

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

September 12, 2014

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR A PROPOSED WATER DIP TANK TO INCREASE FIRE RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AT KAOHE, ISLAND OF HAWAII

**BACKGROUND:**

Fire represents a major disturbance in much of the northwest portion of Hawaii Island, including the Kaohe Game Management Area (GMA) and adjacent portions of the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. Maps of wildfires from 1954-2005 compiled by the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization show that most of the non-bare lava surface between Waimea and Puu waawaa has burned, much of it multiple times. Of particular concern is that the area is the last refuge for the critically-endangered Palila (*Loxoides bailleui*), the lone surviving finch-billed honeycreeper found in the main Hawaiian Islands. These birds are currently found only on the upper elevation slopes of Mauna Kea above 6,000 feet, with over 95% of the population restricted to the southwest slope. This project proposes to address this threat through increased capacity and response ability with the construction of water tanks and related infrastructure at two sites within the Kaohe GMA.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), is planning to construct water tanks and related infrastructure at two sites on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea in the Kaohe Game Management Area to assist the agency in fighting fires. The sites are located off of Road 1, one about a half mile above the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station and the other 700 feet south of Puu Laau. Each site will have a covered, 40,000-gallon holding tank to contain water obtained from trucks and/or catchment. Via high density polyethylene pipeline, the holding tank will feed a smaller, open tank that will be accessed by helicopters equipped with dip buckets. Both sites are in open and previously modified and impacted environments that are accessible by a two-wheel drive vehicle. Ground disturbance

associated with the project will total less than half an acre, and erosion, sedimentation and dust will be controlled by Best Management Practices.

DOFAW considered other locations within two miles of the Kaohe GMA that might could be used as fire diptank sites, including other sites within the GMA, land within the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and the former cattle lease being restored to mamane forest, as well as adjacent land on Parker Ranch, Waikii Ranch, and Pohakuloa Training Area. One site originally proposed for the upper elevation tanks in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and specified in early consultation correspondence for this EA was relocated just southwest into the Kaohe GMA in order to be less visually obtrusive from the Puu Laau Cabin. The site originally proposed in early consultation correspondence for the lower elevation tanks was then relocated to avoid conflict with utility easements from just above the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station to about a half-mile mauka. The two sites ultimately chosen are located on Road 1, the best maintained unpaved road in the area, which traverses the heart of the mamane forest. No other sites had the combination of accessibility by heavy trucks (for construction and initial filling of the tanks) and proximity to the core of the mamane forest. In addition, areas that are not under DOFAW's control would require additional administrative approvals and third-party agreements that could involve lease funds and less than optimum conditions. Much of the private land has relatively poor access as well.

The sites are located within the State Land Use Conservation District and Palila Critical Habitat, and the project will protect the values of these areas. Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands were consulted during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment. The sites are currently highly modified from prior use, but the original vegetation was a subalpine dry mamane/naio forest (Gagne and Cuddihy 1990), with various native herbs, shrubs and grasses in the understory. The long history of grazing and feral mammal browsing has thinned the forest and replaced native elements in the understory with non-natives, although the original canopy species are still dominant. No threatened or endangered (T&E) plant species are present at or near the disturbance footprints based on surveys by a trained botanist. Timing of project activities will avoid or minimize impacts to T&E animals by conducting the work outside of the nesting season of the Palila. No historic or cultural properties will be affected, and visual impacts from the tanks, which will likely be no more than 12 feet tall, will be minor. The project will substantially improve fire protection in this important habitat and recreation area.

#### FINDINGS AND REASONS SUPPORTING ANTICIPATED DETERMINATION:

1. *The proposed project will not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.* No valuable natural or cultural resources would be committed or lost, and the project would protect natural resources from fire. The State Historic Preservation Division conducted site visits with project staff and issued a letter of concurrence that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.
2. *The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.* The proposed project expands and in no way curtails beneficial uses of the environment.

3. *The proposed project will not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies.* The State's long-term environmental policies are set forth in Chapter 344, HRS. The broad goals of this policy are to conserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life. The project has a minor footprint, has been designed to avoid environmental impacts and fulfills aspects of these policies calling for protecting the natural environment. It is thus consistent with all elements of the State's long-term environmental policies.
4. *The proposed project will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or State.* The project will benefit the economic and social welfare of the community by enhancing fire protection.
5. *The proposed project does not substantially affect public health in any detrimental way.* The proposed project will benefit public health by protecting air quality by limiting wildfire.
6. *The proposed project will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.* No adverse secondary effects are expected to result from the proposed action. The project will not enable development or cause in-migration.
7. *The proposed project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.* The project will not degrade the environment in any substantial way.
8. *The proposed project will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat.* The project is meant primarily to protect critical habitat for the endangered Palila. Construction will be scheduled and conducted to minimize impacts to Palila. The area has been inspected by biologists from DOFAW and no other endangered species of flora or fauna is present.
9. *The proposed project is not one which is individually limited but cumulatively may have considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions.* The project is not related to additional activities in the region in such a way as to produce adverse cumulative effects or involve a commitment for larger actions.
10. *The proposed project will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.* No adverse effects on these resources would occur. Ambient noise impacts due to construction will be temporary and timed to avoid impact to sensitive fauna, particularly Palila.
11. *The project does not affect nor would it likely be damaged as a result of being located in environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal area.* Although the project is located in an area with seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai'i shares this risk, and the project would not be imprudent to construct and would employ design and construction standards appropriate to the seismic zone.
12. *The project will not substantially affect scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in county*

*or state plans or studies.* No scenic vistas or viewplanes identified in the Hawai'i County General Plan will be adversely affected by the project, and visual impacts will be negligible.

13. *The project will not require substantial energy consumption.* The project involves only minor energy use and no adverse effects are expected.


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

RECOMMENDATION:


That the Board:

- 1) Accept the Final Environmental Assessment for the Kaohe Fire Diptank project.
- 2) Based on the review of the Final Environmental Assessment and the comments received during the 30-day public comment period and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's responses, find that the project will not have a significant effect on the environmental, economic, and/or cultural resources of the area and approve the issuance of a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the proposed project.

Respectfully submitted,

  
LISA J. HADWAY, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR., Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources



# **FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

## **Ka'ohē Fire Diptanks**

TMK (3<sup>rd</sup>) 4-4-015: 004 (pors.)  
Hamakua District, Hawai'i Island, State of Hawai'i

July 2013

State of Hawai'i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Ka'ohē Fire Diptanks**

TMK (3<sup>rd</sup>) 4-4-015: 004 (pors.)

Hamakua District, Hawai'i Island, State of Hawai'i

**PROPOSING/  
APPROVING AGENCY:**

State of Hawai'i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
PO Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809

**CONSULTANT:**

Geometrician Associates LLC  
PO Box 396  
Hilo, HI 96721

**CLASS OF ACTION:**

Use of State Land  
Use of State Funds

This document is prepared pursuant to:

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

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

SUMMARY .....		ii
PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PURPOSE AND NEED AND EA PROCESS.....		1
1.1 Project Location and Description.....		1
1.2 Purpose and Need .....		1
1.3 Environmental Assessment Process.....		6
1.4 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination .....		7
PART 2: ALTERNATIVES.....		8
2.1 No Action .....		8
2.2 Alternative Locations .....		8
PART 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION .....		9
3.1 Physical Environment .....		9
3.1.1 Climate, Geology, Soils and Geologic Hazards .....		9
3.1.2 Drainage, Water Features and Water Quality.....		10
3.1.3 Flora, Fauna and Ecosystems .....		11
3.1.4 Air Quality, Noise and Scenic Resources.....		13
3.1.5 Hazardous Substances, Toxic Waste and Hazardous Conditions.....		14
3.2 Socioeconomic and Cultural .....		15
3.2.1 Socioeconomic Characteristics and Recreational Uses .....		15
3.2.2 Cultural and Historic Resources .....		16
3.3 Infrastructure .....		26
3.4 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts.....		26
3.4.1 Secondary Impacts.....		26
3.4.2 Cumulative Impacts .....		27
3.5 Required Permits and Approvals .....		28
3.6 Consistency With Government Plans and Policies .....		28
3.6.1 Hawai'i State Plan .....		28
3.6.2 Hawai'i State Land Use Law and Game Management Area Designation .....		28
3.6.3 Hawai'i County Zoning and General Plan .....		29
PART 4: DETERMINATION .....		29
PART 5: FINDINGS AND REASONS .....		29
REFERENCES .....		31

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1 Location Map .....	2
FIGURE 2 TMK Map .....	2
FIGURE 3 Project Sites in Relation to Palila Areas .....	3
FIGURE 4 Photos of Project Sites .....	4

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1a	Comments in Response to Early Consultation
APPENDIX 1b	Comments to Draft EA and Responses

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION,  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), is planning to construct water tanks and related infrastructure at two sites on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea in the Ka' ohe Game Management Area to assist the agency in fighting fires. The sites are located off of Road 1, one about a half mile above the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station and the other 700 feet south of Pu'u La'au. Each site will have a covered, 40,000-gallon holding tank to contain water obtained from trucks and/or catchment. Via high density polyethylene pipeline placed above ground (except where it is buried beneath roads), the holding tank will feed a smaller, open fire diptank that will be accessed by helicopters equipped with dip buckets. Both sites are in open and previously modified environments that are accessible by a two-wheel drive vehicle. Ground disturbance associated with the project will total less than half an acre, and erosion, sedimentation and dust will be controlled by Best Management Practices. The sites are located within the State Land Use Conservation District and Palila Critical Habitat, and the project will protect the values of these areas. No threatened or endangered (T&E) plant species are present at or near the disturbance footprints. Timing of project activities will avoid or minimize impacts to T&E animals. No historic or cultural properties will be affected, and visual impacts from the tanks, which will likely be no more than 12 feet tall, will be minor. The project will substantially improve fire protection in this important habitat and recreation area.

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

### **1.1 Project Location and Description**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), is planning to construct water tanks and related infrastructure at two sites on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea in the Ka'ohē Game Management Area (GMA) to assist the agency in fighting fires in the GMA and adjacent lands in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and on a former cattle lease now dedicated to māmane forest restoration. Both sites are located on TMK 3-4-4-015-004 adjacent to Road 1. The lower site is about a half mile *mauka* of the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station at 5,900 feet elevation, and the upper site is behind a hill and 700 feet south of the Pu'u La'au Ranger Cabin, at 7,375 feet elevation. At the upper site, the fill tank is at UTM 228252 m E / 2194975 m N (UTM Zone 5, NAD 83), and the diptank is at UTM 228198 m E / 2194899 m N. At the lower site, the fill tank is at UTM 224568 m E / 2192430 m N, and the diptank is at UTM 224512 m E / 2192407 m N (Figures 1-3).

Each site will have a covered, 40,000-gallon holding tank to contain water obtained from trucks and/or catchment. The fill tank will likely be about 12 feet high and in no case taller than 20 feet. Via high density polyethylene pipeline placed above ground (except where it is buried beneath roads), the holding tank will feed a smaller, open fire diptank that will be accessed by helicopters equipped with dip buckets. Both sites are in open and previously modified environments that are accessible by a two-wheel drive vehicle. Ground disturbance associated with the project will total less than half an acre. Water from the tanks may also be used for ongoing ecosystem restoration efforts. The sites are located within the State Land Use Conservation District and Palila Critical Habitat and the project will protect the values of these areas. The fire diptanks project would cost approximately \$250,000, with most funding except for DOFAW labor derived from a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **1.2 Purpose and Need**

In modern times, wildfire has come to pose a grave threat to Hawaiian ecosystems by converting native habitats into grasslands or shrublands dominated by nonnative species (Cuddihy and Stone 1990). Fires in Hawai'i are usually caused by human activity. Unlike many other areas in the world, the majority of dryland native Hawaiian plants are not adapted to wildfires, and they generally perish when exposed to fire. Native shrubs and trees may recover from fire to some degree, but native plant communities are often overwhelmed by more aggressive alien species after fires. Many nonnative species are pyrophytic (adapted to fire) and thrive in the aftermath of wildfires. Unlike native shrubs and trees, many alien grasses recover quickly, increasing in ground cover and biomass after a fire. Fires encourage non-native grass by stimulating growth from the base of clumps and encouraging seed production. The establishment of pyrophytic grasses increases the threat of additional fires. Two-thirds of the dry forests of the Big Island have been lost, primarily due to wildfire carried by invasive grasses (HWMO 2007). Wildfires of course also may lead to injuries and death to people and wildlife, property losses and soil erosion, with consequent impacts to water and air quality.

