

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

April 10, 2017

Mr. Scott Glenn, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
State Department of Health  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 702  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RECEIVED  
17 APR 11 AM 02:28  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL

Dear Mr. Glenn:

Under the provisions of Act 172 (12), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has determined that an environmental impact statement is required in conjunction with the Master Plan for Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park, South Kona, Island of Hawai'i [TMK: (3) 8-1-007:050; 8-1-010:001; 8-1-011:001, 003 to 014, 016; 8-2-004:001, 002, 008 to 010, 01]. A completed Bulletin Publication Form and a summary of the proposed action are enclosed with a copy of the same sent via electronic mail to [oeqc@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:oeqc@doh.hawaii.gov).

Pursuant to the requirements of Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Sections 11-200-3 and 11-200-15, we request that you publish notice of this statutory determination in the next available periodic bulletin (Environmental Notice) for the public to submit comments to DLNR, Division of State Parks during a thirty-day public comment period.

If there are any questions, please contact Martha Yent of State Parks at 587-0287 ([martha.e.yent@hawaii.gov](mailto:martha.e.yent@hawaii.gov)) or John Kirkpatrick of Belt Collins Hawai'i at 521-5361 ([jkirkpatrick@bchdesign.com](mailto:jkirkpatrick@bchdesign.com)).

Sincerely,

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

cc: Governor of the State of Hawai'i (Accepting Authority)

Enclosures: (1) Completed OEQC Publication Form  
(2) Summary of the Proposed Action in electronic format

EISPN

17-434

## AGENCY PUBLICATION FORM

Project Name:	Kealakekua Bay Stte Historical Park Master Plan Improvements
Project Short Name:	Kealakekua Bay Master Plan EISPN
HRS §343-5 Trigger(s):	State land, state funds, Conservation land, shoreline, construction of a helicopter landing zone
Island(s):	Hawaii
Judicial District(s):	South Kona
TMK(s):	3-8-001-007:050; 3-8-001-011:001, 003 to 014, 016; 3-8-2-004:001, 002, 008 to 010, 015
Permit(s)/Approval(s):	SMA, CDUP, US Army Corps of Engineers and US Coast Guard approvals of work in wetland and on coastal structures, shoreline certification, HRS 6-E reviews
Proposing/Determining Agency:	Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i
Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address	Martha Yent, <a href="mailto:martha.e.yent@hawaii.gov">martha.e.yent@hawaii.gov</a> , (808) 587-0287, Division of State Parks, DLNR, P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809
Accepting Authority:	Governor, State of Hawaii
Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address	The Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, <a href="http://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/">http://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/</a> , (808) 586-0034, Executive Chambers, State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Consultant:	Belt Collins Hawaii LLC
Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address	John Kirkpatrick, <a href="mailto:jkirkpatrick@bchdesign.com">jkirkpatrick@bchdesign.com</a> , 521-5361, Belt Collins Hawaii LLC, 2153 N. King St., Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96819

**Status (select one)** DEA-AFNSI**Submittal Requirements**

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the DEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the DEA; a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 FEA-FONSI

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the FEA; no comment period follows from publication in the Notice.

 FEA-EISPN

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination/transmittal letter on agency letterhead, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEA, and 4) a searchable PDF of the FEA; a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 Act 172-12 EISPN  
("Direct to EIS")

Submit 1) the proposing agency notice of determination letter on agency letterhead and 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file; no EA is required and a 30-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 DEIS

Submit 1) a transmittal letter to the OEQC and to the accepting authority, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the DEIS, 4) a searchable PDF of the DEIS, and 5) a searchable PDF of the distribution list; a 45-day comment period follows from the date of publication in the Notice.

 FEIS

Submit 1) a transmittal letter to the OEQC and to the accepting authority, 2) this completed OEQC publication form as a Word file, 3) a hard copy of the FEIS, 4) a searchable PDF of the FEIS, and 5) a searchable PDF of the distribution list; no comment period follows from publication in the Notice.

 FEIS Acceptance  
Determination

The accepting authority simultaneously transmits to both the OEQC and the proposing agency a letter of its determination of acceptance or nonacceptance (pursuant to Section 11-200-23, HAR) of the FEIS; no comment period ensues upon publication in the Notice.

 FEIS Statutory  
Acceptance

Timely statutory acceptance of the FEIS under Section 343-5(c), HRS, is not applicable to agency actions.

 Supplemental EIS  
Determination

The accepting authority simultaneously transmits its notice to both the proposing agency and the OEQC that it has reviewed (pursuant to Section 11-200-27, HAR) the previously accepted FEIS and determines that a supplemental EIS is or is not required; no EA is required and no comment period ensues upon publication in the Notice.

- Withdrawal            Identify the specific document(s) to withdraw and explain in the project summary section.
- Other                    Contact the OEQC if your action is not one of the above items.

**Project Summary**

Provide a description of the proposed action and purpose and need in 200 words or less.

Kealahou Bay State Historical Park is largely undeveloped. The Division of State Parks' goal is to preserve and interpret the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Park while enhancing access and recreation for park users. Access to the park is limited, and does not reflect a coherent interpretive strategy. Instead, visitors' experience of the park is shaped by their means of access – on foot to Ka'awaloa, by kayak across the Bay, by motorized vessel from other harbors to Ka'awaloa Cove, or by automobile to Nāpō'opo'o.

The Master Plan combines steps to protect resources while improving visitors' experience of the Park. Staffing by DLNR and concessionaires, with support from community volunteers, is needed to manage visitation and share the stories of Kealahou Bay.

The Master Plan calls for steps that can be implemented with modest funding and without relying on additional land acquisition. The Master Plan includes basic visitor facilities – parking and restrooms. It includes an interpretive center and trails that can help visitors learn about history and cultural resources. It limits access to Ka'awaloa and to the spinner dolphin rest area, sites where visitors could affect both resources and the overall ambiance of the Park. It addresses safety issues for swimmers in Ka'awaloa Cove. The proposed parking arrangements and use of Nāpō'opo'o Landing are intended to reduce impacts of visitation on the community while encouraging safe use of watercraft by local residents and visitors alike.

**KEALAKEKUA BAY STATE HISTORICAL PARK MASTER PLAN  
SOUTH KONA, HAWAI'I COUNTY, HAWAI'I**

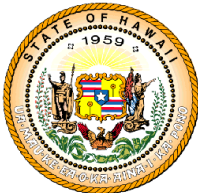
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PREPARATION NOTICE**

**TMK (3) 8-1-007:050; 8-1-010:001; 8-1-011:001, 003 to 014, 016;  
8-2-004:001, 002, 008 to 010, 015**



Prepared for:  
**Division of State Parks  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i**

Prepared by:  
Belt Collins Hawaii LLC



April 2017



# KEALAKEKUA BAY STATE HISTORICAL PARK MASTER PLAN

SOUTH KONA, HAWAII COUNTY, HAWAII

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARATION NOTICE

TMK (3) 8-1-007:050; 8-1-010:001; 8-1-011:001, 003 to 014, 016;  
8-2-004:001, 002, 008 to 010, 015

This environmental document is prepared pursuant to Chapter 200 of Title 11, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Department of Health, *Environmental Impact Statement Rules*.

Prepared for:

Division of State Parks  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii

Prepared by:

Belt Collins Hawaii LLC



April 2017



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDP	Community Development Plan
CIA	Cultural Impact Assessment
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
DBEDT	Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
DHHL	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
DLNR	Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOBOR	Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
DOCARE	Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement
DOH	Department of Health
DOT	Department of Transportation, State of Hawai'i
DSP	Division of State Parks, DLNR
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISPN	Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HAR	Hawai'i Administrative Rules
HRS	Hawai'i Revised Statutes
KBSHP	Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park
MLCD	Marine Life Conservation District
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Services
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OCCL	Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
OEQC	Office of Environmental Quality Control
OHA	Office of Hawaiian Affairs
SHPD	State Historic Preservation Division
SMA	Special Management Area
The Park	Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park
TMK	Tax Map Key
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# 1 Summary and Project Purpose

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The mission of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is to “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.” (<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/>). Hawaii’s state park system includes over 50 state parks and recreation areas encompassing approximately 30,000 acres on the five major islands. These parks offer varied outdoor recreation and opportunities to experience Hawaii’s natural, cultural, and scenic resources.

Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park (KBSHP or “the Park”) contains sites of historical significance and a wealth of marine resources, including a pod of nai’a, spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*). The Bay is also a popular site for ocean recreation, especially snorkeling and boating. Reachable by land and by sea, KBSHP is enjoyed year round by Hawaii residents and out-of-state visitors. As steward of the park, DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) seeks to preserve and share this *wahi pana* (celebrated place) and to support recreational use in a manner that does not impact the historical and cultural values. The park is situated within the residential community of Nāpō’opo’o Village, which has a long history of occupation dating back to the pre-contact period. Park planning must also address the impacts of park use and proposed development on this community.

## 1.1 PROJECT PROFILE

<b>Project Name</b>	Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park Master Plan
<b>Location</b>	Kealakekua, Ka’awaloa, and Keōpuka, Island of Hawaii’i
<b>Judicial District</b>	South Kona, Hawaii’i County
<b>Landowner</b>	State of Hawaii’i
<b>Proposing Agency</b>	Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
<b>Tax Map Key (TMK)</b>	TMK: (3) 8-1-007:050; 8-1-010:001; 8-1-011:001, 003 to 014, 016; 8-2-004:001, 002, 008 to 010, 015
<b>Land Area</b>	Approximately 222 acres of fast land and Kealakekua Bay, a marine area of approximately 315 acres, for a total of approximately 537 acres
<b>Existing Use</b>	State Park lands and waters open to the public for visitation and recreation (except for areas closed for safety reasons)
<b>Proposed Use</b>	State Parks’ goal is to preserve and interpret the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Park while enhancing access and recreation for park users. New facilities will include restrooms, an interpretive center, a parking lot, and interpretive trails.
<b>Land Use Designations</b>	State Land Use: Conservation (approximately 218 acres of land) and Urban (approximately 4 acres of land)  County Zoning District: Open (approximately 218 acres) and Single-Family Residential (approximately 4 acres)

## 1.2 LAND OWNERSHIP AND LOCATION

The lands and waters of the Park are owned by the State of Hawai'i and under the management of DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP). The Park is in the district of South Kona (Figure 1). It is largely located in the ahupua'a of Ka'awaloa and Kealakekua with a small portion in the Keōpuka ahupua'a (Figure 2). The park is within the Kealakekua Bay Historical District (Site No. 50-10-47-7000) that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

A steep cliff, Pali Kapu o Keōua, extends between the two other land sections of the park. The Nāpō'opo'o Section encompasses approximately 70 acres on the southern end. The Ka'awaloa Section consists of over 100 acres on the northern end. Within the Ka'awaloa Section are two parcels not owned by the State—the Nāpō'opo'o Light and the Captain Cook Monument (Figure 3). Besides being part of the park, Kealakekua Bay is a Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD).

