DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT
ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION
HOLUALOA, NORTH KONA, HAWAII

TMK: (3) 7-6-19:034

Prepared for:
The Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawai`i

Prepared by:
AES Design Group, Inc.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Data

Applicant: Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Architect/Engineer: AES Design Group, Inc. (AESDG)
Pearlridge Center Uptown, Suite 213
98-1005 Moanalua Road
Aiea, Hawaii 96701-4707

Agent: AES Design Group, Inc.

Accepting Agency: Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Hawaii

Land Owner: County of Hawaii

Lessee: None

Project Location: Holualoa, North Kona, Hawaii

TMK: (3) 7-6-19:034

Project Area: 70,968 s.f. (1.6292 acres)

Existing Zoning: RS-7.5

DP Land Use: Park

SMA: Yes

Shoreline Setback: No

Flood Zone: FIRM X
1.2 Purpose of Environmental Assessment

The purpose of this environmental assessment (EA) is to identify and evaluate the environmental impacts on the proposed County improvements of an unimproved park parcel at Ali‘i Kai Subdivision and where applicable, recommend mitigation measures that may be employed to minimize adverse environmental effects. This environmental review is a requirement of Chapter 343 of the Hawaii State Revised Statute (HRS). It is “triggered” by the project’s use of county land and county funds.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared in accordance with the Hawaii State Environmental Review Process. This EA seeks to satisfy the environmental review requirements and discloses all relevant issues and concerns expressed in HRS Chapter 343.

1.3 General Description of Proposed Action

Ali‘i Kai Subdivision is a residential community developed over 40 years ago. This project seeks to develop an unimproved park parcel at TMK (3)7-6-19:034 [Exhibit 1] into a new neighborhood park for the County of Hawaii, Department of Parks and Recreation. This new park will enhance recreational opportunities to the community and meet ADA accessibility requirements. The project does not include land acquisition, a change in land use or any off site improvements.

The project will include the following:

- Onsite parking
- A comfort station
- A pavilion with picnic tables
- Playground equipment
- A large Open Lawn Area
- Miscellaneous Park features (benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, etc.)
- Perimeter site fencing with hardened street frontages
- Landscaping to include utilizing native plant species appropriate to its setting and the intended uses of the park
- A septic system for the comfort station.

1.4 Funding Sources

Funding sources for the project will be a combination of CIP Bond proceeds and Fair Share Contribution Funds. Other potential funding sources may be available. Donated services will be used appropriate for this project. These include volunteer contractors, skilled tradesmen and laborers, unskilled persons, as well as donated equipment, materials and tools.

1.5 Time Frame

The project is currently being designed. Construction is anticipated to start in December of 2010, to be completed in September of 2011.
1.6 Required Permits

Principal permits needed to implement this project include the following:

- Special Management Area (SMA) Permit¹
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Grading Permit
- Building Permit

1.7 Agencies Consulted

The following agencies were consulted with by AESDG during the preparation of this assessment:

State of Hawai‘i
   Department of Land and Natural Resources
   Historic Preservation Division

County of Hawai‘i
   Department of Public Works / Building Division, Engineering Division
   County of Hawaii’i
   Department of Parks and Recreation
   County of Hawaii’i
   Planning Department
   County of Hawaii’i

1.8 Community Input and Participation

Two public meetings were held to present conceptual plans of the project and to solicit feedback. The first meeting was held on September 10, 2009 for residents of the Ali‘i Kai Subdivision. Invitations were sent out based on a list provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii. A copy of the power point presentation is included as Exhibit 2. Comments from the community obtained at the meeting and by follow-up correspondence were recorded. A copy of the minutes is included as Exhibit 4.

Based on the comments received from the first meeting, the conceptual exhibits were modified and presented at a second public meeting held on December 1, 2009. This meeting was open to the greater Kona community and was advertised in the West Hawaii Today. A copy of the power point presentation is included as Exhibit 3. Comments from the community obtained at the meeting and by follow-up correspondence were recorded. A copy of the minutes is included as Exhibit 4.

At the Community meetings, some of the residents expressed interest in offering volunteer services for the construction of part of the park project. This could only be done on work that would not require the services of a licensed contractor. These offers were welcomed by the County of Hawaii.

¹This permit may not be required
2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location and Description

The project location [Exhibit 5] is an unimproved park parcel owned by the County of Hawai‘i. The parcel is approximately 70,968 sq. ft. (1.6292 acres) and is located at 19° 36’ 46”N and 155° 58’ 32” W. The site is located in the Land of Holualoa, North Kona District, Island of Hawai‘i on the mauka side of Ali‘i Drive and makai side of Kuakini Highway within the Ali‘i Kai Subdivision [Exhibit 6]. The site is accessible from Pakalana Road to the north and from Lehua Road to the south and is dedicated for park use by Resolution 178, Report of the Committee on Public Works and Parks, County of Hawai‘i. [Exhibits 7, 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3].

2.2 Park Users and Use

Based on input received at the public meetings, the primary users of the park will be residents of the Ali‘i Kai subdivision. The desire was for the park to be used for both passive and limited active recreational purposes such as picnicking, strolling, children playing on the play equipment, ball playing, and occasional parties. Park amenities and facilities such as the pavilion and picnic tables are set so that parents can sit and monitor their children on the adjacent play equipment are to support this desired use.

The park is not meant for organized sports nor is it meant to be a regional park that is used primarily by the larger Kona community. Its location in the center of a residential development and non-visibility from major roads minimizes its potential use by non-Ali‘i Kai residents and their guests.

2.3 Description of Park Improvements

The schematic site plan was developed with direction from the Department of Parks and Recreation, from community input received at two public meetings and from follow-up emails and correspondence from the community.

The proposed schematic site plan has a large open space in the center and makai side of the park [Exhibit 9] with the following features:

- The sloping areas along the mauka corner of the site will be kept close to the existing grade.
- A parking lot will be located on the southern side of the site and will be accessed from Lehua Road.
- A comfort station will be located close to the parking lot.
- A covered pavilion will be located next to a play area having play equipment and swings.
- An area adjacent to the play areas will be designated for bounce houses or similar devices brought by park users having parties.
- A walkway will connect the parking lot to the amenities. The amenities will also be accessible from Pukalana road.
• The walkway will circle the perimeter of the open lawn area and connect to picnic tables.
• The park will be landscaped with climate appropriate plants.
• Areas will be open to allow for additional improvement such as a dog park and gazebo should additional funds become available.

**Improvements Details:**

**Improvements to Existing Park Parcel**

The existing site will be cleared and grubbed. Retaining walls will be added along the north, east, and south sides of the site to increase the size of the gently sloped open lawn area and to extend it toward the makai corners of the site. Soil will be imported to fill the lower areas to create the larger lawn. The retaining walls will be split into two lower walls with a terraced area between to avoid one tall wall. Retaining walls will be constructed of concrete rubble masonry, (CRM). The existing slope on the upper part of the site will be retained.

**Vehicular and Pedestrian Site Access**

A parking lot will be constructed near the entrance to the park from Lehua Road. The parking lot is located on this side of the park because the grade difference between Lehua Road and the center portion of the park is fairly level. The lot will have 10 stalls, two of which will meet ADAAG requirements.

Pedestrians will be able to access the park from the Lehua road parking lot on the south side of the site and from a walkway that accesses Pakalana road on the north side of the site. An ADAAG compliant pathway will wind around the lawn area.

**Pavilion and Comfort Station [Exhibit 10]**

A pavilion with a covered roof and open sides will have space for two picnic tables. It will be situated near the play area to allow parental supervision of children using the play equipment the open play area.

A separate comfort station will have a women’s restroom, men’s restroom, and a space for storage. The women’s room will have two water closets and a lavatory. The men’s room will have one water closet, a urinal, and a lavatory. The number of fixtures was based on an appropriate number for a park of this size. The comfort station will also have skylights, artificial lighting and water fountains.

