too severe, native vegetation is able to recover naturally and the spread of weeds slowed or even reversed.

The risk of significant negative impact to native species and ecosystems is low. Most of the area crossed by the proposed fence has been disturbed by pigs, and minimal forest clearing is required. No rare or endangered plants are within the area to be cleared for fence construction. The possibility for introduction of new weed species as a result of human activity exists. This can be minimized by ensuring that tools and construction material brought to the site are clean. After fence construction is completed, regularly scheduled inspection and weed control trips will be prevent further spread of noxious plants within the project area.

## **VII. EA PREPARATION INFORMATION**

This Environmental Assessment was prepared on behalf of the 'Ola`a Kilauea Group by:

Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola`a - Kilauea Project Coordinator  
P.O. Box 52  
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718  
(808) 967-7396

## **VIII. LIST OF APPENDICES**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Appendix A | Maps of Project Area   |
| Appendix B | Endangered and Rare Plant Species Known to Exist in Project Area |
| Appendix C | Native Bird Species Known to Exist in Project Area               |

**APPENDIX A**  
**MAPS OF PROJECT AREA**

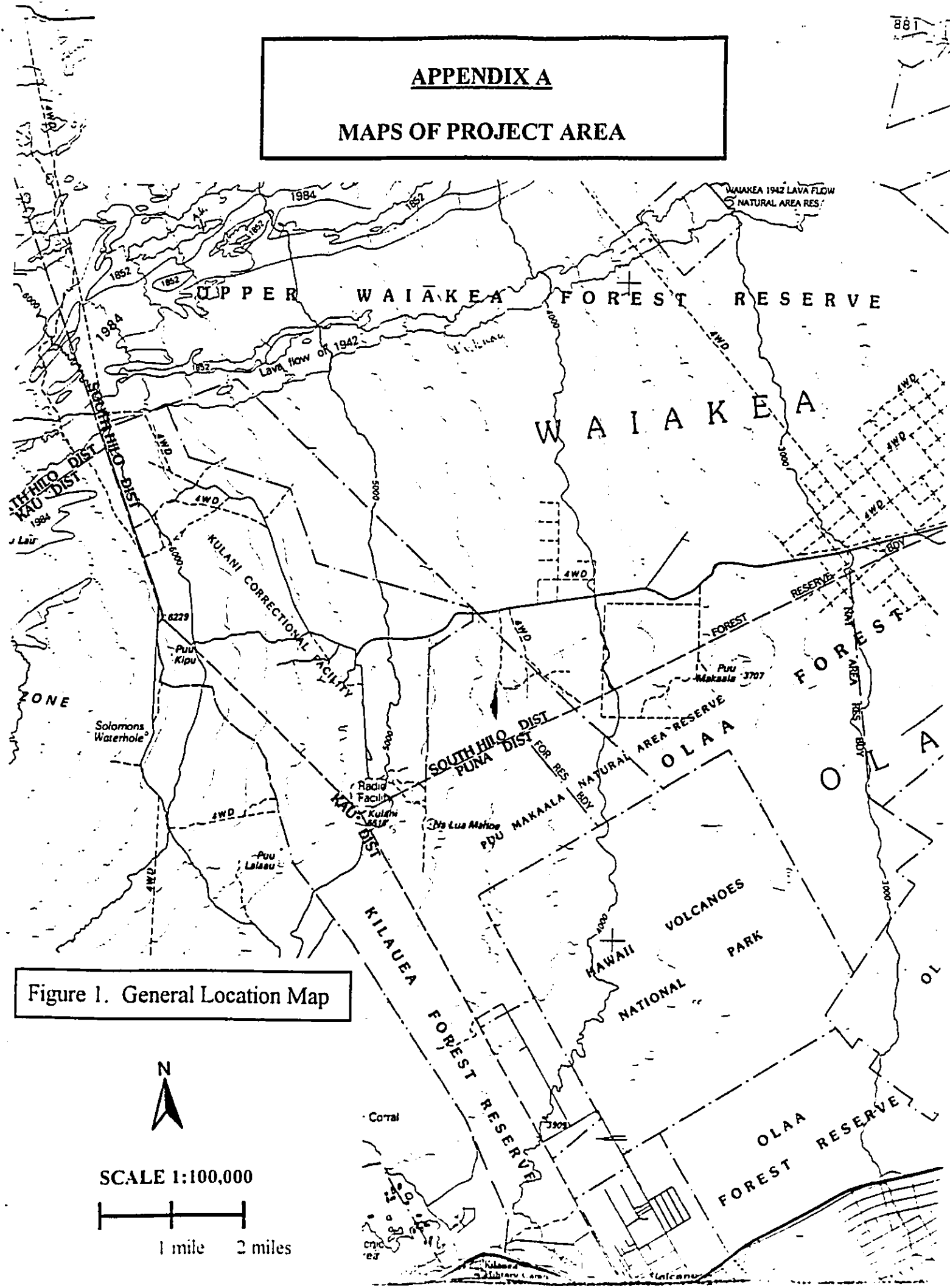


Figure 1. General Location Map

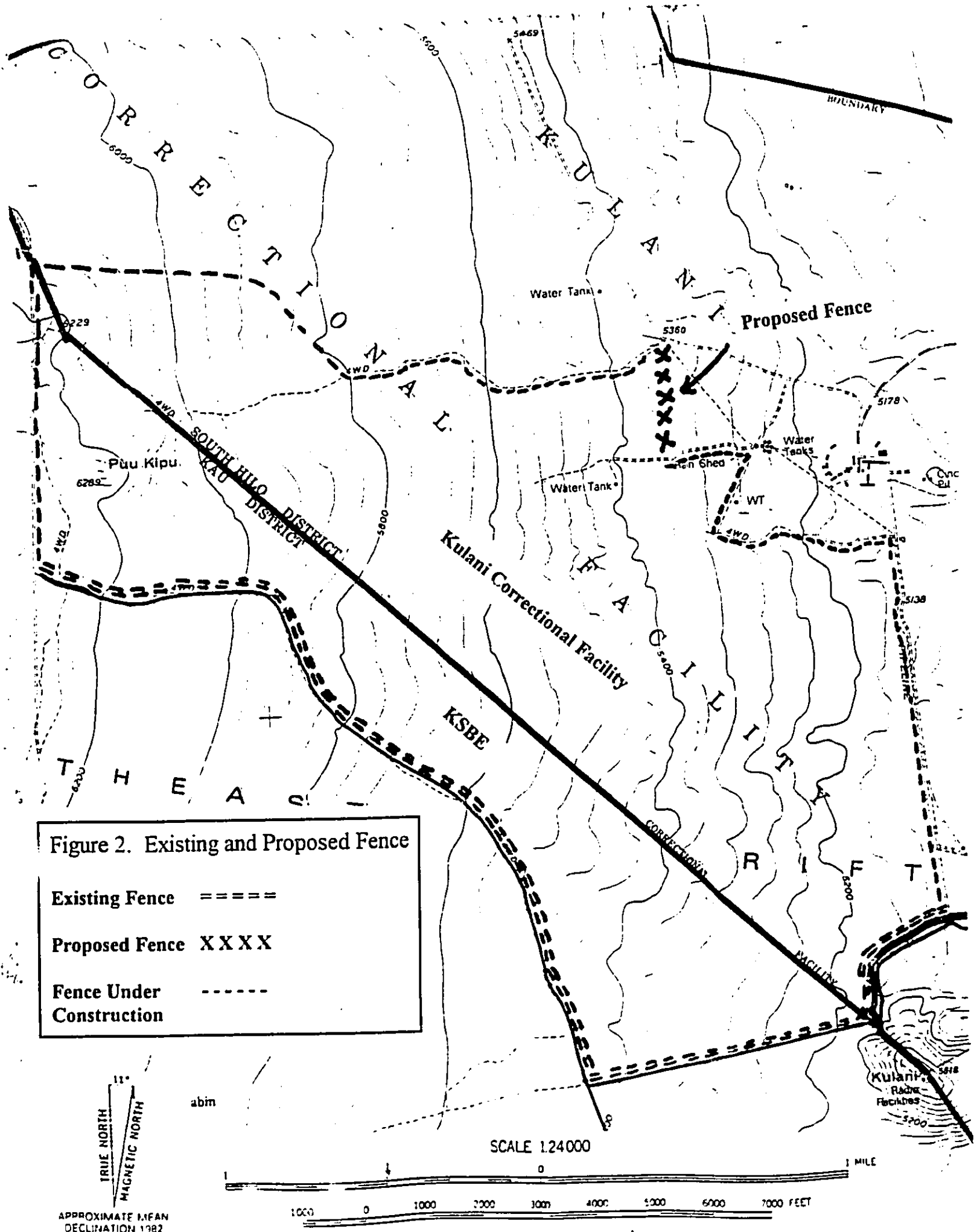


Figure 2. Existing and Proposed Fence

Existing Fence -----

Proposed Fence XXXX

Fence Under Construction .....

APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION 1982

APPENDIX B

ENDANGERED AND RARE PLANT SPECIES KNOWN TO EXIST  
IN PROJECT AREA

| <u>NAME</u>                    |                | <u>STATUS*</u>     |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Clermontia lindseyana</i>   | `Oha wai       | Endangered         |
| <i>Cyanea stictophylla</i>     | No common name | Endangered         |
| <i>Phyllostegia velutina</i>   | No common name | Endangered         |
| <i>Vicia menziesii</i>         | Hawaiian Vetch | Endangered         |
| <i>Asplenium schizophyllum</i> | Spleenwort     | Species of Concern |
| <i>Phytolacca sandwicensis</i> | Popolo ku mai  | Species of Concern |
| <i>Rubus macraei</i>           | `Akala         | Species of Concern |

\* Endangered means the species is officially listed as endangered by the Federal and State governments.

Species of Concern means the species is considered rare, but not enough information is available to determine whether the species needs to be listed.

APPENDIX C

NATIVE BIRD SPECIES KNOWN OR BELIEVED TO EXIST IN PROJECT AREA

| <u>NAME</u>                     |                 | <u>STATUS*</u>  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>Loxops coccineus</i>         | `Akepa          | Endangered  |
| <i>Hemignathus munroi</i>       | `Akiapola`au    | Endangered  |
| <i>Hemignathus virens</i>       | `Amakjhi        | Common  |
| <i>Himatione sanguinea</i>      | `Apapane        | Common  |
| <i>Chasiempis sandwichensis</i> | `Elepaio        | Common  |
| <i>Oreomystis mana</i>          | Hawai`i Creeper | Endangered  |
| <i>Vestiaria coccinea</i>       | `Iwi            | Common  |
| <i>Buteo solitarius</i>         | `Io             | Endangered  |
| <i>Myadestes obscurus</i>       | `Oma`o          | Common in region,<br>rare elsewhere, Big<br>Island only |
| <i>Psittirostra psittacea</i>   | `O`u            | Endangered  |
| <i>Nesochen sandvicensis</i>    | Nene            | Endangered  |

\* Endangered means the species is officially listed as endangered by the Federal and State governments.

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Group**

P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718  
(808) 967-7396  
FAX (808) 967-8568

Daniel K. Sailer  
Conservation Chair, Hawai'i Audubon Society  
850 Richards St. Suite 505  
Honolulu, HI 96813-4709

MAY 12 1997

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction - Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility

Dear Mr. Sailer:

Thank you for your comment letter on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction - Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility. Your comment letter was supportive of the proposed project, although you had concerns about possible fire risk and the timing of fence construction and hunting efforts.

The project area has a low fire risk because of relatively high rainfall and lack of fuel load. The forest is mesic to wet with scattered low stature ohia trees. Although there are some grasses present, they are also sparse and do not significantly increase the fuel load. The fence corridor will not require a large amount of clearing because of the open nature of the forest in the project area, and there will not be a large amount of cleared dead vegetation increasing the fuel load.

In regards to faunal surveys, United States Geological Survey - Biological Resources Division (USGS-BRD) performs annual bird surveys in forested portions of Kulani Correctional Facility. USGS-BRD focuses bird survey efforts in habitat likely to contain endangered and rare forest birds (forest with large koa and ohia trees) and has not yet surveyed the proposed project area. Although the proposed fence will help protect areas very important to rare and endangered birds, the fence corridor is through relatively young, short stature ohia forest and is unlikely to contain nesting or roosting habitat for the rare and endangered species present in the larger project area. Live trees larger than three inches DBH (diameter at breast height) will not be cut, further reducing the risk large trees used for nesting or roosting will be damaged. We are hoping clearing and fencing can start in July or August, after the environmental review process is complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your comments. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss any facet of the proposed project, please call me at (808) 967-7396.

