NEGATIVE DECLARATIONS

The following are Negative Declarations or determinations made by proposing or approving agencies that certain proposed actions will not have significant effects on the environment and therefore do not require EISs (EIS Rules 11-200-11). Publication in the Bulletin of a Negative Declaration initiates a 60-day period during which litigation measures may be instituted. Copies are available at 25 cents per page upon request to the Office. Parties wishing to comment may submit written comments to the agency responsible for the determination (indicated in project title). The Office would appreciate a copy of your comments.

OAHU

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR CRASH FIRE RESCUE STATION #2. Department of Transportation Airports Division/Department of Land and Natural Resources

Crash Fire Rescue Station No. 2 is part of the Honolulu International Airport. The station is located at the end of Lagoon Drive near Runway 8R-26L (the reef runway). Constructed in the 1970's, this station provides crash, fire, and rescue support along the south and southeast portion of Honolulu International Airport. (TMK: 1-1-03:01)

The proposed pier will be located adjacent to the existing boat ramp in Ke'ehi Lagoon. The existing boat ramp will remain and will be used as a maintenance ramp should the rescue boat require major repairs or maintenance. The pier will consist of a reinforced concrete deck supported on concrete piles. The pier will not be accessible to the public. A gate will be located near the shoreline to secure the pier from the public.

The proposed boat house will be located at the end of the pier and house the rescue boat. The boat house will be of masonry block construction and be supported on concrete piles. The boat house will include a hoisting system to
keep the rescue boat out of the water. Electricity will be provided for the boat house and the pier for night lighting and an intrusion detection system.

The pier and boat house will be protected with a debris barrier consisting of a noncorrosive type of grating installed on the windward side of the pier and boat house.

All utilities are present at the project site. Drainage of the site is by surface runoff into Ke‘ehi Lagoon and also by the airport drainage system. Other utilities, sewer, water, electricity, telephone are available at the nearby Station No. 2. Access to the station is via Lagoon Drive.

WAIONAO ROAD DRAIN PIPE EXTENSION PROJECT, PALOLO, City and County of Honolulu Department of Public Works

The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 100 lineal feet of 30-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe (SCMP), one special manhole, and one drain outlet.

This work is intended to alleviate the erosion problem at an existing drain outlet at a residential lot (TMK: 3-04-16:37) during periods of heavy rainfall. This project should take approximately two months to construct and cost about $90,000. Funds will be used from the City’s operating budget.

KAHU KELE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TWELVE CLASSROOMS, BUILDINGS E AND F, Department of Accounting and General Services for the Department of Education

The proposed project involves the construction of two 2-story 6-classroom concrete and masonry buildings, an elevator, connecting driveway, and utilities. The estimated cost of construction is $2.7 million. Since the project will be constructed within the existing school campus, no land will be removed from the tax base. (TMK:5-6-06:11; 5-6-09:port of parcel 134, 135-146 inclusive)

SHORE PROTECTION AT MAAKAHA, City and County of Honolulu Department of Land Utilization

The proposed seawall will extend across the entire parcel shorefront, a distance of about 70 feet, starting from the corner of the existing seawall on the north side, then along a straight line towards the corner of the existing seawall on the south side (approximately following the certified shoreline). The seawall then transitions to a retaining wall that follows along the southern property line to the front of the lot for a distance of about 165 feet. The seawall will stand about 8 feet high above the existing limestone platform, with the top of the wall consistent with the adjacent existing seawalls at approximately +15 feet elevation. The seawall will be backfilled to restore the eroded property to the grade consistent with the existing backshore elevations.

The seawall will be constructed of rock set with cement mortar, and reinforced with steel rebars. In addition to reinforcing the wall itself, the rebar will key the wall into the hard limestone foundation to prevent lateral movement.

CONSTRUCTION OF MAINTENANCE ACCESS RAMPS FOR VARIOUS STREAMS, City and County of Honolulu Department of Public Works

The proposed project involves the construction of maintenance ramps for five improved streams on Oahu. Access ramps into the stream from the embankment are proposed for the Waimalu, Palolo, Maunawili, and Kaneohe streams. Maintenance ramps at velocity drops to provide in-stream access are proposed for the Palolo, Nuuanu, Maunawili, and Kaneohe streams.