**Playground Equipment**

The playground equipment will be on a resilient surface that meets industry safety standards for the protection of children. There will be two sets of playground equipment—a cluster of equipment with various activities and a swing set. The resilient surface will be configured to meet the safety zones designated by the play equipment manufacturer. The play equipment will have portions that are ADAAG accessible and will be selected from a manufacturer that is acceptable to the County of Hawaii.
Large Open Lawn Area

The open lawn area used for free play will be planted with grass. It will be graded to an average slope of 4% to 5% and will be irrigated.

Pathway, Benches, Picnic Tables and Drinking Fountains

The pathways will be concrete and will be designed to allow ADAAG access to the park amenities. Picnic tables, benches, fountains will be located adjacent to the pathways throughout the park. A designated number of picnic tables will be ADAAG accessible.

Perimeter Site Fencing With Hardened Street Frontages

Security for the park will be provided by two fences, one 4 feet and the other 6 feet located along the perimeter of the park to prevent the public from entering into the adjacent lots and to secure the park. The fences will also prevent errant balls and deter younger children from entering the streets.

The Director of Parks and Recreation Department will establish operating hours for the park with park closing at night. A gate will be installed at the entrance to the park from the parking lot to allow for closing. Boulders will be placed at strategic locations to prevent vehicles from entering the grassy area.

Native Plants Incorporated Into the Landscaping

Native Hawaiian plants appropriate to the site’s climatic and soil conditions will be utilized as much as possible.

Labor Saving Landscape Design

The park will be irrigated with irrigation scheduled on timers set appropriately to park use and planting requirement. Special consideration will be given to have plants along the slopes to avoid use of lawnmower.

2.4 Utilities and Infrastructure

Water

Adequate water service is available from both Lehua road and Pakalana road. Water for the park will be obtained from the line in Lehua road.

Waste Water

Public sewers are not available to the park site. Waste water will be treated by a septic tank system with a leach field that will be located under the open lawn area.

Drainage

See Section 3.5
Solid Waste

Solid waste will be collected in trash cans, which will be collected and disposed of by park employees.

Electrical Service and Lighting

Electrical service is available from overhead power lines on Lehua Road and Pakalana Road. Electrical power will be obtained from the pole on Lehua Road. Power distribution within the park will be underground. Power will service the comfort station and the pavilion. Power outlets will be located on light poles next to the parking lot for use by park users.

Lighting for the parking lot will be from two light poles on the side of the lot. High pressure sodium 100% cut-off light fixtures will be used to minimize light intrusion into neighboring properties. Lighting will be provided in the pavilion and the comfort station. All lights in the park will shut-off at a designated time.
3 **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

3.1 **Site Characteristics**

The project site is located within the Ali‘i Kai Subdivision on the foot of Hualalai Volcano between Kahului Bay and Holualoa Bay. It is approximately 1,600 feet from the shoreline at its closest point and at elevations between 66 feet at its lowest point to 108 feet at its highest point. The soil consists of well-drained Punalu‘u rocky peat (Rpdy) and rock outcropping covered with heavy vegetation.

The topography of the site is fairly level in the center portion with steeper slopes in the northeast, (mauka), and corner and along the west, (makai), and boundary. The access to the site from Lehua Street on the south side of the lot is fairly level. [Exhibit 11]

The project site is situated entirely within an urban area that has been significantly disturbed in the past. [Exhibit 12] The project site is therefore, not in a significant floral or faunal habitat and is not a historical or cultural site and does not contain any significant historical or cultural features. [Exhibit 13]

3.2 **Surrounding Land Use**

The site is located entirely in a residential area. The site is bordered by four residential lots on the west side, one residential lot on the south side, four residential lots on the east side, and one residential lot on the northeast side. Kahakai Elementary School is located about 500 feet away on the west side of the site.

3.3 **Coastal Environment**

The site is approximately 1,600 feet from the shoreline at its closest point and is at elevations between 66 feet at its lowest point to 108 feet at its highest point. It is located in State of Hawaii Special Management Area, (SMA), which, in this area, includes all areas makai of Kuakini Highway [Exhibit 14].

The area is devoid of any anchialine ponds and native vegetation. It’s deeply urban setting and deeply disturbed nature precludes it from being returned to its natural environment without a considerable expenditure of resources.

3.4 **Flood Zone**

The site is located in a moderate to low risk area identified as Zone X in the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). [Exhibit 15].

3.5 **Site Drainage**

The project site has gentle slopes between 1% and 5% in the center, and the steeper 20% to 50% slopes near the mauka and makai boundaries. The existing site storm water runoff generally sheet flows across the site from east to west.
The proposed grading will increase the flat area of the site through use of retaining walls along the western boundary, and the addition of impervious surfaces such as buildings, walkways, and parking lots as well as the replacement of heavy vegetation with grass will increase the amount of storm water runoff. Since the annual rainfall is relatively low and there is no river stream near the site, flooding or large run-off is rare. Drywells will be located throughout the park to detain this increase in storm water runoff.

3.6 Climate
Holualoa receives 3 to 6 inches of rainfall each month during winter and about 6 to 8 inches in each month during summer, with an average annual rainfall of 60 inches consistent with rainfall throughout the coastal region of west side of the island. Day breezes blow from the ocean, and night breezes blow down-slope from Mauna Loa.

3.7 Vegetation
The project site contains vegetation typical of highly disturbed sites in coastal lowland urban areas of the west side of the island. Vegetation consists of weedy shrubs, grasses and herbs and is dominated by a mixture of Guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*) and koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*). The highly disturbed nature of the lot and surrounding urban area precludes the site as an area where native flora may be consistently found. Nearly all if not all plants found on the site are alien species.

3.8 Fauna and Wildlife
The urban location of the project site and the age, size and close proximity of the surrounding subdivision make the site poor habitat for rare and endangered native fauna. No native fauna were observed during site visits and neither were signs of their permanent habitation.

3.9 Visual and Scenic Resources
The lower portion of the site does not afford visibility or vistas in any direction. From the center portion of the site, the ocean horizon is just visible above the trees of the lower portion of the site and the neighboring properties. The highest portion of the site that is on a steeper section adjacent to the neighboring properties, allows for a better view of the ocean and horizon. [See Exhibit 13].

3.10 Archaeology and Historic Resources
An Archaeological Assessment was conducted by Haun & Associates, an archaeological, cultural, and historical resource management Services to determine if there is any archaeological site on the proposed site. [Exhibit 16]

The Assessment found no archaeological sites or features. A draft copy of the archeological study has been submitted to the State Department of Land and
Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, (DLNR-SHPD) for validation of finding.

3.11 Circulation, Traffic and Access

Presently, vehicular access to Ali`i Kai Subdivision is available from Pakalana Road and Lehua Road. Both roads are connected to Royal Poinciana Drive which connects to Ali`i Drive on the coast. The access from Lehua drive is relatively at the same elevation as the center portion of the park. The access from Pakalana road is steeper and not conducive for vehicular access.

3.12 Social, Economic and Cultural Characteristics

The project is in a residential area for workers employed by the service industry in the surrounding areas.

The project site is located within the Holualoa I ahupua’a in the North Kona District. Historically, it lies within the kula zone of the Kona Field System, the upper limits of which may extend to elevations between 600-700 ft. The lower elevation zone of this ahupua`a was traditionally used by pre-contact Hawaiians for habitation and for the cultivation of sweet potatoes, paper mulberry (wauke), and gourd.

