

MARYANNE W. KUSAKA
MAYOR



GERALD W. DELA CRUZ
DIRECTOR

COUNTY OF KAUAI
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4280-B RICE STREET
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766
TELEPHONE (808) 241-6390
FAX (808) 241-6399

RECEIVED
AUG 12 P2:55
UFG. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
Aug 8, 1997

Mr. Gary Gill, Director
State of Hawaii
Office of Environmental Quality Control
220 S. King Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Gill,

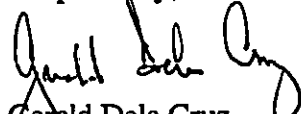
RE: FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) for The Kauai Resource
Exchange and Buy Back Center
TMK 3-7-02, Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development has reviewed the comments forwarded to our office for the Draft EA and we find no significant impact to the surrounding environment. We, therefore, request that publication of the Final EA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) appear in the August 22, 1997 OEQC Bulletin.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Bulletin Publication Form and four copies of the Final EA. If you have any questions, please contact Myrah P. Cummings of our office at 808-241-6390.

Thank you for your assistance in reviewing the subject document.

Respectfully,


Gerald Dela Cruz
Director


Myrah P. Cummings
EDA Project Manager

86

AUG 23 1997

1997-08-23-KA-PEA-Kauai Resource Exchange & Buy-Back Center **FILE COPY**

KAUAI RESOURCE EXCHANGE & BUY-BACK CENTER
AUGUST 8, 1997
(Final Environmental Assessment)

Proposing agency: County of Kauai, Office of Economic Development

Agencies consulted:

Federal: Department of Commerce:
Economic Development Administration (EDA)

State: State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Transportation: Airports Division
Department of Transportation: Highways Division
Dept. of Business, Economic Development & Tourism:
Energy, Resources and Technology Division
Office of Solid Waste Management

County: County of Kauai, Department of Public Works:
Building Division
Engineering Division
Highways & Road Construction
Division of Wastewater Management
County of Kauai, Planning Department
County of Kauai, Department of Water
County of Maui, Dept. of Public Works and Waste
Management

Project Characteristics:

General: The County of Kauai received \$2.2 million from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in September of 1993 to plan, design, construct and equip a recycling/reuse facility. The County's Office of Economic Development (OED) is responsible for managing and administering this grant. This federally funded facility will be located on the makai portion of the existing Lihue Transfer Station lot (See Figure 1).

Since the closure of a domestic waste disposal site at Halehaka Landfill (Dec.1990) near Lihue, disposal of solid waste materials on the island of Kauai has been limited to the one remaining landfill at Kekaha. The collection and disposal system is augmented by transfer stations located at Hanalei, Kapaa, and Lihue.

The reduction of solid waste disposal sites coupled with the large amounts of debris from Hurricane Iniki's devastation and the massive re-construction efforts on the island of Kauai, threatens to significantly shorten the useful life of the only landfill site on the island. In addition to the large amounts of debris from wind damaged trees and agriculture crops, there is yet large quantities of storm damaged building materials as well as construction wastes and packing materials from the ongoing re-building efforts.

Waste diversion programs were in the planning stages prior to Hurricane Iniki. The County's draft *Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (March 1994)* recommended development of a central recycling buy-back and processing facility as well

as a waste materials exchange program. These recommendations have taken on a much greater significance since Hurricane Iniki.

In addition to reducing the strain on Kauai's solid waste disposal system, the creation of a new industry (waste separation and re-sale) will help achieve the goal of diversifying the local economy.

The Center will be a place where reusable and recyclable items can be taken as an alternative to hauling and burying them at the Kekaha Landfill. Kauai residents or businesses who have a use for these materials can obtain them through the Center (generally in exchange for a reasonable payment). Services also provided by the Center will include education and promotion for waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and assistance and support for island businesses that collect and handle these materials or have an interest in creating or expanding on-island uses or markets for them.

Technical: The schematics (See Figure 2) for the Center currently include an 8100 square foot Reuse Building, approximately 2500 square feet of workshops (covered & partially enclosed) and approximately 6300 square feet of miscellaneous processing and storage area (covered and partially enclosed). The proposed entry way will be from Ahukini Road.

The need for such a Center was identified as important for assisting local recycling and reuse efforts in the *County of Kauai Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (March 1994)*. Also, House Resolution 153 (1992 Hawaii Legislature) emphasized the need for the salvage and reuse of items that are often landfilled.