The Tax Map Keys (TMKs) of the Park lands are shown in Figure 4.

## 1.3 PROPOSING AGENCY

### **Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i**

Ms. Suzanne Case, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Phone: (808) 587-0400

### **Contact Person**

Ms. Martha Yent  
Division of State Parks  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 310  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Phone: (808) 587-0287  
Facsimile: (808) 587-0311

### *Mail*

Division of State Parks  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809

## 1.4 CONSULTANT

### Contact Person

John Kirkpatrick  
Belt Collins Hawaii LLC  
2153 North King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819  
Telephone: (808) 521-5361  
Facsimile: (808) 538-7819  
E-mail: jkirkpatrick@bchdesign.com

## 1.5 ACCEPTING AUTHORITY

### Accepting Authority

The accepting authority is the Office of the Governor.

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawai'i  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-0034  
Facsimile: (808) 586-0006

E-mail: via website: <http://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/>

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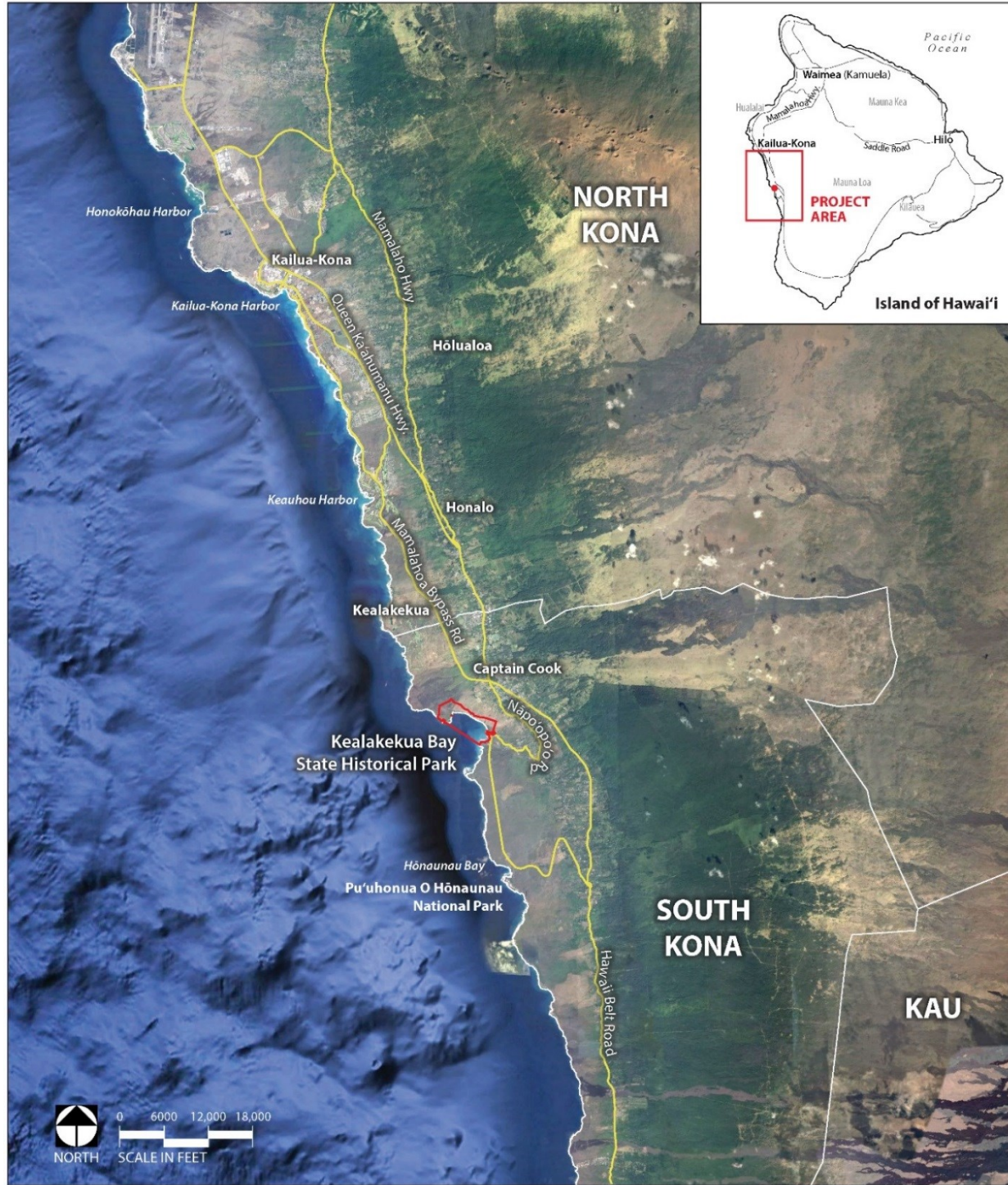


Figure 1: Location Map



**Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park**  
 EIS Preparation Notice for the Master Plan

South Kona, Hawai'i

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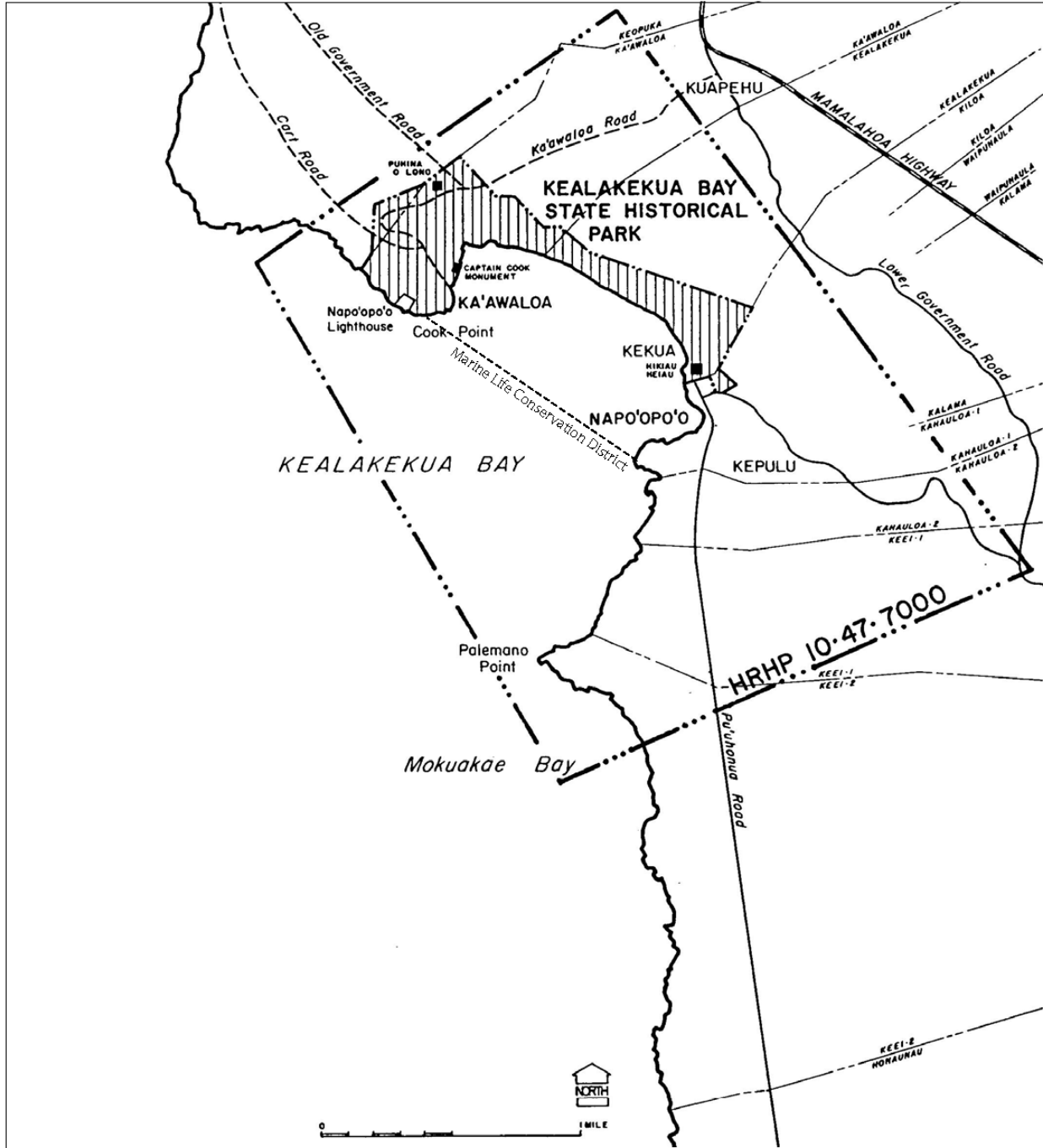


Figure 2: Kealakekua Bay State Historical District

Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park

EIS Preparation Notice for the Master Plan

South Kona, Hawaii

Source: DLNR, Division of State Parks. Interim Interpretive Plan. June 2000 Draft.