The gradual shift from subsistence farming to a market economy began in the 1820s to 1840s with the introduction of coffee, corn, pumpkins, cotton, pineapple, and Irish potatoes. Further change to the traditional agricultural system was caused by the introduction of cattle ranching and commercial coffee production in the mid-1800s. At this time, the area between the project area and Ali`i Drive was used for pasture. [See Exhibit 16]

During the 1990 to 2008, the declining value of crops and livestock sales led to an economic shift from agriculture to service industries (County Economic Trends in Hawaii, 2008). At the same time, the resident population for the State grew by 15.7 percent causing a increase in the statewide housing demand with the County of Hawai`i registering an increase 65.0% - the second largest in the State after Kaua`i. Ali`i Kai Subdivision was built during this period to address this demand.
4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

4.1 No Action

The “No Action” alternative would leave the site in its unimproved, overgrown state and would continue to leave the community without a neighborhood park on a parcel that was dedicated for that purpose decades ago. This scenario is therefore not considered to be a responsible alternative for the County of Hawai`i Department of Parks and Recreation.

4.2 Alternative Configurations - Park Amenities and Facilities, Retaining Walls, Play Area vs. Planted Area Size

Alternatives considered combined the different design elements into alternative scenarios to facilitate discussion by the key stakeholders in the design process. The elements considered were vehicular access and parking lots from roads, various locations and configurations of pavilions and comfort stations, various configurations of the open space and various configurations of the retaining walls.

Each element alternative presented was screened for its environmental impact to the site, community, natural, cultural, and esthetic environments, and to the existing utilities infrastructure. Construction costs, relevant codes and ADAAG requirements were also factored in. Scenarios were developed around themes to facilitate discussion and decisions by the key stakeholders.

After review with the Department of Parks and Recreation, two alternatives were developed and presented to the Ali`i Kai Subdivision community. [Exhibit 2].

With the feedback from the community, a third alternative in the form of a revised site plan was devised for consideration by stakeholders [Exhibit 3]. The conceptual design was develop based on feedback on this third alternative.

Alternative 1 - Theme: Child Centric Use

This alternative provided the most space for child based activities. It created a large level play area for free play with a combined age appropriate play area with play equipment and swing sets for structured play and a pavilion in close proximity for adult supervision of both areas. This was accomplished at the expense of a shorter, less imposing retaining wall at the perimeter of the park, and planted areas more suited for adults. The design included a gazebo on the upper slopes of the park, a separate comfort station and a single parking lot.

Alternative 2 – Theme: Balanced Use

This alternative provided a balanced design that has spaces for children and for adults. It had a smaller free play area, separate structured play areas – one for young children and a single building containing a pavilion and comfort station. This design allowed for two separated play areas - one for younger children 2-5 years old and another for older children 6-12 years old. It provided a planted area for adult park users on a banked slope to allow for a shorter, 6-foot retaining wall
along the lower boundaries. The design also included a gazebo on the upper slopes of the park and a single parking lot.

Alternative 3 - Theme: Child Centric Use with Esthetically Pleasing Retaining Walls

This alternative provided the most space for child based activities but with less imposing retaining walls at the park boundary. It created a large level play area for free play with a combined age appropriate play area with play equipment and swing sets for structured play. It also included a pavilion in close proximity for adult supervision of both areas. It had two shorter retaining walls at the park boundary at the expense of a slightly smaller free play area and no planted area. It had a single parking lot, separate a comfort station and no gazebo.

4.3 Park Stakeholder Decisions

The general consensus from public meetings was a preference for a larger lawn area, combined structured play areas and separate facilities to facilitate child supervision, and shorter less imposing retaining walls.

With this feedback from the community, a revised site plan was developed [See Exhibit 9]. Under this alternative, the comfort station and the pavilion were separated, the play areas were combined, and a larger open green space was achieved by adding terraced retaining walls along the lower perimeter of the site. The terraced walls were proposed in lieu of a single large wall because of the objection of the height of such a wall by the community and the cost of a single high retaining wall due to the structural strength required.

This revised site plan served as the basis of the conceptual design for the park that was accepted by the Hawai`i County Department of Parks and Recreation.
5 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 Evaluation of Significance Criteria and its long and short term impact and mitigation measures

The following is an evaluation of the proposed action relative to the Significance Criteria contained in the Environmental Impact Statement Rules, Title 11, and Chapter 200-12.

1) **Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources:**

The site has been previously designated for park use and was mass graded for that purpose. Since the existing lot was extensively disturbed prior to this project, the improvements will not result in the loss of any special natural or cultural resources.

The proposed park use is complementary to the surrounding residential community use and will not involve irrevocable commitment to loss or destroy any natural or cultural resources in the area.

There are no significant long and short term impacts to any natural and cultural resources as none current exists on the site. Mitigation measures are not required.

2) **Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment:**

The site’s unimproved state and its partial use as a dumping site currently provide minimal benefit to the environment. The proposed park will instead significantly improve the environment by providing landscaped areas and improvements that will increase the range of beneficial uses of the environment.

There are no long and short term impacts to the range of beneficial uses of the environment from the proposed project.

3) **Conflicts with the State’s long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto court decisions or executive orders:**

The proposed improvements do not conflict with the State’s long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS. The proposed park will instead meet the State’s long-term goals as expressed in Chapter 344.

4) **Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or State:**

Park construction will be performed with public funds and may be supplemented with volunteer work. The expenditure of public funds will provide a short term boost to the economy.

The use of community volunteers in the development of the park will help forge stronger community relationships between the Ali‘i Kai Community and County government. The community benefits through participation and the
County benefits by being able to deliver more value on a limited development budget.

The development of the park will fulfill the commitment made by the County of Hawai‘i to develop a neighborhood park on the site.

The park will provide additional recreational opportunities within the Ali‘i Kai community where none currently exists.

5) **Substantially affects public health:**

The Ali‘i Kai community’s public health will benefit considerably by the presence of a neighborhood park.

The park and its proposed amenities such as children’s play equipment, walking paths, and open lawn areas will benefit the public’s health by encouraging physical activity. Its close proximity to the community will encourage frequent use.

The open space and neat appearance of a well maintained space, and the transformation of an underutilized and unattractive space into a park will improve the mental well being of community members.

There will be some noise and dust during park construction. This will be temporary. Restrictions will be placed on the contractor to mitigate these impacts.

6) **Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities:**

The site’s use as a neighborhood park fulfilling an exiting requirement will not result in substantial population changes to the subdivision.

The proposed improvements are not expected to trigger or contribute to any long term secondary impacts or effects on public facilities.

There is sufficient capacity in the existing electrical and water infrastructure to support a park at the site and the number and kinds of amenities being proposed.

The size and capacity of the parking lot is adequate to accommodate the traffic flow to a park its size and its intended use.

The minimal wastewater generated from use of the comfort stations will be treated by an on-site septic system and will not contribute to increased use of the county sewer system.

The use of plants appropriate the area’s climate will minimize the increase in water use for irrigation.

The location of the park, hidden from Ali‘i Drive the main thoroughfare, and the presence other recreational resources such as beach parks and district parks in its immediate vicinity, reduces the possibility of increased traffic and congestion from the greater Kona community and tourists. It will also minimize the likelihood of excessive usage of the comfort station other park amenities.
There will be a short term impact during construction of increased traffic from construction equipment and workers cars. This will end at the completion of the project.

7) **Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality:**

There should be no degradation of environmental quality by this project.

The park design takes into consideration measures to minimize possible environmental impact:

The stone retaining walls in the park will be constructed of concrete rubble masonry (CRM) providing a “natural” look and feel, blending with the surrounding lava flows prevalent in the Kona area. The walls will be terraced to reduce the height of the walls, softening its visual impact on adjacent neighbors.

The location of the septic system’s leach field in center of the park, its distance from the ocean, and its conformation to Department of Health standards will not affect ocean water quality.

Potential flooding caused by the increase in storm water runoff due to the park’s increased flat area, the addition of impervious surfaces such as buildings, walkways, and parking lots, and the replacement of heavy vegetation with grass will be mitigated through the use drywells placed within the park. There should be no impact on water quality of the ocean.

8) **Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger action:**

The proposed improvements to the site will have minimal cumulative effect on the environment nor will it require a commitment for larger action at the park site in the foreseeable future. All necessary actions to allow for the site to be used as a neighborhood park are completed at the end of this project.

