

APPENDIX A-2

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850

In Reply Refer To:
01EPIF00-2018-TA-0089

Ms. Marigold Zoll
Oahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
State of Hawaii
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

FEB 0 7 2018

Subject: Technical Assistance for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project, Kailua, Oahu

Dear Ms. Zoll:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your letter on December 7, 2017, requesting our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project located within the areas of Kawainui Marsh, Hamakua Marsh, and Puuochu hillside in Kailua, Oahu [TMKs: (1) 4-2-003:017 and 030; (1) 4-2-023:005, 010, 022, and 038; (1) 4-2-016:002 and 015; (1) 4-2-017:020; (1) 4-2-103:018 and 035; and (1) 4-4-034: 025]. It is our understanding that HHF Planners prepared the Draft EIS in accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and EIS rules (Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules) for the proposed project. The proposed project was initiated to provide the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and Division of State Parks (DSP) a master plan to serve as a guide for programming and implementing future improvements within the Kawainui-Hamakua area. Major proposals and recommendations from the master plan address wetland management and restoration, upland reforestation, drainage improvements, restoration and establishment of native Hawaiian cultural sites and practices, educational programs and passive outdoor recreation.

Our comments are provided under the authorities of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended; Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 103 *et seq.*), as amended (MBTA); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; 83 Stat. 401], as amended (NEPA); and the Clean Water Act of 1977 [33 USC 1251 *et seq.*; 91 Stat. 1566], as amended, among others. The Service previously provided comments on the EIS Preparation Notice (Service File No. 01EPIF00-2018-TA-0089) and you have addressed most of our comments. The Service offers the following comments on the Draft EIS.

Additional Listed Species to Consider

In addition to the species provided in our previous letter, we are adding the following federally listed species since they may transit through the vicinity of the proposed project area: the endangered Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), the endangered band-rumped storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), and the threatened Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), hereafter collectively referred to as Hawaiian seabirds. Measures to avoid and minimize impacts to Hawaiian seabirds (*i.e.*, no nighttime construction, shield outdoor lighting, and educate staff and park used about seabird fallout and taking downed seabirds to Sea Life Park for rehabilitation) previously recommended by the Service have been incorporated into the Draft EIS (page 3-64, Section 3.3.2.2, paragraph 3).

Hawaiian hoary bat

Page 3-69, Section 3.3.3.2, paragraph 1 of the Draft EIS states, "If disturbance of trees 15-feet or taller is required during this period, trees would first be inspected by a knowledgeable individual to ensure bats are not present." This is in reference to trees being disturbed during the bat birthing and pup-rearing season (June 1 through September 15). It is not clear what methods will be used to inspect trees before they are disturbed. Visual and/or acoustic methods are not sufficient to detect the presence of roosting bats. Infrared surveys need to be conducted by trained personnel to determine the presence/absence of roosting bats. We recommend the Final EIS identify the methods to be used to determine the presence/absence of roosting bats before vegetation is disturbed during the bat birthing and pup-rearing season.

Hawaiian waterbirds

Page 3-63, Section 3.3.2.2., paragraph 3 of the Draft EIS refers to ongoing predator control efforts to reduce the threat of predators on nesting Hawaiian waterbirds. Although, predator control benefits Hawaiian waterbirds, there is a non-target issue. The Draft EIS does not mention that a potential impact of predator control is the unintentional capture of Hawaiian gallinule in predator traps. We recommend the Draft EIS describe this potential impact and conservation measures to minimize the impact.

In our previous letter, we mentioned our concern regarding the feral cat colony issue and asked that the Draft EIS address the feral cat colony issue, evaluate its impact on Hawaiian waterbirds, and identify measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to listed Hawaiian waterbirds. The Draft EIS did not address this concern. We recommend the Final EIS address the feral cat colony issue.

If it is determined that the proposed project may affect federally listed species, we recommend you contact our office early in the planning process so that we may assist you with the ESA compliance.

We appreciate your effort to restore and manage Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh, which are designated as core wetlands that are protected and managed to recover Hawaiian waterbirds. We look forward to receiving the Final EIS for the proposed project.

If you have questions about our comments, please contact Leila Nagatani, Fish and Wildlife Biologist (phone: 808-792-9400, email: leila_nagatani@fws.gov). When referring to this project, please include this reference number: 01EPIF00-2018-TA-0089.

Sincerely,

Aaron Nadig
Island Team Manager
Oahu, Kauai, North Western Hawaiian Islands and American Samoa

cc: HHF Planners, Honolulu

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Aaron Nadig, Island Team Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122

Dear Mr. Nadig:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i
Reference 01EPIF00-2018-TA-0089

Thank you for your letter dated February 7, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses to your general comments and specific issue comments (italicized) corresponding to your letter's subheadings.

1. General Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your letter on December 7, 2017, requesting our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kawainui- Hamakua Master Plan Project located within the areas of Kawainui Marsh, Hamakua Marsh, and Puuoehu hillside in Kailua, Oahu [TMKs: (1) 4-2-003:017 and 030; (1) 4-2-023:005, 010, 022, and 038; (1) 4-2-016:002 and 015; (1) 4-2-0 17:020; (1) 4-2-103:018 and 035; and (1) 4-4-034: 025]. It is our understanding that HHF Planners prepared the Draft EIS in accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and EIS rules (Title II, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules) for the proposed project. The proposed project was initiated to provide the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and Division of State Parks (DSP) a master plan to serve as a guide for programming and implementing future improvements within the Kawainui-Hamakua area. Major proposals and recommendations from the master plan address wetland management and restoration, upland reforestation, drainage improvements. restoration and establishment of native Hawaiian cultural sites and practices. educational programs and passive outdoor recreation.

Our comments are provided under the authorities of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended; Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 103 et seq.). as

amended (MBTA); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 432] et seq; 83 Stat. 401], as amended (NEPA); and the Clean Water Act of 1977 [33 USC 125] et seq.; 9] Stat. 1566], as amended, among others. The Service previously provided comments on the EIS Preparation Notice (Service File No. 01EPIF00-2018-TA-OO89) and you have addressed most of our comments. The Service offers the following comments on the Draft EIS.

Response: We confirm that the DEIS was prepared in accordance with the State's regulations, and the project was initiated to identify improvements that would support both the State Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and Division of State Park (DSP) mission and objectives. Your comments under the authorities identified are noted. We also acknowledge that the Service's comments provided on the EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) were addressed.

Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. These revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Eliminating these various improvements would also reduce potential impacts on Hawaiian waterbirds due to less potential for interaction between waterbirds with the public.

2. Additional Listed Species to Consider

In addition to the species provided in our previous letter, we are adding the following federally listed species since they may transit through the vicinity of the proposed project area: the endangered Hawaiian petrel (Pterodroma sandwichensis), the endangered band-rumped storm-petrel (Oceanodroma castro), and the threatened Newell's shearwater (Puffinus auricularis newelli), hereafter collectively referred to as Hawaiian seabirds. Measures to avoid and minimize impacts to Hawaiian seabirds (i.e., no nighttime construction, shield outdoor lighting, and educate staff and park used about seabird fallout and taking downed seabirds to Sea Life Park for rehabilitation) previously recommended by the Service have been incorporated into the Draft EIS (page 3-64, Section 3.3.2.2, paragraph 3).

Response: The FEIS will add the Hawaiian seabirds consisting of the endangered Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*) and band-rumped storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), and the threatened Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*) as species that should be considered. The section reflecting these changes is included as an attachment. Measures to avoid and minimize impacts to Hawaiian seabird already discussed in the DEIS (e.g. no night time construction, shield outdoor lighting) incorporate the Service's prior recommendations, and would apply to these seabirds species.

3. Hawaiian Hoary Bat

Page 3-69, Section 3.3.3.2, paragraph 1 of the Draft EIS states, "If disturbance of trees 15-feet or taller is required during this period, trees would first be inspected by a knowledgeable individual to ensure bats are not present." This is in reference to trees being disturbed during the bat birthing and pup-rearing season (June 1 through September 15). It is not clear what methods will be used to inspect trees before they are disturbed. Visual and/or acoustic methods are not sufficient to detect the presence of roosting bats. Infrared surveys need to be conducted by trained personnel to determine the presence/absence of roosting bats. We recommend the Final EIS identify the methods to be used to determine the presence/absence of roosting bats before vegetation is disturbed during the bat birthing and pup-rearing season.

Response: Reforestation activities that may disturb woody vegetation taller than 15-feet (4.6 meters) will not be conducted during the Hawaiian hoary bat birthing and rearing season (June 1 through September 15), and inspection by a knowledgeable individual for conducting such work during this season is no longer needed. The FEIS will revise that statement to clarify that reforestation work affecting these taller vegetation would only be conducted outside the bat birthing and rearing season. The section reflecting this revision is included as an attachment.

4. Hawaiian Waterbirds

Page 3-63, Section 3.3.2.2., paragraph 3 of the Draft EIS refers to ongoing predator control efforts to reduce the threat of predators on nesting Hawaiian waterbirds. Although, predator control benefits Hawaiian waterbirds, there is a non-target issue. The Draft EIS does not mention that a potential impact of predator control is the unintentional capture of Hawaiian gallinule in predator traps. We recommend the Draft EIS describe this potential impact and conservation measures to minimize the impact.

Response: The FEIS will discuss the potential non-target issue with the Hawaiian gallinule associated with current predator control traps being used. The section reflecting this revision is attached. These traps are checked every 48 hours and they are non-lethal. If a moorhen walks into one, it is released and the trap is moved. Our biologists managing Kawainui-Hāmākua have not had any issues with moorhen fatality within traps, and will continue to effectively monitor and manage this trapping program. DOFAW and its wildlife control contractors will also continue to follow standard ethical treatment of animal control guidelines in the course of live trapping. If any unforeseen circumstances arise, consultation with the Service and other experienced wildlife control operators would be conducted to modify trapping techniques to minimize to the maximum extent practicable potential impact to non-target protected avian species.

5. Other Comments

In our previous letter, we mentioned our concern regarding the feral cat colony issue and asked that the Draft EIS address the feral cat colony issue, evaluate its impact on Hawaiian waterbirds, and identify measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to listed Hawaiian waterbirds. The Draft EIS did not address this concern. We recommend the Final EIS address the feral cat colony issue.

Response: The feral cat colonies comment was addressed in our November 24, 2017 response letter to the Service on the EISPN, and included in Appendix A of the DEIS. However, we will include information addressing feral cat colonies in the FEIS, and a copy of this revised section is attached. Feral cats are already present at Kawainui and Hāmākua, but such cat colonies have not been a major issue with Hawaiian waterbirds as part of DOFAW's management activities. Predator control traps are presently being used to address feral cats, and this program could be expanded as wetland restoration improvements are implemented creating improved habitat for endangered waterbirds.

If it is determined that the proposed project may affect federally listed species, we recommend you contact our office early in the planning process so that we may assist you with the ESA compliance. We appreciate your effort to restore and manage Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh, which are designated as core wetlands that are protected and managed to recover Hawaiian waterbirds. We look forward to receiving the Final EIS for the proposed project.

Response: The project should not adversely affect federally listed species, and DOFAW will continue to coordinate with your office to address existing and future management activities and Endangered Species Act compliance, as appropriate. We appreciate your agency's continued support of the project objectives to conduct restoration, management, and maintenance of the wetlands at Kawainui and Hāmākua to support the recovery of endangered waterbirds. A copy of the published FEIS will be provided to the Service.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

The findings of the avian survey are consistent with the current habitats present within and adjacent to the Kawainui complex and the survey area that consist of predominantly alien vegetation.

The four migratory shorebird species nest in the high Arctic during the late spring and summer months, returning to Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific to spend the fall and winter months each year. They usually leave Hawai'i for their trip back to the Arctic in late April or the very early part of May. Migratory waterfowl tend to arrive in Hawaii later than shorebirds, first beginning to appear in numbers in November and leaving for their continental breeding areas by late April.

The remaining 25 species recorded are alien to the Hawaiian Islands (Table 3.2~~1~~). Historically, when there was more open water within the wetland areas, numerous other species of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds were recorded within the habitat then available. Hopefully, the continued and increased restoration and management of habitat suitable for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds will provide a much-needed wintering area for these extra-limital vagrants.

No owl species were recorded during this survey. There are two resident owl species on O'ahu, which are the introduced Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and the indigenous endemic sub-species of the Short-eared Owl, or Pue'o as it is locally know (*Asio flammeus sandwichesis*). This species has become increasingly scarce on the Island. The O'ahu population is listed as an endangered species by the State of Hawai'i, but it is not listed under federal statute.

It is probable that this resident indigenous species occasionally uses resources in the general project area ~~on a seasonal basis~~. This species is not habitat restricted on O'ahu, though there certainly is less suitable nesting habitat than there once was. This species faces daunting odds on an Island as heavily populated as O'ahu. They are a ground nesting diurnal species, and the sheer number and densities of mammalian predator on the Island make it very difficult for this species to successfully nest, except within protected areas that have a strong mammalian predator control program in place.

Endangered Seabird Species

Although seabirds were not detected during the course of the survey, several seabird species potentially overfly the site on occasion. These species include: 1) the endangered Hawaiian petrel (*Peerodroma sandwichensis*) and band-rumped storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*); 2) the Wedge-tailed Shearwater or 'ua'u kani (*Puffinus pacificus*)~~,~~; 3) the threatened Newell's Shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*)~~,~~; and 4) the White-Tern (*Gygis alba*). The O'ahu population of White-Tern (*Gygis alba*) is listed as an endangered species by the State of Hawai'i, but it is not listed under federal statute. This ephemeral species was not recorded during this survey, nor was it expected. The current resident population of White Terns on O'ahu is found on the leeward side of the island concentrated in the Waikiki area.

During this period, female bats and their pups may be unable to quickly vacate their roosts as vegetation is cleared. If trees or shrubs suitable for roosting are cleared during birthing and rearing season, there is a risk that juvenile and adult bats could inadvertently be harmed. Potential impacts from such disturbances will be minimized by avoiding disturbance of woody vegetation taller than 15-feet (4.6 meters) during bat birthing and rearing season. ~~If disturbance of trees 15-feet or taller is required during this period, trees would first be inspected by a knowledgeable individual to ensure bats are not present.~~

Improvements at the Kapa'a Vegetation Processing Area and Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo Section should not increase the presence of invasive mammalian species or impact Hawaiian hoary bat that may be present ~~on a seasonal basis~~. ~~As mentioned, a knowledgeable individual would be consulted to determine if these bats are present in trees or shrubs that may need to be cleared if construction of these improvements overlaps with pup rearing season.~~ No clearing of large trees taller than 15-feet during the Hawaiian hoary bat birthing and rearing season would be conducted.

Proposed Action

Wetland Restoration and Upland Reforestation

The Proposed Action would expand the size of wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities beyond that under the No Action Alternative. These efforts are not anticipated to adversely impact mammalian species identified within the project area. Existing mammalian species, all of which are deleterious to native ecosystems, would continue to be present threatening endangered waterbirds. Expanded wetland restoration would continue to improve wider areas serving as habitat for endangered waterbirds resulting in the need for an expanded trapping programs. DOFAW plans to continue and expand this trapping program to control invasive mammals present as they monitor the progress of wetland restoration and waterbird activity.

Predator control fencing improvements would not use barbed wire, and thus not impact Hawaiian hoary bats. Construction of maintenance roads in upland areas along with southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would provide additional support to DOFAW's management activities under this alternative. This would provide improved access for staff to monitor trapping programs, wildlife activity, and evaluate the effectiveness in control predatory mammals.

Structures and Trails

The short-term construction of pedestrian trails, education center, cultural centers, and accessory structures supporting public access would not have an impact on mammalian species identified within the project area because species are invasive and deleterious to native ecosystems. ~~Measures would be implemented for e~~Construction activities that require the clearing of large trees and shrubs taller than 15 feet would not be conducted during the bat birthing and rearing

To address this situation, DOFAW is planning to implement improvements along Hāmākua's property line (along Kawainui Canal) with the commercial properties consisting of fencing (4 feet tall) and informational signage. Fencing would reduce the ability of waterbirds to cross over into the parking lots and commercial business areas, and control illegal access from businesses and the commercial parking lots.

Funding for a part-time biologist to act as an on-site monitor and conduct public outreach with businesses in this area may also be provided from other sources over a possible 2-year period. The part-time biologist would serve to educate local businesses and the public about the harm caused by feeding waterbirds, as well as monitoring the area for waterbird fatalities. (Na Pua Makani Power Partners LLC, 2015). Fencing and signage improvements, such as this planned at Hāmākua, are already permitted for implementation as part of DOFAW's daily management activities and operations, and does not require land use entitlements to implement.

3.3.2.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, DOFAW would continue its ongoing management and enhancement of the project areas as waterbird habitat. Activities that are part of DOFAW's mission and have been previously approved include control of invasive vegetation, planting native vegetation, predator control, perimeter fencing, and phased reforestation of upland areas. Drainage repair and improvements along Kapa'a Quarry Road would be implemented as well. These improvements were described in detail in the Final EA for the Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement project (HHF, 2012).

Ongoing habitat enhancement is sensitive to the preferences of the various species of waterbirds, and improvements seek to create a diverse environment, including both open water and vegetated areas. The Hawaiian Stilt requires wadable, exposed mudflats with a water depth less than six inches and limited, low growing vegetation. The Hawaiian Coot prefers open water areas where they construct floating nests of aquatic vegetation or semi-floating nests anchored to emergent vegetation. Hawaiian Moorhen prefer to forage, nest, and rest in dense late serial vegetation. Hawaiian Ducks are now most commonly observed around open waterways and channels.

An important component of DOFAW's ongoing management activities is predator control, which includes fencing and trapping to reduce the threat to nesting birds from mongoose, dogs, feral cats and human intrusion. Feral cats are already present at Kawainui and Hāmākua, but feral cat colonies have not been a major issue with Hawaiian waterbirds as part of DOFAW's management activities. Predator control traps are presently being used to address feral cats, and this program could be expanded as wetland restoration improvements are implemented creating improved habitat for endangered waterbirds. All ongoing efforts are consistent with DOFAW's Kawainui Marsh Restoration Area Management Plan. In particular, these efforts can minimize predation of endangered seabird species and Pue'o by invasive mammalian species.

Such predator control efforts benefit Hawaiian waterbirds, but there is also a potential non-target effect associated with the unintentional capture of Hawaiian Moorhen in such traps. These traps are checked every 48 hours and they are non-lethal. If a Moorhen happens to walk into one, it is released and the trap is moved. DOFAW's biologists managing Kawainui-Hāmākua have not had any issues with Moorhen fatality within traps, and will continue to monitor and manage this trapping program.

DOFAW and its wildlife control contractors would continue to follow standard ethical treatment of animal control guidelines in the course of live trapping. If any unforeseen circumstances arise, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other experienced wildlife control operators would be conducted to modify trapping techniques to minimize to the maximum extent practicable potential impact to non-target protected avian species.

Restoration activities may have negative impacts on listed waterbirds. These impacts have occurred with other similar restoration projects at Kawainui (e.g., USACE ponds). Impacts are anticipated to be primarily associated with disturbance of nesting birds during the nesting season when restoration activities are implemented. Waterbirds disturbed when nesting may abandon their nest, eggs, or chicks. In order to minimize these impacts, specific restoration activities such as heavy clearing should be conducted in periods when waterbirds are not nesting. Prior to occurrence of these activities, areas that may serve as suitable nesting habitat would be searched by an experienced biologist to determine if nesting is occurring. If nesting is detected, restoration activities would not be initiated before it is determined that nests have failed, hatched successfully, or been abandoned.

Overall, the ongoing habitat management and enhancement efforts within the project area are beneficial for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds. As "core" wetlands identified in the Hawaiian Islands Waterbird Recovery Plan and as State wildlife sanctuaries, Kawainui and Hāmākua play an important role in supporting these protected species. DOFAW's ongoing actions contribute to the enhancement of the bird habitat, and over time, the number of birds utilizing the marsh is expected to increase.

Adverse impacts to endangered seabird species, such as the Wedge-tailed shearwater, Newell's Shearwater, and the White-Tern are not anticipated since these species were not detected in the project area. Although these species were not detected, lighting from proposed facilities and site improvements associated with DOFAW's vegetation processing site and the Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo park site may impact these species if they travel near these facilities. These birds may become disoriented if lighting is used during night construction of proposed improvements or if streetlights and exterior lighting are installed. No nighttime construction activity is planned to occur for ~~this project~~ these improvements. Outdoor lighting, such as building lighting, will be designed to be shielded to the extent possible and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible. DOFAW staff and park users can also be educated about seabird fallout risk and options to bring downed birds to Sea Life Park for rehabilitation.

To address this situation, DOFAW is planning to implement improvements along Hāmākua's property line (along Kawainui Canal) with the commercial properties consisting of fencing (4 feet tall) and informational signage. Fencing would reduce the ability of waterbirds to cross over into the parking lots and commercial business areas, and control illegal access from businesses and the commercial parking lots.

Funding for a part-time biologist to act as an on-site monitor and conduct public outreach with businesses in this area may also be provided from other sources over a possible 2-year period. The part-time biologist would serve to educate local businesses and the public about the harm caused by feeding waterbirds, as well as monitoring the area for waterbird fatalities. (Na Pua Makani Power Partners LLC, 2015). Fencing and signage improvements, such as this planned at Hāmākua, are already permitted for implementation as part of DOFAW's daily management activities and operations, and does not require land use entitlements to implement.

3.3.2.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, DOFAW would continue its ongoing management and enhancement of the project areas as waterbird habitat. Activities that are part of DOFAW's mission and have been previously approved include control of invasive vegetation, planting native vegetation, predator control, perimeter fencing, and phased reforestation of upland areas. Drainage repair and improvements along Kapa'a Quarry Road would be implemented as well. These improvements were described in detail in the Final EA for the Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement project (HHF, 2012).

Ongoing habitat enhancement is sensitive to the preferences of the various species of waterbirds, and improvements seek to create a diverse environment, including both open water and vegetated areas. The Hawaiian Stilt requires wadable, exposed mudflats with a water depth less than six inches and limited, low growing vegetation. The Hawaiian Coot prefers open water areas where they construct floating nests of aquatic vegetation or semi-floating nests anchored to emergent vegetation. Hawaiian Moorhen prefer to forage, nest, and rest in dense late serial vegetation. Hawaiian Ducks are now most commonly observed around open waterways and channels.

An important component of DOFAW's ongoing management activities is predator control, which includes fencing and trapping to reduce the threat to nesting birds from mongoose, dogs, feral cats and human intrusion. Feral cats are already present at Kawainui and Hāmākua, but feral cat colonies have not been a major issue with Hawaiian waterbirds as part of DOFAW's management activities. Predator control traps are presently being used to address feral cats, and this program could be expanded as wetland restoration improvements are implemented creating improved habitat for endangered waterbirds. All ongoing efforts are consistent with DOFAW's Kawainui Marsh Restoration Area Management Plan. In particular, these efforts can minimize predation of endangered seabird species and Pue'o by invasive mammalian species.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

RODERICK K. BECKER
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

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JAN 17 2018

Mr. Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project
Koolaupoko District, Oahu, Hawaii
TMK: (1) 4-2-003: 017 and 030; (1) 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022, and 038;
(1)4-2-016: 002 and 015; (1) 4-2-017: 020; (1) 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and
(1) 4-4-034: 025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject project. Based on the information provided, we have no comments to offer at this time as the proposed project does not impact any of the Department of Accounting and General Services' projects or existing facilities.

If you have any questions, your staff may call Ms. Gayle Takasaki of the Planning Branch at 586-0584.

Sincerely,

KEITH S. KOGACHI
Acting Public Works Administrator

GT:mo
c: Ms. Marigold Zoll, DLNR-DoFaW

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Keith S. Kogachi, Acting Public Works Administrator
Department of Accounting and General Services
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96810-0119

Dear Mr. Kogachi:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided the following responses to your comments (italicized).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject project. Based on the information provided, we have no comments to offer at this time as the proposed project does not impact any of the Department of Accounting and General Services' projects or existing facilities.

Response: We acknowledge that no comments are provided at this time because the project does not impact any of your department's existing facilities or projects.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 330
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Date: Jan. 22, 2018
DAR # 5655

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce S. Anderson, PhD
DAR Administrator

FROM: Glenn Higashi GKH, Aquatic Biologist

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

Request Submitted by: HHF Planners on behalf of Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR

Location of Project: Koolaupoko District, Oahu, Hawaii

Brief Description of Project:

The State of Hawai'i (State), Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), in partnership with the Division of State Parks (DSP), is proposing the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project ("Project"). The Kawainui-Hāmākua project area encompasses 986.02-acres of State-owned property in the ahupua'a of Kailua on the Island of O'ahu. This project area generally includes; 1) the Kawainui Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary along with other wetland and surrounding upland areas not within this sanctuary (collectively referred to as Kawainui); 2) Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park (SHP);
(continued in the next page)

Comments:
☐ No Comments ☒ Comments Attached

Thank you for providing DAR the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. Should there be any changes to the project plan, DAR requests the opportunity to review and comment on those changes.

Comments Approved: Bruce S. Anderson Date: 1/25/18
Bruce S. Anderson, PhD
DAR Administrator

DAR# 5655

Brief Description of Project

3) Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR); 4) Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary (referred to as Hāmākua); and 5) Pu'uoehu hillside.

The project is guided by the Kawainui-Hāmākua Complex Master Plan, which was developed to provide the State DLNR, DOFAW, and DSP with a master plan to guide programming and implementation of future improvements needed in the project area. Master plan components that guide this project were developed to address need in the project area for natural resource restoration and habitat enhancement; cultural practices and stewardship; public access for outdoor recreation and educational opportunities; and resource management. Project initiatives include: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. A summary of project initiatives is provided below. Structures and trails are proposed in the project area that support and further these initiatives.

Natural resource management activities involve wetland restoration, upland reforestation, storm water runoff improvements, and other improvements supporting DOFAW operations and resource management activities.

Wetland restoration within Kawainui would involve the gradual removal of invasive vegetation covering most of the wetland and restoring the area improve with native wetland vegetation. This would allow marsh streams to naturalize, open up surface water flows, establish seasonal mud flats, and improve stream water chemistry. Unimpeded surface water flowing into the area from marsh streams would be allowed to resume its natural course through the area. During the wet season, increased water flow should establish seasonal mud flats along the stream's natural course. Additional open water and vegetated areas would create additional habitat for endangered waterbirds. Wetland pollutant retention functions would be enhanced by improved streamflow resulting from vegetation removal, benefitting water quality in the marsh and in downstream areas. Restoration work at the Hāmākua includes creating additional wetland areas (up to about 3 to 4 acres) along the mauka end of the wetland by lowering the elevation (cutting) of adjacent upland areas. Other work planned within this wetland would consist of maintenance activities and improving waterbird habitat.