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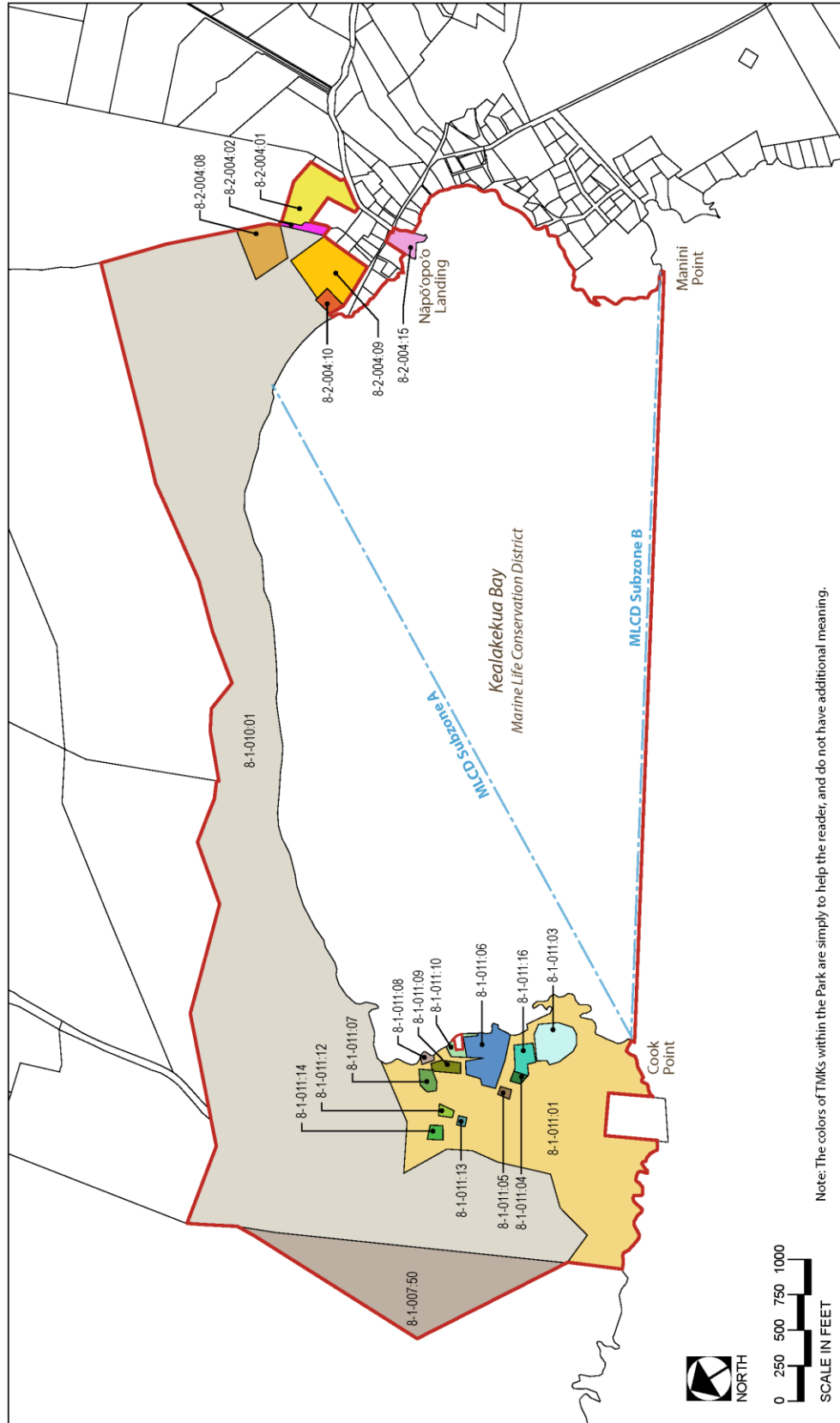
**Figure 3: Kealahou Bay State Historical Park (KBSHP)**

**LEGEND**

- Kealahou Bay State Historical Park
- Unimproved roads and trails

**Kealahou Bay State Historical Park**  
 EIS Preparation Notice for the Master Plan  
 south Kona, Hawaii

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Note: The colors of TMKs within the Park are simply to help the reader, and do not have additional meaning.

Figure 4: Kealakekua Bay State Historical State Park TMKs

Kealakekua Bay State Historical State Park

EIS Preparation Notice for the Master Plan

South Kona, Hawaii



## 1.6 BACKGROUND

Kealakekua Bay is recognized as an important chiefly center in pre-contact times, the site of early contact between Hawaiians and Western explorers and missionaries, and a major shipping port and ranching area in the post-contact period. To understand the historical, cultural, and archaeological significance of the park area, DSP has conducted archaeological surveys, oral history projects, and historical research.

Establishment of Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park began with the recognition of Hikiau Heiau as a State Monument in 1968. The Park was expanded to its current area (approximately 537 acres) through land acquisition in the 1970s and 1980s, the transfer of the 3-acre park at Nāpō'opo'o from the County of Hawai'i to the State in 1992 (TMK: 8-2-004:009), and inclusion of Nāpō'opo'o Landing and the waters of the Bay in 2012.

DSP has collaborated on park planning with area residents, other divisions of DLNR, and the County of Hawai'i since 1985.<sup>1</sup> A conceptual plan prepared in 1997 required additional land acquisition for the park which did not occur. As a result, a draft master plan was developed in 2010 to address only the State-owned park lands. During public meetings, it became clear that the Master Plan had to deal with both the land and marine areas of Kealakekua Bay. With the Bay and Nāpō'opo'o Landing now included in the Park, a revised Master Plan has been developed. Research for this revised plan has included a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA), marine and terrestrial surveys, and an update of the traffic study with ongoing community outreach. Three proposed alternatives for sustainable Park operations, management, and facilities development were presented at a community meeting in January 2016. To address the community concerns and comments received at the meeting, a survey was conducted to learn more about community views of the proposed development and management actions at various locations within the Park. Results of the survey have been posted on the State Parks website. At a "talk-story" meeting held at the Nāpō'opo'o park pavilion on August 27, 2016, treatment of various Park areas, and key components in a sustainable long-term master plan were discussed.

## 1.7 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park is largely undeveloped. Park facilities are limited to a parking area and pavilion with restrooms and outdoor shower at Napo'opo'o. Access to land areas within the park is limited by vegetation and distance. The visitors' experience of the park is shaped by their means of access: using hiking trails to Ka'awaloa, boating within the bay, and roads to Nāpō'opo'o. Boating access consists of kayaking, paddling, and swimming across the bay and arrival in motorized vessels from outside harbors.

DSP has identified needed improvements, after planning and community input, to preserve and interpret the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Park while enhancing access and recreation for park users. A combination of DLNR staffing with concession services and support from community volunteers, provides the basis for managing visitation and sharing the stories of Kealakekua Bay.

The Master Plan calls for phased implementation based on identified priorities and available funding. The proposed action and alternatives considered in this EIS are meant to provide realistic

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<sup>1</sup> Earlier plans include a 1985 report by an Advisory Committee convened by DLNR, a 1997 conceptual plan for the Park as a whole and 2000 Phase 1 development plan and environmental assessment for the Nāpō'opo'o section, a draft Kealakekua stewardship area management plan, drawing on the expertise and responsibilities of many divisions of DLNR, archaeological studies and a 2001 study of the impacts of increased public access at Ka'awaloa. Community working groups have shaped the major plans.

levels of development and sustainable strategies for preservation, interpretation, and visitation while improving access and the park user's experience. As many stakeholders have insisted, it is important that the Master Plan result in action, both in the near term and over the next few decades.

The Master Plan includes basic visitor facilities to address sanitation, visitation, and interpretation. This includes parking, restrooms, an interpretive center and trails to share the history and cultural resources of the park. Access to Ka'awaloa remains limited to respect the cultural resources while establishment of a spinner dolphin rest area promotes respect for the marine resources. The Plan also addresses safety issues for swimmers and snorkelers in Ka'awaloa Cove by delineating a "no powerboat zone". The proposed parking at Napo'opo'o and use of Napo'opo'o Landing are intended to reduce impacts of visitation on the community while encouraging safe use of watercraft by local residents and visitors alike.

## **1.8 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OF HAWAI'I ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being undertaken to address the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and Title 11, Department of Health (DOH), Chapter 200, Environmental Impact Rules, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR). Triggers for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or EIS for the Park Master Plan include the use of State lands, the use of State funds, development on Conservation lands, development in a shoreline area, and development within a Historical District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An EIS, rather than an EA, is being prepared because of potential impacts of public visitation on the community and infrastructure, and in recognition of the fact that this Master Plan has been a matter of controversy and litigation over the past decades.

## **1.9 STUDIES TO BE CONDUCTED AND INCLUDED IN THE EIS**

The following studies have been prepared for the Master Plan and will be finalized and included in the Draft EIS.

- Cultural Impact Assessment
- Biological Resource Assessment
- Traffic Impact Analysis

In addition, existing reports and studies—extensive archaeological work, studies of the marine ecosystem, and studies of the *nai'a* spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*)—will be considered in assessing the potential impacts of the Park Master Plan.

## 2 Description Of The Proposed Project And Alternatives

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### 2.1 LOCATION AND ACCESS

The Park is located about 12 miles south of Kailua-Kona. Vehicular access to the park is on Route 11, the Belt Road between Kailua-Kona and Ka'ū, and then Route 160, the Nāpō'opo'o Road. The newly completed Māmalahoa Bypass Road provides an alternate route from Keauhou to the junction of Māmalahoa Highway and the Nāpō'opo'o Road. Near this junction is the historic Ka'awaloa Road that provides hiking access to Ka'awaloa.

The Park can also be reached by vessels launched from both North and South Kona harbor areas (Honokōhau, Keauhou, and Hōnaunau). Three permitted operators launch kayaks from Nāpō'opo'o Landing with landings allowed at Ka'awaloa. Other visitors and residents may swim or kayak into the Bay from Manini Beach and nearby access points south of the Park.

No visitor access is provided to the Pali Kapu o Keōua section, including the cliff and the State land above it.