Figure 1. Location Map

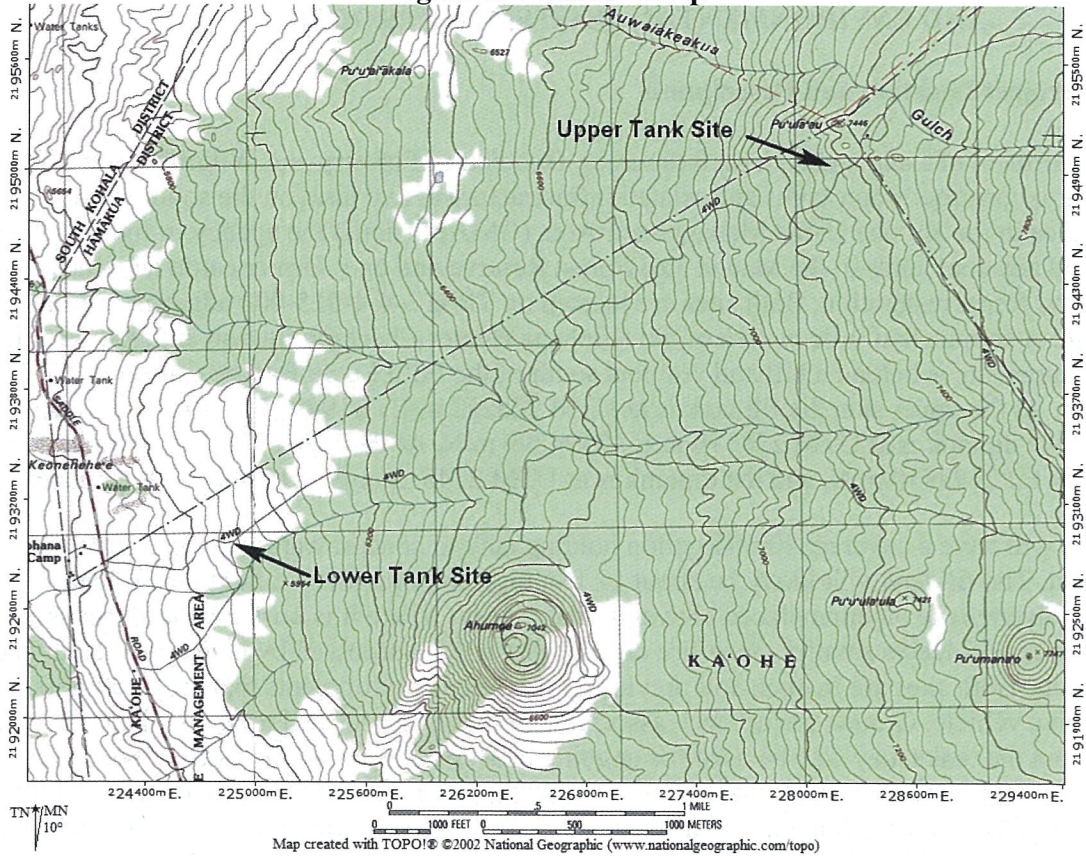


Figure 2. TMK Map

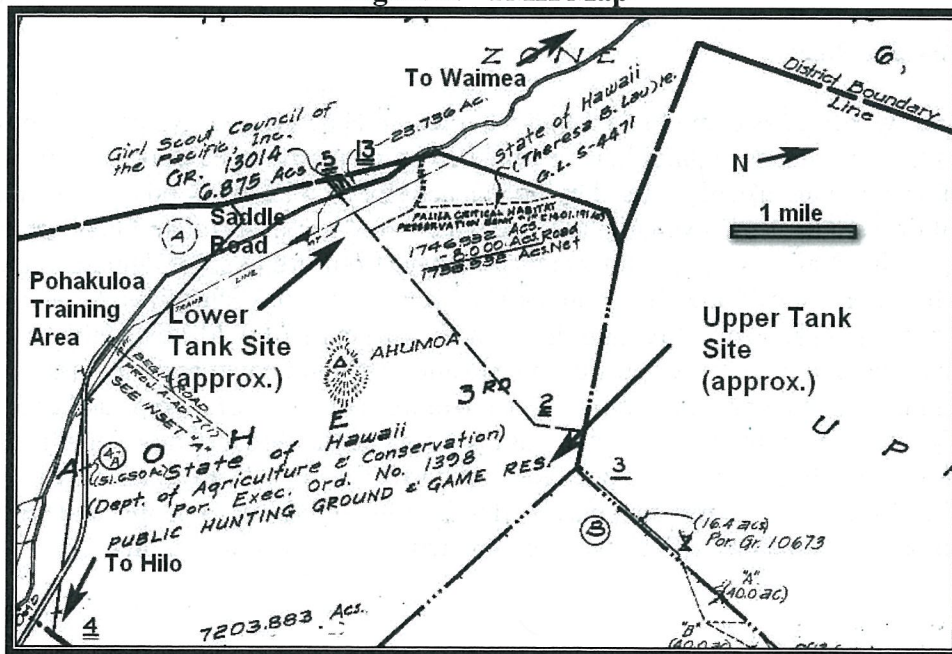
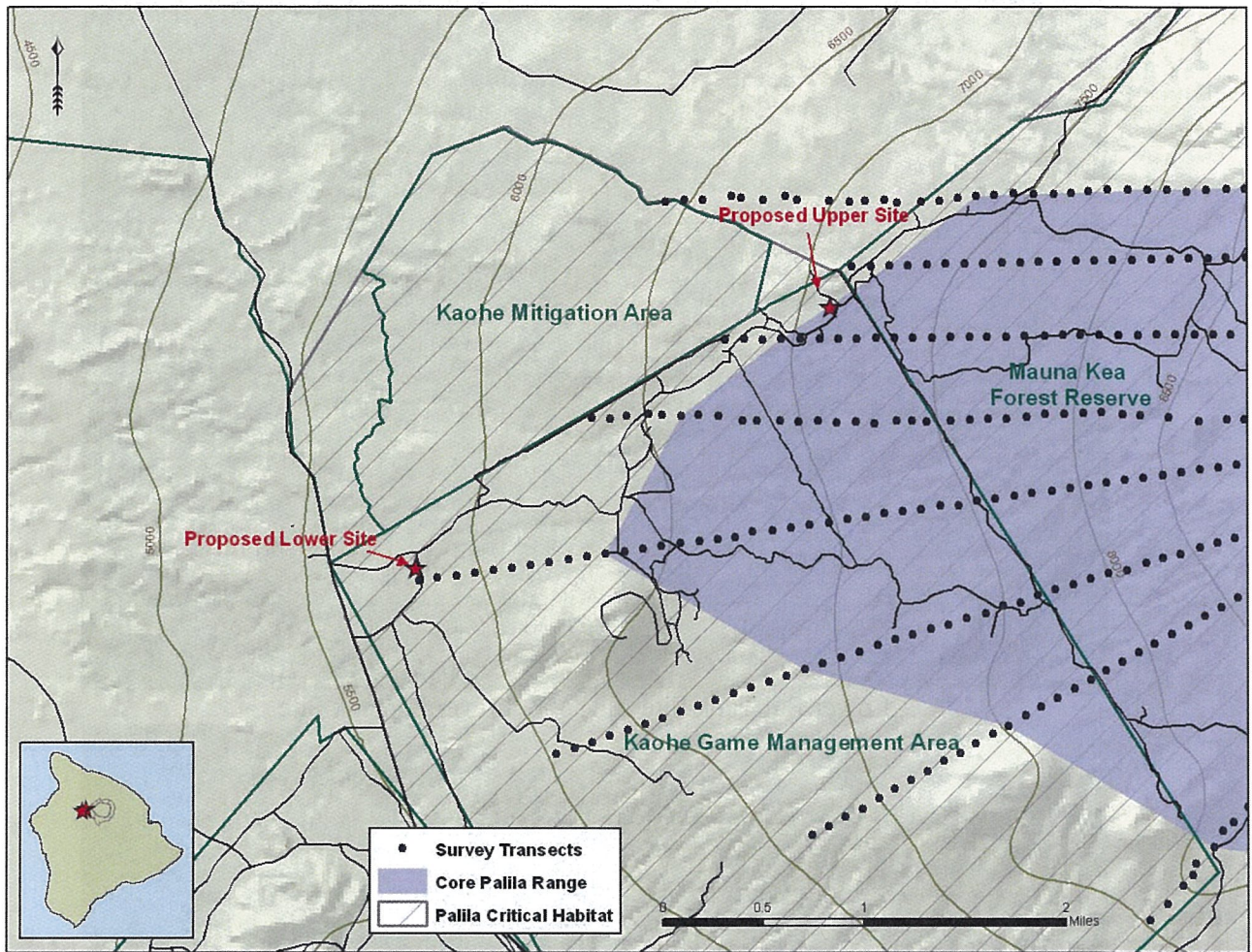




Figure 3. Project Sites in Relation to Palila Areas





**Figure 4. Photos of Project Sites**



Lower Fill Tank Site ▲ ▼ Lower Diptank Site







Upper Fill Tank Site ▲ ▼ Upper Diptank Site



Fire represents a major disturbance in much of northwest Hawai‘i, including the Ka‘ohe GMA and adjacent portions of the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. Maps of wildfires from 1954-2005 compiled by the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization show that most of the non-bare lava surface between Waimea and Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a has burned, much of it multiple times (HWMO 2007). Dangerous wildfires have affected the southern part of Mauna Kea as recently as 2003, when a large fire burned in the Ka‘ohe GMA, and October 2011, when 1,200 acres burned east of Mauna Kea State Park and Saddle Road had to be closed.

What makes fire potentially devastating in the Ka‘ohe GMA and adjacent areas is the value of the existing habitat. The intact *māmane/naio* forest, valued and protected by ancient Hawaiians, 19<sup>th</sup> century ranchers, territorial foresters and current wildlife agencies, is in the crosshairs of wildfire. Of particular concern is that the area is the last refuge of the critically endangered Palila (*Loxoides bailleui*), the lone surviving finch-billed honeycreeper found in the main Hawaiian Islands. These birds are currently restricted to the upper elevation slopes of Mauna Kea above 6,000 feet, with over 95 percent of the population restricted to the southwest slope. Palila have evolved an extremely specialized diet dependent on *māmane* trees and associated invertebrates for its survival. Therefore, the only habitats able to sustain Palila over the long term are large areas of forest that contain dense stands of large *māmane* trees and incorporate significant elevational or rainfall gradients to provide year-round food sources.

Very few areas with relatively dense stands of large *māmane* occur along a substantial elevational or rainfall gradient remain on the Island of Hawai‘i. The most prominent area currently exhibiting these criteria is located on the western slope of Mauna Kea near Pu‘u La‘au in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, Ka‘ohe GMA and adjacent areas (see Figure 3). This area is part of Palila Critical Habitat as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 1997) and presently supports the core population of Palila. In 2002, the grazing lease on a 1,746-acre cattle lease area west of the Ka‘ohe GMA was withdrawn to restore the *māmane* forest as part of mitigation for the Saddle Road Improvements project (FHWA-CFLHD 1999) (called herein the Ka‘ohe Mitigation Area). The proposed fire diptanks are a key part of the strategy to responding to wildfires in this vulnerable area.

### **1.3 Environmental Assessment Process**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) process is being conducted in accordance with Chapter 343 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS). This law, along with its implementing regulations, Title 11, Chapter 200, of the Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), is the basis for the environmental impact process in the State of Hawai‘i. According to Chapter 343, an EA is prepared to determine impacts associated with an action, to develop mitigation measures for adverse impacts, and to determine whether any of the impacts are significant according to thirteen specific criteria. Part 4 of this document states the finding (anticipated finding, in the Draft EA) that no significant impacts are expected to occur; Part 5 lists each criterion and presents the findings (preliminary, for the Draft EA) for each made by the Hawai‘i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). If, after considering comments to the Draft EA, and the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), the official approving agency, concludes that, as anticipated, no significant impacts would be expected to occur, then the agency issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the action will be

permitted to occur. If the approving agency concludes that significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action, then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared. As discussed above, funding for the project is through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is separately conducting an environmental review in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

#### **1.4 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination**

The following agencies and organizations were consulted in development of the environmental assessment:

Federal:

U.S. Army Garrison, Pohakuloa Training Area Commander  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office  
U.S. Geological Survey, PIERC Kilauea Field Station

State:

Department of Health  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
Office of Mauna Kea Management  
DLNR, State Historic Preservation Division, Land Division, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

County:

Civil Defense Agency  
County Council  
Fire Department  
Planning Department

Private:

Kalepa Baybayan  
Ka'iu Kimura  
Kimo Pihana  
Parker Ranch  
Sierra Club  
Frank Trusdell  
Waiki'i Ranch  
Waiki'i Ranch Homeowners Association

Copies of communications received during early consultation are contained in Appendix 1a. Appendix 1b contains written comments on the Draft EA and the responses to these comments. Various places in the EA have been modified to reflect input received in the comment letters; additional or modified non-procedural text is denoted by double underlines, as in this paragraph.

## **PART 2: ALTERNATIVES**

### **2.1 No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, the fire diptanks in the Ka'ohē GMA would not be constructed. Critically needed helicopter response to wildfires in *māmane* forests of the Ka'ohē GMA and adjacent areas, which include Critical Habitat for Palila, would require use of fire diptanks located over three to ten miles away in the Pohakuloa Training Area. DOFAW estimates that the optimum acceptable distance from a fire diptank to a wildfire in this area is about two miles or less, which means that the area would continue to be less than acceptably protected.

In related but separate projects, the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization has been awarded grant monies from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is finalizing environmental compliance needed to allow construction of new fire diptanks in the Pu'uanahulu and Waikoloa areas (Elizabeth Pickett pers. comm. to R. Terry, November 2012). Pohakuloa Training Area also has plans for more fire diptanks within Ke'āmuku and elsewhere in the facility (U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, HQ 2003). These HWMO and U.S. Army diptanks will substantially improve wildfire fighting in northwest Hawai'i, but they would still not be optimally situated for fires in the Ka'ohē GMA, Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and adjacent areas. Because of ecosystem protection and public safety concerns in this area with poor road access, DLNR considers the No Action Alternative undesirable.

### **2.2 Alternative Locations**

DOFAW considered other locations within two miles of the Ka'ohē GMA that might could be used as fire diptank sites, including other sites within the GMA, land within the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and the former cattle lease being restored to *māmane* forest, as well as adjacent land on Parker Ranch, Waiki'i Ranch, and Pohakuloa Training Area. One site originally proposed for the upper elevation tanks in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and specified in early consultation correspondence for this EA was relocated just southwest into the Ka'ohē GMA in order to be less visually obtrusive from the Pu'u La'au Cabin. The site originally proposed in early consultation correspondence for the lower elevation tanks was then relocated to avoid conflict with utility easements from just above the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station to about a half-mile *mauka*. The two sites ultimately chosen are located on Road 1, the best maintained unpaved road in the area, which traverses the heart of the Ka'ohē *māmane* forest. No other sites had the combination of accessibility by heavy trucks (for construction and initial filling of the tanks) and proximity to the core of the Ka'ohē *māmane* forest. In addition, areas that are not under DOFAW's control would require additional administrative approvals and third-party agreements that could involve lease funds and less than optimum conditions. Much of the private land has relatively poor access as well.

As the proposed sites appear to be in optimum locations with no known environmental or other disadvantages, no alternative sites have been advanced in this Environmental Assessment.



## **PART 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

### *Basic Geographic Setting*

The two approximately quarter-acre locations adjacent to Road 1 about a half mile *mauka* of the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station and southwest of the Pu‘u La‘au Cabin are referred to throughout this EA as the *project sites*. The term *project area* is used to describe the general environs of this part of the southwest slope of Mauna Kea, including the area benefitted by improved fire protection.

### **3.1 Physical Environment**

#### **3.1.1 Climate, Geology, Soils and Geologic Hazards**

##### *Environmental Setting*

At about 5,900 and 7,400 feet in elevation respectively, both the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station and Pu‘u La‘au Cabin project sites have a cool climate, with daytime temperatures in the low 60s (Fahrenheit) and nighttime temperatures that often dip into the 40s or lower. Annual rainfall averages about 20 to 22 inches (Giambelluca et al 2012). Geologically, the project sites are located on the southwestern flank of the Mauna Kea volcano, on hawaiite or mugearite lava flows dating from the late Pleistocene, between 14,000 and 65,000 years before the present (Wolfe and Morris 1996). Soil on the project sites is classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) as being in various series of well-drained, stony, very fine sandy loams (U.S. Soil Conservation Service 1973).