Upland reforestation would consist of gradual replacement of invasive trees and vegetation with native vegetation. A hybrid ecosystem model for forest restoration is planned to allow native and existing non-native species to mix in a transitional period. (continued on next page)

DAR# 5655

Brief Description of Project

This hybrid ecosystem model benefits native biodiversity and aids the process of re-establishing a robust native forest. Since project area uplands have been compromised by non-native invasive species, a process using a direct approach of clearing non-native plants and replacing them with native species is not cost effective or practical. By allowing select non-native plants to remain, particularly those with high canopies, other aggressive invasive species can be contained while understory native species plantings can grow and mature. Once an appropriate density of native vegetation has been restored, remaining non-native species (high canopies) can be removed without allowing invasive species to return.

Storm water runoff improvements involve repairing and improving culverts and flood prone areas. Existing drainage culverts and low lying flood prone areas along Kapa'a Quarry Road outside the project area discharge stormwater into Kawainui are generally in poor condition or in complete disrepair. These culverts and flood prone areas would be repaired or improved to mitigate stormwater runoff. One drainage culvert has already been repaired and repairs for three additional culverts along Kapa'a Quarry Road have been identified. Other existing drainage culverts or flood prone areas along Kapa'a Quarry Road would be identified and evaluated to determine the appropriate repair or improvement needed. A variety of culvert repair or site improvement options may be implemented. Culvert repair could involve replacement or reconstruction with connection to new piping with headwall along with a grouted rip rap apron to mitigate discharge and erosion of upland areas. At Hāmākua, existing culverts along Hāmākua Drive are generally in good condition and do not appear to cause erosion. However repairs or improvements addressing this area would be implemented as appropriate. Storm water runoff from the Pu'uoehu hillside would be evaluated to determine if improvements (e.g. detention basins) to minimize erosion are needed to address discharge into Hāmākua. Storm water improvements are necessary along residences near DOFAW's gated Hāmākua entrance due to occasional flooding when runoff discharges from the hillside during heavy rains. Drainage improvements could include creating structural improvements to mitigate stormwater runoff in this area.

Other improvements supporting DOFAW operations and resource management activities include improving access maintenance roads. Maintenance roads would generally be located well inland with vegetation buffers provided near wetland areas as appropriate. The roads could be constructed of compacted gravel, soil, or reinforced grass. The construction of upland area maintenance roads is proposed to support DOFAW's project area management and maintenance operations. (continued on the next)

DAR# 5655

Brief Description of Project

Only DOFAW vehicles or other authorized users would be allowed to use the roads. Bridges would be needed to cross Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams to connect access roads through these areas. Specific bridge design would be developed during the design phase when the project is implemented. Bridges are proposed to span the streams to not impact their bed or banks. Some maintenance road segments could serve as pedestrian trails during periods determined by DOFAW. A maintenance trail is also proposed at Pu'uoehu hillside to support future reforestation and management efforts.Recreational Improvements

Trails would consist of: 1) pedestrian trails consisting of unpaved or improved trails in natural areas; and 2) foot trails consisting of unimproved trails similar to hiking trails only accessible by walking. Improved trail sections would be permeably surfaced using materials such as gravel or Grass Crete. Pedestrian trails encompass the majority of trails planned in upland areas. Improved trails using permeable material would be provided at select locations, such as the education center, where Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility is provided. Boardwalks are another type of improved trail that would be provided within specific areas to cross low lying drainage areas or wetland where no suitable upland area is available. ADA regulations require long as the surface is firm and stable. Departure from specific accessibility guidelines is permitted where terrain or the prevailing construction practices make ADA compliance infeasible, or if there is potential harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics. The actual alignment and trail design would be determined during the design phase as sections are implemented, and may involve route refinements to avoid sensitive areas, historic sites, or due to terrain and topography of the specific location.

Accessory facilities are proposed along the pedestrian trails. Facilities include observation decks, shelters (e.g. open pavilion), restrooms, interpretive devices, and directional signage. Observation decks and shelters would provide public opportunity to view Kawainui and its resources and also support educational program activities. Students would use the trails to access areas where hands-on learning could occur, and observation decks and open pavilions would provide locations for instruction along with shelter form the elements.

An educational center for visitors is proposed at Pōhakea in the Nā Pōhaku Section of the Kawainui SPR. This facility would function as both an educational and interpretive center, and is envisioned to include space for informational and educational materials, interpretive exhibits and displays, restrooms, administrative offices, vehicle parking, and other accessory support facilities. (continued on the next)

DAR# 5655

Brief Description of Project

The educational center would serve as a starting point for visitors to Kawainui, and serve as a base location for accessing pedestrian trails in surrounding areas along Kahanaiki and at Nā Pōhaku. Programs would educate visitors about the importance of wetlands and the area's cultural resources, creating more engaged and knowledgeable community stewards.

In the Kawainui-Hāmākua project area there are four streams, the Kawainui Canal, and other low-lying drainageways. Three major tributaries that flow into Kawainui are Maunawili Stream, Kahanaiki Stream, and Kapa'a Stream. Maunawili Stream is the main source of inflow into Kawainui. Other sources of inflow into Kawainui include peripheral drainages, smaller, non-perennial streams, and surface runoff from upland areas.

Kawainui Stream runs along the makai side of the levee flowing in a north to south direction toward Wai'auia and then to Hāmākua. Surface runoff feeding into this stream comes from the Coconut Grove subdivision and businesses along Hāmākua Drive. Kawainui Stream travels past Hāmākua on its way to Ka'elepulu Pond and into Ka'elepulu Stream, before emptying into Kailua Bay.

The Kawainui watershed extends from Maunawili and Olomana up to the Ko'olau Mountains serves as the primary water source for both Kahanaiki and Maunawili Streams before they enter Kawainui. Previous studies have estimated freshwater inflow from all sources into Kawainui at anywhere from a low of 6.8 mgd to a high of 13.1 mgd.

Restoration and management of Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands are intended to improve its functional value that includes stormwater retention and allowing vegetation to filter out nutrients and other pollutants before infiltration and recharge of the underlying aquifer. As a result, these activities conducted by DOFAW should have an overall beneficial impact on the underlying aquifer and not negatively impact the aquifer system sustainable yield.

Three endemic 'o'opu (Eleotris sandwicensis, Awaous stamineus, and Stenogobius hawaiiensis) and two endemic crustaceans (Atyoida bisulcata and Macrobrachium grandimanus) have been reported at the project site. These endemic species are amphidromous, meaning eggs of these species are laid in freshwater streams with larvae later drifting into the ocean.
(continued on the next)

DAR# 5655

Comments

The proposed project is expected to have minimal impacts on the aquatic environment. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities expanded to additional areas would increase its functional value (e.g. filtering pollutants) within the hydrologic system providing an overall improvement to the underlying aquifer systems by filtering nutrients and pollutants and groundwater recharge of the underlying aquifer even though these aquifers are not drinking water sources.

Restoration and management of Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands would improve its functional value that includes stormwater retention, increased silt/sediment settling, and allowing vegetation to filter out nutrients and other pollutants before flowing into the Kawainui Canal and Kaelepulu Streams which discharge into the marine ecosystem.

Since the project location area includes numerous streams: Kawanui Stream, Maunawili Stream, Kahanaiki Stream, Kapa'a Stream and Kaelepulu Stream the Division recommends Best Management Practices (BMPs) be incorporated to minimize the potential for erosion, siltation and pollution to the aquatic environment during excavation, construction, and grading activities.

1) Lands denuded of vegetation should be planted or covered as quickly as possible to prevent further erosion and soil from falling or flowing into the stream/marine environment;
2) Scheduling site work (particularly the excavation and grading during periods of minimal rainfall;
3) Prevent construction materials, petroleum products, debris and landscaping products, etc. from falling, blowing or leaching into the aquatic environment; and,
4) Connectivity from the ocean through the lower stream mouths, wetlands, and upper stream reaches should remain open as to provide for passage of stream animals up and down stream.

The Division of Aquatic Resources would like the opportunity to review and comment on the bridge design crossing Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams when the specific design becomes available.

HHF PLANNERS
places for people

RECEIVED
DEC - 7 2017
Division of Aquatic Resources
DAR 5655

December 8, 2017

Dear Participant:

Enclosed for your review is a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) published for the subject project. The DEIS was prepared in accordance with State of Hawai'i EIS law (Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes) and EIS rules (Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules). This DEIS is intended to solicit public review and comments on the project.

TITLE OF PROJECT:	Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
LOCATION:	Ko'olaupoko District, O'ahu, Hawai'i
TAX MAP KEY NO.:	(1) 4-2-003: 017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022 and 038; 4-2-016: 002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034: 025
PROPOSING AGENCY:	Division of Forestry and Wildlife Department of Land and Natural Resources State of Hawai'i
ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 621 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809
CONTACT:	Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
PHONE:	(808) 973-9787

THE LEGAL DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED DURING THE 45-DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS DEIS IS MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018. HOWEVER, DOFAW WILL ACCEPT "LATE" WRITTEN COMMENTS UNDER A TWO WEEK GRACE PERIOD THAT ENDS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018. WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

CONSULTANT:	HHF Planners
ADDRESS:	733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
CONTACT:	Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate Email: rsato@hhf.com
PHONE:	(808) 457-3172

WITH A COPY SENT TO:

AGENCY:	State of Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife Department of Land and Natural Resources
ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 621 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809
CONTACT:	Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
PHONE:	(808) 973-9787

Thank you for your participation in the EIS process. We look forward to receiving your comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Dr. Bruce S. Anderson, Administrator
Division of Aquatic Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses to your comments (italicized) that were included under your letter's "Comments" section.

We note your comment letter initially includes a description of the project taken from the DEIS, and included under the "Brief Description of Project" heading. The project description is consistent with that discussed in the DEIS. However, we do have an update on the proposed improvements. Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The Final EIS (FEIS) discusses these project revisions, and your division will be notified of the availability of the FEIS when it is published.

1. Restoration Comments

The proposed project is expected to have minimal impacts on the aquatic environment. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities expanded to additional areas would increase its functional value (e.g. filtering pollutants) within the hydrologic system providing an overall improvement to the underlying aquifer systems by filtering nutrients and pollutants and groundwater recharge of the underlying aquifer even though these aquifers are not drinking water sources.

Restoration and management of Kawainui and Hamakua's wetlands would improve its functional value that includes stormwater retention, increased silt/sediment settling, and allowing vegetation to filter out nutrients and other pollutants before flowing into the Kawainui Canal and Kaelepulu Streams which discharge into the marine ecosystem.

Response: We concur with your determination that the project is expected to have minimal impacts on the aquatic environments of Kawainui and Hāmākua. Wetland restoration would provide benefits to the aquatic environment as discussed in the DEIS. We agree that wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements would increase the functional value of these resources providing an overall improvement to the underlying aquifer system and groundwater recharge.

Restoration and management of Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands would have a beneficial environmental effect by improving its functional value associated with stormwater retention, increase sediment settling, and supports wetland vegetation in filtering out nutrients and other pollutants. This would improve the quality of water flowing into Kawainui Canal and Ka'elepulu Stream that eventually discharge into marine waters.

2. BMPs for Streams Comments

Since the project location area includes numerous streams: Kawainui Stream, Maunawili Stream, Kahanaiki Stream, Kapa'a Stream and Kaelepulu Stream, the Division recommends Best Management Practices (BMPs) be incorporated to minimize the potential for erosion, siltation and pollution to the aquatic environment during excavation, construction, and grading activities.

1) Lands denuded of vegetation should be planted or covered as quickly as possible to prevent further erosion and soil from falling or flowing into the stream/marine environment;

2) Scheduling site work (particularly the excavation and grading during periods of minimal rainfall;

3) Prevent construction materials, petroleum products, debris and landscaping products, etc. from falling, blowing or leaching into the aquatic environment; and,

4) Connectivity from the ocean through the lower stream mouths, wetlands, and upper stream reaches should remain open as to provide for passage of stream animals up and down stream.

Response: Best management practices (BMPs) would be incorporated into design plans developed for implementation of proposed improvements to further minimize effects on streams within the project area. Such BMPs were discussed in Chapter 2 and pertinent sections (e.g. topography) of the DEIS. BMPs and other design measures developed during the design phase would address excavation, grading and construction activities, and pertinent ministerial permits would be obtained by reviewing agencies. The four measures identified are fairly standard measures and would be incorporated into BMPs developed for improvements, where applicable.

3. Bridge Design Comments

The Division of Aquatic Resources would like the opportunity to review and comment on the bridge design crossing Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams when the specific design becomes available.

Response: Design plans for a bridge crossing Maunawili Stream to support DOFAW management and maintenance activities would be provided to your division for review and comments when this improvement is programmed for implementation. A bridge initially proposed crossing Kahanaiki Stream has now been eliminated from this project due to elimination of that section of the pedestrian path.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planner

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
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 18, 2018

HHF Planners
Attention: Mr. Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate via email: rsato@hhf.com
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan, Ko'olaupoko District, Island of Oahu

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 (a) Engineering Division and (b) Land Division – Oahu District on the subject matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Lydia Morikawa at 587-0410. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell Y. Tsuji
Land Administrator

Enclosure(s)
cc: M. Zoll; DOFAW, Oahu Forestry & Wildlife Manager; Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Central Files

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

'17 DEC 14 AM 08:10 ENGINEERING

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

December 11, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: FROM

DLNR Agencies:
___Div. of Aquatic Resources
___Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
X Engineering Division
___Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
___Div. of State Parks
X Commission on Water Resource Management
___Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
X Land Division – Oahu District
X Historic Preservation

FROM: TO Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator
SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan
LOCATION: Ko'olaupoko District, , Island of Oahu; TMK No. (1) 4-2-003:017 & 030; 4-2-013:005, 010, 022 & 038; 4-2-016:002 & 015; 4-2-017:020; 4-2-103:018 & 035; and 4-4-034:025
APPLICANT: DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above-referenced project. We would appreciate your comments on this project. Please submit any comments by **January 18, 2018.**

The DEIS can be found on-line at: http://health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/ (Click on the Current Environmental Notice in the middle of the page.)

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 Lydia Morikawa at 587-0410. Thank you.

Attachments

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

Signed: _____

Print Name: Carty S. Chang, Chief Engineer
Date: 12/14/17

cc: Central Files

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
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

December 11, 2017

RECEIVED
LAND DIVISION
2017 DEC 28 AM 6:02

MEMORANDUM

TO: **DLNR Agencies:**
___Div. of Aquatic Resources
___Div. of Boating & Ocean Recreation
_X_ Engineering Division
___Div. of Forestry & Wildlife
___Div. of State Parks
_X_ Commission on Water Resource Management
___Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands
_X_ Land Division – Oahu District
_X_ Historic Preservation

FROM: Russell Y. Tsuji, Land Administrator
SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan
LOCATION: Ko'olaupoko District, , Island of Oahu; TMK No. (1) 4-2-003:017 & 030; 4-2-013:005, 010, 022 & 038; 4-2-016:002 & 015; 4-2-017:020; 4-2-103:018 & 035; and 4-4-034:025
APPLICANT: DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Transmitted for your review and comment is information on the above-referenced project. We would appreciate your comments on this project. Please submit any comments by **January 18, 2018.**

The DEIS can be found on-line at: http://health.hawaii.gov/oegc/ (Click on the Current Environmental Notice in the middle of the page.)

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 Lydia Morikawa at 587-0410. Thank you.

Attachments

( ) We have no objections.
(X) We have no comments.
( ) Comments are attached.

Signed: Darlene Bryant-Takamatsu
Print Name: Darlene Bryant-Takamatsu
Date: 12/15/17

cc: Central Files

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Russell Y. Tsuji, Administrator
Land Division
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Dear Mr. Tsuji:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 18, 2018 transmitting State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided the following responses to these comments (italicized) subdivided by division.

Engineering Division

We have no additional comments.

Response: We acknowledge that the DLNR, Engineering Division has no additional comments based on the agency's review of the DEIS.

Land Division, O'ahu District

We have no comments.

We acknowledge that the DLNR, Land Division, O'ahu District has no comments based on the agency's review of the DEIS.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planner

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

REF: AJR: OCCL

COR: OA-18-118

JAN 11 2018

Ronald A. Sato
c/o HHF Planners
733 Bishop St., Ste. 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: **REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) FOR THE KAWAINUI-HĀMĀKUA MASTER PLAN PROJECT**
Ko'olaupoko District, Island of Oahu
TMKs: (1) 4-2-003:017; 4-2-013:005 & 022; 4-2-016: 015; and 4-2-017:020

Dear Mr. Sato,

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) is in receipt of your Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed *Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project* located on the subject parcels. For reference, the majority of the project area and subject parcels are located within the State Land Use (SLU) Conservation District *Protective* and *General* Subzones.

OCCL staff notes that a number of parcels included in the proposed *Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan* are not located within the SLU Conservation District (CD), and therefore will not be reviewed by this office. Land uses proposed in these areas would fall under another agencies jurisdiction:

1) TMK: (1) 4-2-003:030 – SLU Urban District
2) TMK: (1) 4-2-013:005 – SLU Urban District (*wetland boundary may be included in CD*)
3) TMK: (1) 4-2-013:038 – SLU Urban District
4) TMK: (1) 4-2-016:002 – SLU Urban District
5) TMK: (1) 4-2-103:018 – SLU Urban District
6) TMK: (1) 4-2-103:035 – SLU Urban District
7) TMK: (1) 4-4-034:025 – SLU Urban District

The following parcels are located within the SLU Conservation District; proposed activities on these parcels will require approvals, authorization, or review by this office:

1) TMK: (1) 4-2-003:017 – SLU CD, General Subzone
2) TMK: (1) 4-2-013:005 – SLU CD, Protective Subzone, SLU Urban (*Dual Zoned parcel*)
3) TMK: (1) 4-2-013:022 – SLU CD, Protective Subzone
4) TMK: (1) 4-2-016:015 – SLU CD, Protective Subzone

5) TMK: (1) 4-2-017:020 – SLU CD, Protective Subzone, SLU Urban (*Dual Zoned parcel*)

According to the information provided to this office, the State of Hawaii, *Department of Land and Natural Resources* (DLNR), *Division of Forestry and Wildlife* (DOFAW), in partnership with the *Division of State Parks* (DSP), is proposing a new 20-year master plan for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh located in Kailua, on the Island of Oahu.

PREVIOUS APPROVALS:

At this time, the applicant has submitted for review and processing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed project. The DEIS outlines proposed activities, land uses, development, and restoration activities to occur on or near the subject parcels. Based on our review of past authorizations and approvals granted by the Department to various agencies, we have found at least four (4) Master Plan *type* documents for the Kawainui Marsh and surrounding area. A short description of the permitted uses under each CDUP is also presented:

OA-318; Master Plan (1972) – *No time constraints*
Proposed developing a 300-acre lake to serve as a boating area, bird sanctuary, and flood storage. Perimeter areas will have intensified recreational uses such as golf, picnic, archery, gardens, sport fields, hiking trails, community recreation center. Model airplane field for flying.

OA-1374; Kawainui Resource Management Plan (1981) – *No time constraints*
Proposed study to observe, monitor, and measure certain resource elements of the Kawainui Marsh wetlands for the purposes of developing a Kawainui Marsh Resource Management Plan

Kawainui Heritage Plan (1982) – *No corresponding CDUP*

Kawainui Master Plan (1994) – *See CDUP: OA-3068*

OA-3016; Kawainui Community Park (2001) – *Initiation 1 yr. / Completion 3 yr.*
Proposed installation of a 40-stall parking lot, creation of "passive park", sidewalk, landscaping improvements; (appears completed).

OA-3068; Kawainui Marsh Improvement (2002) – *Time Extension to 2022*
This CDUP sought approval to conduct activities outlined in the 1994 Master Plan after transfer of the marsh to the State. Three (3) primary objectives are proposed: 1) to provide a comprehensive and coordinated management plan for existing and future land and water use; 2) To protect, maintain and enhance wildlife species, their habitats and related ecological systems; and 3) To protect, preserve and enhance cultural, educational and recreational values.

According to the applicant, other uses consistent with the goals and objectives for marsh management would be allowed. Examples include the relocation of existing facilities, including powerlines, the development of trails and interpretive areas within or adjacent to the marsh, the construction of sediment basins, and other future possible facilities. Additional facilities, which are consistent with purpose of the conservation district and the goals and objectives of marsh

management would also be allowed, subject to approval of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OA-3126; Kawainui Gateway Park (2003) – *Initiation 1 yr./ Completion 3 yr.*
Proposed construction of Kawainui Gateway Park at two (2) non-contiguous sites: 1) Mōkapu and 2) Coconut Grove.

The Mōkapu Site is designed for a "nature" experience and includes: a 600 s.f. comfort station; 18,000 s.f. parking area and access road; education pavilion; sidewalks/pathways; 3200 s.f. open canoe storage area; security gates and fencing; 150 s.f. viewing platform; 140 linear foot pedestrian bridge; and landscaping.

The Coconut Grove Site is designed for a "nature walk" and includes: a 2000 linear foot gravel pathway, boardwalk and footbridges; improve wetlands (pond creation); construct a 19-ft diameter observation deck; and conduct landscaping.

OA-3278; Kawainui Gateway Park (2006) – *Initiation 5 yr./ Completion 10 yr.*
Same proposal as CDUP: OA-3126 (i.e., Mōkapu Site and Coconut Grove Site)

Based on Condition #3 of CDUP: OA-3278, the applicant had until April 13, 2011 to initiate construction of the Mōkapu and Coconut Grove Sites and until April 13, 2016 to complete construction.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

The following list describes most of the major proposed activities under this current master plan:

- Facilities development; Education Center, Visitor Center, Cultural Park, Overlooks (i.e. observation decks), restrooms, 350 sf Open Air Pavilion, 800 sf shade pavilion;
- Trails and Accessory Improvements;
- Expansion of wetland restoration and upland reforestation, ethnobotanical garden;
- Removal of invasive vegetation, creation of mud-flat habitat, improved stream water quality, robust predator control;
- Expansion of commercial activities;
- Storm Water Management improvements, drainage swales, causeway;
- Construction of new maintenance roads and bridges;
- Construction of a hale wa'a and facilities for canoes;
- IWS for the new facilities;
- Construction of a traditional Hawaiian kauhale complex (i.e., Halau, Hale, Lo'i kalo, gardens); and
- Expansion of DOFAW facility – addition of 3,000sf (includes parking improvements and fencing) and a new greenhouse.

OCCL COMMENTS:

The OCCL would like to reiterate that the objective of the SLU Conservation District Protective Subzone is to: *protect valuable natural and cultural resources in designated areas such as restricted watersheds, marine, plat, and wildlife sanctuaries, significant historic, archeological, geological, and volcanological features and sites, and other designated unique areas.*

At this time, the OCCL is unable to adequately regulate what permitting or approvals may be necessary for the proposed Master Plan as the level of detail required to make such a determination has not been developed.

Based on previous approvals and the current state of the marsh, the OCCL believes that more resources need to be directed to the management of Kawainui in order to provide the level of resource preservation, protection, and education described in the DEIS. Additionally, please ensure that permit conditions of previous approvals are acted upon as required, and proposed projects are implemented in concert with approved permit conditions and recommendations. The OCCL suggests reviewing previous approvals, CDUPs, and Master Plan documents for consistency with the current proposal.

OCCL also suggests updating Section 3.2.5 of the DEIS using the published *Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* (2017) in order to incorporate the most current information regarding climate change in Hawai'i, and its potential impacts.

If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Alex J. Roy, M.Sc. of our Conservation and Coastal Lands staff at 808-587-0316 or via email at alex.j.roy@hawaii.gov

Sincerely,

Samuel J. Lemmo, Administrator
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

CC: Chairperson
DOFAW
DSP

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Samuel J. Lemmo, Administrator
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Dear Mr. Lemmo:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 11, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Our responses have been organized under subheadings that correspond to your letter's comments (italicized).

We acknowledge that your department only reviewed project parcels that are within the State's Conservation District because proposed land uses within those districts fall under your agency's jurisdiction. Thank you for also providing a listing of parcels by Tax Map Key that are within the Conservation District and those that are not (Urban District) to easily distinguish which parcels were reviewed by your agency.

We confirm that several of the project's Conservation District parcels are completely within the Protective Subzone, but others are within the General Subzone or have dual zones as you indicate that should be clarified. The majority of the Pu'uoehu hillside (TMK 4-2-003: 017) is located within the General Subzone, however, the lower portion of this hillside parcel is within the State's Urban District. A portion of the Wai'auia area included under the larger TMK 4-2-016: 015 parcel is situated within the Conservation District's Limited Subzone. A Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) would be obtained for applicable improvements and activities proposed within the Conservation District.

Project improvements addressed under this environmental review process were initially based upon a 2014 draft master plan developed as discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS. However, project improvements analyzed under this environmental review have since been scaled back from the initial master plan to address community concerns as discussed in the DEIS.

Previous Approvals

We appreciate the information provided on previous Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) approvals in your files. This information is generally consistent with that discussed in Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS.

OA-3016 (Kawainui Community Park) is for a City park that has been completed, and is located makai of the levee, and outside of our project area.

Thank you for clarifying that OA-3068 (Kawainui Marsh Improvement) allows for other uses consistent with the goals and objectives for marsh management. Examples include the relocation of existing facilities, including powerlines, the development of trails and interpretive areas within or adjacent to the marsh, the construction of sediment basins, and other future possible facilities. We acknowledge that additional facilities, which are consistent with purpose of the conservation district and the goals and objectives of marsh management, would also be allowed, subject to approval of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

For OA-3278, the State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) would apply for another time extension from the Land Board once they have more details on programming its implementation. DSP would now be implementing improvements for that site instead of the City.

Proposed Activities

The major proposed activities identified in your letter are consistent with that included in the DEIS. However, due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail, a bridge over Kawainui Stream, and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The Final EIS (FEIS) discusses these project revisions, and your office will be notified of the availability of the FEIS when it is published.

OCCL Comments

1. *The OCCL would like to reiterate that the objective of the SLU Conservation District Protective Subzone is to: protect valuable natural and cultural resources in designated areas such as restricted watersheds, marine, plat, and wildlife sanctuaries, significant historic, archeological, geological, and volcanological features and sites, and other designated unique areas. At this time, the OCCL is unable to adequately regulate what permitting or approvals may be necessary for the proposed Master Plan as the level of detail required to make such a determination has not been developed.*

Response: Project improvements would be consistent with the Conservation District's Protective Subzone objective by protecting natural and cultural resources, which include watersheds, wetlands, wildlife and significant historic sites. Chapter 6 of the DEIS addressed the project's consistency with applicable plans and policies, and Table 6.1 identifies those activities already permitted under existing CDUPs and those activities that may require a new CDUP. DOFAW will

coordinate with your department to clarify whether certain activities may be covered under existing approvals at the appropriate time. DOFAW would also apply for a CDUP for pertinent improvements within the Conservation District, not already permitted, and that application will include more detailed project information for your agency's review.