### 2.2 EXISTING USES

In 2007, park visitation was estimated to be 115,900 visitors a year, of which about 85 percent were from outside Hawai'i.<sup>2</sup> That estimate is based on counts of visitors at both Nāpō'opo'o and Ka'awaloa. DSP conducted one-day visitor counts at Ka'awaloa in 2012 that included visitors arriving by kayak, boat, and hiking. At this time there were approximately 300 daily visitors (about 100,000 annually). However, landings at Ka'awaloa dropped dramatically in 2013 when only permitted ocean recreation vendors were allowed to land at Ka'awaloa. Many different operators of boat and rigid inflatable vessel tours bring their visitors to Ka'awaloa Cove for snorkeling and diving; these are not permitted to land. Hikers come to the Ka'awaloa area daily by hiking the two-mile Ka'awaloa Road and then snorkeling in Ka'awaloa Cove. Visitors to the Nāpō'opo'o Section enjoy Nāpō'opo'o Beach and the views of the bay that includes the Captain Cook Monument. Within the park site is a pavilion that is regularly used by residents for gatherings. Visitor use in both areas of the park increases during holiday periods and the summer months.

### 2.3 PROPOSED ACTION

Improvements and management proposed in the Master Plan are designed to provide access and facilities for park visitation while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources and the surrounding community. Increased responsibilities for management, interpretation, enforcement, and maintenance are proposed. By developing new sanitation facilities and parking areas, and by re-opening the Nāpō'opo'o Landing, DSP hopes to improve safety for persons launching kayaks and similar vessels in the Nāpō'opo'o area and reduce traffic congestion within Nāpō'opo'o Village.

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<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i State Parks Survey prepared by OmniTrak Group Inc. for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, December 2007.

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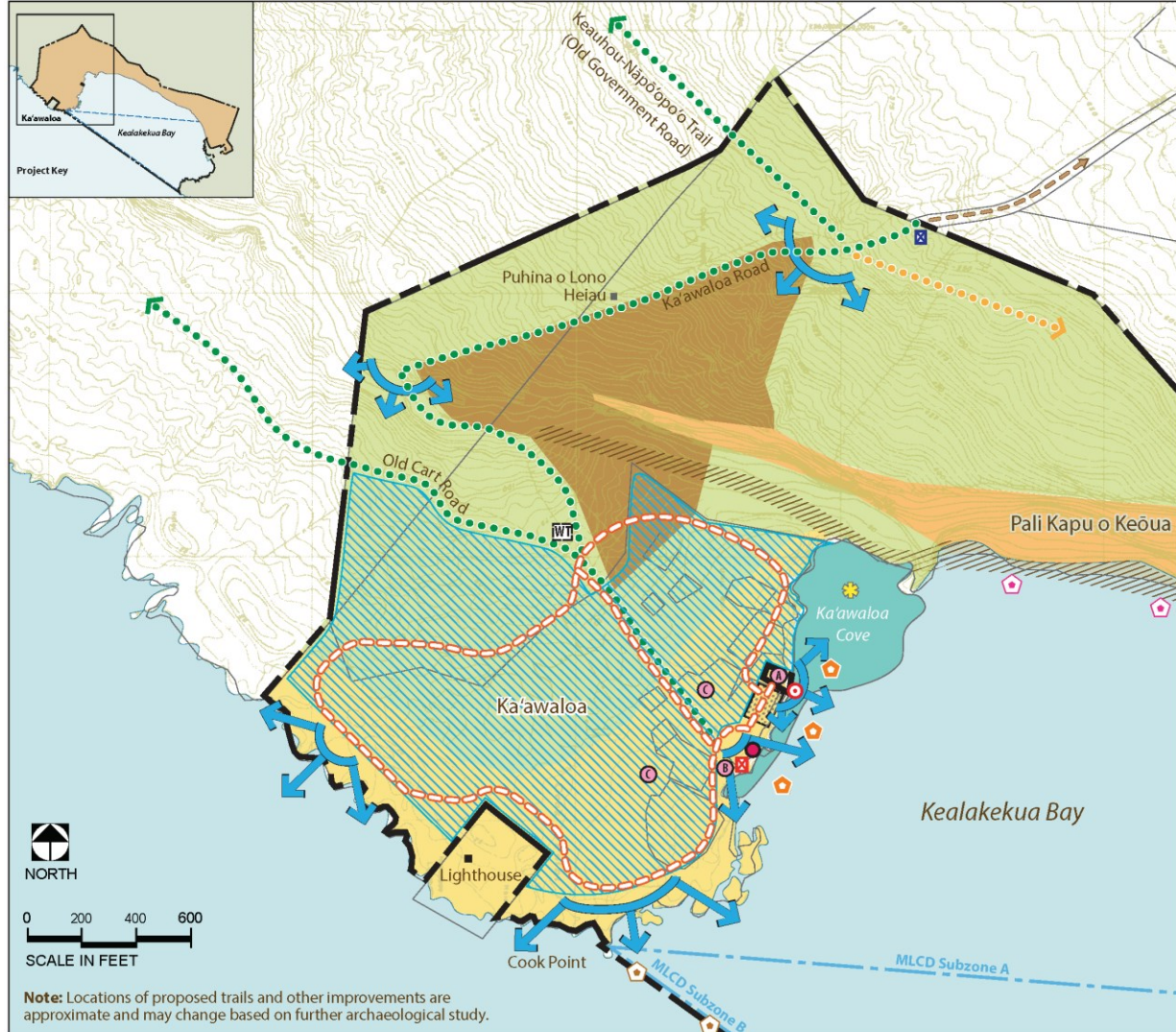


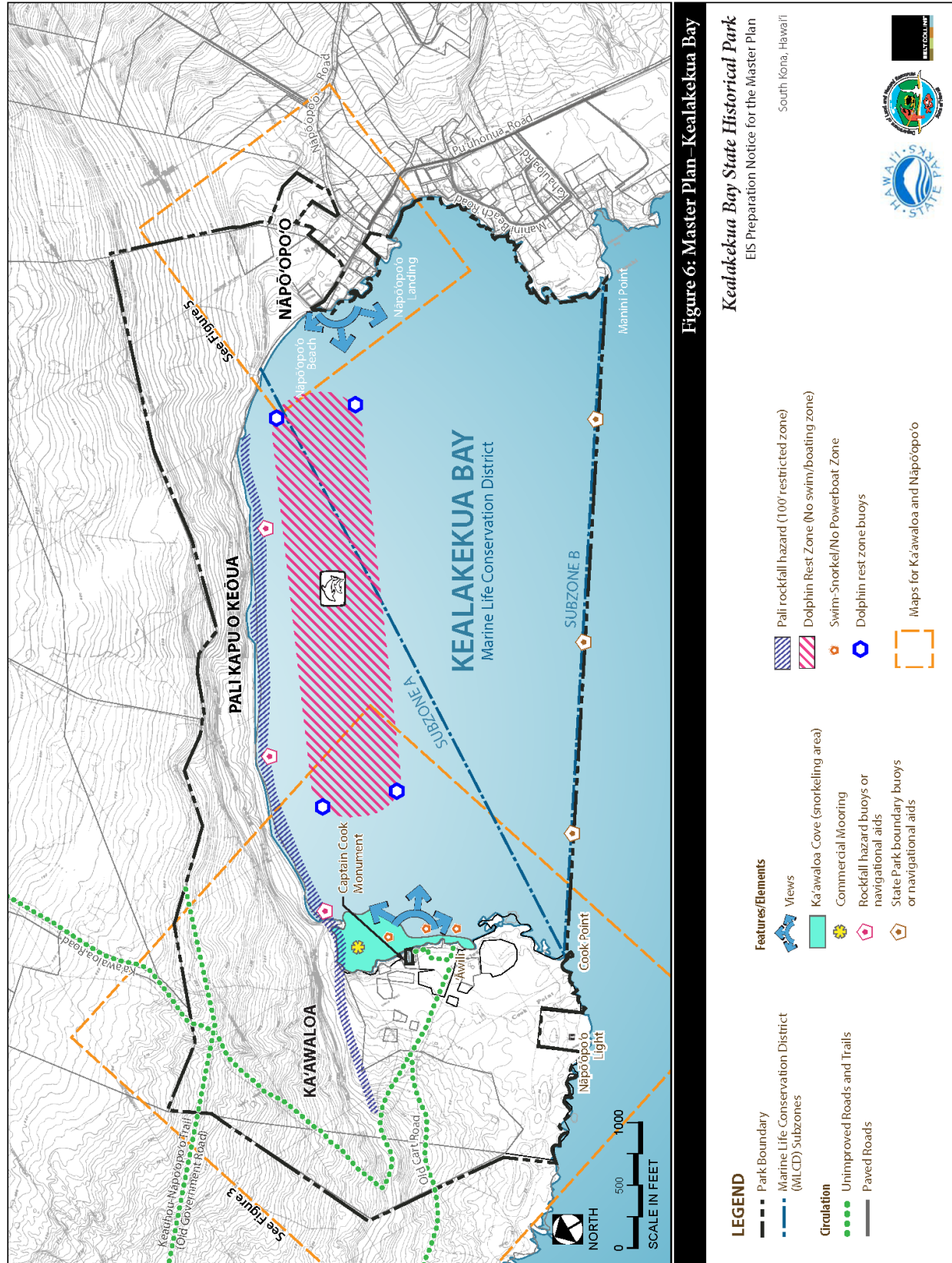
Figure 5: Master Plan–Ka'awaloa Section

**Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park**  
EIS Preparation Notice for the Master Plan

South Kona, Hawai'i

<b>LEGEND</b>		
	Park Boundary	
	TMK Parcels	
	Ka'awaloa Cove (snorkeling area)	
	Pali Rockfall Hazard	<b>Features</b>
	Ka'awaloa Flat Archaeological Zone	
<b>Vegetation</b>		
	Non-native Forest	
	A'a Lava	
	Cliff and Scree	
	Coastal Strand	
<b>Circulation</b>		
	Unimproved Road	
		<b>Elements</b>