Economic: The EDA grant has allotted approximately \$1.2 million for construction and approximately \$567,000 for equipment. As this is an extremely unique project where business opportunities are ever-changing, the estimated annual profits have not yet been established. It is, however, the purpose of this grant to create jobs and new business opportunities as well as divert waste from the waste stream.

Social: In addition to diverting resources from the waste stream, the Center will also increase public awareness through educational exhibits, workshops and promotions about waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues. Various individuals and businesses alike have expressed their interest and support for the success of the Center.

Environmental: The facility would generate secondary air pollution emitted by motor vehicles that bring materials to the Center. The amount of air pollution generated, however, would be very small and not significant. The Center, located near the Lihue Airport, will be in view of the departing and arriving aircrafts, so its structures and landscaping will be attractive and aesthetically pleasing in design.

Summary of the affected environment

The Center will be located adjacent to the existing Lihue Transfer Station. According to a site survey conducted by an OED staff biologist and the Regional Environmental Officer with EDA, there are no listed threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, critical habitat, historical/archaeological or cultural sites at this location. Occasionally, transient birds have been reported but no native wildlife or wildlife habitat remains on or adjacent to the site.

The soils at the Center are stable and well drained, and flash-flooding is unknown in this area. Per FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Map No. 150002 0140D (See Figure 3), the project site is not within any flood plain area.

Summary of major impacts

Short term:

During construction the following minor adverse impacts are anticipated:

1. Depletion of labor and material resources for construction.
2. Some dust and noise during construction.
3. Related increased traffic during construction.

Long term:

Air Quality:

Air quality on Kauai, as with most of Hawaii, is excellent due to the trade winds which sweep the islands. The site itself is in a relatively open area near the airport. The facility itself is not expected to create any particular air quality problems since the recycling/reuse activities will be within either a fully enclosed or partially enclosed structure and will consist of cutting, sorting and organizing as well as minor rehabilitation work on certain types of discarded materials.

Where dust generating activities occur, appropriate dust suppression methods will be instituted.

Emission is expected from motor vehicles entering and exiting the site. The pollution from motor vehicles is expected to be very minimal.

Water Quality:

The proposed project site will be served by County of Kauai water system, via (temporarily) an existing 2 in. line located above the Lihue Transfer Station. There are no constraints upon the project facility construction or operation due to a lack of water.

A Federal/State Department of Transportation project to re-align Ahukini Road, expected to be completed before construction of this project's facilities, will include installation of an 8 in. water main (and sewer main). At that time a larger permanent water service line will be installed to serve the Resource Center.

Potable water is primarily supplied by groundwater extraction, with distribution provided through the County Department of Water. No continuous surface water resources have been identified in the project area. The proposed project is not expected to significantly impact any area surface or sub-surface water resources.

Noise:

The proposed facility will include fully and partially enclosed structures and noise outside the site should be minimal. There are no sensitive receptors (hospitals, etc.) in the project vicinity. Any long term increases in ambient noise levels will possibly be related to

operation of shredding and compacting machines, and induced traffic increases. Considering the neighboring land uses (Lihue Transfer Station, State of Hawaii Tropical Fruit Disinfestation Facility and the Lihue Airport) noise increases related to the project facility will be minor.

Traffic:

Kauai is served by a system of State and County roads and a small County bus system. There are two main arterial roads on Kauai: Kaunualii Highway which starts in Lihue and circles the island to the west, and Kuhio Highway which runs east and north from Lihue. Altogether, the State maintains approximately 180 miles of roadways and the County maintains another 251 miles. There is also an additional 20 miles of private roadways and cane field roads which do not meet County standards. The County currently operates a small bus service within the Lihue and Wailua-Kapaa areas.

The proposed project site is between the existing Kauai County Solid Waste Transfer Station and Ahukini Road (See Figure 4). Lihue Airport expansion programs include a realignment/upgrade of Ahukini Road, scheduled for the very near future. This proposed project is being designed to accommodate the road realignment. Operation of the proposed Resource Center facility will likely result in changes to local traffic patterns, as well as increasing the traffic volumes on realignment/upgrade project, the expected changes are not expected to exceed the road's increased capacity.

Archaeological:

The proposed project site had been in use for sugar cane production for more than 35 years prior to acquisition by Kauai County, along with other properties adjoining the expanded airport boundaries, for planned airport related industrial/commercial uses. The parcel is a portion of the 3.8 acre transfer station property, which is owned in fee simple by Kauai County and is zoned "Agriculture". The transfer station has received special permits from the State and County to operate on this agriculturally zoned lot. The County has started the permit process to also receive the same types of special permits for the operation of this Resource Center.