2. *Based on previous approvals and the current state of the marsh, the OCCL believes that more resources need to be directed to the management of Kawainui in order to provide the level of resource preservation, protection, and education described in the DEIS.*

Response: DOFAW and DSP agree that more resources need to be directed toward the management of Kawainui to support its restoration, enhancement of waterbird habitat, and educational programming. The State DLNR only acquired the majority of the Kawainui area from the City in 2008, but has been making considerable progress over the past 10+ years, and continues to implement improvements to support restoration, education, and management of this resource. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses several management activities proposed that include having additional personnel and phased implementation. The environmental review process and entitlements to be obtained are important steps allowing DOFAW and DSP to fund and implement improvements. Project improvements are intended to support these efforts, such as providing permanent facilities at DOFAW's management and research station, to better support their operations and accommodate additional staff.

3. *Additionally, please ensure that permit conditions of previous approvals are acted upon as required, and proposed projects are implemented in concert with approved permit conditions and recommendations. The OCCL suggests reviewing previous approvals, CDUPs, and Master Plan documents for consistency with the current proposal.*

Response: DOFAW and DSP will ensure that current permit conditions are complied with, and improvements are programmed for implementation. However, DOFAW and DSP implementation of improvements are subject to available funding from the Legislature. Many of the project's proposed plans are consistent with existing approvals, and new components such as areas for cultural centers are being added based upon community support from this planning process. New entitlements would be obtained for applicable improvements and activities.

4. *OCCL also suggests updating Section 3.2.5 of the DEIS using the published Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (2017) in order to incorporate the most current information regarding climate change in Hawai'i , and its potential impacts.*

Response: Section 3.2.5 will be updated in the FEIS to address the recent 2017 report on sea level rise. Revisions to this section are included as an attachment.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

and mainly occur along Kawainui Stream along the levee, wetlands at Wai'auia, and increased water levels at Hāmākua. No inland areas of Kawainui would be affected.

A more recent study on sea level rise (*Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*) was published by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (HCCMAC) in 2017 (HCCMAC, 2017). This study predicted a 3.2 foot global increase in sea level by the year 2100, and suggested that this sea level increase could occur as early as 2060. This updated study predicts a slightly higher increase in sea level than the UH Sea Grant study within the same 2100 timeframe.



Exhibit 3.7A HCCMAC Projected 3.2 Foot Sea Level Rise

Exhibit 3.7A illustrates the areas inundated by a projected 3.2 foot increase in sea level (light blue) on Kawainui and Hāmākua. These changes are similar to what is shown on Exhibit 3.7, with areas affected mainly occurring along Kawainui Stream along the levee, wetlands at Wai'auia, and increased water levels at Hāmākua. A few existing open water areas within Kawainui would have more water.

3.2.5.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

The No Action Alternative and Proposed Action would both have little influence on global climate changes in terms of changing the rate of melting of ice sheets and glaciers, rising air temperatures, sea levels, and frequency of natural disasters. Nevertheless, improvements implemented within the project area can take into account the effects of projected sea level rise. The Sea Level Rise and Coastal Land Use Policy Toolkit identified three basic approaches to sea level rise adaptation:

1. Accommodation. Adjustment of an existing system to changing natural conditions (e.g., strengthening flood-proofing regulations or expanding hazard zones).
2. Protection. Hardening of a system in its existing location to withstand impacts from changing conditions (e.g., shoreline hardening such as seawalls and revetments).
3. Retreat. Relocating existing structures to avoid impacts.

The HCCMAC study included several recommendations to provide guidance for State and County agencies, communities, and other stakeholders to improve capacity to adapt to sea level rise. Recommendations included supporting sustainable and resilient land use and community development in light of sea level rise, prioritizing redevelopment in areas outside the risk area,

limiting exposure for development within the area, and improving flood risk management. An inventory, protocols, and process was suggested to preserve Native Hawaiian culture, and a review of environmental regulations allowing for the siting of environmental hazards (e.g. hazardous materials/waste storage facilities) to protect nearshore water quality with rising seas. Other cross-cutting recommendations highlighted the need to engage diverse stakeholders in making complex decisions about addressing the impacts of sea level rise.

No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative includes the continuation of DOFAW-sponsored wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities and cultural landscape initiatives at Ulupō Heiau and Nā Pōhaku. Although these restoration activities would not reduce the likelihood or occurrence of human-induced climate change in Hawai'i, they may serve to strengthen the resilience of the biological environment in the project area.

Wetland and habitat enhancement, reduction of invasive species, predator control, and reforestation are consistent with the UH Sea Grant report's recommendations to mitigate some of the impacts associated with climate change. These actions support employing ecosystem and watershed based conservation of native and endemic species, wetlands and high elevation forests to avoid extinction. Monitoring for invasive species prevention and control are already part of DOFAW's management and operations at both Kawainui and Hāmākua helping to protect existing ecosystems.

Improvements to DOFAW's management and research station, the vegetation processing site, and at the Kalāheo Park site should not be affected by sea level rise based upon NOAA's 3-foot and HCCMAC 3.2-feet projected sea level rise models. Historic data on mean sea level rise over the last 100+ years was less than 6 inches. Changes to areas mainly occur at Kawainui Stream and along the levee, and should not affect the Kalāheo site.

Proposed Action

Expanded wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities with the project would have a beneficial effect by further reducing the likelihood or occurrence of human-induced climate change in Hawai'i. Project improvements would serve to strengthen the resilience of the biological environment in the project area. As with the No Action Alternative, additional activities implemented with the project would have a positive effect by employing ecosystem and watershed based conservation of native and endemic species, wetlands and high elevation forests to avoid extinction. Monitoring for invasive species prevention and control would continue to be a part of DOFAW's management and operations at both Kawainui and Hāmākua helping to protect existing ecosystems.

The 3.2 foot increase in sea level predicted by the HCCMAC study would result in inundation of small areas of the central portion of the Kawainui wetland. Wetland restoration activities expanding into this area would not increase susceptibility to climate change hazards in other areas. Restoration actvities would enhance the wetland in alignment with UH Sea Grant recommendations. These activities could also be modified given DOFAW adaptive management principles guiding these efforts should inundation neccesitate modifications to restoration efforts. This flexibility supports HCCMAC recommendations to improve flood risk management.

The proposed education center, cultural complexes, pedestrian trails and associated accessory structures (e.g. viewing platforms), and improvements to DOFAW's management station are all located inland of areas potentially affected by sea level rise under the sea level rise scenarios discussed. Given the historic change in mean sea level at Honolulu Harbor of less than 6 inches per century, these structures and activities conducted there should not be affected by sea level rise. A portion of the unpaved maintenance access road realignment proposed mauka of Hāmākua's wetland expansion could be inundated by a 3.2 foot increase in sea level. However, this maintenance access could be realigned further inland, if warranted, in the future.

3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Kawainui-Hāmākua project area is a habitat for four endangered Hawaiian waterbird species, multiple migratory bird species and two native aquatic organisms. There are also a variety of non-native plants and animals throughout the project area. The occurrence of the various plant and animal species varies by geographic area. The majority of the 986-acre project area is dominated by the wetland areas of Kawainui and Hāmākua, which is comprised of wetland vegetation and provides primary habitat for the endangered waterbirds and native aquatic species. The surrounding upland (non-wetland) area around the periphery of Kawainui is comprised of a very different plant community, which has been described as wet alien forest (LeGrande, 2014).

3.3.1 Botanical Resources

Two studies provide information on existing botanical conditions in the project area, and are identified below:

1. USACE Aquatic Plant Study. The *Kawai Nui Marsh Invasive Aquatic Plant Study* (Oceanit Laboratories, Inc., 2006) was conducted in 2006 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State DLNR that focused on wetland vegetation. The objective of this study was to quantify the distribution of native and alien plants within Kawainui in support of the long-term objective to control invasive plants and increase habitat for endangered Hawaiian waterfowl. Field efforts focused on the composition of the vegetation and the nature and distribution of the marsh substratum, with emphasis on the extensive layer of peat across the marsh. Plant species were categorized into assemblages, and a vegetation map of the wetland was prepared.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

KENNETH S. HARA
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

December 13, 2017

HHF Planners
Attn: Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project. Ko'olaupoko District, O'ahu, Hawai'i (1) 4-2-003: 017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022 and 038; 4-2-016: 002and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-017: 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034: 025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. The State of Hawaii Department of Defense has no further comments to offer relative to the proposed project.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please have your staff contact Ms. Shao Yu Lee, our Land Manager on Oahu, at (808) 733-4222.

Sincerely,

NEAL S. MITSUYOSHI, P.E.
Colonel, Hawaii National Guard
Chief Engineering Officer

c: Ms. Marigold Zoll, DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Mr. David Kennard, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)
Ms. Havinne Okamura, HI-EMA
Mr. Albert Chong, HI-EMA
Mr. Karl Motoyama, Hawaii Army National Guard Environmental (HIARNG-ENV)
Maj Nhut Dao, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron (154th CES)

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Colonel Neal S. Mitsuyoshi
Chief Engineering Officer, Hawai'i National Guard
Office of the Adjutant General
Department of Defense
State of Hawai'i
3949 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816-4495

Dear Colonel Mitsuyoshi:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated December 13, 2017 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided a response to your comment (italicized).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. The State of Hawaii Department of Defense has no further comments to offer relative to the proposed project.

Response: We acknowledge that the Department of Defense has no further comments to offer at this time.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAI`I
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI`I 96804

OFFICE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

January 31, 2018

Mr. Ron Sato, AICP
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Koolaupoko, Oahu, Hawaii, TMK: 4-2-003: 017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022, and 038; 4-2-016:002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034:025

Dear Mr. Sato:

The Department of Education (DOE) has the following comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project (Project). According to the DEIS, the proposed Project identifies improvements to support natural resource conservation, cultural resource management, recreation, educational programming/stewardship, and agency operations at five (5) state-owned and managed facilities on approximately 986.02 acres of land located at Koolaupoko, Island of Oahu, Hawaii TMK: 4-2-003: 017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022, and 038; 4-2-016:002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034:025.

The DOE notes that Subarea C – Kapaa and Kalaheo, are adjacent to Kalaheo High School (School). The proposed Gateway Park is located across the street from the School. The proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation are also located across the street from the School. Lands for the Gateway Park are currently being used by non-profit organizations as a canoe and kayak launching area into Kawainui Canal. Access and use is allowed and regulated through a Special Use Permit process administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of State Parks.

We request consultation with the School to identify issues affecting the campus or student body that have emerged with the existing use of lands at the proposed Gateway Park. We also request coordination with the School prior to and during the construction of the proposed Gateway Park facilities and upland restoration activities in order to identify and minimize impact in general and during school hours.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please contact Robyn Loudermilk, of the Planning Section, Facilities Development Branch, at 784-5093.

Respectfully,

Kenneth G. Masden II
Public Works Manager

KGM:jmb

c: Lanelle Hibbs, Complex Area Superintendent, Kailua-Kalaheo Complex
Susan Hummel, Principal, Kalaheo High School
Marigold S. Zoll, Oahu Forestry & Wildlife Manager, Department of Land and Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Kenneth G. Masden II, Public Works Manager
Office of School Facilities and Support Services
Department of Education
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Dear Mr. Masden II:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 31, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Our responses have been organized under subheadings that correspond to your letter's comments (italicized).

The project does propose improvements to support natural resource conservation, cultural resource management, recreation, educational programming and stewardship, and agency operations at five (5) state-owned and managed facilities on approximately 986.02 acres of land based upon the project description in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. However, due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The Final EIS (FEIS) discusses these project revisions, and your office will be notified of the availability of the FEIS when it is published.

1. The DOE notes that Subarea C - Kapaa and Kalaheo, are adjacent to Kalaheo High School (School). The proposed Gateway Park is located across the street from the School. The proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation are also located across the street from the School. Lands for the Gateway Park are currently being used by non-profit organizations as a canoe and kayak launching area into Kawainui Canal. Access and use is allowed and regulated through a Special Use Permit process administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of State Parks.

We request consultation with the School to identify issues affecting the campus or student body that have emerged with the existing use of lands at the proposed Gateway Park. We also request coordination with the School prior to and during the construction of the proposed Gateway Park facilities and upland restoration activities in order to identify and minimize impact in general and during school hours.

Response: Development of this site for park use under the City's Gateway Park concept is already permitted because land use entitlements have previously been obtained. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of State Parks (DSP) can thus already implement park improvements if they receive funding support from the Legislature given their other division priorities. However, with elimination of the hale wa'a at this site, the Kawainui project now does not have any new improvements proposed for that site.

Throughout the Kawainui planning process, meetings and consultations have occurred with organizations and the community to discuss this site. Such meetings have included the Athletic Director for Kalāheo High School due to the school's interest in also using the site for launching canoes for their team's practices along with having a hale wa'a to store canoes. DSP would ensure that Kalāheo High School is contacted prior to and during construction of such park improvements to minimize effects on that school's operations.

Schools and canoe clubs have been issued temporary permits from DSP allowing short-term parking and access to this site to launch canoes for practices during their season. DSP now plans to only issue permits for schools to launch from this site in the future. There are no known issues impacting Kalāheo High School resulting from this temporary access to the site for schools and canoe clubs.

No major wetland restoration activities are planned in this Kawainui area near Kalāheo High School because existing wetland vegetation would continue to serve as a buffer for waters before discharging into Kawainui Canal.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

LUD – 1 4 2 003 017 etc Kawainui
Hamakua Master Plan-ID3814

December 21, 2017

Mr. Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
HFF Planners
Pacific Guardian Center
733 Bishop Street Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: rsato@hhf.com

Dear Mr. Sato:

Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project
Ko'olaupoko District, O'ahu, Hawai'i
TMK (1) 4-2-003: 017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022 & 038;
4-2-016: 002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and
4-4-034: 025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the subject project. Since the City and County of Honolulu's sewer system is not available for connection, wastewater systems for the subject project shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable requirements of Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-62, "Wastewater Systems."

Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Mark Tomomitsu of our office at 586-4294.

Sincerely,

SINA PRUDER, P.E., CHIEF
Wastewater Branch

LM/MST:lim

c: Ms. Laura McIntyre, DOH-EPO, via email
Ms. Marigold Zoll, Oahu Forestry, via email: marigold.s.zoll@hawaiil.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Sina Pruder, P.E., Chief
Wastewater Branch
Department of Health
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801-3378

Dear Ms. Pruder:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated December 21, 2017 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided a response to your comment (italicized).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the subject project. Since the City and County of Honolulu's sewer system is not available for connection, wastewater systems for the subject project shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable requirements of Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-62, "Wastewater Systems."

Response: All wastewater systems will be designed and constructed in accordance with Chapter 11-62, Wastewater Systems, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, if not connected to the City's existing sewer system.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Water Resources Research Center

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I®
MĀNOA

December 14, 2017

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu Hawaii 96813
Attn: Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate

Mr. Sato:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter for review of a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project.

Unfortunately, the Water Resources Research Center does not have the capacity to review the draft environmental impact statement at this time due to the faculty position vacancy.

While we continue to explore filling the current vacancy, the Center will exclude itself from commentary on this specific environmental assessment study.

Sincerely,

Darren T. Lerner, PhD
Interim Director

2540 Dole Street, Holmes Hall 283
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7847
Fax: (808) 956-5044
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DAVID Y. IGE
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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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AUG 0 9 2019

Darren T. Lerner, Ph.D., Interim Director
Water Resources Research Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Holmes Hall, #283
2540 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Dear Dr. Lerner:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated December 14, 2017 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project.

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter for review of a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project. Unfortunately, the Water Resources Research Center does not have the capacity to review the draft environmental impact statement at this time due to the faculty position vacancy. While we continue to explore filling the current vacancy, the Center will exclude itself from commentary on this specific environmental assessment study.
Response: We note that the Water Resources Research Center did not have the capacity to review the DEIS at that time, and the Center will exclude itself from commenting on this environmental review.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com

January 29, 2018

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
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RAY C. SOON

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JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

Mr. Ronald A. Sato
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

Subject: Your Letter Dated December 8, 2017 Requesting Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project in Kailua - Tax Map Key: 4-2-003: 017 & 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022, & 038; 4-2-016: 002 & 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 & 035; and 4-4-034: 025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Kawainui-Hamakua wetland restoration and stewardship improvement project.

The existing water system is adequate to accommodate the proposed development. However, please be advised that this information is based upon current data, and therefore, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) reserves the right to change any position or information stated herein up until the final approval of the building permit application. The final decision on the availability of water will be confirmed when the building permit application is submitted for approval.

When water is made available, the applicant will be required to pay our Water System Facilities Charges for resource development, transmission, and daily storage.

Water conservation measures are recommended for all proposed developments. These measures include utilization of nonpotable water for irrigation using rain catchment, drought tolerant plants, xeriscape landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, such as a drip system and moisture sensors, and the use of Water Sense labeled ultra-low flow water fixtures and toilets.

Water conservation measures are required for the proposed wetland restoration expansion. Non-potable water should be fully utilized. For your information, on June 30, 2016, the Governor signed House Bill 1749 into law requiring the utilization of reclaimed water for uses other than drinking and for potable water needs in 100 percent of state and county facilities by December 31, 2045.

The proposed project is subject to BWS Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention requirements prior to the issuance of the Building Permit Applications.

The on-site fire protection requirements should be coordinated with the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Honolulu Fire Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Chun, Project Review Branch of our Water Resources Division at 748-5443.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

cc: Marigold Zoll, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Ernest Y.W. Lau, P.E., Manager and Chief Engineer
Board of Water Supply
City and County of Honolulu
630 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96843

Dear Mr. Lau:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 29, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Our responses have been organized under subheadings that correspond to your letter's comments (italicized).

1. The existing water system is adequate to accommodate the proposed development. However, please be advised that this information is based upon current data, and therefore, the Board of Water Supply (BWS) reserves the right to change any position or information stated herein up until the final approval of the building permit application. The final decision on the availability of water will be confirmed when the building permit application is submitted for approval.

When water is made available, the applicant will be required to pay our Water System Facilities Charges for resource development, transmission, and daily storage.

Response: We confirm the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) determination that their existing water system is adequate to accommodate the improvements proposed for this project. We acknowledge that final decisions regarding water availability will be confirmed as part of building permit applications for improvements when they are implemented. Furthermore, Water System Facilities Charges for resource development, transmission, and daily storage will be paid when water is made available.

2. Water conservation measures are recommended for all proposed developments. These measures include utilization of nonpotable water for irrigation using rain catchment, drought tolerant plants, xeriscape landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, such as a drip system and moisture sensors, and the use of Water Sense labeled ultra-low flow water fixtures and toilets.

Water conservation measures are required for the proposed wetland restoration expansion. Non-potable water should be fully utilized. For your information, on June 30, 2016, the Governor signed House Bill 1749 into law requiring the utilization of reclaimed water for uses other than drinking and for potable water needs in 100 percent of state and county facilities by December 31, 2045.

Response: Water conservation measures would be incorporated in the design of facilities and other applicable improvements. This would include considering use of non-potable water for irrigation, drought tolerant plants, xeriscape landscaping and ultra-low flow water fixtures and toilets. As discussed in the DEIS, the cultural centers plan to incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines.

Water conservation measures should not be required for wetland restoration since that work primarily involves removing invasive vegetation within the wetland to open water flow. Upland reforestation activities would utilize non-potable water (e.g. rain catchment system), as appropriate. Recent upland reforestation improvements in the Kahanaiki area utilized a rain catchment system. Reforestation improvements along with State-operated facilities constructed would comply with House Bill 1749.

3. The proposed project is subject to BWS Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention requirements prior to the issuance of the Building Permit Applications. The on-site fire protection requirements should be coordinated with the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Honolulu Fire Department.

Response: Applicable improvements would also comply with Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention requirements prior to issuance of applicable building permits. Necessary coordination with the Honolulu Fire Department would be conducted by the entity constructing building improvements as part of the design process to ensure on-site fire protection requirements are met.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 200 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-7762 • FAX: (808) 768-7792
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND
DIRECTOR

SUSAN L. FERNANDEZ
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

December 19, 2017

Mr. Ronald A. Sato
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Dear Mr. Sato,

SUBJECT: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project
Ko'olaupoko District, Oahu, Hawaii
Tax Map Key (TMK): (1) 4-2-003:017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010 022 and 038; 4-2-016: 002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-013: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034: 025

Thank you for your letter and disk for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project.

Our review of the provided documents indicates the proposed project will have no adverse impacts on any Department of Community Services' activities or projects at this time.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Witty-Oakland
Director

PWO:ta

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Pamela A. Witty-Oakland, Director
Department of Community Services
City and County of Honolulu
925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Dear Ms. Witty-Oakland:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated December 19, 2017 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided a response to your comment (italicized).

Our review of the provided documents indicates the proposed project will have no adverse impacts on any Department of Community Services' activities or projects at this time.

Response: We acknowledge your department's determination that the project would have no adverse impacts on your department's existing activities or projects.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11TH FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Phone: (808) 768-8480 • Fax: (808) 768-4567
Web site: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROBERT J. KRONING, P.E.
DIRECTOR

MARK YONAMINE, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 9, 2018

HHF Planners
ATTN: Ronald Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mr. Sato,

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. The Department of Design and Construction does not have any comments at this time.

Should you have any further questions, please call me at 768-8480.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Kroning, P.E.
Director

RJK:ms(712112)

cc: Department of Land and Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Robert J. Kroning, P.E., Director
Department of Design and Construction
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street, 11th Floor
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Kroning:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 9, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have a provided a response to your comment (italicized).

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. The Department of Design and Construction does not have any comments at this time.

Response: We acknowledge your department does not have any comments on the project at this time.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

KATHY K. SOKUGAWA
ACTING DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY F. T. HIU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EUGENE H. TAKAHASHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

2017/ELOG-2491(RN)
2017/GEN-25 (FK)

January 29, 2018

Mr. Ronald A. Sato, AICP
Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

We have reviewed the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan – Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) received on December 8, 2017, and have the following comments:

1. In Executive Summary, Section 4 (Required Permits and Approvals) and Section 2.2.9 (Listing of Permits and Approvals), please include that the project will require building permits.

2. The project shall comply with the applicable provisions of Revised Ordinances of Hawaii Chapter 21A (Flood Hazard Areas).

3. The project shall comply with the prevailing soil erosion and storm water quality standards ("Rules Relating to Water Quality").

4. The project's compliance with these standards will be verified at the time that the plans are submitted to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) for review.

5. The DPP's previous comments on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) recommended that the DEIS include a discussion on how the project addresses the recommendations in the State Office of Planning's report entitled, "Establishment of a Statewide Greenways System for Hawaii. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) should discuss how the proposed project will address or be integrated with the greenbelt system.

6. The FEIS should provide a discussion of potential impacts identified in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaption Report published by the State Climate Change and Mitigation Commission published in December 2017.

7. In Section 6.4.2.1 of the DEIS discussing the project's conformance with the Koolau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan (KPSCP), reference to Section 3.4, Historic and Cultural Resources of the KPSCP is misquoted. This section is actually Section 3.3.

8. The forthcoming Special Management Area applications for various improvements, conceptually described in the DEIS, will require additional detail specific to the construction. This includes: 1) Dimensions of the structures, parking lot, pedestrian paths, 2) estimates of the numbers of visitors and scale of the use, 3) estimates for grubbing and earthwork volumes, 4) anticipated infrastructure requirements for amenities such a restrooms, and 5) proposed drainage improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please contact Franz Kraintz, of our staff, at (808) 768-8046.

Very truly yours,

Eugene H. Takahashi
Deputy Director

EHT:ah

cc: Marigold Zoll, Oahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Kathy Sokugawa, Acting Director
Department of Planning and Permitting
City and County of Honolulu
630 South Beretania Street, 7th Floor
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Ms. Sokugawa:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your department's letter dated January 29, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Our responses are numbered to correspond to your letter's comments (italicized).

1. *In Executive Summary, Section 4 (Required Permits and Approvals) and Section 2.2.9 (Listing of Permits and Approvals), please include that the project will require building permits.*

Response: The Executive Summary and Section 2.2.9 will be revised in the Final EIS (FEIS) to add City building permits to the list that may be required for applicable structures constructed. Below are the changes made to those sections.

Executive Summary:

Department of Planning and Permitting	*STATUS*
Building Permits	*Required for implementation*

Section 2.2.9:

Department of Planning and Permitting	*STATUS*
Building Permits	*Required for construction of structures if not subject to DOFAW or DSP*

2. *The project shall comply with the applicable provisions of Revised Ordinances of Hawaii Chapter 21A (Flood Hazard Areas).*

Response: The project will comply with the applicable provisions of the City's ordinance on flood hazard areas (Chapter 21A, ROH).

3. *The project shall comply with the prevailing soil erosion and storm water quality standards ("Rules Relating to Water Quality").*

Response: Project improvements would be designed to comply with the prevailing soil erosion and storm water quality standards.

4. *The project's compliance with these standards will be verified at the time that the plans are submitted to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) for review.*

Response: Design plans would be submitted to the City Department of Planning and Permitting for review, as appropriate.

5. *The DPP's previous comments on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) recommended that the DEIS include a discussion on how the project addresses the recommendations in the State Office of Planning's report entitled, "Establishment of a Statewide Greenways System for Hawaii. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) should discuss how the proposed project will address or be integrated with the greenbelt system.*

Response: Section 6.3.7.2 of the DEIS included a discussion of the project's consistency with the Statewide Greenways System and how improvements would support a greenways system. Unfortunately, due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail. Although such trails are reduced, the project still includes new trail segments that support the greenways system. The Final EIS (FEIS) discusses these project revisions, and your office will be notified of the availability of the FEIS when it is published.

6. *The FEIS should provide a discussion of potential impacts identified in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaption Report published by the State Climate Change and Mitigation Commission published in December 2017.*

Response: Section 3.2.5 of the FEIS will include pertinent information from that recent December 2017 report on sea level rise vulnerability. Revisions to this section are included as an attachment.

7. *In Section 6.4.2.1 of the DEIS discussing the project's conformance with the Koolau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan (KPSCP), reference to Section 3.4, Historic and Cultural Resources of the KPSCP is misquoted. This section is actually Section 3.3.*

Response: Section 6.4.2.1 has been corrected to reflect that it should be referencing Section 3.3, and this change is provided below.