The entire Big Island is subject to geologic hazards, especially lava flows and earthquakes. Volcanic hazard as assessed by the U.S. Geological Survey in this area of Mauna Kea is Zone 8, on a scale of ascending risk from 9 to 1 (Heliker 1990:23). The low hazard risk is based on the fact that Mauna Kea is a dormant volcano, and most Zone 8 areas have not been affected by lava flows in the past 10,000 years. As such, there is a low risk of lava inundation over relatively short time scales in the project area.

In terms of seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai‘i is rated Zone 4 Seismic Hazard (*Uniform Building Code, 1997 Edition*, Figure 16-2). Zone 4 areas are at risk from major earthquake damage, especially to structures that are poorly designed or built, as the 6.7-magnitude quake of October 15, 2006, demonstrated. The project sites do not appear to be subject to subsidence, landslides or other forms of mass wasting.

##### *Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

In general, geologic conditions impose no constraints on the proposed action, and the proposed project is not imprudent to construct. The design of the water tank infrastructure will take into account the soil’s physical and chemical characteristics, which are not unsuitable for construction of water tanks,

with proper design to accommodate bearing loads, erosion and sedimentation issues. The facilities will also be designed and built in accordance with regulations related to the seismic setting.

### **3.1.2 Drainage, Water Features and Water Quality**

#### *Existing Environment*

The project sites were selected specifically to ensure that no drainages or flood zones were located in or near the proposed locations of the water tanks or associated road aprons or pipelines. The area is not mapped within the 100-year floodplain on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and therefore the area is considered Flood Zone X, outside the 100-year floodplain.

#### *Impacts and Mitigation Measure*

Because the project will not disturb more than one acre of soil and will not involve discharge of hydrotesting and disinfection water, no National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit must be obtained by the contractor before the project commences. DOFAW policy is that minor grading activities associated with wildlife and habitat protection actions, such as the current project involving activities on about half an acre of surface that is mostly already disturbed, are not subject to County grading permits. although DOFAW staff and/or contractors are required to implement certain best management practices (BMPs) to prevent or minimize erosion and sedimentation. These BMPs may include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Minimizing disturbance of soil during periods of heavy rain;
- Phasing of the project in order to disturb a minimum necessary area of soil at a particular time;
- Application of gravel over any areas where soil is disturbed;
- Use of drip pans beneath vehicles not in use in order to trap vehicle fluids;
- Routine maintenance of BMPs by adequately trained personnel; and
- Cleanup of significant leaks or spills and disposal at an approved site, if they occur.

### **3.1.3 Flora, Fauna and Ecosystems**

#### *Existing Environment, Impacts and Mitigation Measures: Plants*

The project sites consist primarily of land that was grazed for over a century and is now utilized by game mammals. The original vegetation was a subalpine dry *māmane/naio* forest (Gagne and Cuddihy 1990), with various native herbs, shrubs and grasses in the understory. The long history of grazing and feral mammal browsing has thinned the forest and replaced native elements in the understory with non-natives, although the original canopy species are still dominant.

A botanical survey of the project sites was conducted in January 2013 by DOFAW biologist Lyman Perry, accompanied by Ron Terry. The primary purpose of the survey was to identify rare and threatened or endangered (T&E) species, but all species encountered were identified.

The upper project site was dominated by non-native pasture grasses including orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), *Eragrostis brownei* and sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), plus the non-native herbs and shrubs fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), with a few emergent native *māmane* (*Sophora chrysophylla*) seedlings. It should be noted that the upper project site was relocated about 700 feet subsequent to the survey into a more disturbed area with the same suite of mostly non-native species, with no *māmane* seedlings.

The lower project site had two common natives, hard-stemmed love grass (*Eragrostis atropioides*) and a few 'a'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*) shrubs, and the non-natives fireweed, mullein, telegraph plant (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), *Brassica nigra*, narrow-leafed plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), oiwi (*Verbena littoralis*), tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*) and *Lepidium virginicum*. Along the proposed route of the pipe from the fill tank to the diptank there were a few native 'ulei shrubs (*Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*), which can be avoided.

No T&E plant species were noted on or near the project site. Because of the lack of rare or threatened or endangered plant species, no substantial adverse impacts to botanical resources would occur as a result of building the fire diptanks.

#### *Existing Environment, Impacts and Mitigation Measures: Animals*

With the exception of the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), or 'ope'ape'a, all terrestrial mammals currently found on the island of Hawai'i are alien species. Most are ubiquitous, and none are of conservation concern. Domestic cattle and feral goats, sheep, and mouflon are present in the Ka'ohē area. The endangered Hawaiian hoary bat may forage in the area, but would not find the project sites themselves suitable roosting habitat, as trees or large shrubs are absent. The diptanks would not adversely impact the Hawaiian hoary bat, as no trees or shrubs would be cut or trimmed, and forest protection from wildfire is beneficial for providing long-term bat roosting and food resources.

Annual bird surveys are conducted by DOFAW on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea from tree-line to the lower forest reserve boundary. The *māmane/naio* forests in this area contain over 95% of the population of the Palila (*Loxioides bailleui*) (Camp and Banko 2012), as well as populations of three additional native forest bird species. In addition, extensive bird surveys of nearby habitat were conducted as part of the Saddle Road Improvements EIS (FHWA-CFLHD 1999). These surveys combined with casual observations from the current project indicate that the lower site is dominated by introduced avian species, including numerous species of gamebirds and large numbers of House Finches (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), Common Mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), and Eurasian Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*). The upper project site includes a mix of native and alien species. Key species in this area include the native Hawai'i 'Amakihi (*Hemignathus virens virens*), 'Apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*), and the endemic *bryani* subspecies of Hawai'i 'Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*), as



well as alien House Finches, Japanese White-eyes (*Zosterops japonicas*), Eurasian Skylarks, and numerous gamebirds. This site is also on the edge of the core range of the Palila, and Palila are noted from the site (see discussion of Palila below).

Two other native bird species may also use the area, though neither is known to breed at either site. The Pueo, or Hawaiian Owl (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*), is an endemic sub-species of the widely distributed Short-eared Owl, and is found in the grasslands of the Big Island. In addition, during the botanical reconnaissance of the area, an endangered 'Io, or Hawaiian Hawk (*Buteo solitarius*), which is commonly seen in forested areas of the Big Island, was observed *mauka* of Pu'u La'au. While the low-stature of the forest and lack of suitable nesting at the sites makes the area unsuitable for nesting to occur, DOFAW will arrange for a search for nesting 'Io by a qualified biologist before work begins at the site. If an 'Io nest is found in or near the project sites, all land clearing activity will cease until the fledging of the nest.

The most prominent and important native bird at these sites, as discussed in Section 1, is the Palila. The Palila is the last extant representative of the finch-billed clade of Hawaiian Honeycreepers (Drepanidae) found on the main Hawaiian Islands. While fossil evidence shows that the species was formerly widespread on multiple islands at all elevations (Olson and James 1982), historically the species has been restricted to the *māmane-naio* forests at high elevation on the Island of Hawai'i. Over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Palila disappeared from its historic range on Mauna Loa, Hualalai, and most of Mauna Kea, with the remaining population undergoing a steady decline over the past decade (Leonard et al. 2008, Camp and Banko 2012). The most recent estimate shows that about 2,200 Palila survive in degraded forest on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea (Camp and Banko 2012).

The Palila was listed by the USFWS as endangered in 1967 (USFWS 1967) and critical habitat was designated in 1977 (USFWS 1977). The area designated as critical habitat encircles Mauna Kea from about 5,500 feet in elevation to 10,000 feet in elevation, encompassing an area of 24,357 ha (hectares). At least 95 percent of the Palila population occurs within a core area of about 7,200 ha on the southwest slope from 6,500 feet in elevation to 9,500 feet in elevation. Protecting the remaining forest in this area from the threat of fire is critical for the short and long-term survival of the species.

Palila have evolved into an extremely specialized bird dependent for its survival on *māmane* trees and associated invertebrates. Few other birds in the world are so highly specialized in their diet and therefore, their habitat requirements. *Māmane* seeds and flowers must be available throughout the year in order to sustain Palila populations, as approximately 90% of their diet is derived from these trees. Insects provide additional protein for growth and survival of the young, with caterpillars serving as the chief insect prey items of Palila. Most of the caterpillars consumed are found within *māmane* pods. Breeding effort (number of pairs attempting to nest) and success (number of fledglings produced) of Palila depend heavily on the availability of *māmane* seeds and supplemental insect foods.

Large *māmane* trees can produce many more resources (seeds, flowers, insects, nest sites) than small trees and are preferred by Palila. Elevational and rainfall gradients result in food resources being available to Palila in relatively large quantities throughout the year. Where elevation and rainfall gradients are substantial, *māmane* flowers (and the seeds that follow) are produced in large quantities

at higher elevations first (where rainfall is higher) and at lower elevations later (where rainfall is lower). Palila respond to this changing availability of food by moving up and down the mountain, following the available food resources. Where elevation and rainfall gradients are insignificant, *māmāne* seeds and flowers are produced in large quantities usually only once a year and are relatively scarce the rest of the year. Therefore, habitats best able to sustain Palila in the long term are large areas of forest that contain dense stands of large *māmāne* trees and incorporate significant elevational or rainfall gradients. Habitat restoration is ongoing in the Ka‘ohe Mitigation Area, as well as at Pu‘u Mali on the north slope of Mauna Kea, both of which were created from the withdrawal of grazing leases as part of mitigation for the Saddle Road Improvements project (FHWA-CFLHD 1999).

Recent Palila occurrence at the proposed sites can be inferred based on annual surveys conducted by DOFAW. Annually, 13 transects are surveyed within the core habitat of the Palila (see Figure 3). For the upper diptank site, the closest stations are on transect 125 and 126, with the bottom three stations of transect 125 (26-28) approaching within 700 feet of the site. Palila numbers over the last 14 years of surveys range from 1-10 total at these stations, indicating a low density in the area, with no detections at the bottom two stations in 2011. This site is at the very edge of the core area populated by the Palila. The lower diptank site at the Kilohana check station is roughly 350 feet below the last station (51) on transect 126. No Palila have been recorded at this station or the one immediately upslope during the 1998-2011 survey period. The closest Palila detection to this area in 2011 was almost a mile away, and this area does not appear to support a Palila population at this time.

The construction of these fire diptanks is being implemented by DOFAW, with funding from the USFWS – the agencies entrusted with safeguarding this endangered species. While both of the proposed fire diptank sites are within areas designated as Palila Critical Habitat, the proposed project footprint would affect critical habitat of the Palila only very slightly. Moreover, the project will provide a net benefit to these species over the long-term by furnishing an adequate water source close to the core population of the Palila, subsequently reducing the chance of catastrophic fire. In order to ensure that short-term impacts to Palila are avoided or minimized, construction and site preparation of the upper site will occur outside of Palila breeding season. If work needs be conducted outside of this time period, a qualified biologist will search for nesting Palila in the project sites and immediate vicinity before any work begins, and the work will not start until nesting attempts either fledge or fail.

No rare, threatened or endangered invertebrates are known from the area. In any case, native invertebrates would benefit from protection of native forest. No streams or lakes are present, and thus there is no aquatic fauna.

### **3.1.4 Air Quality, Noise and Scenic Resources**

#### *Environmental Setting*

The strong and steady winds of the project sites, which are located at elevations on Mauna Kea just above and below the semi-persistent tradewind inversion, assist in maintaining excellent air quality by generally dispersing human-derived pollutants as well as volcano-induced vog. In areas with bare

surfaces, however, the strong winds may also generate dust, especially in areas disturbed by grading, fire or over-grazing.

Sound levels on the project sites are low, reflecting natural sources such as wind and bird song, with only very occasional noise from passing 4WD vehicles and helicopters. No noise-sensitive human receptors are present, but the low noise levels contribute to the area's value for Palila habitat, as discussed above.

The project sites are both moderately scenic. The lower project site above Kilohana Hunter Checking Station has moderately good views of the Saddle and the leeward slopes, and the upper project site below Pu'u La'au Cabin site is perched on a slope above the ranchlands of Kohala. Neither site is identified in the Hawai'i County General Plan as having scenic character.

#### *Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

The proposed action will not measurably affect air quality or noise levels except minimally during construction activities. In order to avoid impacts from dust, DOFAW will minimize the amount of disturbed area at any given time and will avoid ground disturbance during high winds.

Development would entail limited work with heavy equipment in order to construct short lengths of graveled road aprons, level small areas for the tanks, and haul and place crushed rock for the tank bases. These activities will take place in isolated areas and are not expected to generate perceptible noise at the boundaries of the subject properties, and no human noise-sensitive receptors would be affected. Noise impacts to the endangered Palila are discussed in the previous section.

Although the project does involve construction of four tanks with a maximum height of likely 12 feet, but in no case over 20 feet, and a maximum capacity of 40,000 gallons, the sites would not be visible from any major public vantages. No important viewplanes or scenic sites recognized in the Hawai'i County General Plan would be affected by the project, and visual impacts would be negligible.

### **3.1.5 Hazardous Substances, Toxic Waste and Hazardous Conditions**

#### *Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

No professional evaluation such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was performed for the project sites. To DOFAW officials' knowledge, there have been no spills or other incidents involving hazardous or toxic substances, and no such materials are stored on the sites of the proposed construction. The installation of fire diptanks does not pose any unreasonable risk in terms of worker or public exposure to such materials.

## 3.2 Socioeconomic and Cultural

### 3.2.1 Socioeconomic Characteristics and Recreational Uses

#### *Environmental Setting*

The project generally affects and benefits the native vegetation of leeward Mauna Kea, and thus the community of hunters, birders, hikers and others from the Big Island and elsewhere who benefit from this resource. The 2010 U.S. Census of Population counted 185,079 residents on the Big Island, with a very diverse ethnic mix of 33.7% White, 22.2% Asian, 12.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, and 29.5% with two or more races. With 14.5% over 65 years old (compared to about 14% for the State as a whole), and a median age of 41.5 years (compared to 38.6 for the State), the population is skewed towards the older adults and the elderly. Many younger working-age residents who grow up in Hawai'i County relocate to other islands or states to find work. Nevertheless, since 1980, Hawai'i County has consistently been among the 100 fastest-growing counties in the U.S., mainly because it attracts working age adults or retirees, particularly in the Puna, Kohala and Kona districts.