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Figure 7: Master Plan –Nāpō'opo'o Section

<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Park Boundary</li> <li> TMK Parcels</li> <li> Archaeological Zone with Interpretation</li> <li> Parking</li> <li> ADA/Restricted Parking</li> <li> Park Entry</li> </ul> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Non-native Forest</li> <li> Ornamental Landscaping</li> <li> Cliff and Scree</li> <li> Coastal Strand</li> <li> Restoration of Cultural Landscape</li> </ul> <p><b>Circulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Beach Road</li> <li> Controlled Access (locked gate)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Primary ADA Accessible Path</li> <li> Secondary Pedestrian Path on County Road</li> <li> Interpretive Trail</li> </ul> <p><b>Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Historic Site</li> <li> Pond</li> <li> Existing Pavilion (Restroom, shower)</li> <li> Views</li> <li> Watercraft and Canoe Launch</li> <li> Sign "All Visitor Parking"</li> <li> Park Sign</li> <li> Low Rock Wall</li> <li> Partially Restored Beach path; boulders removed above high water mark</li> <li> Interpretive Center with exhibits, concession, staff, and restroom</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park</b> EIS Preparation Notice for the Master Plan</p> <p>South Kona, Hawai'i</p> <p><b>Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A</b> Open Space/Grass Courts</li> <li><b>B</b> Bay overlook, marine life interpretation, and park rules signage</li> <li><b>C</b> Nāpō'opo'o Beach</li> <li><b>D</b> Clear path to Bay; beach boulders above high water mark moved to restore wall between beach area and sites</li> <li><b>E</b> Improved water entry point</li> <li><b>F</b> Restricted parking, non-commercial vessel drop-off</li> <li><b>G</b> Portable restrooms</li> <li><b>H</b> DLNR staging and storage</li> <li><b>I</b> Covered shelter/storage for concessionaire</li> <li><b>J</b> Beach Road; work with county to close or obtain road. Pedestrian Zone; local/service/emergency vehicles only</li> </ul>
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The proposed action combines development, management and enforcement measures, as summarized in Table 1. Park operations and management involve a combination of State personnel and concession services. Support from community volunteers will contribute to maintenance and oversight. While a few steps could be taken immediately, development actions and improved management must wait on the EIS and additional funding by the Legislature. Figures 5 to 7 show the proposed action for three sections of the park.

**Table 1: Components and Objectives of Proposed Action**

Location, Plan Components		Major Objectives
<b>Ka'awaloa</b>		
Access-Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Permitted guided tour landings, kayak storage at 'Awili.</li> <li>b. Permitted non-commercial personal and rented watercraft landings and storage possible at 'Awili (when landing is staffed and after installation of waterless toilet).</li> <li>c. Permit available for landing a vessel at Ka'awaloa for traditional cultural access.</li> </ul>	Manage visitation, allowing some non-motorized vessels but protecting resources.
Access-Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hiking access via Ka'awaloa Road.</li> <li>b. Develop agreement with adjacent landowner for access to Ka'awaloa by maintenance vehicles.</li> <li>c. Open trail access from Keōpuka if private landowner makes trail across lands to the north available to hikers.</li> </ul>	Manage visitation, allowing hikers but working to protect resources and provide for continuing maintenance.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Waterless toilet facility.</li> <li>b. Interpretive shelter with staff.</li> <li>c. Helicopter Landing Zone for emergency rescue / maintenance operations.</li> <li>d. Improve jetty near Monument as needed for safety of swimmers and boaters.</li> </ul>	Assure visitor safety and sanitation; increase interpretive activity.
Interpretation & Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clear vegetation from 'Awili to Monument and create open space gathering area by the Monument.</li> <li>b. Restore cultural landscape with selective removal of vegetation around cultural sites.</li> <li>c. Interpretive trails with signage for guided and self-guided tours. Trail locations to be finalized based on archaeological studies.</li> </ul>	Restore cultural landscape and provide visitor access to the historic resources in the Park with interpretation; preserve cultural sites and historical setting.

**Table 1: Components and Objectives of Proposed Action**

Location, Plan Components		Major Objectives
<b>Kealakekua Bay</b>		
Access & Ocean Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commercial and non-commercial vessel entry by permit.</li> <li>b. Commercial operators are encouraged to develop and share Drift/Safety Plan.</li> <li>c. One permitted mooring at Ka’awaloa Cove for commercial tour boat operator.</li> <li>d. Permitted guided kayak /canoe tours (up to approximately 72 passengers per day).</li> <li>e. Reintroduce outrigger canoes via guided tour concession with intent to transition from kayaks.</li> <li>f. Consult with DOBOR if a commercial vessel limit in the bay is needed in the future.</li> </ul>	Control number of vessels, behavior of operators to protect resources and scenic ambiance of the area; promote historical setting.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maintain buoys or navigational aids marking rock fall zone and park boundary within the bay.</li> <li>b. Establish buoys marking dolphin resting zone.</li> <li>c. Swim-snorkel/no powerboat zone (Ka’awaloa shoreline to approx. 100 ft. to 150 ft. off shore as demarcated by buoys or navigational aids).</li> </ul>	Safety for visitors; protection for dolphins; support for enforcement of rules about access.
<b>Pali</b>	(between Ka’awaloa and Nāpō’opo’o)	
	No trail access or development.	Protection of cultural sites; safety of visitors.
<b>Nāpō’opo’o Landing</b>		
Access & Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Drop-off for non-commercial vessels.</li> <li>b. Restricted parking (&lt;10 stalls with ~1 accessible stall) for State concessionaire vehicles.</li> </ul>	Orderly use of Landing.
Ocean Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Personal watercraft rentals by concessionaire with permitted launching.</li> <li>b. Guided kayak and outrigger canoe tours.</li> <li>c. Launching of non-commercial vessels with permit.</li> </ul>	Orderly and safe use of Landing.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Improve historic wharf for entry/exit to the water.</li> <li>b. Covered shelter and storage for concessionaire.</li> <li>c. Portable toilet(s).</li> <li>d. Equipment, deployment, and storage for DLNR, especially DOCARE.</li> </ul>	Improve access for residents, visitors, and DLNR; increase safety; encourage enforcement activities.
Interpretation & Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Interpretive signs near wharf and shoreline.</li> <li>b. Grass/picnic area.</li> </ul>	Improve visitor experience.

**Table 1: Components and Objectives of Proposed Action**

Location, Plan Components		Major Objectives
<b>Nāpō'opo'o Park</b>		
Access, Roads, & Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Parking lot on Parcel 1 (Gaspar Mill parcel) with approximately 50 spaces. No bus parking except school bus by reservation.</li> <li>b. Accessible path from parking lot to Hikiau Heiau.</li> <li>c. Park entry and sign moved to Parcel 1.</li> <li>d. Work with County to convert Beach Road to pedestrian zone and emergency/local/service traffic only.</li> <li>e. Install gate or other means to control vehicle entry on Beach Road.</li> <li>f. Reduce/realign parking away from Hikiau Heiau.</li> <li>g. Reduce parking on Beach Road. Provide 2-3 accessible stalls and Special Event (permitted) parking only near grass courts/pavilion (Vehicle parking moved to Parcel 1).</li> </ul>	Manage access to Park and reduce traffic congestion in Nāpō'opo'o Village.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Interpretive Center with exhibits/concession/restrooms (Parcel 1).</li> <li>b. Retain community pavilion with restrooms/outdoor showers.</li> </ul>	Improve visitor experience; meet community needs.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Partially restore access to ocean across boulder beach (selectively remove boulders) for swimmers and beach goers.</li> <li>b. Retain grass courts/open space.</li> </ul>	Retain recreational use while respecting cultural resources.
Interpretation & Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish interpretive trails for guided and self-guided walking tours. Trail locations to be finalized based on archaeological studies.</li> <li>b. Restore cultural landscape and historic features (including pond) and remove invasive vegetation.</li> <li>c. Restore low rock wall behind beach to separate recreational beach use from archaeological complex (use existing stones on site).</li> </ul>	Respect cultural sites, restore historic feature.
<b>Mālama: Management Presence</b>		
DSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Staff responsibilities include: Interpretation and trails, trash removal, cleaning restrooms, and facilities and grounds maintenance.</li> <li>b. A Park Manager.</li> <li>c. Interpretive staff assigned to KBSHP.</li> <li>d. Park Caretakers.</li> </ul>	Integrated long-term support for both resources and recreation by State, private sector and community.
DOCARE	Consistent and preferred daily enforcement by DOCARE.	

**Table 1: Components and Objectives of Proposed Action**

Location, Plan Components		Major Objectives
Concessionaire	Staff at Ka'awaloa and Nāpō'opo'o Landing to support concession operations, including guided kayak and canoe tours, assist in launching, landing and stowing watercraft, ocean recreation equipment rentals, and activities required by the concession permit.	
Adopt-A-Park & Volunteer Agreements	Community volunteers to assist with care of park resources.	
Makai Watch	Community volunteer ocean watch program in communication with DOCARE.	

## 2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS, several alternatives will be evaluated. The EIS will provide an assessment of alternatives presented to the community in early 2016, the proposed action that has resulted from continuing engagement with the community, and a no action alternative.

### 2.4.1 MAJOR DIFFERENCES AMONG ALTERNATIVES

The proposed action refines alternatives presented to stakeholders in January 2016 based partly on community input. The alternatives presented in January 2016 varied in their focus on ocean recreation vs. historical values and restoration of the cultural landscape.

While protection of natural and cultural resources is a primary objective of all the alternatives, the alternatives vary in the number of commercial vessels allowed in the bay, the type of vessels (modern vs. traditional canoes), and restricting landings at Ka'awaloa to guided canoe shuttles. In the Nāpō'opo'o Section, the alternatives sought to balance the recreational use of the area near Hikiau Heiau with preservation of the historical setting. One alternative proposed relocating some of the recreational facilities and activities, but there was community support for retaining the pavilion and ball court in their present location south of the heiau.

