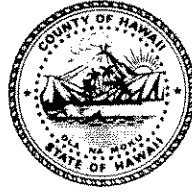


Harry Kim
Mayor



Patricia G. Engelhard
Director

Pamela N. Mizuno
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

August 29, 2006

Genevieve Salmonson, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu HI 96813

RECEIVED
06 AUG 30 P 3:06
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

Dear Ms. Salmonson:


**Subject: Final Environmental Assessment and FONSI for New Park Site Development at Machado Acres Subdivision, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TMK (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28**

The Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawai'i, has reviewed the comments received during the comment period for the Draft EA, which began on July 8, 2006. Our agency has determined that the project will not have significant impacts and has issued a FONSI. Kindly publish notice of this in the next available edition of the Environmental Notice. We have enclosed the following:

- Four copies of the Final EA
- A completed OEQC Environmental Notice Publication Form
- A distribution list for the Final EA
- A hardcopy of the project summary (same as the draft EA)
- A sample "Dear Participant" letter to be finalized when publication date is determined.

An email with the project description was sent to your office in association with the Draft EA. As there have been no changes, this summary may be used again. Please contact Ron Terry, project consultant, at 969-7090, if you have any questions about the EA, and James Komata, Department of Parks and Recreation Planner, at 961-8311, if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,


James M. Komata
Park Planner

Encls

Copy: Ron Terry, Ph.D./Geometrician Associates, Inc. (via mail, w/o Encls)
Leonard Bisel/Leonard Bisel Associates, L.L.C. (via mail, w/o Encls)

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MACHADO ACRES COUNTY PARK

TMKs: (3rd) 2-4-60:001 and 29:028
Waiakea, Hilo, Hawai'i Island, State of Hawai'i

September 2006

Prepared for:
Hawai'i County
Department of Parks and Recreation
Aupuni Center, 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

OFFICE OF THE
QUALITY CONTROL

06 AUG 30 P 3:07

RECEIVED

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MACHADO ACRES COUNTY PARK

TMKs: (3rd) 2-4-60:001 and 2-4-29:028
Waiakea, Hilo, Island of Hawai'i, State of Hawai'i

**PROPOSING/
APPROVING AGENCY:**

County of Hawai'i
Department of Parks and Recreation
Aupuni Center, 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

CONSULTANT:

Geometrician Associates LLC
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, Hawai'i 96749

CLASS OF ACTION:

Use of County Land
Use of County Funds

This document is prepared pursuant to:

The Hawai'i Environmental Protection Act,
Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and
Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Department of Health Administrative Rules (HAR).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation (P&R) proposes to construct a neighborhood park in the area known as Machado Acres within Waiakea Homesteads, near the intersection of Ainaola and Komohana Streets in Hilo (see Figures 1a and 1b, Appendix 1). The facility is initially planned as a passive use neighborhood park with a focus on unique landscape elements with native plant species appropriate to this setting and the varied intended uses of the park. The site is vacant of any current land use, and the existing land cover is a secondary forest of alien trees and grasses typical of abandoned sugar cane fields. The project area is generally low density residential, with some undeveloped lots and pastureland.

Implementation of the project would have a minor affect on traffic, possibly requiring only a short-term single-lane closure during grading and paving of vehicular access points. Short-term noise, air, and water quality impacts associated with grading and landscaping would be mitigated. The contractor shall perform all earthwork and grading in conformance with Chapter 10, Erosion and Sediment Control, Hawai'i County Code. Because the affected area of the site is greater than one acre in extent, the contractor shall obtain an NPDES permit and develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to contain sediment and storm water runoff during grading and construction. Furthermore, construction equipment shall be kept in good working condition to minimize the risk of fluid leaks that could enter runoff and groundwater. Significant leaks or spills, if they occur, shall be properly cleaned up and disposed of at an approved site. The State Historic Preservation Division has determined that the project would have no adverse effect on archaeological resources because the site was intensively cultivated with sugar cane; if archaeological resources are encountered during land-altering activities associated with construction, work in the immediate area of the discovery would be halted and the State Historic Preservation Division will be contacted.

PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PURPOSE AND NEED AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1.1 Project Description and Location

The Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to build a neighborhood park on County land in Waiakea Homesteads, near the intersection of Ainaola and Komohana Streets, between Keone Street and Nohoana Place. The park would occupy two adjacent County-owned parcels (TMKs 2-4-60:001 and 29:028) with a combined area of 7.923 acres. Both parcels are presently unused and unoccupied. The project would require grubbing and grading of the property and landscaping with grasses, shrubs, and trees. Paved concrete walking paths compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) would circumnavigate the park and provide access from the several park ingress points along the street and from new ADA-compliant parking stalls to various points of interest within the park, including new picnic tables and seating areas. A water line would be extended into the park for maintenance purposes and for future restroom and irrigation needs. The park's boundaries shared with neighboring parcels would be secured via fencing or similar improvements, and the drainage channel on the makai side of the parcels would be buffered with landscaping or berms. The street side of the park would be hardened via landscaping, grading and other site amenities for aesthetic reasons and to facilitate controlled, pedestrian-only access into the park. The area would be maintained and regularly mowed. The hours of the park will be 7 AM to 11 PM, and the park will not be provided with lighting for nighttime use.

The project may begin construction as soon as January 2007, if funding becomes available, and construction is expected to last six to eight months. The current estimate of required funding is \$2 million. The park is planned to contain future on-site parking, a restroom facility with an approved individual wastewater system, small pavilion structures, formal sports fields and other park related site amenities as need and funding arise; timing and funding for such work has not yet been determined.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The facilities are needed to provide recreational opportunities to a large residential community in Hilo, and promote public health and enhance quality of life by improving access to these facilities. The project site was set aside for this purpose as a condition upon subdivision, but has been left unused and unmaintained since this time. The park would be accessible to the many residents central to upper Waiakea. The Hawai'i County General Plan notes that many residential areas do not have convenient access to neighborhood parks, and that newer communities often lack any recreational areas.

1.3 Summary of Regulatory Requirements

This Environmental Assessment (EA) process is being conducted in accordance with Chapter 343 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). This law, along with its implementing regulations,

Title 11, Chapter 200, of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), is the basis for the environmental impact process in the State of Hawai'i. 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 4 of this document states the anticipated finding that no significant impacts are expected to occur; Part 5 lists each criterion and presents the findings for each made by the Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation, the proposing agency. If, after considering comments to the Draft EA, the proposing agency concludes that, as anticipated, no significant impacts would be expected to occur, then the agency will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the action will be permitted to occur. If the agency concludes that significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.

1.4 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

The following agencies and organizations were consulted in developing the EA:

State:

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

County:

Planning Department Public Works Department
Police Department County Council

Private:

Members of the former Machado Acres Community Association
Hilo Hawaiian Civic Club

An initial meeting was held on November 8, 2005, with residents of Machado Acres and other privately owned parcels adjacent to the park in a neighboring subdivision to offer several alternative designs and to discuss potential concerns. As a result of input received at the meeting, the alternative design presented in this EA was advanced.

A second meeting, advertised to the general public, was held on December 6, 2005. No additional concerns were raised and neighborhood members who attended reiterated previously noted concerns and expressed a general satisfaction with the proposed park plan.

Copies of communications received during preconsultation are contained in Appendix 3a.

A total of five comment letters were received in response to the Draft EA. Appendix 3b contains these letters and the responses of P&R to them. Various places in the EA have been modified to reflect input received in the comment letters; additional or modified non-procedural text is denoted by double underlines, as in this paragraph.

1.5 Property Ownership

TMKs 2-4-60:001 and 29:028 are property of the County of Hawai'i.

PART 2: ALTERNATIVES

2.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the park would not be built and the parcels would remain undeveloped. The area would not benefit from improved recreational opportunities and the consequent improvement of public health and quality of life. The Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation (P&R) considers the No Action Alternative undesirable, as maintenance requirements to keep existing drainageways free and clear of obstructions, to keep existing sidewalks free of impediments and damage from aggressive root growth, and to prevent nuisance plant growth from adversely affecting neighboring properties represent a substantial monetary and labor effort with no significant public benefit.

2.2 Alternative Locations or Strategies

The property is already under County ownership and is centrally located in upper Waiakea. As there do not appear to be any environmental or other disadvantages associated with the proposed site, and the properties are well suited to the proposed use and have been dedicated for this use, no alternative sites have been advanced in the Environmental Assessment. Also, the site was intended as a recreational site contingent to the subdivision of the original land and it was obtained by the County for such congruous purposes.

PART 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Basic Geographic Setting

The parcels upon which the park would be developed are referred to throughout this EA as the *project site*. The term *project area* is used to describe the general environs of upper Waiakea Homesteads, and, in some cases, Hilo.

The project site is located at approximately 400 feet in elevation along Keone Street, near the intersection of Komohana and Ainaola Streets, in the Machado Acres subdivision of upper Waiakea (see Figs. 1a & 1b). The vegetation of the project area has been previously disturbed by sugar cane cultivation, and the project site is covered with secondary, non-native plants. The average maximum daily temperature is approximately 75 degrees F, with an average minimum of 65 degrees, and annual rainfall averages approximately 160 inches (U.H. Hilo-Geography 1998:57). Adjacent land use is primarily residential with some scattered agriculture and undeveloped lots.

3.1 Physical Environment

3.1.1 Geology, Soils and Geologic Hazards

Environmental Setting

Geologically, upper Waiakea is located on the lower flank of Mauna Loa in a gently rising area. The surface consists of weathered basalt soils of Holocene epoch (between 10,000 and 5,000 years old) lava flows from Mauna Loa (Wolfe and Morris 1996). The project site soil is classified by the National Resource Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) as Olaa extremely stony silty clay loam, a dark brown soil that is approximately 16" thick, and is underlain by a'a lava flows. Permeability is rapid, runoff is slow, and erosion hazard slight. Its Capability Subclass is VII, and is mainly used for sugarcane cultivation (U.S. Soil Conservation Service 1973).

The entire Big Island is subject to geologic hazards, especially lava flows and earthquakes. Volcanic hazard as assessed by the United States Geological Survey in this area of Hilo is 3 on a scale of ascending risk 9 to 1 (Heliker 1990:23). The high hazard risk is based on the fact Mauna Loa is presently an active volcano. Volcanic hazard zone 3 areas have had 1-5% of their land area covered by lava or ash flows since the year 1800, but are at lower risk than zone 2 areas because of their greater distances from recently active vents and/or because the local topography makes it less likely that flows will cover these areas.