Vegetation & Wildlife

The proposed site has been in continuous agricultural production for more than 35 years before being acquired by Kauai County and planned for airport industrial/commercial development. The site is adjacent to the Lihue municipal airport, a county solid waste transfer station, and State of Hawaii Tropical Fruit Disinfestation Facility. With the exception of transient birds or mammals such as dogs or cats, no native wildlife or wildlife habitat remains on or adjacent to the site.

Visual:

Because the Center will be in view of the airport's departing and arriving aircrafts, the Center's structures and landscaping will be attractive and aesthetically pleasing in design. Additionally, the height of the new structures will be lower than the existing transfer station facility and the neighboring Tropical Fruit Disinfestation Facility.

Alternatives

Alternative locations were not considered as this proposed site already accommodates a solid waste transfer station, which is a key component of the County's solid waste management system. The selected site is also in a general area of planned manufacturing

and commercial development and this is appropriate in terms of land use standards and conventional zoning.

Alternative projects having similar benefits are difficult to find since this particular project was identified as a critically needed facility that has increased in importance since the impact of Hurricane Iniki.

The "no action" alternative is not considered viable because of the need to address potential county-wide concerns related to proper solid waste disposal. The useful life of the Kekaha landfill has been substantially shortened due to the massive waste generated by Hurricane Iniki.

Proposed mitigation measures

1. The temporary dust and noise which would occur during construction will be controlled by application of appropriate pollution control measures.
2. Trees and shrubbery will line the Center's side facing Ahukini Road, as well as additional landscaping enhancing the facility throughout.

Anticipated Determination

This project is not controversial or major in scope and does not appear to have the potential to create a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, we anticipate that a negative declaration will be determined.

Findings and reasons supporting determination

1. The Center will not involve an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction to any natural or cultural resources.
2. The Center will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.
3. The Center will not conflict with the State or County's long-term environmental policies.
4. The Center will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.
5. The Center will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes.
6. The Center will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat.
7. The Center will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.
8. The Center will not be located in any environmentally sensitive area, such as flood plain, geologically hazardous land, wild and scenic rivers, or coastal waters.

For reasons above, the Kauai Resource Exchange & Buy Back Center will not have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

List of permits and approvals

Special Use, Use Permit and Class IV Zoning Permit are required in order to operate the Center adjacent to the Lihue Transfer Station as it is zoned Agriculture. The Lihue Transfer Station has applied for and received approval for these permits back in 1990. Currently, a public hearing with the Planning Commission approval of these permits is set for June 12, 1997. Four of the five property owners within a 300 feet radius have verbally stated that they see no negative impact to their properties by having our Center located on the proposed site.

EDA approval of the Final Design Plans and Construction Bid Specifications is required before moving on to the construction phase of this project.