The alternatives considered in January 2016 did not include an area reserved for *nai'a* (spinner dolphins). At the time, it appeared that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would soon promulgate rules restricting human entry to the dolphin rest area during much of the day. The rule proposed by NOAA in August 2016 does not include a specific area restriction. In light of both community concern and community support for enforcement of a restricted area, DSP is now including a dolphin rest area off-limits to humans as part of the Master Plan.

The Master Plan and the Action Alternatives all include installation and maintenance of a waterless toilet facility at Ka'awaloa, outside the archaeologically sensitive area, and installation of buoys or other navigational aids to demarcate the Park's ocean boundary and to identify areas where swimmers or boaters' safety is of concern. Identification of a helicopter landing zone at Ka'awaloa has also been added in the proposed alternative to address maintenance needs and safety concerns.

Past plans have included new facilities outside the Park area. In the current planning process, no acquisition of other land was considered. Instead, the proposed action seeks to sustain both resources and visitation, with limited new development.

### **2.4.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

As required by HRS Chapter 343, the EIS will address impacts of the no action alternative (i.e., no additional development on the site). Under the No Action alternative, no new facilities would be built.

## **2.5 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Infrastructure in the State Park is currently limited to water serving the comfort station, picnic pavilion, and outdoor shower at Nāpō'opo'o. A plastic water pipe next to Hikiau Heiau serving the Park pavilion will be replaced by a more permanent, underground water line. New infrastructure, including power, water, and wastewater, will be required for the proposed Interpretive Center at Nāpō'opo'o. Because of the lack of infrastructure at Ka'awaloa, installation of a waterless toilet is planned.

A parking lot for approximately 50 vehicles is proposed in the Nāpō'opo'o Section to address the lack of adequate parking for the level of park visitation. A traffic study conducted for this EIS will assess whether additional road improvements will be needed.

Three possible improvements that complement the proposed action but go beyond the park boundaries have been proposed:

- First, the "Beach Road" extending north from the T-intersection at the makai end of Nāpō'opo'o Road could be converted, as part of the Master Plan, to largely pedestrian use to reduce parking near Hikiau Heiau. This change involves both State and County land, and could only be accomplished with County concurrence.
- Second, a pedestrian lane along the end of Nāpō'opo'o Road, between the planned parking lot and Nāpō'opo'o Landing at the T-intersection could be developed. This action depends on negotiations and agreement by the County of Hawai'i and private landowners.
- Third, discussions among the County of Hawai'i, private landowners, and DSP could result in development of a new access point for hikers to the Ka'awaloa section of the Park. The improvement would be welcome after DSP installs a toilet at Ka'awaloa and is able to improve maintenance and interpretive activities in that section of the Park.

The first two proposals are closely aligned with Master Plan improvements. DSP will seek to collaborate with the County of Hawai'i on these steps. However, no action outside State lands is included in the Proposed Action.

## **2.6 COST AND PHASING**

The Master Plan identifies improvements needed in the near term and over time, as DSP's financial resources and staffing permit. Development costs are estimated at approximately \$2.3 million, while increased management, maintenance, interpretation and enforcement will add approximately \$475,000 annually. Development of interpretive trails will occur over time, as archaeological studies of affected areas are completed. Costs of services provided by concessionaires (including kayak tours, kayak launching at both Nāpō'opo'o Landing and Ka'awaloa, maintenance and clean-up) are not included as a State cost.

## **3 Description of the Affected Environment, Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

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### **3.1 CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY**

The weather in the Park is typically hot and sunny with daytime temperatures in the upper 80's (degrees Fahrenheit). While the leeward side of the island of Hawai'i is known for its dry weather, the area surrounding Kealakekua Bay is one of the wetter coastal areas, receiving approximately 50 inches of rainfall annually. The annual pattern of rainfall includes summer rainy seasons and drier winters, the reverse of the general Hawai'i pattern.

Air quality in the Park is affected by volcanic emissions from Kilauea Volcano. The current eruption began in 1983. Emissions increased greatly as of 2008, and continue to the present. These emissions create a volcanic haze that can persistently hang over the South Kona area.

### **3.2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

Ka'awaloa, at the northern end of the Park, is a fairly flat fan-shaped peninsula of pāhoehoe lava near sea level that rises gradually to the north edge of Pali Kapu o Keōua. The approximately 100 acres of land defines the northwest side of Kealakekua Bay. The shoreline of Ka'awaloa is a lava ledge with a small number of calcareous sand and coral rubble storm beaches.

Both the Ka'awaloa and Nāpō'opo'o settlements were situated on gently sloping land around the base of the cliff called Pali Kapu o Keōua. Beyond the pali, the land slopes upward in a moderately steep fashion toward the summit of Mauna Loa, about 20 miles due east of Kealakekua Bay.

The pali is a steep, 600-foot-high sea cliff, approximately 1.5 miles long, and the most imposing geological feature in Kealakekua Bay. Above the bay, the vertical cliff edge of the northern portion of the pali above Ka'awaloa is marked by numerous lava tubes. As the pali turns inland at the south end, it is less steep and is referred to as Pali o Manuahi.

The Nāpō'opo'o portion of the Park below the pali lies between the bay and Nāpō'opo'o Village. It is relatively flat and slightly elevated above sea level. Nāpō'opo'o was formerly fronted by a narrow, calcareous sand beach which extended from the base of the pali to Hikiau Heiau. The beach became covered with boulders after Hurricane Iniki in 1992. Although boulders cover the upper regions of the beach, a shallow sandbar fronting the beach is still rock free, and waves continue to break there.

Kealakekua Bay, from Ka'awaloa to Manini Point, measures approximately one-half mile in width (east-west) and about one mile in length (north-south). It is one of the most sheltered natural bays on the island of Hawai'i. The abrupt near shore drop-off made Kealakekua Bay attractive as an anchorage for large sailing ships. Ka'awaloa Cove (in the northwest corner of the bay) was used as an all-weather anchorage until 1969 when the bay was designated as a Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD). Current regulations prohibit anchoring in all areas of the MLCD's Subzone A, which includes Ka'awaloa Cove. Ka'awaloa Cove is protected in the lee of the pali with its highly developed coral reefs and diversity of marine life.

### 3.3 NATURAL HAZARDS

#### Volcanic Hazards

Volcanic hazards at the Park are associated with Mauna Loa. Should an eruption occur, it could result in layers of tephra or volcanic gasses impacting the Park. The level of impact would depend largely upon the size of the eruption, the associated fountaining of lava, and wind direction. The area surrounding the Park is designated as Lava Flow Hazard Zone 3 (with Zone 1 being the highest and Zone 9 being the lowest risk). Zone 3 is gradually less hazardous than Zone 2 because of the greater distance from recently active volcanic vents. Approximately 1 to 5 percent of Zone 3 has been covered since 1800 and approximately 15–75 percent has been covered within the last 750 years.

#### Fault Systems

The Kealakekua fault system extends southeastward from the head of the bay for about three miles, then bends southward and disappears beneath younger lava flows.

The Kealakekua fault system is responsible for the steep cliff at the inland edge of Kealakekua Bay. The sea cliff itself is believed to be the remnant of a landslide that occurred between 13,000 and 31,000 years ago. It has since been only somewhat trimmed back by waves and wind erosion. Within the cliff are exposed edges of many thin pāhoehoe lava flows that are older than the fault scarp. Pali Kapu o Keōua is the scarp of one of the faults of the Kealakekua Kaholo fault system.

#### Earthquake Hazard

The island of Hawai'i experiences thousands of earthquakes every year, usually associated with volcanic activity. They endanger people and property by shaking structures and generating ground fractures, settling, and landslides. The area in the Park most subject to landslides triggered by an earthquake is the face of Pali Kapu o Keōua.<sup>3</sup> Earthquake-related activity could result in the front face of the cliff shearing off as it is eroded or shaken.

At Kealakekua Bay, movement about one mile offshore on the Kealakekua fault system produced an earthquake in August 1951, which caused extensive damage in Kona. The movement occurred at a point southwest of Ka'awaloa. In 1983, a landslide at Kealakekua Bay occurred after a magnitude 6.6 earthquake occurred at a depth of seven miles, approximately midway between Mauna Loa and Kīlauea.

In 2006, a magnitude 6.7 earthquake with significant aftershocks occurred approximately 6 miles offshore of the Kohala District, Hawai'i which generated a four-inch tsunami on the island's coastline. The earthquake caused property damage, landslides, power outages, and airport delays. The October 2006 earthquake triggered a major landslide at the north end of the pali at Kealakekua Bay, sending a cloud of dust into the air. DLNR closed portions of the Park and bay for six months. DLNR has since established a 100-foot restricted (no access) zone at the base of the pali in the bay, restricting swimmers from this zone in the bay marked with buoys, and installed signs warning of rockfall hazard in the Park. (Those buoys are no longer in place.)

Tsunamis generated by earthquake activity are also a potential threat. Sudden subsidence along the shoreline associated with an earthquake can also generate a tsunami. There is anecdotal evidence of a tsunami in 1868 which is said to have caused waves up to 60 feet along the Kona coastline.

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<sup>3</sup> DLNR, Division of State Parks. *Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park Concept Plan*. 1997. "According to Jack Lockwood, Hawai'i Volcano Observatory, USGS Geological Division."

### Land Subsidence and Nāpō'opo'o Beach

Nāpō'opo'o Beach at Kealakekua Bay is subsiding at the rate of 4 millimeters, or 0.16 inches per year; between 1929 and the late 1990's it is estimated that shoreline areas at the bay subsided approximately 11 inches.<sup>4</sup>

Nāpō'opo'o Beach is covered entirely with basalt boulders and coral cobbles during most tide conditions. During much of the twentieth century, the beach was sand-covered. The transformation of the beach may have been due to multiple factors, including subsidence, tsunami, and earthquake events.

### Flooding

Shoreline and near-shore areas are identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) as flood hazard zones: Zone VE (corresponding to the 10-year coastal floodplains that have additional hazards associated with storm waves) and Zone AE (corresponding to the 100-year floodplains).