The project locations are as follows:

Waimalu Stream: Access Ramp, 9-8-60:14, Pearl City, Apartment Zone

Kaneohe Stream: Access Ramp, 4-5-72:75, Kaneohe, Residential Zone
The proposed project involves the construction of storm drain improvements at the intersection of Eames and Uuku streets and on Glen Avenue in upper Wahiawa. The improvements are planned to increase collection and disposal of storm runoff accumulated and transported by the existing streets which presently overtop curbs and flood adjoining yards and homes. The proposed improvements include construction of new catchbasins in the existing streets with new underground drainpipe systems to discharge the collected runoff to existing nearby drainageways. The proposed new improvements are to be located on existing City and County property and within proposed storm drainage easements. (TMKs: 7-1-02:4, 7-5-06:8)

KAUA'I

CONSERVATION DISTRICT USE APPLICATION:
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE, Walton D. Y. Hong/Department of Land and Natural Resources

The subject property is presently owned by the American Trust Co. of Hawaii, Inc., as trustee under a land trust. Current beneficiaries of the land trust are Nan Guslander (individually and as custodian for her minor child), Diana Guslander Faye (individually and as custodian for her minor children), and Lyle Whitmore Preston.

The applicant proposes to construct a single family residence with attached garage and storage, and clear the lot to permit the proposed construction and to provide selected view corridors from the residence. The parcel is situated at Haena, Island and County of Kauai. The land is in close proximity to, although not on, the shoreline, and contains an area of 21,416 square feet. It was shown on the Haena Hui Partition as Exclusion No. 1, and is more particularly identified as Kauai Tax Map Key: 5-9-02-51.
MAUI

CONSERVATION DISTRICT USE APPLICATION:
ACCESSORY BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Department of Land and Natural Resources

The U.S. Air Force BOLT experiment is a short-term (approximately 6 weeks) technical experiment designed to evaluate the performance of systems on-board a satellite in a geo-synchronous orbit. The satellite is currently positioned over the western Pacific. Ground facilities required to support BOLT include a transmitting station, or laser source system (LSS), which would include a laser source, laser and beam-control equipment, and a beam director. Because BOLT requires satellite-tracking capabilities and the experiment is short-term, it is necessary that the LSS be located in close proximity to a facility where satellite-tracking capabilities already exist. BOLT would thus require only minor additions to an existing facility.

The proposed action is the placement of the BOLT laser system at the U.S. Air Force Maui Optical Station (AMOS) facility, Maui, Hawaii. This action would require the construction of a utility building at AMOS and the shipment and installation of a complete laser system and experiment-specific support equipment. Pointing and tracking would be accomplished with the beam director and tracking facility currently operational at AMOS. Only fixed laser and beam transfer optics would be required. At the end of the BOLT experiment, the laser and experiment-specific equipment would be removed from AMOS. The utility building would remain. (TMK 2-2-07: 8)

MAUI WAENA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ARTS BUILDING AND 9-CLASSROOM BUILDING, P. KAHULUI
Department of Accounting and General Services for the Department of Education

This project involves: the construction of a 1-story industrial and agricultural arts building and a 2-story, 9-classroom concrete and masonry building; the grading of the remaining school campus; and the extension of the roads and installation of connecting utilities. The estimated cost of construction is $5,550,000. Since the project will be constructed within the existing school campus, no land will be removed from the tax base. (TMK: 3-8-07: port of parcel 2)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT USE APPLICATION:
HONOLUA WATERSHED PROJECT, DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCRETE-LINED CHANNEL AND CULVERT, LAHAINA, County of Maui Department of Public Works/Department of Land and Natural Resources

This project involves the development of a concrete-lined channel and culvert for the Mahinahina phase of the Honolua Watershed Project, for which a final environmental impact statement was accepted April 23, 1976. The Conservation District use portion of this project entails only the outlet of the channel. The site is currently a natural stream drainage to the sea. The area under consideration is approximately 90 square feet (18' x 5').

LAHAINA CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, LAHAINA, County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation

The site is currently the armory park and slopes up from the ocean to Front Street. The highest elevation is approximately six feet above sea level. There now exists on the site one quonset hut, a concrete slab on grade 100' x 70', about half of which is roofed. The supports for the roof are wood posts. There is also a concrete masonry structure 14' x 20' in size. Asphalt paving for parking and driveways totals about 21,000 square feet. Also there is a large play structure in disrepair and a 20' x 40 stone walled platform 24" high and miscellaneous wooden benches and planters.

