

Received 5/13/97  
Revised FEA

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Land Division  
Honolulu, Hawaii

May 14, 1997

REF:PB:LT

File No.: OA-2845  
180-Day Exp. Date: 6/17/97

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nancy Heinrich, OEQC  
FROM: Lauren Tanaka, DLNR *jt*  
SUBJECT: Final EA for a Television Translator Facility, TMR: 4-4-12: por. 01 at Kaneohe, Oahu

Please find enclosed four (4) copies of the subject document for publication in the May 23, 1997 OEQC bulletin.

Each FEA contains a copy of OEQC's comments on the draft EA, the applicant's response to OEQC's comments, two site photographs (original photos in one FEA, copies of photos in the remaining three), a map of the island showing the location of the project, an area map, a vicinity map, and a profile drawing of the translator facility.

If you have questions, please call Lauren Tanaka at 587-0385.

Enclosures

63

1997-05-23-0A-~~FEA~~-Puu Papaq Television  
Translator Facility

FILE COPY

MAY 23 1997

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

1. Applicant

Bryan Holmes, Member Management Committee

**KFVE-TV JOINT VENTURE**

150-B Puuhale Road

Honolulu, HI 96819-2295.

2. Approving Agency:

State of Hawaii

**BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, HI 96809

3. Agencies and Organizations Consulted:

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Forestry & Wildlife

Frequency Coordinator Division, Federal Aviation Administration

Kailua Neighborhood Board

Kaneohe Neighborhood Board

4. General Description of the Action's Technical,  
Economic, Social and Environmental Characteristics:

General:

The project consists of the operation and maintenance of a television translator station. This facility will be located on Kaneohe Ranch Land, in the Oneawa Ridge at a site identified as Puu Papaq in Kaneohe, County of Honolulu, at an area identified as TMK: 4-4-12-1.

KFVE Joint Venture holds a construction permit from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to construct and conduct operation of the facility on Channel 44 with translator call sign of K44DQ.

Telephone and electrical power and access to the site are in existence. Our proposed facilities will consist of a 60 foot antenna support structure and associated antennas, a 2' x 4' foot equipment shelter, and possibly an emergency generator (if needed).

Adjacent Land Uses/Structures:

The area in the immediate vicinity of the site is currently used for communications purposes.

The Hawaiian Telephone Company has a microwave relay facility, which consists of a concrete

communications building and a related microwave antenna support structure surrounded by a protective fence.

Also nearby is a telecommunications facility operated by the General Telecouriers d/b/a Pager-One. Motorola Communications has installed two wooden poles, with various antennas. Both facilities appear in Exhibit 2.

Zoning:

The site is designated Conservation Subzone (Limited) by the Land Use Commission of the State of Hawaii, and Conservation by the Honolulu County General Plan.

It is not anticipated that major changes in existing use or character of the land will occur in the foreseeable future.

Existing and Surrounding Uses:

The general area is occupied by various telecommunication facilities operated by the GTE Hawaiian Telephone, Motorola Communications, Hawaiian Electric, General Telecourier, PCS Prime Co., and Western Wireless.

Utilities:

Electrical power and telephone utilities are on site. Water, sewer, and gas utilities are not available and are not required. The facility operates unattended and requires only an occasional visit for routine maintenance. Therefore, no sewage disposal is required. If electrical power service in the future is found to be unreliable, KFVE-TV requests authorization at this time to install an emergency electrical power generator to better carry out its public service to the people of Oahu as a participating station of the Emergency Broadcast System.

Access:

The site can be reached by use of an existing 20 foot wide asphaltic-concrete paved road from Kaneohe Bay Drive passing directly by the proposed site.

Animal and Bird Life:

The applicant has designed the proposed facility to minimize the impact to the existing telecommunications facility. Although marine birds are known to fly near or over the project area, no threatened or endangered animals or plants are known to exist in this area. The applicant will keep construction activities to a minimum, and will not result in any substantial negative impacts to the plants or animals in the area.

Historical or Archaeological Sites:

There are no known significant archaeological or geological values associated with the site.

Water Quality:

There will be no sewage discharge or any other pollutant released that would affect water quality.

Air Quality:

The facility's electronic components are air-cooled, with only negligible amounts of warm air being released. There are no discharges that would affect air quality.