Sincerely,



Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola'a Kilauea Project Coordinator





*For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife*

## HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 RICHARDS ST., SUITE 505 • HONOLULU, HI 96813-4709  
TELEPHONE/FAX (808) 528-1432

May 7, 1997

Dear Ms. Rubenstein,

The Hawai'i Audubon Society has the following comments regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility Fence Construction project. In general, we strongly support the preferred alternative to build the fence as proposed, and reduce feral pig populations to zero levels. We do however have a few concerns regarding resulting fuel loads from fence line clearing and the timing of fence construction and hunting efforts.

The degree of fire risk is unclear from the description of the affected environment and maps provided. If new fenceline areas cross mesic or other combustible areas, we recommend distributing debris piles in a manner which will complement existing fire breaks. If there are no existing fire breaks, we ask that the cleared vegetation is at least distributed an appropriate distance away from the fence line area to prevent any jumping of fire between debris piles and across the fence line. We hope the proposed alignment also complements any existing pre-suppression plan for KCF and surrounding reserves.

It is also unclear from the DEA whether any faunal surveys were recently conducted along the proposed fenceline. Given the critically endangered status of the 'o'u, and the presence of other endangered birds in the project area, we strongly recommend that qualified personnel survey the fence line to determine if any endangered birds are exhibiting nesting behaviors near construction areas, and if any 'ope'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat) are roosting in trees to be cleared. We would also strongly recommend that fence line construction and hunting activities be conducted and completed in the latter half of the year (July-November) to avoid peak nesting times for most Hawaiian forest birds.

Lastly, it may be necessary to use one-way pig gates to facilitate the removal of feral pigs from the newly fenced area if live trapping and removal proves to be too costly or time consuming. We would also support a decision to use all lethal means as needed, contingent upon community and environmental concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the environmental review process. If you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact us (808) 528-1432.

Daniel K. Sailer  
Conservation Chair, Hawai'i Audubon Society

cc:OEQC  
William Stormont, DLNR

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Group**

P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718  
(808) 967-7396  
FAX (808) 967-8568

**MAY 12 1997**

Martha Ross  
Deputy Administrator, Programs  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
711 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 500  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction - Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility**

Dear Ms. Ross:

Thank you for your comment letter on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction - Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility. Your comment letter stated that The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has no objections to the proposed fence construction as long as the fencing is not used as a mechanism to preclude Native Hawaiians from engaging in traditional and/or religious gathering.

The proposed fence will not be used to prevent Native Hawaiians from engaging in traditional and/or religious gathering. However, the proposed project is occurring on Kulani Correctional Facility lands, and the facility has restricted public entry for security reasons. The 'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Area includes other areas available to the public for traditional and/or religious gathering (Pu'u Makaala Natural Area Reserve and the 'Ola'a tract of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park).

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your comments. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss any facet of the proposed project, please call me at (808) 967-7396.

Sincerely,



Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola'a Kilauea Project Coordinator



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 28, 1997

Ms. Tanya Rubenstein  
Ola'a Kilauea Management Group  
P.O. Box 44  
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718

**Subject:** Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Fence  
Construction of Kilauea Forest and Kulani  
Correctional Facility (KCF), Island of Hawaii.

Dear Ms. Rubenstein:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for Fence Construction of Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), Island of Hawaii. The Ola'a Kilauea Management Group proposes the construction of a 320 yard fence through forest on KCF lands to protect plant and animal communities from feral pig activity.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has no objections at this time to the proposed fence construction. The fence apparently bears no significant long-term adverse impacts upon the facility nor upon existing flora and fauna. But OHA wishes to clearly state that fencing should not be construed as a mechanism to preclude Native Hawaiians from engaging in traditional and/or religious gathering.

Please contact Lynn Lee, Acting Officer of the Land and Natural Resources Division, or Luis A. Manrique, should you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

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

Martha Ross  
Deputy Administrator, Programs

LM:lm



Sunrise, Mt. McKinley

Ansel Adams

## SIERRA CLUB LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, INC.

*The Law Firm for the Environmental Movement*

223 South King Street, 4th Fl., Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 599-2436 FAX (808) 521-6841

May 8, 1997

Via Facsimile Transmittal (808) 967-8568

Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ōla'a Kīlauea Project Coordinator  
P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, Hawai'i 96718

Dear Tanya:

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment of fence construction in the Kīlauea Forest and at the Kūlani Correctional Facility (KCF). The project is proposed by the 'Ōla'a Kīlauea Group (State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), State Department of Public Safety, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate).