Improvements desired by the community such as a gazebo and dog park removed through budgetary considerations from the current project will not have considerable cumulative effect should any be constructed in the future.

9) **Substantially affects rare, threatened or endangered species, or its habitat:**

The site has been completely altered in the past and is dominated by alien weeds. It currently is not a habitat for any rare, threatened or endangered species, its proposed use as a park will not affect any rare, threatened or endangered species nor their habitat.

10) **Detrimentally affects air, or water quality or ambient noise levels:**

The proposed park will not impact air or water quality. Noise levels may increase due to the utilization of the park as compared to the existing empty lot. However, this increase is not expected to exceed levels typically associated with park use. The intent of the park is for passive recreation and limited active recreation, but not for team sports or organized sport events.
Air and ambient noise levels may occur as a result of construction activity. These impacts will be limited by normal construction practices and compliance with Department of Health construction mitigation practices.

11) Affects or is likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, erosion prone area, geologically hazardous land, etc.

   The proposed project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area.

   Any temporary impacts created during normal construction will be mitigated through the use of standard construction practices imposed on the contractor and will be performed in accordance with Department of Health construction mitigation practice.

12) Substantially affects vistas and view planes identified in county or state plans or studies.

   The proposed project will not impact vistas that may be available to properties above the site. Improvements proposed by this project should be below the view planes from the upper lots.

13) Requires substantial energy consumption

   Very modest energy consumption is expected from the proposed park. Electrical power will be used to operate two lights in the parking lot and light fixtures in the pavilion and comfort station. The comfort station will have skylights and pavilion is open on its side, so neither building will require lighting during the day. All lights will go off when the park closes at the designated time at night.
6 Summary, Unsolved Issues and Conclusions

6.1 Summary

There are no significant long term detrimental environmental impacts from this project. The park site is situated in an established residential area and was previously cleared of any meaningful natural, historical and cultural features. Infrastructure, soil and topological assessments did not identify long term impacts. Its initial inclusion as part of the Ali`i Kai Subdivision, relative stability of the surrounding neighborhood, its neighborhood park function and location away from will traveled areas minimizes its impact to the existing utility infrastructure.

Correspondingly, this project will be of significant benefit the Ali`i Kai community. It fulfills the commitment by the County of Hawai`i for a neighborhood park. It will enhance the value and ambiance of the neighborhood by providing a valuable asset and removing a minimally used “eyesore”. The park and park operations have been designed with the public’s health, safety and welfare in mind, and with all key stakeholders’ input. This enhances all of the intangible benefits associated with a park such as mental health, safety, and fitness.

All issues identified by the Project have been resolved. Public meetings were conducted to gather community inputs and concerns. The proposed improvements are a direct result of community input. The public did not have any significant concerns over permanent adverse effects to the environment. Surveys conducted to identify any natural, historical and cultural issues did not identify any long term impacts. Infrastructure, soil and topological assessments did not identify long term issues. Concerns about vandalism and operational issues will be handled through standard County park operations policies and practices.

There will be operational costs associated with the project. The comfort station will be maintained by County of Hawaii. The on-going ground and janitorial maintenance which are expected to be handled by existing Parks and Recreation staff without additional fiscal burden to the County of Hawaii.

There will be short term environmental impacts associate with the projects. These are normally associated with park construction including some traffic congestion, construction noises and dust.

6.2 Conclusions

In accordance with the provision set forth in Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the significance criteria in Section 11-200-12 of Title 11, Chapter 200, it is anticipated that the project will not have any significant adverse environmental impact and will not require an Environmental Impact Statement. The Department of Parks and Recreation therefore anticipates that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination will be issued to the project.
7 References

AES Design Group, Inc. and LP&D Hawaii, Final Environmental Assessment, Kuliouou Beach Park Improvement, April 26, 1998

Alan Fujimori Landscape Architect, Final Environmental Assessment, Kaupuni Neighborhood Park, Master Plan, May 2003

American with Disability Act (ADA), U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board


County of Hawaii Economic Trend, 2008

County of Hawaii Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Department of Planning, County of Hawaii – Zoning Division, personal communication

Department of Planning, County of Hawaii – Historic Site, Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Maps

Department of Planning, County of Hawaii – Special Management Area Permit for project, personal communication

Environmental Communication, Inc., Draft Environmental Assessment, Makaunulau Community Park Improvement, Mililani, Oahu, Hawaii

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Rate Map, effective date November 20, 2000

Gerald Park Urban Planner and Awa and Associates, LLC, Final Environmental Assessment, Mililani Mauka District Park, July 2005

Real Property Tax Office, Hawaii County

8 Appendix A – List of Exhibits

Exhibit 1: TMK: (3) 7-6-19:034
Exhibit 2: Community Meeting #1 Power Point Presentation
Exhibit 3: Community Meeting #2 Power Point Presentation Map
Exhibit 4: Minutes of Community Meetings #1 and #2
Exhibit 5: Project Location Map
Exhibit 6: Land Use Map
Exhibit 7: Public Facilities Map
Exhibit 8: Zoning and Resolution
Exhibit 9: Proposed Site Plan
Exhibit 10: Pavilion and Comfort Station Design, Plan and Elevation
Exhibit 11: Existing Condition (Topography)
Exhibit 12: Conservation District Sub zone Map – Urban use
Exhibit 13: Existing Condition (Site Photos)
Exhibit 14: Special Management Area Map
Exhibit 15: Flood Hazard Rating
Exhibit 16: Archaeological Assessment
Exhibit 17: Agency Letters
EXHIBIT 2.1
COMMUNITY MEETING #1
POWER POINT PRESENTATION
ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 2.2
COMMUNITY MEETING #1
POWER POINT PRESENTATION

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 2.3
TAX MAP KEY: (3) 7-6-19:034
ALI‘I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 3.2
COMMUNITY MEETING #2
POWER POINT PRESENTATION
ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
Community Feedback From September 10, 2009 Meeting

Comments Continued

- Separate bathroom structure from picnic pavilion structure preferred over combined structures.
- Put play areas together so parents only have one place to monitor for Add swings.
- Add bike racks.
- Include water fountains.
- Add solar panels to power structures.
- Park is too small of a place to be elaborate - keep it simple.

Exhibit 7 – Revised Site Plan

Exhibit 8 – Site Section

Exhibit 9 – Floor Plans and Elevations

Separate Plan and Pavilion Buildings

Exhibit 10 – Restroom Building

Exhibit 11 – Sample Playground Equipment

EXHIBIT 3.3
COMMUNITY MEETING #2
POWER POINT PRESENTATION

ALI‘I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
Opportunities For Community Volunteer Work

A. Work that must be done by Licensed Contractors
   - Greeting
   - Retaining Walls
   - Parking Lot
   - Play area: Satisfy Surface and base
B. Work that may be done by volunteers
   - Tree planting
   - Irrigation
   - Playground Installation
   - Pavement construction
   - Landscaping

Community Input

- Community participation is welcome (Subject to code and ordinance requirements)

- Send comments to Aubrey Summers or Alan Hirota by 12/1/2009
  - Aubrey Summers - aw summers@cox.net
  - Alan Hirota - a_hirota@aol.com

- Copies of the exhibits presented in tonight’s meeting will be provided upon request. Please provide an email address on the attendance sheet along with your request.
EXHIBIT 4
MINUTES OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS #1 AND #2

ALI‘I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
MINUTES

DATE: October 6, 2009

SUBMITTED BY: Alden Yago

PROJECT: Ali'i Kai Subdivision
New Park Development

MEETING: LOCATION DATE TIME
Kahakai Elementary School Cafeteria 9/10/09 6:30 p.m.
76-147 Royal Poinciana Drive
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-up sheets.

PURPOSE: Presentation of proposed conceptual plans for a New Park to residents of the Ali'i Kai Subdivision.