In terms of seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai'i is rated Zone 4 Seismic Probability Rating (*Uniform Building Code, 1997 Edition, Figure 16-2*). Zone 4 areas are at risk from major

earthquake damage, especially to structures that are poorly designed or built. The project site does not appear to be subject to subsidence, landslides or other forms of mass wasting.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

In general, geologic conditions impose no constraints on the proposed action, and the proposed project is not imprudent to construct.

3.1.2 Drainage, Water Features and Water Quality

Existing Environment

The project area has no perennial surface water bodies, although the project site does possess a small gulch near the makai periphery of the properties. No known areas of local (non-stream related) flooding are present. A drainage easement crosses the property, consisting of a pipe that drains into an open channel near the makai periphery of the property (see Fig. 1b). Drainage ditches in easements are present on the eastern (i.e., makai) and southern boundaries of the project site and feed into this same area. The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) 1551608890C (9/16/1988) show that the project site is in Flood Zone X, outside of the 500 year flood plain.

In both public meetings, concerns were expressed by area residents about the need to keep the drainageways free and clear so as not to cause flooding of adjoining properties.

Impacts and Mitigation Measure

Because of the limited scale of construction and the environmental setting, the risks for flooding or impacts to water quality are negligible. The majority of the park's surface will remain permeable, vegetated surface. The only impermeable surface added to the project site will consist of the pavilion and concrete walkways and the project would leave areas near the drainage ditches and the drainage easement unmodified. The project would be required to contain any increase in runoff due to the construction of impermeable surfaces onsite, in conformance with Chapter 27 of the Hawai'i County Code, by directing runoff toward collection points including catch basins. Specific attention shall be allotted to ensure drainage concerns are mitigated, rather than aggravated, as a result of this project.

In order to minimize the potential for sedimentation and erosion, the contractor shall perform all earthwork and grading in conformance with Chapter 10, Erosion and Sediment Control, Hawai'i County Code. Because the project will disturb more than one acre of soil, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit must be obtained by the contractor before the project commences. This permit requires the completion of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). In order to properly manage storm water runoff, the SWPPP will describe the emplacement of a number of best management practices (BMPs) for the project. These BMPs may include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Minimization of soil loss and erosion by revegetation and stabilization of slopes and disturbed areas of soil, possibly using hydromulch, geotextiles, or binding substances, as soon as possible after working;
- Minimization of sediment loss by emplacement of structural controls possibly including silt fences, gravel bags, sediment ponds, check dams, and other barriers in order to retard and prevent the loss of sediment from the site;
- Minimizing disturbance of soil during periods of heavy rain;
- Phasing of the project to disturb the minimum area of soil at a particular time;
- Application of protective covers to soil and material stockpiles;
- Construction and use of a stabilized construction vehicle entrance, with designated vehicle wash area that discharges to a sediment pond;
- Washing of vehicles in the designated wash area before they egress the project site;
- Use of drip pans beneath vehicles not in use in order to trap vehicle fluids;
- Routine maintenance of BMPs by adequately trained personnel; and
- Significant leaks or spills, if they occur, shall be properly cleaned up and disposed of at an approved site.

3.1.3 Flora, Fauna and Ecosystems

Existing Environment

The natural vegetation of this part of Hilo was most likely lowland rain forest dominated by 'ohi'a (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) and koa (*Acacia koa*) (Gagne and Cuddihy 1990). These original communities, however, have been destroyed or heavily degraded by sugar cane cultivation, cattle grazing, and clearing for small farms and residences, and the vegetation of Waiakea Homesteads is now either managed vegetation (i.e., farms, pasture or landscaped grounds) or adventive "communities" of various alien weeds. A walk-through botanical survey of the project site was performed on November 5, 2005. Table 1 is a list of plant species detected.

The species list includes a large number of cultivated and ornamental species, many of which have either "escaped" from residential parcels on the periphery of the site, or have been planted on the project site (e.g., *Dracaena* sp.), or have been disposed of on the site as yard waste. No listed, candidate or proposed endangered plant species were found or would be expected to be found on the project site (UFWS 2000). In terms of conservation value, no botanical resources requiring special protection are present.

Residents have reported that Hawaiian Hawks (*Buteo solitarius*) are often seen in the area. Hawaiian hoary bats (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) may also be occasionally present in the area. Both are listed endangered species, and both are commonly observed in many parts of East Hawai'i.

Table 1: Machado Acres County Park Project Site Species List

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Life Form	Status
Aechmea sp.	Bromeliaceae	Bromelia	Herb	A
Ageratum conyzoides	Asteraceae	Maile Hohono	Herb	A
Araucaria columnaris	Araucariaceae	Cook Island Pine	Tree	A
Artocarpus altilis	Moraceae	Ulu	Tree	A
Arundina graminifolia	Orchidaceae	Bamboo Orchid	Herb	A
Begonia sp.	Begoniaceae	Begonia	Herb	A
Bidens pilosa	Asteraceae	Beggar's Tick	Herb	A
Brachiaria mutica	Poaceae	California Grass	Herb	A
Carica papaya	Caricaceae	Papaya	Shrub	A
Cecropia obtusifolia	Cecropiaceae	Trumpet Tree	Tree	A
Chamaecrista nictitans	Fabaceae	Partridge Pea	Herb	A
Chamaesyce hirta	Euphorbiaceae	Spurge	Herb	A
Chamaesyce hypericifolia	Euphorbiaceae	Graceful Spurge	Herb	A
Christella dentate	Thelypteridaceae	Cyclosorus	Fern	A
Cibotium glaucum	Dicksoniaceae	Hawaiian Tree Fern	Fern	I
Cinnamomum sp.	Lauraceae	Cinnamomum	Tree	A
Citharexylum caudatum	Verbenaceae	Fiddlewood	Tree	A
Citrus sp.	Rutaceae	Orange or Lime	Tree	A
Clidemia hirta	Melastomataceae	Koster's Curse	Herb	A
Clusia rosea	Clusiaceae	Autograph Tree	Tree	A
Coix lachryma-jobi	Poaceae	Job's Tears	Herb	A
Colocasia esculenta	Araceae	Kalo	Herb	A
Commelina diffusa	Commelinaceae	Honohono	Herb	A
Cordyline fruticosa	Agavaceae	Ki	Shrub	A
Crotalaria pallida	Fabaceae	Smooth Rattlepod	Herb	A
Desmodium cajanifolium	Fabaceae	Desmodium	Herb	A
Desmodium sandwicense	Fabaceae	Spanish clover	Herb	A
Desmodium triflorum	Fabaceae	Desmodium	Herb	A
Dicranopteris linearis	Gleicheniaceae	Uluhe	Vine	I
Dieffenbachia sp.	Araceae	Dumb Cane	Herb	A
Dissotis rotundifolia	Melastomataceae	Dissotis	Herb	A
Dracaena fragrans	Agavaceae	Fragrant Dracaena	Shrub	A
Dracaena marginata	Agavaceae	Money Tree	Shrub	A
Dracaena sp.	Agavaceae	Dwarf Money Tree	Shrub	A
Dracaena sp.	Agavaceae	Verigated Money Tree	Shrub	A
Emilia fosbergii	Asteraceae	Pualele	Herb	A
Epipremnum pinnatum	Araceae	Taro Vine	Vine	A
Eriobotrya japonica	Rosaceae	Loquat	Tree	A
Etlingera elatior	Zingiberaceae	Torch Ginger	Herb	A
Ficus microcarpa	Moraceae	Chinene Banyan	Tree	A
Filicium decipiens	Sapindaceae	Fern Tree	Tree	A
Hibiscus sp.	Malvaceae	Hibiscus	Shrub	A
Hyptis pectinata	Lamiaceae	Hyptis	Shrub	A
Impatiens balsamina	Balsaminaceae	Impatiens	Herb	A
Ipomoea batatas	Convolvulaceae	Sweet Potato	Herb	A
Ipomoea triloba	Convolvulaceae	Little-bell	Vine	A

Table 1, cont'd				
Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Life Form	Status
Lepisorus thunbergianus	Polypodiaceae	Ekaha	Fern	I
Ludwigia octovalvis	Onagraceae	Ludwigia	Herb	A
Ludwigia palustris	Onagraceae	Marsh Purslane	Herb	A
Lygodium japonicum	Schizaeaceae	Japanese Climbing Fern	Fern	A
Macaranga mappa	Euphorbiaceae	Bingabing	Tree	A
Macroptilium atropurpureum	Fabaceae	Phaseolus	Herb	A
Melaleuca sp.	Myrtaceae	Paperbark	Tree	A
Melinis minutiflora	Poaceae	Molasses Grass	Herb	A
Melochia umbellata	Sterculiaceae	Melochia	Tree	A
Microsorium scolopendria	Polypodiaceae	Maile Scented Fern	Fern	A
Mimosa pudica	Fabaceae	Sensitive Grass	Herb	A
Momordica charantia	Cucurbitaceae	Balsam Pear	Herb	A
Musa sp.	Musaceae	Banana	Shrub	A
Nephrolepis exaltata	Nephrolepidaceae	Sword Fern	Fern	I
Odontosoria chinensis	Dennstaedtiaceae	Lace Fern	Fern	I
Ophiopogon japonicus	Liliaceae	Mondo Grass	Herb	A
Oxalis corniculata	Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel	Herb	A
Pachira aquatica	Bombacaceae	Malabar-Chestnut	Tree	A
Paederia foetida	Rubiaceae	Maile Pilau	Vine	A
Panicum maximum	Poaceae	Guinea Grass	Herb	A
Panicum repens	Poaceae	Torpedo Grass	Herb	A
Paspalum conjugatum	Poaceae	Hilo Grass	Herb	A
Persea Americana	Lauraceae	Avocado	Tree	A
Phlebodium aureum	Polypodiaceae	Golden Polypody	Fern	A
Phyllanthus debilis	Euphorbiaceae	Niruri	Herb	A
Pilea microphylla	Urticaceae	Artillery Plant	Herb	A
Pimenta sp.	Myrtaceae	Pimenta	Tree	A
Pluchea symphytifolia	Asteraceae	Sourbush	Shrub	A
Plumeria sp.	Apocynaceae	Plumeria	Shrub	A
Podocarpus sp.	Podocarpaceae	Podocarpus	Tree	A
Polygala paniculata	Polygalaceae	Bubble-gum Plant	Herb	A
Pseuderanthemum sp.	Acanthaceae	Pseuderanthemum	Shrub	A
Psidium cattleianum	Myrtaceae	Waiawi	Tree	A
Psidium guajava	Myrtaceae	Guava	Tree	A
Pteris cretica	Pteridaceae	Cretan Brake	Fern	I
Pycneus polystachyos	Cyperaceae	Cyperus	Herb	I
Rhynchelytrum repens	Poaceae	Natal Redtop	Herb	A
Rubus rosifolius	Rosaceae	Thimbleberry	Herb	A
Sacciolepis indica	Poaceae	Glenwood Grass	Herb	A
Schefflera actinophylla	Araliaceae	Octopus Tree	Tree	A
Schinus terebinthifolius	Anacardiaceae	Christmas Berry	Shrub	A
Schizachyrium condensatum	Poaceae	Beardgrass	Herb	A

Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Life Form	Status
Solenostemon scutellarioides	Lamiaceae	Coleus	Herb	A
Spathodea campanulata	Bignoniaceae	African Tulip	Tree	A
Spathoglottis plicata	Orchidaceae	Philippine Ground Orchid	Herb	A
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis	Verbenaceae	Stachytarpheta	Herb	A
Trema orientalis	Ulmaceae	Gun Powder Tree	Tree	A
Wedelia trilobata	Asteraceae	Wedelia	Herb	A
Youngia japonica	Asteraceae	Oriental Hawksbeard	Herb	A

A = alien, E = endemic, I = indigenous, End = Federal and State listed Endangered Species

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Because of the lack of native ecosystems, or threatened or endangered plant species, no adverse impacts to botanical resources would occur as a result of clearing and improvements. The park plan includes landscaping that would not only enhance the scenic value of the area but also mitigate any impact to the erosion control functions of the existing vegetation.