Habitat and watershed management is the highest and best use of this area, and we commend the members of the 'Ōla'a Kīlauea Group for taking the initiative to protect this unique resource, and we appreciate their commitment of significant resources toward the project. Actively managing native Hawaiian ecosystems and large tracts of native habitat (as opposed to the single-species approach) is the most efficient use of limited conservation funding, and it is the most effective way to preserve biodiversity. We support Alternative 1 (proposed 320-yard fence and control alien species) for the following reasons.

1. Alternative 1 will assist in protecting and managing koa/'ōhi'a-dominated rain forest and watershed. This native forest is also essential habitat, identified in FWS's 1983 Hawai'i Forest Bird Recovery Plan, for four endangered birds: Hawai'i 'Ākepa, Hawai'i Creeper, 'Akiapōlā'au, and 'Ō'ū, and provides existing or potential habitat for the endangered 'Io, endangered Nēnē, other native Hawaiian birds, endangered 'Ōpe'ape'a, rare and endangered plants, and associated native Hawaiian invertebrates.
2. Alternative 1 is consistent with the actions that are necessary to reverse Hawai'i's extinction crisis, as identified by FWS, DLNR, and The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i (Hawai'i's Extinction Crisis: A Call to Action 1992):
  - \* Protect essential habitat for native Hawaiian species;
  - \* Fund active, long-term stewardship of essential habitats on publicly owned natural areas, National Parks and Refuges, State Forest Reserves, Natural Area Reserves, and Sanctuaries;
  - \* Provide strong incentives for private landowners to protect endangered species and native Hawaiian ecosystems on their property; and
  - \* Further integrate government and private citizen conservation efforts.

Bozeman, Montana   Denver, Colorado   Juneau, Alaska   New Orleans, Louisiana   San Francisco, California  
Seattle, Washington   Tallahassee, Florida   Washington, D.C.



Tanya Rubenstein  
May 8, 1997 - Page 2

3. Alternative 1 is consistent with recovery actions identified in FWS's 1983 Hawai'i Forest Bird Recovery Plan (1983):

- \* Preserve habitat for endangered forest birds, and reduce effects of factors limiting forest bird use of habitat;
- \* Apply prescribed management practices in areas of essential habitat;
- \* Reduce feral pig populations in essential habitat and adjacent areas;
- \* Reduce breeding sites for mosquitoes in areas adjacent to and within essential habitat;
- \* Promote practices to enhance use of private lands by endangered forest birds; and
- \* Create habitat mosaic in historic range of upper montane koa forest so as to guarantee long-term survival of this essential habitat.

4. Alternative 1 is consistent with DLNR's Action Plan for Threatened and Endangered Wildlife (Threatened and Endangered Species Plan for Wildlife, Plants & Invertebrates 1988):

- \* Protect, manage, develop, and maintain existing and future habitats to improve condition, long-range viability;
- \* Control noxious animals (herbivores) damaging to habitat; and
- \* Control noxious plants (exotics) damaging to habitat.

Fencing and actively managing this forest for native Hawaiian ecosystems is also consistent with the Natural Area Working Group's (NAWG's) guiding principle that some areas on the Big Island should be managed for few or no pigs/ungulates so that native Hawaiian ecosystems can thrive, and other areas should be managed for game animals so that hunting is enhanced. Given the species richness and ecological integrity of the Kilauea Forest and KCF, we believe the area should be managed for native Hawaiian ecosystems. We hope the 'Ōla'a Kilauea Group will work with Big Island hunters, whenever possible, to relocate or otherwise use the pigs that will be trapped and removed during the fence construction phase of the project. In addition, to the extent the hunters are willing, they also should participate in any ungulate control efforts following fence completion.

The Draft Environmental Assessment indicates that care and appropriate actions will be taken throughout all phases of the project, including the protection of large plants in the fence corridor, replanting of hāpu'u, site inspections, and proper procedures in the event archaeological or Hawaiian sites are discovered. We are also encouraged that KCF inmates will have the opportunity to learn about and participate in managing this important Hawaiian resource.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to comment on the Assessment and for coordinating the project.