Hunting is the most popular recreational activity in the project area. Hunting in the State of Hawai'i is regulated by DOFAW and requires a hunting license whether hunting on public or private land. A hunting license is valid for all game in the State of Hawai'i, including mammals (pigs, goats, sheep, mouflon and black-tailed deer and axis deer, on some islands) and gamebirds. A 2006 survey of recreationalists in Hawai'i found that 18,000 residents hunted in the previous year (USFWS-USCB 2006). Hunting of feral mammals and game birds is supported in the Ka'ohē GMA and in the adjacent Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The Ka'ohē GMA is designated by DOFAW as Hunting Unit G, where wild pig, sheep and goats may be taken by archery only, with no dogs permitted. It is open year-round on weekends and holidays, and bag limits apply to pigs but not sheep or goats. Bird hunting in season according to regulations is also allowed.

Other key wildlife-related recreational activities include wildlife viewing and hiking. Hawai'i has 34 endangered bird species that are among the objects of "life lists" for birders from around the world. The 2006 recreational survey estimated that 155,000 Hawai'i residents and 107,000 visitors engaged in wildlife viewing (USFWS and USCB 2006). The Ka'ohē area is one of the only places to see the endangered Palila. The Ka'ohē GMA is also traversed and/or utilized by recreational off-road vehicles, including motorcycles, 4WD trucks, and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

#### *Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

The project will not affect hunting, off-road vehicle use, or birding, nor will it have any other adverse socioeconomic impacts. It will improve fire protection to preserve the *māmāne/naio* forest, which aside from its biological benefits, provides recreational opportunities.

### 3.2.2 Cultural and Historic Resources

#### *Methods*

The project sites were selected by the project team of DOFAW fire and wildlife specialists to maximize fire protection while minimizing effects to wildlife, endangered plants and cultural resources. Preliminary sites were inspected with the assistance of Sean Naleimaile of the DLNR-State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), and one proposed site was shifted several hundred meters in order to respond to potential visual impacts on the historic Pu'u La'au Cabin. It has been determined by SHPD that no significant historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking for the upper location (see letter of March 22, 2013, in Appendix 1a); a similar determination is expected for the lower site, which was relocated late in project development and is under SHPD review.

For cultural resources and impacts, this EA has relied on consultation by letter of individuals known to have knowledge of cultural resources and practices as well as published material concerning Mauna Kea and the Saddle region. This includes the comprehensive work by Kepā Maly and Onaona Maly of Kumu Pono Associates documenting historical accounts and oral histories related to Mauna Kea and the mountain lands, or *'āina mauna* (Kumu Pono Associates 2005). Also critical was a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) by Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahale and Edward Kanahale of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, along with a study of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) by Dr. Charles Langlas, conducted as part of the Saddle Road Improvements Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (FHWA-CFLHD 1999, Vols. IV and V). These studies provide a thorough assessment of the cultural background and values in the Saddle between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. They included extensive archival research, interpretation of chants and *mele*, and interviews with Hawaiian Home Lands homesteaders and others. Most of the cultural background information in this EA is derived directly from these three documents, findings of which are paraphrased below and referenced where important for clarification or attribution.

#### *Cultural Background and Importance of 'Aina Mauna Area*

The project sites are located in the Hāmākua moku (district) of Hawai'i Island in the *ahupua'a* (traditional Hawaiian land division) of Ka'ohē, which translates to "the bamboo" (Pukui et al. 1974:85). The project sites are on the slopes of Mauna Kea, a mountain with great cultural significance, in an area that is also strongly associated with Hawai'i's history of ranching.

The high elevation areas of the island are considered to have religious importance to Native Hawaiians. Place names reflect the relationship of this area of concern with the indigenous people, their philosophy of life, and their gods.

According to work by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, *Lono-nui-akea* was the original name for the Island of Hawai'i. It is the sacred name of Lono, the god of stormy weather, dark clouds, and rain. Throughout Polynesia, two islands were honored as *Ka inoa akua* (the god name, or namesake), and the Island of Hawai'i was one of these.

The popular interpretation of Mauna Kea is “white mountain.” Mauna Kea is known around the world, and is regarded by many as the highest island mountain, the highest mountain in the world from below sea level, and the best mountain from which to make astronomical observations. To the Native Hawaiian, Mauna Kea is a *kupuna*, a grandparent or ancestor, and an *one hanau*, birthplace or home, and its name may more properly relate to Wakea, the Sky Father.

In the words of Pualani Kanaka‘ole Kanahele and Edward Kanahele:

“Wakea and Papa are the original parents of native Hawaiians. Mythologically they are the marriage of sky and earth: Wakea, Sky Father and Papa, Earth Mother. Between the two all things were born. Mauna Kea is the *piko* (center of a beginning or ending) of the island. This *piko* is the initial provider of the land mass of Hawai‘i mokupuni. Hawai‘i was also the *hiapo*, or first island child, of Papa and Wakea. The responsibilities and resources of Hawai‘i and Wakea are needed for the growth and well-being of the island and all living forms of this mokupuni.

The *kalo* (taro, a staple food) was Wakea and Papa’s first food child and regarded as an elder brother who fed all indigenous natives, or *kanaka maoli* from the beginning of time today. During the time of *ali‘i* (chiefs, elite of the society) it was important for them to trace genealogy to the *kalo* and eventually to Wakea and Papa. When the genealogy could prove the connection they received the status of the senior line or *hiapo* line. Mauna Kea falls in the senior line genealogy.

The Wakea and Papa beliefs and practices, including the tribute and respect for *hiapo* and *kupuna*, extend to contemporary times. Ancestral memory reminds the native Hawaiian that the mountain, like their parents, is the well-spring and provider of physical and spiritual nourishment.

Strands of information from the past are found today in songs and people’s actions. Besides land, water is a vital element of life and living. The high mountains attract clouds, then the clouds shed their water and the water soaks into the earth.

The Pohakuloa area has Lilinoe as the female deity of misty rain and heavy fog, while Poliahu is the snow deity which adorns the top of Mauna Kea during the winter. These male and female water forms both belong to the Mauna Kea area.

The ancestors of Native Hawaiians were island people and used the ocean to travel from island to island. Due to the vastness of the ocean and the limited land base, the measurement for survival was the ability to acquire food. Resources for the acquisition of food included the reef, fresh water, and fertile soil. The Hawaiian moon calendar was devised to assist Hawaiians in gathering and planting on fortuitous days. Using the moon calendar, the forefathers calculated the established cycles of all life forms. It was based on many generations of observation and practice, and it proved successful.

Other forms of traditional literature condone the fact that the ancestors made an effort to understand the intricacy of relationships of diverse life forms. One of the reasons for this was to protect and help sustain the food sources. They recognized a hierarchical order as well as a system of harmony and interaction of all existing life forms known to them.

They observed and made critical analyses of their sky, land, and ocean spaces. Rain, ocean, clouds, wind movement, coral species of the ocean, and seeded plants of the uplands are referred to within a common bond for generating regrowth or as a food source. Kane was responsible for regeneration, and the ocean currents, rain, wind, and clouds move together to make this possible. For food systems to regenerate themselves, the sky, land, and ocean spaces unite in a harmonic and natural rhythm to maintain the currents of water particles and clean air. This movement is known as *lokahi*. Lokahi is a system of working in unity and harmony. This knowledge was passed on through protocol, cultural practices, songs, and stories.

Lokahi is the antithesis of hierarchy. Lokahi is the system which bypasses the *hiapo* system and does not give precedence to first born or senior line. It is the system which states that everything is equal because everything, no matter how small or large, has a function which is necessary to maintain the overall well being of the whole entity. Native Hawaiian ancestors lived within these two systems and measured everything by this frame of reference.

One example is the division of ocean, sky, and land. These spaces were divided horizontally and vertically. The land division would be of primary concern for the proposed project. The most familiar is the vertical divisions, or *moku* and *ahupua'a* sections common to maps of today. The boundary lines run from mountains to the ocean. The vertical boundaries followed mountains, rivers, streams, and cinder cones.

The natural vegetation growth was the measuring device for the horizontal pattern of the second land division. For this division, vegetation growth dictated land division name changes. The forest, like the coral bed, is the food source and therefore a vital system for the continuum of life and life cycles. The trees house food for birds, insects, animals, and man, and produce seeds for regeneration. The forest provides vegetation used for medicinal purposes, spiritual adornment, housing construction, and many other items. The following information identifies the horizontal space and the kinds of flora typical to each of these horizontal land areas.

Kuahiwi. Kuahiwi means the mountain top, the backbone of the island, which is too high in elevation for heavy vegetation to grow. It is a very important area because of its height.

Kualono. Kualono is the region near the mountain top. Little vegetation grows in this area. The māmane and naio are the only hardy trees to grow at this height. Both of these are hardwood trees. The flower of the māmane was a specialty for the ali'i because of its shape and yellow color. When he wanted a special lei he would send his runners to fetch māmane flowers. 'A'ali'i can also be found at this height. [The fire diptanks project site is within the Kualono.]

Waoma'ukele. Waoma'ukele is the region named for the wet, soggy ground. This area was located in the rain belt of the island, especially on the ko'olau side of each island. The typical trees of this area are the very large koa, 'ohi'a, varieties of lobelia, and māmane.

Waoakua. Waoakua is the forested region below the waoma'ukele. This area is said to be occupied by spirits of the forest. Man seldom ventured into this area during ancestral times except when a particular kind of tree was needed and could not be found elsewhere. The large trees acquired from the waoakua and the waoma'ukele deserved substantial offerings. This is the region where the forest had a greater variety of trees. Some of the trees found are kolea, ho'awa, kopiko, maile, maua, alani, koa, and 'ohi'a.

Waokanaka. Waokanaka is the forested region *makai* (toward the sea) of the waoakua. This area was frequented by native Hawaiians. They found wood and other materials for weapons, house construction, tools, surfboards, and canoe accessories. They harvested dye, collected medicine, collected bird feathers, gathered vegetation for leis, gathered vegetation for the kuahu, gathered material for making rope, and many other useful things for everyday living. The trees in the waoakua are also found in this area, but the trees of this area may be smaller. Other flora found in this area include pilo, hapu'u, holei, papala, hau kuahiwi, palapalai 'olapa, and mamaki.

Kula. Kula referred to the upland grassy plains. The plants of the kula included 'ilima, ma'o, 'ama'u, 'a'ali'i, 'uluhe, and pili.

Kahakai. Kahakai referred to the edge of the ocean. At the kahakai was found the niu, hala, kaunaoa, kamani, hau, milo, naupaka, lama, and alahe'e. All plants were recognized as useful to the Hawaiian" (FHWA-CFLHD 1998, Vols. IV and V).

In evaluating the effects of the Saddle Road Improvements project, which occupied many of the zones listed above, the Edith Kanakaole Foundation identified these resources and concepts as of sufficient importance to potentially affect the quality of life for native Hawaiians and their relationship to the environment and land.

- Importance of vegetation and the identity of the land sections.
- High cultural value of older or larger trees and *kipuka* which normally housed older trees.
- Priority to promote new growth through the non-disturbance of seed-producing forest areas within the *waoma'ukele* and *waoakua*. Hawaiians did not penetrate these areas if the trees they needed were available elsewhere.
- Importance of food source and regenerative energy of the forest.
- Philosophy of "a life for a life." When it was necessary to cut a large tree from the high forest, an offering of a human sacrifice was made.
- Importance of the *waoma'ukele* as a good source of water, and for maintaining the richness of the rainforest.



Again, quoting Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahele and Edward Kanahele:

“Native Hawaiians are people whose daily lives and culture are rooted in and integrated with the surrounding natural and biological world. They recognized and practiced respect for hierarchy or hiapo for man and land alike. The mountain is the sacred child of Wakea, and it is the source for the land. The mountains and land were genealogically connected to native Hawaiians through the original ancestor, Wakea and Papa. The mountains or land, water, and sky were a necessary part of the life cycle. The taro was regarded as an older brother of the land and provided sustenance. The coral was also an older brother (of the sea) and was the means through which other food could be acquired. The hierarchical system assigns rank to man, god, and the elements of the environment. Within the hierarchical food system another set of rules apply. The older or larger trees are primary and most important. The other animals that use these trees as their residence or food source are secondary.

The lokahi system complements and maintains the wellbeing of the whole entity. Everything is important because each has a function.

Water was and is necessary for all life forms. Laws for water and the use of water were formulated so all had exposure to water. Water that did not touch ground was highly prized. Such as the water in the lake on Mauna Kea and the water in the piko of the taro leaf. Water that moved underground or over land from the mountain to the sea was sometimes funneled into irrigation channels and fed the older brother kalo and was also treasured. The mountain and the waoma'ukele attracted the atmospheric water” (FHWA-CFLHD 1998, Vols. IV and V).

### *Historical Background*

According to the radiocarbon dating and oral traditions recently summarized by Kirch (2012), the settlement of Hawai'i occurred roughly a millennium ago, with colonists possibly from the southern Marquesas Islands. Early Hawaiian farmers developed new subsistence strategies during this period, adapting familiar patterns and traditional tools for use in their new environment. Order was kept through adherence to their ancient and ingrained philosophy of life and through the principle of genealogical seniority. Hawaiians brought from their homeland a variety of Polynesian customs including the major gods of Kane, Ku and Lono; the *kapu* system of law and order; *pu'uhonua* or places of refuge or asylum; the *'aumakua* concept of a family or ancestral spirit and the concept of *mana*, or spiritual power. A time of periodic two-way voyaging followed for the next four centuries, which also brought changes that included an evolution of traditional tools as well as some distinctly Hawaiian inventions. The evolution of the adze was an example of the former, while the latter included the two-piece fishhook and the octopus-lure breadloaf sinker. Another invention was the *lei niho palaoa*, an item worn by those of high rank which represented a trend toward greater status differentiation.

The period of roughly 1400 to 1650 A.D. was a time of increasing in social stratification and major land use changes associated with institution of the *ahupua'a* system, where each *moku* was divided

into radial segments each offering the variety of resources found in each elevational zone, from coral reefs to rainforests. Land became intensively managed by the paramount chiefs and subordinates in a hierarchical system, and the common people, or *maka‘ainana*, no longer were organized into groups associated with a particular piece of land, as in their ancestral homes in Polynesia. It also was a time of expansive settling, with the development of the most favorable windward areas as well as more marginal areas on the island’s leeward side. This was the time of the greatest population growth as large irrigated field systems were developed and expanded into more arid areas. *Loko* or fishpond aquaculture also flourished during this period.

An increase in war marked the Proto-Historic Period (A.D. 1650-1795), both locally and between islands. Some of that warfare involved the lower slopes of Mauna Kea and strategically important *pu‘u* near Waimea.