Section 3.43 Historic and Cultural Resources

8. *The forthcoming Special Management Area applications for various improvements, conceptually described in the DEIS, will require additional detail specific to the construction. This includes: 1) Dimensions of the structures, parking lot, pedestrian paths, 2) estimates of the numbers of visitors and scale of the use, 3) estimates for grubbing and earthwork volumes, 4) anticipated infrastructure requirements for amenities such a restrooms, and 5) proposed drainage improvements.*

Response: The Special Management Area Use Permit application for this project would include more information on proposed improvements, such as those items identified.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

and mainly occur along Kawainui Stream along the levee, wetlands at Wai'auia, and increased water levels at Hāmākua. No inland areas of Kawainui would be affected.

A more recent study on sea level rise (*Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*) was published by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (HCCMAC) in 2017 (HCCMAC, 2017). This study predicted a 3.2 foot global increase in sea level by the year 2100, and suggested that this sea level increase could occur as early as 2060. This updated study predicts a slightly higher increase in sea level than the UH Sea Grant study within the same 2100 timeframe.



Exhibit 3.7A HCCMAC Projected 3.2 Foot Sea Level Rise

Exhibit 3.7A illustrates the areas inundated by a projected 3.2 foot increase in sea level (light blue) on Kawainui and Hāmākua. These changes are similar to what is shown on Exhibit 3.7, with areas affected mainly occurring along Kawainui Stream along the levee, wetlands at Wai'auia, and increased water levels at Hāmākua. A few existing open water areas within Kawainui would have more water.

3.2.5.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

The No Action Alternative and Proposed Action would both have little influence on global climate changes in terms of changing the rate of melting of ice sheets and glaciers, rising air temperatures, sea levels, and frequency of natural disasters. Nevertheless, improvements implemented within the project area can take into account the effects of projected sea level rise. The Sea Level Rise and Coastal Land Use Policy Toolkit identified three basic approaches to sea level rise adaptation:

1. Accommodation. Adjustment of an existing system to changing natural conditions (e.g., strengthening flood-proofing regulations or expanding hazard zones).
2. Protection. Hardening of a system in its existing location to withstand impacts from changing conditions (e.g., shoreline hardening such as seawalls and revetments).
3. Retreat. Relocating existing structures to avoid impacts.

The HCCMAC study included several recommendations to provide guidance for State and County agencies, communities, and other stakeholders to improve capacity to adapt to sea level rise. Recommendations included supporting sustainable and resilient land use and community development in light of sea level rise, prioritizing redevelopment in areas outside the risk area,

limiting exposure for development within the area, and improving flood risk management. An inventory, protocols, and process was suggested to preserve Native Hawaiian culture, and a review of environmental regulations allowing for the siting of environmental hazards (e.g. hazardous materials/waste storage facilities) to protect nearshore water quality with rising seas. Other cross-cutting recommendations highlighted the need to engage diverse stakeholders in making complex decisions about addressing the impacts of sea level rise.

No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative includes the continuation of DOFAW-sponsored wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities and cultural landscape initiatives at Ulupō Heiau and Nā Pōhaku. Although these restoration activities would not reduce the likelihood or occurrence of human-induced climate change in Hawai'i, they may serve to strengthen the resilience of the biological environment in the project area.

Wetland and habitat enhancement, reduction of invasive species, predator control, and reforestation are consistent with the UH Sea Grant report's recommendations to mitigate some of the impacts associated with climate change. These actions support employing ecosystem and watershed based conservation of native and endemic species, wetlands and high elevation forests to avoid extinction. Monitoring for invasive species prevention and control are already part of DOFAW's management and operations at both Kawainui and Hāmākua helping to protect existing ecosystems.

Improvements to DOFAW's management and research station, the vegetation processing site, and at the Kalāheo Park site should not be affected by sea level rise based upon NOAA's 3-foot and HCCMAC 3.2-feet projected sea level rise models. Historic data on mean sea level rise over the last 100+ years was less than 6 inches. Changes to areas mainly occur at Kawainui Stream and along the levee, and should not affect the Kalāheo site.

Proposed Action

Expanded wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities with the project would have a beneficial effect by further reducing the likelihood or occurrence of human-induced climate change in Hawai'i. Project improvements would serve to strengthen the resilience of the biological environment in the project area. As with the No Action Alternative, additional activities implemented with the project would have a positive effect by employing ecosystem and watershed based conservation of native and endemic species, wetlands and high elevation forests to avoid extinction. Monitoring for invasive species prevention and control would continue to be a part of DOFAW's management and operations at both Kawainui and Hāmākua helping to protect existing ecosystems.

The 3.2 foot increase in sea level predicted by the HCCMAC study would result in inundation of small areas of the central portion of the Kawainui wetland. Wetland restoration activities expanding into this area would not increase susceptibility to climate change hazards in other areas. Restoration actvities would enhance the wetland in alignment with UH Sea Grant recommendations. These activities could also be modified given DOFAW adaptive management principles guiding these efforts should inundation neccesitate modifications to restoration efforts. This flexibility supports HCCMAC recommendations to improve flood risk management.

The proposed education center, cultural complexes, pedestrian trails and associated accessory structures (e.g. viewing platforms), and improvements to DOFAW's management station are all located inland of areas potentially affected by sea level rise under the sea level rise scenarios discussed. Given the historic change in mean sea level at Honolulu Harbor of less than 6 inches per century, these structures and activities conducted there should not be affected by sea level rise. A portion of the unpaved maintenance access road realignment proposed mauka of Hāmākua's wetland expansion could be inundated by a 3.2 foot increase in sea level. However, this maintenance access could be realigned further inland, if warranted, in the future.

3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Kawainui-Hāmākua project area is a habitat for four endangered Hawaiian waterbird species, multiple migratory bird species and two native aquatic organisms. There are also a variety of non-native plants and animals throughout the project area. The occurrence of the various plant and animal species varies by geographic area. The majority of the 986-acre project area is dominated by the wetland areas of Kawainui and Hāmākua, which is comprised of wetland vegetation and provides primary habitat for the endangered waterbirds and native aquatic species. The surrounding upland (non-wetland) area around the periphery of Kawainui is comprised of a very different plant community, which has been described as wet alien forest (LeGrande, 2014).

3.3.1 Botanical Resources

Two studies provide information on existing botanical conditions in the project area, and are identified below:

1. USACE Aquatic Plant Study. The *Kawai Nui Marsh Invasive Aquatic Plant Study* (Oceanit Laboratories, Inc., 2006) was conducted in 2006 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State DLNR that focused on wetland vegetation. The objective of this study was to quantify the distribution of native and alien plants within Kawainui in support of the long-term objective to control invasive plants and increase habitat for endangered Hawaiian waterfowl. Field efforts focused on the composition of the vegetation and the nature and distribution of the marsh substratum, with emphasis on the extensive layer of peat across the marsh. Plant species were categorized into assemblages, and a vegetation map of the wetland was prepared.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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KIRK CALDWELL
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DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TP12/17-667246R

January 12, 2018

Mr. Ronald A. Sato, AICP
Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project, Kawainui, Oahu, Hawaii

This is in response to your notice dated December 8, 2017, requesting our review and comments on the subject project. We have the following comments:

1. **Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA).** The various improvements to the area are estimated to attract a large number of visitors to the site for passive recreational use. A multi-modal TIA should be completed instead of a Traffic Impact Analysis Report (TIAR). The TIA should calculate and examine the pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit stress and comfort levels at the studied intersections with corresponding improvements to mitigate these impacts by applying Complete Streets principles.

    a. Section 1 Introduction (page 2), states "Section 4 discusses the relationship between the project and pedestrian and bicycle use of nearby roadways and Section 5 discusses potential impacts to bicycle and pedestrian facilities." However, this information is not included in these sections.

2. **Flood Control Levee.** Section 2.2.5 Programs and Visitor Activity Estimates (page 2-78), states 60 to 70 persons per day visiting the levee. This number appears to be low. An actual all-day count for weekday and weekend should be completed to determine the annual use estimates in the TIAR.

3. **Cultural Center at Waiauia.** Section 5.6.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation (page 5-57), states that those accessing the site would be encouraged to bike, use public transportation, or park in Kailua Town and walk to the site minimizing on-site drop offs. The nearby intersection (Kailua Road, Hamakua Drive and Kainehe Street) and surrounding roadways are heavily used. A multi-modal TIA should be conducted to identify appropriate mitigation. Offsite improvements should be completed at the intersection and adjacent sidewalks to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the visitors to the site.

4. **Kawainui State Park Reserve.** Section 5.6.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation (page 5-57), states that the pedestrian bridge over Kawainui Canal will be eliminated. Include a description of the reasons for removal and any impacts to the community's current use.

5. **Traffic Counts.** Assess and correct the following:

    a. Section 5.6 Transportation Facilities, Figure 5.5 Existing Peak Hour Traffic Volumes (page 5-43), the total vehicle volumes for various intersections were not added correctly.

    b. Section 5.6 Transportation Facilities, Figure 5.6 Future Peak Hour Traffic Volumes without Project (page 5-48), the total vehicle volumes at the Kalanianaole Highway, Kailua Road and Ulukahi Street intersection are lower than the existing peak hour volumes in Figure 5.5. Assess and correct as needed.

6. **Traffic Management Plan (TMP).** Prepare a TMP which:

    a. Is jointly reviewed and accepted by the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and the Department of Planning and Permitting.

    b. Provides a discussion of the traffic impacts that the project may have on any surrounding City roadways, including short-term impacts during construction and long-term impacts after construction with corresponding measures to mitigate these impacts by applying Complete Streets principles.

    c. Construction materials and equipment should be transferred to and from the project site during off-peak traffic hours (8:30 a.m. to

3:30 p.m.), but not during school dismissal periods for the safety of the students and to minimize any possible disruption to traffic on the local streets.

d. Includes best practice TMPs to provide the City with information by which to monitor construction areas. The City will require cameras where sidewalks are closed to help assess effectiveness of management.

e. Coordinates construction schedules with other nearby properties that have planned developments to ensure minimal impacts on City streets

7. **Complete Streets**. The Application should contain discussion of compliance with County and State Complete Streets policies, pursuant to Act 54, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, HRS §264-20.5 and ROH 12-15. The Project should elaborate on how it will comply with Complete Streets policies, including specific adherence to the following key Complete Streets principles: safety, Context Sensitive Solutions, accessibility and mobility for all, use and comfort of all users, consistency of design guidelines and standards, energy efficiency, and health and green infrastructure.

8. **Bike and Moped Parking.** Include on-site bike racks and moped parking at the visitor, education, and cultural centers for the employees and visitors and locate on the project site plans as constructed.

9. **Public Transit Service Area.** This project is in an existing public transit service area. To ensure that the project development does not affect public transit services (bus operations, bus routes, bus stops and para-transit operations); submit project plans to DTS - Public Transit Division (PTD) for review and approval. Contact DTS-PTD at 768-8396, 768-8370, 768-8374 or TheBusStop@honolulu.gov.

10. **Parking Management.** Identify parking management strategies both on- and off-street that will support the facilities. All parking needs for the proposed facility (employees and visitors) should be handled on-site.

11. **Driveway Design.** All access driveways to the project sites should be designed with the highest pedestrian and bicycle safety measures and constructed to current City standards.

12. **Vehicle/Pedestrian Crossing.** Any existing pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle access/crossing shall be maintained with the highest safety measures during construction.

13. **Loading and Unloading.** We have the following comments:

    a. Section 5.6 Transportation Facilities (page 5-56), 2nd paragraph, states that commercial tour buses would not be allowed to use the on-site parking lot and would not be allowed to unload passengers on the side of the road. Provide a discussion on how the program plans on enforcing unauthorized commercial buses from unloading on the side of the road.

    b. All loading and unloading needs for the facility should be handled on-site, rather than on City roadways.

14. **Handi-Van Access.** The project should be designed to accommodate TheHandi-Van para-transit vehicles on-site, which require a minimum 31-foot turning radius, a 10-foot, 6-inch height clearance, and the ability to exit the site without reversing onto public roadways.

15. **Priority Guidelines on Sustainability.** In addressing priority guidelines on sustainability through HRS § 226-108, the Project should consider certification by a green building rating system, including but not limited to nationally recognized rating systems such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the Living Building Challenge, Green Globes, or another comparable State-approved, nationally recognized, and consensus-based guideline, standard, or system.

    The DTS supports certification such as the LEED for Building Design and Construction Version 4.0 as it mitigates Location and Transportation (LT) impacts including but not limited to: minimizing the environmental harms associated with parking facilities, including automobile dependence, land consumption, and rainwater runoff; reducing pollution by promoting alternatives to conventionally fueled automobiles; increasing access to quality transit; reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) through the integration of bicycle facilities; and compact, walkable development that encourages a density and diversity of surrounding uses.

16. **Best Management Practice (BMP) Controls.** BMP controls should be included at the construction site to prevent trailing of dirt and debris on City roadways.

17. **Roadway Damage.** Any damage to the existing roadway and sidewalk area caused by the project should be repaired to current City standards as well as meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

18. **Neighborhood Impacts.** The area Neighborhood Board, as well as the area businesses, emergency personnel (fire, ambulance and police), Oahu Transit Services, Inc. (TheBus and TheHandi-Van), etc., should be kept apprised of the details of the proposed project and the impacts that the project may have on the adjoining local street area network.

19. **Street Usage Permit.** A street usage permit from the City's Department of Transportation Services should be obtained for any construction-related work that may require the temporary closure of any traffic lane on a City street.

20. **Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).** Plans should be reviewed and approved by DCAB to ensure full compliance with the ADA.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Renee Yamasaki of my staff at 768-8383.

Very truly yours,



Wes Frysztacki
Director

cc: Ms. Marigold Zoll, Department of Land and Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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
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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Wes Frysztacki, Director
Department of Transportation Services
City and County of Honolulu
630 South Beretania Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Frysztacki:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 12, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have the following responses that are numbered to correspond to your letter's comments (italicized).

1. *Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA). The various improvements to the area are estimated to attract a large number of visitors to the site for passive recreational use. A multi-modal TIA should be completed instead of a Traffic Impact Analysis Report (TIAR). The TIA should calculate and examine the pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit stress and comfort levels at the studied intersections with corresponding improvements to mitigate these impacts by applying Complete Streets principles.*

Response: Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The Final EIS (FEIS) discusses these project revisions, and your division will be notified of the availability of the FEIS when it is published.

The project is not projected to attract a "large number" of visitors for passive recreational use, and projected visitors would now be even less with the elimination of some improvements due to community concerns. The education center, kauhale complex, and pedestrian trails in the Kahanaiki to Pōhakea area were projected to generate only 5,750 persons a month, or less than 200 persons a day (30 to 35 persons/hour). Regarding the education center, reduced improvements may be implemented in the interim consisting of a parking lot, restroom, and open shelter (e.g. pavilion) intended mainly for programs. These interim improvements would further reduce visitors

to this site. Therefore, a multi-modal transportation impact assessment (TIA) is not necessary. The traffic impact analysis report (TIAR) is sufficient to address impacts and reflects a more conservative (higher worst-case) condition than would now occur with changes eliminating some initially proposed improvements. With proposed restrictions on public access and less activity, there should be no corresponding need to mitigate intersection impacts by applying Complete Street principles.

The DEIS section on traffic facilities addresses project effects on public transit operations, which would be minimal. The DEIS section on recreational facilities addresses pedestrian and bicycling, but this section of the FEIS will include more information. Overall, project effects would be even less due to elimination of some improvements.

a. *Section 1 Introduction (page 2), states "Section 4 discusses the relationship between the project and pedestrian and bicycle use of nearby roadways and Section 5 discusses potential impacts to bicycle and pedestrian facilities." However, this information is not included in these sections.*

Response: The statement in Section 1 referencing Sections 4 and 5 of the TIAR report is incorrect as Section 4 addresses potential project impacts and Section 5 addresses impacts during construction.

2. *Flood Control Levee. Section 2.2.5 Programs and Visitor Activity Estimates (page 2-78), states 60 to 70 persons per day visiting the levee. This number appears to be low. An actual all-day count for weekday and weekend should be completed to determine the annual use estimates in the TIAR.*

Response: No project improvements are being made to the levee that would alter existing use by the public. The estimate of persons currently visiting the levee is discussed in the DEIS. Thus, an all-day count for weekday and weekend visitor use of the levee is not required or necessary. The levee was not intended to serve as a passive outdoor recreational path for the public. However, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is responsible for managing the levee and would continue allowing pedestrian activity at this time, subject to additional management restrictions (e.g. prohibiting dogs). In the future, DOFAW could further restrict or prohibit all access to the levee by the public if warranted.

3. *Cultural Center at Waiauia. Section 5.6.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation (page 5-57), states that those accessing the site would be encouraged to bike, use public transportation, or park in Kailua Town and walk to the site minimizing on-site drop offs. The nearby intersection (Kailua Road, Hamakua Drive and Kainehe Street) and surrounding roadways are heavily used. A multi-modal TIA should be conducted to identify appropriate mitigation. Offsite improvements should be completed at the intersection and adjacent sidewalks to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the visitors to the site.*

Response: A multi-modal TIA is not required because mitigation would not be warranted for the intersection of Kailua Road with Hāmākua Drive/Kainehe Street due to a cultural center at Wai'auia. Off-site improvements to adjacent sidewalks would not be warranted or necessary because persons using sidewalks would be associated with cultural practices and other related activities conducted by a non-profit organization managing that center. The cultural center would not be open to the general public, but a few stalls would be provided to allow the public to park there to access walking on the levee during the day. However, the elimination of several sections of the pedestrian trail may further reduce the attractiveness of such activities. Some classes or activities would occur during the weekday, but most activities would occur in the early evening (after work) or on weekends. Sidewalks are already available at this intersection for guests to use, and its signalization provides opportunities to cross. However, it is likely that guests would typically be dropped off in the parking lot or park in the Kihapai Street area when walking to the cultural center, and thus avoid having to cross the Kailua Road intersection.

4. *Kawainui State Park Reserve. Section 5.6.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation (page 5-57), states that the pedestrian bridge over Kawainui Canal will be eliminated. Include a description of the reasons for removal and any impacts to the community's current use.*

Response: The Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalāheo Section site is already permitted for development of park facilities under the former City Gateway Park proposal because land use entitlements were previously obtained by the City. Development of this site would now be implemented by the State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP). Not implementing construction of the pedestrian bridge over the Kawainui Canal addressed community concerns raised regarding increased public access and security issues. Design and construction costs were other DSP concerns, as other sections of the pedestrian trail were higher priorities. Section 2.2.4.3 acknowledged community concerns with having this bridge. This decision has no impact to the community's current non-use of this presently restricted site because it is currently undeveloped.

5. *Traffic Counts. Assess and correct the following:*
   a. Section 5.6 Transportation Facilities, Figure 5.5 Existing Peak Hour Traffic Volumes (page 5-43), the total vehicle volumes for various intersections were not added correctly.
   b. Section 5.6 Transportation Facilities, Figure 5.6 Future Peak Hour Traffic Volumes without Project (page 5-48), the total vehicle volumes at the Kalanianaole Highway, Kailua Road and Ulukahi Street intersection are lower than the existing peak hour volumes in Figure 5.5. Assess and correct as needed.

Response: Total vehicle volumes will be corrected for Figure 5.5 and Figure 5.6 in the FEIS, and these revised figures are attached with this response letter.

6. *Traffic Management Plan (TMP). Prepare a TMP which:*
   a. *Is jointly reviewed and accepted by the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and the Department of Planning and Permitting.*

Response: As portions of the project are funded and implemented over time, a traffic management plan (TMP) would be developed as part of the design phase, as warranted, to address short-term construction activities. Certain improvements would not require a TMP, such as wetland restoration activities. TMPs prepared would be coordinated for review by the City Department of Planning and Permitting and Department of Transportation Services (DTS), as appropriate.

b. *Provides a discussion of the traffic impacts that the project may have on any surrounding City roadways, including short-term impacts during construction and long-term impacts after construction with corresponding measures to mitigate these impacts by applying Complete Streets principles.*

Response: TMPs would address measures for short-term construction-related effects on surrounding City roadways. However, no long-term measures applying Complete Streets principles are warranted or necessary as previously explained in our response to Comment No. 1.

c. *Construction materials and equipment should be transferred to and from the project site during off-peak traffic hours (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), but not during school dismissal periods for the safety of the students and to minimize any possible disruption to traffic on the local streets.*

Response: Large construction equipment and bulky materials needing to be transferred to or from a construction site would be scheduled during non-peak weekday commuter hours, and not during dismissal periods for schools in the immediate vicinity of the construction site.

d. *Includes best practice TMPs to provide the City with information by which to monitor construction areas. The City will require cameras where sidewalks are closed to help assess effectiveness of management.*

Response: Best practices would be incorporated into TMPs to provide the City with information to monitor construction areas, as appropriate. No sidewalks are anticipated needing to be closed by improvements, but cameras would be utilized if such closures are necessary to help assess the effectiveness of management practices.

e. *Coordinates construction schedules with other nearby properties that have planned developments to ensure minimal impacts on City streets*

Response: Construction schedules would be coordinated with other nearby properties that have construction activities occurring to minimize impacts on City roadways, to the extent practicable.

7. *Complete Streets. The Application should contain discussion of compliance with County and State Complete Streets policies, pursuant to Act 54, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, HRS §264-20.5 and ROH 12-15. The Project should elaborate on how it will comply with Complete Streets policies, including specific adherence to the following key Complete Streets principles: safety, Context Sensitive Solutions, accessibility and mobility for all, use and comfort of all users,*

consistency of design guidelines and standards, energy efficiency, and health and green infrastructure.

Response: The project would not significantly impact transportation facilities as discussed in Section 5.6 of the DEIS, and thus the project does not propose improvements to the State's highway facilities or the City's roadway system. However, design plans for project improvements would consider the City's Complete Streets policies, where applicable. The FEIS includes a section in Chapter 6 addressing the project's compliance with pertinent policies, and this revision is included as an attachment.

8. *Bike and Moped Parking. Include on-site bike racks and moped parking at the visitor, education, and cultural centers for the employees and visitors and locate on the project site plans as constructed.*

Response: The design of the education center would consider including on-site bike racks and moped parking for employees and visitors. Non-profit organizations developing the cultural centers can consider including on-site bike racks and moped parking as part of their design plans, if they choose.

9. *Public Transit Service Area. This project is in an existing public transit service area. To ensure that the project development does not affect public transit services (bus operations, bus routes, bus stops and para- transit operations); submit project plans to DTS- Public Transit Division (PTD) for review and approval. Contact DTS-PTD at 768-8396, 768-8370, 768-8374 or TheBusStop@honolulu.gov.*

Response: Design plans developed for project improvements would coordinate reviews with the City's Public Transit Division, as applicable.

10. *Parking Management. Identify parking management strategies both on- and off-street that will support the facilities. All parking needs for the proposed facility (employees and visitors) should be handled on-site.*

Response: Vehicular parking for DOFAW's research and management station, the education center, and cultural centers would be provided on-site. No on-street parking is planned as part of project improvements. Design plans developed for project improvements would consider appropriate parking management strategies as part of their design phase.

11. *Driveway Design. All access driveways to the project sites should be designed with the highest pedestrian and bicycle safety measures and constructed to current City standards.*

Response: Most existing driveway accesses are situated along State highway facilities. Design plans for improvements at driveways along City roadways would consider pedestrian and bicycle safety measures and meet City standards.

12. *Vehicle/Pedestrian Crossing. Any existing pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle access/crossing shall be maintained with the highest safety measures during construction.*

Response: During construction activities, safety measures would be maintained to support vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian crossings that are affected.

13. *Loading and Unloading.*

a. *Section 5.6 Transportation Facilities (page 5-56), 2nd paragraph, states that commercial tour buses would not be allowed to use the on-site parking lot and would not be allowed to unload passengers on the side of the road. Provide a discussion on how the program plans on enforcing unauthorized commercial buses from unloading on the side of the road.*

Response: The education center's parking lot would not be designed to accommodate commercial tour buses. Management of the education center either by DSP or a non-profit organization would restrict commercial tour buses from unloading passengers along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Section 2.2.5.3 discusses several measures proposed to manage public access that includes commercial tours. State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers would support enforcement of unauthorized activities occurring within the project area. At the cultural centers proposed, all authorized guest loading and unloading activities would be designed to occur on-site rather than on roadways. The cultural centers would not be open to the general public and would not allow for commercial tour buses to unload unauthorized visitors along roadways.

b. *All loading and unloading needs for the facility should be handled on-site, rather than on City roadways.*

Response: All loading and unloading needs for facilities would be handled on-site, and not along City roadways.

14. *Handi-Van Access. The project should be designed to accommodate The Handi-Van para-transit vehicles on-site, which require a minimum 31-foot turning radius, a 10-foot, 6-inch height clearance, and the ability to exit the site without reversing onto public roadways.*

Response: The education center and park site at Kalāheo would be designed to accommodate Handi-Van para-transit vehicle requirements. The design of cultural center sites can consider accommodating Handi-Van para-transit vehicles for their guests.

15. *Priority Guidelines on Sustainability. In addressing priority guidelines on sustainability through HRS § 226-108, the Project should consider certification by a green building rating system, including but not limited to nationally recognized rating systems such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the Living Building Challenge, Green Globes, or another comparable State-approved, nationally recognized, and consensus-based guideline, standard, or system.*

The DTS supports certification such as the LEED for Building Design and Construction Version 4.0 as it mitigates Location and Transportation (LT) impacts including but not limited to: minimizing the environmental harms associated with parking facilities, including automobile dependence, land consumption, and rainwater runoff; reducing pollution by promoting alternatives to conventionally fueled automobiles; increasing access to quality transit; reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) through the integration of bicycle facilities; and compact, walkable development that encourages a density and diversity of surrounding uses.

Response: Development of the proposed education and cultural centers can utilize sustainability components and systems in their design. As discussed in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS, such buildings are intended to incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts along with low-impact design (LID) elements for site improvements. However, it would be up to DSP or the selected non-profit organizations to appropriately design, fund, and construct these improvements. DTS's support for LEED certification is noted and provides incentive for DSP and non-profit organizations to incorporate such design measures.

16. *Best Management Practice (BMP) Controls. BMP controls should be included at the construction site to prevent trailing of dirt and debris on City roadways.*

Response: Best management practices would be incorporated into design plans to prevent the trailing of dirt and debris on roadways from the construction sites.

17. *Roadway Damage. Any damage to the existing roadway and sidewalk area caused by the project should be repaired to current City standards as well as meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.*

Response: No damages to existing roadways or sidewalks from construction activities are anticipated. However, the contractor would be required to repair such damages as appropriate if it does occur.

