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Juliette M. Tulang
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County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
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August 21, 2000

Nancy Heinrich
Office of Environmental Quality Control
State of Hawaii
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu, HI 96813

RECEIVED
00 AUG 23 P2:24
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

Re: Final Environmental Assessment for Isaac Hale Beach Park Water System,
Puna, Hawaii

Dear Ms Heinrich:

Thank you for bringing to our attention the need to finalize the environmental assessment process for the Isaac Hale Beach Park Water System project.

The draft assessment was published in the June 8, 1994 OEQC Bulletin and no comments were received during the 30-day review period.

For your information, the water system project was completed on August 1, 1995.

We apologize for the oversight in failing to issue a finding of no significant impact and request that you publish this determination in the next available issue of the Environmental Notice.

If any questions or concerns arise regarding this after-the-fact notification, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Glenn Miyao
Glenn Miyao
Planner

encl-publication form/four copies of final EA

98

FILE COPY

2000-09-08 HI-FEA-

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER SYSTEM TO
ISAAC HALE BEACH PARK

KAPOHO, PUNA, ISLAND OF HAWAII, COUNTY OF HAWAII

JOB NO. P-3002

Prepared for : Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawaii

Prepared by: P. Yoshimura, Inc.
290 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

May, 1994

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SUMMARY:

The proposed project is a waterline system from Laepaoo to Pohoiki along the Kaimu-Kapoho Road in the District of Puna. Project will provide the Isaac Hale Park area with potable, County water. The project includes an extension of a 8-inch line for about 780 feet, a service lateral and 1-inch water meter, and a 2,400 feet long service line along Kaimu-Kapoho Road to Isaac Hale Park.

Expected impacts include:

1. Provide a means for a reliable water source for the park users.
2. Temporary inconveniences of dust, noise, and traffic disruption during construction.
3. Some irretrievable commitment of resources.

The positive impacts of providing for a reliable source of potable water for the park users outweighs the negative effects of temporary inconveniences and small commitment of resources. The negative effects are controllable by existing regulations and good construction practices.

Based on the above, filing of a negative declaration is deemed appropriate.

ISAAC HALE BEACH PARK WATERLINE PROJECT

Kapoho, Puna, Hawaii

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: -----

The proposed project is a waterline from Laepaoo to Isaac Hale Park, encompassing about 3,180 lineal feet along the Kaimu-Kapoho Road. The waterline will bring County water to the park by connecting to an existing 8-inch line in Laepaoo.

The proposed project extends the 8-inch line for 780 feet. At the end of the new 8-inch line, a 1-inch meter is proposed. The meter will be used for the exclusive use of the park. From the meter, a 3-inch service line is proposed to provide water at a rate of 50 gallons per minute. The 3-inch service line is proposed to be of high density polyethylene material that is able to withstand exposure to seawater and to withstand ordinary internal and external stresses. Appurtenances to the system include air vacuum valves at high spots along the way, gate valves, a backflow preventor, and a pressure reducing valve.

The waterline will replace the use of catchment tanks for the park. Without the new system, park expansion is not possible as use of catchment tanks is not feasible for the area because of existing regulations and inadequate rainfall.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The project site is along the makai shoulder of the Kaimu-Kapoho Road. The road is part of the State Highway system and is maintained by the County. The road is a two-lane paved highway which meanders through mango groves and bordered by stonewall fences along most of the way. The road is characterized by red cinder pavement which the State experimented as an alternate asphalt additive.

The elevation of the project site start from 19.5 feet above mean sea level on the north side to 7.5 feet at Isaac Hale Park.

Approximately 1,000 feet of the highway is at the 2-foot elevation above mean sea level. This part of the road is within a ponding area, where the high wash of waves pounding against the lava cliffs are entrapped. The ponding area is characteristic of the area, of pools forming on low shelves behind the cliffs of the shore.

The project stretches for 3,180 lineal feet along the highway. The shoulder is characterized by a thin layer of grassed, sandy material over pahoehoe lava sub-soil with patches of exposed pahoehoe.

The proposed pipeline will traverse through vacant land. Mauka lands adjacent to the project are zoned as A-1ac (Agriculture with 1 acre minimum size lots) by the County. The makai lands are zoned as A-1ac for about 800 feet along the north portion of the project with the remaining portion zoned as Open.