Noise:

The low existing ambient noise at the site consists mainly of air handling equipment used to cool electronic components in the telecommunications facilities on the site, and is barely detectable. Our smaller air handling equipment should not raise the noise level significantly.

Possible Interference:

It is not anticipated that there will be any interference. Further, if interference should occur, the applicant will act to reduce any interference to acceptable levels.

5. Summary Description of the Affected Environment:

The continued existence of this project will not result in any major significant long-term or short-term environmental impact. The principal impact of the proposed project will be the provision of quality television service to citizens located in a substantial portion of Oahu, including the communities of Kaneohe, Kailua and the surrounding communities. The facility will permit Windward Oahu residents to receive free over-the-air television service from KFVE-TV. These areas are not otherwise able to receive KFVE-TV's television signals due to the distance from KFVE-TV's transmitter on Mauna Kapu above Ewa Beach, Oahu, and the low elevation of these communities. KFVE-TV is Hawaii's newest television station, and the first full-power VHF station in Hawaii in three decades. KFVE-TV covers important public debates in "Island Issues" and sports coverage of Hawaii's colleges and universities, of which many of the students are from Windward Oahu. These broadcasts are in the public interest, providing a free over-the-air alternative to the four major network stations.

6. Identification and Summary of Major Impacts and Alternatives Considered:

As mentioned above, no major significant impacts are anticipated. Those that will occur are considered to be minor, and are discussed briefly.

1. Short-Term: No short-term environmental impacts are expected.
2. Long-Term: Long-term environmental effects, to the extent that they exist, are primarily aesthetic.

The impact of the 60 foot antenna support structure and our equipment shelter is minimal because this an area already used for telecommunications purposes.

ALTERNATIVES

The following are alternatives considered to the proposed action:

1. Abandon or Defer the Project:

This alternative has not been seriously considered by the Applicant. Abandonment of the project will result in depriving residents of Windward Oahu from receiving off-air KFVE-TV television. This is contrary to the public service commitment placed upon the Applicant by the FCC.

2. Seek Alternative Locations:

The proposed location is currently used for communications purposes.

7. Proposed Mitigation Measures:

As indicated previously, no major significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of this project. However, the Applicant has initiated certain actions to further assure that there are no potential environmental effects. These include:

1. The antenna support structure will be constructed low in height to blend with the landscape. The equipment shelter will be painted, in order to blend with the surroundings and to minimize any possible visual intrusion.

2. Site clearing will be limited to the area essential for construction alone.

3. All State and County requirements relative to construction, including building, grading, grubbing, drainage and erosion control will be fully complied with.

4. The facility operates unattended. Maintenance visits by employees will be required only occasionally. All employees will be instructed to observe precautions consistent with the area's use. All regulations of the Department of Land and Natural Resources will be strictly observed.

**8. Determination:**

The project is required in order to provide quality television to the residents of Windward Oahu. No major significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

Furthermore, the project will;

1. **Not, Irrevocably commit to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource.**
2. **Not, Curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.**
3. **Not, Conflict with the long-term environmental goals of either the State of Hawaii or the County of Honolulu.**
4. **Not, Adversely affect the economic or social welfare of the community.**
5. **Not, Result in population changes in the community.**

6. **Not,** Result in a substantial degradation of environmental quality.
7. **Not,** Have any cumulative effect, or constitute a commitment for larger actions.
8. **Not,** Adversely affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of animal or plant life.
9. **Not,** Result in degradation of air and water quality, or an increase in ambient noise levels.
10. **Not,** Adversely affect an environmentally sensitive area.
11. **Not,** Interfere with existing communications, radio and television facilities.

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
SUITE 702  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE (808) 586-4186  
FACSIMILE (808) 586-4186

February 11, 1997

Michael D. Wilson, Director  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Attention: Don Horiuchi

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Television Translator Facility  
on Puu Papaa, Oneawa Ridge, Kaneohe, Oahu; TMK: 4-4-12: 1

We have the following comments:

1. Consult with the following *groups and individuals* and document your contacts in the final EA:
  - a) interested community groups;
  - b) the nearest neighbors or neighboring landowners; and
  - c) DLNR's Division of Forestry & Wildlife regarding presence or absence of threatened or endangered species or habitats and the possibility of bird strikes.
2. The *maps and photos* are unclear. In the final EA provide clear copies of all maps and photographs.
3. In the final EA, identify public view points of the project site from which *visual impacts* may occur. Show impacts of the project by superimposing a rendering of the proposed facility onto photographs taken from public view points. We recommend painting the facility so that it will blend in with the surrounding vegetation.

