Stephen K. Yamashiro Mayor



Juliette M. Tulang
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden Deputy Director

County of Hawaii

RECEIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4282 JAN -8 All :51
(808) 961-8311

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January 7, 1999

Mr. Gary Gill, Director Office of Environmental Quality Control 235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Final Environmental Assessment for Hilo Bayfront Park Restroom Facilities, South Hilo, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Gill:

The Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii, has reviewed the comment letters received during the 30-day public comment period that began on November 8, 1998. The Department has determined that this project will not have significant environmental effects and has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Please publish this determination in the next available edition of the OEQC Environmental Notice.

We have enclosed a completed OEQC Environmental Notice Publication Form and four copies of the final EA. Our consultant has e-mailed the project summary to your office. Publication of the EA in your next edition of the Notice will be appreciated.

If any questions arise, please contact Glenn Miyao at 961-8313.

Sincerely,

Juliette Tulang
Director

encls

## FILE CUPY

1999-01-23-HA-FEA-

# FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM FACILITIES

TMK (3rd): 2-2-02:35; 2-2-11:01 (pors.) South Hilo District, Hawaii Island, State of Hawaii

January 1999

County of Hawaii 25 Aupuni Street Hilo Hawaii 96720

## FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM FACILITIES

TMK (3rd) 2-2-02:35; 2-2-11:01 (pors.) South Hilo District, Island of Hawaii, State of Hawaii

PROPOSING AGENCY:

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

CONSULTANT:

Ron Terry Ph.D. HC 2 Box 9575 Keaau, Hawaii 96749

**CLASS OF ACTION:** 

Use of County and State land and County funds

This document is prepared pursuant to:

the Hawaii Environmental Protection Act, Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawaii Department of Health Administrative Rules (HAR).

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## SUMMARY OF PROJECT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### **Project Summary**

The project consists of two components. The County of Hawaii plans to expand the existing restroom facility near the Canoe Landing area, makai of the Bayfront Highway, which is called the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom. The County would also build a new restroom facility at the end of Kumu Street on the mauka side of Waiolama Canal. These restrooms would serve the large number of people who use these popular areas for canoe paddling and soccer. The facilities would promote public health and safety by providing adequate and accessible sanitary facilities in areas now serviced by inadequate permanent and portable facilities, which do not conform to current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design standards.

#### **Short Term Impacts**

Construction Impacts: Landelearing and construction activities will produce short-term impacts to noise, air quality, traffic, access and scenery.

Mitigation Measure: During any construction with the potential to cause sedimentation or other pollution, the County of Hawaii will require its contractor to adhere to Best Management Practices to avoid such impacts.

#### Long Term Impacts

No sensitive biological, hydrological or historic site resources are present and no adverse long-term impacts are expected to result from the project. A long term beneficial impact is the improvement of public health and safety. The following will be implemented in order to ensure no adverse impacts to floodplain protection and historic sites:

Mitigation Measure: The County of Hawaii will ensure that the facilities will be constructed to withstand flood damage to the greatest degree practicable, through the use of materials and equipment resistant to flood damage. Furthermore, the County of Hawaii will require during the construction grading and earthwork to minimize the potential for soil erosion and off-site sediment transport. Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as standard soil erosion and sediment control shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure: If any artifacts, charcoal deposits, or human remains are discovered during brush clearing or other activities associated with the park, work will immediately cease and SHPD will be consulted to determine the appropriate mitigation.

## PART 1: PROJECT LOCATION, PURPOSE AND NEED

## 1.1 Project Description, Location, Purpose and Need

The project consists of two components, both located in Hilo on the Island of Hawaii (Figs. 1-2). First, the County of Hawaii plans to expand the existing restroom facility, called the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom, near the Canoe Landing area makai of the Bayfront Highway located on a portion of TMK 2-2-02:35. Second, the County of Hawaii would build a new restroom facility at the end of Kumu Street on the mauka side of Waiolama Canal on a portion of TMK 2-2-11:01. The locations are 19° 43.36' N. Lat., 155° 04.48' W. Long. and 19° 43.28' N. Lat., 155° 04.90' W. Long., respectively.

The Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom expansion would add four waterclosets for women and two waterclosets and two urinals for men, doubling the capacity of the facility (Figs. 4-5). The Waiolama restroom would have five waterclosets for women and two waterclosets and three urinals for men (Figs. 6-7). Both buildings would have cement block walls with corrugated metal roofing over light steel framing. Both would be constructed to meet the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

These restrooms would serve the large number of people who use these popular areas for canoe paddling and soccer. The facilities would promote public health and safety by providing adequate and accessible sanitary facilities in areas now serviced by inadequate permanent and portable facilities, which do not conform to current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design standards.

## 1.2 <u>Summary of Regulatory Requirements</u>

This Environmental Assessment (EA) process was conducted in accordance with Chapter 343 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). This law, along with its implementing regulations, Title 11, Chapter 200, of the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), is the basis for the environmental impact process in the State of Hawaii. According to Chapter 343, an EA is prepared to determine impacts associated with an action, to develop mitigation measures for adverse impacts, and to determine whether any of the impacts are significant according to thirteen specific criteria. Part 5 lists these criteria and the preliminary findings of the County of Hawaii regarding significance. If no impacts are considered significant, then the agency implementing or approving the action will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI.

Accordingly, if this study concludes that no significant impacts would occur from implementation of the proposed action, a FONSI will be prepared and the action will be permitted to occur. If this study finds that significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

#### 1.3 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

The following agencies, organizations and individuals have been consulted during the Environmental Assessment Process:

#### County:

Planning Department County Council

Public Works Department Police Department

#### State:

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division

#### Federal:

#### U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu

A number of private sports organizations such as soccer leagues and canoe clubs have requested the Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation to construct the restrooms.

Copies of communications received during preconsultation are contained in Appendix 1.

Notice of the availability of the Draft EA was published by the Hawaii State Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) in the *Environmental Notice* of November 8, 1998. This initiated a 30-day comment period during which agencies and the public were invited to respond to the Draft EA with comments or questions. Four comment letters were received. These letters and the responses to them are included as Appendix 1A. The Final EA was revised in portions to incorporate corrections or clarifications supplied by these comment letters.

#### PART 2: ALTERNATIVES

#### 2.1 Proposed Project

The proposed project is described in Section 1.1 above and illustrated in Figures 2-7. The Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom expansion would cost approximately \$120,000, and the Waiolama Restroom would cost about \$210,000. The project would begin in early 1999, and would be complete by the summer of 1999.

#### 2.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom would not be expanded and made accessible, and the Waiolama restroom would not be built. No temporary construction-related disturbance would occur. None of the benefits to public health and safety would occur, and the area would remain without a restroom accessible to the disabled. This EA considers No Action as a viable Alternative.

#### 2.3 Alternatives Evaluated and Dismissed

No other Alternatives capable of addressing the project's purpose and need were identified during project development or scoping for this Environmental Assessment.

## PART 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

#### 3.1 Basic Geographic Setting

Land use/cover near both the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom and the area proposed for the Waiolama restroom currently consists of a park landscaped with grass (see Figure 8). The Waiolama area is currently serving as a stockpile area for construction material associated with the Hilo Sewer System Rehabilitation Project. This material is planned to be removed before construction on the restroom begins.

The Hilo Bayfront Beach Park and Waiolama restrooms are situated about 10 and 5 feet, respectively, above mean sea level. The surface geology of the site consists of alluvial and littoral deposits mantling a surface of basalt lava flows from Mauna Loa (Wolfe and Morris 1996). Where actual soil is developed, it is classified as Keaukaha extremely rocky muck. This thin soil is permeable above the pahoehoe layer (typically located at about 8 inches in depth) but very slowly permeable below. Runoff is medium and erosion hazard is slight. In floodplains this soil promotes ponding (U.S. Soil Conservation Service 1973). Annual rainfall averages about approximately 130 inches (Giambelucca et al 1986).