EXHIBITS & FIGURES

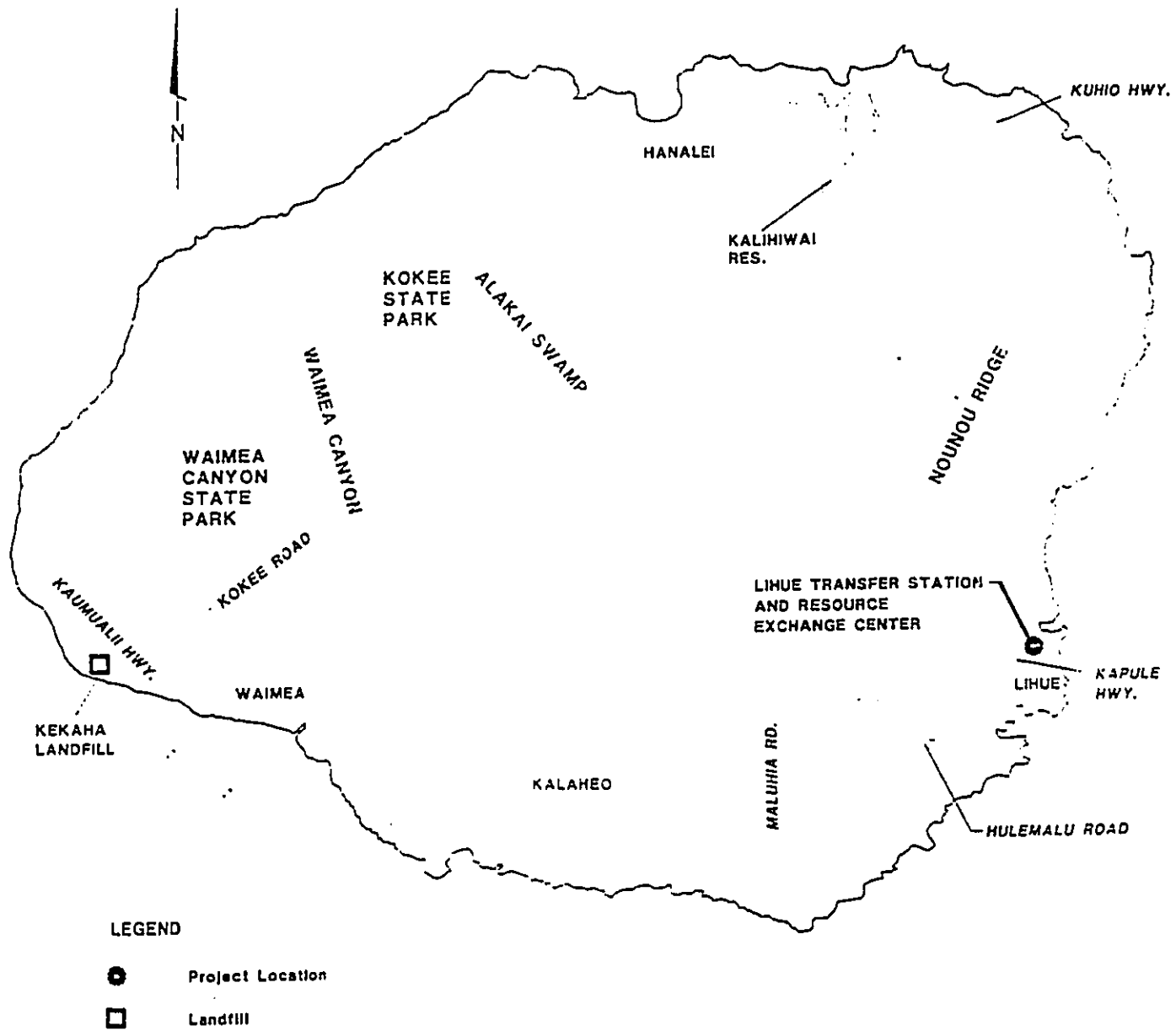