Because the native trees favored by Hawaiian Hawks for nesting are not present in the alien vegetation on the project site, there is little possibility that clearing would affect a nesting pair of hawks on this or nearby land.

The principal potential impact that the project poses to the endangered Hawaiian hoary bats is during the clearing and grubbing of the site. Female bats while caring for their young are extremely vulnerable to disturbance. While carrying young and feeding them the adult bats are under immense stress, and move relatively slowly. If a lactating bat carrying young were to be roosting in vegetation that was removed during clearing and grubbing operations it is possible that she would not be able to flee the vegetation as it was being cleared. To reduce the potential for interactions between clearing and grubbing activity and Hawaiian hoary bats, it is recommended that clearing and grubbing not be undertaken during the period that bats are caring for young, which occurs between the months of June and August.

The project proposes to plant a variety of large to medium sized trees, shrubs and ground covers. All of the plantings are anticipated to be native plant species, specifically selected for their suitability to the climate and location of the site, and conducive to the intended park uses.

3.1.4 Air Quality, Noise, and Scenic Resources

Environmental Setting

Air pollution in East Hawai'i is minimal, and is mainly derived from volcanic emissions of sulfur dioxide, which convert into particulate sulfate and produce a volcanic haze (vog) that

occasionally blankets the district. The persistent tradewinds keep the project area relatively free of vog for most of the year.

Noise on the project site is low and derived mainly from motor vehicles, with occasional noise from residential and road maintenance activities.

The project area does not contain any sites that are considered significant for their scenic character in the Hawai'i County General Plan.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed action would not measurably affect air quality or noise levels except minimally during construction. In order to minimize noise impacts to nearby sensitive receptors, construction should be conducted only during reasonable hours. Removal of existing non-native trees would be required. A landscaping plan has been developed (see Figure 2 for plan) that will mitigate the impacts of removing vegetation by providing an attractive and well-managed appearance from the exterior and still providing functionality. The plan will utilize open areas that provide attractive viewplanes while minimizing maintenance expense, with visual buffers along the periphery to provide privacy for adjacent landowners. Given the landscaping plan, the removal of existing vegetation over much of the site would improve the scenic character of the project area, which will be enhanced by the proposed plantings. No important viewplanes or scenic sites recognized in the Hawai'i County General Plan would be affected.

3.1.5 Hazardous Substances, Toxic Waste and Hazardous Conditions

Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The history of use of the site – agriculture or pasture for many decades before its subdivision in the 1960s and subsequent lack of use – does not suggest the presence of hazardous materials. Reconnaissance of the site did not reveal any equipment or structures that might be indicative of hazardous material use. Arsenic is sometimes present in former sugar cane soils at levels that can require action if the land is proposed for certain uses. No testing for arsenic was conducted, but the fact that cultivation likely ceased before mid-century on this property, which does not appear to have housed a mill, equipment yard or other industrial facility, lowers the chances that arsenic would be present. Based on these factors, there does not appear to be sufficient justification for arsenic testing.

3.2 Socioeconomic and Cultural

3.2.1 Socioeconomic Characteristics

The project would affect and benefit the district of South Hilo. Table 2 provides information on the socioeconomic characteristics of Hilo along with those of Hawai'i County as a whole for comparison, from the United States 2000 Census of Population.

Table 2: Selected Socioeconomic Characteristics

CHARACTERISTIC	ISLAND OF HAWAII	HILO
Total Population	148,677	36,836
Percent Caucasian	31.5	15.8
Percent Asian	26.7	39.6
Percent Hawaiian	9.7	13.3
Percent Two or More Races	28.4	26.5
Median Age (Years)	38.6	38.0
Percent Under 18 Years	26.1	25.8
Percent Over 65 Years	13.5	15.8
Percent Households with Children	21.3	37.8
Average Household Size	2.75	2.85
Percent Housing Vacant	15.5	9.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. May 2001. *Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Hawai'i*. (U.S. Census Bureau Web Page).

Impacts

The proposed project would benefit public health and welfare in the Hilo area through enhancement of access to recreational opportunities.

3.2.2 Cultural Setting

Existing Environment

The earliest historical knowledge of Hilo comes from legends written by Kamakau (1961) of a 16th century chief 'Umi-a-Liloa (son of Liloa), who at that time ruled the entire island of Hawai'i. Descendants of Umi and his sister-wife were referred to as "Kona" chiefs, controlling Ka'u, Kona, and Kohala, while descendants of Umi and his Maui wife were "Hilo" chiefs, controlling Hāmākuā, Hilo, and Puna (Kelly 1981:1). According to Kamakau (1961), both sides fought over control of the island, desiring access to resources such as feathers, *māmaki* tapa, and canoes on the Hilo side, and *wāuke* tapa and marine resources in leeward areas (Kelly 1981:3).

Sometime near the end of the 16th century or early in the 17th century, the lands of Hilo were divided into *ahupua'a*, which still retain their original names (Kelly 1981:3). These include the *ahupua'a* of Waiākea, Pu'u'ēo, Pi'ihonua, Punahoa, Pōnohawai, and Kūkūau. The design of these land divisions was such that residents could have access to all that they needed to live, with ocean resources at the coast, and agricultural and forest resources in the interior. However, only

Pi'ihonua and Waiākea provided access to the full range of resources stretching from the sea up to 6,000 feet along the slopes of Mauna Kea (Kelly 1981:5).

*

Historical accounts (McEldowney 1979) place the current study area in a zone of agricultural productivity. As Isabella Bird recorded upon arriving in Hilo in 1873:

“Above Hilo, broad lands sweeping up cloudwards, with their sugar cane, *kalo*, melons, pine-apples, and banana groves suggest the boundless liberality of Nature” (Bird 1964:38).

Handy and Handy (1972) also describe the general region as an agricultural area:

“On the lava strewn plain of Waiakea and on the slopes between Waiakea and Wailuku River, dry taro was formerly planted wherever there was enough soil. There were forest plantations in Panaewa and in all the lower fern-forest zone above Hilo town...” (Handy and Handy 1972:539).

Maly (1996a) refers to a 1922 article from the Hawaiian Language newspaper, *Ka Nupepa Kū'oku'a*, where planting on *pāhoehoe* lava flats is described:

“There are *pahoehoe* lava beds walled in by the ancestors in which sweet potatoes and sugar cane were planted and they are still growing today. Not only one or two but several times forty (*mau ka'au*) of them. The house sites are still there, not one or two but several times four hundred in the woods of the Panaewa. Our indigenous bananas are growing wild, these were planted by the hands of our ancestors” (Maly 1996a:A-2).

As part of an archaeological assessment study, Maly (1996a) conducted historical research for the lands of Waiākea, Wainaku, Pōnohawai, and Pi'ihonua. He discussed the significance of the use of the Hawaiian word *wai* in the place names: Pōnohawai, Waiākea, Wainaku, and Wailuku (River). According to Maly, the word *wai* (water) has strong metaphorical associations with the Hawaiian concept of wealth (*waiwai*), stressing its cultural importance (Maly 1996a:A-2). In this context, the importance of Hilo can be better understood, with its copious streams that fed taro fields and its numerous fishponds.

Following the *Māhele*, the population of Hilo grew and the scattered upland habitations gave way to sugar cultivation (McEldowney 1979:37). The *Mahele* of 1848 separated all land into Crown, Government and Konohiki lands, subject to the rights of native tenants. According to Maly (1996b:20) “With the exception of house lots and agricultural parcels awarded to lesser chiefs and commoners...the entire ahupua'a of Waiakea was awarded to the *Mo'i* [King] Kauikeaouli.” The majority of the smaller parcels awarded to native tenants were located close to the coast and ponds. None were present on or near the subject site. The lack of claims in Waiakea may not indicate a lack of cultivation or other uses of the general area, but rather the already advanced state of depopulation and social change that had drawn the remaining

Hawaiians down from these isolated upland fields in Hilo into more consolidated communities, often associated with a new, money-based economy. In 1861, the Crown Lands of Waiakea were leased by Kamehameha IV to S. Kipi for pasture for \$600 a year for a period of five years. During the coming decade, sugar plantations began to dominate the landscape in Hilo.

A former owner of the project site, William Machado, confirmed that project site was used for sugar cane cultivation from approximately 1935 to 1955. Although there may have been residential, agricultural, or other uses prior to the mid-19th century, little evidence remains because of intensive cultivation with sugar cane during the 20th century. No traditionally important crop or gathering species remain, having been replaced by weeds. Any stone features that may have once existed on the property were long ago rearranged by sugar cane agriculture.

As discussed in the next section, no significant archaeological remains reflecting cultural history or supporting cultural values appear to be present. Furthermore, no caves, springs, pu'u, native forest groves, gathering resources or other natural features are present on or near the project site. The vegetation is highly disturbed and does not contain the quality and quantity of resources that would be important for native gathering. Based on historical research, botanical reconnaissance and interviews with knowledgeable informants, it would appear that no known valuable natural, cultural or historical resources are present on the project site. The project site does not support any traditional resource uses, nor are there any Hawaiian customary and traditional rights or practices known to be associated with the property.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

As part of the current study an effort was made to obtain information about any potential traditional cultural properties and associated practices that might be present, or have taken place in upper Waiakea Ahupua'a. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (East Hawai'i) and the Hilo Hawaiian Civic Club have been contacted. Although there are no initial indications from these groups – or any other source – that there are any traditional cultural properties in the immediate vicinity of the current project area or current use of the area for traditional and customary practices, they were supplied a copy of the EA to allow further comment (none was received).