Sincerely,

  
Marjorie Ziegler

cc: 'Ōla'a Kilauea Group members  
NAWG and Upper Puna/Volcano RFMAC members via Bill Stormont

7 May 96

Tanya:

This is a partial copy of stuff I have in my files...

It's from Boundary Commission Testimony (part of the Mahele) which can be found on microfilm in the Hawaiian Collection at UH Hilo. Lest we think that the Park and adjacent lands are "pristine wilderness", documents like the BCT show that the land was known fairly intimately by the people of old.

If it's not too late, I'd definitely consider getting input from the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation. They can be reached at POBox 5134, Hilo 96721. Phone: 959.9832.

There is an effort in some circles these days to include cultural impacts in EIS/EA reports. I personally think it's a great idea, and EKF could provide you with good cultural reasons for native forest preservation.

Another thing to consider is noting the locations of olonā while you're tramping about. Olonā was an extremely important resource, and apparently not easily transplantable. Naturally occurring patches were tended, and their locations may give insight to the activities of people in areas we think of as "wilderness" today. Note locations of rocks "out of place", cave entrances, etc. There was a lot of bird hunting going on up there; both for forest birds (feathers), and petrels (food). Miscellaneous bits of information, while not necessarily useful in and of themselves, may form patterns when looked at as a whole.

Thanks for the opportunity for (minor) input.

Bobby Camara

bc

From:

Bobby Camara  
HI Volcanoes National Park  
Resource Mgmt  
Cave Specialist

**THE AHUPUAA OF KEAUHOU, DISTRICT OF KAU 24 OCTOBER 1873**

Kenoi K. Sworn

Thence the boundary runs to the South side of the crater, Keanakakoi.  
Thence to Wekahuna, crossing the crater of Kilauea a little to the South west of the highest part of the bluff (highest bank of the crater).  
Thence to Kilomoku, a small grove of koa and ohia; The large grove to the southwest being on Kapapala. Thence to Ohinale, a long grove of trees in aa.  
Thence to Keakaualoa, passing up the center of the aa flow.  
Thence along the Hilo side of the aa to Puukulua, two small hills the boundary passing between the two a little Kau and Hilo of Puu Ulaula (as I came along over the road today and was looking at the mountain, I saw I had made a mistake in saying Puu Ulaula was the boundary.)  
From Puu Kulua (I do not know what land cuts it off, Waimea perhaps) the boundary runs Kau and Hilo to Kaamamauloa an aa flow on the Hilo side of the mountain. Cannot say where it is exactly as it is a long time since I have been there. There the boundary turns makai towards Kilauea to the southwest side of Kipuu, the hill mauka of Kulani.  
Thence makai along Olaa to Kaloulukeapiha.  
Thence to Kaloi an open spot in the woods.  
Thence to Kaolapalapa, a pali at the road.  
Thence along the road to Pohakuloa junction of the roads to Hilo and Keauhou.

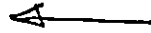
**THE AHUPUAA OF KEAUHOU, DISTRICT OF KAU. OCTOBER 27, 1873.**

Keliilohi K. Sworn

Thence to Pohakuloa which is a junction of the Hilo, Puna and Kau roads.  
Thence along the land of Olaa towards Kulani hill to a place called Kalai. Two open spots in the woods about as large as the courthouse yard. The one toward Hamakua being the smallest covered with hapu and ferns.  
Thence to Kaloulukea, a palm tree.  
Thence to Kulani hill.  
Thence to Namaunamaka, a place where we used to catch birds.  
Thence along the land of Waiakea to Kiipu, a hill.  
Thence to Kaamamauloa aa about as far as from here to Kalepolepo above the woods. This is as far as I know the boundaries. I have heard that Waiakea bounds it on the Hamakua side. There is a large mawae there that runs mauka and makai.  
Thence, the boundary runs up the mountain to Puumahoe called Puuulaula and Puuiki at the junction of Keauhou and Kapapala. Kapapala bounds this land on the Kau side.

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Group  
P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718  
(808) 967-7396  
FAX (808) 967-8568



RECEIVED

Mar 24 1997

Ans'd.....

March 24, 1997

Dear Interested Party,

Please find enclosed a Draft Environmental Assessment for your review and comment. Proposed is the construction of a fence at Kulani Correctional Facility to protect a high quality native ecosystem at Kulani Correctional Facility and Kilauea Forest. This action is proposed by the 'Ola'a - Kilauea Group, a partnership which includes the Division of Forestry and Wildlife Natural Area Reserves program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kulani Correctional Facility, and Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate.