Isaac Hale Park contains a boat ramp, a pavilion, restrooms, areas for camping, and outdoor showers.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

Immediate impact on the environment result from the construction of the pipeline and related appurtenances. Equipment and materials bought to the site and construction work will affect traffic traversing along the highway and park users. However, the noise and dust created by the construction work are temporary and minimized by existing regulations which require all construction work be controlled. Also, required signage of construction work along the highway and keeping at least one travel lane open at all times will minimize the work impact on traffic. Still another mitigating effect is to keep construction activity during normal working hours during the week. This requirement will alleviate any conflict of construction work during weekends when the park is most heavily used.

The effect on wildlife is minimal as no natural habitats will be removed. No endemic trees or plant life are located on the site. Laying of waterline in trenches are designed so that no large trees will be required to be cut down. The waterline will traverse along the shoulders of the highway which are now maintained by the County by periodic mowing or cleared by herbicides.

The impact of the waterline is essentially to provide a reliable source of potable water to the park.

4. ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED:

The adverse effects on the environment are temporary and only during construction. These temporary effects of noise, dust, and traffic impediment during construction are minimized by existing regulations and good work practices.

No long term adverse effects foreseen as a result of the project.

5. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION:

Alternatives to the proposed action include no development, relocating pipeline to the proposed new highway alignment, and raising pipe to above sea level.

No development means that the park will not be receiving a reliable source of potable water. Rain catchment for the park use is not reliable since rainfall is intermittent and County have resorted to hauling in water during droughts. Relocating the pipeline to the proposed new highway will delay the project indefinitely as there are no plans to realign the highway in the near future. Raising the pipe to at least 2.5 feet above mean sea level mean extra cost to either raise the existing road grade for about 1,000 feet or to keep the pipe above ground. Keeping the pipeline above ground would mean the pipe need to be anchored with concrete blocks and be built behind protective barriers such as guard rails.

6. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

The objective of the project is to provide a reliable source of drinking water to the park. It provides adequate water for the existing facilities of the park as well as for future expansion. The design call for water be available for the park at a rate of fifty (50) gallons per minute. By this output, enough water will be provided for about 200 park users per day. The proposed project is anticipated to be of a long-term use for this important recreational facility of lower Puna.

7. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED:

Irretrievable commitments of resources, such as gravel, asphalt, concrete mix, and imported construction materials, will be utilized during the construction of the waterline and its-related appurtenances. These resources will not deplete existing supply nor will it affect resouces that are limited.

During the operation, water obtained from drilled wells in Kapoho and Pahoa will be used. Amount of water used is minimal as compared to the total amount available. However, much of the water recycles into the environment and cannot be termed as irretrievable or irreversible.

Therefore, the only irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources are minimal and for the construction of the system.

8. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS IMPACTS AND BENEFITS:

The development of a reliable water system to the Isaac Hale Park will increase the use of the park. The park is now used extensively for camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating, and social gatherings. With the demise of the Kalapana recreational area to recent lava flows, the park have become the only County-maintained beach park of lower Puna.

The park's social and economic benefits to the Puna community have increased ten-fold as the Puna population is rapidly growing, while shoreline recreational facilities are decreased by lava inundation. To keep up with the growing demand for the recreational needs of the community, the park need to be maintained and expended. The project of providing a reliable water system to the area is one of the County's first step to encourage the continued use of the park. Other projects which are affected by this waterline are the expansion of the park facilities and County's program to acquire adjoining lands for recreational use.

APPENDIX I:

PERSONS AND/OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES CONTACTED IN DEVELOPING THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FOR THE DESIGN OF THE FACILITY:

1. Office of the Mayor, County of Hawaii
2. Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii
 Mr. George Yoshida, Director
 Mr. Glenn Miyao, Parks Planner
3. Department of Public Works, County of Hawaii
 Mr. Stanley Takamoto, Engineer
4. Department of Water Supply, County of Hawaii
 Mr. William Sewake, Manager
 Mr. Kazumi Okamura, Maintenance Engineer
 Mr. Milton Pavao, Engineer
 Mr. Craig Shimabukuro, Engineer
5. Planning Department, County of Hawaii
 Mr. Masayoshi Onuma, Planner

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

UPOLU PT.