18. *Neighborhood Impacts. The area Neighborhood Board, as well as the area businesses, emergency personnel (fire, ambulance and police), Oahu Transit Services, Inc. (The Bus and The Handi-Van), etc., should be kept apprised of the details of the proposed project and the impacts that the project may have on the adjoining local street area network.*

Response: Consultations with the neighborhood board, community organizations, and City agencies have been conducted on this project as part of the planning and environmental review process discussed in Chapter 8 of the DEIS.

19. *Street Usage Permit. A street usage permit from the City's Department of Transportation Services should be obtained for any construction-related work that may require the temporary closure of any traffic lane on a City street.*

Response: A street usage permit would be obtained for any construction-related work that may require the temporary closure of any City street lane.

20. *Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). Plans should be reviewed and approved by DCAB to ensure full compliance with the ADA.*

Response: Design plans for the cultural centers would be coordinated with the Disability and Communication Access Board, as appropriate.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

ATTACHMENT - DRAFT EIS REVISIONS - CITY DTS, COMMENT 1

Construction work crews for a particular task would likely be in the range of 5 to 10 persons a day given the relatively small to modest scale of improvements proposed (e.g. education center, trails, drainage improvements, etc.). Crew size would be dependent upon the phase of construction occurring at that time such as site preparation, building construction, or interior improvements, and such work would be implemented in phases. Therefore, short-term traffic effects from additional construction workers commuting to sites should be minor and not adversely impact the operation of study intersections. Staging areas established for contractors would include provisions for providing vehicle parking.

During construction activity, traffic impacts would be mitigated by avoiding transport of large cargo and heavy equipment during peak traffic periods. Equipment and materials is planned to be staged close to the site to avoid multiple vehicle trips. Lane closures are not anticipated during construction of any improvements. A permit will be obtained if any oversized and overweight equipment/loads needs to be transported on State or City roadways. Other agency requirements and best management practices would be determined during the design phase of improvements implemented.

5.7 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

5.7.1 Existing Conditions

There are existing public recreational facilities available within the Kawainui-Hāmākua project area and in the immediate surrounding vicinity and that are used for outdoor recreation or cultural activities (viewing). Figure 5.8 (Existing Public Facilities) illustrates the location of these existing recreational facilities. These recreational assets are described below in greater detail by those within the project area and in the general vicinity.

Recreational Sites Within the Project Area

A discussion of existing public recreational facilities within the Kawainui-Hāmākua project area by subareas is provided.

Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a. Within this subarea, the Pōhakea and Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine sites are used for public recreational activities and cultural practices. Nā Pohaku, located within the State DSP's Kawainui State Park Reserve, is a culturally significant 12-acre site used by the public as a recreational site for walking and viewing (Exhibit 5.7). Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine (the rocks of Hauwahine) is a unique setting of volcanic rock formations located on Kapa'a Quarry Road, overlooking Kawainui's wetland. It is a place of unique geological and cultural features, where plants native to the Hawaiian Islands have been planted for the education and enjoyment of visitors. The park is open for easy day hiking and passive enjoyment. This State park is ungated and officially open only during daylight hours.



Source: State of Hawai'i GIS

Kawainui - Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Figure 5.8 - Existing Public Facilities

Kailua, O'ahu

0 800 1,600 FEET

HHF PLANNERS places for people

The park only has a small parking area in front of the main entrance for a few cars, and additional parking occurs along the shoulder of Kapa'a Quarry Road. An informal weekday survey of site visitors conducted by HHF in November 2016 found that the site has about 250 visitors a month (8 per day). Educational and cultural programs also occur occasionally resulting in about 50 additional visitors a month. Visitors typically arrive by car, and bike use is rare to infrequent, likely due to site location along Kapa'a Quarry Road. There are no bus stops along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and no pedestrian traffic along this road.



Exhibit 5.7 Parking Area in Front of Nā Pōhaku

The Nā Pōhaku site contains educational program areas, unpaved foot trails, and viewing areas that allow visitors opportunities for passive recreational enjoyment of the area (Exhibit 5.8). The site is curated by AML, with the non-profit organization conducting restoration work and educational programs at the site under a Memorandum of Agreement with the BLNR and Right-of-Entry Permit with DOFAW. Similar to the Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park, the parcel (TMK 4-2-013:010) that Nā Pōhaku is located on was purchased using LWCF funds, which require that the site be protected for public outdoor recreational use.



Exhibit 5.8 Panoramic View of Kawainui from Nā Pōhaku

The Pōhakea area located adjacently south of Nā Pōhaku is currently used by the Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~ non-profit organization for traditional native Hawaiian cultural practices under a December 2016 short-term curatorship agreement permit (5-years) from DSP (Exhibit 5.9). Their responsibilities include: 1) maintaining the site by removing select vegetation to be replanted with native vegetation; 2) delineating parking areas and trails for public



Exhibit 5.9 Pōhakea Site Used for Cultural Practices

visitation; and 3) installing passive park facilities and providing educational and interpretive programs with approval from DSP.

Subarea C: Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee. Recreational sites within this subarea include a portion of the Kawainui Canal fronting the Kalāheo park site and existing levee.

Kalāheo Park and Kawainui Canal. The Kalāheo park site off Mōkapu Boulevard has been used as a canoe and kayak launching area into Kawainui Canal as permitted by DSP (Exhibit 5.10). Recreational canal users use this waterway as a practice site and a means of accessing Kailua Bay. In the past, the DSP has issued short-term Special Use Permits (SUP) to various non-profit organizations, including the Lanikai Canoe Club and Le Jardin Academy. SUPs for canoe use at the site have included specific conditions regulating hours of use. Access to the launch area is also controlled by a gated entrance and large boulders that serve as a barrier to site access.



Exhibit 5.10 View of Kawainui Canal from Kalāheo Park (2012 photo)

There are no bus stops near this site along Mōkapu Boulevard (refer to Figure 5.4), and no existing bike or pedestrian traffic associated with this undeveloped site. Mōkapu Boulevard in this area has shoulder space to accommodate bicyclists. Any pedestrian activities occurring in this area would primarily be associated with Kalāheo High School where there is a sidewalk on that side of the road connecting the residential subdivision to the school. No sidewalk exists along the opposite (southern) side of this roadway until the intersection with Oneawa Street. There are no existing uses near the Kalāheo park site that would typically encourage or support pedestrian traffic along the roadway shoulder.

Kawainui Levee. Kawainui's levee was built as a flood control structure, but over time has also become a popular walking and jogging trail for the community (Exhibit 5.11). Although not authorized, occasional bikers would also ride along the levee. The levee is usually accessed from Kawainui Park, which is a gated City park with parking available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Kawainui Park's hours of operation serve as an informal means of controlling access to the levee. An informal weekday survey of visitors to the levee conducted by HHF Planners in 2016 along with other information estimates visitors using the levee to be about 1,800 persons a month (60 per day), with most activities occurring during the early morning or late afternoon hours.

The levee is located in an area of Kawainui designated as a state wildlife sanctuary under Title 13, Chapter 126, HAR. This designation regulates entry and allowable uses in the sanctuary with access restricted to marked trails and roads. Motorized public vehicles are not allowed in wildlife sanctuary areas. Additionally, pets are also not allowed on the levee. Regulations governing the wildlife sanctuary limit commercial activities to up to 100 visitors per day.



Exhibit 5.11 View of Levee Being Used as Pedestrian Trail

Subarea D: Waiʻauia-Ulupō-Mokulana. Recreational sites within this subarea include Ulupō Heiau SHP use for cultural activities and viewing, and educational programs conducted at DOFAW's restoration ponds.

Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park. This State park under jurisdiction of DSP totals 28 acres, and includes the Ulupō Heiau, which is an ancient Hawaiian religious site that was important to Oʻahu's aliʻi (high chiefs) from the 15th through the 17th centuries. The massive stone platform of the Heiau measures 140 by 180 feet, and its outer walls reach up to 30 feet high. It is believed that many of the stones used to construct this monumental structure were transported from as far as Kualoa, more than 10 miles away. Ulupō Heiau is listed on the National and Hawaiʻi Registers of Historic Places.

The State park is accessed from Kailua Road via Uluoʻa and Manu Aloha Streets through the Kūkanono neighborhood, and through a gated entry shared with the Windward YMCA and Daybreak Church. This gated entry is generally open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the park is officially open during daylight hours. Five parking stalls are available for visitors in a rear parking area shared with the Windward YMCA (Exhibit 5.12). A path from the sidewalk of westbound Kalanianaʻole Highway also provides pedestrian access to Ulupō Heiau, however, this path is currently gated and closed. An informal weekday survey of park visitors conducted by HHF Planners in 2016 estimates visitors to be about 450 persons a month (15 per day).



Exhibit 5.12 Parking Area at Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park

Two non-profit organizations, ʻAhahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML) and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, have a joint curatorship agreement with the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to serve as caretakers for approximately seven acres of this site. The park's curators have restored the cultural landscape by removing invasive species, planting native and cultural plants, and constructing trails through the area. The curators and other groups have provided educational opportunities and regularly scheduled work days for visitors. Because the property (TMK 4-2-103:018) was purchased by the State with federal LWCF funds, the land is required to be protected in perpetuity for public outdoor recreational use.

A bike lane is provided along the Honolulu-bound side of Kailua Road fronting this State historical park, and there is some shoulder space for bike use along the Kailua-bound side of this road. Visitors to Ulupō Heiau using bicycles are infrequent as the vast majority travel by car to this site. A bus stop exists fronting the Kailua United Methodist Church, and a sidewalk is present along the church property up to the bus stop. No sidewalk exists along Kailua Road fronting the Windward YMCA and Daybreak Church properties.

DOFAW Restoration Ponds. The DOFAW occasionally conducts educational programs at their restoration ponds, and holds monthly community service projects to support its maintenance. AML, under their MOA with the BLNR, also conducts periodic educational programs at these restoration ponds in coordination with DOFAW. It is estimated that about 80 persons a month participate in these activities at these ponds. Access to the restoration ponds are not open to the general public, but educational and community service projects by community organizations can be coordinated with DOFAW.

No bike lane or shoulder is available along the relatively narrow Ulukahiki Street providing access to DOFAW's maintenance station. Visitors to educational programs typically arrive by car. Pedestrian traffic along this street past the residential subdivision is rare because only DOFAW's maintenance station is located at the end of this road. Pedestrian traffic along this road fronting the medical center is primarily associated with visitors or employees of the hospital.

Subarea E: Hāmākua-Puʻuoehu. Only educational programs are conducted at Hāmākua by DOFAW. It is estimated that about 160 persons a month (5 to 6 per day) participate in these occasional activities. This wildlife sanctuary is closed to the public, but educational and community service projects by community organizations can be coordinated with DOFAW.

A bike lane was recently added by the City along Hāmākua Drive fronting this sanctuary area past the commercial shopping center. A sidewalk is also available along both sides of this road. There is no bus stop provided along Hāmākua Marsh, and pedestrian traffic in this section is generally low.

Recreational Facilities in the Surrounding Vicinity

A summary of existing recreational facilities in the immediate vicinity of the Kawainui-Hāmākua project area is provided, and were previously identified on Figure 5.8.

Kawainui R/C Model Airplane Park. This five-acre City park is located on Kapa'a Quarry Road, and is used by enthusiasts to fly radio controlled model aircraft. Despite its proximity, this municipal park is not part of the state-owned Kawainui-Hāmākua project area. The park is gated and open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There is a parking lot and a comfort station facility. An informal weekday survey of park users conducted by HHF Planners in November 2016 found that the park had highest usage in the late afternoon, and was estimated to have about 20 to 25 visitors throughout the day, the majority of which are associated with model airplanes.

Maunawili Valley Neighborhood Park. This municipal park is located in the Maunawili residential community, located about one mile south of the project area. The park has children's play equipment, two tennis courts, and an open grassed area.

Pohakupu Mini Park. This municipal park is about 3.5 acres in size and located at the intersection of Kalaniana'ole Highway with Kailua Road, just outside the project area. This park has a large water fountain, benches, an open lawn, and children's play equipment.

Kawainui Neighborhood Park. This municipal park is about 4.8 acres and is located at the end of Kaha Street, and adjacent to the levee and just outside the project area. The park has a large grassed area usually used for soccer and other activities. Many people who use the levee for walking start at Kawainui Neighborhood Park.

5.7.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

5.7.2.1 No Action Alternative

Wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements should not have a negative long-term impact on recreational facilities within the project area and in the immediate surrounding areas. These activities would not directly occur within recreational sites or disrupt activities conducted at those sites. The nearest recreational sites are at Pōhakea and Nā Pōhaku. Existing recreational sites outside the project area are located considerable distances away. The City's model airplane park is situated along Kawainui's wetland, but wetland restoration or upland reforestation activities are not being conducted near this park under this No Action Alternative.

Restoration and reforestation related activities may generate some short-term construction noise from equipment that should not be audible at the various park sites. Similarly, any fugitive dust emissions generated from these activities should not impact recreational sites or activities because of the wet soil type associated with wetlands, type of improvements planned, and distance away. The contractor would also need to comply with State DOH regulations and any

permit conditions to mitigate such emissions. Some odors from decomposing vegetation left on upland areas near the work may occur, but such nuisance effects should not impact recreational facilities that are located considerable distances away.

The vegetation processing site would be used to support wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts. The model airplane park is located adjacent to this processing site, but should not be adversely impacted by processing activities. The composting process should not cause any objectionable odor from activities if operated properly. Piles created in the process would be monitored daily for moisture and temperature, to determine when the pile needs to be turned to allow exposure to oxygen to keep the pile aerobic. As long as the piles are kept aerobic, there is no objectionable odor from the composting process. The City's transfer station is also located across the street from this park site, and those processing activities have not negatively impacted park activities.

Improvements planned at the Kalāheo Park site under the previously approved Gateway Park proposal would include a canoe launch, outdoor canoe storage, restrooms and interpretive center to support passive outdoor recreational activities. Approximately 1,2~~1~~00 persons per month (37 persons a day) are projected to use the Kalāheo park site, but this activity would be considerably less (600 persons a month) with DSP's plan to only allow canoe launch activities for schools by permit. The majority of visitors (~~7~~200 persons) are expected to be persons participating in school-related canoe ~~related~~ activities (practices) by launching from this site into Kawainui Canal under permits from DSP. Most visitors would thus be associated with high schools ~~or private canoe clubs~~, and peak use times are expected to be late afternoons (after school ~~and after work~~).

These improvements would have a beneficial impact on recreational facilities by providing the public with another park site to use for passive outdoor recreational activities. The site could accommodate bicyclists, would provide scenic views of Kawainui, create potential educational opportunities for learning about Kawainui's resources, and support school paddling programs ~~and canoe organizations~~. The pedestrian bridge constructed over the Kawainui Canal would have a beneficial impact by providing another access point to the levee for the public, and increase outdoor recreational activities (walking).

5.7.2.2 Proposed Action

Wetland Restoration and Upland Reforestation

Expanded wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements to additional areas within Kawainui should not have a negative long-term impact on recreational facilities within the project area and in the immediate surrounding areas. There are no recreational activities permitted within the wetlands of Kawainui and Hāmākua that would be impacted by restoration activities or the expansion of wetland area at Hāmākua. These activities would thus not directly

occur within recreational sites or disrupt activities conducted at existing sites within the project area and in the immediate vicinity.

Upland reforestation activities would include those areas under DOFAW's jurisdiction and wildlife sanctuaries along with areas under DSP jurisdiction. Some reforestation activities could occur within the Pōhakea area either by DOFAW or the non-profit organization managing that site as part of the educational center and kauhale complex. Reforestation activities should not negatively impact recreational or cultural activities occurring at Pōhakea because areas intended for reforestation are presently not being used for cultural activities or pedestrian trails. Cultural activities generally occur in the large open grassed area at this site. Upland reforestation would occur on mauka areas generally along Kapa'a Quarry Road that is heavily forested.

Reforestation activities can be managed by the contractor or non-profit organization in coordination with DSP and DOFAW to ensure overall public access to this area is maintained. Activities would likely occur in phases of several acres at a time, and would only occur on a short-term basis of several months. Once completed, reforestation improvements would provide opportunities for establishing pedestrian trails or foot trails through the Pōhakea area eventually connecting to Kahanaiki. This would be a beneficial impact for passive outdoor recreational activities and support LWCF requirements.

Upland reforestation at other areas around Kawainui would similarly have a beneficial effect by supporting establishing pedestrian trails and foot trails planned around the perimeter of the wetland. This includes Mokulana Peninsula that would provide a connection between DOFAW's management station and the Kahanaiki area. Areas around Ulupō Heiau and the lower hillside below the Kūkanono subdivision are others that would support connection from the levee and Wai'auia to DOFAW's management station. Reforestation activities would clear overgrown areas allowing for pedestrian trails to be established and increasing public access, which support LWCF requirements.

At Hāmākua, reforestation efforts along the lower hillside of Pu'uoehu would support educational programs by increasing areas that can be accessible for schools and community organizations to participate in activities (Exhibit 5.13). This supports both restoration of Hāmākua and Pu'uoehu and DOFAW's educational programs. It also increases DOFAW's ability to allow occasional community events at Hāmākua for the public to visit this area, learn about resources, and participate in passive outdoor activity (walking).



Exhibit 5.13 Hāmākua Workday with Students (Midweek, Windward Voice, May 24, 2017)

Restoration and reforestation related activities may generate some short-term construction noise from equipment that should not be audible at the various park sites, similar to the No Action Alternative. Any fugitive dust emissions generated from these expanded activities under the Proposed Action should not impact recreational sites or activities because of the wet soil type associated with wetlands, type of improvements planned, distance away, and BMPs that would be implemented. The contractor would also need to comply with State DOH regulations and any permit conditions to mitigate such emissions. Some odors from decomposing vegetation left on upland areas near the work may occur, but such short-term nuisance effects should not impact recreational facilities or activities within the project area or surrounding vicinity. Upland areas used would be within the Kahanaiki to Pōhakea area and by DOFAW's management station.

Structures and Trails

Some of the purposes for the project is to increase public access, educational opportunities, and passive outdoor recreational use within Kawainui, in compliance with Section 6(f) of the LWCF. LWCF grants were used by the State to purchase 173 acres of land within the Kawainui area, primarily within Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku (Subarea B) and from Ulupō Heiau to Mokulana Peninsula (Subarea D). Section 6(f) requires that these lands be maintained for public recreational use in perpetuity. At present, only a small portion of the 173 acres is available for public access and outdoor recreation. The creation of pedestrian trails and viewing platforms to enhance public access supports the State's compliance with LWCF recreational access requirements.

Pedestrian and foot trails with accessory structures (e.g. observation decks) are planned within upland areas generally around the perimeter of Kawainui's wetland. Pedestrian trails for public use are not planned within Hāmākua. Under this Proposed Action, trails would extend from ~~Wai'auia mauka to~~ Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku under the reduced improvements discussed in Section 2.2~~, and then northbound toward the model airplane park~~. Another trail section would extend from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station. With the levee, trails would provide access to about 50% ~~over 75%~~ of Kawainui's perimeter.

The majority of persons using trails for passive outdoor recreation and viewing is expected to occur within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku corridor, with the education center serving as a management and focal point for visitors, including residents. Although the primary mode of transportation for visitors would be vehicles, the parking area at this center can also be designed to accommodate bicyclists. The next greatest area for walking activities would continue to occur along the levee. A smaller number of persons would likely utilize trails from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station ~~Wai'auia to Mokulana~~ (~~5~~200 persons per month).

The educational center at Pōhakea would support passive outdoor recreation and increased public access. Cultural centers planned would not be open to the general public or provide outdoor recreation, but do support educational programs that are discussed under a later section. Other improvements proposed under this project support both public access and outdoor recreation.

These facilities and trails with accessory structures would therefore have a beneficial effect on recreational facilities and activities by providing new areas that can be used for passive outdoor recreational activities, increasing public access, and creating viewing opportunities for Kawainui's resources and wildlife.

The Proposed Action does not include new residential or visitor units that would increase Kailua's residential population and subsequent demand on existing public parks. The caretaker's cottage at the Kapa'a Cultural Center is intended for managing that site and thus would have negligible, if any, impact on existing parks. Project improvements would increase the number of residents and visitors to the project area utilizing recreational opportunities created. Chapter 2 discussed the projected number of visitors as a result of the various improvements. The majority of visitors stopping at Kawainui would already be traveling to Kailua as their main destination for other more popular attractions, such as beaches and shopping. However, the project would provide another recreational-related attraction for visitors and residents that improve recreational experiences and opportunities. A discussion of facility improvements and effects by subareas is provided.

Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a. Facilities supporting recreational activities in this subarea include: 1) parking, observation areas, and a restroom at Kahanaiki; and 2) education center at Pōhakea. At Kahanaiki, a parking area near the intersection of Kalaniana'ole Highway with Kapa'a Quarry Road would support visitors wanting to access and utilize pedestrian trails for walking and viewing wildlife. The primary mode of transportation for visitors would be vehicles, however, bicycle parking can also be accommodated in parking lot design. Observation decks and a restroom structure would support and have a beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring in this area along with participants in educational programs.

The education center at Pōhakea would serve as a focal point for public access, educational programs, and access to pedestrian trails within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area. This center would have a viewing deck, other accessory improvements, and parking for visitors all of which provide a beneficial effect supporting recreational activities and educational programs. The facility would also function as a management center for public access and activities conducted in this area. Even with interim facilities, in place of the education center, consisting of parking, a restroom, and pavilion, these improvements would support recreational activities and programs. With a more program focused emphasis under this interim phase, these facilities would not function as a management center for public access.

Subarea C: Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee. With elimination of the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site, there are no project improvements proposed within this subarea that would affect recreational facilities and activities. ~~The only project related change in this subarea is adding a hale wa'a and not constructing a pedestrian bridge over Kawainui Canal at the Kalāheo park site compared to the No Action Alternative. The amount of visitors using this park site should remain about the same as that projected under the No Action Alternative (1,100 persons per month) with the majority (75%) participating in canoe related activities. Adding a hale wa'a to this site under the project~~

~~would have a beneficial effect by making it easier for schools and canoe clubs to utilize this site. DSP envisions that a school or non-profit organization would manage and maintain this hale wa'a, increasing stewardship and management of this park site which are beneficial effects for this recreational site. Elimination of the pedestrian bridge under this project would reduce another access point for visitors wanting to access the levee for walking. However, this would reduce possible increased congestion and demand for parking stalls at this park site since visitors walking on the levee would continue to access it from Kawainui Community Park.~~

The levee is a flood control structure, but also used by visitors on a monthly basis for walking, jogging and some bicyclists ~~bicycling by about several visitors on a monthly basis~~. No project improvements are proposed for the levee, and DOFAW intends to continue allowing people to walk, ride bicycles, and jog on the levee. ~~However, bicycling is planned to be restricted due to potential conflicts and injuries with persons walking on the levee, and increased deterioration of the levee structure.~~ Dogs would not be allowed on the levee because of the potential threat it poses to waterbirds and birds in the sanctuary along with sanitary issues associated with removal of feces. Signage would be added near the levee access points to inform the public of allowed and prohibited uses. These changes would improve management and use of the levee, and increase safety for the public.

Subarea D: Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana. There are no major facilities planned within this subarea that supports recreational activities. However, there are minor accessory structures and other improvements planned within this subarea to support pedestrian trails and public access.

Wai'auia Cultural Center. The cultural center developed at Wai'auia would have a parking area that includes some stalls being made available for public use during certain times. This parking area provides visitors with another access point to pedestrian trails and the levee for passive outdoor recreation. An observation deck along the pedestrian trail to the levee provides a viewing opportunity for visitors. These minor improvements would have a beneficial impact by supporting passive outdoor recreational activities and public access planned under the project.

Ulupō Heiau SHP. At Ulupō Heiau, project improvements only include the green house and hale. The green house is intended to support cultural landscape improvements being implemented by non-profit organizations, and would not be available to the public. However, the hale could be incorporated as an interpretive feature within the Ulupō Heiau site for visitors creating a small, but beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring here.

DOFAW Management Station. Below (mauka of) DOFAW's management station, a parking area and minor accessory structures (pavilion, and observation deck) are planned to support public access and use of pedestrian trails through this area. The pavilions would have a small beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring here by providing shade and shelter for visitors, and the parking area creates another convenient access point for visitors.

Mokulana Peninsula. ~~The Mokulana Peninsula would only have a few pavilions supporting observation areas of Kawainui from this area.~~ This area is intended only for DOFAW authorized educational and cultural programs and activities along with supporting wetland maintenance and management activities. Parking areas planned would not be open to the public because they are intended for DOFAW use as part of management and maintenance activities, and for staging areas during educational and community service projects. ~~The pavilions would have a small beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring here by providing shade and shelter for visitors using pedestrian trails in the area.~~

5.8 MEDICAL FACILITIES

5.8.1 Existing Conditions

Adventist Health Castle (AHC), formerly Castle Medical Center, is the primary medical facility serving Windward O'ahu, and is the only medical facility in the project vicinity as previously shown on Figure 5.8. AHC is located on the southwestern corner of the project area at the intersection of Kalaniana'ole Highway and Kailua Road. The facility began operating in 1963, and is a full-service medical center offering a wide range of inpatient, outpatient, and home-based services. AHC is a 160-bed facility with more than 1,000 employees including over 300 physicians.