As it currently appears that no resources or practices of a potential traditional cultural nature (i.e., landform, vegetation, etc.) appear to be present on or near the project site, and there is no evidence of any traditional gathering uses or other cultural practices, the proposed construction and maintenance would not likely impact any culturally valued resources or cultural practices.

3.2.3 Archaeology and Historic Sites

Existing Environment

Evidence including interviews with a former owner of the subject site suggests that the project site was intensively cultivated with sugarcane for decades, and thus any resources that might have existed were destroyed.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The State Historic Preservation Division determined in a letter of January 11, 2006, that the project would have no adverse effect on archaeological resources because the site was intensively cultivated with sugar cane (see Appendix 2).

In the unlikely event that archaeological resources are encountered during future development activities within the current study area, work in the immediate area of the discovery should be halted and DLNR-SHPD contacted as outlined in Hawai'i Administrative Rules 13§13-275-12.

3.3 Infrastructure

3.3.1 Utilities

Existing Facilities and Services

Electrical power to the facility is supplied by Hawai'i Electric Light Company (HELCO), a privately owned utility company regulated by the State Public Utilities Commission, via their island-wide distribution network. Electrical service is available at the project site. Water is provided by County of Hawai'i's Department of Water Supply. Telephone service is available from Hawaiian Telcom but is not required for the project. An individual wastewater system in conformance with Department of Health regulations will be constructed to service the restrooms.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed action will require extension of County water service and HELCO electrical service to the pavilion structure. The proposed action would not have any substantial impact on existing electrical facilities. Appropriate coordination with HELCO and Hawaiian Telcom will be conducted during the design and construction of the improvements. No other utilities will be affected in any way.

3.3.2 Roadways

Existing Facilities

Keone Street, a two-lane residential street with curb and gutter, and is maintained by the County of Hawai'i, will provide access to the park for users and maintenance vehicles (see Figs. 1 & 2).

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The proposed project will increase traffic along Keone Street. Users will park on the shoulder of Keone Street. Maintenance vehicles will use a chained, unpaved accessway from Keone Street. The new driveway will require a permit from the Hawai'i County Department of Public Works and must comply with Chapter 22 of the Hawai'i County Code. The proposed action would

require construction vehicles to access the site during a period of several weeks for grading, construction of fencing and landscaping.

Hawai'i Revised Statutes 103D-407 requires State and County projects to use glass in paving materials whenever it is feasible and economic. In Hilo, there are two asphalt manufacturers, Glover and Yamada & Sons; for some time now neither has been producing asphalt with recycled glass. For the foreseeable future, projects in the Hilo area will not be able to utilize recycled glass.

3.4 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project will not involve any secondary or cumulative impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities, except that it would alleviate usage of several nearby public parks. Although the project would provide some short-term construction jobs, these would almost certainly be filled by local residents and would not induce in-migration.

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, visual quality during construction – are very limited in severity, nature and geographic scale. At the current time, according to files at the Planning Department, there do not appear to be any roadway, utility or development projects being undertaken in the Waiakea area that would combine in such a way as to produce adverse cumulative effects or involve a commitment for larger actions.

3.5 Required Permits and Approvals

The following permits and approvals would be required:

- County of Hawai'i, Department of Public Works, Building Division Approval and Building Permit
- County of Hawai'i, Planning Department Plan Approval
- County of Hawai'i, Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, Grading Permit
- State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES)

3.6 Consistency With Government Plans and Policies

3.6.1 Hawai'i State Plan

Adopted in 1978 and last revised in 1991 (Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 226, as amended), the Plan establishes a set of themes, goals, objectives and policies that are meant to guide the State's long-run growth and development activities. The three themes that express the basic purpose of the *Hawai'i State Plan* are individual and family self-sufficiency, social and economic mobility and community or social well-being. The proposed project would promote these goals by adding recreational opportunity for the South Hilo district, thereby enhancing quality-of-life and community and social well-being.

3.6.2 Hawai'i County General Plan and Zoning

The *General Plan* for the County of Hawai'i is a policy document expressing the broad goals and policies for the long-range development of the Island of Hawai'i. The plan was adopted by ordinance in 1989 and revised in 2005 (Hawai'i County Department of Planning). The *General Plan* itself 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 Hawai'i. Most relevant to the proposed project are the following Goal and Policies, and Courses of Action:

RECREATION - GOALS

- Provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of the County.
- Maintain the natural beauty of recreation areas.
- Provide a diversity of environments for active and passive pursuits.

RECREATION - POLICIES

- Recreational facilities shall reflect the natural, historic, and cultural character of the area.
- The use of land adjoining recreation areas shall be compatible with community values, physical resources, and recreation potential.
- Develop short and long range capital improvement programs and plans for recreational facilities that are consistent with the General Plan.
- The "County of Hawaii Recreation Plan" shall be updated to reflect newly identified recreational priorities.
- Facilities for compatible multiple uses shall be provided.
- Provide facilities and a broad recreational program for all age groups, with special considerations for the handicapped, the elderly, and young children.
- Adopt an on-going program of identification, designation, and acquisition of areas with existing or potential recreational resources, such as land with sandy beaches

RECREATION - Courses of Action

- Community and/or neighborhood recreational areas should be provided in areas such as Piihonua, upper Ponahawai, Kaumana-Ainako, upper Kaumana, Haihai, and upper Waiakea.

Discussion: The proposed project satisfies relevant goals, policies, and courses of action related to recreational facilities in Hawai'i County and upper Waiakea.

The *Hawai'i County General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG)*. The LUPAG map component of the *General Plan* is a graphic representation of the Plan's goals, policies, and standards as well as of the physical relationship between land uses. It also establishes the basic

urban and non-urban form for areas within the planned public and cultural facilities, public utilities and safety features, and transportation corridors. The project site is classified as Low Density Urban in the LUPAG. The proposed project is consistent with this designation.

Hawai'i County Zoning. The project site is zoned Open. All adjacent parcels are zoned RS-10. The proposed project is a permitted and intended use within this designation. The property is not situated within the County's Special Management Area (SMA).

3.6.3 Hawai'i State Land Use Law

All land in the State of Hawai'i is classified into one of four land use categories – Urban, Rural, Agricultural, or Conservation – by the State Land Use Commission, pursuant to Chapter 205, HRS. The property is in the State Land Use Urban District. The proposed use is consistent with intended uses for this Land Use District.

PART 4: DETERMINATION

Based on the findings listed below, and in consideration of comments on the Draft EA, the Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation has determined that the has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

PART 5: FINDINGS AND REASONS

Chapter 11-200-12, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, outlines those factors agencies must consider when determining whether an Action 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 resources would be committed or lost. The surrounding area is largely residential, and will directly benefit by the project.
2. *The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.* The proposed project expands and in no way curtails beneficial uses of the environment.
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. The project is minor, environmentally beneficial, and fulfills aspects of these policies calling for an improved social environment. It is thus 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 project will benefit the social welfare of the community.
5. *The proposed project does not substantially affect public health in any detrimental way.* The proposed project will benefit public health by increasing access to recreational opportunities.

6. *The proposed project will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.* No secondary effects are expected to result from the proposed action, which would simply improve recreational facilities for a residential area and would not induce in-migration or affect public facilities.
7. *The proposed project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.* The project is minor and environmentally benign, and would thus 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.* The project site supports overwhelmingly alien vegetation. Impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna will not occur. Proper mitigation related to Hawaiian hoary bats during construction activities can minimize impacts to these species, which are relatively common in Hilo and may make occasional use of the project site.
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 adverse effects on these resources would occur. Mitigation of construction-phase impacts will preserve water quality. Ambient noise impacts due to construction will be temporary and restricted to reasonable daytime hours.
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 project is located in an area with volcanic and seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai'i shares this risk, and the project is not imprudent to construct, and employs design and construction standards appropriate to the seismic zone.
12. *The project will not substantially affect scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in county or state plans or studies.* No scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in the Hawai'i County General Plan will be adversely affected by the project.
13. *The project will not require substantial energy consumption.* Construction and maintenance of the facility would require minimal consumption of energy. No adverse effects would be expected.

For the reasons above, the proposed action will not have any significant effect in the context of Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and section 11-200-12 of the State Administrative Rules.