HONOKAA

WAIMEA

MAUNA KEA

HILO

KAILUA

KEAAU

CAPE KUMUKAHI

MAUNA LOA

KILAUEA

PROJECT SITE

PAHALA



NORTH



SCALE IN MILES

ISLAND OF HAWAII

KALAE

Prepared by:

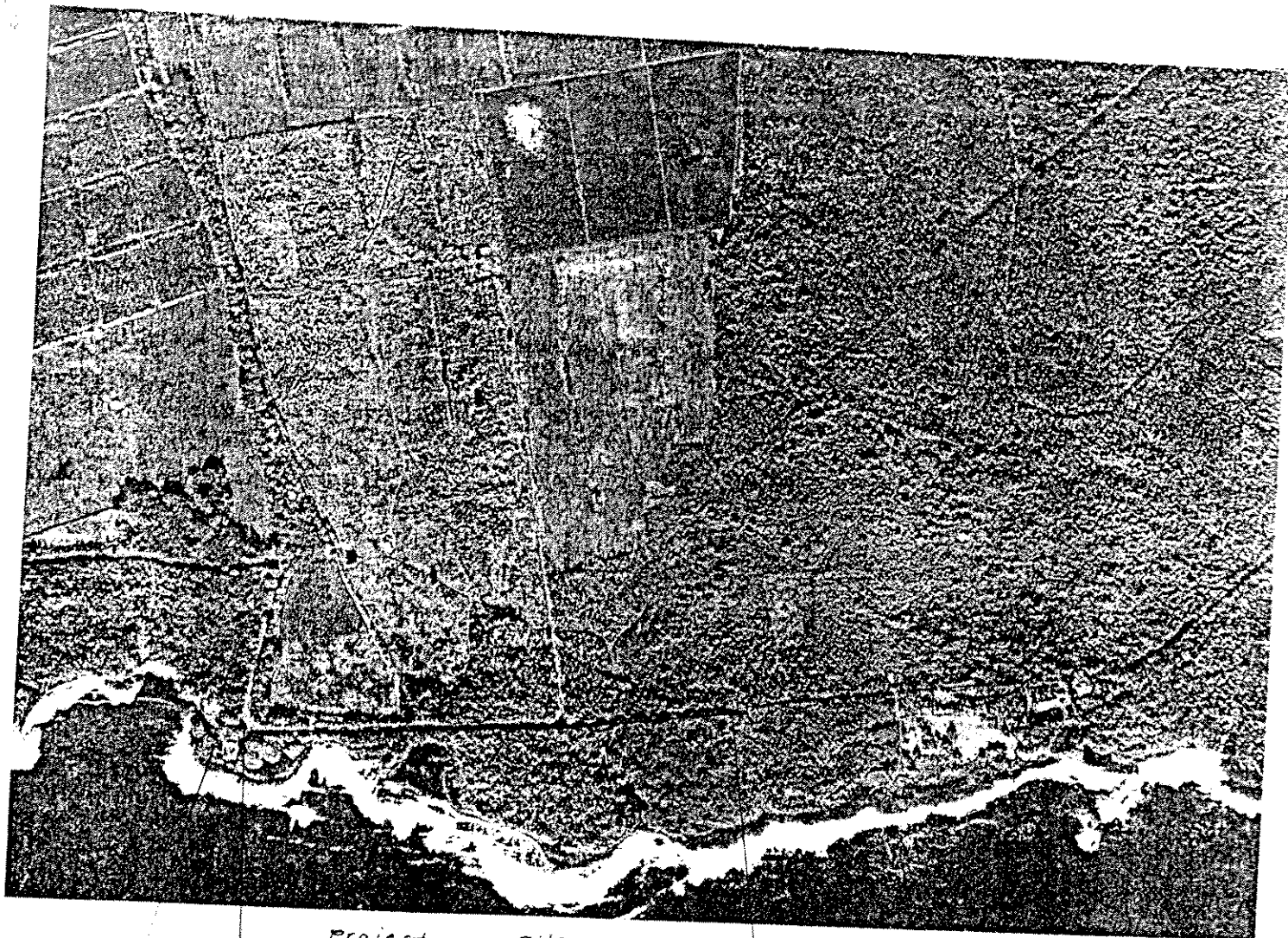
P. YOSHIMURA, INC
290 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, Hi 96720

LOCATION MAP

ISAAC HALE BEACH PARK
WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS
KAPOHO, PUNA, ISLAND OF HAWAII
TMK: 1 - 4 - 02 JOB NO. P-3002

Exhibit

" A "



Isaac Hale
Beach Park



1" = 1000 FT.