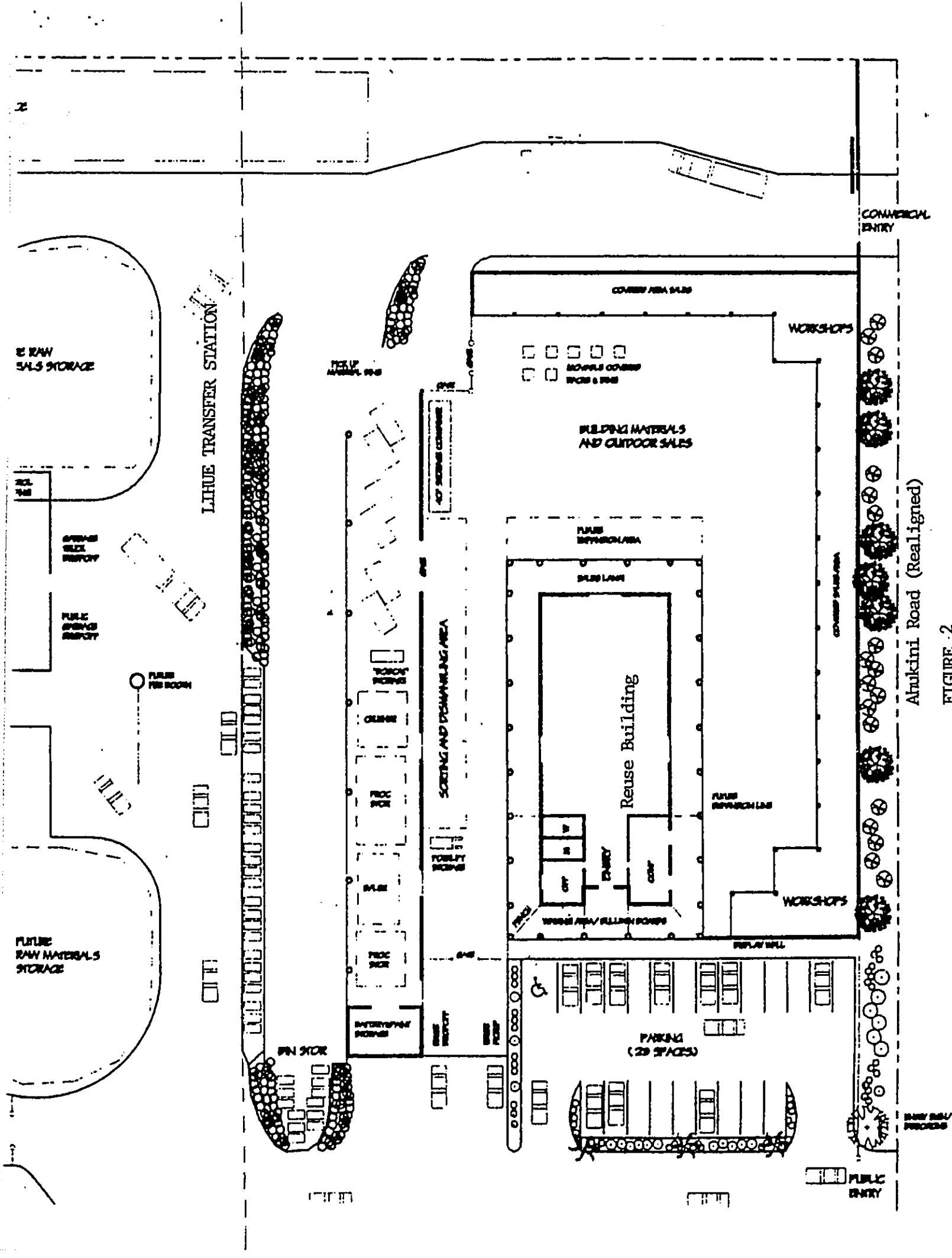
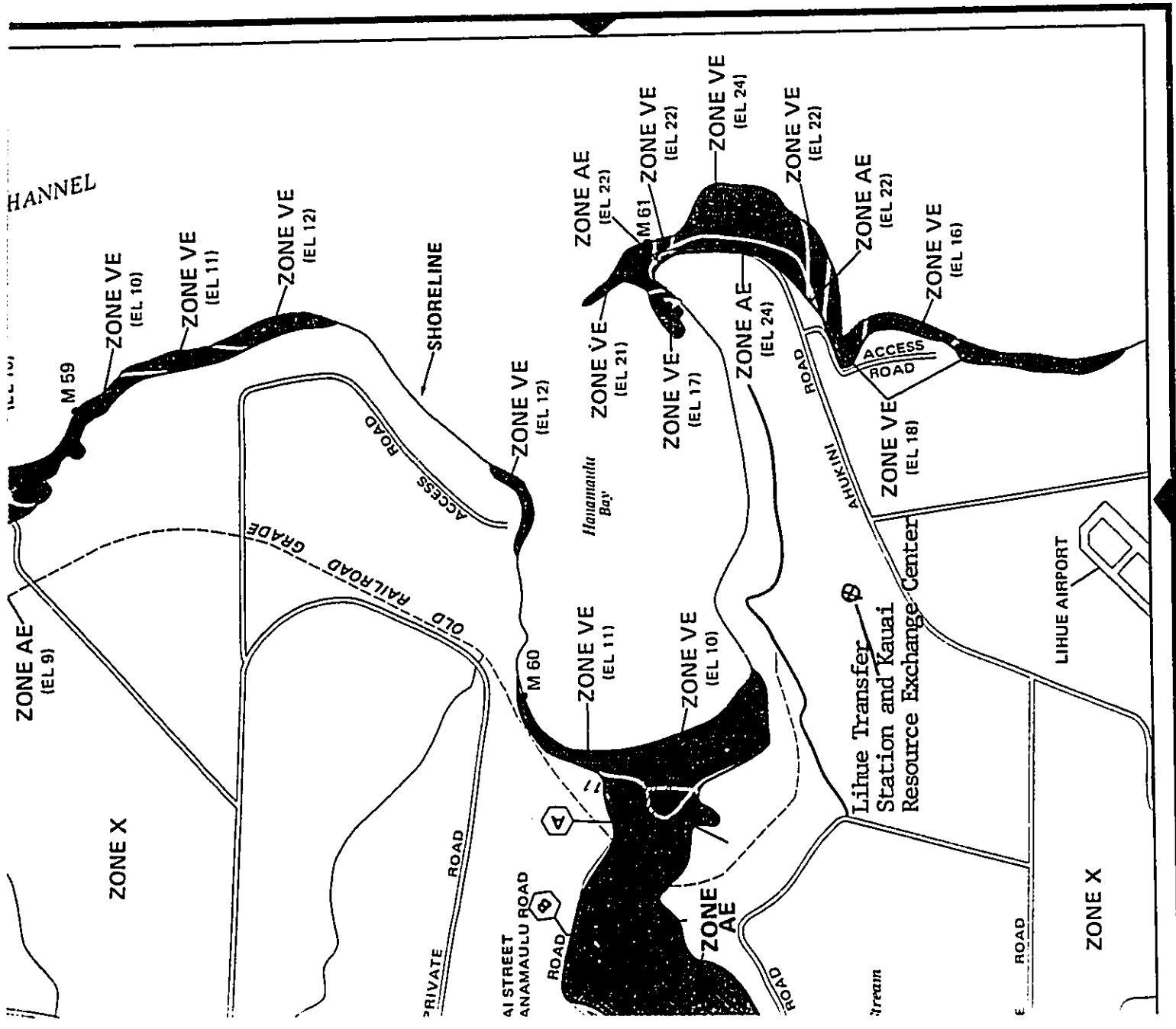