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APPENDIX 1

FIGURES

Index to Figures

- 1a. Project Area Map**
- 1b. Project Site TMK Map**
- 2. Site Plan**

Figure 1a
Project Area Map

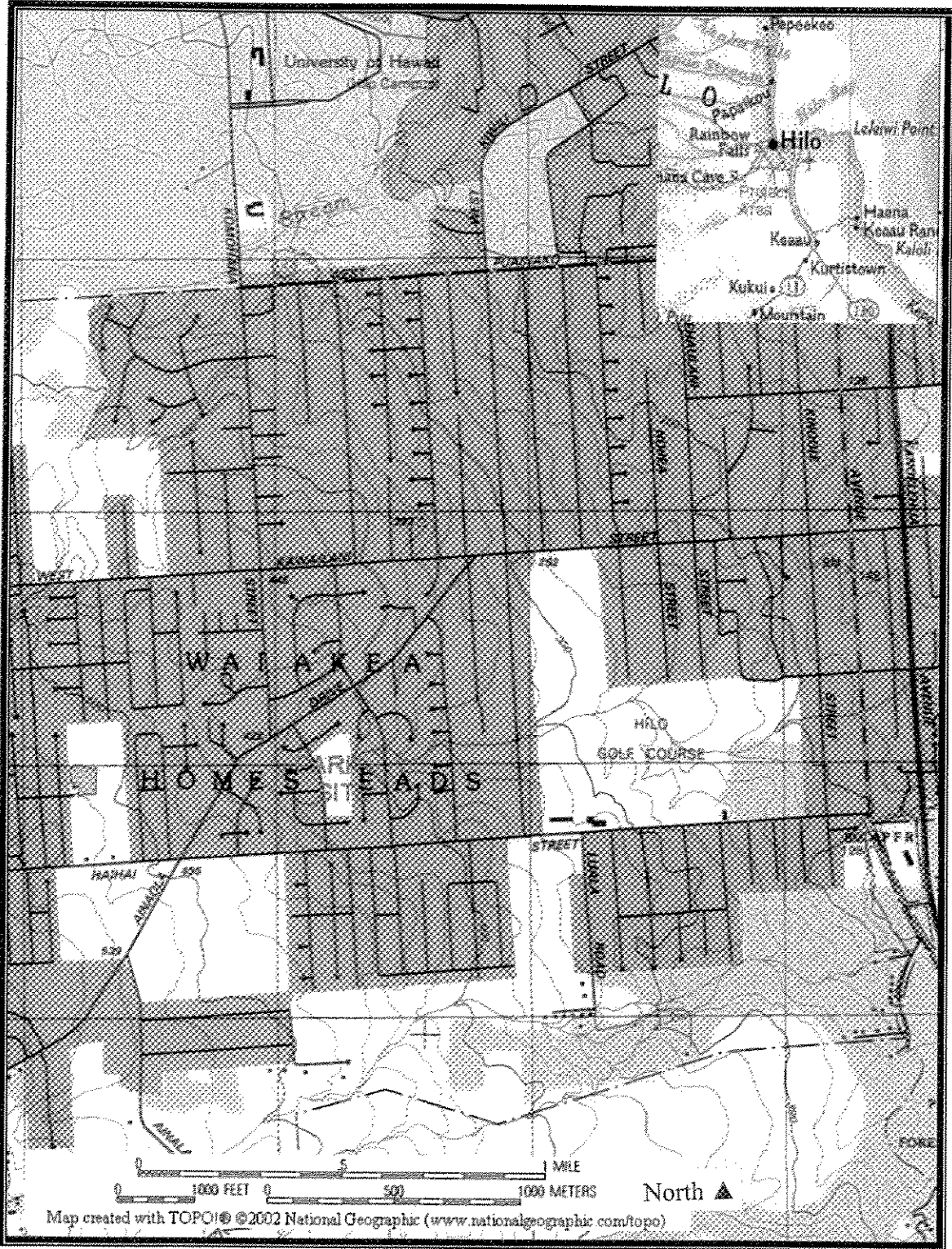
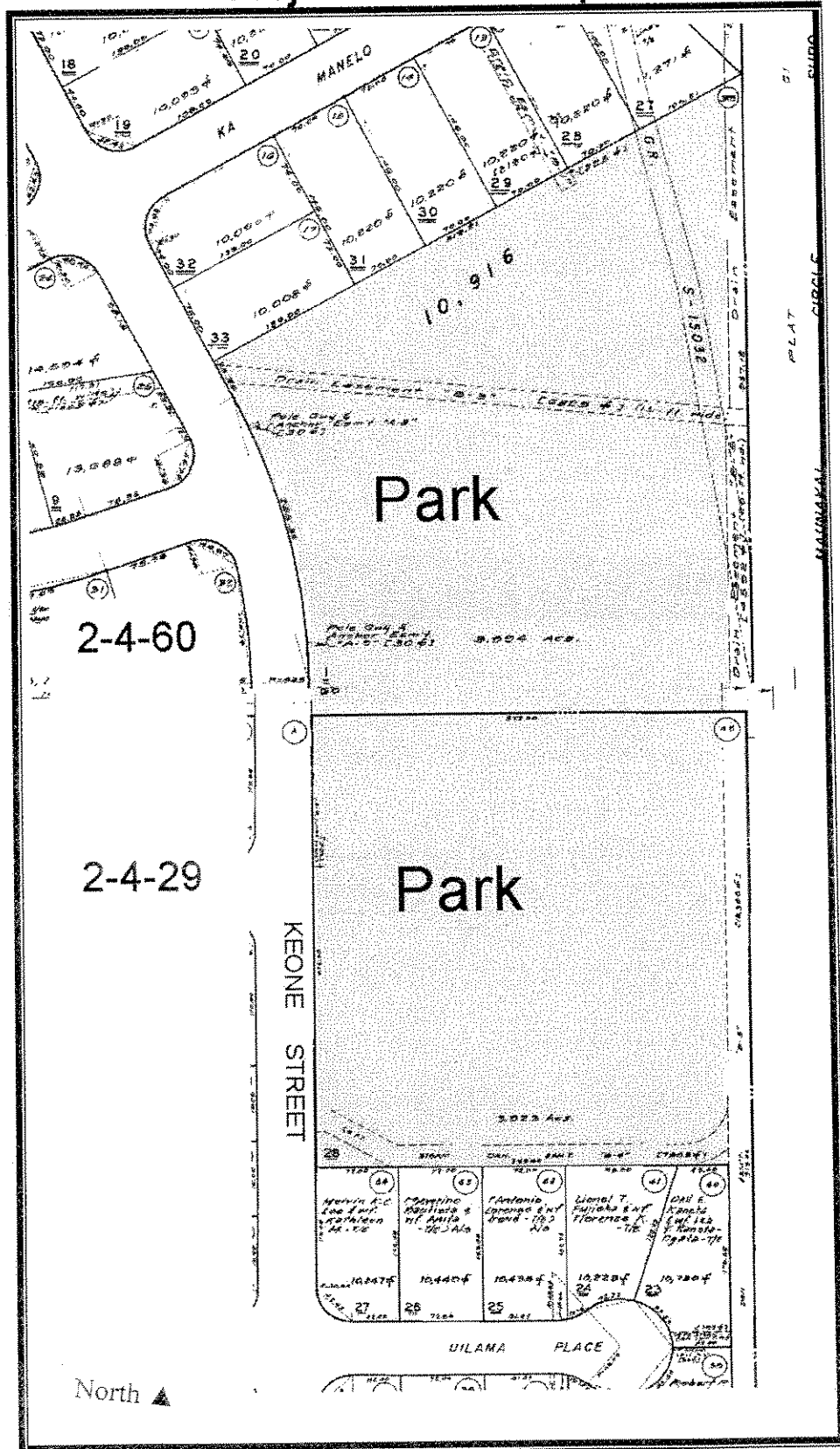
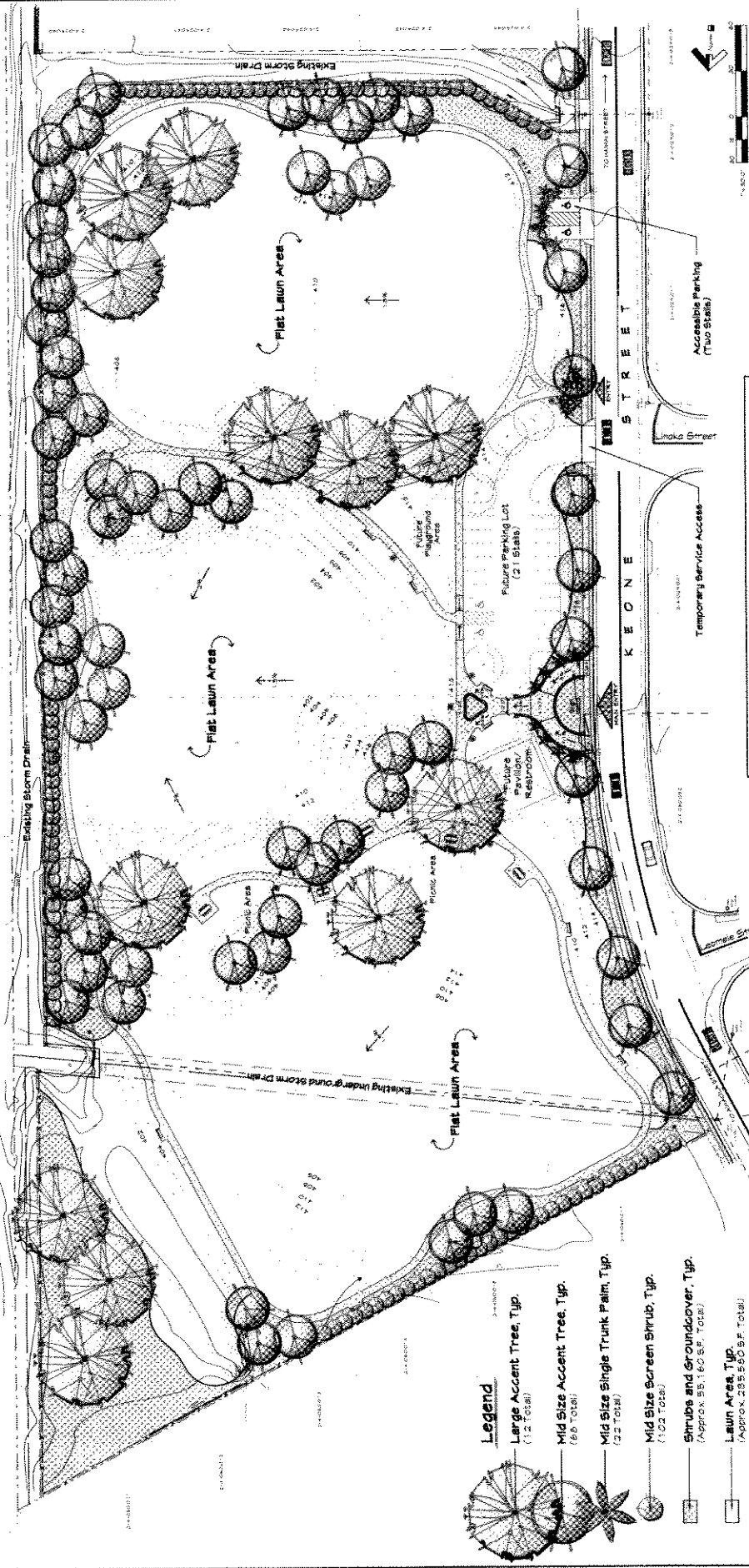


Figure 1b
Project Site TMK Map





General Project Information

Location: Machado Acres Subdivision, Keone Street, Hilo, Hawaii
 Tax Map Key: (3)2-4-60-001 - 9.484 Acres (3)2-4-24-026 - 9.429 Acres
Total Area: 19.913 Acres
 State Land Use District: Urban
 County General Plan Zoning: Open (According to Division 16 of Hawaii County Code requirements for construction within the Open district, the minimum height, minimum yards, and other regulations, are to be determined as a condition of approval attached to any use permit, of plan approval.
 Existing Use: Vacant Land
 Flood (FEMA) Zoning: Not Affected
 Seismic Zone: 4
 Total Excavation (Cust): 4.445 Cubic Yards
 Total Embankment (Fill): 10.675 Cubic Yards
 Net: 6.76 Cubic Yards Embankment (Fill)