AERIAL PHOTO BY:
R.H. TOWILL CORP.
1975

Prepared by:

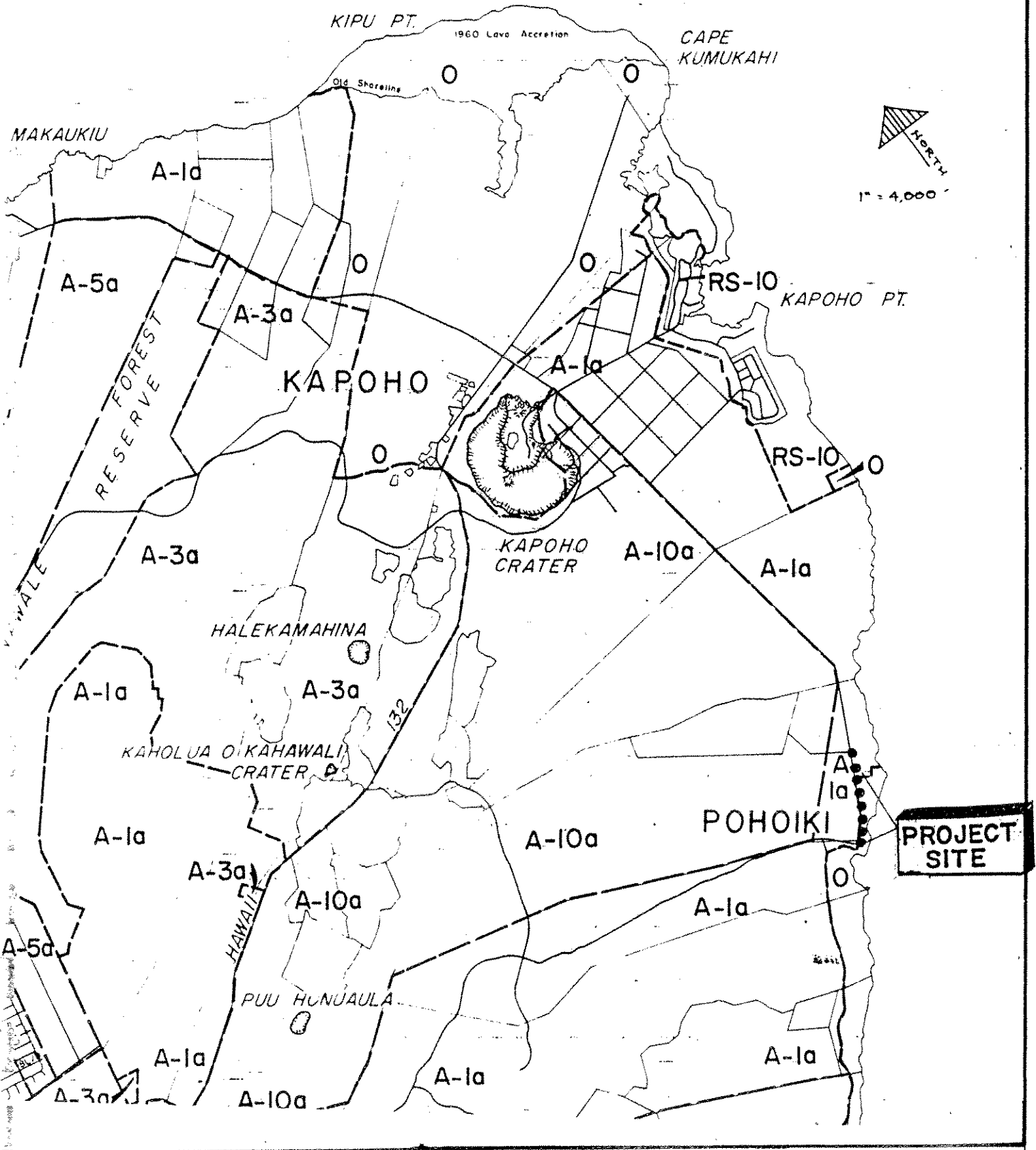
P. YOSHIMURA, INC
290 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, Hi 96720

VICINITY MAP

ISAAC HALE BEACH PARK
WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS
KAPOHO, PUNA, ISLAND OF HAWAII
TMK: 1 - 4 - 02 JOB NO. P-3002

Exhibit

" B "



Prepared by:

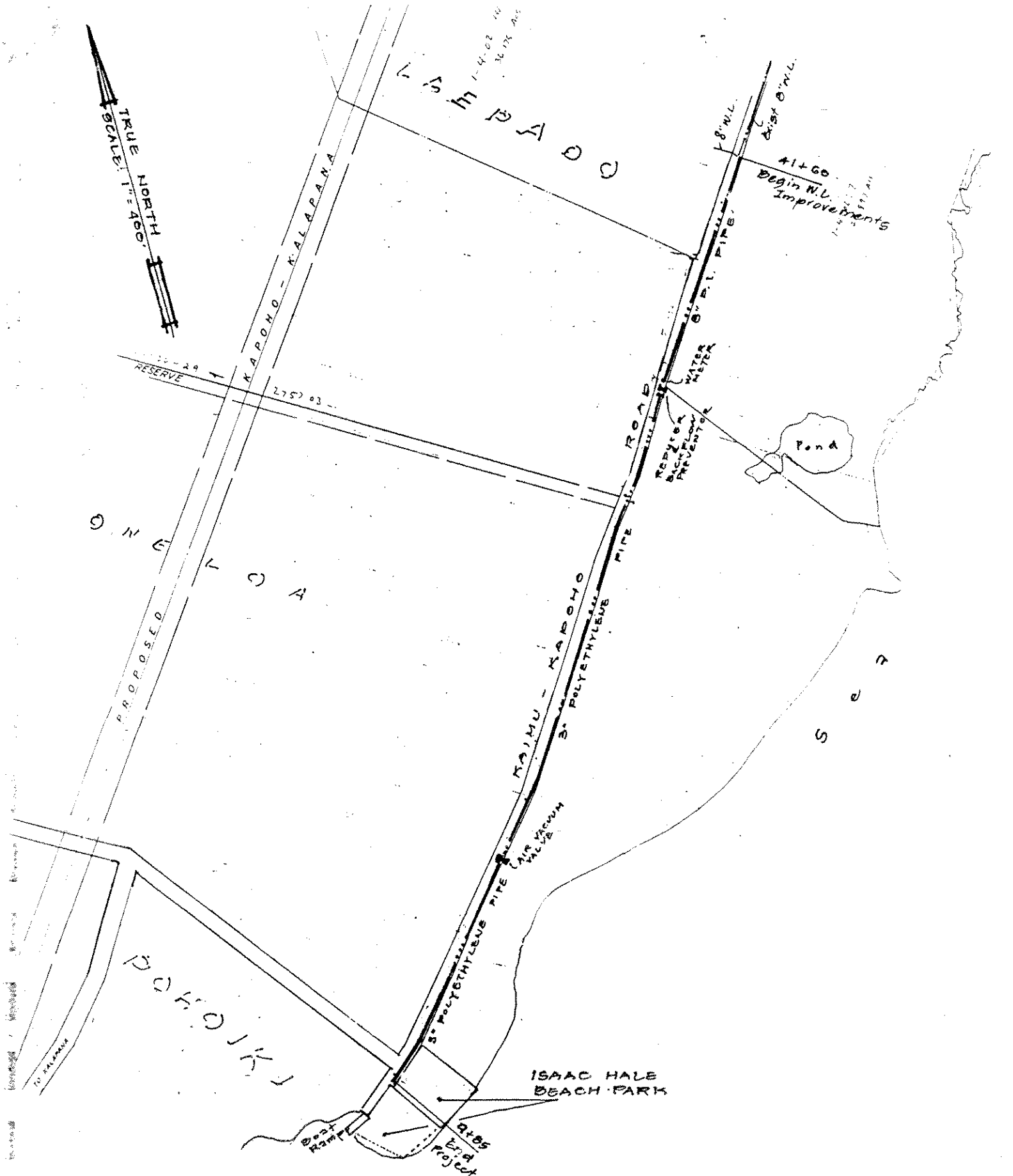
P. YOSHIMURA, INC
 290 Ainako Avenue
 Hilo, HI 96720

Z O N E M A P

ISAAC HALE BEACH PARK
 WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS
 KAPOHO, PUNA, ISLAND OF HAWAII
 TMK: 1 - 4 - 02 JOB NO. P-3002

Exhibit

" C "



Prepared by:

P. YOSHIMURA, INC
290 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, Hi 96720

GENERAL LAYOUT

ISAAC HALE BEACH PARK
WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS

KAPOHO, PUNA, ISLAND OF HAWAII
TMK: 1 - 4 - 02 JOB NO. P-3002

Exhibit

" D "