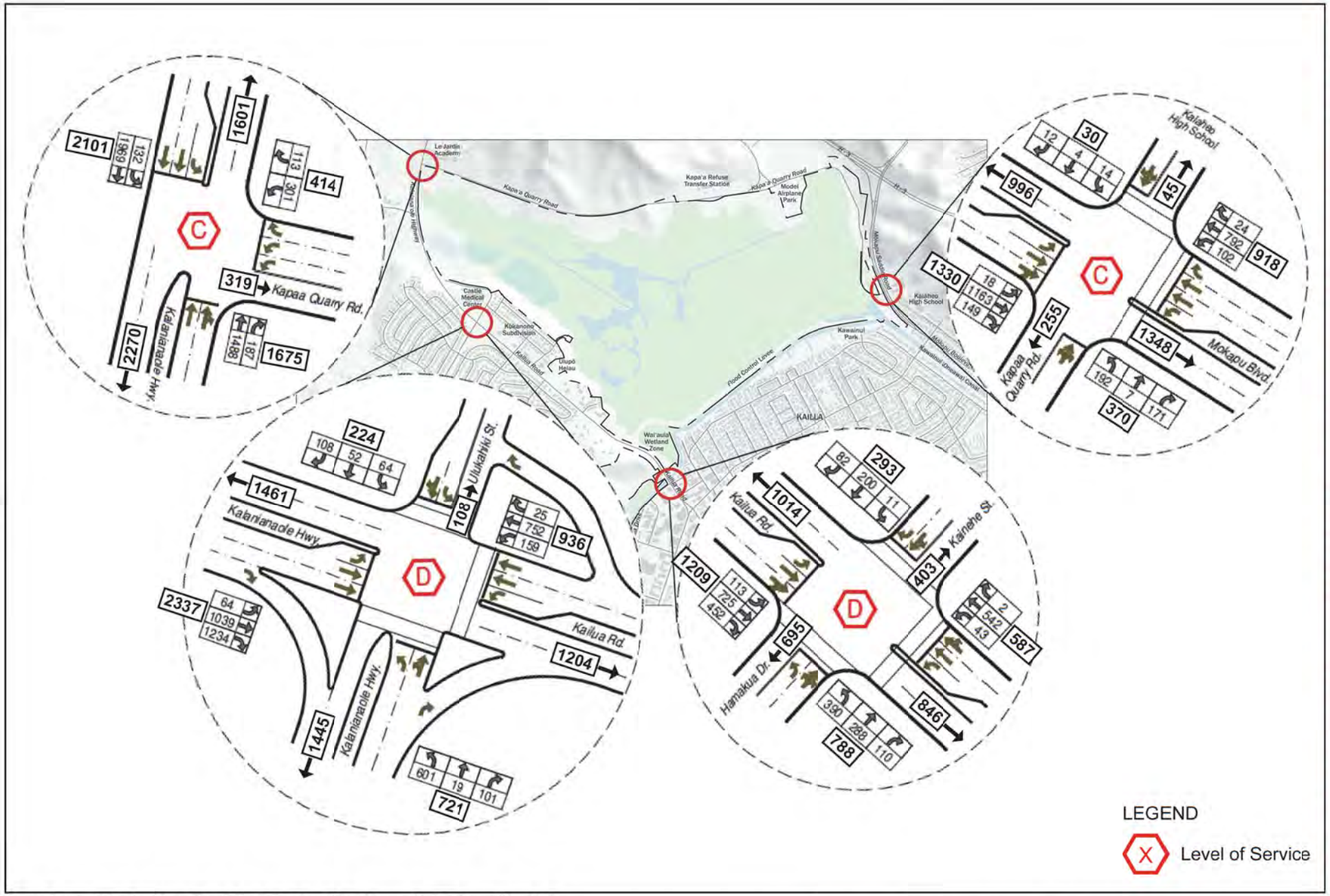
It occupies a portion of a 10 acre site and is comprised of two buildings, the AHC and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Medical Plaza. The AHC comprises the majority of campus buildings and has a footprint of just over two acres. Most hospital departments are in this building. The smaller Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Medical Plaza and Wellness Center has a footprint of about 0.3 acres and contains the Wellness and Lifestyle Medicine Center, a pharmacy, outpatient clinic, and various physician offices.

Parking for visitors and staff of both buildings is provided in a roughly two-acre parking area fronting the medical center building and a lot located east of the medical center. This parking area totals just over an acre.

5.8.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

5.8.2.1 No Action Alternative

Wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements should not have a short or long-term impact on AHC because it is located on a hillside overlooking Kawainui, and a considerable distance away from where restoration activities would occur. DOFAW's management station and restoration ponds also separate AHC from where wetland restoration and reforestation activities would occur.



Source: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i. Traffic Impact Analysis Report (May 2017)

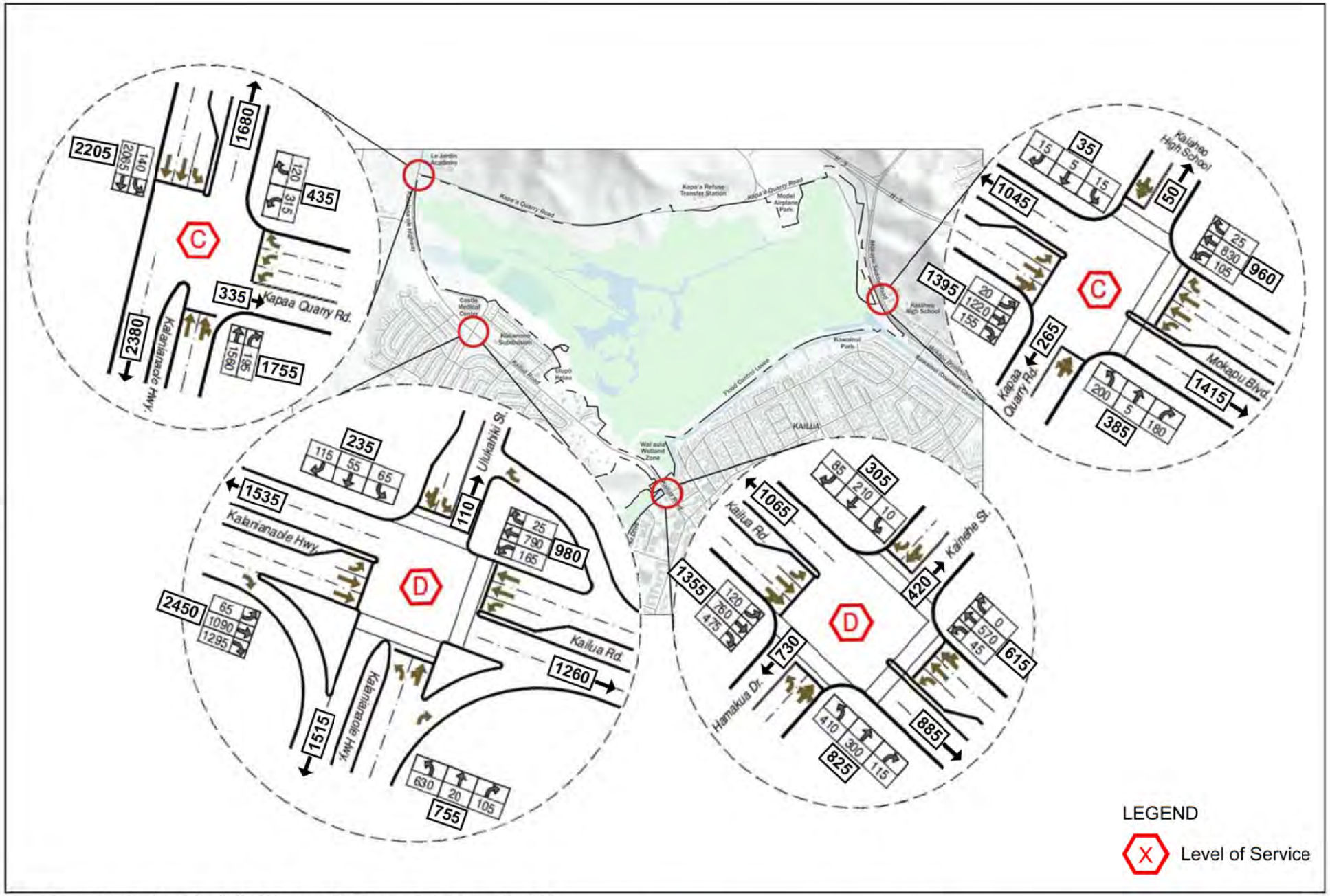
Kawainui - Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Figure 5.5 - Existing Peak Hour Traffic Volumes

Kailua, O'ahu

Not to Scale

HHF PLANNERS
places for people



Source: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i. Traffic Impact Analysis Report (May 2017)

Kawainui - Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Figure 5.6 - Future Peak Hour Traffic Volumes Without Project

Kailua, O'ahu

Not to Scale

HHF PLANNERS
places for people

Service, and NASA have developed training tools and materials to guide refuge staff on informal conversations on climate change with refuge visitors. (Czech et al., 2014)

Act 286's Guidelines 2 and 3 call for continued monitoring and research, and encourages community stewardship and the participation of local stakeholders. At Kawainui, community-based cultural and wetland restoration has been going on for many years. Efforts at Ulupō, Pōhakea, and Nā Pōhaku have been closely tied to cultural sites and traditional practices which historically occurred in the area. The use of sites in the Kapa'a subarea and Wai'auia for cultural practices acknowledge the historic significance of the area and an attempt to combine traditional Hawaiian knowledge and cultural practice (Guideline 4) in the ongoing stewardship of the resource. In a time of limited public resources, these initiatives foster collaboration and ~~public-private (including nonprofit)~~ partnerships with non-profit organizations, as specifically called for in Guideline 8. It is also important that community partners and caretakers with lease and curatorship agreements develop specific management objectives, methods for ongoing data collection and regular evaluation and reporting of their stewardship efforts (Guideline 9).

Permanent facilities at the DOFAW Research Station would allow State resource managers to continue their restoration work including the continual collection, evaluation and integration of new information (Guideline 9). DLNR would continue its monitoring and research role. With an expanded educational component and partnerships with school and community groups, there would be additional support with tasks such as water quality monitoring and data collection.

6.4.6 City Complete Streets

The City has established a complete streets policy and principles for the City and County of Honolulu to guide and direct more comprehensive and balanced planning, design, and construction of city transportation systems under Ordinance 12-15. This Ordinance was adopted to implement the provisions of Section 264-20.5, HRS.

Under this policy, the City is committed to encourage the development of transportation facilities that are planned, designed, operated, and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users. Thus, every transportation facility or transportation project, whether new construction, reconstruction, or maintenance, provides the opportunity to implement complete streets policy and principles. Complete streets principles includes several objectives intended to improve safety, protect and promote accessibility and mobility for all, balance the needs and comfort of all modes and users, encourage opportunities for physical activity, and recognize the health benefits of an active lifestyle.

Discussion:

The project is not a City initiated transportation project involving the new construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of the City's transportation facilities. No project improvements proposed involve City transportation facilities. Therefore, complete street principles would not

directly apply to this Kawainui-Hāmākua project. However, the project does include improvements that would support certain complete street objectives.

The project would improve safety along Kapa'a Quarry Road, particularly at Nā Pōhaku, by providing an off-street parking lot for vehicles. Currently, visitors to Nā Pōhaku typically park along the shoulder of Kapa'a Quarry Road and walk along the shoulder or cross the street access this site. The other parking lot proposed near the intersection of Kapa'a Quarry Road with Kalaniana'ole Highway (across Le Jardin Academy) would similarly allow visitors to park within the Kawainui site instead of along the roadway improving visitor access and safety.

The design of the education center would consider accommodating mobility for all that includes ADA requirements and bicyclists (e.g. bike racks). The cultural centers would be constructed by the non-profit organizations selected, but their design could similarly consider incorporating ADA requirements and bicyclists. The pedestrian trails proposed would support passive outdoor recreational activities that support encouraging opportunities for physical activity while recognizing health benefits. Finally, upland restoration activities proposed would replace non-native invasive vegetation with native vegetation incorporating more environmentally and culturally appropriate trees and landscaping.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

MANUEL P. NEVES
FIRE CHIEF

LIONEL CAMARA JR.
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

December 21, 2017

Mr. Ronald Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project
Tax Map Keys: 4-2-003: 017 and 030; 4-2-013: 005, 010, 022 and 038; 4-2-016: 002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034: 025

In response to your letter dated December 8, 2017, regarding the abovementioned subject, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) reviewed the material provided and requires that the following be complied with:

1. Fire department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the facility or any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located not more than 150 feet from fire department access roads as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] 1; Uniform Fire Code [UFC]™, 2012 Edition, Sections 18.2.3.2.2. and 18.2.3.2.2.1.)

   A fire department access road shall extend to within 50 feet of at least one exterior door that can be opened from the outside and that provides access to the interior of the building. (NFPA 1; UFC™, 2012 Edition, Section 18.2.3.2.1.)

2. A water supply approved by the county, capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection, shall be provided to all premises upon which facilities or buildings, or portions thereof, are hereafter

constructed, or moved into or within the county. When any portion of the facility or building is in excess of 150 feet from a water supply on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains capable of supplying the required fire flow shall be provided when required by the AHJ [Authority Having Jurisdiction]. (NFPA 1; UFC™, 2012 Edition, Section 18.3.1, as amended.)

3. The unobstructed width and unobstructed vertical clearance of a fire apparatus access road shall meet county requirements. (NFPA 1; UFC™, 2012 Edition, Section 18.2.3.4.1.1 and 18.2.3.4.1.2, as amended.)

4. Submit civil drawings to the HFD for review and approval.

Should you have questions, please contact Battalion Chief Wayne Masuda of our Fire Prevention Bureau at 723-7151 or wmasuda@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

Socrates D. Bratakos

SOCRATES D. BRATAKOS
Assistant Chief

SDB/TC:jl

cc: Marigold Zoll, Department of Land
and Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Socrates D. Bratakos, Assistant Chief
Honolulu Fire Department
City and County of Honolulu
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Bratakos:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated December 21, 2017 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Our responses are numbered to correspond to your letter's comments (italicized).

1. *Fire department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the facility or any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located not more than 150 feet from fire department access roads as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] 1; Uniform Fire Code [UFC]™, 2012 Edition, Sections 18.2.3.2.2. and 18.2.3.2.2.1.). A fire department access road shall extend to within 50 feet of at least one exterior door that can be opened from the outside and that provides access to the interior of the building. (NFPA 1; UFC™, 2012 Edition, Section 18.2.3.2.1.)*

Response: City fire department access road requirements to buildings will be incorporated into the design of facilities and site improvements, as applicable.

2. *A water supply approved by the county, capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection, shall be provided to all premises upon which facilities or buildings, or portions thereof, are hereafter constructed, or moved into or within the county. When any portion of the facility or building is in excess of 150 feet from a water supply on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains capable of supplying the required fire flow shall be provided when required by the AHJ [Authority Having Jurisdiction]. (NFPA 1; UFC™, 2012 Edition, Section 18.3.1, as amended.)*
Response: The design phase for facilities would develop necessary plans for addressing fire protection. Design plans would include evaluating connections to existing fire hydrants or utilizing an indoor sprinkler system to address building fire system requirements.

3. *The unobstructed width and unobstructed vertical clearance of a fire apparatus access road shall meet county requirements. (NFPA 1; UFC™, 2012 Edition, Section 18.2.3.4.1.1 and 18.2.3.4.1.2, as amended.)*

Response: Access road unobstructed width and vertical clearance would be addressed as part of site improvements and building design plans developed.

4. *Submit civil drawings to the HFD for review and approval.*

Response: Design plans developed as part of the design phase for project improvements will be coordinated with the Honolulu Fire Department, as appropriate.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET www.honolulupd.org

MT-AL

January 16, 2018

Mr. Ronald A. Sato, AICP
Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

This is in response to your letter of December 8, 2017, requesting comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project.

The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) has reviewed this project and has concerns regarding the safe flow of traffic and the anticipated increase in the number of calls for police services in the project area.

The HPD recommends that the developer evaluate the outcome of the traffic flow affected by vehicles traveling in the areas during the construction phase and upon completion of the project. This includes an evaluation of the traffic conditions caused by the increase in the number of vehicles commuting to and from the area.

We also recommend that the developer provide a traffic mitigation plan to implement traffic controls and management (e.g., flag persons, clear signage and cones, special duty officers, etc.) for construction vehicles driving to and from the work site. These recommendations will ensure a safe means of ingress/egress for construction vehicles, motorists, and pedestrians in the vicinities.

Additionally, the contractor should obtain the necessary street usage permits from the Department of Transportation, State of Hawaii, for the purposes of parking and transporting any construction equipment around the vicinity of the project area.

The attraction of visitors and transients coming into the Kailua area will likely increase the need for police services requested by the community. Current staffing may not be

able to respond to the growing number of calls for assistance within a favorable amount of time. As such, the additional resources and staffing would require an increase in our current budget.

If there are any questions, please call Major Crizalmer Caraang District 4 (Kailua-Kaneohe-Kahuku) at 723-8639.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,

MARK TSUYEMURA
Management Analyst VI
Office of the Chief

cc: Ms. Marigold Zoll, Oahu Forestry
and Wildlife Manager
Department of Land and
Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Mark Tsuyemura, Management Analyst VI
Honolulu Police Department
City and County of Honolulu
801 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Tsuyemura:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 16, 2018 providing agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Our responses have been organized under subheadings that correspond to your letter's comments.

1. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) has reviewed this project and has concerns regarding the safe flow of traffic and the anticipated increase in the number of calls for police services in the project area.

The HPD recommends that the developer evaluate the outcome of the traffic flow affected by vehicles traveling in the areas during the construction phase and upon completion of the project. This includes an evaluation of the traffic conditions caused by the increase in the number of vehicles commuting to and from the area.

Response: Due to community concerns with increasing public aecess and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The Final EIS (FEIS) discusses these project revisions, and your division will be notified of the availability of the FEIS when it is published.

The project is not estimated to attract a "large number" of visitors for passive recreational use, and projected visitors would now be even less with the elimination of some improvements due to community concerns. The education center, kauhale complex, and pedestrian trails in the Kahanaiki to Pōhakea area were projected to generate only 5,750 persons a month, or less than 200 persons a day (30 to 35 persons/hour).

The project is not expected to have much effect on transportation facilities because activities would not generate a significant amount of daily traffic as discussed in Section 5.6. The State Department of Transportation also commented that the project would not have a significant impact on their highway facilities. Project generated traffic would not impact the morning commuter peak hour because activities (e.g. education center) occur later in the morning, and many cultural activities would occur in the early evening (after work for participants) or on weekends reducing effects on the afternoon commuter peak hour.

As portions of the project are funded and implemented over time, a traffic management plan (TMP) would be developed as part of the design phase, as warranted, to address short-term construction activities. Certain improvements would not require a TMP, such as wetland restoration activities. TMPs prepared would be coordinated for review by the City agencies, as appropriate.

The State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers have jurisdiction within this State property and would support enforcement of unauthorized activities or situations occurring within the project area needing their assistance. Therefore, the number of calls for police services in the project area should not be excessive, and the State DOCARE is responsible for enforcement action within the State property.

2. *We also recommend that the developer provide a traffic mitigation plan to implement traffic controls and management (e.g., flag persons, clear signage and cones, special duty officers, etc.) for construction vehicles driving to and from the work site. These recommendations will ensure a safe means of ingress/egress for construction vehicles, motorists, and pedestrians in the vicinities. Additionally, the contractor should obtain the necessary street usage permits from the Department of Transportation, State of Hawaii, for the purposes of parking and transporting any construction equipment around the vicinity of the project area.*

Response: Improvements would be implemented over time, subject to available funding, and should not have a significant short-term impact on roadways from construction activities. Where applicable, traffic control plans would be developed as part of the design phase for improvements implemented. Traffic control plans would identify necessary management controls, such as utilizing signage, and flaggers to ensure safe traffic and pedestrian flow in affected areas. If required, street usage permits from the State Department of Transportation would be obtained for parking or transporting large construction equipment around the site being worked on.

3. *The attraction of visitors and transients coming into the Kailua area will likely increase the need for police services requested by the community. Current staffing may not be able to respond to the growing number of calls for assistance within a favorable amount of time. As such, the additional resources and staffing would require an increase in our current budget.*

Response: Elimination of some initially proposed improvements supporting public access and visitors to Kawainui should consequently reduce the potential need for increased police services. As discussed in our response to Comment No. 1, the State DOCARE would be responsible for public safety enforcement within the State project area, and would coordinate with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) as appropriate to address public safety issues. The State DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Division of State Parks (DSP), and non-profit organizations

operating in the area would also collectively support management and monitoring of the project area.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 6, 2018

HHF Planners
Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Email: rsato@hhf.com

State of Hawai'i
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809
Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Re: Comments on Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Draft EIS

Aloha HHF Planners,

While I have many concerns about the proposed project, I am limiting my formal comments to a single item which I think is of paramount importance.

> **The Final Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan EIS is a governance document, and therefore it must include (1) the overriding public purpose justifying the reason to close portions of State Park or Forestry resource lands to public access, (2) the specific characteristics of the organizations eligible to apply for such exclusive leases, and (3) the specific terms those organizations must meet in order to serve that public purpose, and the limitations placed on their operations to ensure they don't counter that public purpose.**

I believe nearly every person in Kailua, Windward Oahu, and Hawaii, myself included, supports the idea of establishing a permanent Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui, to create resource stewardship and educational programming opportunities by cultural practitioners and organizations.

While people may bicker about the number and size, I believe the majority of these same people, myself included, would support facilities dedicated to study, practice and perpetuate Hawaiian culture used by local residents and visiting practitioners.

I personally believe that the intent of the people who are advocating for the proposed cultural centers is primarily for local education and cultural practice, and not for a tourist destination site.

But that's not what is in the Draft EIS. The DEIS on its face describes something that is open to interpretation.

> "1. Kapa'a Cultural Center. This complex at Kapa'a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public. Site users would include those associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. A range of 300 to 400 persons are projected to utilize this center each month. This includes some staff managing the complex on a daily basis. Periodic events (three events a year) may have limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only). About 200 to 500 persons may attend these periodic functions.
>
> "2. Wai'auia Cultural Center. This complex constructed and operated by a non-profit organization would not be open to the general public. Site users would include individuals associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. About 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 p.m.) and evenings. Weekend activities would generally start in the morning from 9:00 a.m., and run through early afternoon. Advanced artisan classes would accommodate up to four students during the week. Some periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."
>
> Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Draft EIS, Chapter 2-81.

Based on the face of the DEIS alone, the Polynesian Cultural Center could apply for an exclusive lease of certain areas, close them to the general public, and serve a large number of tourists.

Again, I personally don't believe that is the intent. But the DEIS will be the governing document for these areas for the next 20 years.

We're being told to relax, that the terms of a lease will be laid out later in a request for proposals. But who will decide those processes that will happen in the next 5, 10, 15 or 20 years?

Every single person who currently makes the final decisions about leasing state land will not be in those positions in 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. The Governor, Chairperson and every Board member of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is term-limited.

The point is, we don't know who will make these decisions, or who will pop up from outside the community to compete for a lease, and what connections they will have to the future decision makers.

While DLNR issues many exclusive leases, nearly all of these exclusive leases are for non-dedicated lands in urban or agricultural areas that are not resource lands. For example, industrial leases on Sand Island, hotel leases on Banyan Drive, grazing leases on agricultural lands.

This DEIS provides for exclusive leases, closed to the general public, of resource lands dedicated to Forestry and Parks. That opens a whole can of worms – the possible privatization of resource lands. DLNR has a public trust responsibility to ensure these resource lands are managed in the public interest for future generations. The Final EIS will serve both as a governing document for the marsh, and as a precedent for future DLNR decisions for other resource lands.

Future Chairpersons of DLNR will receive many, many requests from businesses and organizations across the spectrum for an exclusive lease of state land, and each of these applicants will point to this Final EIS to justify a request for an exclusive lease of State Parks or Forestry lands. I know this for a fact, because when I was Chair of the department, I received many, many of these requests.

Future Chairpersons of the department will receive calls from people in high places, asking that their friends' organization or business be favored in a decision, like being eligible to lease land, or to be granted a lease extension or permit, *even when this friend or organization does not meet the mission or purpose of the land in question.* I know this for a fact, because when I was Chair of the department I received these calls.

Future Chairpersons of DLNR will look to the Final EIS for the governing intent when making decisions about which organizations are eligible to apply for these exclusive leases, and what conditions shall be placed within those leases to ensure that the overriding public purpose is met. I know this for a fact, because when I was Chair of the department, that's exactly what I did.

The DEIS places the barest limitation on who may apply for such a lease: a non-profit organization that practices native Hawaiian culture. The DEIS lacks specific terms, conditions and limitations tailored to protect the constitutional public trust obligations and prevent potential future unintended consequences, such as a Polynesian Cultural Center satellite facility and/or creating a precedent where, over time, other organizations seek public resource lands for exclusive lease.

The Final EIS must explicitly describe the overriding public purpose that justifies the closure of Parks or Forestry land to the general public. The document must better define an eligible organization's characteristics to ensure the application process is limited to those that explicitly meet this overriding public purpose. And the document must describe mandatory activities or product that the leasees must provide in order to serve that overriding public purpose, as well as the general limitations placed upon their operations to avoid activities that would counter that overriding public purpose.

Please add these responsible governance provisions.

Laura Thielen

Senator Laura H. Thielen
District 25 - Kailua, Waimanalo, Hawaii Kai

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Senator Laura H. Thielen
25th District
The Senate
State of Hawai'i
415 South Beretania Street, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Thielen:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the letter dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your letter's comments.

1. *While I have many concerns about the proposed project, I am limiting my formal comments to a single item which I think is of paramount importance.*

   The Final Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan EIS is a governance document, and therefore it must include (1) the overriding public purpose justifying the reason to close portions of State Park or Forestry resource lands to public access, (2) the specific characteristics of the organizations eligible to apply for such exclusive leases, and (3) the specific terms those organizations must meet in order to serve that public purpose, and the limitations placed on their operations to ensure they don't counter that public purpose.

   Response: We acknowledge your concerns pertaining to a public purpose for closing portions of the project area to public access; the characteristics of organizations eligible for applying for a lease of State property; and terms organizations should meet to serve a public purpose and potential limitations on operations. The DEIS adequately addressed your concerns, and other details, such as lease conditions, would be more appropriately determined during State negotiations with a selected non-profit organization. Responses to your specific comments should help clarify and address your comment.

2. *I believe nearly every person in Kailua, Windward Oahu, and Hawaii, myself included, supports the idea of establishing a permanent Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui, to create resource stewardship and educational programming opportunities by cultural*

practitioners and organizations. While people may bicker about the number and size, I believe the majority of these same people, myself included, would support facilities dedicated to study, practice and perpetuate Hawaiian culture used by local residents and visiting practitioners.

Response: We appreciate your support for providing non-profit organizations with the opportunity to establish a permanent Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui that would support cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship opportunities. Unfortunately, there are many individuals and organizations, such as the Kailua Neighborhood Board and Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, which have not supported a permanent native Hawaiian cultural presence, or have instead proposed improvements supporting only a temporary and superficial presence at Kawainui.

We appreciate your support for reasonable facilities to establish a permanent native Hawaiian cultural presence by non-profit organizations. Proposed improvements would support such study and cultural practices, and these centers are intended to support residents. However, educational and cultural programs, particularly those coordinated with either DOFAW or DSP, would be available to the public, similar to current programs and community service learning projects.

3. *I personally believe that the intent of the people who are advocating for the proposed cultural centers is primarily for local education and cultural practice, and not for a tourist destination site. But that's not what is in the Draft EIS. The DEIS on its face describes something that is open to interpretation.*

> *"1. Kapa'a Cultural Center. This complex at Kapa'a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public. Site users would include those associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. A range of 300 to 400 persons are projected to utilize this center each month. This includes some staff managing the complex on a daily basis. Periodic events (three events a year) may have limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only). About 200 to 500 persons may attend these periodic functions.*
>
> *"2. Wai'auia Cultural Center. This complex constructed and operated by a non- profit organization would not be open to the general public. Site users would include individuals associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. About 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 p.m.) and evenings. Weekend activities would generally start in the morning from 9:00 a.m., and run through early afternoon. Advanced artisan classes would accommodate up to four students during the week. Some periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."*
>
> *Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Draft EIS, Chapter 2-81.*

Based on the face of the DEIS alone, the Polynesian Cultural Center could apply for an exclusive lease of certain areas, close them to the general public, and serve a large number of tourists.
Response: It is both DOFAW's and DSP's intent, along with native Hawaiian organizations supporting this concept, to have cultural centers serve to advance cultural practices, educational programs, and to increase stewardship of areas that would primarly serve residents. These centers are not intended to serve as "tourist destination" sites, and the DEIS addresses this issue throughout various sections.