- Legend**
- Large Accent Tree, Typ. (12 Total)
 - Mid Size Accent Tree, Typ. (66 Total)
 - Mid Size Single Trunk Palm, Typ. (23 Total)
 - Mid Size Screen Shrub, Typ. (100 Total)
 - Shrubs and Groundcover, Typ. (Approx. 55,160 SF Total)
 - Lawn Area, Typ. (Approx. 435,280 SF Total)
 - Accessible Concrete Walkway, Typ. (Approx. 2,161 SF Total)
 - 18" High Stone Seat Wall/Planter w/ 5" Tall Bracing Column (Approx. 566 SF Total)
 - Landscape Edging (Approx. 487 LF Total)
 - Chain Link Fence (Approx. 1,156 LF Total)
 - Bollard & Chain Barrier, Typ. (Approx. 150 LF Total)

- Accessible Picnic Table, Typ. (5 Total)
- Accessible Bench, Typ. (17 Total)
- Accessible Drinking Fountain, Typ. (3 Total)
- Trash Receptacle, Typ. (6 Total)

MASTER PLAN
New Park Development At
Machado Acres Subdivision

for
 County of Hawaii
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 Hilo, Hawaii
 TMK (3)2-4-60-001 & (3)2-4-24-026

LEONARD RISEL ASSOCIATES, LLC
 1234 KALANANAKU AVENUE, SUITE 200
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
 TEL: 808-955-1234 FAX: 808-955-5678

DATE: 11/15/2023
 DRAWN BY: J. SMITH
 CHECKED BY: M. JONES
 PROJECT NO: 2023-001
 SHEET NO: 2 OF 2

APPENDIX 2

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
LETTER OF NO ADVERSE EFFECT**

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND

DEAN NAKANO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAOHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 555
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707

January 11, 2006

Graham Knopp, PhD
Geometrician Associates
PO Box 10344
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

LOG NO: 2006.0013
DOC NO: 0601MM07
Archaeology

Dear Dr. Knopp:

**SUBJECT: Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation Review –[County/Parks and Recreation]
Request for Determination of “No Historic Properties Affected” for Proposed
Neighborhood Park
Waiakea Ahupua‘a, South Hilo District, Island of Hawaii
TMK: (3) 2-4-060:001 and 2-4-029:028**

1. We believe there will be no historic properties affected, because:

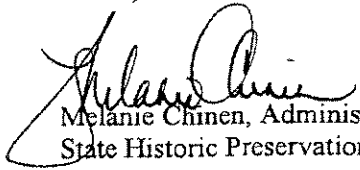
- a) intensive cultivation has altered the land
- b) residential development/urbanization has altered the land
- c) previous grubbing/grading has altered the land
- d) an acceptable archaeological assessment or inventory survey found no historic properties
- e) other:

2. This project has already gone through the historic preservation review process, and mitigation has been completed ___.

Thus, we believe that “no historic properties will be affected” by this undertaking.

In the unlikely event that historic sites, including human skeletal remains, are identified during the construction activities, all work needs to cease in the immediate vicinity of the find, the find needs to be protected from additional disturbance, and the State Historic Preservation Division on Hawaii Island needs to be contacted immediately at (808) 327-3690.

Aloha,


Melanie Chinen, Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division

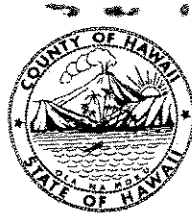
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APPENDIX 3a

COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO PRE-CONSULTATION

Harry Kim
Mayor



Bruce C. McClure
Director

Jiro A. Sumada
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 · Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4224
(808) 961-8321 · Fax (808) 961-8630

September 21, 2005

Mr. Ron Terry, Ph.D.
Geometrician Associates, LLC
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION IN ADVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Machado Acres Park
Tax Map Keys: 2-4-29:028 and 2-4-60:001

We have reviewed the subject project as described in your letter dated August 22, 2005 and have the following comments.

All development-generated runoff shall be disposed of on site and shall not be directed toward any adjacent properties. A drainage study should be prepared and the recommended drainage system shall be constructed meeting the approval of the Department of Public Works.

The subject parcels are in an area designated as Zone X on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Zone X is an area determined to be outside the 500-year floodplain.

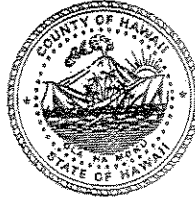
A copy of the draft environmental assessment will not be necessary.

Questions may be referred to Mr. Kelly Gomes of the Engineering Division at 961-8327.

Kelly Gomes
for GALEN M. KUBA, Division Chief
Engineering Division

KG

Harry Kim
Mayor



Christopher J. Yuen
Director

Roy R. Takemoto
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3043
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

September 14, 2005

Mr. Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates, LLC
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, HI 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

Subject: Pre-Environmental Assessment Consultation
Applicant: Department of Parks & Recreation (P&R)
Land Owner: County of Hawaii
Project: Machado Acres Park
TMK: 2-4-60:1 and 2-4-29:28, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii

This is in response to your request for comments on the above-referenced project.

According to your submittal, P&R plans to design and build a low intensity use neighborhood park with a focus on employing unique landforms and native plant species landscaping.

We have the following to offer on both parcels:

1. The State Land Use designation is Urban.
2. The County zoning is Open (O). A public park is a permitted use.
3. The General Plan designation is Low Density Urban, which is characterized as "*Residential, with ancillary community and public uses, and neighborhood and convenience-type commercial uses; overall residential density may be up to six units per acre*".

Hawai'i County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Mr. Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates, LLC
Page 2
September 14, 2005

4. The project is not located within the County's Special Management Area.

Please provide us with a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for our review and file.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Esther Imamura or Larry Brown of this office at 961-8288, extension 257 or 258, respectively.

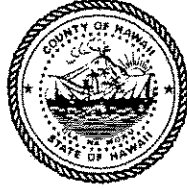
Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN
Planning Department

ETI:mad
P:\WPWIN60\ETI\EA\draftPre-consul\TerryMachadoPark.doc

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darryl J. Oliveira
Fire Chief

Desmond K. Wery
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i

FIRE DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street • Suite 103 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8297 • Fax (808) 961-8296

August 26, 2005

TO : RON TERRY
GEOMETRICIAN ASSOCIATES
HC 2 BOX 9575
KEA'AU, HAWAII 96749

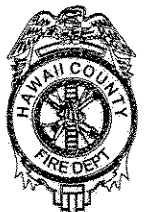
FROM : DARRYL OLIVEIRA, FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION IN ADVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MACHADO ACRES PARK
TAX MAP KEY: (3) 2-4-60:001 AND 29:028

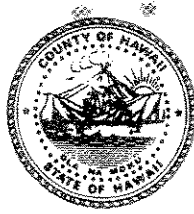
We have no comments to offer at this time in reference to the above-mentioned Consultation in Advance of Environmental Assessment for Machado Acres Park.


DARRYL OLIVEIRA
Fire Chief

JCP:lpc



Harry Kim
Mayor



Lawrence K. Mahuna
Police Chief

Harry S. Kubojiri
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawaii

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8869

September 8, 2005

Mr. Ron Terry, Ph.D.
Project Environmental Consultant
Geometrician Associates, LLC
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Dear Dr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: CONSULTATION IN ADVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT, MACHADO ACRES PARK, TMK: (3rd) 2-4-60:001
and 29:028**

Staff, upon review of the Environmental Assessment provided and inspection of the proposed site, determined that the park will not significantly impact traffic in the area. Therefore, we have no comments or concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Please provide us with a copy of the Draft EA upon its completion.

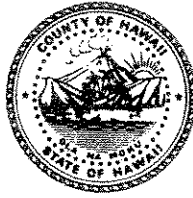
Sincerely,


JAMES M. DAY
ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF
AREA I OPERATIONS

LW:lli

APPENDIX 3b

**COMMENTS LETTERS TO DRAFT E.A. AND RESPONSES
AND E.A. PUBLICATION NOTICE/PRESS**



Harry Kim
Mayor

Lawrence K. Mahuna
Police Chief

Harry S. Kubojiri
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawaii

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8869

July 13, 2006

Mr. Ron Terry
Principal
Geometrician Associates
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, HI 96749


Dear Mr. Terry:

Subject: Machado Acres County Park, S. Hilo, Hawaii
Tax Map Key Number: (3rd): 2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28

Staff, upon reviewing the provided documents and visiting the proposed site, does not anticipate any significant impact to traffic and/or public safety concerns.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment.

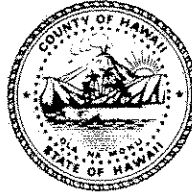
Sincerely,


JAMES M. DAY
ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF
AREA I OPERATIONS

LW:lli

Cc: Director, Office of Environmental Quality Control
James Komata, Hawaii County Department of Parks & Recreation

Harry Kim
Mayor



Patricia G. Engelhard
Director

Pamela N. Mizuno
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

August 14, 2006


James M. Day, Asst. Police Chief
Area I Operations
Hawai'i County Police Department
349 Kapiolani Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Dear Mr. Day:

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for New Park Site Development at Machado Acres Subdivision, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TMK (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28**

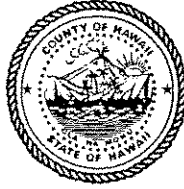
Thank you for your comment letter of July 13, 2006 on the Draft EA, in which you stated that Police Department staff believes that the project would have no significant impact upon traffic or public safety concerns. We very much appreciate your review of the document. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me at 961-8311.

Sincerely,


James M. Komata
Park Planner

Copy: Ron Terry/Geometrician Associates, Inc. (via mail)
Leonard Bisel/Leonard Bisel Associates, L.L.C. (via mail)

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darryl J. Oliveira
Fire Chief

Desmond K. Wery
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i

FIRE DEPARTMENT


25 Aupuni Street • Suite 103 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8297 • Fax (808) 961-8296

July 14, 2006

Mr. Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROJECT NAME: MACHADO ACRES COUNTY PARK
TAX MAP KEY: (3RD) 2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28

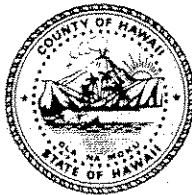
We have no comments to offer at this time in reference to the above-mentioned Draft Environmental Assessment Consultation.


DARRYL OLIVEIRA
Fire Chief

JCP:lpc



Harry Kim
Mayor



Patricia G. Engelhard
Director

Pamela N. Mizuno
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

August 14, 2006


Darryl Oliveira, Chief
Hawai'i County Fire Department
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Dear Chief Oliveira:

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for New Park Site Development at Machado Acres Subdivision, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TMK (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28**

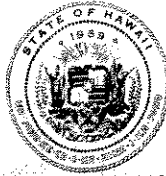
Thank you for your comment letter of July 14, 2006 on the Draft EA, in which you stated that the Fire Department had no comments at this time on the EA. We appreciate your review of the document. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me at 961-8311.