FIGURE 1



Ahukini Road (Realigned)

FIGURE 2



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
KAUAI COUNTY,
HAWAII

PANEL 140 OF 225
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)

COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER
150002 01400

MAP REVISED:
SEPTEMBER 30, 1995



Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIGURE 3

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Responses to comments given July 10, 1997 by Gary Gill, Director of Office of Environmental Quality Control (State of Hawaii).

1) Environmental, economic and social impact of Hurricane Iniki

Hurricane Iniki impacted the County of Kauai in innumerable ways.

Tourism headed on a downward spiral causing double digit unemployment rates, millions of dollars in lost revenue and high operating and living costs. The retail industry, significantly dependent upon tourism, suffered when the hotels shut down and the tourists stopped coming.

Kauai's infrastructure, which previously sighted deficiencies, continued to worsen. Transportation costs and flow worsened due to the cut-back in interisland flights and the withdrawal of a major mainland carrier.

The island's solid waste management programs were in a state of extreme crisis where rapid action was required to prevent far higher costs and environmental problems from mounting.

Inaccessibility to insurance, poor education and re-training, and an increased housing shortage also plagued the island. Natural resources were destroyed and subsequently the preservation of what remained became a critical concern.

Now four short years later, Kauai's natural beauty has been restored, some hotels have reopened, but the island's economy continues to move at a sluggish pace. It has been said that many lessons were learned from Iniki's destruction - mainly, to diversify.

The County of Kauai continues to assist various types of businesses, mostly small businesses, in order to create a stronger foundation of balance of its economy. This is accomplished, in part, by creating tax incentives via enterprise zone programs, implementing revolving loan programs with nominal interest rates and the like.

Socially, the economy's sluggish pace is felt by all, but the overall concensus is a strong confidence of a brighter future. This is evidenced by higher occupancy of hotel rooms, an increase of rental cars on the roads, some retail businesses extending their hours, construction of new or restored public facilities etc.

Overall, the environmental, economic and social changes that Kauai experienced due to Hurricane Iniki have stimulated creative ways to utilize the island's resources - both human and natural.

2) Industrial development

Development of the Puhi Industrial Park created a subdivision with approximately 89 lots for industrial type use; completed in 1993.

The State Department of Transportation has started activities related to the airport expansion. Construction of the Disinfestation Facility next to the Lihue Transfer Station has been completed and should be in operation by the end of this year. Other lands to the northwest of the "new" airport runway are still being used for cultivating sugar cane, however, it is evident that plans of future development for industrial or airport related uses persist.

According to Troy Tanigawa, County Solid Waste Coordinator, based on methodology in the *County of Kauai Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP), (1994)*, the "non-residential" or "commercial" sector generates approximately 55% of the total waste stream or 110 tons per day. The County does not keep a database of current diversion activities in the "commercial" sector, however, according to the ISWMP it is estimated that approximately 40% of the solid waste generated has a potential for diversion from the landfill.