The applicant proposes to demolish the
existing structures and pave areas and develop a children's park that is to provide specifically a place for the small child to play. Play spaces and play equipment will be sized to accommodate children from tots to 10 or 12 years of age. The park is composed of a series of intimate play spaces within close proximity to each other while also offering a continuous stream of activities. Included in the project are drinking fountains, benches, lighting, signage and trash receptacles. A small parking lot with space for six cars, trash dumpster and bicycle rack are provided. Additional parking is the parking lot across Front Street. (TMK:4-6-02:10)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT USE APPLICATION: AHOA (BELL STONE) CRITICAL AREA TREATMENT MEASURE, County of Maui Department of Public Works/Department of Land and Natural Resources

The Ahoa Bell Stone Critical Area Treatment Measure is a federally assisted action authorized for planning under Sections 1528-1538 of the Agriculture Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98). The purpose of this measure plan is to stabilize erosion on critically eroding land in the Ahoa Bell Stone drainage above Kahekili Highway and improve the quality of coastal waters by reducing the amount of sediment being discharged into the ocean adjacent to the Kahakuloa Estuary System.

If critical area treatment measures are not implemented, the sedimentation will continue to cause public hazard and inconvenience. Periodic closures of Kahekili Highway are caused by deposited sediment. The ocean adjacent to the Kahakuloa Estuary will continue to be the repository for sediment discharged from the Ahoa Bell Stone drainage area.

The applicant proposes to construct two single family dwellings (the second as an ohana dwelling) on a 21,284-square-foot residential lot. The subject parcel is located near the south end of Kealakekua Bay in Kahauloa 1, South Kona, Hawaii, TMK: 8-2-06:29. The parcel is located within the Kealakekua Bay Historic District (site 10-47-7000), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The applicant is presently requesting a Special Management Area Use Permit to allow the construction of two post or pole mounted dwellings on a vacant 21,284-square-foot residential lot lying within the Kealakekua Bay Historic District. The second, smaller dwelling will be an ohana dwelling. Wastewater disposal is proposed to be via cesspool. On-site parking requirements will be met by a two-car garage according to submitted plans.

DIRECT SALE OF ROADWAY REMNANTS, SOUTH KOHALA, Kalopi Farms/Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Land Management

The roadway remnant of the Old Kohala Mountain Road has been abandoned for twenty years. The applicant proposes to consolidate the roadway remnant with the three existing abutting parcels. The subject area (roadway remnant) is situated along the Kohala Mountain Road, South Kohala, abutting parcels identified by TMKs 6-1-01:17, 6-1-01:06, 6-1-01:14.

CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HAWAII NANILOA HOTEL, HILO, Hawaii Naniloa Hotel/Department of Land and Natural Resources

The applicant proposes to make certain improvements to the hotel complex which is situated on lands leased from the State of Hawaii under General Lease Nos. 2480, 2481, 2610, 3268, and S-4253, and from the Bender Estate.

The hotel property is made up of two parcels of land. The parcel where the
existing hotel buildings are located is comprised of six lots leased from the State of Hawaii. The parcel within which the proposed swimming pool will be located is leased from the Bender Estate.

Several repair, renovation, and refurbishing projects will be accomplished in phases in order to avoid a complete shut down of the hotel during construction. General repairs will include the replacement of roof covering on all buildings, painting of the exterior walls of the buildings, and upgrading of the air conditioning system to improve efficiency. Renovation and refurbishing work will involve all guest rooms; corridors, registration, lobby, and shop areas; Sandalwood Room; and Polynesian Room. Renovation work will also include the creation of two new restaurants, a karaoke bar, and a health spa. Fire sprinklers will be installed in all areas to improve fire protection. (TMK: 2-1-05:16)

USE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS FOR TEMPORARY PARKING PURPOSES AT KAILUA VILLAGE, NORTH KONA. Clyde and Reba Coatney/Department of Land and Natural Resources

The applicants are proposing the use of a 1,794-square-foot parcel of State land situated in Kailua Village, North Kona, designated by TMK: (3) 7-5-06:34 under a revocable permit, for temporary parking purposes. The applicants intend to use this area to provide temporary parking spaces for mail and other vendor deliveries to service their commercial office building, the Bougainvillea Plaza, situated immediately across from the subject State parcel on Likana Lane. Applicants' plans include the construction of a retaining wall on the southeasterly or makai boundary of the property, filling and grading the property, paving and striping driveway and parking areas.
EIS PREPARATION NOTICES

The following proposed actions have been determined to require an environmental impact statement. Anyone can be consulted in the preparation of the EIS by writing to the listed contacts. 30 days are allowed for requests to be a consulted party.