#### 3.2 Physical Environment

#### 3.2.1 <u>Drainage</u>

#### Environmental Setting

Both areas fall within Zone VE (Coastal High Hazard Area) on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (Fig. 3). Both are exposed to inundation and damage from tsunami. The Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom is also subject to flooding from high surf, and the Waiolama restroom area is periodically inundated during heavy rainfall and during Alenaio Stream floods.

Chapter 27 of the Hawaii County Code stipulates that any new construction or substantial improvements within Special Flood Hazard Areas must adhere to certain requirements. These may include elevating structure floors above base flood elevations or anchoring foundations to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.

#### Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Hawaii County Parks and Recreation Department has requested a variance from some requirements of Chapter 27 in order to avoid having to raise the finish floor elevation of the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park and Waiolama restrooms above the level of

the flood hazard; i.e., to 28 and 18 feet above sea level, respectively. Since the current floor elevation of the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom is 9.6 feet, and that proposed for the Waiolama restroom is 6.5 feet, achieving the prescribed elevations would be problematic. The restrooms would either need to be placed high on pilings or atop a large quantity of fill. Neither is practical, particularly considering the requirement to make both structures accessible to the disabled.

There are no nearby uses that would be adversely affected by the restrooms, and the structures would not raise the base elevation of the floodplain. The restrooms would have no other adverse impacts upon the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain, which is already in use as a park. Furthermore, there is little risk that building a restroom at Waiolama or expanding the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom and making it accessible to the disabled will expose human life to increased risk of death or injury, as the area is already heavily utilized. The Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency closely monitors tsunami, winter surf, and hurricane waves and evacuates the coastal parks in Hilo, as necessary.

Mitigation Measure: If the variance is granted, the County of Hawaii will ensure that the facilities will be constructed to withstand flood damage to the greatest degree practicable, through the use of materials and equipment resistant to flood damage. Furthermore, the County of Hawaii will require provisions during the construction grading and earthwork to minimize the potential for soil erosion and off-site sediment transport. Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as standard soil erosion and sediment control shall be implemented, as described in the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Hawaii (USSCS 1981). These management measures could include:

- 1) Timing construction activities, such as grading or the installation of culverts, during periods of minimum rainfall;
- 2) Limiting the amount of surface area graded at any given time to reduce the area subject to potential erosion;
- 3) Constructing temporary drainage ditches to divert runoff away from areas susceptible to soil erosion;
- 4) Utilizing soil erosion protective materials such as mulch or geotextiles on areas where soils have a high potential for erosion until permanent provisions such as lawns and grasses can be developed; and
- 5) Planting grass as soon as grading operations permit to minimize the amount of time soils are exposed to possible erosion.

#### 3.2.2 Lava Flow and Earthquake Hazards

#### Environmental Setting

The entire Big Island is subject to geologic hazards, especially lava flows and earthquakes. The project site is located in Lava Flow Hazard Zone 3 (on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1). Zone 3 is considered "less hazardous than [Z]one 2 [which is adjacent to and downslope of active risk zones] because of greater distance from recently active vents and/or because the topography makes it less likely that flows will cover these areas" (Heliker 1990). As such, there is some risk of lava inundation over relatively short time scales.

In terms of seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawaii is rated Zone 4 Seismic Probability Rating (Uniform Building Code, Appendix Chapter 25, Section 2518). Zone 4 areas are at risk from major earthquake damage, especially to structures that are poorly designed or built.

The area is basically level, and is not anticipated to pose any problems in site design and preparation.

#### Impacts and Mitigation Measures

In general, geologic conditions impose no constraints on the project. Although the project is located in an area exposed to geologic hazard, any facilities that would service residents of this area must be located within such an area, and there are thus no reasonable alternatives.

## 3.2.3 Flora and Fauna, Wetlands, and Threatened and Endangered Species

#### Flora and Fauna

The areas around the restrooms were inspected for biological resources in September of 1998. At the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom, all vegetation is basically part of maintained landscaping or weeds (Fig. 8). The principal components are aliens of several species: various grasses and weeds, along with the ornamental shrub ti (Cordyline fruticosa). Nearby are ironwood (Casuarina equistifolia) and coconut (Cocos nucifera) trees. At Waiolama, the area proposed for the restroom currently serves as a stockpile area for various construction projects that are taking place in and near the park. Among the mounds of soil, asphalt and stacks of pipes are some weedy patches and remnants of lawn (Fig. 8).

#### Wetlands and Aquatic Habitat

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is being consulted concerning the potential for wetlands or special aquatic sites. Although the agency has not yet responded, it appears that entire project corridor is upland, and no wetlands or Waters of the U.S. would be built upon, dredged or filled as part of the project.

#### Threatened and Endangered Species

No listed, candidate or proposed endangered animal or plant species were found or would be expected to be found in the corridor. In terms of conservation value, no botanical or zoological resources requiring special protection are present.

#### Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Because of the lack of native ecosystems, or threatened or endangered plant species, no adverse impacts would occur as a result of clearing and improvements.

#### 3.2.4 Air Quality, Noise, and Scenic Resources

#### Environmental Setting

Air pollution in the Hilo area from manmade sources is minimal. Volcanic emissions of sulfur dioxide convert into particulate sulfate which causes a volcanic haze (vog) to blanket the area during occasional episodes when trade winds are not present.

Because of the setback from roads, ambient noise is minor. It is mainly derived from traffic on the Bayfront Highway, Kamehameha Avenue, and Pauahi Street. Sporting events and parties also raise noise levels periodically.

Figure 8 provides a view of both sites. The Hawaii County General Plan contains Goals, Policies and Standards intended to preserve areas of natural beauty and scenic vistas from encroachment. The Plan does not contain any references to this area. The area fronting the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom is part of the scenic black sand beach of Hilo Bay. The expansion of the restroom would not adversely affect views of or along this beach. The Waiolama restroom is not located within a visually sensitive area.

#### Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The project would not affect air quality, scenery or noise levels, except for minor and brief effects during construction.

#### 3.2.5 Hazardous Substances, Toxic Waste and Hazardous Conditions

Based on onsite inspection and information on file, it appears that the restroom areas do not have hazardous or toxic substances or any other hazardous conditions.

#### 3.3 Socioeconomic and Cultural

#### 3.3.1 Land Ownership and Land Use. Designations and Controls

#### Existing Environment

The land on and around which the restrooms would be located is under the jurisdiction of the County of Hawaii.

Both areas are zoned O (open) by County of Hawaii and designated as open on the Hawaii County General Plan Land Use Allocation Guide Map. The sites are within the Urban State Land Use District. The proposed project is a permitted use within these designations. The Planning Department will require Plan Approval for both facilities. Both are also within the Special Management Area (SMA). It is anticipated that a Special Management Area Use Major permit would be sought, covering both facilities. Both restrooms are within the Hawaii Redevelopment Agency's Review Boundaries. After completion of the Environmental Assessment and design portion of the project, the plans will be submitted to this agency for approval.

Land use in and around both sites is recreation. The primary use of the Hilo Bayfront Beach Park area is for ocean sports, particularly outrigger canoe racing, although kayaking, fishing, swimming and beachgoing are also common. The Waiolama area is surrounded by soccer fields. The proposed project is consistent with and would support recreational land use.

#### 3.3.2 Socioeconomic Characteristics

Existing Environment: Social Characteristics

The project occurs within and would both affect and benefit the district of South Hilo. Table 1 provides information on the socioeconomic characteristics of this area, along with those of Hawaii County as a whole for comparison.

#### **Impacts**

The proposed project would benefit public health, safety and recreation in Hilo.