At Ka'awaloa, the flood hazard zones extend over the shoreline including the Captain Cook Monument, and other historic sites. At Nāpō'opo'o, flood hazard areas extend over the Nāpō'opo'o shoreline and inland where the historic pond is located. Nāpō'opo'o Landing is almost entirely constrained by flood hazard zones and buffers to those zones where building is severely restricted by the County of Hawai'i Code.<sup>5</sup>

An intermittent watercourse drains into Kealakekua Bay adjacent to Hikiau Heiau, with 100-year and 500-year flood areas. No other streams or drainages are identified in the Park.

## 3.4 FLORA AND FAUNA

The terrestrial plant communities and the predominant vegetation within the Park are non-native, and dominated by kiawe. At the shoreline, the kiawe forest includes 'opiuma (*Pithecelloium dulce*) and koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*), with some remaining coconut (*Cocos nicifera*) and kou (*Cordia subcordata*). The Park's native landscape was altered both pre- and post-contact and there are few native plant species on Park land today. During a 2000 survey of Nāpō'opo'o, one endangered species, the state flower ma'o hao hele, was cultivated in the existing recreation area and is now spreading by seed near the parent plants. Ka'awaloa has a number of pua pilo (*Capparis sandwichiana*) bushes, which are a federal-listed species of concern. The endangered loulou (*Pritchardia affinis*) was previously found on site, but may no longer remain.

Various non-native birds have been identified in the Park area. Cats, dogs, mongoose, and pigs have been observed. (Outside the park, cattle graze on nearby lands. Over a century ago, cattle were loaded on ships by way of both Ka'awaloa and Nāpō'opo'o landing areas.)

Residents report seeing bats over the Bay in the past. Otherwise, no threatened or endangered terrestrial animals have been found in the Park lands.

Most of the bay's marine life is concentrated along the shallow rim of the bay. Where the floor of the bay drops off steeply beyond the 10-fathom line, it is largely devoid of marine life. The coral reef habitats and marine habitats in the bay support an abundance and diversity of invertebrates,

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<sup>4</sup> State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks. *Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park Concept Plan*. 1997. "According to Jack Lockwood, Hawai'i Volcano Observatory, USGS Geological Division."

<sup>5</sup> Hawai'i County Code § 27-23 (2005) provides the standards for coastal high hazard areas (zone VE), including "new construction or improvements need to be elevated on adequately anchored pilings or columns so that the lower horizontal portion of the structural members of the lowest floor, excluding the pilings and columns, is elevated to or above the base floor level...No new plumbing, electrical, and elevators are allowed to be constructed below the base flood elevation."



including mollusks, echinoderms, and crustaceans. Over 100 species of fish have been observed. Prominent species include yellow tang (*lau'i pala*, *Zebrasoma flavescens*), goldring surgeonfish (*kole*, *Ctenochaetus strigosus*), and convict tang (*manini*, *Acanthurus tristegus*). Sharks, however, are only moderately abundant and sea turtles or *honu* are relatively rare.

A unique feature of Kealakekua Bay is its pod of resident spinner dolphins or *nai'a*. Kealakekua Bay provides one of the few available resting areas for *nai'a* on the island of Hawai'i. The bay's configuration allows the dolphins to spend daylight resting periods over sandy substrate. They use the bay for feeding, resting, and playing. In 2000, it was reported that the resident pod numbered around 18 individuals, down from 30 to 80 observed in the bay in the 1960s. The dolphins feed mainly out to sea overnight, so they enter the Bay in the morning and leave in the evening. Although MLCD regulations and the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibit anyone from approaching the dolphins, it is common to see swimmers and snorkelers near dolphin pods in the bay.

A survey of both terrestrial and marine biota has been conducted and will be included in the EIS, along with a report on human/dolphin interactions.

### 3.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Archaeological surveys within the Park have been conducted on a site-specific basis since the 1960s. A survey and mapping of the archaeological sites and features on approximately two-thirds of the Ka'awaloa Flat area was conducted by Bishop Museum for the State between 1969 and 1970. State Parks archaeologists surveyed and mapped the sites and features within the Nāpō'opo'o section of the Park in 1985. These surveys have indicated areas of intact cultural sites spanning the pre-contact period to post-contact land use. Excavation of test units within the Nāpō'opo'o section in the 1980s and 1990s have provided insight into the potential for subsurface cultural deposits within the park area.

As discussed in the Master Plan, the early history of Kealakekua Bay is recorded in the maps, drawings, and journals of Western explorers. Documents from 1779 tell of the interaction between the Hawaiians living at Kealakekua and Captain Cook's party, including descriptions of cultural activities and the cultural landscape of Ka'awaloa and Nāpō'opo'o. For later years, written descriptions, oral histories, and photographs illustrate the transformations of Kealakekua Bay over time.

The EIS will include a summary of archaeological and historical knowledge of the Park, identifying future investigations needed to preserve and interpret its resources and to minimize impacts of Park development.

### 3.6 CULTURAL PRACTICES

Kaimipono Associates was tasked with preparing a cultural impact assessment to identify potential traditional cultural resources and practices associated with the project site. Cultural resources include a broad range of categories of cultural items, and beliefs, including places, behaviors, values, beliefs, objects, records, and stories. Additionally, traditional and customary rights include subsistence, agricultural, recreational, burial practices, and religious (and spiritual) traditions.

The Draft EIS will summarize the results of the cultural impact assessment and include the report as an Appendix. Appropriate mitigation measures will be identified and discussed based on the assessment.

### 3.7 VISUAL RESOURCES

The most impressive views at Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park are from the bay itself with the backdrop of the pali rising above the bay waters. Along the Ka'awaloa Road trail, segments of unobstructed ocean, shoreline and mountain vistas can be seen. Lava flows along the side of the road and the shoreline provide visual interest. Views of the bay, the pali, and Nāpō'opo'o can be seen from the storm beaches along the Ka'awaloa shoreline. Along the lava shoreline shelves on the northern makai edge of the Park, unobstructed views of the ocean (and seasonally, whale watching) and the South Kona coastline are visible.

From the pali, the entire bay can be seen. However, no trail is open within the Park over the pali. Hikers are discouraged from walking there for safety reasons.

At Nāpō'opo'o, much of the land is slightly elevated above sea level, providing opportunities for views of the bay. The most striking visual feature across the bay from Nāpō'opo'o is the Captain Cook Monument, the tall white obelisk along the Ka'awaloa shoreline.

### 3.8 RECREATION

Studies for the Master Plan identified a wide range of recreational activities in the Park:

Park and Nāpō'opo'o Landing Activities	Ocean Recreation
Sightseeing and taking photos	Swimming
Picnicking	Snorkeling
Stopping at the restroom	Kayaking
Large gatherings at the pavilion	Boating- commercial tours and private boats
Sunbathing	Scuba diving
Pole fishing	Outrigger canoe paddling
Dolphin and whale watching	Body surfing
Hiking	Body boarding
Horseback riding	Swimming and interacting with the dolphins
Bird watching	Stand-up paddle boarding
	Sailing canoes

The EIS will assess the impact of proposed park improvements on these activities and additional visitor activity in the Park.

### 3.9 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

West Hawai'i contains a diverse mixture of land uses, including resort, business, light industrial, recreational, residential, and agricultural. Kailua-Kona is the regional center. In South Kona, small towns and subdivisions extend along the highway. Farms are located above and below the highway. Nāpō'opo'o Village is a shore community, but the residential area extends inland, off the access road.

The Draft EIS will contain information regarding demographic and economic characteristics of the project area and the surrounding region of West Hawai'i. Economic impacts of the project will be assessed in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will assess the likelihood of changes in visitation to the park.

No significant change in resident population is anticipated. Impacts of the Master Plan on behavior of both visitors and residents will be assessed. Economic and fiscal impacts will be estimated.

### **3.10 PUBLIC SERVICES**

In South Kona, fire and police services are provided by the County of Hawai'i. The nearest major police and fire stations are at Kailua-Kona, more than 25 miles by road from Nāpō'opo'o Village. The Hawaii County Fire Department has some 20 full-time fire/medic stations, and 20 volunteer fire stations. There are over 60 pieces of apparatus available on island, including a fire engine in Captain Cook.

Kona Community Hospital in Kealakekua is the regional medical center. It is located approximately six miles from the T-intersection in Nāpō'opo'o (where the Nāpō'opo'o Road, Beach Road and Pu'uhoonua Road meet).

Hawai'i County's Department of Civil Defense is based in Hilo, but active throughout the County in cooperation with police, fire, and volunteer groups.

Nāpō'opo'o has a site identified on maps as a County park, but it is an undeveloped rocky shoreline parcel acquired from the State in exchange for part of the State Historical Park. The pavilion, benches and grassy area in the Park near Hikiau Heiau now serve residents as a gathering area for parties or other events.

The nearest schools, Konawaena Elementary, Middle and High Schools, are located in Kealakekua, over five miles from Nāpō'opo'o Village.

The Draft EIS will assess impacts on public services, including police and fire protection, civil defense, health care, and education. The various public agencies providing these services will be consulted as part of the EIS process.

### **3.11 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION**

The Park can be reached by road, trail or water. Road access to the Nāpō'opo'o section of the park is by Māmalahoa Highway (Route 11) and Nāpō'opo'o Road (Route 160). Narrow roads also link Nāpō'opo'o with Hōnaunau to the south. Historical trails lead to the Ka'awaloa section of the Park from the north and east.

A traffic impact assessment will be included in the EIS.

## 4 Relationship of the Proposed Action to Government Plans and Policies

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The Draft EIS will contain a discussion of the proposed project and relevant Federal, State of Hawai'i and Hawai'i County land use plans, policies, ordinances, and controls. This environmental impact statement preparation notice (EISPN) and the EIS are being prepared in compliance with Chapter 343, HRS as described in Section 1.7.