DISCUSSION:

A meeting was held to present proposed conceptual plans for a new park at the Ali'i Kai Subdivision. The meeting opened with general comments by Bob Fitzgerald, about the project and the intent of this meeting to gain feedback from the community on what they wanted in this park. Alan Hirota and Alden Yago of the AES Design Group, Inc., (AESDG), then presented the concept plan, (see attached copy of the presentation).

This was followed by a question and answer period in which the County of Hawaii welcomed feedback and input from the community. The following is a summary of the discussion. Comments are grouped by general topic and not necessarily presented in the order discussed during the meeting. Comments include written comments received after the meeting, (See attachments).

A. Concept Designs

Item 01
Question: An attendee asked the others if they wanted a 17 feet retaining wall?
Response: Some resident didn’t want it. Others didn’t mind it.

Item 02
Question: Does the community want smaller or larger space?
Response: Many people felt that the larger space is desirable because it will allow a variety of activities.

Item 03
Question: The design looks good on paper, who will maintain the park?
Response: The County of Hawaii will. They will also be responsible for closing-up park.
Item 04
Question: Will the lot size decrease after construction is completed?
Response: Existing lot is 1.6 acres and will remain that size.

Item 05
Question: There are existing power lines overhead, will they be relocated? Subterranean?
Response: AES Design Group will investigate the treatment of the power lines as the design develops.

Item 06
Comment: A satellite image of the property as it appears today was distributed for reference.

Item 07
Question: How much will this new park cost?
Response: $1.1 million was allocated to this project.

Item 08
Question: Heavy rains 2 months ago washed loose gravel onto the roads and created a gulch on Lehua St., can this be prevented?
Response: The project primarily encompasses work within the lot’s property lines. There will not be an increase in water run-off due to the new design. The project cannot control what happens outside of the site.

Item 09
Question: Chain link fencing is not inviting. Should this park be open at night?
Response: Chain link fence keeps the any balls from going on to the street when children play. Open to suggestion.

Item 10
Question: One attendee asked the others “What do you guys want? Can’t have everything.”

Item 11
Question: Does the project utilize all the allocated funds? Any reserves for future work, such as renovation?
Response: The project will not necessarily use all the allocated funds. We do not put money into reserve for future renovations per se. We have money for maintenance and repair of all facilities. We hope that the park will not need renovations but that if additions or modifications are desired by the community this could present an opportunity for the community to come together and make those changes.

Item 12
Comment: We all need to contribute and provide input. Give us your “Wish List”.

Item 13
Question: Are we limited to the type of equipment that will be provided for the children to play? The presentation shows play sets. Wouldn’t playgrounds be better? Play sets will not be used often by children.
Response: The County of Hawaii is installing play sets that have been found to be safe and which comply with ADA requirements. The plan is to use the rubber surface material in newly installed play areas because of the safety it provides. Children are less prone to get injured from falling on the rubber surface. Safety is the main concern.
Item 14
Comment: Kids just want a place to play. Option 1 is functional.

Item 15
Comment: How about providing a swimming pool at the 17'-0" high retaining wall?

Item 16
Question: Is the Gazebo wheelchair accessible?
Response: No it is not. The Pavilion is wheelchair accessible.

Item 17
Question: Utilize solar panels?
Response: Yes, we intend to explore the possibilities of implementing a “Green Design”.

Item 18
Question: Remove 17'-0" retaining wall by grading to 1:10 slope. Utilize 6'-0" retaining wall. Combine the two options, widen the slope. Walkway could be linear, starting from one side to another.
Response: 1:10 slope may still be too steep for park use. Designers will investigate the possibility.

B. Who Will Use the Park?

Item 01
Question: Will the Kahakai Elementary School have access to the Park.
Response: Yes.

Item 02
Question: Why does the larger community outside the Ali‘i Kai subdivision have to have input for the new park? How will that impact the immediate community’s wishes?
Response: The County of Hawaii will determine how the new park will be utilized. It would be highly recommended that the residence of Ali‘i Kai subdivision have first priority.

Item 03
Question: Who will be liable for injuries caused by play ground equipment?
Response: The County of Hawaii would be liable.

Item 04
Comment: It seems today that teens and adults are not using parks.

Item 05
Comment: Concept 2 seems better for adults and Concept 1 better for kids.

Item 06
Question: How many kids are in the neighborhood?
Response: There are about 45 kids that play on Plumeria Road.

Item 07
Comment: Need to create an attraction for kids in the park.
C. Traffic

Item 01
Question: Increase traffic would lead to wider roads, Is there a need for wider roads? A solution would be to restrict park road access for bikes only.
Response: Size of existing road should remain. This may help to deter heavy traffic.

Item 02
Comment: We would not be the only ones using the park. This would draw outside people and cause too much cars to be parked at that area. Speeding and traffic issues.

Item 03
Comment: An open space park with no fences does not cause an excess of people.

Item 04
Comment: Consider adding speed bumps.

D. Community Kokua

Item 01
Question: How can the community get involved?
Response: The community can lend a helping hand by providing labor and/or material and equipment. The participation must be within the requirements of the County of Hawaii regulations. For example, certain work must be done by licensed contractors.

Item 02
Question: What can the community do to help? Higahihara Park is an example of “Kokua”, where the community came together to build the park.
Response: The County of Hawaii agrees that this project can be done with Kokua. However, some of the work will require a Building Permit and must be done by a licensed contractor. The overall construction will be the responsibility of the General Contractor. Therefore, the General Contractor must be willing to agree to the way kokua work is included in the project.

Item 03
Question: After 40 years, why is the park only being designed now? Most of the children are gone. There are now more rentals in this community, than ownership. The passive approach in design is a welcome.
Response: The project was assigned to the County of Hawaii for development in 1997. In the past the lot was part of a private subdivision.

Item 04
Comment: Agrees that the Community can come together. A simple park is acceptable.
MINUTES

DATE: December 7, 2009

SUBMITTED BY: Alden Yago

PROJECT: Ali‘i Kai Subdivision  
New Park Development

MEETING: LOCATION

Kahakai Elementary School Cafeteria  
76-147 Royal Poinciana Drive  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

DATE: 12/01/09

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-up sheets.

PURPOSE: Presentation of the revised proposed conceptual plans for a New Park to residents of the Ali‘i Kai Subdivision. These revisions were in response to the community feedback from the Sept. 10, 2009 Public Hearing.

DISCUSSION:

A meeting was held to present a revised proposed conceptual plan for a new park at the Ali‘i Kai Subdivision. The revision made was in response to feedback from the Ali‘i Kai Community from the Sept. 10, 2009. Alan Hirota and Alden Yago of the AES Design Group, Inc., (AESDG), presented the revised concept plan, (see attached copy of the presentation).

This was followed by a question and answer period in which the County of Hawaii welcomed feedback and input from the community. The following is a summary of the discussion. Comments are grouped by general topic and not necessarily presented in the order discussed during the meeting. Comments include written comments received after the meeting, (See attachments).

Discussion:

Item 01
Comment: A community participant expressed the idea of having a designated dog area within the park. The area needed for dogs to play does not need to be large, a strip or run is mostly desired.

Response: The County of Hawaii agrees that this is an idea worth considering and will further investigate the requirements and county regulations.

Item 02
Comment: Parking does not appear to be a problem.
Response: Parking will be accessed form Lehua Road.
Item 03
Comment: The new park should have a sufficient amount of shading from trees. These shaded areas could be utilized for the elderly activities or people to exercise.
Response: Canopy trees will be used to provide shaded areas.

Item 04
Comment: Good to keep new park design simple.

Item 05
Comment: The Community is welcomed to add other park amenities such as bike racks, barbeque pits, sand boxes, etc. as Kokua Projects. These additional projects will be a good way to get the Community involved and help make the new park community owned.