Table 1
Selected Social Characteristics

Selected Social Characteristics			
	GEOGRAPHIC AREAS		
CHARACTERISTIC	Hawaii Island	South Hilo	
Total Population	120,317	39,737	
Percent Asian	37.8	59.4	
Percent Hawaiian	19.2	12.6	
Percent Under 18 Years	28.7	27.2	
Percent Over 65 Years	12.6	13.5	
Percent 10-64 Years With Work Disability/Mobility/Self Care Limit.	13.0	19.9	
Percent Over 25 Years With High School Diploma	77.7	78.4	
Percent Over 16 Yrs in Labor Force	64.2	62.1	
Median Household Income	\$33,186	\$29,967	
Percent in Poverty	14.2	14.3	
Percent Owner Occupied Housing	61.1	62.6	
Median Contract Rent Value	\$428	\$371	
Median Home Price	\$113,000	\$110,700	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census: "1990 Census of Population. General Population Characteristics," 1990 CP-1-13 and "1990 Census of Population. Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics," 1990 CPH-1-13. Notes: Asian percentage includes non-Hawaiian Pacific Islanders.

#### 3.3.2 Archaeology and Historic Sites

Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The County of Hawaii consulted with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in April of 1998 to determine whether historic site resources are present in the area and whether impacts to significant historic sites would occur.

SHPD determined that the project is likely to have no effect to significant historic sites (see Appendix A1, SHPD letter of 22 October 1998). To ensure that no impact will occur, the following mitigation measure will be implemented:

Mitigation Measure: If any artifacts, charcoal deposits, or human remains are discovered during brush clearing or other activities associated with the park, work will immediately cease and SHPD will be consulted to determine the appropriate mitigation.

#### 3.4 Public Facilities

Both areas are served by roads. No electricity or phone lines are present or would be affected by the projects. The restrooms are being designed and built to accommodate electrical hookups in the eventuality that electricity becomes available at the site. No direct or indirect impact to these services is expected as a result of the project.

The Hilo Bayfront Beach Park restroom is currently served by a waterline and is connected to the Hilo sewer system. No impacts to these services are expected. The Waiolama restroom will require connection to both services. Water service will be provided via a 2-inch copper line that will extend from Kamehameha Avenue, approximately 500 feet away. The project will also tie into a 30-inch sewer line located approximately 125 feet away. With these connections, the site will have adequate water and wastewater service. No impact to these services will occur.

#### 3.5 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project will not involve any secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.

Cumulative impacts result when implementation of several projects that individually have limited impacts combine to produce more severe impacts or conflicts in mitigation measures. The adverse effects of the project – very minor and temporary disturbance to air quality, noise, and visual quality during construction – are very limited in severity, nature and geographic scale. There are no projects being undertaken nearby which would combine in such a way as to produce adverse cumulative effects or involve a commitment for larger actions.

#### 3.6 Required Permits and Approvals

Construction of the restrooms would require the following:

#### County of Hawaii:

Special Management Area Permit Grading Permit Building Permit Hawaii Redevelopment Agency Approval

#### 3.7 Consistency With Government Plans and Policies

#### 3.7.1 Hawaii State Plan

The Hawaii State Plan was adopted in 1978. It was revised in 1986 and again in 1991 (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 226, as amended). The Plan establishes a set of goals, objectives and policies that are meant to guide the State's long-run growth and development activities. The proposed project is consistent with State goals and objectives that call for improving public health and safety and expanding recreational opportunities for a broad segment of Hawaii's population.

#### 3.7.2 Hawaii County General Plan

The General Plan for the County of Hawaii is a policy document expressing the broad goals and policies for the long-range development of the Island of Hawaii. The plan was adopted by ordinance in 1989. The General Plan is organized into thirteen elements, with policies, objectives, standards, and principles for each. There are also discussions of the specific applicability of each element to the nine judicial districts comprising the County of Hawaii. Among the goals, policies and standards for recreation and use of the Hilo Bayfront area are the following:

#### D. Flood Control and Drainage: Policies:

• In areas vulnerable to severe damage due to the impact of wave action, restrictive land use and building structure regulations must be enacted relative to the potential for loss of life and property. Only uses which cannot be located elsewhere due to public necessity and character, such as maritime activities and the necessary public facilities and utilities, would be allowed in these areas [emphasis added].

#### K. Recreation, Policies:

- The County of Hawaii shall improve existing public facilities for optimum public usage.
- The County shall provide facilities and a broad recreational program for all age groups, with special considerations for the handicapped, the elderly, and young children.

#### Courses of Action: South Hilo: Recreation

 Expand the depth of coastal recreation areas. Park areas should be connected with trails to increase public access.

<u>Discussion:</u> The proposed project satisfies relevant goals, objectives, and courses of action related to drainage and recreation.

#### PART 4: DETERMINATION

The Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation has determined that impacts from the proposed project will be minimal and that the project will not significantly alter the environment. Therefore, the agency has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which means that an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted and will not be prepared (see cover letter).

#### PART 5: FINDINGS AND REASONS

Chapter 11-200-12, Hawaii Administrative Rules, outlines those factors agencies must consider when determining whether a project has significant effects:

- 1. The proposed project will not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources. No valuable natural or cultural resource would be involved, committed or lost.
- 2. The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

  No restriction of beneficial uses would occur.
- 3. The proposed project will not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies. The State's long term environmental policies are set forth in Chapter 344, HRS. The broad goals of this policy are to conserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life. A number of specific guidelines support these goals. No aspect of the proposed project conflicts with these guidelines. The project is environmentally benign and is consistent with all elements of the State's long-term environmental policies.

- 4. The proposed project will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or State. The only marked effect of the project will be to improve recreation and public health and safety for park users in the Hilo Bayfront area.
- 5. The proposed project does not substantially affect public health in any detrimental way. The project improves public health by providing sanitary, accessible, and sufficiently large restroom facilities in an area where current facilities are inadequate or absent
- 6. The proposed project will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities. No secondary effects are expected.
- 7. The proposed project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality. The project would not contribute to environmental degradation.
- 8. The proposed project will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat. No rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna are known to exist on the project site, and none would be affected by any project activities.
- 9. The proposed project is not one which is individually limited but cumulatively may have considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions. The project is not related to other activities in the region in such a way as to produce adverse cumulative effects or involve a commitment for larger actions.
- 10. The proposed project will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels. No substantial effects to air, water, or ambient noise would occur. Brief, temporary effects would occur during construction.
- 11. The project does not affect nor would it likely to be damaged as a result of being located in environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal area.

  Although the proposed project is located in zone exposed to flood damage, earthquake and volcanic hazard, there are no reasonable alternatives that would avoid such exposure. The effects of the project on the flood plain and adjacent properties and uses, as well as measures to minimize potential damage or hazard related to flooding, are being rigorously examined through the process of a variance from Chapter 27, Flood Control, of the Hawaii County Code.
- 12. The project will not substantially affect scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in county or state plans or studies. No County or State plan, including the Hawaii County General Plan, identifies important views in this area.

13. The project will not require substantial energy consumption. Negligible amounts of energy input will be required for construction.

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

#### **REFERENCES**

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#### **APPENDIX 1A**

COMMENT LETTERS

TO THE DRAFT EA AND RESPONSES

Stephen K. Yamashiro Mayor



Virginia Goldstein Durector

Russell Kokubun
Deputy Director

## County of Hawaii

#### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252 (808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

November 24, 1998

Mr. Ron Terry Geo Metrician HC 2 Box 9575 Keaau, HI 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Hilo Bayfront Park Restroom Facilities

TMK: Portions of 2-2-02: 35 and 2-2-11: 1; South Hilo, Hawaii

Thank you for your transmittal dated November 4, 1998, requesting our review of the above-described draft environmental assessment (EA).

We have reviewed the draft EA and have no objections regarding the information contained therein or the anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); provided that the information detailed within our October 21, 1998 letter regarding this matter is included within the Final Environmental Assessment. A copy of our October 21, 1998 letter is enclosed for your reference.