Your organization or agency has been identified as one to be consulted during the draft phase of the project to ensure that all legal, biological, cultural, and socio-economic issues regarding the project are identified and addressed before a final determination on the impact of the project is made. We ask that you review the draft document and respond, if you feel necessary, by May 8, 1997.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss any facet of the proposed project, please call me at (808) 967-7396.

Sincerely,

Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola'a Kilauea Project Coordinator

Enclosure

Tanya

Excellent E.A.

All my concerns are addressed  
appropriately

Cliff Smith  
Cooperchase Park Studies  
Unit  
3190 Maile Way  
Honolulu, HI 96822



BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
33 SOUTH KING STREET, 8TH FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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

DEPUTIES  
Gilbert Coloma-Agaran

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM  
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CONSERVATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
CONSERVATION AND  
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
CONVEYANCES  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION  
LAND MANAGEMENT  
STATE PARKS  
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT  
LOG NO: 19233 ✓  
DOC NO: 9704PM01

April 8, 1997

Ms. Tanya Rubenstein, Project Coordinator  
'Ola'a-Kilauea Management Group  
P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, Hawaii 96718

Dear Ms. Rubenstein:

**SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction -  
Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility  
Ola'a, Puna and Kilauea, Kau, Hawaii Island  
TMK: 1-9-01: 1 and 9-9-01: 7**

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 1997 and the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed fencing project.

We have no record of historic sites in the proposed project area and it is unlikely that any exist because of the environmental setting and the small size and configuration of the project area ( a 320 foot long fence line). We cannot say that the project will have "no effect" on historic sites, however, until you have consulted with Native Hawaiian organizations and individuals to determine the presence/absence of traditional cultural properties. Consultation is required because of the Federal involvement in the project. It is needed to fulfill the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended in 1990 and 1992.

What you need to do at this point is to contact the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (the Honolulu office) and other local organizations or individuals with a knowledge of the area to determine if any traditional cultural properties exist in the project area. You should ask for a written response to your request as we need some kind of indication that the consultation process has actually been implemented.

If you have any questions please contact our Hawaii Island staff archaeologist, Patrick McCoy (587-0006).

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Hibbard".

DON HIBBARD, Administrator  
State Historic Preservation Division



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

P.O. Box 52

Hawaii 96718-0052

L7617(HAVO)

March 31, 1997

Tanya Rubenstein  
Coordinator, 'Ola'a-Kilauea Management Group  
P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, Hawaii 96718

Dear Tanya:

I completely concur with your proposal to complete a pig enclosure Kulani Correctional Facility by building a fence through the forest. Recovery will be rapid and positive, in spite of limited short-term damage brought about by fence construction. I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tim Tunison  
Chief of Resources Management



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
P.O. BOX 4849  
HILO, HAWAII 98720  
(808) 974-4221  
FAX (808) 974-4226

*April 28, 1997*

*Ms. Tanya Rubenstein*  
*'Ola`a Kilauea Project Coordinator*  
*'Ola`a-Kilauea Management Group*  
*P.O. Box 44*  
*Hawaii National Park, HI. 96718*

*Dear Tanya:*

**Subject:     *Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Fence Construction,***  
***Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility***

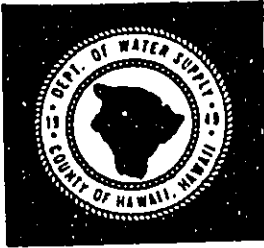
*The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, has reviewed the draft environmental assessment for the subject project. The project complements our Department's ongoing management actions at the nearby Puu Makaala Natural Area Reserve. It is also in keeping with the Hawaii Natural Area Reserve law, which states a system of reserves be established to "...preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna..." (Chapter 195, Hawaii Revised Statutes).*

*We fully support the fencing project as a means to protect high quality native ecosystems at Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility.*

*Sincerely,*

**JON G. GIFFIN**

**Forestry and Wildlife Manager**



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

25 AUPUNI STREET • HILO, HAWAII 96720  
TELEPHONE (808) 961-8660 • FAX (808) 961-8657

April 2, 1997

Ms. Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Group  
P. O. Box 44  
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
TAX MAP KEY: 1-9-001:001 AND 9-9-001:007

This is in response to your transmittal letter of March 24, 1997 to us.