BARBERS POINT COGENERATION PROJECT, AES
Barbers Point, Inc./Department of Transportation Harbors Division

The applicant is proposing to develop, construct, own, and operate a 146 (net) megawatt (MW) coal-fired cogeneration facility. Cogeneration is the simultaneous production of electrical and thermal (steam) energies. The electrical energy produced by the facility will be sold to Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO), and process steam will be sold to the Chevron Hawaiian Refinery owned by Chevron USA, Inc. The facility will utilize an environmentally advanced coal burning technology known as circulating fluidized bed (CFB) combustion.

The plant will be located on a 28-acre site, and the material handling facilities will be on approximately 6 acres in the Campbell Industrial Park (CIP), Ewa District, Oahu. Fuel and limestone for the project will be imported from off-island sources. The coal and limestone will be delivered to the Barbers Point Deep Draft Harbor and unloaded and transported via covered conveyor to the plant site located approximately 1.5 miles to the south of the harbor.

The 146 MW unit will begin commercial operation in mid-1992 in order to meet HECO’s projected load growth demand through 1992.

The Barbers Point Cogeneration Project will provide low-cost electricity which will aid in diversifying the island’s fuel mix while producing electricity in an environmentally sound manner. The price of this electricity will escalate at a rate which is less than the rate of inflation. Since a majority of Oahu’s existing generating units are oil-fired, this project will reduce the oil price volatility risk passed on to Oahu’s rate payers.

The total capital cost estimate for the cogeneration plant is estimated to be approximately $265 million.

Contact: Mr. Perry J. White
Belt Collins and Associates
680 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96813


HAWAII FILM FACILITY EXPANSION,
Department of Business & Economic Development Film Industry Branch

The Film Industry Branch is proposing to expand an indoor filming production facility at the makai, Diamond Head corner of Kapiolani Community College, Diamond Head Campus site (KCC) on the island of Oahu. The project site is bordered by Diamond Head Road and 18th Avenue and is located within the Special Management Area and the Diamond Head Special Design District. The project site is the current location of the filming facility previously used by Hawaii 5-0 and, more recently, Magnum P.I. (TMK: 3-1-42:9, 31, and 33) It is owned by the State of Hawaii and was under a lease agreement with the University of Hawaii. The present film facility was subleased to Universal Studios and managed by the University of Hawaii for the expanded film facility. Until the lease transfer and management plan are finalized, DBED will continue to operate under a sublease agreement to manage the facility.

When the ultimate film facility is completed, it will consist of the following structures which includes some of the existing buildings: (1) three soundstages, (2) one support building,
(3) one technical building, and (4) parking.

Contact: Mrs. Duk Hee Murabayashi
DHM Planners Inc.
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2405
Honolulu, HI 96813


KOOLAUOLA DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE FROM AGRICULTURE TO PRESERVATION FOR "THE COUNTRY COURSES." A FIVE-GOLF COURSE COMPLEX IN KAHUKU, OAHU, Estate of James Campbell/Department of General Planning


Contact: Charles Ehrhorn
Asset Manager
James Campbell Estate
828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 500
Honolulu, HI 96813

Deadline: November 22, 1988

ROYAL KUNIA, PHASE II, HOAEE, EWA, OAHU, Malekua Development Corporation/Department of General Planning, City and County of Honolulu


Contact: William E. Wanket, Inc.
Pacific Tower, Suite 1010
1001 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Deadline: November 22, 1988

HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT ON THE HONOLII STREAM IN THE SOUTH HILO DISTRICT, HAWAII, Mauna Kea Power Company, Inc./Department of Land and Natural Resources


Contact: Duk Hee Murabayashi
DHM Planners Inc.
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2405
Honolulu, HI 96813

Deadline: November 22, 1988

HONOLULU CORPORATION YARD, SAND ISLAND AND SAND ISLAND PARK EXTENSION, Building Department, City and County of Honolulu


Contact: Herbert Muraoka
Director and Building Superintendent
City and County of Honolulu
Building Department
650 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Deadline: November 22, 1988