Our final comment will inform you that the proposed reconstruction and construction of bathroom facilities within Hilo Bayfront Park will be required to comply with all applicable rules, regulations and requirements administered by the Planning Department.

Mr. Ron Terry Geo Metrician Page 2 November 24, 1998

Thank you for giving our office the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daryn Arai of this office at 961-8288.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN

Planning Director

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Enclosure

c: Mayor Stephen K. Yamashiro

Gary Gill, OEQC

Glenn Miyao, County P&R

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein

Russell Kokuhun Deputy Director

## County of Naturii

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Ilawuii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

October 21, 1998

Mr. Ron Terry HC2 Box 9575 Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

Environmental Assessment for Hilo Bayfront Park Restroom Facility TMK: 2-2-02:35 & 2-2-11:01

Thank you for requesting our comments on any special environmental conditions or impacts related to the proposed public restroom development. Under the Planning Department's jurisdiction most of the comments pertain to the requirements of the County Land Use Laws that apply to these two parcels. Both parcels share the same County Zoning, SLU (State Land Use) designation, and other land use designations. These are stated below.

- 1. HI County GP (General Plan) Land Use Designation: Open Space/Open Area. The parcels's GP Open designation is according to the LUPAG (Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide) Map Hawaii County GP, Ordinance No. 89-142 (effective: November 14, 1989). Among the uses permitted by the GP's Open designation are lands with existing openness, for recreation purposes, and to demarcate potential natural hazard areas. The public restroom improvements to Bayfront Park are consistent with the GP's recreational uses for Open areas.
- 2. County Zoning: Open. The proposed expansion and the new facility are permitted uses in the County's Open Zone. Permitted uses in the Open Zone includes public parks, public uses and structures consistent with Zoning Code Section 25-4-11, and accessory uses. Permitted Use. The proposed public restroom facilities qualify as permitted accessory uses to the County's main use, the Bayfront park. Public uses and structures of the county government, such as restrooms, are permitted in any district according to the previously cited Zoning Code Section.

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Mr. Ron Terry Page 2 October 21, 1998

- 3. Plan Approval Requirement. Plan Approval is required for the expansion improvements and the new facility. Section 25-4-11 requires plan approval for public uses; and in the County's Open District, Section 25-5-167 requires plan approval for all new structures and additions to existing structures. A copy of the Plan Approval form is enclosed for the proposed additions and the new facility.
- 4. State Land Use: "Urban". The SLU "Urban" district signifies that the county government is the primary jurisdiction that determines the permitted uses within this district.
- 5. SMA (Special Management Area) Requirement. Both parcels are located within the County's SMA Zone. Therefore, this project will require compliance with Rule 9 of the Planning Commission relating to Special Management Area (SMA). The project is required to be consistent with SMA objectives, policies, and guidelines. The Hawaii County Planning Commission's SMA rules specifies certain exemptions from its regulations. The exemption must be applied for, however, with the assessment application.
- 6. Shoreline Setback (SSB) Requirements. Depending on where the certified shoreline is, the existing restroom facility may require compliance with the Planning Commission's Rule 8 and the Planning Department's Rule 11 relating to Shoreline Setback.
- 7. Site Plan. The project area for the existing makai restroom building near the canoe landing area will require a site plan drawn-to-scale (preferably at engineering scale). Please have the site plan show the distance the restroom and the expansion improvements will be from the shoreline. Conceptual plans need to be provided in the EA. For both sites, the proposed expansion and the new restroom structure, in addition to the site plans, the EA will need to include floor and elevation plans, and off-street parking and landscaping plans.
- 8. Coastal Flood Zone. According to the County Department of Public Works (DPW) Engineering Division, both parcels are located in a VE zone, a coastal flood zone with wave hazard. Please consult with DPW Engineering Division on what their requirements and procedures may be for construction in a VE zone, Ph: 961: 8327.
- 9. Tsunami Zone: Civil Defense, Ph: 935-0031. Because the project and surrounding area has a history of tsunami inundation, please contact the County's Civil Defense agency for comments.

Mr. Ron Terry Page 3 October 21, 1998

10. Impacts Related to Development. Off-street parking and landscaping requirements may be some of the issues reviewed under the Plan Approval process for the new structure and the expansion. Access for the disabled that conforms to federal ADA standards is also a concern for this project.

Thank you for requesting our comments on this project. We would appreciate a copy of the EA for our records.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN

Planning Director

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Enclosures: SMA Assessment Application

Plan Approval

cc: SMA Section

Plan Approval Section

DPW- Engineering Division, Hilo Office

Civil Defense

## COUNTY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

#### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE:

December 21, 1998

TO:

Virginia Goldstein, Planning Director

FROM:

Juliette Tulang, P&R Director July

RE:

Hilo Bayfront Park-Restroom Project

Draft Environmental Assessment

Thank you for your comments on the subject project dated November 24, 1998. As your letter references an earlier letter dated October 21, 1998, our response to both letters follows:

Matters referenced from October 21, 1998 letter:

Items 1-5. The Draft EA contains most of the information you specified. The Final EA includes all the information you have provided.

Item 6. The submittal of a certified shoreline survey was waived by your department by letter dated December 2, 1998.

Item 7. The scaled site plan was included as Figure 4 in the draft EA. It has been modified in the Final EA to indicate the distance from the shoreline.

Item 8. Section 3.2 provides discussion of both site's flood zone status and our coordination with the Department of Public Works on this issue.

Item 9. Per your request, a copy of the Final EA will be sent to the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency.

Item 10. We understand that the Plan Approval process may address these issues. Currently, off-street parking is available at both restroom sites. Expansion and improvement of off-street parking is part of subsequent construction phases. Landscaping plans have not yet been finalized, but will be handled in-house. As discussed in Section 1.1 of the EA, both facilities will comply with ADA requirements.

Additional comment from November 24, 1998 letter:

We acknowledge that the restrooms will be required with all applicable rules, regulations, and requirements of the Planning Department.

Thank you again for your comments on the Draft EA.

If any additional information is required, please contact this office.



#### STATE OF HAWAII

#### DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION 33 SOUTH KING STREET, 6TH FLOOR HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 22, 1998

Mr. Ron Terry, Ph.D. Geo Metrician HRC 2, Box 9575 Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Dear Dr. Terry:

SUBJECT:

Historic Preservation Concerns for the Proposed Hilo Bayfront Park

**Restroom Facilities** 

Piopio and Kukuau 1, South Hilo, Hawaii Island TMK: (3)2-2-002:35 and TMK: (3)2-2-011:001

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 1998, and the opportunity to comment on the proposed improvements to the Hilo Bayfront Park restroom facilities.

We have no record of any significant historic sites in the project areas. In previous site inspections and test excavations in nearby areas, we have concluded that the area has been impacted by past tsunami and land altering activities. Because of these past events, be believe that the proposed action of expanding the existing restroom facility near the canoe landing (TMK: (3)2-2-002:035), and building a new facility at the end of Kumu Street (TMK: (3)2-2-011:001), will have "no effect" on significant historic sites.

If you have further questions please call Pat McCoy at 587-0006 (Honolulu), or Marc Smith at 933-0482 (Hilo).

Aloha,

DON HIBBARD, Administrator State Historic Preservation Division

MS:amk

Michael D. Wilson, Chairperson Board of Land and Natural Resources

DEPUTIES

GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AQUATIC RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION
LAND DIVISION
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

LOG NO: 22415 / DOC NO: 9810MS04

Stephen K. Yamashiro Mayor



Juliette M. Tulang
Director

C. Kenneth Sowden

Deputy Director

## County of Namaii

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION 25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawali 96720-4252 (808) 961-8311

December 21, 1998

Don Hibbard, Administrator State Historic Preservation Division 33 South King Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Hilo Bayfront Park Restroom Facilities, South Hilo, Hawaii Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Hibbard:

Thank you for your October 22, 1998 comments on the bayfront restroom projects.