Item 06
Question: Will drainage be a problem?
Response: Drywells will be provided and located on the property. There water-run off caused by the constructed park will not be any more than the existing run off.

Item 07
Question: Will there be electrical outlets provided for the Bounce House equipment and other play equipments?
Response: Exterior outlets will be provided for.

Item 08
Question: SMA – Is the property outside the flood zone?
Response: AES to investigate and provide response.

END.

Attachment A:
Additional comments received from Debralee Kailiwai – Ray.
EXHIBIT 5
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT
EXHIBIT 6
LAND USE MAP
ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 8.1
ZONING MAP AND RESOLUTION 178
ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT
EXHIBIT 8.2
ZONING MAP AND RESOLUTION 178

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT
REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

DATE: November 18, 1997
PLACE: Councilroom
TIME: 9:10 a.m.

Chair and Members
Hawaii County Council
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Your Committee on Public Works and Parks, to which was referred Communication No. 557 and attached Resolution No. 178, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution No. 178 is to authorize the County, pursuant to Section 23-10 of the Hawaii County Code and Article XIII, Section 13-12 of the Hawaii County Charter, to accept a dedication deed transmitting real property from Alii Kai, Inc., a Hawaii corporation. The dedication deed is for a park site, identified as Tax Map Key No. (3) 7-6-19:034 (portion).

Communication No. 557 is a letter from Deputy Corporation Counsel Gerald Takase, dated October 21, 1997, which transmits Resolution No. 178 to the County Council for its review and consideration. He states that the deed has been reviewed and accepted by the Department of Parks and Recreation, and it is willing to accept the park site.

Mr. George Yoshida, Director of Parks and Recreation, informed your Committee the reasons for accepting the site were because it would not be a full scale park, and there are no intentions to have a baseball diamond, dug outs, restrooms, etc. The park is being accepted "as is."

Your Committee is in accord with the purpose and intent of Resolution No. 178 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS

PW&PC REPORT NO.: 76
ADOPTED: DEC 8 1997

EXHIBIT 8.3
ZONING MAP AND RESOLUTION 178

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 9
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 10
PAVILION & COMFORT STATION: PLAN & ELEVATION

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 11
EXISTING CONDITION (TOPOGRAPHY)

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
STATE OF HAWAI'I
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUBZONE -
Island of Hawai'i

EXHIBIT 12
CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUBZONE MAP – URBAN USE

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 13.1
EXISTING CONDITION (SITE PHOTOS)

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
AL'I KAI SUBDIVISION PARK
PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING PARCEL

Photo 1: View onto Lot from Lehua Street

Photo 2: View to North- Center part of site with higher banks to the right.

EXHIBIT 13.2
EXISTING CONDITION (SITE PHOTOS)

AL'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
Photo 3: View Makai, (West)

Photo 4: Photo toward north, across center portion

EXHIBIT 13.3
EXISTING CONDITION (SITE PHOTOS)

ALI‘I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 13.4
EXISTING CONDITION (SITE PHOTOS)

ALI‘I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 13.5
EXISTING CONDITION (SITE PHOTOS)

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 14
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAP

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
EXHIBIT 15
FLOOD HAZARD RATING

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

TMK: (3) 7-6-19:034
LAND OF HOLUALOA 1
NORTH KONA DISTRICT
ISLAND OF HAWAI’I

By:
Alan E. Haun, Ph.D.
And
Dave Henry, B. S.

Prepared for:
The AES Design Group, Inc.
Pearlridge Center Uptown, Suite 213
98-1005 Moanalua Road
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701-4747

April 2010

Haun & Associates
Archaeological, Cultural, and Historical Resource Management Services
73-1168 Kahuna A’o Road, Kailua-Kona Hawaii 96740 Phone: 982-7755 Fax: 325-1520

EXHIBIT 16
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

TMK: (3) 7-6-19:034
LAND OF HOLUALOA 1
NORTH KONA DISTRICT
ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I

By:
Alan E. Haun, Ph.D.
And
Dave Henry, B. S.

Prepared for:
The AES Design Group, Inc.
Pearlridge Center Uptown, Suite 213
98-1005 Moanalua Road
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701-4747

April 2010

Haun & Associates
Archaeological, Cultural, and Historical Resource Management Services
73-1168 Kahuna A’o Road, Kailua-Kona Hawai‘i 96740 Phone: 982-7755 Fax: 325-1520
Introduction

At the request of Mr. Alan Hirota of The AES Design Group, Inc. Haun & Associates has completed an archaeological assessment of TMK: (3) 7-16-19:034, a 1.63-acre parcel located in the Land of Holualoa, North Kona District, Island of Hawai‘i (Figure 1). The objective of the project was to satisfy historic preservation regulatory review requirements of the Department of Land and Natural Resources-Historic Preservation Division (DLNR-SHPD), as contained within Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 13, DLNR, Subtitle 13, State Historic Preservation Rules (2003).

No archaeological sites or features were identified during the survey, therefore the project is documented as an archaeological assessment pursuant to Chapter 13-284-5(5A). As required, this report contains a description of the project area and field methods.

Project Area Description

The project area is a 1.63-acre (70,968 sq ft) roughly rectangular-shaped parcel situated in the Land of Holualoa at elevations ranging from c. 85-105 ft. The parcel is bordered along the northwest side by Pakalana Road and by the yards of existing houses along the northeast, southwest and southeast sides (Figure 2). Lehua Road extends along the boundary of the parcel at the eastern end.

The soil in the vicinity of the project area is comprised of Punaluu Extremely Rocky Peat on 6-20% slopes. This soil is characterized by a 4″ thick layer of peat over pahoehoe bedrock, Sato et al. (1973:48) state that this soil has a rapid permeability, a slow runoff potential and a slight erosional hazard and is classified as suitable for pasture. The underlying lava in this area originated from Hualalai Volcano and was deposited more than 10,000 years ago (Wolfe and Morris 2001:12).

The project area was extensively disturbed prior to the present project (Figure 3). This disturbance is indicated by pushpiles of soil and stone, areas of boulder fill, numerous bulldozer scrape marks present on the ground surface, modern trash and secondary growth vegetation. This vegetation is dominated by koa haole (Leucaena glauca).

There is a large pile of boulder fill that has been deposited along the southwestern side of the parcel. This area is 0.4-acre in size or nearly 25% of the project area (Figure 4). The area to the west of this boulder pile is comprised of landscaped yards of existing homes that encroach into the project area (Figure 5). An alignment of mechanically-placed boulders is located along portions of the project boundary in this area.

A smaller pushpile of soil, boulders and modern trash is located adjacent to the large pushpile to the northwest. A second concentration of modern trash is located in the northeastern corner of the parcel. The map provided to Haun & Associates (see Figure 3) depicts a boulder pile in the southeastern portion of the project area. This pile of stones was not present during the survey and has been removed.

There is a dirt parking area situated along the north side of Lehua Road, in the southeastern corner of the project area. This parking is bordered along its northern side by an alignment of boulders that prevents vehicles from entering the parcel (Figure 6). There also is a boulder alignment situated along the southern side of Pakalana Road that serves the same purpose.

The remaining portions of the project have been bulldozed and contain shallow soil deposits over exposed bedrock. The northeastern portion of the project area is comprised of a hillside that slopes to the southwest. The central and northern portions are level shallow soil and bedrock outcrops. Bulldozer scars were noted on the sloping hillside and in the central and northern level areas. An example of these scars is depicted in Figure 7.
Figure 2. Tax Map Key 7-6-19 showing Project Area
Figure 3. Project Area Map showing Disturbance
Figure 4. Area of Boulder Fill, view to north-northwest

Figure 5. Landscaped Yard Encroaching into Project Area, view to southeast
Figure 6. Dirt Parking Area with Boulder Alignment, view to northwest

Figure 7. Bulldozer Scars, view to north
Methods

The survey fieldwork was conducted by Dr. Alan Haun on April 22, 2010. Approximately one labor day was required to complete the fieldwork portion of the project. The archaeological investigation of the parcel consisted of a 100% surface examination with the surveyors spaced at 10-meter intervals. Ground surface throughout the project area was excellent. No surface sites were noted. No subsurface testing was undertaken during the project because little to no soil is present and because the entire lot has been previously grubbed, graded, and partially filled. No cultural remains were recovered for analysis.