SHERATON MAKAPA RESORT EXPANSION, ANA Hotels Hawaii, Inc./Department of General Planning, City and County of Honolulu


Contact: Tyrone T. Kusao, Inc.
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2507
Honolulu, HI 96813

Deadline: November 22, 1988

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

EISs listed in this section are available for review at the following public depositories: Office of Environmental Quality Control; Legislative Reference Bureau; Municipal Reference and Records Center (Oahu EISs); Hamilton Library; State Main Library and the Kaimuki, Kaneohe, Pearl City, Hilo, Wailuku and Lihue Regional Libraries. Statements are also available at State Branch Libraries that are in proximity to the site of a proposed action (indicated by project description).

Comments on the following EISs should be sent to: 1) the accepting authority; and 2) the proposing agency. Please note the deadline date for submitting written comments on the EIS.
The proposed project involves the replacement of 15 helicopter parking positions rented on 30-day revocable permits, 3 State Dept. of Transportation controlled helipads, and 3 refueling positions at Lihue Airport. Relocation of the helicopter facilities to the west of the old terminal area will mitigate the current helicopter operational impact on the fixed wing aircraft operations on Runway 3–21. Two helipads will be provided and designated for either arrival or departure. Hover taxiing will be confined to a defined area. The fuel farm and underground fuel dispensing system will be initiated under this project. A 3,100 sq. ft. terminal building will be provided to replace existing ticketing operations and concentrate passenger activities. The building will initially have 8 counter spaces with expansion possibilities for 4 additional spaces. Briefing areas are included to convey safety instructions and other procedures to helicopter passengers. The proposed project site is presently used by airport operators (a car rental agency and 2 helicopter sightseeing companies), sugar cane fields and as open area. The document that is being prepared will supplement the 1977 "EIS-Lihue Airport Master Plan Study."

CONTACT: Mr. Dean Nakagawa
Airports Division
State Dept. of Transportation
Honolulu International Airport
Honolulu, HI 96819

This EIS is also available at Hanapepe, Kapaa, Kolo Community-School, and Waimea libraries.


OAHU INTRATISLAND FERRY SYSTEM, Department of Transportation, Harbors Division

Previously published October 8, 1988.

Contact: Earl K. Matsukawa
Hawaii. The proposed development is located within the Kahalu'u Historic District (Site No. 10-37-4150), which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The 3-story building with a basement will consist of approx. 27,500 sq. ft. of living area as follows: 24 two-bedroom (900 sq. ft.) units, 6 one-bedroom (660 sq. ft.) units and 2 one-bedroom (570 sq. ft.) units. The applicant proposes to provide a total of 40 parking stalls--28 regular and 12 compact. Some of the parking stalls will be under cover in the basement. The structure will be built to the maximum 45-ft. height limit. Landscaping is proposed along all property boundaries and would cover approx. 30 percent of the lots. Two vehicular accesses are proposed to the site from Makole'a St.

This EIS is also available for review at the Kona-Kailua and Kona-Kealakekua libraries.

Previously published February 8, 1988.

Status: Currently being processed by the County of Hawaii Planning Commission.

WAIALUA-KAHUKU REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS, WAIALUA-KAHUKU, OAHU, City
and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply

The proposed water facility improvements are within the 140 square miles delineated by the Waialua-Kahuku Water Use District in the northwest sector of Oahu. Bordering the shoreline, the district extends eastward from Kaena Point to Kaika Bay, then northeast past Waialua and Mea Bays, to Kahuku Point, and continues southeast to Kahuku Town. Inland, the district is bounded by the crest of the Wai'anae Range on the west, the Waialua-Wahiawa Judicial District boundary on the south, and the crest of the Koolau Range and Malsekahanar Valley at its eastern extent. The group of projects proposed include 9 new water sources with one or more new wells with associated storage and transmission facilities, one major transmission main which is independent of source development, and one new reservoir. The following are the proposed individual projects:

* Hanakaoe Well
* Kawaihawai Well
* Kawaiola Well
* Kawela Well
* Mokuleia Well I
* Opana Well
* Ukua Wells
* Waialua Well II
* Waimea Well
* Mokuleia-Makahia Transmission Main and Reservoir

This EIS is also available for review at the Kahuku Community-School and Waialua libraries.