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DIVISION OF  
LAND MANAGEMENT  
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GARY GILL  
DIRECTOR

DEPT. OF LAND  
& NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

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Michael D. Wilson  
February 11, 1997  
Page 2

4. In the final EA include a clear *map* of the island with the project site indicated.
5. Indicate the proposed *start and end dates* of the project in the final EA.
6. A full discussion of findings and reasons, according to the *significance criteria* listed in HRS Title 11-200-12, that support the anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. You may use the enclosed sample as a guideline.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Heinrich at 586-4185.

Sincerely,



GARY GILL  
Director

c: Bryan Holmes, KFVE



Your Aloha Station!

RECEIVED

May 13, 1997 '97 MAY 13 P4:07

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

Mr. Gary Gill  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL  
235 South Beretania Street  
Suite 702  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Gill,

This letter is in response to your letter to Mr. Wilson, dated February 11, 1997. The following addresses your concerns regarding the KFVE JOINT VENTURE Kaneohe translator CDUA.

KFVE JOINT VENTURE has been in contact with the following community groups. We met with both the Kaneohe and Kailua Neighborhood Boards. The Kailua Neighborhood Board has given KFVE a favorable support. Kaneohe has not had their full board meeting, this will occur on the 15 th of May, 1997. We have also spoken with several people in the DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Regarding the photos and maps that were presented to the Department. They were photocopies, therefore, they were not the clearest to read. We do have the original photos, with many enlarged 8 X 10s. These will be available at the public hearings. The original maps in our possession were photocopies. see attached maps.

We have the proposed dimensions of the tower, antennae, and the adjacent equipment shelter. superimposing a rendering of the site would only include the aforementioned and can be visualized by adding an additional pole to the landscape. As far as painting the facility to blend in with the surrounding vegetation, the power box is not intrusive from the line of sight from the road and therefore would not stand out.

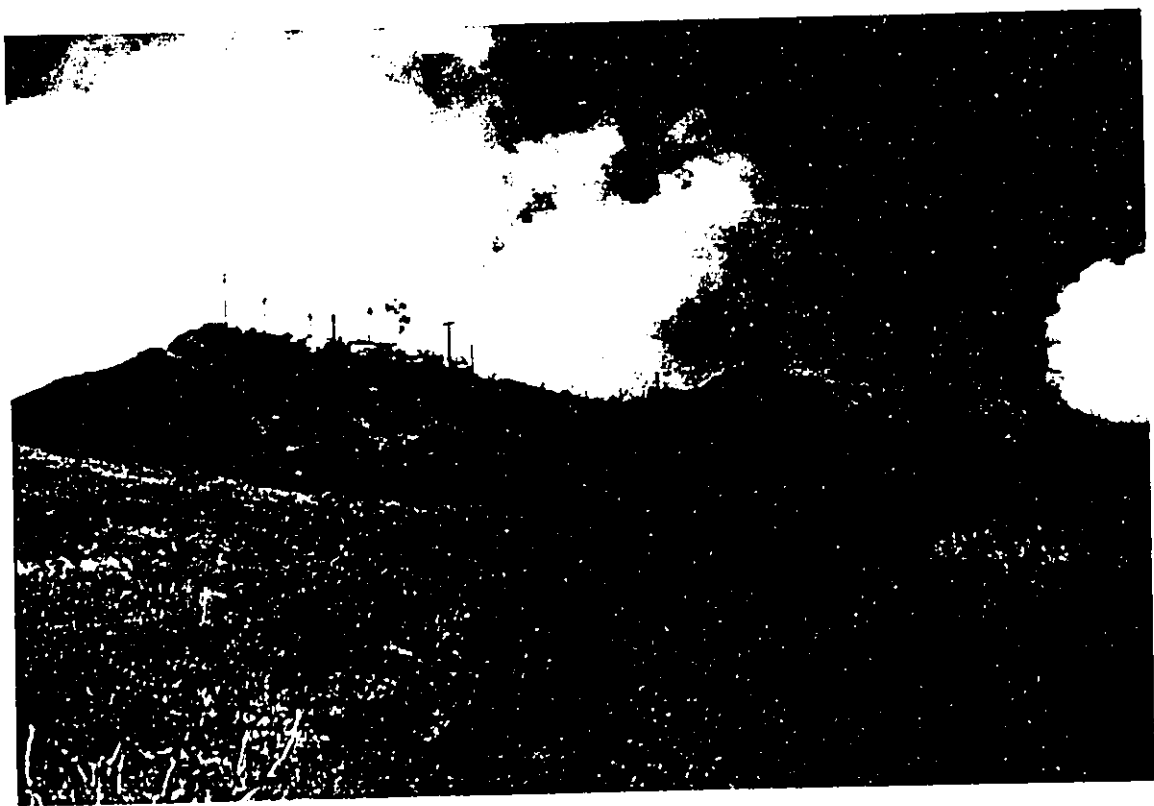
The proposed start date is DLNR clearance and completion about 90 days from that date.