Unfortunately, we disagree with your opinion that the descriptions of the Kapa'a and Wai'auia centers noted in your letter leave it open to interpretation. Those descriptions come from Section 2.2.5 that describe the activity levels planned. The preceeding paragraph states that such organizations "would work in partnership with DOFAW and DSP to develop activities and programs that achieve the mission of the non-profits and fulfill agency goals." Further, Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS describes the concepts for both these cultural centers, and does not discuss them as being intended to serve as tourist destination sites.

We also disagree with your assertions regarding the potential for the Polynesian Cultural Center closing the site to the public and just serving tourists, as that is not DOFAW's intent nor what is proposed in the DEIS. We recognize your skepticism toward the State's ability to manage activities by non-profit organizations at Kawainui. But we do not agree with your perception of non-profit organizations that have or would be involved with the cultural centers. Non-profit organizations involved at Kawainui have contributed to the restoration of both wetland and upland areas, increased stewardship of this resource, and increased educational, community service, and cultural programs for the public. Such benefits and cooperation with the State would continue and be expanded with future non-profit organizations' involvement on this project. The State DSP or DOFAW would monitor non-profit organizations, which includes periodic site inspections and other coordination efforts (e.g. stewardship of areas, educational and cultural programs) to ensure compliance with permits or other agreements.

4. *Again, I personally don't believe that is the intent. But the DEIS will be the governing document for these areas for the next 20 years. We're being told to relax, that the terms of a lease will be laid out later in a request for proposals. But who will decide those processes that will happen in the next 5, 10, 15 or 20 years? Every single person-who currently makes the final decisions about leasing state land will not be in those positions in 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. The Governor, Chairperson and every Board member of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is term-limited. The point is, we don't know who will make these decisions, or who will pop up from outside the community to compete for a lease, and what connections they will have to the future decision makers.*
Response: To clarify, the FEIS will not be a "governing document" for the project over the next 20 years. The purpose for such environmental documents are to ensure that environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision-making under Chapter 343, HRS. These review documents are meant to serve as an informational document. The governing document would be the land use entitlements obtained because that dictates permitted uses and activities, restrictions which need to be followed, or

conditions that need to be followed and completed. Thus, the FEIS supports information that would be used to prepare a Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) application to the Land Board for review after processing by the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands or other entitlement applications. If in the future, a situation arises whereby DOFAW or DSP needs to implement an improvement that is not included under this project and the FEIS, another environmental document would need to be prepared, along with obtaining appropriate land use entitlements in compliance with applicable regulations.

To clarify, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), Request for Proposals (RFP), or other selection process are components of the State's procurement process that can be used to select non-profit organizations as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The State DLNR regularly applies these procedures to select awardees. The selection criteria for such RFQs or RFPs would be developed by DOFAW or DSP when ready to implement improvements. Procurement processes would follow established regulations, regardless of when such requests are initiated in the future. Upon selection of non-profit organizations, lease agreements would then be developed by the State DLNR and would include restrictions prohibiting unauthorized activities and your concerns about visitors.

Under Chapter 171, HRS, the State, through the Board of Land and Natural Resources, is authorized to dispose of public land by lease, license, permit, and in fee simple. Therefore, the BLNR is permitted to issue permits or leases for use of public land. State lands are regularly allotted to private owners, businesses, and non-profit organizations for various uses that in some cases somewhat exclude the general public, such as agricultural lands. Further, the State DLNR issues and manages many leases for State property, and can effectively develop such contracts. Furthermore, leases would be reviewed by the State Attorney General for further evaluation and compliance with regulations.

Your concern about making final decisions (who and when) on State leases rests with the Land Board, and concerns with new Board members in the future applies to any and all matters before the Board. This Kawainui project is no different. As with any matter subject to Land Board action, requests would be processed by the appropriate State DLNR division, such as the Land Division, who have experienced and qualified staff to review and prepare necessary documents and recommendations. They would also advise the Board on matters brought to the board or details. To address your concern with other organizations "from outside" competing for cultural centers, the State could also proceed with a non-competitive selection process. However, an open selection process would likely be fairer to the public. An open selection process would be objective and not based upon what "connections" organizations have with future decision-makers. We have confidence that the State DLNR staff will objectively perform their duties.

5. *While DLNR issues many exclusive leases, nearly all of these exclusive leases are for non-dedicated lands in urban or agricultural areas that are not resource lands. For example, industrial leases on Sand Island, hotel leases on Banyan Drive, grazing leases on agricultural lands.*
This DEIS provides for exclusive leases, closed to the general public, of resource lands dedicated to Forestry and Parks. That opens a whole can of worms - the possible

privatization of resource lands. DLNR has a public trust responsibility to ensure these resource lands are managed in the public interest for future generations. The Final EIS will serve both as a governing document for the marsh, and as a precedent for future DLNR decisions for other resource lands.
Response: The areas proposed for cultural centers are not "resource lands" that are important for protection. As discussed in the DEIS, these upland areas consist of previously disturbed areas that were used for ranching (Pōhakea) which excluded the public, a City maintenance baseyard (Kapa'a), and fill land supporting a large radio tower (Wai'auia). Such areas have already been used for more intensive urban activities.

The DOFAW sites designated are suitable and appropriate for use as cultural centers, and are not part of wetland restoration or important habitat for endangered waterbirds. The DSP kauhale site at Pōhakea would be open to the public and serve cultural and educational programs. Use of these sites for cultural centers would be an improvement over past and current conditions, support stewardship of these areas, and serve important native Hawaiian cultural practices and educational programs. As discussed in the DEIS, the cultural centers at Wai'auia and Kapa'a would include cultural and educational programs for the public coordinated with DOFAW and DSP. Thus, although these two sites would not be totally "closed to the general public," it would not be freely open to the general public where tourist can just drop by like a State park. Activities at these sites would be restricted to the programs and activities conducted by the non-profit organizations. The DEIS also states there could be periodic events or celebrations, e.g. Makahiki, hālau performances, which would allow limited public attendance.

We do not view issuing leases for non-resource lands for such activities as opening "a whole can of worms" as you envision. It also does not result in the privatization of such State lands based upon the discussion provided. The State DLNR is appropriately managing these areas for the public interest, including the public benefits from these cultural centers discussed in the DEIS. The areas planned to accommodate the two cultural centers within DOFAW jurisdictional areas are modest totaling only 10.3 acres (Wai'auia 1.3 acres, Kapa'a 9 acres) in relation to the 986-acre project area. The cultural centers serve the public interest by emphasizing the importance of living culture, and establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support cultural practices, stewardship, and educational programs that benefit everyone. Furthermore, supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices is an important project objective and addresses Article XII of the State Constitution. As previously discussed, the FEIS is not a governing document for Kawainui, it does not set a precedent for future Land Board decisions, and the sites for the cultural centers are not resource lands.

6. *Future Chairpersons of DLNR will receive many, many requests from businesses and organizations across the spectrum for an exclusive lease of state land, and each of these applicants will point to this Final EIS to justify a request for an exclusive lease of State Parks or Forestry lands. I know this for a fact, because when I was Chair of the department, I received many, many of these requests.*
Future Chairpersons of the department will receive calls from people in high places, asking that their friends' organization or business be favored in a decision, like being eligible to lease land, or to be granted a lease extension or permit, even when this friend or organization

does not meet the mission or purpose of the land in question. I know this for a fact, because when I was Chair of the department I received these calls.
Future Chairpersons of DLNR will look to the Final EIS for the governing intent when making decisions about which organizations are eligible to apply for these exclusive leases, and what conditions shall be placed within those leases to ensure that the overriding public purpose is met. I know this for a fact, because when I was Chair of the department, that's exactly what I did.
Response: We disagree that the FEIS for this project will "justify" future requests from private, for-profit businesses and other organizations to lease State park land or forestry lands. As previously discussed, the State leases land now to a wide variety of individuals, organizations, and businesses, for a variety of uses, and the FEIS for this project does not change that or set a precedent. Decisions to lease State land are taken up by the Land Board with review and evaluation of requests conducted by qualified and experienced division staff.

Your past experiences as a former DLNR Chair receiving such requests, or calls from "people in high places" may be related to the State Administration in office at that time. However, the procedures for processing such requests still should follow established regulations, review, and evaluation by various DLNR divisions that are not subject to such interference. We presume that was the process you followed while serving as Chair. Existing and future Chairs would similarly follow standard protocols and procedures allowing for appropriate objective review and decisions by the Land Board.

Again, future decisions on leasing State property would rest with the Land Board, and are not a Chair's decision, regardless of who may be in that position at the time. As already discussed, the FEIS does not serve as a governing intent for decisions because it is an informational document, and the Land Board would evaluate the merits of the CDUP application for this project. The Chair is not responsible to make decisions about which non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for any leases. The initiation of the process, review and processing of applicants, and selection of such organizations would be conducted by appropriate DLNR staff, with final approval of selections to be made by the Land Board. Any necessary conditions or restrictions on potential leases would be appropriately developed by DSP and DOFAW with support by the DLNR Land Division, as is currently done in compliance with regulations and procedures.

We recognize your concerns with the process involved in issuing leases to non-profit organizations. However, this situation is no different from other matters processed by DLNR staff and the Land Board. You indicate support for establishing a permanent presence at Kawainui for cultural centers to support stewardship, educational programming, and cultural practices. However, other comments suggest trying to restrict access to these sites for use just by "local residents" and preventing tourists from visiting them. Yet concerns are also raised about having more exclusive use, and that these areas should be available for the public to serve the public interest, which entails providing open public access including visitors.

We recognize your opposition to any improvements that may attract more visitors to Kailua. However, the more exclusive use of these centers for cultural practices and programs support and address that concern. The limited upland areas designated for cultural centers at Kapa'a

and Wai'auia, that were previously used for urban activities, are appropriate. Your comments raise issues with providing leases to allow use of such areas for cultural practices. The intended use and concept plans for these cultural centers are beneficial to the public, and address your concerns with visitors. The State DLNR has experienced, professional, and qualified staff (including Attorney General review) to develop and process appropriate lease agreements with non-profit organizations selected to develop these cultural centers.

7. *The DEIS places the barest limitation on who may apply for such a lease: a non-profit organization that practices native Hawaiian culture. The DEIS lacks specific terms, conditions and limitations tailored to protect the constitutional public trust obligations and prevent potential future unintended consequences, such as a Polynesian Cultural Center satellite facility and/or creating a precedent where, over time, other organizations seek public resource lands for exclusive lease.*
The Final EIS must explicitly describe the overriding public purpose that justifies the closure of Parks or Forestry land to the general public. The document must better define an eligible organization's characteristics to ensure the application process is limited to those that explicitly meet this overriding public purpose. And the document must describe mandatory activities or product that the leasees must provide in order to serve that overriding public purpose, as well as the general limitations placed upon their operations to avoid activities that would counter that overriding public purpose.
Response: The EIS process is not to place limitations or determine who may apply for a lease to develop cultural centers. Environmental documents prepared do not determine or limit who may apply for or use a particular site. The purpose is to address whether having the cultural centers and activities meet project need and objectives, discusses the concept and activities intended for such use, and addresses the potential environmental impacts. The DEIS includes sufficient information in Chapter 2 discussing how the project provides a public benefit and meets the agency mission. We believe the information addressing use and activities are sufficient in identifying likely environmental impacts, and details of a particular lease, specific terms, conditions, etc. are not necessary. As discussed, such lease arrangements would be developed between DLNR and selected non-profit organizations. Information already provided address your concerns and opposition to visitors or unintended consequences, such as a "Polynesian Cultural Center satellite facility." As already discussed, the EIS document would not create a precedent for other organizations to apply for use of State property under a lease or other permits.

As discussed in the DEIS and this response letter, the project does not result in the "closure of Parks and Foresty land to the general public." The kauhale complex at Pōhakea would be open to the public for access as part of the education center planned. The cultural centers at Wai'auia and Kapa'a only involve 10.3 acres of the entire 986-acre project area. While having more exclusive use of these sites for activities, these centers would also allow some public access for persons to participate in educational and cultural programs in coordination with DOFAW and DSP. The public purpose being served by these cultural centers, activities planned, programs, etc. are adequately discussed in Chapter 2 and several sections of the DEIS.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 5, 2017

HHF Planners
Attn: Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Comments on the Kaawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS

As Representative for Hawaii's 50th State House District (Kailua-Kaneohe Bay), I am writing to provide comments on the proposed draft of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan DEIS. Thank you for your hard work on this plan; however, I am disappointed that the voices of many community members and local environmental groups have not been adequately considered.

I strongly agree with Kailua Neighborhood Board's comments dated February 1, 2018, and offer my support and commendation for the *Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation* which was submitted by the Board earlier. Much time and expertise was devoted to developing this plan, and it should be carefully considered as a strong voice from the Kailua community.

I urge you to reconsider this plan as a viable alternative in the DEIS in addition to the "do nothing alternative" as well as the proposed plan. I would like to adopt the Kailua Neighborhood Board's additional comments included in their February 1, 2018, letter as my own.

Again, I appreciate the time and effort which has been spent on this, however I feel that wrong decisions today regarding the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh will rob our children and children's children from enjoying this unique and complex *natural* habitat.

With aloha,

Cynthia Thielen

Representative Cynthia Thielen
District 50 (Kailua-Kaneohe Bay)

Cc: Ms. Marigold Zoll, Oahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager; Bill Hicks, Chair, KNB

Representative Cynthia Thielen, 50th District (Kailua, Kaneohe Bay)
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St., Room 443, Honolulu, HI 96813
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Judiciary (Ranking Member), Agriculture, Water & Land
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Representative Cynthia Thielen
50th District
House of Representatives
State of Hawai'i
415 South Beretania Street, Room 443
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Thielen:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the letter dated February 5, 2017 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your letter's comments.

1. *As Representative for Hawaii's 50th State House District (Kailua-Kaneohe Bay), I am writing to provide comments on the proposed draft of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan DEIS. Thank you for your hard work on this plan; however, I am disappointed that the voices of many community members and local environmental groups have not been adequately considered.*

   Response: We acknowledge your recognition of the work undertaken on this project. However, we disagree that the voices of environmental organizations and community members that support your position on this project have not be adequately considered. The planning process for this project has been ongoing for several years. There has been significant effort made to notify the Kailua community about this project, and considerable input and comments have been received from the community. Outreach activities have included five public informational meetings, several smaller organizations and stakeholder meetings, Kailua Neighborhood Board presentations, a project website has been available, social media has transmitted information throughout the community, and there has been a lot of media coverage. Chapter 8 of the DEIS included information on these consultation efforts.

Throughout this process, input received from various sides of the issues has been adequately considered, and is documented in the DEIS. A portion of the community is opposed to this project because they do not want visitors or facilities that may support more visitors to Kailua. Related issues have been raised such as commercial tourism, opposition to increased public access, and facilities that support passive outdoor recreation. In contrast, other members of the community support increased public access, educational programs, cultural practices, and increasing stewardship opportunities. Project improvements are intended to support the broader public because Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy. As discussed in the DEIS, the project is appropriate for the area and includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities, given the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

As discussed in the DEIS, several measures are proposed to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed, due to community input we received.

2. *I strongly agree with Kailua Neighborhood Board's comments dated February 1, 2018, and offer my support and commendation for the Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation which was submitted by the Board earlier. Much time and expertise was devoted to developing this plan, and it should be carefully considered as a strong voice from the Kailua community.*
Response: We acknowledge your support for alternative plan supported by the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB), and that much time was spent preparing that plan. That alternative was considered and does represent a strong voice from some portions of the Kailua community. However, there is an equally strong voice from the Kailua community that does not support the alternatives proposed under that plan.

Alternatives to the proposed project, such as the KNB plan, have been considered, and Section 2.3 of the DEIS discusses alternatives and explains why they were eliminated. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics from the KNB plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with the interpretive facilities and support features recommended, along with not supporting establishing a permanent cultural presense at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose for improving public access and outdoor recreation are not met by this alternative. There is essentially no accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access.

Your position regarding visitors is understood based upon your support for the KNB plan and your EISPN comment letter. However, we do not believe Kawainui would become the type of visitor "attraction" you envision. The DEIS discussed the many management activities proposed and phasing of implementation to address visitors, and the reasonable

projected level of visitors. Sections of the DEIS show the project would not have an adverse effect on the environment.

The need to support native Hawaiian cultural practices is an important objective of the project and addresses Article XII of the State Constitution. The emphasis on living culture is important, and establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices that benefit everyone. Partnerships with non-profit native Hawaiian organizations have been beneficial in restoring this resource, and additional stewardship opportunities created by the project would further support these efforts and project objectives.

Dictating a concealed vault for reinterment of iwi kupuna under the KNB plan is inappropriate and culturally insensitive, especially to lineal and cultural descendants. Similarly, providing just a hula mound and small hālau for occasional "manao-sharing use" and no structures at the kauhale at Pōhakea as alternatives to cultural centers are inappropriate, impractical, and offer only superficial support for cultural practices. Providing no parking or "limited" parking does not support providing reasonable public access.

3. *I urge you to reconsider this plan as a viable alternative in the DEIS in addition to the "do nothing alternative" as well as the proposed plan. I would like to adopt the Kailua Neighborhood Board's additional comments included in their February 1, 2018, letter as my own.*
Again, I appreciate the time and effort which has been spent on this, however I feel that wrong decisions today regarding the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh will rob our children and children's children from enjoying this unique and complex natural habitat.
Response: As previously discussed, the KNB supported alternative plan does not provide a reasonable alternative to the proposed project, and would not adequately meet the project need and objectives. The No Action Alternative does not meet the project need and objectives as discussed in the DEIS.

The KNB's February 1, 2018 comments have been responded to. That response letter is included in the Final EIS and is attached to this letter.

Right decisions are being made, and we are also sensitive to ensuring that decisions made today would benefit the public in a managed manner because Kawainui-Hāmākua is a State resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy. Without reasonable public access, our children would not be able to view and enjoy this resource, or learn from educational programs and cultural activities occurring there.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. William M. Hicks, Chair
Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31
923 Akumu Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 1, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *The comments and questions contained in this letter were unanimously approved by the Kailua Neighborhood Board at its regular meeting on February 1, 2018. The Kailua Neighborhood Board has reviewed the document Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We have also reviewed our comments on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) and your responses to those. We support the plan's wetland restoration and reforestation improvements that would enhance habitat for endangered waterbirds.*
   Response: We appreciate the Board's support for proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements.

2. *We want to first point out that the plan you refer to as the Kailua Neighborhood Board plan is actually titled: **"Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."** (The Community Plan). The genesis of the plan was specifically explained to the community and HHF Planners on a number of occasions including the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) presentation at your November 30, 2013 "Envisioning Kawainui" meeting at Le Jardin School. As was explained, the plan was prepared by Kailua and Waimanalo residents including the President (at the time) of the Hawaiian Civic Club and the Chairperson (at the time) of the KNB. The plan was first presented to community organizations including the LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep It Kailua, and Hawaii's Thousands Friends. Only after these organizations endorsed the*

Community Plan, did the KNB review it and endorse it. Your error must be corrected in the final EIS along with your comments on the Community Plan that are not consistent with these facts. Please refer to your copy. The Community Plan is a brief, but comprehensive, document that supports restoration, preservation and maintenance of the Kawainui Marsh including DLNR facilities and the continuance of the cultural activities at Ulupo, Cash ranch (Kekuha O' Kualii), Na Pohaku, and adds a cultural site at Wai'auia. It recommends habitat enhancement and removal of the "peat mat.

Response: Section 2.3.4 will be revised to reflect the name indicated for "The Community Plan" that was supported by the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB), and the revisions are attached. We appreciate the information provided on the background associated with The Community Plan's development. We do note that although the President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, at that time, worked with a limited number of individuals developing that plan, it has never been adopted or embraced by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. It should also be noted that you clarify The Community Plan was only presented to those community organizations identified, each has expressed opposition to the project plans proposed. The KNB then reviewed and endorsed the Community Plan, although you state the former Chair of the KNB at that time worked on developing it. The Final EIS (FEIS) will include this background information on the plan in Section 2.3.4, and revisions are attached.

3. *In addition, as an existing plan, the Community Plan must be addressed as an alternative in the DEIS along with your discussions of the "do nothing" alternative and the proposed plan. Your stated basis for dismissing the Community Plan is not consistent with its genesis or its content.*

   Response: We appreciate the effort made to develop The Community Plan, which supports the restoration, preservation and maintenance of Kawainui. Section 2.3.4, describes why the plan was considered as an alternative to the proposed project, and why concepts proposed were eliminated from consideration. Certain recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features from this plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, specifically related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preservation of historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences associated with The Community Plan, related to interpretive facilities, support features, and not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project's purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation are not met by this alternative. There is no accommodation made for reasonable public access. Unfortunately, it is clear the main objective of the plan is to prohibit or restrict public access and visitors to Kawainui, which is also consistent with the KNB's opposition to visitors. We believe the basis for not incorporating those elements of the plan are adequately addressed. As already stated, portions of the plan supporting restoration and reforestation are consisent with project plans.

4. We have provided the following responses corresponding to the comments identified by page number of topic in your letter. It is noted that the comments provided from Page 7 to 24 (our responses numbered "a" to "g") refer to pages from the Executive Summary of the DEIS. It should be clarified that under §11-200-17, HAR, the DEIS needs to have a "summary sheet" that concisely discusses various items. One item identified is a "brief description" of the action because more detailed description of the action is provided in a separate chapter. The

DEIS's Executive Summary goes into far more details on the project than just providing a brief description as required under §11-200-17, HAR. Therefore, information related to these various comments are addressed, and more project details and information are provided in other pertinent chapters of the DEIS.

a. *Page 7: You state that there will be road and drainage improvements on Kapa'a Quarry Road, but fail to explain how this will be accomplished given the City and County and private ownership of portions of the area slated for these improvements.*
Response: The reference to drainage improvements is from the fourth paragraph of that page under the heading summarizing impacts to topography. Thus, the "impacts" of drainage improvements are summarized, which would have a positive impact by reducing current erosion. That paragraph does not state there will be "road" improvements to Kapa'a Quarry Road. Section 2.2.1 discusses proposed drainage improvements along Kapa'a Quarry Road in detail to address storm water runoff from upland areas. Drainage culvert improvements would only occur within State property, and Section 2.2.8 discusses how this would be implemented by phasing and estimated costs. Thus, such improvements would not occur within City or private property associated with that road.

b. *Page 8: You state that design features can be incorporated, but do not explain what or how, or any impacts or mitigations.*
Response: The comment on "design features" refers to bridges that would be constructed across streams, and that such construction plans would be developed during the design phase. Information on bridge improvements are discussed in Section 2.2.1, and impacts from such bridges are covered under pertinent sections of the DEIS (e.g. streams). The maintenance/pedestrian bridge across Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated, along with sections of the pedestrian path addressing community concerns on the DEIS. Therefore, only a bridge across Maunawili Stream serving DOFAW maintenance and programs activities is still proposed.

c. *Page 9: Re. impact on birds from visitors - you say "Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) may enact mitigation measures." Will they? When? What are they? What is the cost?*
Response: Section 3.3.2 discusses mitigative measures DOFAW can implement to mitigate effects on waterbirds from visitors. These include restricting access within certain areas at specific times of year (e.g., during bird nesting season), closing trail sections, or constructing low fencing along the wetland perimeter. Whether such measures are warranted and when they would occur would be determined as part of proposed public access management (Section 2.2.5) along with adaptive management and monitoring activities discussed. The projected level of public visitation and activities are expected to be fairly low and manageable. Therefore, such measures may not be warranted. There are no notable costs associated with such management activities (e.g. restricting access during periods) and any such inconsequential costs would not change the overall impacts discussed in the DEIS.

d. *Page 14: We understand that Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants allow for the recreational component to be provided off site. This should be addressed.*
Response: Lands acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants must remain in public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity unless the Secretary of the Interior approves conversion of LWCF lands to another use, and acceptable

replacement lands are substituted. The outdoor recreational component of this project cannot be provided on other property off site. DSP and DOFAW do not intend to convert project LWCF lands to alternate uses resulting in the need for a conversion and finding replacement lands. Use of LWCF lands for passive outdoor recreation aligns with the project purpose along with recreational and educational objectives associated with agency missions. Section 6.2.1 of the DEIS discusses LWCF requirements in further detail.

e. *Page 23: "Sustainment of educational and cultural programs ... cannot rely on volunteers alone." How many employees will be required and who will pay for them and the maintenance required?*

Response: The statement noted is from a summary of secondary effects related to commercial activities. The sustainment of educational and cultural programs was in reference to the operation of the education center. DSP or a non-profit organization managing that center would need financial support for operations and maintenance. Table 2.5 identifies existing and projected staffing levels. Section 2.2.5 also addresses management activities proposed to support public access and additional DSP staffing support needed. Because DSP intends to have a non-profit organization manage the education center, only three additional staff (two DSP staff for park maintenance) would be required for Kawainui activities. State staffing would be funded by the State as part of DLNR's operational budget. Maintenance of the education and cultural centers, would be the responsibility of the non-profit organizations operating them.

f. *Page 23: "A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored." This contradicts statements made in many parts of the DEIS that, except for 100 persons per day, commercial activities will not be permitted. Also, how can anyone examine the impacts and mitigations of "may be explored"?*

Response: The statement on financing options refers to the educational center's operation by a non-profit organization which would require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue would be a commercial activity, but it would support operation of the center and any excess revenues could be used to fund further Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities. DOFAW and DSP do not plan to permit "privately-operated, for-profit commercial tours." DOFAW is currently allowed to permit up to 100 "commercial" visitors a day as a guideline within the wildlife sanctuary. DOFAW does not intend to permit privately-operated commercial tours within the wildlife sanctuary. However, activities at the proposed cultural centers that charge a fee by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) would be considered a "commercial" activity. DOFAW would be allowed to permit such activities associated with the cultural centers. That section of Page 23 of the DEIS will be revised, and is attached to this letter.

g. *Page 24: You say the only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors. Strong concerns have also been raised concerning removal of the peat mat as a priority, increased flood protection, intrusion of humans in the Bird Sanctuary, and others.*

Response: We do not view the other issues you raise, separate from opposition to visitors, as "unresolved issues." Your other concerns have been addressed within pertinent sections of the DEIS and are not unresolved. Removal of peat mat along with

increased flood protection are project priorities and major objectives (see Section 2.1.2). Section 2.2.1 discusses wetland restoration and other improvements proposed to address these priorities and objectives. There would not be an "intrusion of humans" occurring within Kawainui's wetland, and the DEIS adequately addresses such impacts and identifies mitigative measures, when warranted. Public access would be restricted to upland areas, and recent changes eliminating sections of the pedestrian trail further reduces potential impacts. It should be clarified that Kawainui is not a "bird sanctuary" but a wildlife sanctuary that supports public access. Thus, your concerns with human intrusion are really associated with visitors and public access that have been addressed in Section 7.6 of the DEIS.