3) **Tourism**

Currently there are nine resorts/hotels operating on Kauai. According to the County's Economic Development Tourism Specialist IV, it is anticipated that two more hotels intend to open before the end of 1997 offering a total of 600+ additional rooms. Also, an estimated 1% increase from last year's visitor count is expected which totals just under one million visitors. Regarding volume of refuse generation as Mr. Tanigawa stated, the County does not keep a database for this sector.

4) **Population estimate**

According to the State of Hawaii Population of Counties and Districts (estimated by DBEDT), from 1990 to 1995 the population growth for the Lihue area was approximately 600. That would mean that the population growth by the year 2010 would be under the 21,000 population growth estimated in the Lihue Transfer Station EA. The areas with the highest population growth are Hanalei and Kawaihau which are adequately serviced by transfer stations and recycling drop off areas.

5) **Amount of refuse generated**

As per Mr. Tanigawa, no new daily estimate of projections for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation in the Lihue area were made since the 1989 assessment. Currently, the Lihue Transfer Station handles an average of 20 tons MSW per day.

6) **Day-to-day operations**

In the reuse/recycling industry, opportunities continue to increase because of the limitless ways of using resources. Consequently, the number of staff needed has not yet been determined because . However, typical responsibilities of the operator will include accepting, storing, pricing, processing and marketing reusables and recyclables. Additional responsibilities will include onsite traffic flow, equipment use, staffing and materials handling.

7) **Traffic**

In this project's feasibility study, *Phase I Analysis for Development of the Kauai Resource Exchange Center (1995)*, an estimate of half of the island's 22,000

households (11,000 households) was used to project incoming materials. This study further assumed that each household would make an average of two trips per year to the Center. Using 360 calendar days, an estimated 61 vehicles (11,000 x 2 divided by 360) per day would be entering and exiting the facility.

As stated in the Final Environment Assessment for the Lihue Transfer Station, "future access will be provided from Kapule Highway through the industrial subdivision when AMFAC develops their property". This road will intersect with Ahukini road and be adjacent to the project site offering an alternate route to/from the facility.

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



GARY GILL
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

236 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 686-4186
FACSIMILE (808) 686-4186

RECEIVED

JUL 11 1997

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

July 10, 1997

Gerald Dela Cruz
Kauai Office of Economic Development
4280-B Rice Street
Lihue, HI 96766

Dear Mr. Dela Cruz:

RE: ▶Kauai Resource Exchange & Buy Back Center Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (6/97); and
▶Lihue Refuse Transfer Station Negative Declaration (10/89)

We have the following comments to offer on your recent draft EA and the related negative declaration of 1989:


1. Hurricane Iniki had a major effect on the island's economy and population. Please analyze environmental, economic and social changes on Kauai since the 1989 EA for the transfer station was accepted.
2. Industrial development: The 1989 document mentions future industrial development near Puhi and in the area northwest of the "new" airport runway. How much of this development has been implemented since 1989 and how much future development is planned for Kauai? How much waste from industry is being generated, and how much of this waste stream can be diverted?
3. Tourism: The 1989 document mentions two major resorts in the Lihue District. How many resorts currently operate in the region? What are current tourism figures and projections for the region and the island, and how do they affect volume of refuse generation?
4. Is the population estimate given in the 1989 document (21,000 for the resident population for 2010) on track? If not, what are the new estimates? How do any new estimates affect projected volume of future refuse generation?

Gerald Dela Cruz
July 10, 1997
Page 2

5. The 1997 document does not discuss amount of refuse generated. The 1989 document lists the 1990 figure at 50 tons/day and estimates 100 tons/day for the year 2010. How much is currently generated and what are new estimates for 2010 and beyond?
6. What are the day-to-day operations envisioned for the Resource Exchange & Buy Back Center? How many staff (paid and volunteer) would be required?
7. Please quantify traffic to and from the site. What is the average number of vehicles expected to enter and exit the facility on a daily basis? What traffic mitigation measures are planned?

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

Sincerely,



Gary Gill
Director

Responses to comments given via fax on July 23, 1997 by Hedy Hager of P.O.Box 61461, Honolulu, HI 96839.

1) As the main focus of this facility will be on collecting, repairing and selling reuseable materials, it is imperative that the operator be adept in determining an item's reusable value. As in any "retail" type of business, an item must be properly priced or it will not sell. Consequently, the "reasonable payment" must be well thought out and based on the island's supply and demand of the materials.