Hawai‘i’s history took a sharp turn on January 18, 1778 with the arrival of British Capt. James Cook in the islands. On a return trip to Hawai‘i 10 months later, Kamehameha visited Cook aboard his ship the *Resolution* off the east coast of Maui and helped Cook navigate his way to Hawai‘i Island. Cook exchanged gifts with Kalaniopu‘u at Kealakekua Bay the following January, and Cook left Kealakekua in February. However, Cook’s ship then sustained damage to a mast in a severe storm off Kohala and returned to Kealakekua, setting the stage for his death on the shores of the bay.

Two American vessels visited Hawaiian waters in 1790. The crew of one of the ships, the *Eleanor*, massacred more than 100 Hawaiians at Olowalu on Maui before leaving crewmember John Young on land. The other vessel, the *Fair American*, was captured off the western coast of Hawai‘i and its entire crew – with the exception of Isaac Davis – was killed. Kamehameha did not take part but kept the *Fair American* as part of his fleet. Young eventually made his way to Hawai‘i Island where he became governor, living at Kawaihae. By 1796, gaining critical knowledge from the captured sailors, Kamehameha had conquered every island kingdom except Kauai, but it wasn’t until 1810, after Kaumuali‘i of Kauai pledged his allegiance to Kamehameha, that all of the Hawaiian Islands were unified under a single ruler.

During this period there was a continuation of the trend toward intensification of agriculture, *ali‘i*-controlled aquaculture, settling of upland areas and development of traditional oral history. The *Ku* cult, *luakini heiau* and *kapu* system were at their peaks, but the influence of western civilization was being felt in the introduction of trade for profit and a market-system economy. By 1810, the sandalwood trade established by Europeans and Americans twenty years earlier was flourishing. That contributed to the breakdown of the traditional subsistence system, as farmers and fishermen were required to toil at logging which resulted in food shortages and a decline in population.

Following the death of Kamehameha I in 1819, the customary relaxing of *kapu* took place. But with the introduction of Christianity shortly thereafter, his successor, Kamehameha II, renounced the traditional religion and ordered that *heiau* structures either be destroyed or left to deteriorate. The family worship of ‘*aumakua*’ images was allowed to continue.

The Protestant missionaries who arrived from Boston in 1820 soon were rewarded with land and government positions, as many of the *ali'i* were eager to assimilate western-style dress and culture. But at the same time, the continuing sandalwood trade was becoming a heavier burden on commoners, as Ellis noted:

“About eleven at night we reached Towaihae [Kawaihae], where we were kindly received by Mr. Young. ... Before daylight on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were roused by vast multitudes of people passing through the district from Waimea with sandal-wood, which had been cut in the adjacent mountains for Karaimoku, by the people of Waimea, and which the people of Kohala, as far as the north point, had been ordered to bring down to his storehouse on the beach, for the purpose of its being shipped to Oahu. There were between two and three thousand men, carrying each from one to six pieces of sandal-wood, according to their size and weight. It was generally tied on their backs by bands of ti leaves, passed over the shoulders and under the arms, and fastened across their breasts.”

The rampant sandalwood trade resulted in the first Hawaiian national debt, as promissory notes and levies granted by American traders were enforced by American warships. The assimilation of Western ways continued with the short-lived whaling industry to the production of sugarcane, which was more lucrative but carried a heavy environmental price. In the Waimea area and other uplands, cattle ranching became king.

The cattle brought by Captain Vancouver in 1793 and 1794, protected by a *kapu* placed on them by Kamehameha, multiplied rapidly. By the time the *kapu* was lifted a few years later, wild cattle had become rampant throughout the island, disturbing native gardens and damaging streams, grasslands and forests. Foreign bullock hunters were then employed to keep the herds under control. Although the meat was eaten, the main economic products were the hides. John Parker worked for Governor Kuakini as a bullock hunter in 1831, and before long had founded the famous ranch that still bears his name. By 1847, as Reverend Lorenzo Lyons noted, “two thirds of Waimea has been converted into a government pasture land” (IARII 1997:19). Stone walls were erected around residential settlements and cultivation fields as barriers to prevent damage by cattle. Cattle ranching profoundly changed life by displacing native agriculture, firmly establishing a monetary economy, altering the landscape and forests through direct and indirect means, and bringing in foreigners. Parker Ranch has been a major factor in shaping the natural and cultural landscape of Kohala and parts of Hamakua, including Ka'ohē. Workers here and at other ranches generated a unique set of cultural practices and traditions known locally as the *paniolo* (Hawaiian for “Spanish” or “Españolo”) culture.

The Mahele 'Aina that took place in 1848 placed all land in Hawai'i into three categories: Crown Lands, Government Lands and Konohiki Lands. Ownership rights were “subject to the rights of the native tenants,” or those individuals who lived on the land and worked it for their subsistence and for their chiefs. In the Mahele, the vast *ahupua'a* of Ka'ohē was relinquished by Victoria Kamamalu to Kamehameha III on January 27, 1848 (Buke Mahele 1848:5-6). It was then given by Kamehameha III to the Government Land Inventory on March 8, 1848 (BM:1848:191). There were only four native claims registered, and one awarded, none in the *'āina mauna*.

Official leases of the area of Ka'ohē that include the project sites began in 1857 (Keoni Ana to F. Spencer) for Spencer's Waimea Grazing and Agricultural Company. The lease included all of the mountain lands. Eventually, Parker Ranch obtained the lease and kept it until 1905, when part of the area was withdrawn for the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The project sites remained within leased land.

One of the interesting and culturally significant events that occurred in the specific Pu'u La'au area somewhere near the upper elevation project site was the 1882 passage of the Dowager Queen Emma, on her way to a ceremonial bath in Lake Waiau. It was recounted in the native newspaper *Kuokoa* on October 14, 1882, which was translated in by Kumu Pono Associates (2005:155). *Mele* celebrating the trip were written and are in the B.P. Bishop Museum collection. In the translation by Mary Kawena Pukui and others, there are references to the Queen enjoying "the sweet voices of the Palila." (Ibid: A155). In an interview of Kalani Ka'apuni-Phillips by Larry Kimura from 1967, transcribed by Kepā Maly, he said concerning the Queen's journey from Waimea:

"Queen Emma was a good horsewoman....she could choose which ever horse she was interested in. Waimea had many horses to choose from. They went up to this place called Kahalala'au (Pu'u Lā'au)....At that time, there was great rain, and no shelter. So these people with your renowned elder, they broke the leafing branches of the māmane. They made a house for Queen Emma. This work of your elder and the people with him brought him honor. When this house was made for Queen Emma, Queen Emma said to your grandfather, William Lindsey, 'In living with your wife, if she should give birth.....Name the child, Ka-hale-lau-māmane' " (Ibid:161).

The *māmane* forest was clearly an important attribute of the area, with both cultural and natural significance. An 1892 account of a Mauna Kea survey trip by W.D. Alexander in the Honolulu Commercial Advertiser noted that Waiki'i was excellent grazing country (i.e., mostly grass), but that a fine grove of *māmane* trees still survived at Auwaiakeakua Gulch, which runs just north of Pu'u La'au (Ibid:182).

The value of the *māmane* forest for both commercial (e.g., fence posts) and watershed purposes was increasingly recognized in the later kingdom, Republic of Hawai'i and early Territorial days. In an October 13, 1906 report of Territorial Forester Ralph Hosmer, there was a recommendation to remove certain portions of Ka'ohē for sale or lease, as "waste land", because it was good *māmane* forest land that was not particularly suited for grazing. It had traditionally been provided "*manuahi*" (gratis), Hosmer said, and it would make more sense to simply reserve it and protect the forest. He proposed a line extending clockwise from Ahumoa to Pu'u La'au to the Pa'auhau boundary over to Kemole, on which a cattle and sheep-proof fence would be built. The manager of Parker Ranch, Alfred A. Carter, was in agreement (Ibid:433, 542).

In 1909, part of the Ka'ohē pasture lease land was withdrawn to create a portion of the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve (Ibid A15). Additional land was withdrawn from Ka'ohē in 1956 for the U.S. Army's Pohakuloa Training Area (Governor's Executive Order No. 1719, Presidential Executive Order No. 1167) (Ibid:15).

It would be some years before a fence completely encircled the mountain and cattle and sheep were removed from the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. Famed Territorial Forester L.W. (Bill) Bryan wrote several articles in 1937 in the *Paradise of the Pacific* magazine (“Wild Sheep of Hawaii” and “The Big Fence on the Big Island”) documenting the process. He wrote of the considerable damage that wild sheep and goats had done to native forest cover, especially *māmane*. In 1935, the U.S. Government began to assist the Territory of Hawai‘i through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and they built a sheep proof fence around the entire reserve and its 100,000 acres at roughly the 8,000-foot contour, and then killed or captured almost 16,000 wild animals. The 55.5-mile long, 55-inch high, extra heavy galvanized stock wire fence was completed in January of 1937 at cost of \$72,000, or \$1,300 per mile, and utilized *māmane posts*. (Kumu Pono Associates 2005:239-41). Rally Greenwell, who worked as a *paniolo* all over Parker Ranch and eventually became Ranch Manager, recounted to Kepā Maly in a 2000 interview that Bill Bryan planted the conifers that now grace the Pu‘u La‘au area (Ibid: A68). He indicated that the cowboys did not generally travel beyond the fence line and that Parker Ranch helped Mr. Bryan maintain the fence. Other cowboys, including Jiro Yamaguchi in his interviews with Maly, said that some cowboys would occasionally *holoholo* up the west side of Mauna Kea from Pu‘u La‘au, although not to the summit (Ibid:A78).

#### *Cultural Resources and Practices on the Project Site*

Although the summit regions are particularly sacred, Mauna Kea, from the lower slopes to the highest peaks, is culturally significant. Other landmarks in the vicinity of the project sites are Ka Pu‘u-a-Pele, the top of which marks the joining of the ‘*apana* of Kona, Kohala, and Hamakua; Ahumoa, another cinder cone; and Pu‘u La‘au, which is associated with the thriving *māmane* forest and Queen Emma’s visit. In general terms, resources of high importance in the Saddle area that were determined by the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation to be important were the *māmane* forest, *kipuka*, prehistoric trails, and historic trails. The cultural value of *māmane/naio* forest and *kipuka* is associated with the age and size of the trees. Interestingly, the Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club introduced a resolution in 1980 at the 1979 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs convention on Maui to protect Mauna Kea. Among other items was a request to have the entire *Māmane/Naio* Forest fenced off, for the purpose of preserving the habitat of the threatened and endangered Palila (Ibid:638).

Although strictly speaking, ranching may not constitute a traditional cultural practice, it is certainly the foundation of the current culture, lifestyle and identity of the Parker Ranch and adjacent areas. The *paniolo*, many but not all of whom are Hawaiian, form a unique subculture that reflects a combination of both its Hawaiian and western roots. The older, and certainly the original, residents of Kuhio Village and Pu‘ukapu are very much a part of this *paniolo* subculture. To some extent the ethnic traditions of other cultures have been incorporated into the general cultural milieu of Waimea and Waiki‘i and are celebrated by all, with periodic events including cowboy-oriented falsetto and storytelling events, parades and historical festivals sponsored by local schools.

Similarly, hunting, discussed in the section above, is a recreational or subsistence practice with cultural importance as well, as generations of families have utilized the introduced mammals and birds and enjoyed the outdoors.

To summarize the cultural resources and practices present on the project sites, they are surrounded by areas of *māmane* forest but do not themselves have *māmane* trees, because a criterion of selecting a project site was that no *māmane* trees should need to be cut or trimmed. The project sites avoid the Pu‘u La‘au hilltop area (which has actually been quarried) and the cabin. The Ka‘ohe Game Management Area no longer supports ranching but is important for hunting. The project sites do not have archaeological remains, nor do they appear to contain any other resources of a potential traditional cultural nature (e.g., prehistoric or historic trails) or evidence of any traditional gathering uses or other cultural practices.

### *Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

The Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i clearly states the duty of the State and its agencies to preserve, protect, and prevent interference with the traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiians. Article XII, Section 7 requires the State to “protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by *ahupua‘a* tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778” (2000). In spite of the establishment of the foreign concept of private ownership and western-style government, Kamehameha III (Kauikeaouli) preserved the people’s traditional right to subsistence. As a result, in 1850 the Hawaiian Government confirmed the traditional access rights to native Hawaiian *ahupua‘a* tenants to gather specific natural resources for customary uses from undeveloped private property and waterways under the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) 7-1. In 1992, the State of Hawai‘i Supreme Court reaffirmed HRS 7-1 and expanded it to include:

“native Hawaiian rights...may extend beyond the *ahupua‘a* in which a native Hawaiian resides where such rights have been customarily and traditionally exercised in this manner” (Pele Defense Fund v. Paty, 73 Haw.578, 1992).

Act 50, enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i in 2000, relating to Environmental Impact Statements, stated that:

“...there is a need to clarify that the preparation of environmental assessments or environmental impact statements should identify and address effects on Hawaii’s culture, and traditional and customary rights... “[H.B. NO. 2895].

The proposed fire diptank project would take place within, and would protect, the core of the remaining *māmane* forest on Mauna Kea, which was celebrated in traditional Hawaiian culture and valued and gradually protected throughout the historical era as well. No *māmane* trees would need to be cut. The project does not restrict hunting outside the small footprint of the tanks themselves and so would not lead to adverse effects on hunting. The proposed installation of this fire-fighting infrastructure would not likely impact any culturally valued resources or cultural practices. SHPD, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and various cultural experts contacted as part of early consultation have been supplied a copy of the EA for their comments. No party reviewing the Draft EA supplied any cultural information.

As discussed above, SHPD has determined that no significant historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking for the upper location (see letter of March 22, 2013, in Appendix 1a); a similar determination was made by SHPD for the lower site, which was relocated late in project development was under SHPD review during the comment period for the Draft EA (see letters in Appendix 1b). In the unlikely event that human skeletal remains, undocumented archaeological resources, or cultural or traditional remains are encountered during future development activities within the current study area, work in the immediate area of the discovery shall be halted and the State Historic Preservation Division contacted as outlined in Hawai'i Administrative Rules 13§13-275-12.

### **3.3 Infrastructure**

#### *Existing Facilities and Services, Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

No electrical or telephone lines are present at either site or necessary for the action. As discussed in Section 1.1, no water lines are available and the tanks will be initially filled by water trucks, after which they will rely primarily on catchment.