For your information, the Department does not maintain a water system within the area.

Should there be any questions, please contact our Water Resources and Planning Branch at 961-8660.

Milton D. Pavao, P. E.  
Manager

WA:gms

*... Water brings progress...*

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Group**

P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718  
(808) 967-7396  
FAX (808) 967-8568

Edward L.H. Kanahele  
Ka Nohona Pono Inc.  
1110 Auwae Rd.  
Hilo, HI 96720

MAY 12 1997

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction - Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility

Dear Edward:

Thank you for your comment letter on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Fence Construction - Kilauea Forest and Kulani Correctional Facility. Your comment letter was supportive of the proposed project, although you had concerns about the frequency of the inspection program for alien plants along the fence line. You also suggest an opening and closing ceremony for the fencing project.

We agree fence inspection should be done on a monthly basis to both intercept potential alien plant problems and to check the fence for damage. The EA states routine fence inspections will take place at no greater than two month intervals. We will try to inspect all fences in the project area on a monthly basis, but in some cases may not be able to keep to this schedule.

Your suggestion for an opening an opening and closing ceremony for the fencing project is also a good one. We are trying to give Kulani Correctional Facility inmates working on this project an opportunity to learn about natural and cultural resources in the project area. I will try to find someone to give a presentation on the cultural resources of the project area as well as lead a ceremony when the entire project is complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your comments. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss any facet of the proposed project, please call me at (808) 967-7396.

Sincerely,



Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola'a Kilauea Project Coordinator

May 7 '97 23:42 P.01

KA NOHONA PONO INC  
1110 AUWAE ROAD  
HILO, HI. 96720

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

|               |                  |                                     |                      |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| TO:           | Tanya Rubenstein | FROM:                               | Edward L.H. Kanahale |
| COMPANY:      | HVNP             | DATE:                               | May 8, 1997          |
| FAX NUMBER:   | 808) 967-8568    | TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: | 1/1                  |
| PHONE NUMBER: | 967-7396         | SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:          | EA Comments          |
| RE:           | Fence            | YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:              | na                   |

URGENT  FOR REVIEW  PLEASE COMMENT  PLEASE REPLY  PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Aloha Tanya,

I have read your EA Draft. I do not have negative comments on the Draft. I approve of strict controls and elimination of the feral pigs or any other alien animal or plant species from the native ecosystem therefore I am supportive of fencing.

I am concerned that fence line inspection now suggested to be two months apart is not sufficient to maintain strict control over alien plants/seeds brought in by the construction crews. I would suggest a monthly inspection program for the first post construction year and then at two month intervals for subsequent years.

Culturally, there should be an appropriate opening ceremony prior to start of construction and an appropriate closing ceremony at the end of construction.

'Ano ai,

Edward Kanahale

[CLICK HERE AND TYPE RETURN ADDRESS]

Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

'Ola'a - Kilauea Management Group

P.O. Box 44

Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718

(808) 967-7396

FAX (808) 967-8568

Mar 27 3 27 PM '97

Mar 24, 1997

Dear Interested Party,

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We look forward to hearing from you. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss any facet of the proposed project, please call me at (808) 967-7396.

Sincerely,

*Tanya Rubenstein*

Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola'a Kilauea Project Coordinator

Enclosure

*No comments  
4/5/97  
Charles P. Urie*

→ *Dept. of Land + Natural Resources  
Division of Land Management  
P.O. Box 936  
Hilo, HI 96721-0936* *wt*

# CORRECTION

THE PRECEDING DOCUMENT(S) HAS  
BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED TO ASSURE  
LEGIBILITY  
SEE FRAME(S)  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING



Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources  
Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate  
Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**'Ola`a - Kilauea Management Group**

P.O. Box 44  
Hawai'i National Park, HI 96718  
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Mar 27 3 27 PM '97

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Sincerely,

*Tanya Rubenstein*

Tanya Rubenstein  
'Ola`a Kilauea Project Coordinator

Enclosure

*No comments  
4/5/97  
Charles R. Urdan*

→ Dept. of Land + Natural Resources  
Division of Land Management  
P.O. Box 936  
Hilo, HI 96721-0936 *WT*