The Final EA will include your statement of "no effect" on significant historic sites.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Juliette Tulang

Director

Stephen K. Yamashiro Mayor



Jiro A. Sumada Deputy Chief Engineer

## County of Nawaii

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

25 Aupuni Street, Room 202 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252 (808) 961-8321 • Fax (808) 961-8630

November 12, 1998

RON TERRY PHD HC 2 BOX 9575 KEAAU HAWAII 96749

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM FACILITIES

TMK: 2-2-02: 35 and 2-2-11: por. 01

We acknowledge receipt of your letter concerning the subject matter, and provide you with our comments as follows:

► The subject properties are found within Flood Zone "VE", according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map dated September 16, 1988. Any construction within known watercourses shall be in conformance with Chapter 27, Flood Control, of the Hawaii County Code.

Filling and the use of fill material for structural support of buildings is prohibited within Flood Zone "VE". A flood study maybe required to evaluate the effects of any proposed construction or fill.

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

Galen M. Kuba, Division Chief

**Engineering Division** 

CKY

## COUNTY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

#### <u>MEMORANDUM</u>

DATE:

December 21, 1998

TO:

Galen Kuba, Engineering Division Chief/DPW

FROM:

Juliette Tulang, P&R Director

RE:

Hilo Bayfront Park-Restroom Project

Draft Environmental Assessment

Thank you for your comments on the subject project dated November 12, 1998.

Section 3.2 of the EA provides discussion on both sites' flood zone status and our coordination with your agency on this issue:

If any additional information is required, please contact this office.

November 17, 1998

TO

WAYNE G. CARVALHO, POLICE CHIEF

VIA

PROPER CHANNELS

FROM

MOSES KAOIWI, JR. COMMUNITY POLICING OFFICER, SOUTH HILO

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM

**FACILITIES** 

This memorandum will cover the Community Policing recommendations concerning the Hilo Bayfront Park Restroom Facilities.

#### BUILDING MATERIAL:

We recommend using a non-porous type of material for the walls and floors inside of the restroom. This would facilitate cleaning off graffiti should vandals decide to spray paint the walls inside of the restroom.

We do not recommend using ceramic tile. Ceramic tile is non-porous, however, the grout areas tend to attract mildew and fungus, which makes the restroom undesirable. These areas also accumulate with different colors of graffiti as well, because it is difficult to clean in between the ceramic tile plates.

Ceramic tile tends to also crack leaving empty blocks on the floor and walls. Vandals may see that as an easy way to commit their acts by cracking the ceramic tile. Examples of cracked ceramic tile and missing blocks can be seen at the Mooheau Bus Terminal restroom facilities.

We recommend using stainless steel instead of porcelain material for toilets and sinks. Vandals like to remove the toilet seats or crack them. We have seen this at the Mooheau Bus Terminal restroom facilities.

We recommend using a stainless steel or a polished aluminum sheet to act as a mirror. Again, this reduces the chance of vandalism, and we do not need to worry about broken glass.

#### **LIGHTING**

Closing of the restrooms during the evening is a recommended option to prevent loitering and possible illegal activity at night. If Parks and Recreation choose not to place the restrooms at night, we highly recommend the following lighting considerations.

ME

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM FACILITIES

PAGE NO. 2

The County Parks and Recreation will have to decide if they will continuously light the restrooms in the evening hours. If they choose not to, motion sensor lighting may be beneficial as it would light up the bathrooms and let officers know when someone is in the bathroom during late evening or early morning hours of darkness.

INSIDE: Lighting inside of the restroom should be bright. High-Pressure Sodium or Compact fluorescent lights can help illuminate the restroom areas. The plans for the renovation to the existing restroom facility on Bayfront, has many corners where assailants may hide to victimize women if the restroom has poor lighting. Having a light colored floor and walls will naturally increase lighting and lower cost of electricity.

OUTSIDE: Outside lighting should be configured to produce adequate lighting on the bathroom. We recommend using 1 footcandle to 10 footcandles of minimum maintained lighting at ground level.

Cutside lighting fixtures should not be placed on the outside wall of the bathroom facing away from the bathroom. This will produce glare. Glare tends to reduce vision, should the officers driving by observe suspicious activity in the area.

We recommend that lights be placed on the ceiling shining down to the ground and not away from the bathroom to reduce glare. Preferably on all four-corners of the facilities and in the entrance of the bathrooms. Lightly colored walls will also increase the lighting.

WALKWAY LIGHTING: We also recommend walkway lighting on Kumu Street from the bridge to the bathroom. Low Pressure Sodium lighting at 1 to 10 footcandles is adequate. Lights should be placed on fixtures facing downward to the ground to prevent glare lighting. This will also produce contrast lighting.

CONTRAST LIGHTING: Contrast lighting is important because it gives background lighting to an area in which a person's activity contrasts with it. For example, people may be doing illegal activity near the Kumu Street Bridge a few feet away from the restroom where it is dark. If there is bright lighting around the bathroom they still can be seen by officers because their dark figures will be contrasted with the lights from the bathroom. This will allow officers to see the activity on the bridge area near the bathroom. To obtain contrast lighting in this project, the above listed recommended placement of light fixtures will assist in this matter.

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM FACILITIES

PAGE NO. 3

#### ENTRY/EXITS

We have a concern with the entry/exit of the proposed new restroom located off of Kumu Street. Both males and females entering or exiting the restroom facility may cause some problems. Separate entrances dividing males and females will alert an officer should he/she be driving by and observe a male walk into a female restroom entrance. In this case, if a deviant male decides to enter the female restroom to conduct criminal behavior nobody will be alerted, due to the same entry point for both male and female.

#### <u>LANDSCAPING</u>

Low shrubbery with thorns planted around the outside walls of the restrooms may prevent graffiti and loitering by not allowing vandals to get close to the walls. The shrubbery however, will become a maintenance issue and has to be up-kept. The following table lists some shrubs that offer this type of barrier. We do not know if some of these shrubs exist in Hawaii or are allowed to grow here due to the State agricultural policies.

NAME	HEIGHT,	DESCRIPTION
Atriplex Lenriformis (Qualbush)	3'-10'	Bluish gray deciduous shrub, densely branched; spiny. Salt tolerant. Use as a hedge or windbreak.
Dovyalis Caffra (Kei Apple)	Up to 10'	Evergreen shrub. Thick stiff branches; thorny; glossy succulent leaves with small flowers. Tough. In full sun, it makes a good dense hedge.
Euphorbia Milii (Crown of Thorns)	3'-4'	Woody perennial or sub-shrub; long sharp thoms; light green leaves; varieties of flowers. Full sun or light shade; tolerates drought.

All of the listed recommendations are supported by Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. This 40-hour course was given to Community Policing Officers as well as members of the community from August 31, 1998 through September 4, 1998.

## COUNTY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

#### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE:

December 21, 1998

TO:

Wayne Carvalho, Chief

Hawaii County Police Department

FROM:

Julie Tulang, P&R Director

RE:

Hilo Bayfront Restroom Facilities, South Hilo

Draft Environmental Assessment

Thank you for your comments on the subject project contained in the memo from Office Moses Kaiwi dated November 17, 1998.

In general, we agree that wherever possible, recreation facilities should be designed with crime prevention in mind. We will take the noted comments into consideration as we complete work on this and other projects.

In more specific response to your comments:

Item 1. Building materials: We will consider coloring the grout areas to facilitate cleaning. We will also consider the cost of installing stainless steel fixtures.

Item 2. Lighting: Our experience with other facilities has led us to conclude that closing restrooms at night leads to severe maintenance problems due to disgruntled patrons. This phase of the project will not involve lighting, although future work may include such lighting.