Background

Historic Documentary Research

The project area is located within the ahupua‘a of Holualoa 1 in the district of North Kona. Holualoa is literally translated as “long sled course” (Pukui et al. 1976:48). Kamakau’s (1961:56) account of a spy sent by a Maui chief to the Kailua area refers to a coconut grove at Holualoa. Following the death of Captain Cook, the ruling chief of Hawaii Island, Ka-lani‘opu’u, reportedly lived at Keauhou and surfed at Holualoa Bay (Kamakau 1961:105). Kamakau cites a prophecy made for Kamehameha that references Holualoa:

Ka-pihe the seer prophesied in the presence of Kamehameha and said, “There shall be a long malo reaching from Kuamo‘o to Holualoa. The islands shall come together, the tabus shall fall. The high shall be brought low, and the low shall rise to heave.” The prophecy was fulfilled when the battle was fought at Kuamo‘o for the downfall of the ancient tabus. Holualoa was the long malo uniting the kingdom from Kahiki to Hawaii. (1961: 223).

Early events documented in the Kona regional traditional history are associated with ‘Umi-a-Liloa. Hawai‘i was first unified under the rule of ‘Umi-a-Liloa’s father and Kona was selected as a dwelling place of chiefs (Kamakau 1961). The area lies within the realm of the traditional Hawaiian political authority that was centered in the Kailua-Keauhou area from at least the 15th century to the reign of Kamehameha I.

I‘i describes Holualoa as the residence of chiefs:

Kalaniopuu then returned to Kau, but he left Kamehameha with his mother, Ke-kualapoiwa II, and his guardians, Keaka and Luluka, at Puu in Holualoa, a place inhabited in Alapai’s time and before. It was in the Holualoa lands of Kona that the chiefs dwelt in olden times, from the time of Kamehameha, the great chieftess of Hawaii, and earlier. Where the large stone wall is located above Keolohihi was Keakealaniwahine’s dwelling place, for her parents, Keakamahana and Iwikauikaua, resided there. These lands were occupied by the chiefs because the surfing there was good, and the food abundant in ancient times. There Kamehameha learned to surf and to glide with a canoe over the waves, guarded by the kaikumane of Keaka, in accordance with her commands. Because he was well trained, Kamehameha excelled in these arts and in sailing canoes. (1959: 6)

The abundance of agricultural crops on the slopes of Hualalai is well attested to in traditional and early historical accounts. The project area lies within the kula zone of the Kona Field System, SIHP Site 6601 (Newman 1970, Kelly 1983, Schilt 1984, Cordy 1995). This site extends north to Kau Ahupua‘a, south to Honoaulau, and from the coastline to the forested slopes of Hualalai. The area was intensively cultivated and served as the resource base for the large number of chiefs and retainers that occupied the Kailua-Keauhou coast. The characteristics and general locations of the elevation zones of the system described...
by Newman (1970) have been confirmed and elaborated on by subsequent ethnohistorical investigations (Kelly 1983). The system is subdivided into four elevation zones consisting of the *kula*, *kalu‘ulu*, *‘apa’a* and *‘ama‘u*.

The *kula* zone extends from sea level to 500 ft elevation. Cordy (1995) has suggested that the upper limit of this zone may be higher between 600-700 ft elevation. This lower elevation zone traditionally was used for habitation and cultivation of sweet potatoes, paper mulberry (*wauke*), and gourds. Agricultural features, including clearing mounds, planting mounds, planting depressions, modified outcrops, and planting terraces, are common in this zone (Hammatt and Clark 1980; Hammatt and Folk 1980; Schilt 1984). Habitations are scattered throughout the *kula*, but they are concentrated along the shoreline portion of the zone (Cordy 1995). The shoreline portion, extending approximately 200 m inland, was the focus of permanent habitation and activities such as burial, canoe storage, ritual, and marine exploitation. Royal centers and chiefly residences were also situated near the shoreline. These complexes included residences for high status individuals and their supporters and attendants, *heiau*, places of refuge, *holua* slides, and other structures.

The first western account referencing Holualoa comes from the missionary William Ellis in 1823:

At two P.M. we reached Horuaroa [Holualoa], a large and populous district. Here we found Keoua, the governor's wife, and her attendants, who had come from Kairua for wauti [wauke], with which to make cloth. Shortly after, we reached a village called Karuakalani [Kalua-o-kalani], (the second heaven,) where was a fine heiau, in good preservation It is called Pakiha; its dimensions were two hundred and seventy feet by two hundred and ten. We could not learn the idol to which it was dedicated, but were informed it was built in the time of Keakealani, who, according to tradition, was queen of Hawaii about eleven generations back. The walls were solid, thick, and nearly entire; and the singular manner in which the stones were piled upon the top, like so many small spires, gave it an unusually interesting appearance. Before we left Karuakalani the inhabitants pointed out to us a spot called Maukareoreo, the place of a celebrated giant of that name, who was one of the attendants of Umi, king of Hawaii, about twelve generations since…They also told us he was a great warrior, and that, to his prowess principally, Umi was indebted for many of his victories. (Ellis 1963: 117-188)

The Waihona ’Aina (2000) Mahele Database; which is a compilation of data from the Indices of Awards (Indices 1929), Native Register (NR n.d.), Native Testimony (NT n.d.), Foreign Register (FR n.d.) and Foreign Testimony (FT n.d.); lists 22 awarded claims for parcels within Holualoa 1. There are no LCAs within the project area.

The gradual shift from subsistence farming to a market economy began with the introduction of coffee, corn, pumpkins, cotton, pineapple, and Irish potatoes in the 1820s to 1840s. The introduction of cattle ranching and commercial coffee production in the mid-1800s caused further change to the traditional agricultural system. Commercial sugar cane cultivation was attempted in the early 1900s, but abandoned by the mid-1920s (Kelly 1983). Cattle ranching and coffee cultivation continued during the 1900s. Informants interviewed in conjunction with Collins and Hammatt’s (1993) survey of a parcel in Holualoa 4 at approximately 1000 ft elevation indicate extensive farming of coffee during the 1900s in the better watered inland portion of the *ahuhipua‘a*. Oral historical interviews by Fager and Graves (1993) indicate that the area immediately inland of the Kuakini Highway in Holualoa 3 was used for cattle ranching. Soehren (1980a) indicates that the area between the current project area and Ali‘i Drive was used for pasture at the time of his survey.
Previous Archaeological Work

There have been numerous archaeological studies conducted in the general vicinity of the project area. A search of DLNR-SHPD archaeological report database and other sources identified 57 reports for Holualoa 1-4. Many of these are short letter reports of field inspections and reconnaissance surveys. Figure 8 shows the locations of the larger projects.

Stokes recorded eight heiau in Holualoa in 1906 (Stokes 1991). Pueomanu Ko’a, Halehau Heiau, and Puhilooolo Heiau are reported for Holualoa 1. Pana’ewa Heiau and Hikapaia Heiau are reported for Holualoa 2 and 3, respectively. Stokes identified four heiau in Holualoa 4 at Kamoa Point, Keolonahihi, Hale’a’ama, Haleokekupa, and Pakiha, or Ha’ulelani Pu’uhonua.

Reinecke (n.d.) surveyed the coastal portion of Holualoa in 1929-30. He described the site complex at Kamoa Point (SIHP 2059). Subsequent studies of the site by Sinoto (1977), Yent (1983), and McEldowny (1986) have documented this extensive site, which includes residential complexes and heiau. The area was used by at least five generations of high-ranking chiefs including Kamehameha I.