KEAHOLE AIRPORT EXPANSION, NORTH KONA,
HAWAII, Dept. of Transportation, Airports
Division, and Federal Aviation Administration

The major facilities proposed for the airfield consist of a 4,500-ft. runway extension, additional taxiways, new and larger holding bays, and widened runway shoulders. The 4,500-ft. extension will bring the ultimate length of the runway to 11,000 ft. The proposed improvements are based on the projected aviation demands and available airfield capacity through the year 2005.

The proposed extension will occur towards the north, where there is ample undeveloped land. Inclusive in the planned upgrades are additional lighting and navigational systems, strengthening of the existing airfield pavement, and alterations to the surrounding airspace.

The terminal complex is proposed to be laid out in a linear pattern which closely resembles the existing layout of major facilities. Expansion of the terminal complex, parking facilities and ground transportation extends to the north of the existing facilities. Major expansion to the south includes general
aviation facilities, heliport, fixed base operator parcels and air cargo/mail facilities.

The existing airport utilizes approx. 432 acres. An additional 212 acres will be required for the expansion of the airport, and will require a State Land Use District Amendment to reclassify the lands from "Conservation" to "Urban." A County zoning amendment is also required to change the lands from "Open" to "General Industrial."

This EIS is also available for review at the Holualoa and Kailua-Kona libraries.

Status: Currently being processed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

WINDWARD OAHU REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, MALAEKAHANA TO MAKAPU’U, OAHU, City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply

Previously published October 8, 1988.

This EIS is also available for review at the Kahuku Community-School, Kailua and Waimanalo Community-School libraries.

Status: Currently being processed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

SITE SELECTION FOR THE NEW KONAWAENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KONA, HAWAII.
Department of Accounting and General Services

Previously published October 8, 1988.

Status: Currently being processed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

NEW PAHOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PAHOA, HAWAII. Department of Accounting and General Services

Previously published October 8, 1988.

This EIS is also available for review at the Pahoa Community-School Library, Thelma Parker Memorial Library, and Waimea Area Library.

Status: Currently being processed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: AMENDMENT TO THE MAUNA KEA SCIENCE RESERVE COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A VERY LONG BASELINE ARRAY (VLBA) ANTENNA FACILITY BY THE NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY AT MAUNA KEA, HAMAKUA, HAWAII, Institute of Astronomy, University of Hawaii


This EIS is also available for review at the Honokaa Library, Kailua-Kona Library, Keau Community-School Library, Mountain View Community-School Library, Thelma Parker Memorial Library, and Waimea Area Library.

Status: Currently being processed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: PREDATOR CONTROL MOAT, NU‘UPIA PONDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, KANEHOE BAY

The proposed project consists of two related actions within the Nu‘upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area (WMA). These actions are:

1. Construction of a predator control moat around a major nesting and feeding area of the endangered Hawaiian Stilt. The moat will be approximately six feet wide at the bottom with sloping walls averaging four feet deep. The water depth is expected to average approximately 2 feet subject to a tidal fluctuation of ± 0.5 feet. The moat will extend approximately 3,800 lineal feet.
and provide protection from predators to a mudflat area adjacent and to the north of Nu'upia 'Ekolu Pond, used extensively by the Hawaiian Stilt for nesting and feeding.

2. The approximately 6,000 cubic yards of material to be dredged for the predator control moat will be retained by the USMC at a designated stockpile area outside the wetland for dewatering and future use as cover material at the Station sanitary landfill.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the habitat of the endangered Hawaiian Stilt and other protected waterbirds that frequent the Nu'upia Ponds WMA. The Station Fish and Wildlife Management Plan (1984), prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recommends that moats be constructed as one among several management techniques employed to reduce predation and improve the habitat for these birds.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION EXEMPTION LIST

Pursuant to Section 11-200-8(d), Environmental Impact Statement Rules, the following was requested to be added to the Department of Parks and Recreation's exemption list:

Under Section 11-200-8(a)(1), "operations, repairs or maintenance . . . involving negligible . . . change of use . . ."," we propose that subdivision/consolidation of public park use be exempted from the preparation of an environmental assessment. Transfer of responsibility for operations, repairs and maintenance of parks will not involve change of use and have no environmental effect.
NOTEWORTHY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY PERMIT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

As a Federal agency which authorizes or permits activities or proposals which may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, the Corps of Engineers prepares an environmental assessment (EA) and/or an environmental impact statement (EIS) for each Department of the Army (DA) permit application as part of its public interest review process.