Access to the sites is from the Saddle Road, at the Kiloohana Hunter Checking Station turnoff at the top of the "Seven Steps." Care is required to exit this driveway because of limited sight distance and the steepness of the unpaved driveway. This section of Saddle Road will be bypassed when the realigned Saddle Road is opened in August 2013, greatly reducing traffic.

Both tanks are situated off of Road 1 (R-1), an unpaved road that serves the Division of Forestry and Wildlife in fulfilling its mission in recreation, fire-fighting and resource management in the Ka'ohe Game Management Area and the vast Ka'ohe section of the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The road circles Mauna Kea and ultimately connects to the Humu'ula area of the Forest Reserve, terminating at Hale Pohaku, where it connects to the Mauna Kea Access Road.

The proposed installation of the fire-fighting infrastructure will involve hauling of equipment and materials over the course of several weeks and may cause use very temporary delays of no more than one hour in access along R-1. The heaviest loads will be associated with hauling water to fill the tanks, which will require 35 to 40 trips with a 4x4 1,000-gallon tender truck at each site. DOFAW maintains R-1 and will ensure that any impacts to the roadway surface are repaired. Periodic maintenance of the water tanks is expected to be infrequent and will not cause any substantial impacts.

### **3.4 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts**

#### **3.4.1 Secondary Impacts**

The proposed project would not involve major secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities. Although the project would involve limited short-term construction labor, these minor services could be provided by DOFAW and/or local firms and labor and would not induce in-migration.

### 3.4.2 Cumulative Impacts

#### *Planned and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects*

No construction or other projects involving an active land use are known to be occurring within a one-mile radius of either project site. A little over a mile away, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are in the final stages of paving the 10-mile western section of the realigned Saddle Road (State Highway 200). The realigned highway, scheduled to open in August 2013, will connect from the existing Saddle Road from mile marker 41.5 to a new intersection with Mamalahoa Highway at about mile marker 14. As discussed above, this will divert traffic away from the project sites, making it easier to turn into and out of the Kilohana Hunter Checking Station access to R-1.

Also about one mile away is the boundary of the U.S. Army's Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA). In 2011, the U.S. Army published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* that it plans to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) to evaluate the impact of modernize training ranges, infrastructure, and support facilities at PTA. The project includes constructing and operating an Infantry Platoon Battle Area that would include an Infantry Platoon Battle Course, Live-fire Shootouse, and a Military Operations on Urban Terrain facility. Although the Army will build additional fire diptanks to support new activities in fulfillment of the *Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan Oahu and Pohakuloa Training Areas* (U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, HQ 2003), as discussed in Section 2, no aspect of the proposed expansion would interact in any adverse way with the proposed fire diptanks project.

About six miles southeast, also within PTA, a research exploratory well project is slated to drill throughout 2013 (UH Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology 2012). This project will evaluate deep aquifers and assess the potential to develop this water resource for use by PTA, Hawaiian Home Lands and the Mauna Kea Observatories. This activity would not interact in any adverse way with the proposed fire diptank project, although it might ultimately provide a more convenient source for water for fire-fighting in the Saddle area.

A consortium of governments and institutions is planning the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), a large segmented mirror reflecting telescope to be built on the North Plateau of Mauna Kea (UHH 2010). This billion dollar project is expected to be built starting in the last half of the current decade and will involve traffic and construction impacts, both on Mauna Kea and at support facilities in Hilo. None of the TMT activities would interact in any way with the proposed fire diptanks project.

#### *Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures*

Cumulative impacts result when implementation of several projects that individually have limited impacts combine to produce more severe impacts or conflicts in mitigation measures. The adverse effects of the project – minor and temporary noise and traffic, as well as permanent but minor visual impacts– are very limited in severity, nature and geographic scale. As discussed above, the projects



known to be occurring nearby will not generate impacts with which the very minor and temporary effects from the fire diptanks project would accumulate, and no cumulative impacts are foreseen.

### **3.5 Required Permits and Approvals**

Aside from the Chapter 343, HRS, Finding of No Significant Impact and a finding of no effect to significant historic properties pursuant to Chapter 6e, HRS, no permits or approvals are expected to be required.

### **3.6 Consistency With Government Plans and Policies**

#### **3.6.1 Hawai'i State Plan**

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

#### **3.6.2 Hawai'i State Land Use Law and Game Management Area Designation**

All land in the State of Hawai'i is classified into one of four land use categories – Urban, Rural, Agricultural, or Conservation – by the State Land Use Commission, pursuant to Chapter 205, HRS. The project site is classified within the State Land Use Conservation District, Protective Subzone. According to a February 13, 2013 memo from the DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) (see Appendix 1a):

“OCCL believes that the proposed land uses will not require the applicant to submit a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) and has determined that this proposal is consistent with the park programs and current uses managed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). The parcels have been encumbered by a variety of agencies since the early 1900's (i.e., DOFAW and the University of Hawaii); the *Mauna Kea Forest Reserve* was set aside under a Governors Proclamation on *June 5, 1909* while the adjacent *State of Hawaii Public Hunting Ground and Game Reservation* was created under Executive Order #1398 on *October 16, 1950*. Under a current DLNR policy, divisions within the department have been working cooperatively to manage areas that jurisdictionally fall under multiple divisions. It is the policy of DLNR that all divisions will comply with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §183C and HRS §343 and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-5, and therefore each division is responsible for implementing procedures to comply with the aforementioned rules and statutes.”

It should be noted that, as discussed in Sections 1 and 2, the initial upper fire diptank site in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve adjacent to the Pu'u La'au cabin was relocated about 700 feet south within the

Ka'ohē Game Management Area (GMA) subsequent to the distribution of early consultation letters. As such, both sites are within the Ka'ohē GMA. As noted above, this is designated by DOFAW as Hunting Unit G, where wild pig, sheep and goats may be taken by archery only, with no dogs permitted. It is open year-round on weekends and holidays, and bag limits apply to pigs but not sheep or goats. Bird hunting in season according to regulations is also allowed. DOFAW is permitted to conduct management activities in hunting areas, including installation of fire-fighting infrastructure, without the need for permits.

### **3.6.3 Hawai'i County Zoning and General Plan**

As the sites are within the State Land Use Conservation District, County zoning per se does not apply. The County designates the sites Conservation in the General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Map (LUPAG), and the action would be considered consistent with the LUPAG. The sites are not within the Special Management Area, which is meant to protect coastal resources.

#### **PART 4: DETERMINATION**

Based on the findings below, and upon consideration of comments to the Draft EA, the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources has determined that the proposed project will not significantly alter the environment, as impacts will be minimal, and has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

#### **PART 5: FINDINGS AND REASONS**

Chapter 11-200-12, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, outlines those factors agencies must consider when determining whether an Action has significant effects:

1. *The proposed project will not involve an irrevocable commitment or loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.* No valuable natural or cultural resources would be committed or lost, and the project would protect natural resources from fire.
2. *The proposed project will not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment.* The proposed project expands and in no way curtails beneficial uses of the environment.
3. *The proposed project will not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies.* The State's long-term environmental policies are set forth in Chapter 344, HRS. The broad goals of this policy are to conserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life. The project has a minor footprint, has been designed to avoid environmental impacts and fulfills aspects of these policies calling for protecting the natural environment. It is thus consistent with all elements of the State's long-term environmental policies.
4. *The proposed project will not substantially affect the economic or social welfare of the community or State.* The project will benefit the economic and social welfare of the community by enhancing fire protection.
5. *The proposed project does not substantially affect public health in any detrimental way.* The proposed project will benefit public health by protecting air quality by limiting wildfire.

6. *The proposed project will not involve substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.* No adverse secondary effects are expected to result from the proposed action. The project will not enable development or cause in-migration.
7. *The proposed project will not involve a substantial degradation of environmental quality.* The project will not degrade the environment in any substantial way.
8. *The proposed project will not substantially affect any rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or habitat.* The project is meant primarily to protect critical habitat for the endangered Palila. Construction will be scheduled and conducted to minimize impacts to Palila. The area has been inspected by biologists from DOFAW and no other endangered species of flora or fauna is present.
9. *The proposed project is not one which is individually limited but cumulatively may have considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions.* The project is not related to additional activities in the region in such a way as to produce adverse cumulative effects or involve a commitment for larger actions.
10. *The proposed project will not detrimentally affect air or water quality or ambient noise levels.* No adverse effects on these resources would occur. Ambient noise impacts due to construction will be temporary and timed to avoid impact to sensitive fauna, particularly Palila.
11. *The project does not affect nor would it likely to be damaged as a result of being located in environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal area.* Although the project is located in an area with seismic risk, the entire Island of Hawai'i shares this risk, and the project would not be imprudent to construct and would employ design and construction standards appropriate to the seismic zone.
12. *The project will not substantially affect scenic vistas and viewplanes identified in county or state plans or studies.* No scenic vistas or viewplanes identified in the Hawai'i County General Plan will be adversely affected by the project, and visual impacts will be negligible.
13. *The project will not require substantial energy consumption.* The project involves only minor energy use and no adverse effects are expected.

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

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# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

## **Ka'ohē Fire Driptanks**

State of Hawai'i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

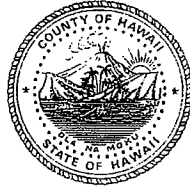
### **APPENDIX 1a**

#### **Comments in Response to Early Consultation**



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**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**Harry S. Kubojiri**  
*Police Chief*

**Paul K. Ferreira**  
*Deputy Police Chief*

## **County of Hawai'i**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

January 28, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Principal  
Geometrician Associates  
P. O. Box 396  
Hilo, HI 96721

Dear Mr. Terry:

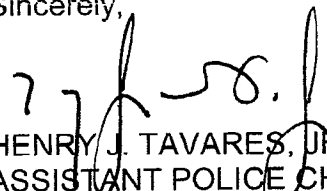
**SUBJECT: EARLY CONSULTATION FOR ENVIROMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
INSTALLATION OF TWO DIP TANKS AT KA'OHE, TMKS (3<sup>RD</sup>.) 4-4-  
015:001 AND 004 (PORS.) HAMAKUA DISTRICT, ISLAND OF HAWAII**

Staff, upon reviewing the provided documents, does not anticipate any significant impact to traffic and /or other public safety concerns. We are not requesting a copy of the EA or notification when completed.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment.

If you have any questions, please contact Captain Richard Miyamoto, N. Hilo/Hamakua Patrol Commander, at 775-7533.

Sincerely,

  
HENRY J. TAVARES, JR.  
ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF  
AREA I OPERATIONS BUREAU

RM:lli  
130041

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

13-017  
Ka'ohē Dip Tanks

January 31, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates, LLC  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Early Consultation for Environmental Assessment for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Ka'ohē, TMK: (3) 4-4-015: 001 and 004 (pors.) Hamakua District, Island of Hawai'i**

The Department of Health (DOH), Environmental Planning Office (EPO), acknowledges receipt of your letter dated January 18, 2013. Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the subject document. The document was routed to the relevant Environmental Health divisions and offices. They will provide specific comments to you if necessary. EPO recommends that you review the Standard Comments ([www.hawaii.gov/health/epo](http://www.hawaii.gov/health/epo) under the land use tab). You are required to adhere to all Standard Comments specifically applicable to this application.

EPO suggests that you examine the many sources available on strategies to support the sustainable design of communities, including the:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's sustainability programs: [www.epa.gov/sustainability](http://www.epa.gov/sustainability)

U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program: [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed)

The DOH encourages everyone to apply these sustainability strategies and principles early in the planning and review of projects. We also request that for future projects you consider conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). More information is available at [www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm). We request you share all of this information with others to increase community awareness on sustainable, innovative, inspirational, and healthy community design.

We request a written response confirming receipt of this letter and any other letters you receive from DOH in regards to this submission. You may mail your response to 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 312, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. However, we would prefer an email submission to [epo@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:epo@doh.hawaii.gov). We anticipate that our letter(s) and your response(s) will be included in the final document. If you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 586-4337.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Leialoha Phillips McIntyre".

Laura Leialoha Phillips McIntyre, AICP  
Manager, Environmental Planning Office

**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**Darren J. Rosario**  
*Fire Chief*

**Renwick J. Victorino**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Room 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 30, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates  
PO Box 396  
Hilo, HI 96721

Dear Mr. Terry,

SUBJECT: EARLY CONSULTATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT FOR INSTALLATION OF TWO DIP TANKS AT KAOHE

TMK: (3<sup>RD</sup>) 4-4-015:001 AND 004 (PORS) HAMAKUA DISTRICT

The Hawai'i Fire Department does not have any comments to offer at this time regarding the above-referenced early consultation for Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. A copy or Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment is not needed when completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rosario".

DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief

RP:lc



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**LAND DIVISION**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

February 12, 2013

Geometrician Associates  
Attention: Mr. Ron Terry  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

via email: [rterry@hawaii.lnr.com](mailto:rterry@hawaii.lnr.com)

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT:** Early Consultation for Environmental Assessment for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Kaohe, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Applicant, Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15:01 and 04 pors.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the subject matter. The Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) Land Division distributed or made available a copy of your report pertaining to the subject matter to DLNR Divisions for their review and comments.

At this time, enclosed are comments from (i) the Engineering Division, (ii) Hawaii District Land Office, (iii) Division of Aquatic Resources, and (iv) Commission on Water Resource Management on the subject matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Kevin Moore at (808) 587-0426. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Y. Tsuji".

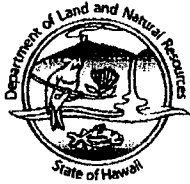
Russell Y. Tsuji  
Land Administrator

Enclosure(s)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

January 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: *FR*

**DLNR Agencies:**

- Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
- Engineering Division
- Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
- Div. of State Parks
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
- Land Division – Hawaii District
- Historic Preservation

RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION  
2013 JAN 30 PM 1:42  
DEPT. OF LAND &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

FROM: *TD* Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator

SUBJECT: Early Consultation for Environmental Assessment for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Kaohe

LOCATION: Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15:01 and 04 pors.

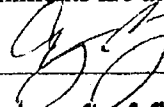
APPLICANT: Geometrician Associates, LLC

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by February 12, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

Attachments

- We have no objections.
- We have no comments.
- Comments are attached.