Item 3. Entry/exits: While we understand your concern about entries/exits, we feel that a central entry/exit point also has security advantages.

Item 4. Landscaping: The use of thorny plant material creates liability concerns for us, however, we will consider your suggestions when selecting the landscaping materials

Thank you for sharing the concerns of your community policing officers.

#### APPENDIX 1B

### COMMENT LETTERS

FROM AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

IN RESPONSE TO PRE-CONSULTATION

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO GOVERNOR



September 25, 1998

Ron Terry, Ph.D. HC 2 Box 9575 Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Dear Dr. Terry:

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for Hilo Bayfront Park

Restroom Facilities, TMKs (3rd) 2-2-02:35; 2-2-11:01

The Department of Health has no wastewater concerns to the proposed expansion and new restroom facilities if serviced by the County sewer system. If the intention is to use an existing or new individual wastewater system, the project would need to meet the requirements of Chapter 62, Wastewater Systems.

The applicant should contact the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to identify whether a Federal permit (including a Department of Army (DA) permit) is required for this project. A Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) is required for "Any applicant for Federal license or permit to conduct any activity including, but not limited to, the construction or operation of facilities, which may result in any discharge into the navigable waters...," pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Act (commonly known as the "Clean Water Act (CWA)").

If the project involves the following activities with discharges into State waters, an NPDES general permit is required for each activity:

- a. Discharge of storm water runoff associated with construction activities, including clearing, grading, and excavation that result in the disturbance of equal to or greater than five (5) acres of total land area;
- b. Construction dewatering effluent;
- c. Non-contact cooling water;

Ron Terry, Ph.D. September 25, 1998 Page 2

- d. Hydrotesting water; and
- e. Treated contaminated groundwater from underground storage tank remedial activity.

The application for NPDES general permit coverage should be submitted to the Director at least 30 days prior to the discharge to State waters.

If there is any type of process wastewater discharge from the facility into State waters, the applicant may be required to apply for an Individual NPDES permit. The application for an Individual NPDES permit should be submitted to the Director at least 180 days prior to the discharge of process wastewater to State waters.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact the Engineering Section of the Clean Water Branch in Honolulu at (808) 586-4309.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please feel free to call me at 933-0917.

Sincerely,

District Environmental Health Program Chief

WP7.0:EA-Bayfront Restrooms.mi

Stephen K. Yamashiro Mayor



Wayne G. Carvalho Police Chief

James S. Correa Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawaii POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998 (808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2702

September 30, 1998

Mr. Ron Terry, Ph.D. HCR 1 Box 9575 Keaau, HI 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR HILO BAYFRONT PARK RESTROOM FACILITIES, TMKS (3rd) 2-2-02:35; 2-2-11:01

We have no objections or comments to offer at this time on the

proposed plans for the Hilo Bayfront Park restroom facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

WAYNE G. CARVALHO POLICE CHIEF

XAMES) S. CORREA

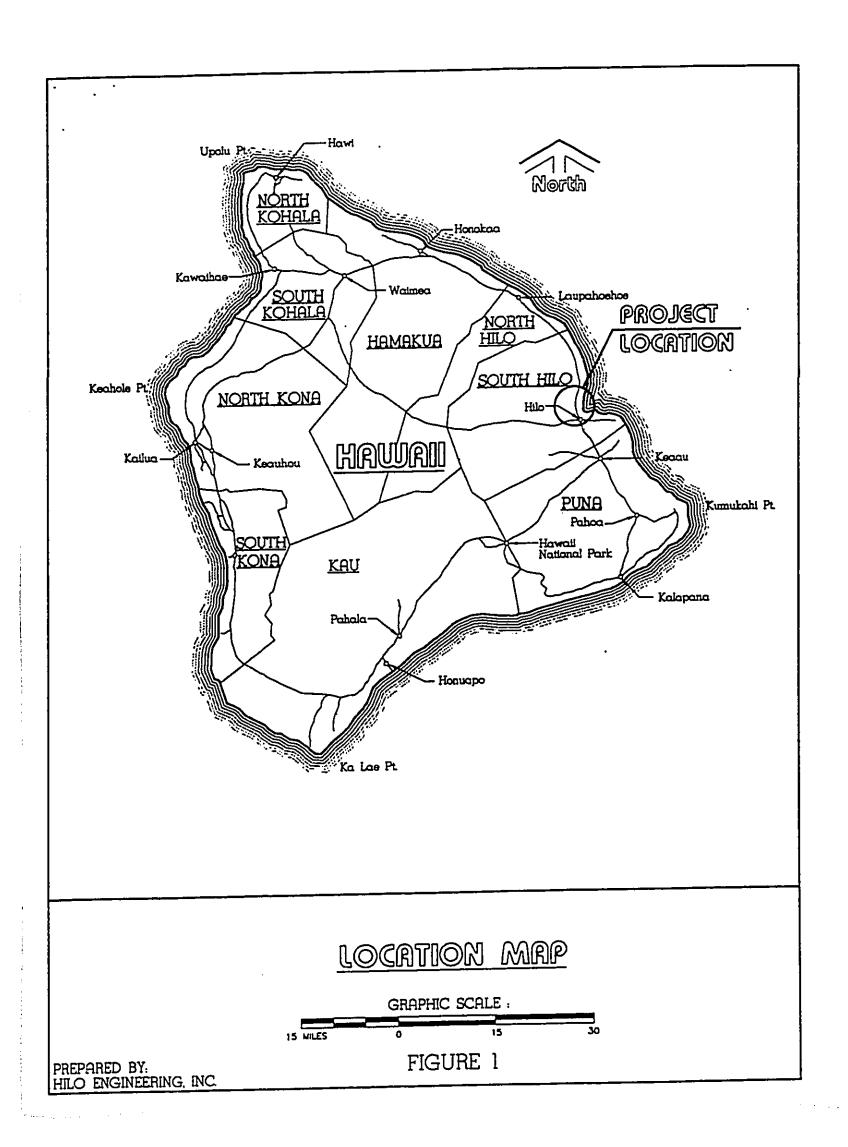
DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF

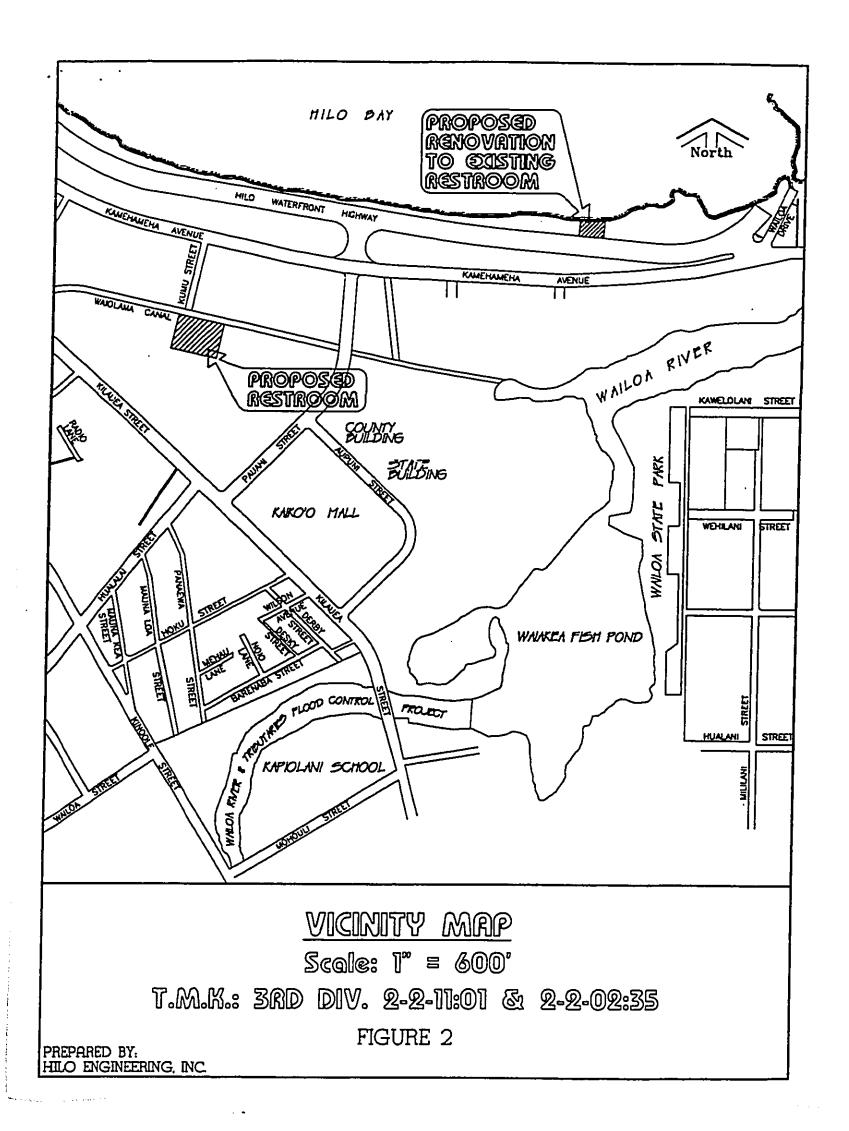
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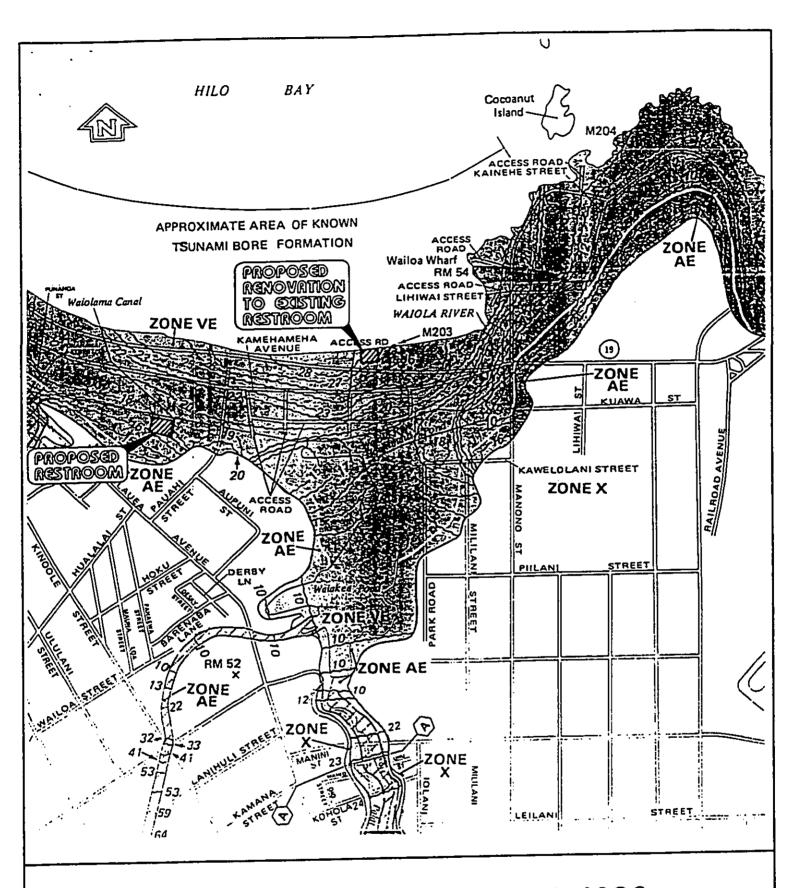
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**APPENDIX 2** 