Sincerely,


James M. Komata
Park Planner

Copy: Ron Terry/Geometrician Associates, Inc. (via mail)
Leonard Bisel/Leonard Bisel Associates, L.L.C. (via mail)

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 586-4185
FACSIMILE (808) 586-4186
E-mail: oeqc@health.state.hi.us

July 28, 2006

Patricia Engelhard
Department of Parks & Recreation
101 Pauahi Street, #6
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Attn: James Komata

Dear Ms. Engelhard:

Subject: Draft environmental assessment (EA), **Machado Acres County Park, Hilo**

We have the following comments to offer:

Figures: To figures 1a and 1b add a notation of the map's orientation, such as a north arrow or mauka-makai indicators.

Hours of operation: Will the park be open at night? If so, in the final EA discuss the impacts to the surrounding neighbors of noise and lighting, along with any proposed mitigation measures.


Paving: Hawaii Revised Statutes 103D-407 requires the use of recycled glass in paving materials whenever possible. In the final EA indicate if you will follow this requirement.

Timeframe: What are the anticipated start and end dates of this project?

Funding: The total project cost is not given. Please disclose all state or county funds involved, including any federal funds flowing through the state or county.

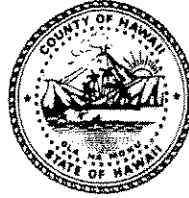
If you have any questions call Nancy Heinrich at 586-4185.

Sincerely,


GENEVIEVE SALMONSON
Director

c: Ron Terry

Harry Kim
Mayor



Patricia G. Engelhard
Director

Pamela N. Mizuno
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

August 14, 2006

Genevieve Salmonson, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Ms. Salmonson:

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for New Park Site Development at Machado Acres Subdivision, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TMK (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28**

Thank you for your comments of June 28, 2006 on the draft EA. We offer the following responses to your individual comments:


1. *Figures.* A north arrow has been added to Figures 1a and 1b.
2. *Hours of Operation.* The Final EA has been amended to indicate that the park will not be provided with lighting for nighttime use. The hours of operation for the park will be 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, consistent with our department's administrative rules for all County of Hawai'i parks.
3. *Paving.* In Hilo, there are only two suppliers of asphalt, Jas. W. Glover, Inc. and Yamada & Sons, Inc. Neither is manufacturing asphalt materials containing recycled glass. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, projects such as ours in the Hilo area will not be able to utilize asphalt containing recycled glass. The Final EA has been amended to include this discussion.
4. *Timeframe.* At this time we are unable to provide accurate start and completion dates for the project. Given the current status of the project and our consultant's contractual obligations, the project could start as early as January 2007. However, sufficient funding must be secured in order to initiate the project and at current, construction estimates exceed available funds. Duration of

construction is anticipated to be six to eight months. The Final EA has been amended to add this information.

5. *Funding.* Funding for this project is anticipated to be entirely county funds without State or Federal dollars. Initial estimates for the first two phases of the project are at approximately \$2 million. The original intent of the project was that those same two phases not exceed \$350,000. There is no estimate on cost for the complete build out of the park (incorporating items marked 'future' in the master plan, such as the parking lot, comfort station, etc.). The Final EA has been amended to elaborate on this information.

Again, thank you for your comments. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me at 961-8311.

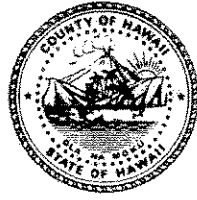
Sincerely,



James M. Komata
Park Planner

Copy: Ron Terry/Geometrician Associates, Inc. (via mail)
Leonard Bisel/Leonard Bisel Associates, L.L.C. (via mail)

Harry Kim
Mayor



Christopher J. Yuen
Director

Brad Kurokawa, ASLA
LEED® AP
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3043
(808) 961-8288 • FAX (808) 961-8742

July 31, 2006

Mr. Ron Terry
Geometrician Associates
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, HI 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:


Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment
Applicant: County of Hawaii, Department of Parks & Recreation
Project: Machado Acres County Park
TMK: 2-4-60:1 and 2-4-29:28, Waiakea, Hilo, Hawaii

This is in response to your letter which we received on July 5, 2006 requesting our comments on the above-referenced project.

According to the project description, future structural improvements such as picnic tables, seating areas, restroom facility, small pavilions and fencing are proposed throughout the two parcels as need and funding arise. Therefore, in addition to our previous comments in letter dated September 14, 2005, we recommend that these two parcels be consolidated. A Consolidation of the two parcels should be included in the list of all required permits and approvals.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Esther Imamura or Larry Brown of this office at 961-8288, extension 257 or 258, respectively.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN
Planning Department

ETI:ld

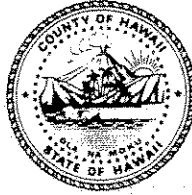
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Mr. Ron Terry
Page: 2
July 31, 2006

xc: Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702
Honolulu HI 96813

Mr. James Komata
Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6
Hilo HI 96720

Harry Kim
Mayor



Patricia G. Engelhard
Director

Pamela N. Mizuno
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

August 14, 2006

Christopher J. Yuen, Director
Planning Department, County of Hawai'i
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720


Dear Mr. Yuen:

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for New Park Site Development at Machado Acres Subdivision, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TMK (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28**

Thank you for your comment letter of July 31, 2006 on the Draft EA, in which you recommend that the two parcels be consolidated. Upon review of the proposed development, it does not appear that consolidation of the lots would serve any distinct advantage at this time or in the near future. As such, we will not list "consolidation of the two parcels" in the required permits and approvals section of the Final EA. Should consolidation be warranted in the future, we will pursue that course of action accordingly.

Again, thank you for reviewing the document and providing comments. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me at 961-8311.

Sincerely,


James M. Komata
Park Planner

Copy: Ron Terry/Geometrician Associates, Inc. (via mail)
Leonard Bisel/Leonard Bisel Associates, L.L.C. (via mail)

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME L. FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
EPO-06-117

August 7, 2006

Mr. Ron Terry
HC 2 Box 9575
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Dear Mr. Terry:

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Machado Acres County Park
Waiakea, Hilo, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii
TMK: ((3) 2-4-060: 001
(3) 2-4-029: 028

Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the subject document. The document was routed to the various branches of the Environmental Health Administration. We have the following Wastewater Branch and Clean Water Branch comments.

Wastewater Branch

We have reviewed the subject environmental assessment which proposes to build a neighborhood park on County land in Waiakea Homesteads.

The subject project is located in the Critical Wastewater Disposal Area (CWDA) with one (1) acre lot exception area as determined by the Hawaii County Wastewater Advisory Committee. However, the use of cesspools for park facilities is prohibited by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Further, the Department's rules also do not allow use of new cesspools for public facilities.

The Department will allow the use of an individual wastewater system (IWS) such as septic system or a centralized wastewater treatment work.

All wastewater plans must conform to applicable provisions of the Department of Health's Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-62, "Wastewater Systems." We do reserve the right to review the detailed wastewater plans for conformance to applicable rules. Should you have any questions, please contact the Planning & Design Section of the Wastewater Branch at 586-4294

Clean Water Branch (Standard Comments)

The Department of Health (DOH), Clean Water Branch (CWB) has reviewed the limited

Mr. Terry
August 7, 2006
Page 2

information contained in the subject document and offers the following comments:

1. The Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted at (808) 438-9258 for this project. Pursuant to Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the "Clean Water Act" (CWA) Paragraph 401(a)(1), a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) is required for "[a]ny 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..." (emphasis added). The term "discharge" is defined in CWA, Subsections 502(16), 502(12), and 502(6); Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 122.2; and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-54.
2. In accordance with HAR, Sections 11-55-04 and 11-55-34.05, the Director of Health may require the submittal of an individual permit application or a Notice of Intent (NOI) for general permit coverage authorized under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
 - a. An application for an NPDES individual permit is to be submitted at least 180 days before the commencement of the respective activities. The NPDES application forms may also be picked up at our office or downloaded from our website at <http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/forms/indiv-index.html>.
 - b. An NOI to be covered by an NPDES general permit is to be submitted at least 30 days before the commencement of the respective activity. A separate NOI is needed for coverage under each NPDES general permit. The NOI forms may be picked up at our office or downloaded from our website at: <http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/forms/genl-index.html>.
 - i. Storm water associated with industrial activities, as defined in Title 40, CFR, Sections 122.26(b)(14)(i) through 122.26(b)(14)(ix) and 122.26(b)(14)(xi). [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix B]
 - ii. Construction activities, including clearing, grading, and excavation, that result in the disturbance of equal to or greater than one (1) acre of total land area. The total land area includes a contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules under a larger common plan of development or sale. **An NPDES permit is required before the commencement of the construction activities.** [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix C]

Mr. Terry
August 7, 2006
Page 3

- iii. Discharges of treated effluent from leaking underground storage tank remedial activities. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix D]
 - iv. Discharges of once through cooling water less than one (1) million gallons per day. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix E]
 - v. Discharges of hydrotesting water. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix F]
 - vi. Discharges of construction dewatering effluent. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix G]
 - vii. Discharges of treated effluent from petroleum bulk stations and terminals. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix H]
 - viii. Discharges of treated effluent from well drilling activities. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix I]
 - ix. Discharges of treated effluent from recycled water distribution systems. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix J]
 - x. Discharges of storm water from a small municipal separate storm sewer system. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix K]
 - xi. Discharges of circulation water from decorative ponds or tanks. [HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendix L]
3. In accordance with HAR, Section 11-55-38, the applicant for an NPDES permit is required to either submit a copy of the new NOI or NPDES permit application to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), or demonstrate to the satisfaction of the DOH that the project, activity, or site covered by the NOI or application has been or is being reviewed by SHPD. If applicable, please submit a copy of the request for review by SHPD or SHPD's determination letter for the project.
4. Any discharges related to project construction or operation activities, with or without a Section 401 WQC or NPDES permit coverage, shall comply with the applicable State Water Quality Standards as specified in HAR, Chapter 11-54.

The Hawaii Revised Statutes, Subsection 342D-50(a), requires that "[n]o person, including any public body, shall discharge any water pollutants into state waters, or cause or allow any water pollutant to enter state waters except in compliance with this chapter, rules adopted pursuant to this Chapter, or a permit or variance issued by the director."