Research into previous site development in the area show no signs of Significant Impact. No dredging or blasting will be done to the site. As far as human intervention, the quarterly inspection or occasionally maintenance visits will have minimal impact.

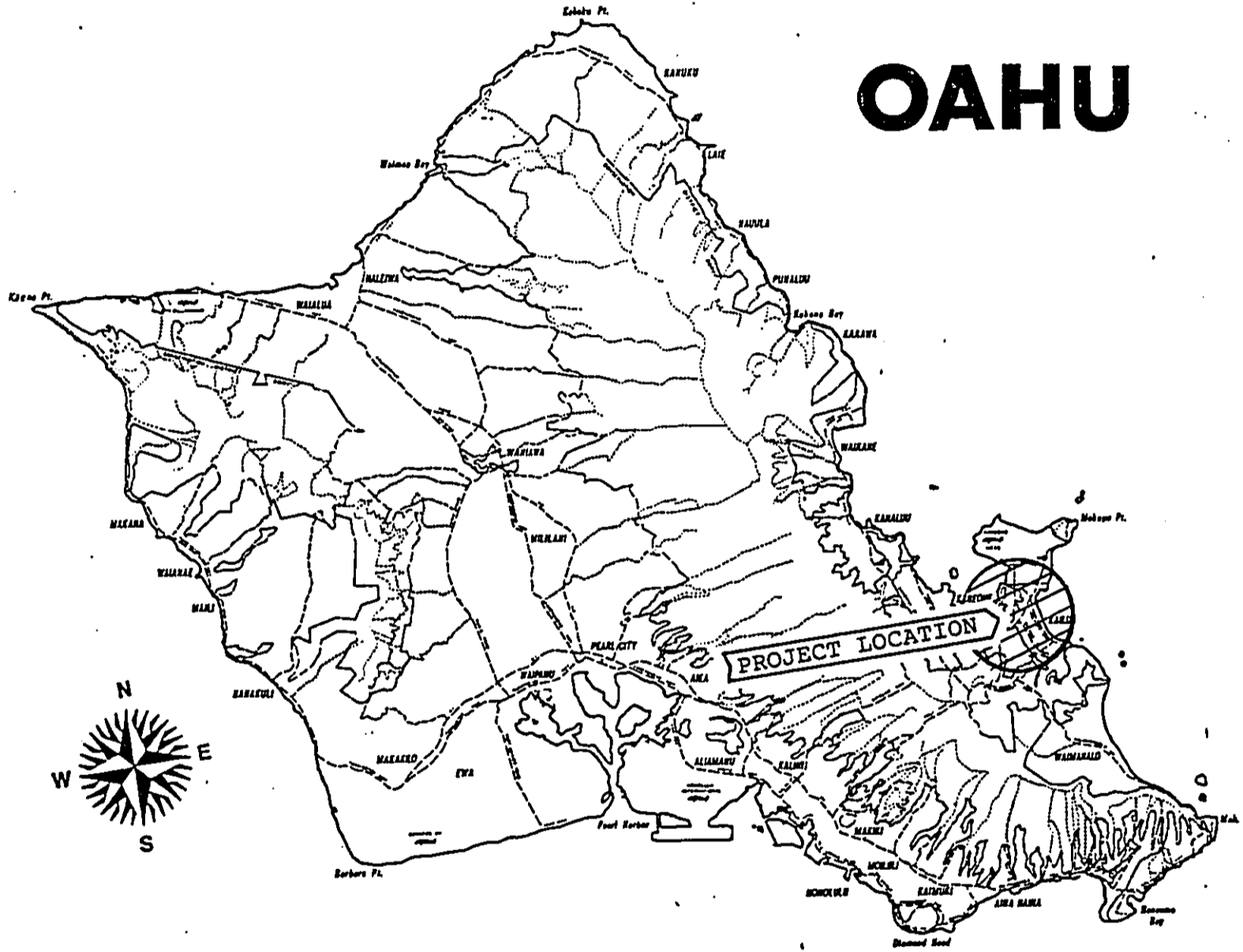
Respectfully submitted,

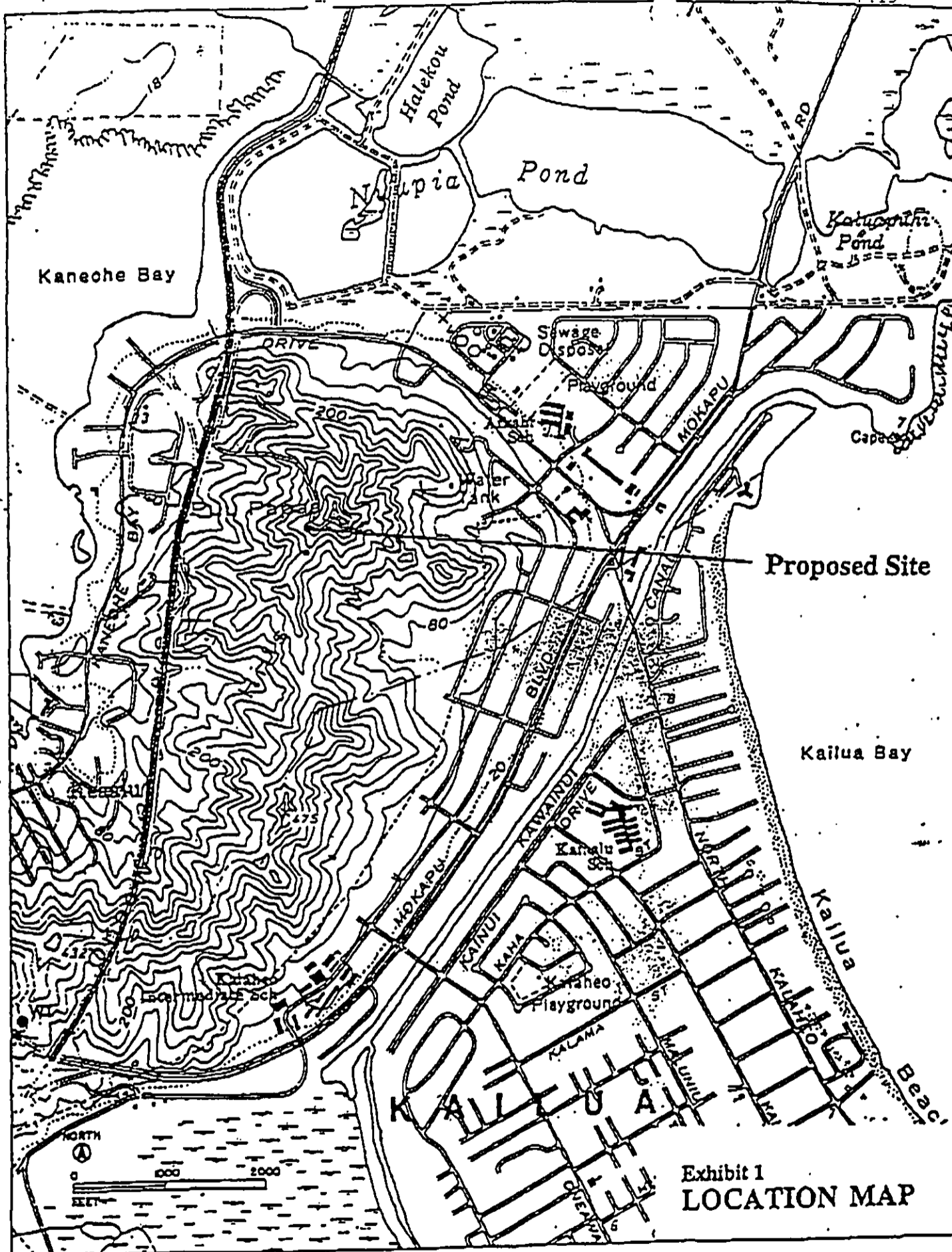
KFVE JOINT VENTURE

Donna M. Kam  
General Manager