2) Although the landscaping details have not yet been determined, the design concept plan has always emphasized foliage that is native to Kauai.

(Please note that a catchment system may be implemented where stored rain water can be used for irrigating the landscaped areas.)

3) No archaeological resources are present within the project area.

July 22, 1997

Ms. Myrah Cummings,
Office of Economic Development
4280-B Rice Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Subject: Draft EA for Kauai Resource Exchange and BuyBack Center

Dear Ms. Cummings:

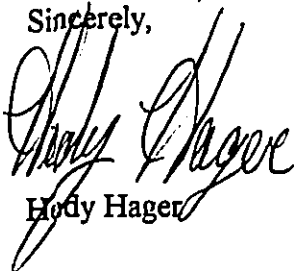
I have reviewed the above referenced document and am supportive of this project. Considering the current rate of resource consumption in the islands combined with the fact that little headway has been made regarding recycling efforts on any measurable scale, this agency's proposal is both refreshing and hopefully "a sign of the times". I do have several general comments though to relay to your agency.

The designated size for the facility is approximately one acre. My concern is whether this design will provide ample space for potential expansion of operations stemming from population growth and, hopefully, success of the venture. As for fees charged to the public for obtaining recycled materials, I am unsure what you mean by "reasonable payment". How does your agency define this? While the whole point of this project is to both stimulate the local economy and encourage a viable opportunity for recycling, it should be noted that the public is not used to paying for items generally perceived as "rubbish". Initially, a nominal fee should be considered for appropriate items, followed by periodic increases. Concerning economic matters, it is stated that profits cannot be accurately estimated because of the unique nature of the project. To aid in alleviating some of the "unknowns", your agency may wish to perform a market study or research other mainland localities that have embarked on similar ventures.

Landscaping should incorporate native vegetation, where possible, and will nicely compliment the purpose of the project (note that a law exists that requires the use of native species for landscaping, etc. when county funds are used). Because this project is located on our garden isle, an aesthetically pleasing design is certainly justified and, if creativity strikes your fancy, you may want to consider contracting a local artist to paint a mural. Also, if the transient birds that have frequented the area are Lesser Golden Plovers, they are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Noise impacts from the project, while minimal, may contribute to cumulative impacts and should be more thoroughly assessed. Additionally, it should be stated that no archaeological resources are present within the project area, rather than supplying information as to why no cultural resources would exist. Lastly, concerning the document figures: #2 should be enlarged, it is difficult to read and some of the text is completely unreadable; #3 needs to more accurately detail the study area, as it is currently depicted as a white line or the tip of the arrow?; lastly, an estimate of how much space is allotted for future expansion needs to be included in Figure 4.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on this entrepreneurial project. I wish your agency much success.

Sincerely,



Hedy Hager

MARYANNE W. KUSAKA
MAYOR



RECEIVED

GERALD W. DELA CRUZ
DIRECTOR

COUNTY OF KAUAI '97 AUG 14 A8:19
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(IFC. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL)
4280-B RICE STREET
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII 96786
TELEPHONE (808) 241-6390
FAX (808) 241-6399

August 12, 1997

Ms. Hedy Hager
P. O. Box 61461
Honolulu, HI 96839

RE: Kauai Resource Exchange and Buy Back Center.

Dear Ms. Hager:

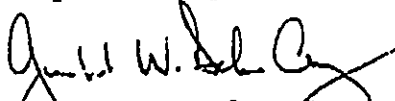
Thank you for your comments on our Draft EA for the Kauai Resource and Buy Back Center. For your additional information, we have attached the "An Introduction to the Kauai Resource Exchange Center".

The Kauai Resource Exchange and Buy Back Center will be managed and operated by a private for profit or non-profit entity that is expected to operate the facility as an normal business. The concept of "reasonable payment" is defined as what the buyer and facility operator agrees to establish to exchange the reusable resource. Please be advised that the future viability of the operation will be directly impacted by its future financial sustainability.

As it relates to landscaping details, the County of Kauai Planning Department has the authorization and responsibility to review and approve the landscaping plan covering the entire campus of the new center prior to the building permit application. While utilization of native foliage is not required by ordinance, we would recommend use of native plants where appropriate.

We hope that we have addressed your concerns on the project and thank you for your constructive comments that may be utilized in the future.

Respectfully,


Gerald W. Dela Cruz
Director

cc: Office of Environmental Quality Control w/attachment