**FIGURES** 



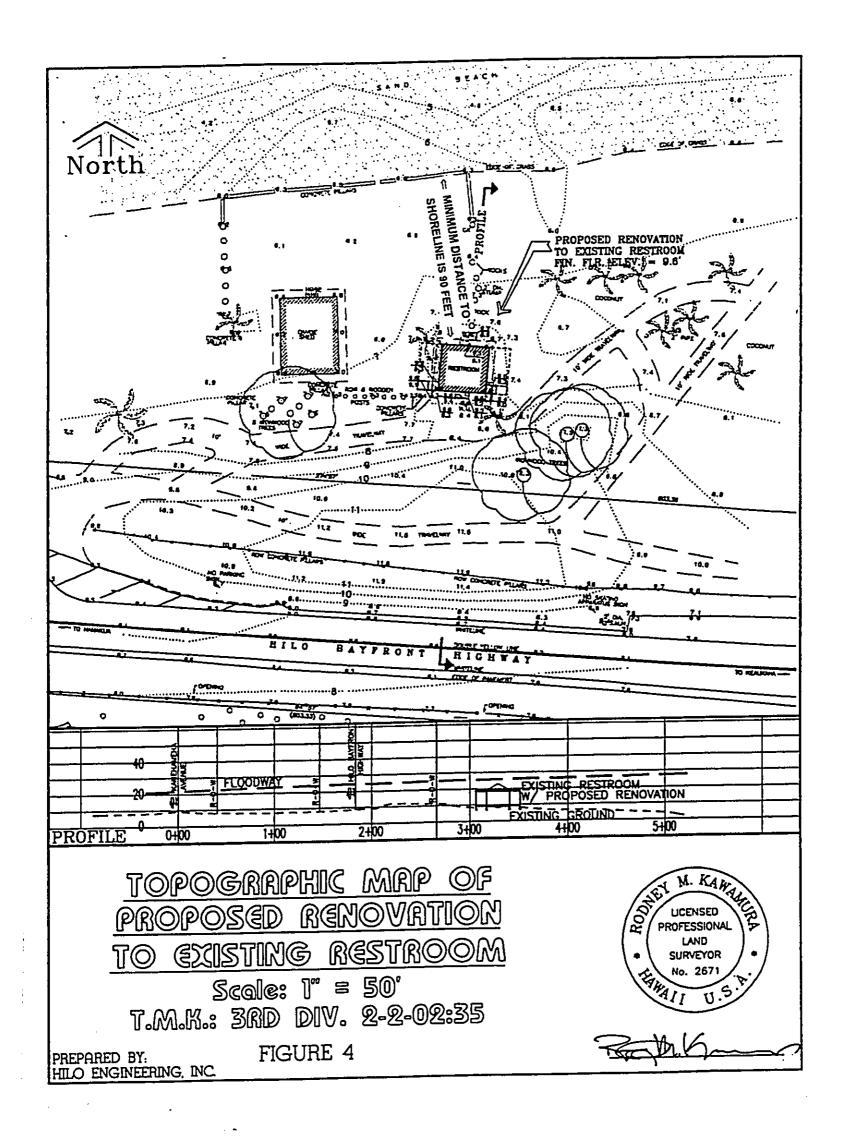


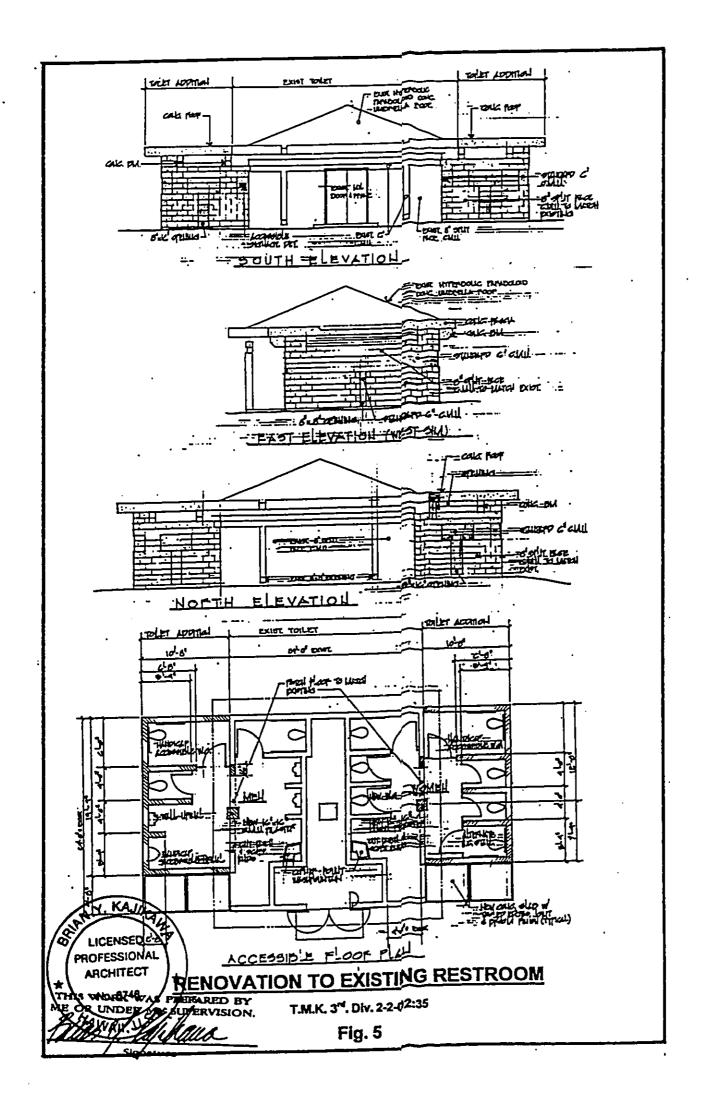


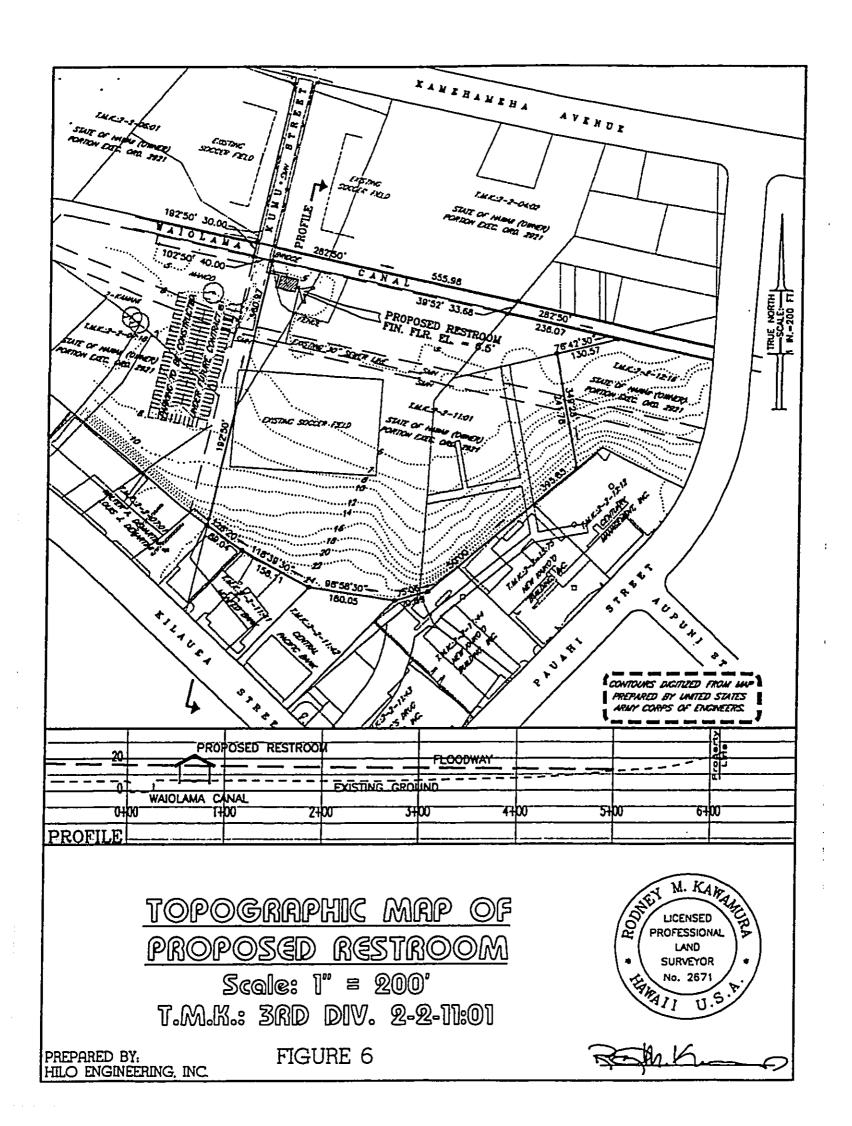
## FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

Scale: ]" = 1000' T.M.K.: 3RD DIV. 2-2-11:01 & 2-2-02:35

PREPARED BY: FIGURE 3 HILO ENGINEERING, INC.







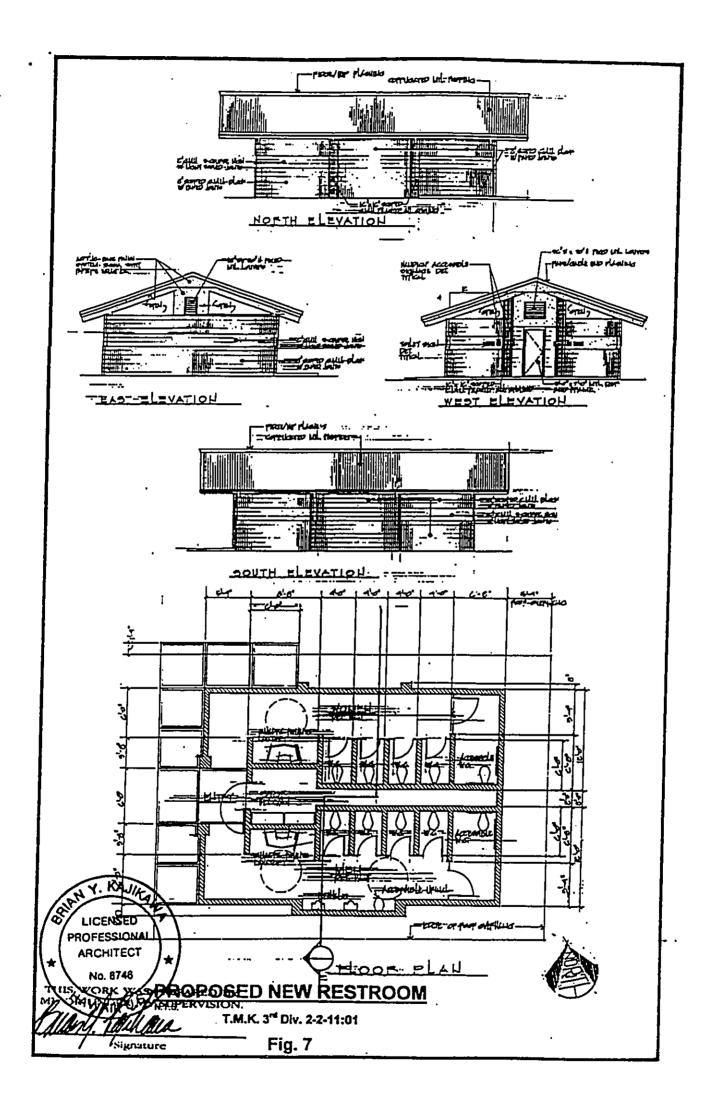


FIGURE 8
PHOTOGRAPHS OF PROJECT AREA



Waiolama Restroom Site

