



FILE COPY

MAY - 8 2021

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

April 26, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Suzanne Case, Director
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Director Case:

I hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park, as satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The economic, social, and environmental impacts that will likely occur, should this project be implemented, are adequately described in the statement. The analysis, together with the comments made by reviewers, provide useful information to policymakers and the public.

My acceptance of the statement is an affirmation of the adequacy of that statement under the applicable laws. I find that the mitigation measures proposed in the environmental impact statement will minimize the negative impacts of the project. Further, I find the discussion of unresolved issues and potential for subsequent environmental review to be sufficient.

In implementing this project, I direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources and/or its agent to perform these or comparable mitigation measures at the discretion of the relevant agencies. The mitigation measures identified in the environmental impact statement are summarized in the attached document.

With warmest regards,

David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Enclosures

c: Office of Environmental Quality Control

21 - 148

AGENCY PUBLICATION FORM

Project Name:	Kealakekua Bay Stte Historical Park Master Plan Project
Project Short Name:	Kealakekua Bay Master Plan Final EIS
HRS §343-5 Trigger(s):	State land, state funds, Conservation land, shoreline, construction of a helicopter landing zone, use within a Historic District on the Federal Register
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
<i>Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address</i>	Martha Yent, martha.e.yent@hawaii.gov , (808) 587-0287, Division of State Parks, DLNR, P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809
Accepting Authority:	Governor, State of Hawaii
<i>Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address</i>	The Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, http://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/ , (808) 586-0034, Executive Chambers, State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Consultant:	Belt Collins Hawaii LLC
<i>Contact Name, Email, Telephone, Address</i>	Joanne E. Hiramatsu, jhiramatsu@bchdesign.com , 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.

Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park consists of 536 acres, including the bay and the largely undeveloped land surrounding the bay. 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 the visitors' experience is shaped by their means of access – hiking 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 Kealakekua 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 continues to limit access to Ka'awaloa, where visitation could impact the resources and 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.

Future interpretive programs and facilities will be developed in consultation with a Cultural Advisory 'Ohana, consisting of persons knowledgeable about local cultural practices and history.

**SUMMARY OF MITIGATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
KEALAKEKUA BAY STATE HISTORICAL PARK, SOUTH KONA, HAWAI'I ISLAND**

The Final EIS analyzed and disclosed the potential direct and indirect impacts from the project for the following resources: land use and ownership; climate and air quality; oceanographic conditions and marine resources; topography, geology and soils; surface water and ground water; botanical and faunal resources; natural hazards; archaeological, historic and cultural resources; acoustical environment; roadways and circulation; infrastructure and utilities; public services; demographic and fiscal conditions; public health and safety; recreational resources; and visual and aesthetic resources. The Final EIS also analyzed and disclosed the potential cumulative impacts, especially those associated with park visitation and use.

The Proposed Action will undertake measures to minimize temporary and short-term impacts associated the construction of new park facilities. In addition, there will be measures implemented to minimize any long-term impacts associated with park operations and management. The potential impacts and recommendations to mitigate impacts to ensure there are no significant impacts are described in the table below.

IMPACT TYPE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	MITIGATIONS
Climate and Air Quality	None	None
Geology and Topography	None	None
Hydrology, Drainage	New impermeable surfaces will increase runoff	Runoff will be contained onsite (method to be selected in design phase).
Terrestrial Ecosystem	Risk of harm to waterbirds or Hawaiian hoary bats	Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); all outside lights to be shielded.
Marine Ecosystem	No new impacts identified	Mitigation of emerging impacts consists of increased monitoring of boaters and swimmers, continuing education for visitors, eventual demarcation of area where dolphins may rest undisturbed.
Natural Hazards	None	None
Historic and Cultural Resources; Cultural practices	Increased visitation, new trails; restoration of cultural landscape; no impact on cultural practices	Archaeological studies will precede creation of all trails; Visitors will be directed away from sensitive areas; Installation of waterless toilet will reduce human waste at Ka'awaloa.
Scenic Resources	Increased visitation	Increased interpretation and enforcement.

IMPACT TYPE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	MITIGATIONS
Socio-Economic	Increased employment, visitor vehicles directed away from residential areas	None needed beyond the management measures proposed for visitor vehicles.
Public Facilities	No significant impacts	With helicopter landing area, emergency medical services improved.
Infrastructure	Use of water, electrical service; provision of toilets	No mitigation beyond appropriate maintenance needed.
Vehicle Traffic	Small increase in vehicle numbers	Parking lot and signage will direct visitors away from narrow Village roads.
Vessel Traffic in the Bay	Potential increase in visitors, risk of harm to swimmers and kayakers, potential risk of harm to marine mammals	Demarcation of swim-only area near Ka‘awaloa Cove; New launching service at the Landing will help inexperienced kayakers; Commercial operators encouraged to codify “Drift Plan”; Monitoring of human-dolphin interactions (by community and DOCARE) will reduce interference with dolphins.
Secondary and Cumulative Impacts	No significant impacts beyond risk of increased use of Pu‘uhonua Road	Signage at Park will direct visitors away from this road; County encouraged to post it as not a through road