Survey data from six of the larger, or more detailed, surveys in Holualoa covered approximately 377 acres between Ali’i Drive at elevations ranging from 20 ft to 1,120 ft elevation. These consist of projects by Hammatt, Folk and Chiogioji. (1990), Haun et al. (1998), Haun and Henry (2000), Connolly and Gunness (1979), Fager and Graves (1993), Hammatt, Folk and Shideler (1992) and Collins and Hammatt (1993). The results of these studies are summarized in Table 1.

The resulting data indicate the consistent presence of agricultural features. Researchers have noted a greater frequency of mounds and modified outcrops in the kula zone of the Kona Field System. Habitations, both permanent and temporary, burials, and small heiau and shrines are scattered throughout the area. Density data were generated to better characterize site distribution.

Overall feature density is high in the three study areas lower than 300 ft elevation, ranging from 2.43 to 19.00 features per acre, and in the study area above 960 ft elevation (52.56 features per acre). The

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Sites per acre</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Features per acre</th>
<th>Ag Features</th>
<th>Ag Features per acre</th>
<th>Hab Features</th>
<th>Hab Features per acre</th>
<th>Burials</th>
<th>Burials per acre</th>
<th>Ceremonial Features</th>
<th>Ceremonial Features per acre</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hammatt, Folk and Chiogioji</td>
<td>20-225</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>13.57</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>8.53</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>1.14</td>
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<td>Haun et al. (1998)</td>
<td>30-80</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>8.41</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.29</td>
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<td>0.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haun and Henry (2000)</td>
<td>35-85</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connolly and Gunness (1979)</td>
<td>125-300</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>2.44</td>
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<td>1.54</td>
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<td>Fager and Graves (1979)</td>
<td>311-462</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Hammatt, Folk and Shideler</td>
<td>350-700</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>0.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collins, Folk, and Hammatt</td>
<td>960-1120</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<td>52.56</td>
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<td>558</td>
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<td>1105</td>
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<td>693</td>
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</table>

The resulting data indicate the consistent presence of agricultural features. Researchers have noted a greater frequency of mounds and modified outcrops in the kula zone of the Kona Field System. Habitations, both permanent and temporary, burials, and small heiau and shrines are scattered throughout the area. Density data were generated to better characterize site distribution.
Figure 8. Previous Archaeological Work in Holualoa 1-4

1 = Barrera 1992, Collins and Hammatt 1993
2 = Hammatt 1984
     Hammatt, Folk and Shideler 1992
3 = Soehren 1980
4 = Fager and Graves 1993, MLK Rosendahl 1988
5 = Rosendahl 1989
6 = Soehren 1982
7 = Hammatt 1979
8 = Connolly and Gunn 1979a and b
9 = Goldstein 1977
10 = Hammatt, Borthwick and Chioi 1990
11 = Haun and Henry 2000
12 = Rosendahl 1978, Barrera 1981,
     Wolforst, et al. 1999
13 = Hammatt 1994
14 = Rosendahl 1980 and 1981
15 = Soehren 1979a
16 = Soehren 1979b
17 = Rosendahl 1979
18 = Sinoto 1979
19 = Haun et al. 1998
pattern is largely the result of agricultural feature density because these features represent nearly 66% of all features identified. Agricultural feature density increases with elevation. Habitation feature density is not given for temporary and permanent habitations because these features were not consistently segregated in all studies. Habitation feature density shows a pattern of decreasing density as elevation and distance from the coast increase. Burial density also decreases as elevation and distance from the coast increase. The sample of shrines and small *heiau* is too small to provide meaningful distributional data other than demonstrating that these features are present in very low numbers at low elevations.

**Findings**

No archaeological sites or features were identified during the examination of the project area. The absence of sites is attributable to the extensive ground surface disturbance that has occurred within the project area. No further archaeological work is recommended based on the results of the assessment fieldwork.

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Stokes J.

Waihona `Aina Corporation

Wolfe, E., and J. Morris

Wolfforth, T., J. Henry and R. Rechtman

Yent, M.
April 27, 2010

Ms. Nancy McMahon
Archaeology and Historic Preservation Manager
State Historic Preservation Division
Department of Land and Natural Resources
501 Kamokila Boulevard, Suite 585
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Subject: Archaeological Assessment
DMK - (3) 7-5-19:0:04
Lael of Hauula 1, North Kona District
Island of Hawaii

Dear Ms. McMahon:

Enclosed is the subject report for your review. Also enclosed is a submittal sheet and check for $20.00.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at (808) 982-5755.

Sincerely,

Haun & Associates

Principal Investigator

cc: Theresa Donahue, SHPD Hawaii (Hono) Lead Archaeologist

Mr. Alain Herrman, The AFS Design Group, Inc.
**Submittal Sheet for Historic Preservation Review Filing Fees**

**Agency/Firm (Requesting Review):** Haun & Associates  
**Date:** 6/27/10

- **Contact:** Alan Haun  
  - **Phone:** (808) 982-7755  
  - **Fax:** (808) 325-1520  
  - **E-Mail:** dhaun@haunandassociates.com  
- **Address:** 73-1168 Kahuna A/o Rd., Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**Title of Report/Plan:** TMK (2): 7-6-19:034  
**Project Location:** Holualoa 1, Alupu‘a, North Kona District  
**District:** Island of Hawaii

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Island</th>
<th>Hawaii District</th>
<th>North Kona District</th>
<th>Holualoa 1</th>
<th>TMK (2): 7-6-19:034</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>North Kona</td>
<td>Holualoa 1</td>
<td>TMK (2): 7-6-19:034</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average acres inventoried:** 0.66

**Number of new sites inventoried:** 0

**Please characterize survey level:** Intensive

**Submitted Plan/Report Fee & Type:** (All reports or plans submitted to the SHPD for review shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee in accordance with HAR §13-275-4 and §284-4).

- [ ] $30 Archaeological Assessment
- [ ] $150 Archaeological Inventory Survey Plan
- [ ] $450 Archaeological, Architectural or Ethnographic Survey Report
- [ ] $130 Preservation Plan
- [ ] $25 Monitoring Plan
- [ ] $150 Archaeological Data Recovery Plan
- [ ] $250 Burial Treatment Plan
- [ ] $100 Archaeological Monitoring Report, if resources reported
- [ ] $550 Archaeological Data Recovery Report
- [ ] $450 Ethnographic Documentation Report
- [ ] $25 Burial Disinterment Report
- [ ] $30 Osteological Analysis Report

**For Total:** $50,000  
(Make check payable to "Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund")

**Date Received:**  
**Payment Method:**  
- [ ] Cash  
- [ ] Check: [ ] Check No.:  
**Receipt Issued:** [ ]

---

**EXHIBIT 17.2**  
**AGENCY LETTERS**  
**ALI’I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT**  
**JUNE 2010**
April 30, 2010

County of Hawaii
Department of Planning
161 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Attention: Ms. Bobby Jean Leithsett-Todd
Director

Project: Ali'i Kai Subdivision
New Park Development
Hokuala, North Kona, Hawaii
Tax Map Key No. (3) 7-6-19-634

Subject: Requirements for Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Leithsett-Todd,

I am an architect with the AES Design Group, Inc. We are consultants to the County of Hawaii, Department of Parks and Recreation and are working on the design of a new park on an existing County of Hawaii-owned parcel in the Ali'i Kai Subdivision in Kona. As part of the design process, we are preparing an environmental assessment.

We are currently working on the draft environmental assessment and request your comments and requirements that we must consider as part of the preparation of the EA.

If you have any comments, please feel free to contact me at (808) 487-3200, or by email at a_hinota@aesdesign.com.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan K. Hinota, AIA
Vice President

Copy: Mr. Aubrey Summers, Mr. James Konane, Department of Parks and Recreation

EXHIBIT 17.3
AGENCY LETTERS

ALI'I KAI SUBDIVISION NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2010