Mr. Terry
August 7, 2006
Page 4

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alec Wong, Supervisor of the Engineering Section, CWB, at (808) 586-4309.

We strongly recommend that you review all of the Standard Comments on our website: www.state.hi.us/health/environmental/env-planning/landuse/landuse.html. Any comments specifically applicable to this project should be adhered to.

If there are any questions about these comments please contact Jiakai Liu with the Environmental Planning Office at 586-4346.

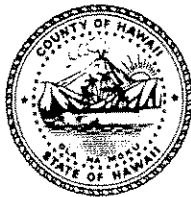
Sincerely,



KELVIN H. SUNADA, MANAGER
Environmental Planning Office

c: EPO
CWB
WWB
EH-Hawaii

Harry Kim
Mayor



Patricia G. Engelhard
Director

Pamela N. Mizuno
Deputy Director

County of Hawai`i
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

August 14, 2006

Kelvin H. Sunada, Manager
Environmental Planning Office
State of Hawai`i, Department of Health
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96801-3378

Dear Mr. Sunada:

**Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment for New Park Site Development at Machado Acres Subdivision, Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii
TMK (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28**

Thank you for your comments of August 7, 2006 on the Draft EA. We offer the following responses to your individual comments:

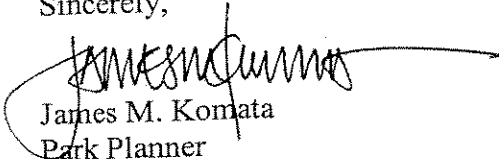
1. *Wastewater Branch.* At such time that the comfort station is designed and constructed, which is not a part of the first two phases of the project, it is anticipated that an approved Individual Wastewater System will be implemented to handle the wastewater generated at this site. Design of the IWS will comply with all applicable regulations and the requisite permits and approvals applied for through your department.
2. *Clean Water Branch – comments #1 & 4.* The project does not directly involve any discharge into, dredging of, and fill of navigable waters of the U.S nor is it intended to result in such actions.
3. *Clean Water Branch – comment #2.* We acknowledge that an NPDES Permit will be required for the project as it is listed in the require permits and approvals section of the Draft EA. Accordingly, prior to commencement of construction activities at the site, appropriate BMP's will be incorporated into the projects' design, an NPDES permit will be secured through your department and all appurtenant requirements there from made a condition of the construction contractor's contract with

the County. Special attention will be paid by the county to ensure all associated contractual and regulatory requirements are adhered to by the contractor.

4. *Clean Water Branch – comment #3.* In regard to the State's Historic Preservation Division's (SHPD) concurrence, SHPD has determined in a letter to the County of January 11, 2006, that the project will have no adverse effect on archaeological resources due to intense sugar cane cultivation that occurred in recent history. Also, SHPD will be consulted at the time of the grading permit application associated with this project.

Again, thank you for your comments. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me at 961-8311.

Sincerely,



James M. Komata
Park Planner

Copy: Ron Terry/Geometrician Associates, Inc. (via mail)
Leonard Bisel/Leonard Bisel Associates, L.L.C. (via mail)

Machado Acres County Park (HRS 343 DEA)

District: South Hilo
TMK: (3)2-4-60:001 & 2-4-09:28
Proposing Agency: Hawai'i County Dept. of Parks & Recreation
 101 Pau'ahi St., Ste. 6, Hilo, HI 96720
 Contact: James Komata (961-8311)

Determination Agency: Same as above.
Consultant: Geometrician Associates
 HC 2 Box 9575, Kea'au, HI 96749
 Contact: Ron Terry (982-5831)

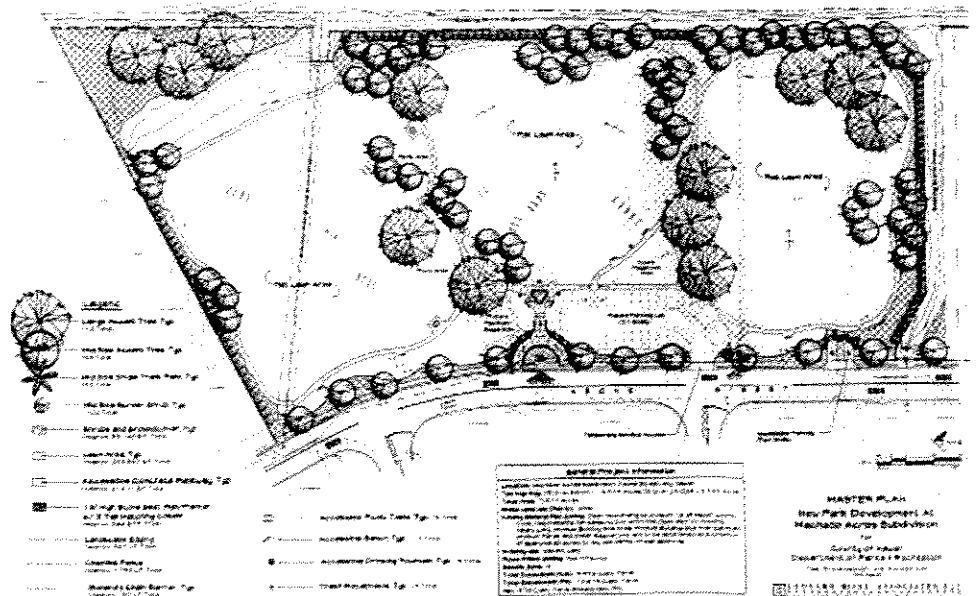
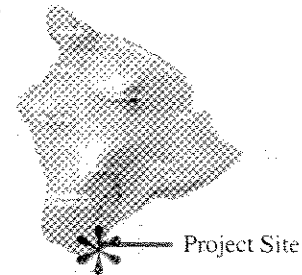
Public Comment Deadline: August 7, 2006
Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the proposing agency with copies to the consultant and OEQC.

Permits Required: State: NPDES; County: Plan Approval, Grading Permit, Building Permits

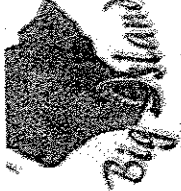
tor shall perform all earthwork and grading in conformance with Chapter 10, Erosion and Sediment Control, Hawai'i County Code. Because the affected area of the site is greater than one acre in extent, the contractor shall obtain an NPDES permit and develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to contain sediment and storm water runoff during grading and construction. Furthermore, construction equipment shall be kept in good working condition to minimize the risk of fluid leaks that could enter runoff and groundwater. Significant leaks or spills, if they occur, shall be properly cleaned up and disposed of at an approved site. The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has determined that the project would have no adverse effect on archaeological resources because the site was intensively cultivated with sugar cane; if archaeological resources are encountered during land-altering activities associated with construction, work in the immediate area of the discovery would be halted and SHPD will be contacted.

The Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation (P&R) proposes to construct a neighborhood park in the area known as Machado Acres near the intersection of 'Aina'ola and Komohana Streets in Hilo. The facility is initially planned as a passive use neighborhood park with a focus on unique landscape elements with native plant species appropriate to this setting and the varied intended uses of the park. The site is vacant of any current land use, and the existing land cover is a secondary forest of alien trees and grasses typical of abandoned sugar cane fields. The project area is generally low density residential, with some undeveloped lots and pastureland.

Implementation of the project would have a minor affect on traffic, possibly requiring only a short-term single-lane closure during grading and paving of vehicular access points. Short-term noise, air, and water quality impacts associated with grading and landscaping would be mitigated. The contrac-



Site Map



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Vacant land to become park

Waiakea Homesteads parcel to be developed for public use

By JASON ARMSTRONG
Tribune-Herald staff writer

Vacant land in Hilo's Waiakea Homesteads will become a 7.9-acre "passive" park, with later plans to add bathrooms, pavilions and sports

fields, according to a preliminary study of the project's impacts.

Hawaii County is to develop Machado Acres County Park on land it owns between Keone Street and Nohoana Place, which is near the

intersection of Ainaola and Haihai streets.

It will cost an estimated \$2 million to clear the property, landscape it, and install fencing, walkways, planters, picnic tables, benches, drinking four-

tains, trash receptacles and two disability-accessible parking stalls, said James Komata, county park planner.

The county has earmarked \$255,000 for the project and hired Leonard Bisel Associates LLC under

an \$88,470 contract to do the design work, Komata said.

"There are no additional funds being sought at this moment in time to cover the spread," he said Thursday

park

public use

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PARK

From front page

when asked how the county will pay the development cost.

The first phase for a "passive" park without ball fields would create no serious negative impacts, according to the draft environmental assessment released this month.

People wishing to provide input on the project may do so by mailing their comments by Aug. 7 to consultant Ron Terry at Geometric Associates, HC 2 BOX 9575, Keaau, HI 96749. Copies should also be sent to the state Office of Environmental Control in Honolulu and the Hawaii County Parks and Recreation Department in Hilo.

"This has been a park long in development," said Hilo Councilman James Arakaki, who's district includes the recreational site.

Delays occurred with transferring ownership of the two

parcels from the private community association — members had to buy their own liability insurance — to the county, he said.

"I think it's a great thing. I've been waiting for it to happen," Arakaki added. "It's just taken longer than I expected. I'll see it one day."

Arakaki said he wants the community to form a "Friends of the Park" volunteer group to help shape the development process and to take on maintenance responsibilities.

He also favors a passive park with landscaped areas over a fully developed facility, noting the area already has two community parks.

"It's because (it could become) a magnet to attract all kind of element to their neighborhood," he said of drinking, drug use and other inappropriate behavior.

But the draft environmental study says future plans call for extending a waterline into the park for irrigation, maintenance and bathrooms.

"The park is planned to contain future on-site parking, a restroom facility with an approved individual wastewater system, small pavilion structures, formal sports fields, and other park-related site amenities as need and funding arise," states the draft study of the project's impacts.

But completing even the first phase will take awhile, said Deputy Parks Director Pam Mizuno.

"The project is probably at least another year down the line," she said. "I know it's something that the community has been waiting for a long time."

Keone Street resident Mary Leite said the project was

planned when she moved to the community 25 years ago.

"I know it's been in the plans for quite awhile, but I don't see it happening," she said. "If it's done, it's fine."

Noting she's not a "park person," Leite said she prefers a children's playground.

"It's a good idea," said fellow Keone Street neighbor Tsukiyo Onuma, who favors pathways and ballfields.

Nearby resident Del Kleckner, former president of the disbanded Machado Acres Association, said he wants a passive park that's both unique and individual.

Kleckner said he would use it for exercise.

"It might be safer than walking on the roads," he said.

Jason Armstrong can be reached at jarmstrong@hawaiitribune-herald.com.