Signed: 

Print name: Cory S. Chang, Chief Engineer

Date: 1/29/13

cc: Central Files

**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENGINEERING DIVISION**

**LD/Russell Y. Tsuji**

**REF: Early Consultation for DEA for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Kaohe, District of  
Hamakua  
Hawaii.001**

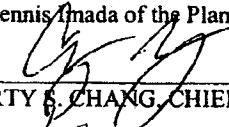
**COMMENTS**

- ( ) We confirm that the project site, according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), is located in Flood Zone
- (X) **Please take note that the project site, according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), is located in Flood Zone X. The National Flood Insurance Program does not have any regulations for developments within Zone X.**
- ( ) Please note that the correct Flood Zone Designation for the project site according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is
- ( ) Please note that the project site must comply with the rules and regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) presented in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR), whenever development within a Special Flood Hazard Area is undertaken. If there are any questions, please contact the State NFIP Coordinator, Ms. Carol Tyau-Beam, of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Engineering Division at (808) 587-0267.

Please be advised that 44CFR indicates the minimum standards set forth by the NFIP. Your Community's local flood ordinance may prove to be more restrictive and thus take precedence over the minimum NFIP standards. If there are questions regarding the local flood ordinances, please contact the applicable County NFIP Coordinators below:

- ( ) Mr. Mario Siu Li at (808) 768-8098 or Ms. Ardis Shaw-Kim at (808) 768-8296 of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting.
- ( ) Mr. Frank DeMarco at (808) 961-8042 of the County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works.
- ( ) Mr. Carolyn Cortez at (808) 270-7813 of the County of Maui, Department of Planning.
- ( ) Ms. Wynne Ushigome at (808) 241-4890 of the County of Kauai, Department of Public Works.
- ( ) The applicant should include project water demands and infrastructure required to meet water demands. Please note that the implementation of any State-sponsored projects requiring water service from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply system must first obtain water allocation credits from the Engineering Division before it can receive a building permit and/or water meter.
- ( ) The applicant should provide to the Engineering Division upon its availability the water demands and calculations for the selected site, so it can be included in the State Water Projects Plan Update.
- ( ) Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Dennis Imada of the Planning Branch at 587-0257.

Signed:   
CARTY S. CHANG, CHIEF ENGINEER

Date: 1/19/13

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

January 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO:

**DLNR Agencies:**

- Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
- Engineering Division
- Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
- Div. of State Parks
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
- Land Division - Hawaii District
- Historic Preservation

FROM:

Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator

SUBJECT:

Early Consultation for Environmental Assessment for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Kaohe

LOCATION:

Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15:01 and 04 pors.

APPLICANT:

Geometrician Associates, LLC

RECEIVED  
 LAND DIVISION  
 2013 JAN 24 P 1:48  
 DEPT. OF LAND &  
 NATURAL RESOURCES  
 STATE OF HAWAII  
 2013 JAN 30 AM 10:49  
 RECEIVED  
 LAND DIVISION

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by February 12, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

**Attachments**

- We have no objections.
- We have no comments.
- Comments are attached.

Signed: 

Print name: GORDON L. HEIT

Date: 1/25/13

cc: Central Files



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. ATLA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

February 14, 2013

Geometrician Associates  
Attention: Mr. Ron Terry  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

via email: [rterry@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rterry@hawaii.rr.com)

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT:** Early Consultation for Environmental Assessment for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Kaohe, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Applicant, Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15:01 and 04 pors.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the subject matter. In addition to the comments previously sent under cover of our letter dated February 12, 2013, enclosed are comments from the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands on the subject matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Kevin Moore at 587-0426.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Y. Tsuji".

Russell Y. Tsuji  
Land Administrator

Enclosure(s)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



HA-13-91



RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION

JAN 23 10:29 AM

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS

2013 JAN 23 P 3 51

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION  
POST OFFICE BOX 241  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DEPT. OF LAND &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

January 23, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO:

**DLNR Agencies:**

- Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
- Engineering Division
- Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
- Div. of State Parks
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
- Land Division - Hawaii District
- Historic Preservation

FROM:

Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator

SUBJECT:

Early Consultation for Environmental Assessment for Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Kaohe

LOCATION:

Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15:01 and 04 pors.

APPLICANT:

Geometrician Associates, LLC

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by February 12, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

Attachments:

COR: HA-13-91

- We have no objections.
- We have no comments.
- Comments are attached.

Signed:

Print name:

ALEX ROY

Date:

2-12-2013

cc: Central Files

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
ESTHER KIA'AINA  
FIRST DEPUTY  
WILLIAM M. TAM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

REF: OCCL: AJR

COR: HA-13-91

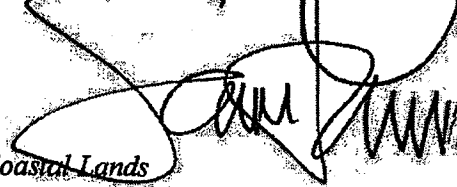
MEMORANDUM

TO: Russell Y. Tsuji, Administrator  
DLNR – Land Division

FROM: Samuel J. Lemmo, Administrator  
DLNR – Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

SUBJECT: Request for Consultation on the Proposed Installation of a Water System  
Hamakua District, Mauna Kea, Island of Hawaii  
TMK: (3) 4-4-015:001 and (3) 4-4-015:004

FEB 13 2013



The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) is in receipt of your memo dated *January 23, 2013* regarding a request for early consultation on the proposed construction of two (2) water tanks and associated water system, the repair and maintenance of an existing unpaved access drive, and the construction of 400-feet of new unpaved access road all located in the Conservation District Protective Subzone.

The proposed land uses include the construction of two (2) 40,000 gallon covered holding tanks for water that will be filled either by delivery truck or a catchment process. Each tank will be attached to a High Density Polyethylene (HDP) pipeline that will connect the large covered holding tank to a smaller open water tank; the pipe will run along the ground surface, except for road crossings which will require burial of the pipeline. The small open water tanks will be utilized by helicopters as a “dip tank” for fire suppression as well as “ecosystem restoration efforts”. Additionally the proposal requires minor improvements to the existing unpaved access drive along with the construction of 400-feet of new unpaved access.

While the information submitted is limited, the OCCL believes that the proposed land uses will not require the applicant to submit a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) and has determined that this proposal is consistent with the park programs and current uses managed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). The parcels have been encumbered by a variety of agencies since the early 1900's (i.e., DOFAW and the University of Hawaii); the *Mauna Kea Forest Reserve* was set aside under a Governors Proclamation on *June 5, 1909* while the adjacent *State of Hawaii Public Hunting Ground and Game Reservation* was created under Executive Order #1398 on *October 16, 1950*.

Under a current DLNR policy, divisions within the department have been working cooperatively to manage areas that jurisdictionally fall under multiple divisions. It is the policy of DLNR that

REF: OCCL: AJR

COR: HA-13-91

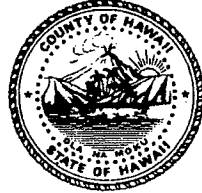
all divisions will comply with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §183C and HRS §343 and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-5, and therefore each division is responsible for implementing procedures to comply with the aforementioned rules and statutes.

The OCCL would appreciate being included on the agency distribution list for receiving a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for this proposal. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Alex J. Roy, M.Sc. of the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands staff at (808) 587-0316 or via email at [alex.j.roy@hawaii.gov](mailto:alex.j.roy@hawaii.gov)

Thank you.

CC: *Chairperson*  
*HDLO*  
*DOFAW*  
*Hawaii County – Dept. of Planning*  
*Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, 160 Baker Ave., Hilo, HI, 96720*  
*Ron Terry, c/o Geometrician Assoc., LLC, P.O. Box 396, Hilo, Hawaii, 96721*

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



BJ Leithead Todd  
Director

Margaret K. Masunaga  
Deputy

West Hawai'i Office  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4770  
Fax (808) 327-3563

**County of Hawai'i**  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

East Hawai'i Office  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone (808) 961-8288  
Fax (808) 961-8742

February 15, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates, LLC  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, HI 96721

Dear Mr. Terry:

**Subject: Pre-Consultation for Draft Environmental Assessment**  
**Project: Installation of Two Dip Tanks at Ka'ohē**  
**TMK: (3) 4-4-015:001, 004; Ka'ohē, Hamakua, Hawai'i**

---

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2012, requesting comments from this office regarding the preparation of a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the subject project.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife is planning to construct water tanks and related infrastructure at two sites on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea in the Ka'ohē Game Management Area and Mauna Kea Forest Reserve for fire suppression as well as ecosystem restoration efforts.

The subject parcels consist of 59,945.568 acres. However, the project site will total less than one acre. There is no County zoning for the project site. The project site is located in the State Land Use Conservation District. In addition, according to the County of Hawai'i General Plan 2005 (amended December 2006), it is designated as Conservation by the Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide. Although, the entire island of Hawai'i is within the Coastal Zone Management Area, the subject area is not located within the Special Management Area.

We have no further comments to offer, at this time.

If you have any questions or if you need further assistance, please feel free to contact Bethany Morrison of this office at 961-8138.

Sincerely,

BJ LEITHEAD TODD  
Planning Director

BJM:cs  
P:\wpwin60\Bethany\EA-EIS Review\preconsult\drafea Kaohe Dip Tanks.doc

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

601 Kamokila Boulevard, Suite 555  
Kapolei, HI 96806

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

March 22, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates, LLC.  
PO Box 396  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96721  
(rterry@hawaiiir.com)

LOG NO: 2013.1787  
DOC NO: 1302SN02  
Archaeology

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation Review –  
Environmental Assessment for Diptanks at the Ka'ohe Game Management Area  
Ka'ohe Ahupua'a, Hāmākua District, Island of Hawai'i  
TMK: (3) 4-4-015:004 pors.**

This is in response to your request for a no effect determination for the two proposed site locations for the Mauna Kea Dip tanks. We received your letter on March 1, 2013. Each proposed site will result in no more than 0.5 acres of disturbance. As described in your letter, the project will consist of the installation of two covered 40,000-gallon fill tanks to hold water and to be filled by either trucks and/or catchment. A pipeline will be placed above ground (except where it will be buried beneath the road) to connect the fill tanks to the smaller dip tanks. The sites will be fenced to deter tampering and avoid damage.

On January 29, 2013, SHPD archaeologist Sean Nāleimaile conducted a site visit with Dr. Ron Terry to determine the presence or absence of historic properties. An earlier proposed upper site was near the historic Pu'u La'au Ranger Cabin. An alternative site was chosen following the site visit to minimize impact in any way to the area around the cabin. The alternative site chosen is in the vicinity of the cabin but a hill sits between the site and the cabin and the equipment will not be visible from the cabin site. Both the upper and lower proposed areas have been previously impacted by mechanical equipment for road construction or maintenance.

Based on the current information, SHPD believes that **no historic properties will be affected** by the proposed project. We request a copy of the EA be submitted to our Hilo office for our records.

Please contact Sean Nāleimaile at (808) 933-7651 or Sean.P.Naleimaile@hawaii.gov if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa K. Donham".

Theresa K. Donham  
Archaeology Branch Chief

**[This page intentionally left blank]**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

## **Ka'ohē Fire Diptanks**

State of Hawai'i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

### **APPENDIX 1b**

**Comments to Draft EA and Responses**



**[This page intentionally left blank]**



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

13-101  
Ka'oh'e Diptanks

May 9, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates, LLC  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Ka'oh'e Fire Diptanks  
Hamakua, Hawaii, TMK: (3) 4-4-015: 004**

The Department of Health (DOH), Environmental Planning Office (EPO), acknowledges receipt of your letter. Thank you for allowing us to review and comment on the subject document. The document was routed to the Department of Health's Clean Water Branch. They will provide specific comments to you if necessary. EPO recommends that you review the Standard Comments ([www.hawaii.gov/health/epo](http://www.hawaii.gov/health/epo) under the land use tab). You are required to adhere to all Standard Comments specifically applicable to this application.


EPO suggests that you examine the many sources available on strategies to support the sustainable design of communities, including the:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's report, "Creating Equitable, Health and Sustainable Communities: Strategies for Advancing Smart Growth, Environmental Justice, and Equitable Development" (Feb. 2013), <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/equitable-dev/equitable-development-report-508-011713b.pdf>;
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's sustainability programs: [www.epa.gov/sustainability](http://www.epa.gov/sustainability);
- U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program: [www.new.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.new.usgbc.org/leed); and
- World Health Organization, [www.who.int/hia](http://www.who.int/hia).

The DOH encourages everyone to apply these sustainability strategies and principles early in the planning and review of projects. We also request that for future projects you consider conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). More information is available at [www.cdc.gov/healthypplaces/hia.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypplaces/hia.htm). We request you share all of this information with others to increase community awareness on sustainable, innovative, inspirational, and healthy community design.

We wish to receive notice of the environmental assessment's availability when it is completed. We request a written response confirming receipt of this letter and any other letters you receive from DOH in regards to this submission. You may mail your response to: 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 312, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814. However, we would prefer an email submission to [epo@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:epo@doh.hawaii.gov). We anticipate that our letter(s) and your response(s) will be included in the final document. If you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 586-4337.

Mahalo,

  
Laura Leialoha Phillips McIntyre, AICP  
Manager, Environmental Planning Office

✓ John Vetter, DLNR

# geometrician

ASSOCIATES, LLC  
integrating geographic science and planning

phone: (808) 969-7090 PO Box 396 Hilo Hawaii 96721 rterry@hawaii.rr.com

June 24, 2013

Laura Leialoha Phillips McIntyre, AICP  
Environment Planning Office Manager  
Hawai'i DOH Environmental Health Administration  
919 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 312  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu HI 96814

Dear Ms. McIntyre:

**Subject: Comment to Draft Environmental Assessment for Ka'oho Fire  
Diptanks, TMK (3<sup>rd</sup>) 4-4-015:004 (pors.), Hāmakua, Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for the comment letter dated May 9, 2013, indicating that the EA was routed to the Clean Water Branch and referring us to websites providing sustainable design principles and strategies. Both the purpose of the project - fire protection for endangered ecosystems – and the low key design are highly consistent with the principles of sustainability .

We very much appreciate your review of the document. We will provide you notice of the publication of the Final EA via email, as indicated in your letter. If you have any questions about the EA, please contact me at (808) 969-7090.

Sincerely,



Ron Terry, Principal  
Geometrician Associates

Cc: John Vetter, Hawaii DLNR-DOFAW

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:  
DOH/CWB

05050PST.13

May 17, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the  
Kaohe Fire Diptanks Project  
Hamakua, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii**


The Department of Health (DOH), Clean Water Branch (CWB), has reviewed the subject document and has no comments at this time.

As stated in the DEA, the total project area will be less than one (1) acre and will not involve discharge of hydrotesting and disinfection water thus no National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit will be necessary. Furthermore, it was noted that best management practices will be implemented to prevent or minimize erosion from the project.