### 4.1 FEDERAL LAWS, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The EIS will assess the relationship of the Master Plan to various Federal laws and regulations, notably:

#### 4.1.1 AUTHORITY OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is authorized to enforce, or assist in the enforcement of, all U.S. Federal laws applicable on, over, and under the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. The Bay is designated by USCG as a safe harbor or refuge for vessels during storms. The EIS will assess the Master Plan proposed action in light of USCG authority.

#### 4.1.2 AUTHORITY OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has oversight over navigable waters of the United States. Potential changes to wetlands and streams are subject to USACE review. At KBSHP, work to clean and renew the pond within the Nāpō'opo'o historic area would come under this authority. USACE has oversight over any activity that modifies a harbor under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

#### 4.1.3 MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

The Bay is often inhabited by spinner dolphins, and is sometimes visited by humpback whales. Both are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S. Code [USC] 31), under which attempts to approach these mammals constitutes harassment. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Authority (NOAA) has been concerned for years that human-dolphin interactions along the coasts of Hawai'i affect the well-being of spinner dolphin populations. Recent studies have documented impacts on dolphin behavior. Consequently, NOAA has proposed in 2016 an enhanced rule prohibiting any approach closer than 50 yards to spinner dolphins in Hawaiian waters, and has issued a draft EIS for this rule-making.<sup>6</sup> Under alternative rules considered but not proposed at this time, time-area closures would be instituted in bays known as dolphin rest habitats, including Kealakekua Bay.

#### 4.1.4 COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (CZM) ACT

All of Hawai'i is located in the coastal zone. The Park lands are also within the Special Management Area (SMA) established under the CZM act of 1972 (16 USC 1451). Responsibility for oversight

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<sup>6</sup> The proposed rule and draft EIS can be accessed at [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd\\_spinner\\_EIS.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_spinner_EIS.html)

under the Act is exercised by the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning (HRS 205-A). The EIS will consider the conformance of the Master Plan with the goals and objectives of the CZM program.

#### **4.1.5 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

The Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531) establishes the process for listing threatened and endangered species and requires federal agencies to carry out programs to conserve listed plants and wildlife. Section 7 of the Act requires consultation with federal wildlife agencies on actions that may affect listed species or designated critical habitat. Division of State Parks will consult with both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to identify impacts and possible mitigation measures.

#### **4.1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS**

Environmental regulations under the Clean Water Act (13 USC 1251) and the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401) are implemented in Hawai'i by divisions of the State Department of Health.

If the discharge of dredged or fill material is proposed, a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the USACE would be needed, along with a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH). No such discharge is currently proposed.

#### **4.1.7 EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

Should federal agencies be involved in implementation of the Master Plan, several Executive Orders (EO) would apply to the project, including EO 12898, Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations, EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, EO 13089, Protection of Coral Reefs, and EO 13112, Invasive Species. While no federal involvement is anticipated, the EIS will address these issues since concern has been expressed.

### **4.2 STATE LAWS, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

Chapter 205, HRS, relating to the Land Use Commission, establishes four major land use districts covering all lands located in the State of Hawai'i. These four districts are: (1) Urban, (2) Rural, (3) Agricultural, and (4) Conservation. Most of the project area is within the State Conservation District, but the Gaspar Mill site (Parcel 1) and Nāpō'opo'o Landing (TMK: 3-8-2-004:001, 002, and 015) are within the Urban District. The area in the Urban District covers a total of 4.1 acres. No changes in State Land Use are proposed.

Chapter 226, HRS, also known as the Hawai'i State Plan, is a comprehensive, long-range plan which serves to guide long-term development in the State of Hawai'i. Conformance of the Master Plan to policies and priority guidelines of the Hawai'i State Plan will be assessed in the EIS.

Chapter 6E-8 HRS, directs any State agency to advise the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD within DLNR) of any project that may affect historic properties or burials, so SHPD can review the effect of the proposed project on historic resources and burials.

Previous archaeological investigations within KBSHP have mapped the distribution of archaeological and cultural resources, identified sensitive archaeological areas, and recognized areas requiring further investigation. In compliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules for Historic Preservation Review of Government Projects (HAR §13-275), SHPD will be consulted, additional archaeological work will be conducted, and mitigation measures will be identified prior to the implementation of any proposed projects. The potential harm to any archaeological sites or cultural

resources from increased visibility and visitor access will be assessed. Areas of the park will be opened up for visitation via interpretive trails only after these areas have been studied and the potential impact of visitation has been mitigated.

SHPD's response to proposed Master Plan improvements will be incorporated in the Final EIS.

### 4.3 COUNTY OF HAWAI'I LAWS, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Hawai'i County General Plan, last enacted in 2005, provides a detailed set of priorities for development throughout Hawai'i County. A review process is currently under way. The 2005 General Plan established a process—the Community Development Plan (CDP) program—to translate island-wide goals and priorities put forth in the General Plan into action-items that could be executed on a district level.

The EIS will discuss conformity of the proposed action with the General Plan, Kona Community Development Plan and County zoning.

### 4.4 ANTICIPATED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Permits and approvals that may be required for implementation of the KBSHP Master Plan are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: List of Anticipated Permits and Approvals**

Action, Permit or Approval	Agency
Actions in areas where Endangered Species are present	NOAA, USFWS
Alteration of a port facility (wharf at Nāpō'opo'o Landing; if necessary, jetty at Ka'awaloa)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Coast Guard
Approval of Archaeological Inventory Surveys, Preservation Plans, Restoration Plans, Monitoring Plans, Data Recovery Plans, and, if necessary, Burial Treatment Plans; Assessment of rehabilitation of historic structures (wharf, jetty)	SHPD
Approval for wetland restoration (pond)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL)
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit	State Department of Health
Conservation District Use Permit	Board of Land and Natural Resources
SMA Permit	County Planning Department, Leeward Planning Commission
Certification of shoreline at Nāpō'opo'o Beach	DLNR, Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands (OCCL)
Grading, building, plan approval and other necessary development permits	County of Hawai'i, various departments

## **5 Findings and Determination**

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### **5.1 SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

While this EISPN is preliminary to the Draft EIS, the currently known information presented here has been evaluated according to the significance criteria as set forth in Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR. The proposed project is located within an environmentally sensitive area, but appears unlikely to trigger other significance criteria.

### **5.2 DETERMINATION**

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for this project in accordance with Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR. An EIS, rather than an Environmental Assessment, is proposed due to the sensitive environment—criterion 11—and a history of contentious discussions about planning for the State Historical Park.

The Draft EIS will provide further information on impacts and mitigation measures of the proposed action in relation to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 200, HAR

## 6 Agency And Organization Consultation

As part of the master planning process, alternative concept plans/layouts were presented to members of the community in 2009 to 2010 and in January and August 2016. Discussions with area residents, business owners, and County agencies helped to shape the alternatives analysis. Stakeholders who have expressed interest are included in the list below of who will receive the EISPN; others may receive copies on request.

The following parties (Table 3), in addition to the Office of the Environmental Quality Control (OEQC), will receive an electronic copy of the EISPN for review and comment. All comments on the EISPN received by DLNR will be incorporated into the Draft EIS.

**Table 3: Distribution List for EISPN**

Respondents and Distribution	To receive EISPN
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	x
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	x
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	x
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	x
Office of Protected Resources	x
National Park Service (Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau)	x
National Park Service (Ala Kahakai)	x
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	x
Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)	x
U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard	x
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono	x
U.S. Senator Brian Schatz	x
<b>STATE OF HAWAII</b>	
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)	
Office of Planning	x
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)	x
Department of Health (DOH)	x
Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR)	x
State Historic Preservation Division	x
Department of Transportation (DOT)	x
Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)	x
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Environmental Center	x



**Table 3: Distribution List for EISPN**

Respondents and Distribution	To receive EISPN
State Senate, District 3, Senator Josh Green	x
State House of Representatives, District 5, Representative Richard Creagan	x
<b>COUNTY OF HAWAI'I</b>	
Mayor, County of Hawai'i	x
Department of Environmental Management	x
Fire Department	x
Department of Civil Defense	x
Department of Parks and Recreation	x
Department of Planning	x
Department of Public Works	x
Department of Research and Development	x
Department of Water Supply	x
Police Department	x
County Councilmember, South Kona, Maile David	x
<b>LIBRARIES AND NEWS OUTLETS</b>	
Hawai'i State Main Library	x
Kealakekua Public Library	x
Kailua-Kona Public Library	x
University of Hawai'i Library	x
Honolulu Star-Advertiser	x
Hawai'i Tribune Herald	x
West Hawai'i Today	x
<b>COMMUNITY GROUPS, STAKEHOLDERS AND NEARBY LANDOWNERS</b>	
Ho'ala Kealakekua	x
West Hawai'i Fisheries Council	x
Kamehameha Schools (West Hawai'i office)	x
Hökūli'a Development Company	x
Christopher Norrie	x
Gordon Leslie	x
Bob Masuda	x
Lee Ann Leslie	x
Michael Matsukawa	x
Mendy Dant	x
Bill Zabolski	x
Claudia Merrill	x
Frank Carpenter	x

**Table 3: Distribution List for EISPN**

Respondents and Distribution	To receive EISPN
Geoff Hand	x
Iwa Kalua	x
Oceanside 1250	x
Consul General of Australia, Honolulu	x
Embassy of the United Kingdom, Washington D.C.	x
All persons on the list of stakeholders who have attended Park planning meetings since 2015 or commented during the process or are vessel permit holders will be notified of publication of the EISPN and invited to comment.	
<b>UTILITIES</b>	
Hawai'i Electric Light Company	x
Hawaiian Telcom	x
Oceanic Time Warner Cable	x

## 7 References

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State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources. 1997. *Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park Concept Plan*. Prepared by Belt Collins Hawaii. Honolulu, Hawaii.

State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources. 2001. *Report to the Twenty-first Legislature 2002 Regular Session, Requesting an Investigation of the Impacts of Increased Public Access on Kaawaloa and Kealakekua Bay, Island of Hawai'i*. Honolulu, Hawaii.