This requirement stems from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which established the need to consider environmental factors in decision-making. For the Corps of Engineers regulatory program, the specific procedures and documentation required by the Act is found in 33 CFR Part 230, Appendix B, Environmental Operating Procedures and Documents for Regulatory Functions.

WHO PREPARES THE EA/EIS FOR DA PERMIT ACTIONS?

The applicant is expected to furnish, as part of a complete permit application package, appropriate information for preparation of an EA or EIS by the Corps. The applicant must provide data necessary to evaluate reasonable alternatives and to assess the impacts of the proposed project and all reasonable alternatives. The Corps is responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted by the applicant and for the conduct of an independent evaluation. The document is prepared by the Corps, utilizing in-house staff or through contract.

WHEN IS THE EA PREPARED AND HOW IS IT USED IN THE PERMIT DECISION?

The EA is prepared as soon as practicable after all relevant information is available for a permit decision. This generally occurs after the end of the public notice period. It is usually a brief document (5-15 pages) and focuses on whether or not the activity to be permitted could have significant effects on the environment.

If the EA concludes that the permit proposal's impact is not significant, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is included at the end of the EA. The combined document is then dated, signed, and placed in the permit record.

When there is a determination of significant environmental impact, preparation of an EIS is required. For major projects, this decision to prepare an EIS can be made early in the permit process or even during pre-application meetings. As with the EA, the applicant is expected to furnish appropriate information necessary for preparation of an EIS.
ONCE THE DECISION IS MADE TO PREPARE AN EIS, CAN IT BE CHANGED?

At any time during the permit process, the district engineer may decide that an EIS is no longer needed as a result of:

1. reevaluation of the original determination,
2. reduced scope of the proposal,
3. receipt of additional information, or
4. sufficient evidence in the record to support denial of the proposal.

WHAT IS THE GENERAL FORMAT FOR A PERMIT EIS?

It should be noted that for regulatory permit, the Corps action is ISSUANCE OF THE PERMIT or ISSUANCE OF THE PERMIT WITH CONDITIONS. It then follows that denial of a permit application is considered "no-action" on the part of the Corps.

The EIS format is as follows:

* A Cover Sheet which identifies the regulatory action officer, the Corps permit action, and the authority under which the Corps is exerting its jurisdiction.

* A Summary section which summarizes the purpose and need for the proposed action as well as its beneficial and adverse impacts.

* Table of Contents

* Purpose and Need for the Proposal--This section distinguishes between an applicant's purpose and need and a public purpose and need. These may be the same as for many government-sponsored projects.

Where the proposal is a private endeavor, the purpose and need must be related to overall public interest or benefit to be derived by issuance of the permit.

* Alternatives--This section must document and include a reasonable number and range of alternatives which would satisfy the purpose and need for the action to be permitted. The EIS must address all the practicable alternatives to be considered by the decision-maker. An important distinction to make for regulatory permit actions is that the Corps takes an impartial position whether to issue or deny an application until the full public interest review is complete. Thus, at no time is a preferred alternative designated. Rather the document evaluates whether each alternative(s) is in the public interest. However, the document must objectively state the "environmentally preferred alternative."

* Affected Environment--A description of the environmental setting, specifically the area to be affected by the activity to be permitted.

* Environmental Consequences--A discussion of primary, secondary, cumulative, and other impacts.

* List of Preparers

* Public Involvement--Summary of people consulted, meetings and hearings held, etc.

* Appendixes--Background and supporting data and studies

* Index--Alphabetical index for easy reference to items discussed in the main text of EIS.
WHAT ARE THE FILING REQUIREMENTS AS THEY RELATE TO PERMIT DECISIONS?

Both draft and final EIS are filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C. The supporting documentation for a permit decision is referred to as a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD cannot be prepared or signed by the District Engineer until 30 days after the final EIS has been noticed in the Federal Register by EPA.

OVERALL HOW MUCH PROCESSING TIME IS ADDED TO THE USUAL DA PROCESS BY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EIS?

For routine, non-controversial actions, permit decisions are largely based on EA's and can be completed in 60 days. Other EA-based permit decisions requiring additional interagency coordination and resolution of concerns can extend the process from three months to a year.

When an EIS is required, a public hearing is also generally held. Overall, it is estimated that permit processing for EIS actions take a minimum of two years.