Please note that our review is based solely on the information provided in the subject document and its compliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapters 11-54 and 11-55. You may be responsible for fulfilling additional requirements related to our program. We recommend that you also read our standard comments on our website at:  
<http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/stdcond.html>.

If you have any questions, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/index.html>, or contact the Engineering Section, CWB, at (808) 586-4309.

Sincerely,

  
ALEC WONG, P.E., CHIEF  
Clean Water Branch

ST:rh

c: DOH-EPO # 13-101 [via e-mail only]  
Mr. John Vetter, DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

# geometrician

ASSOCIATES, LLC  
integrating geographic science and planning

phone: (808) 969-7090 PO Box 396 Hilo Hawaii 96721 rterry@hawaii.rr.com

June 24, 2013

Alec Wong, P.E. Chief  
Clean Water Branch  
Hawai'i Department of Health  
919 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 312  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu HI 96814

Dear Mr. Wong:

**Subject: Comment to Draft Environmental Assessment for Ka'oho Fire  
Diptanks, TMK (3<sup>rd</sup>) 4-4-015:004 (pors.), Hāmakua, Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for the comment letter dated May 17, 2013, in which you noted the EA's evaluation that less than one acre would be disturbed and that no NPDES permit was anticipated, and that there will be Best Management Practices in place to minimize erosion and sedimentation. We also have reviewed DOH's standard comments.

We very much appreciate your review of the document. If you have any questions about the EA, please contact me at (808) 969-7090.

Sincerely,



Ron Terry, Principal  
Geometrician Associates

Cc: John Vetter, Hawaii DLNR-DOFAW

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

June 5, 2013

Geometrician Associates  
Attention: Mr. Ron Terry  
P.O. Box 396  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

via email: [rterry@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rterry@hawaii.rr.com)

Dear Mr. Terry:

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Kaohe Fire Driptanks, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Applicant, Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15: 04 pors.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the subject matter. The Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) Land Division distributed or made available a copy of your report pertaining to the subject matter to DLNR Divisions for their review and comments.

At this time, enclosed are comments from the (i) Engineering Division, (ii) Hawaii District Land Office, (iii) Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, and (iv) Division of Forestry and Wildlife on the subject matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Kevin Moore at (808) 587-0426. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell Y. Tsuji".

Russell Y. Tsuji  
Land Administrator

Enclosure(s)



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



2013 MAY 20 PM 2:49

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DEPT. OF LAND &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

May 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

*To: From:* DLNR Agencies:  
 Div. of Aquatic Resources  
 Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation  
 Engineering Division  
 Div. of Forestry & Wildlife  
 Div. of State Parks  
 Commission on Water Resource Management  
 Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands  
 Land Division – Hawaii District  
 Historic Preservation

FROM: *To:* Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator  
SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Kaohe Fire Driptanks  
LOCATION: Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15: 04 pors.  
APPLICANT: Geometrician Associates, LLC for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. A complete copy of the draft environmental assessment is available in the Land Division office in Honolulu, and is available on-line at:

[http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA and EIS Online Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Driptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf](http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA%20and%20EIS%20Online%20Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Driptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf)

We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by June 5, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

Attachments

- ( ) We have no objections.
- ( ) We have no comments.
- (✓) Comments are attached.

Signed:   
Print name: Cory S. Chang, Chief Engineer  
Date: 5/17/13

cc: Central Files

**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENGINEERING DIVISION**

**LD/KevinMoore**

**RE: KaiheFireDiptanksDEA**

**Hawaii.610**

- ( ) We confirm that the project site, according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), is located in Flood Zone \_\_\_\_.
- ( ) Please take note that the project site, according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), is located in Zone \_\_\_\_.
- ( ) Please note that the correct Flood Zone Designation for the project site according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is \_\_\_\_.
- ( ) Please note that the project must comply with the rules and regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) presented in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR), whenever development within a Special Flood Hazard Area is undertaken. If there are any questions, please contact the State NFIP Coordinator, Ms. Carol Tyau-Beam, of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Engineering Division at (808) 587-0267.

Please be advised that 44CFR indicates the minimum standards set forth by the NFIP. Your Community's local flood ordinance may prove to be more restrictive and thus take precedence over the minimum NFIP standards. If there are questions regarding the local flood ordinances, please contact the applicable County NFIP Coordinators below:

- ( ) Mr. Mario Siu Li at (808) 768-8098 or Ms. Ardis Shaw-Kim at (808) 748-8296 of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting.
  - ( ) Mr. Frank DeMarco at (808) 961-8042 of the County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works.
  - ( ) Mr. Carolyn Cortez at (808) 270-7813 of the County of Maui, Department of Planning.
  - ( ) Ms. Maile Aiu at (808) 241-4884 of the County of Kauai, Department of Public Works.
- ( ) The applicant should include water demands and infrastructure required to meet project needs. Please note that projects within State lands requiring water service from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply system will be required to pay a resource development charge, in addition to Water Facilities Charges for transmission and daily storage.
  - ( ) The applicant should provide the water demands and calculations to the Engineering Division so it can be included in the State Water Projects Plan Update.
  - ( ) Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- (X) **Other: Our previous comments dated January 29, 2013, which were included in the Draft Environmental Assessment document, still apply.**

Should you have any questions, please call Ms. Suzie S. Agraan of the Planning Branch at 587-0258.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

CARTY S. CHANG, CHIEF ENGINEER

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/17/13

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2013 MAY 16 AM 9:55



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

2013 MAY -9 1 P 2:06

RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION  
HILO, HAWAII

May 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO:

**DLNR Agencies:**

- Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
- Engineering Division
- Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
- Div. of State Parks
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
- Land Division – Hawaii District
- Historic Preservation

FROM:

Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator

SUBJECT:

Draft Environmental Assessment for Kaohe Fire Driptanks

LOCATION:

Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15: 04 pors.

APPLICANT:

Geometrician Associates, LLC for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. A complete copy of the draft environmental assessment is available in the Land Division office in Honolulu, and is available on-line at:

[http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA and EIS Online Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Driptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf](http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA%20and%20EIS%20Online%20Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Driptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf)

We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by June 5, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

Attachments

- We have no objections.
- We have no comments.
- Comments are attached.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: GORDON C. HAIT

Date: 5/14/13

cc: Central Files



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION

2013 MAY 20 PM 2:51

DEPT. OF LAND &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII



HA-13-158

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
AND COASTAL LANDS

2013 MAY -8 P 2:57

DEPT. OF LAND &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

May 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

From:  
TO:

MAY 20 2013

**DLNR Agencies:**

- Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
- Engineering Division
- Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
- Div. of State Parks
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
- Land Division – Hawaii District
- Historic Preservation

TO:

FROM: Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Kaohe Fire Diptanks

LOCATION: Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15: 04 pors.

APPLICANT: Geometrician Associates, LLC for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. A complete copy of the draft environmental assessment is available in the Land Division office in Honolulu, and is available on-line at:

[http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA\\_and\\_EIS\\_Online\\_Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Diptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf](http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA_and_EIS_Online_Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Diptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf)

We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by June 5, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

Attachments

- We have no objections.
- We have no comments.
- Comments are attached.

Signed:

Print name: ALEX ROY

Date: 5/20/13

cc: Central Files

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

May 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

From: TO:

**DLNR Agencies:**

- Div. of Aquatic Resources
- Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
- Engineering Division
- Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
- Div. of State Parks
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
- Land Division – Hawaii District
- Historic Preservation

RECEIVED  
LAND DIVISION  
2013 MAY 22 AM 10:22  
DEPT. OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF HAWAII

TO: ~~FROM:~~ Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Kaohe Fire Driptanks

LOCATION: Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, TMKs: (3) 4-4-15: 04 pors.

APPLICANT: Geometrician Associates, LLC for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above referenced project. A complete copy of the draft environmental assessment is available in the Land Division office in Honolulu, and is available on-line at:

[http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA and EIS Online Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Driptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf](http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA%20and%20EIS%20Online%20Library/Hawaii/2010s/2013-05-08-HA-5B-DEA-Fire-Driptank-Construction-Kaohe-Game-Management-Area.pdf)

We would appreciate your comments on this document. Please submit any comments by June 5, 2013.

If no response is received by this date, we will assume your agency has no comments. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kevin Moore at 587-0426. Thank you.

Attachments

- We have no objection
- We have no comments
- Comments are attached

Signed: *[Signature]*

Print name: Roger H. Imoto

Date: 5/21/13

cc: Central Files

RECEIVED  
13 MAY -8 P1:59  
FORESTRY & WILDLIFE  
STATE OF HAWAII

# geometrician

A S S O C I A T E S , L L C

integrating geographic science and planning

phone: (808) 969-7090 PO Box 396 Hilo Hawaii 96721 rterry@hawaii.rr.com

June 24, 2013

Russell Y. Tsuji, Administrator  
Hawai'i State DLNR Land Division  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu HI 96809

Dear Mr. Tsuji:

**Subject: Comment to Draft Environmental Assessment for Ka'oho Fire  
Diptanks, TMK (3<sup>rd</sup>) 4-4-015:004 (pors.), Hāmakua, Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for your comment letter dated June 5, 2013, on the Draft EA, transmitting memos from various agencies of DLNR. We first wish to acknowledge the no-comment memos by the Hawai'i District Land Division and the Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands, and the no-objections memo from Division of Forestry and Wildlife. In regard to the memo from the Engineering Division, we appreciate the statement that the comments in response to early consultation, which consisted of confirmation of the Flood Zone X designation, still applied. We would note that in separate letters we received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Division regarding no historic properties being affected by the proposed action.

We very much appreciate your review of the document, including circulation to various DLNR agencies. If you have any questions about the EA, please contact me at (808) 969-7090.

Sincerely,

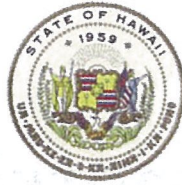


Ron Terry, Principal  
Geometrician Associates

Cc: John Vetter, Hawaii DLNR-DOFAW



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

601 Kamokila Boulevard, Suite 555  
Kapolei, HI 96806

April 24, 2013

Mr. Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates, LLC  
PO Box 396  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96721  
(rterry@hawaii.rr.com)

LOG NO: 2013.2485  
DOC NO: 1304\$N20  
Archaeology

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation Review –  
Revised Dip Tank Location at Ka'ohē Game Management Area  
Ka'ohē Ahupua'a, Hāmākua District, Island of Hawai'i  
TMK: (3) 4-4-015:004 pors.**

This is in response to your letter amending a previous request dated February 28, 2013, for a no effect determination for the two proposed site locations for the Mauna Kea Dip tanks. We received your letter on March 20, 2013. The proposed project areas will result in no more than 0.5 acres of disturbance. As described in your earlier letter, the project will consist of the installation of two covered 40,000-gallon fill tanks to hold water and to be filled by either trucks and/or catchment. A pipeline will be placed above ground (except where it will be buried beneath the road) to connect the fill tanks to the smaller dip tanks. The sites will be fenced to deter tampering and avoid damage. The current letter is in response to a recent review conducted by Mr. Terry of one of the previously identified sites which resulted in identifying future plans by HELCO for the installation of overhead transmission lines adjacent to the proposed site. As a result, an alternative site location was identified by Jay Hatayama of DOFAW and a site visit was conducted by Ron Terry.

Aerial photos confirm that the area has been previously impacted and the area was subject to heavy equipment activities associated fire-fighting. Based on the current information, SHPD concurs with your determination that **no historic properties will be affected** by the proposed project. We request that a copy of the EA be submitted to our Hilo office for our records.

Please contact Sean Nāleimaile at (808) 933-7651 or Sean.P.Naleimaile@hawaii.gov if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

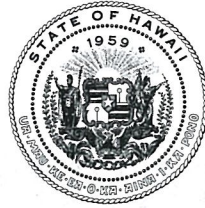
Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa K. Donham".

Theresa K. Donham  
Archaeology Branch Chief



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

601 Kamokila Boulevard, Suite 555  
Kapolei, HI 96806

May 22, 2013

Ron Terry  
Geometrician Associates LLC  
PO Box 396  
Hilo, HI 96721

LOG NO: 2013.3224  
LOG NO: 2013.3273  
DOC NO: 1305SN20  
Archaeology

Dear Mr. Terry:

**SUBJECT: Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation Review –  
Draft Environmental Assessment for the Ka'ohē Fire Driptanks  
Ka'ohē Ahupua'a, Hāmākua District, Island of Hawai'i  
TMK: (3) 4-4-015:004 por**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) that was received by our office on May 8, 2013. According to the DEA, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) will construct two water tanks and related infrastructure at two sites to assist the agency in fighting fires. The two sites are located in the Ka'ohē Game Management Area on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea. The proposed project area will affect less than an acre of land within the larger parcel.

Our records indicate that we have previously commented on this project. The previous review was based on a field inspection and subsequent consultation by SHPD archaeologist Sean Nāleimaile and yourself. Our office concurred with the findings of the field inspection and consultation that no historic properties would be affected by this project (*Log No. 2013.2485 Doc No. 1304SN20*). We have received no new information that would amend this determination; we therefore concur with the findings of the DEA that **no historic properties will be affected** by this project.

Please contact Sean P. Naleimaile (808) 933-7651 or [Sean.P.Naleimaile@hawaii.gov](mailto:Sean.P.Naleimaile@hawaii.gov) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa K. Donham".

Theresa K. Donham  
Archaeology Branch Chief

cc: John Vetter, DOFAW ([John.P.Vetter@hawaii.gov](mailto:John.P.Vetter@hawaii.gov))

# geometrician

ASSOCIATES, LLC  
integrating geographic science and planning

phone: (808) 969-7090 PO Box 396 Hilo Hawaii 96721 rterry@hawaii.rr.com

June 24, 2013

Theresa K. Donham  
Archaeology Branch Chief  
State Historic Preservation Division.  
601 Kamokila Blvd., Rm. 555  
Kapolei HI 96707

Dear Ms. Donham:

**Subject: Comment to Draft Environmental Assessment for Ka'ohē Fire  
Diptanks, TMK (3<sup>rd</sup>) 4-4-015:004 (pors.), Hāmākua, Island of Hawai'i**

Thank you for the comment letters dated April 24 and May 22, 2013, indicating your concurrence that no historic properties would be affected, given the locations and character of the proposed water tanks and associated infrastructure improvement.

We very much appreciate your review of the document and especially the assistance you and Mr. Naleimaile provided us in selecting an appropriate location for the diptanks. If you have any questions about the EA, please contact me at (808) 969-7090.

Sincerely,



Ron Terry, Principal  
Geometrician Associates

Cc: John Vetter, Hawaii DLNR-DOFAW