# OAHU





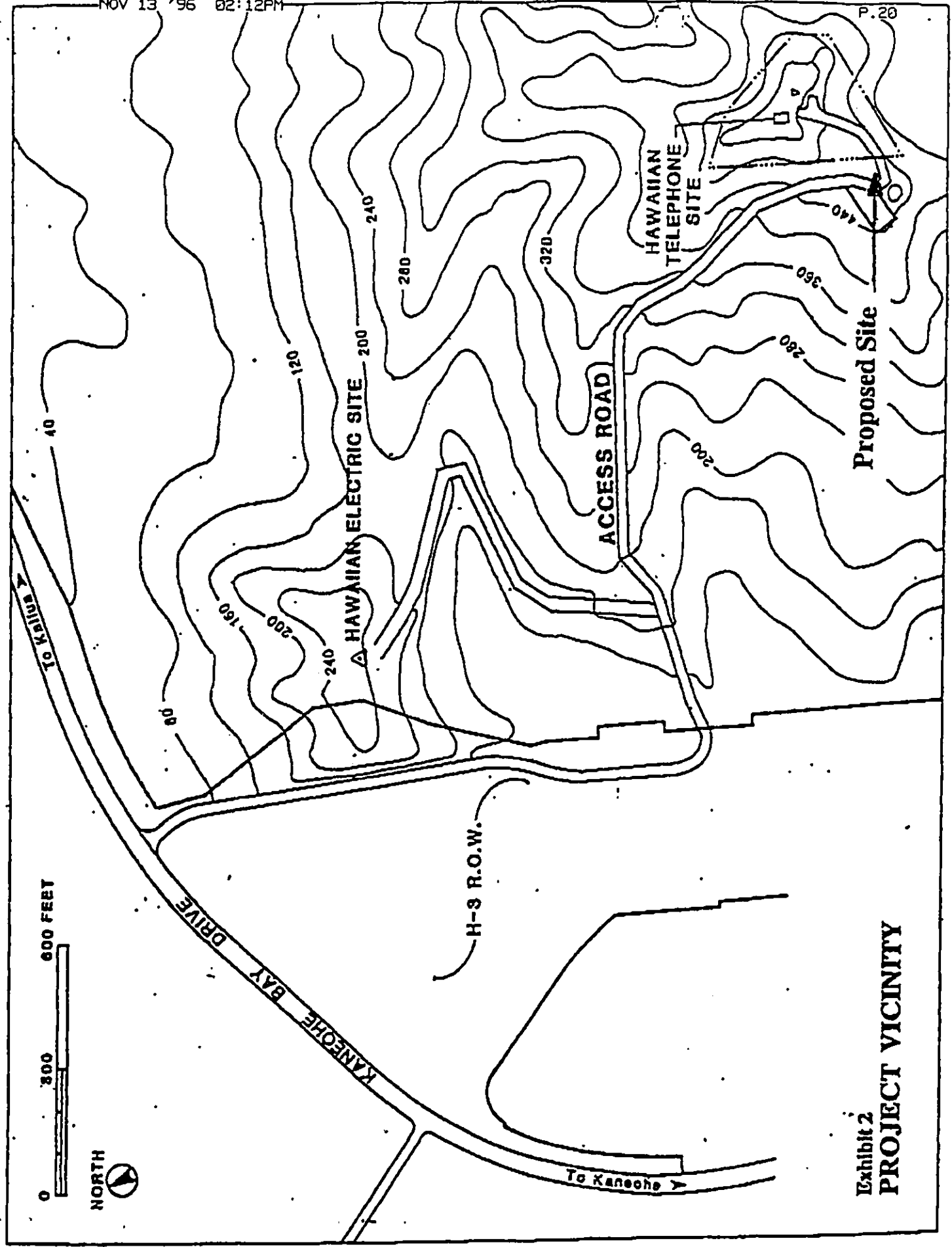
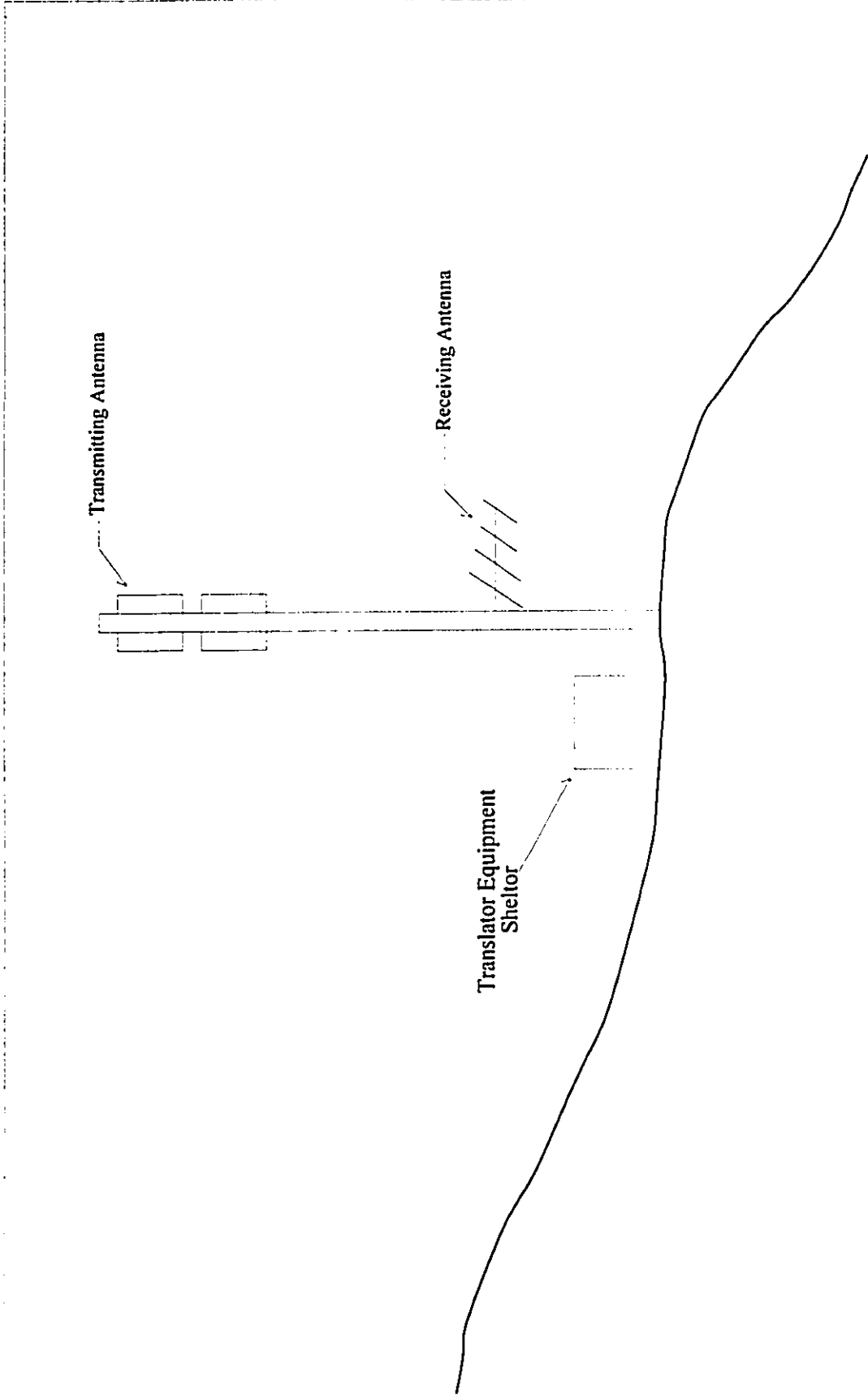


Exhibit 2  
PROJECT VICINITY



# Translator Profile Drawing

<b>KFVE Television Translator Facility</b>	
Project: <b>Kaneohe Ranch, Puu Papaa</b>	
Scale: N.T.S.	<b>KFVE Television Engineering Department</b>
Date: <b>July 12, 1996</b>	
190-B Puuhale Road Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 (808) 842-5555 Fax: (808) 842-4394	