5. The following responses address the comments provided for various pages of DEIS chapters.
   a. *Page 1-2: States that the applicant is DOFAW and Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As explained in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) 11-200 this is an "agency action." Yet Table 1-1 includes actions by non-profit organizations which are not agencies. Their activities would be "applicant actions." No Environmental Assessment (EA) for applicant actions has been submitted. The accepting authority for an EIS may also differ.*
   Response: Table 1.1 states that DOFAW, a division of the State DLNR, is the applicant for this project and the entity responsible for preparing the EIS. The improvements proposed in the DEIS are an Agency Action because DOFAW, which includes DSP as a partner, is proposing the improvements and activities within these State lands. Non-profit organizations selected by DOFAW or DSP would implement these agency proposed improvements or activities and do not need to prepare their own environmental document because they are covered by this EIS. The accepting authority for this EIS is as discussed in Section 1.1.1.
   b. *Chapter 2.*
   Page 2-9: The list of plans does not include the "Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."
   Response: Page 2-9 referenced is from the section discussing the 1994 master plan for Kawainui, which is why the Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation Plan was not included in this section. That plan was considered and discussed as an alternative to the project in Section 2.3 of the DEIS. That section also explains the reasons for its elimination as an alternative. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics from that plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with recommended interpretive facilities and support features, along with not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation were not met by this alternative.
   c. *Page 2-30: Item 5. Peat Mat Zone states "an area important for Kawainui flood control capability ... would remained unchanged." Removal of the peat mat is critical to improving the restoration of the wetland and flood retention capability of the Kawainui*

Marsh. A major flaw in the proposed plan is that it does not include this necessary remediation. It is included as a priority in the "Community Plan."
Related to this is a matter that is not addressed in the proposed plan. This is the provision of a permanent siphon facility over the dike transmitting water from the Kawainui Marsh into Kawainui Stream. As many people in Kailua know, this system was tested by a temporary DLNR demonstration project. A letter received from DLNR acknowledged that the test was a success in remediating the flow problems in Kawainui Stream without adding to flood potential in the Coconut Grove area. This facility should be addressed as part of the DEIS because it is a critical project related to the water quality of the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes.
Response: This page discusses the various DOFAW-designated management areas within Kawainui. The Peat Mat Zone consists of the northern mid-section of the wetland as shown on Figure 2.5 of the DEIS. This zone is important for flood control because vegetation helps to reduce the velocity of water flow through the wetland before discharging into Kawainui Canal. Removal of peat mat from the entire wetland is not necessary or practical. The southern half of the wetland proposed for restoration would meet waterbird enhancement and resource objectives. This is not a "major flaw" in the project, and proposed plans better serve the resource than that suggested in the "Community Plan." Proposed restoration plans are based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise managing wetlands, coordination with the COE, and studies conducted, such as a modeling study evaluating hydraulic conditions from the 1994 master plan report.

Installing a permanent siphon facility over the levee transmitting water from Kawainui marsh into Kawainui Stream will not be included as part of this project. Your reference was to a prior demonstration experiment. Although this siphon experiment has some beneficial effects, it is not a "critical project" related to water quality within Kawainui. DOFAW would be evaluating the results of this experiment and other possible implications to their wetland restoration efforts to determine if they would want to alter this water flow in the future as well as potential impacts to the levee. Such an improvement would need to be coordinated with other government agencies, and appropriate environmental studies and permitting would be pursued at that time.

d. *Page 2-36: Statements on this page refer to future culverts including: Other culverts would be identified.*
Culvert repair could involve.
Drainage improvements would likely be.
Other measures could include. Drainage swales could.
Given that these facilities are directly related to runoff, speculation concerning them - the would (later), could (or maybe not) are an insufficient assessment of the impacts. Is it correct for us to assume that these culvert projects will be assessed in a future EA before implementation?
Response: The section for which phrases are cited is to identify the types of storm water runoff improvements and is not an assessment of their impacts. Impacts from such improvements are discussed in respective sections of the DEIS, such as Sections 3.4.5 (water quality) and 5.3.2 (drainage). Thus, such drainage improvements are properly identified and impacts are adequately addressed in the DEIS, so separate environmental

documentation is not necessary for each individual culvert repair project implemented in the future. Further, drainage improvements within the Kahanaiki subzone were already included and covered under an environmental document completed for the Kawainui environmental restoration project in 2012.

e. *Page 2-37: You state storm water improvements are necessary in the area along residences near DOFAW's Hamakua entrance due to flooding. What are the details of the improvements, when will they be constructed, and at what cost?*
Response: As discussed on Page 2-37, occasional flooding within Hāmākua from runoff discharged from the hillside near residences could trigger constructing a causeway or other structural improvements. A description of typical causeway improvements are included in Section 2.2.1 and consist of minor site work as shown on Exhibit 2.14. An infiltration trench could also be implemented instead. Such minor improvements were included as part of costs shown on Table 2.8, under "Maintenance Trail, Staging Areas" costs for Hāmākua. Such minor improvements would be approximately $10,000. Implementation was identified under project phasing in Section 2.2.8.

f. *Page 2-42: You state that no recreational activities are planned within Hamakua or on Pu'uoehu hillside. Are the planned trails not recreational?*
Response: As discussed in Section 2.2.4, no recreational trails are proposed at Hāmākua or on the Pu'uoehu hillside. Section 2.2.4 further states the trails on the hillside would be solely to support DOFAW reforestation and management efforts. Trails could also be used for occasional educational or stewardship programs, but they would not be recreational trails open to the general public. Figure 2.7 shows proposed pedestrian trails for public use, which do not include Hāmākua or Pu'uoehu.

g. *Page 2-44: The map shows two bridges 191 feet and 644 feet long in the wetland for trails and vehicles, plus four boardwalks. What construction procedures and materials will be used for these in the wetland, and what would be their impact?*
Response: The two bridges shown on Figure 2.7 are not located within the wetland, but within upland areas that cross over streams. Figure 2.7 shows three boardwalks, not four. Based upon the elimination of some sections of the pedestrian trail in reducing the overall project, there would now be no boardwalks proposed. In addition, the large bridge crossing Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated as well. The bridge across Maunawili Stream would now be used to support DOFAW management and operations. More information on the one bridge now planned will be added in the FEIS, and the revised text is attached to this letter.

h. *Page 2-45: You state that the design of accessory facilities and the Education Center would be determined during the design phase. How can impacts of facilities that are not yet designed be assessed? Are we correct to assume that there will be a future EA for these facilities?*
Response: The design of accessory facilities and the education center do not need to be first completed in order to be addressed by the environmental review process. The level of project information provided in the DEIS is sufficient and allows for environmental impacts to be reasonably identified and assessed. Therefore, future EAs for these facilities would not be necessary. Information on the location of the education center and accessory facilities are provided in the DEIS as previously discussed to allow for the assessment of impacts. Accessory facilities for the pedestrian trail consist of minor

structures that were described in Section 2.2. The locations of observation decks, restrooms, and open pavilions are shown on the site plans, and approximate sizes (floor area) are provided. Exhibit 2.17 included conceptual sketches of the observation deck and an information kiosk. The impact of such accessory facilities could be evaluated and addressed. Figure 2.9 shows the site plan for the education center's location and building footprint. Exhibit 2.18 shows the building interior. Other descriptive information on features and activities is discussed in Section 2.2. Information is provided describing the center's activities and visitors, which is of greater importance in identifying impacts, as opposed to design elements for interior spaces or exterior design. Such information is sufficient to address the impact of the education center and trail accessory facilities.

The type of building material used for structures, determine during the design process, would not adversely impact and the environment and thus not change the results of the impact assessments. The effects of earth-moving activities for site improvements were addressed in pertinent sections of the DEIS. Information on site locations, impact assessments, and site improvements are discussed in Sections 3.1.2 (topography) and 3.1.3 (soils). The education center is proposed to utilize post-and-pier construction to further minimize site disturbance. Accessory facilities (e.g. open pavilion) would cause minimal site disturbance due to the small footprints required. The information included in the DEIS discusses building footprints, structures would require minimal to minor site grading, are located in previously disturbed areas, and best management practices (BMPs) are discussed. Design plans would be reviewed and approved by pertinent agencies, and necessary permits (e.g. NPDES, grading) would be obtained to ensure structures and other improvements meet regulatory requirements and minimize effects. Therefore, the impacts from accessory support facilities and the education center have been addressed in appropriate sections of the DEIS.

i. *Page 2-48: "Examples of learning projects ... include...." Examples do not provide information on impacts of what will be done. Specifics of what will be done are necessary.*

Response: As discussed on page 2-48, service learning is an important teaching strategy for environmental literacy supported by the State. Service learning projects provide students and adults with "hands-on" knowledge in learning about science and the environment. The paragraph cited further explains examples of existing programs. Sufficient information is available to identify impacts. Such educational programs are beneficial and do not generate significant impacts, as discussed in Section 5.9.1.

j. *Page 2-53: Kahanaiki area.*

Approximately 25 parking stalls are proposed. How many of them are for buses? What specifically will the pavement consist of? Proposed is a septic tank for the restroom. What is the size of the system, and will the soils in the area preclude leaching of effluent into the wetland?

Response: There are no parking stalls planned for bus parking at this lot. As discussed in the first paragraph of page 2-53, schools must coordinate with DOFAW to access the parking lot as part of educational programs. School buses could be accommodated by using certain areas of the parking lot. That paragraph also stated the parking area would have a compacted gravel or other permeable surface. The specific surface

materials for the parking lot would be determined during design, and the information described in the DEIS is sufficient to reasonably address impacts.

Section 5.2 discusses wastewater and addresses projected flows and the size of septic tanks. The restroom at Kahanaiki would need to have a septic tank and associated system to accommodate only 120 gallons per day. Section 5.2.2 also explains that most available septic tank sizes start from 1,000 gallons. All individual septic systems would be designed and developed in compliance with State DOH requirements (§11-62, HAR). This includes conducting a soil percolation test during the design phase for this septic system. The leach field area for such a small system would likely be only about 200 square feet, and would be appropriately designed. Soils in the area should not prohibit use of this system, and it would not have a significant impact on the wetland. It should be noted the City Model Airplane Park's restroom system is much larger and has not demonstrated a negative impact on the wetland.

k. *Page 2-54: Education Center.*

Only a conceptual layout of the Education Center is provided as in a programmable EIS. Details to evaluate impacts are absent. Will a future EA be prepared by the Department of State Parks (DSP) or the Request for Proposal (RFP) selectee for the final design? Will that EA be an agency or an applicant action?

Response: The conceptual site plan of the education center, along with other information on its design and activities in Section 2.2.4 are sufficient to address environmental impacts. Section 2.2.5 discusses visitor activities associated with the education center in detail, allowing for impacts to be properly addressed, especially since visitor activity is the main concern associated with this facility. The response to comment No. 1 clarified that there are no State regulations regarding programmatic EISs. Therefore, a future EA for the education center would not be required because this use is addressed under this EIS document. The question regarding agency or applicant action is not applicable.

l. *Page 2-60: Kapa'a area (Kapa'a Cultural Complex).*

1) *Same comment as in Page 2-54 above. Also, the proposed cultural complex appears to duplicate the activities at the Education Center kauhale. Why are both needed?*

Response: With regard to the cultural center proposed at Kapa'a, the same response to Item 6.k. applies to your comments referencing Page 2-54. Some of the educational and cultural activities proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea are similar to those proposed at the Kapa'a site. However, as discussed in Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.4, programs at the kauhale complex would be offered as part of the education center's activities, would focus on traditional land management and subsistence, and would be open to the general public with the education center. The cultural center at Kapa'a has a different cultural focus and would not be open to the general public. Use of both sites is appropriate for cultural practices, provides increased educational programs, and supports increased stewardship of areas and cultural practices.

2) *Why is a water storage component required? Is the restroom and caretaker house served by the same septic system, and is the system feasible given the soils, its proximity to the wetland, and the former landfill site? Will structures meet the commercial fire code?*

Response: Water storage would be used for irrigation and other non-potable water use as part of design and sustainability measures to minimize potable water use. The septic system for this center would likely serve both the caretaker house and restroom. Section 5.2 discussed the impacts from such a system that would require a small system (septic tank of 570 gallons) as compared to the City model airplane park's existing restroom that has two 1,000-gallon tanks. A system serving this cultural center is feasible, as the site consists of over 7 acres, soils in the area should not prohibit this system's use, and there would not be a significant impact on the wetland. This Kapa'a site was not a former landfill, but was used by the City as a maintenance baseyard. Building structures would be designed to meet building and fire code requirements.

3) *Re. last paragraph - What are the specific adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds, and the specific mitigative measures to be utilized? Without this information there is no way to assess the effect of the facility on the endangered birds.*

Response: Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS discussed the effects of building structures, such as the cultural center, on endangered waterbirds. That section addressed measures to implement during short-term construction activities along with long-term measures. Buildings would be sited away from the wetland, and vegetative buffers or low fencing could be added around the wetland perimeter to separate waterbirds from activities at this cultural center. The information discussed in this section provides sufficient information to reasonably assess effects on endangered waterbirds.

m. *Page 2-62: Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalaheo section.*

1) *Will the parking area accommodate buses? What are the sizes of the buildings?*

Response: With elimination of the hale wa'a proposed at the Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR), Kalāheo site, the project does not propose any changes to this passive park site. Therefore, only those improvements already permitted by existing entitlements for the Gateway Park plan would be implemented. The park's approved plans did not specify accommodating buses, but school buses could be accommodated with prior authorization from DSP. DSP does not plan to issue permits for commercial tour buses to visit this park. Gateway Park plans proposed a pavilion of about 1,000 square feet, and a restroom of about 600 square feet.

2) *What specific cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank will be done to enable safe canoe access to the canal? How much will DLNR have to increase its 100 person daily visitor limit to accommodate the park canoe education activity? What are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's requirements and design of the canoe launching facility?*

Response: Cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank would not be required to support launching canoes. Minor improvements to stabilize the launch entrance could consist of adding permeable pavers, such as Grasspave2. Coordination with the Corps of Engineers (COE) would address such minor improvements, and there are no COE design requirements for this launch site. There is no launch "facility" proposed under the Gateway Park plans. This Kalāheo site is not part of the Kawainui wildlife sanctuary, and is thus not subject to any commercial visitor limit. DSP plans to allow only schools to launch from this site for practices.

3) *What effect will the canoe building and repair have on community noise and the water quality in the canal? Will access be limited to or by the successful bidder, or will it be open to the public? How many visitors and buses a day will be permitted?*
Response: No canoe building or repair activities are planned under the Gateway Park plans that would impact noise and water quality of the canal. As already discussed, DSP can already implement the Gateway Park plans that have received approval. This site would be a passive park with restrooms and open pavilion. As a State Park facility, it would be open to the general public, access would be limited to normal park hours (7:00 AM to 6:45 PM), and would be operated by DSP. The DEIS addressed the projected number of visitors to this park site, and commercial buses are not allowed unless they have a permit from DSP.

n. *Page 2-65: Wai'auia.*
Only conceptual plans are provided as in a programmable assessment. Specific plans are needed to evaluate impacts.
Response: Sufficient information on the cultural center at Wai'auia was included in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS (description of activities, buildings, and site plan showing building foot prints and locations). This information is sufficient to identify and address impacts from this facility. A programmatic assessment is not applicable to this project as discussed under response Item No. 1.

o. *Page 2-68: A burial or re-internment site is a cemetery. State laws and rules concerning cemeteries should be made explicit. Has an EA for the re-internment project been done or contemplated by DLNR or Board of Water Supply (BWS)? Why is Hawaiian Memorial Park not considered as an alternative?*
Response: It should be noted that Page 2-68 does not address a reinternment site. The already permitted reinternment site at Wai'auia is for native Hawaiian burials, and is regulated under Title 13, Chapter 300, HAR. These types of native Hawaiian reinternment burials do not fall under State regulations applicable to cemeteries for the general public. State laws and rules on cemeteries thus do not need to be made explicit in the DEIS, and the permitted reinternment site is not part of the Kawainui-Hāmākua project. You should consult with the City Board of Water Supply on questions regarding an EA for the reinternment site. Hawaiian Memorial Park does not need to be considered as an alternative because the reinternment site is not proposed under this project and is already permitted. As discussed, native Hawaiian burials fall under separate regulations from cemeteries.

p. *Wai'auia Cultural Center - The cultural practices facility is the fourth or fifth non-profit cultural facility proposed in the plan.*

1) *Why are so many such facilities needed in one community?*
Response: The cultural center at Wai'auia would have a different focus on the types of cultural programs and activities. Section 2.2.2 discusses the objectives for cultural resources management. Support for cultural centers were received throughout the planning process. Only the Wai'auia and Kapa'a cultural sites fall within DOFAW's jurisdictional areas, and use of both sites is appropriate for cultural practices, provides increased educational programs, and supports increased stewardship of areas. As already discussed, the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site has now been eliminated from this project.

2) *The facility proposed includes a center for Hawaiian studies in performing and literary arts. This would appear to require permanent educational structures not shown on the area map. Only a halau and hula mound are depicted. What other structures will be included?*
Response: The cultural center at Wai'auia is proposed to have permanent structures to support operations, programs, and activities. Figure 2.12 of the DEIS shows proposed structures that are more than just a hālau and hula mound, and Section 2.2.4 discusses this use and proposed activities.

3) *Will buses be allowed in the parking lot? Will fees be charged for public access and performances? Will an EA be prepared for the final design and will it be an agency or applicant action ?*
Response: The small parking lot proposed for this center would not be able to accommodate school buses. Activities at this cultural center would likely require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations for educational or cultural classes, programs, etc. to support operations. A separate EA would not be required for this cultural center as discussed under response No. 1 unless future plans for this site change significantly from that currently proposed.

q. *Levee to Ulupo - What will be the construction materials, including the footing, for the 365-foot boardwalk? What is the cost of the boardwalk? How and when will it be funded? What was the cost per foot of the Maui example of a boardwalk given? Will there be public parking for residents at Wai'auia to access the trail to Ulupo?*
Response: The section of the pedestrian trail that included the boardwalk has been eliminated from this project. Boardwalk costs were included as part of pedestrian costs in Table 2.8., and materials could have consisted of wood or composite decking. Funding and phasing for improvements were discussed in Section 2.2.8. Your interest in the cost per lineal foot for the boardwalk on Maui should be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The cost for that development is not applicable to this project because it was completed several years ago. Project costs are presented in Table 2.8, and this information is sufficient to address project effects. As discussed in Section 2.2.4, some parking stalls would be available for the public to use at Wai'auia to access the levee. The pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau has been removed from this project.

r. *Ulupo Heiau - The City and County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that was approved for the expansion of the neighboring YMCA required additional parking. The expansion has been completed but the additional parking has not yet been provided. Does the State intend to purchase the YMCA land needed for the YMCA parking?*
Response: The Windward YMCA is responsible for any additional parking required at Ulupō Heiau as part of their entitlements. Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS discussed the status of DSP's coordination with the YMCA. DSP is not planning to acquire YMCA property for the purposes of satisfying the YMCA's additional parking requirements.

s. *Page 2-74: Hamakua-Pu'uoehu. Subarea E.*

1) *The program staging area and restroom are very close to residential homes only a few feet away. Were those residents notified?*
Response: Neighboring residents were not notified directly about this project. However, public notifications of this project were distributed throughout the

community and through social media as discussed in the DEIS. DOFAW will coordinate with neighboring residents at Hāmākua as appropriate.

2) *The three trails are a visual intrusion to the landscape that is identified as part of an important view plane by the Kooluapoko Sustainable Communities Plan.*
Response: We disagree that the trails planned along the Pu'uoehu hillside for DOFAW restoration and maintenance activities will be a significant visual intrusion to that landscape. Such trails would likely be difficult to see due to screening by the existing tall vegetation present on the hillside. Furthermore, existing commercial and industrial uses along Hāmākua Drive block all views of the hillside along that roadway section. The City's Ko'olau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan identifies the viewplane of this hillside area as occurring from South Kainalu Drive at Kailua District Park, which is over 0.5 miles away and has views largely obscured by Kailua Town development. Maintenance trails would thus have negligible effect on such views.

3) *The erosion that will occur, like the pill box and Maunawili trails, plus the fire hazard created by numerous hikers during the dry season makes the trails a bad idea adjacent to an urban community if just for safety reasons. We can learn from the California fires and mud slides. The fence proposed will affect the view of the area from Hamakua Drive. What are the cost, design and materials of the fence?*
Response: Erosion would not occur for these maintenance trails like the examples provided (e.g. Pill Box). As discussed in Section 2.2.4, these trails would not be open to the general public. They would support DOFAW reforestation and management efforts, and therefore would not host numerous hikers, fire hazards, or cause safety issues for the public. Proposed fencing along the maintenance trail would support DOFAW management activities and would not affect the view of this hillside from Hāmākua Drive. Such wire fencing would be similar to other perimeter fencing planned as shown on Exhibit 2.15 of the DEIS (4-foot-tall), and would be screened by existing vegetation along the hillside. The costs for such "hog wire" fence ($3 to $5 per foot) would be modest (about $25,000 per mile), and are part of maintenance trail costs (Table 2.8). Design and costs have negligible relevance to addressing project physical impacts.

t. *Pages 2-77 and 2-78: Program and Visitor Activity Estimates.*
The estimate of the number of visitors to Ulupo Heiau does not mention the two tour buses with up to 47 seats each that visit Ulupo. Additionally, according to the estimates, the number of people using the areas on a daily basis approximately equals the 100 person limit currently established by DLNR. Also, the estimates given for the three non-profit facilities of 115 appears to be inconsistent with your estimate of 9,950 visitors per month.
Response: There are no permitted commercial tour buses that visit the Ulupō Heiau site on a daily basis that need to be accounted for in the estimate of existing visitors. Prior unauthorized commercial visitation by large tour buses has been addressed by DSP coordinating with the Windward YMCA. As discussed, in Section 2.2.5, existing estimates are based upon multiple sources and are reasonable.
The Ulupō Heiau site is a State park under DSP jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not part of DOFAW's Kawainui wildlife sanctuary, and is not subject to any commercial visitor

limit. We do not see your reference in this section to 115 visitors for three non-profit facilities, but the 9,950 visitors per month on Table 2.6 is correct.

u. *Page 2-82: The total projected visitor activity is 9,950 persons per month, which is a large increase over your estimate of current visitors - 2,960. This should be made explicit.*
The estimate of 6,000 visitors per month for the Education Center is inconsistent with your statements that the Education Center and the other non-profits developments will not be open to visitors, and that commercial permits (including tours) will not be issued. Why is there this discrepancy?
How will the non-profits fund their facilities without charging users for visits or events?
Response: The information discussing projected visitor activity is sufficiently explicit to objectively discuss the changes, and does not need to subjectively characterize this activity. Your opinion that this is a "large increase" is acknowledged. However, the projected change translates into about 250 persons a day that is a reasonable and manageable level of activity.
As discussed in Section 2.2.3 and other sections of Chapter 2, the education center is intended to serve as a management center for public access within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku upland area. This area, under DSP jurisdiction, would be open for the general public to visit Kawainui and participate in programs or utilize pedestrian and foot trails. The cultural centers planned at Kapa'a and Wai'auia would not be open to the general public. Private commercial tour operators are not planned to be issued permits to visit the education center. There is no discrepancy in the projections. The prior responses under No. 5.f and 6.p above, discuss that non-profit organizations would charge entrance fees, fees for classes, etc. to support operation of facilities.

v. *Page 2-92: You note that all design guidelines are preliminary. Does this mean that the EIS is preliminary or programmatic?*
You also state that "Finalized design guidelines would be included in the final master plan." Will an EA be prepared for the final master plan when the designs and other unknowns may be available?
Response: Section 2.2.7 discusses design guidelines. This information is sufficient to support project details already provided in the DEIS and to address project effects. There is no State programmatic EIS as already addressed in response No. 1. A separate EA is not required for the final master plan, and the project information included in the DEIS is sufficient to identify project effects.

w. *Page 2-96, Table 2.8: The overall cost estimate is nearly $67,000,000. How will this be funded? Which developments have priority for funding? Will there be phasing?*
We understand that the cost estimates for the non-profit facilities (even though they have not been designed) are: Wai'auia - $2,430,000
Kapa'a Cultural Center - $7,870,000
Ulupo Heiau - $630,000
Education Center - $5,450,000.
How firm are these estimates? How will they be funded?
Response: Funding from the State Legislature would be required for the majority of improvements listed in Table 2.8. The project phasing discussed in Section 2.2.8 identifies improvements with a higher priority. Section 2.2.8 states that priority would be given to areas already accessible to the public, where the community has initiated

restoration and other programs. DOFAW would utilize adaptive management to identify priority as restoration and situations evolve. Section 2.2.8 states the non-profit organizations would be responsible for funding of the cultural centers, but DSP would fund the education center construction and Ulupō Heiau improvements. The costs are estimates, would be subject to final design of improvements, and are sufficient to identify impacts associated with the project.

x. *Page 3-7, Section 3.1.1.2: You state "Design of site improvements and facilities would be developed by the non- profit organizations." Would further EA be required prior to implementation of the improvements and facilities?*
Response: No further EA would be required for improvements as already discussed under response No. 1.

y. *Page 3-99: "...efforts to improve coastal water quality should focus on improving the quality of ...Kawainui canal and Kaelepulu Stream. Agreed, but see earlier comments re. the siphon project.*
Response: Please refer to response 6.c. regarding your siphon suggestion.

z. *Page 4-82, Para 3: Says the plan will not increase commercial visitors. However, the plan estimates that there will be 9,950 visitors per month (Table 2.6). Are you saying that tourists are not commercial?*
Response: Yes, visitors can consist of residents, off-island State residents, or visitors from out of State. Tourists are visitors. Your opposition to "commercial visitors" refers to persons touring an area as part of a privately-operated commercial tour, which are not planned to be issued for this project.

aa. *Page 4-83: You say that the Education Center will not be commercial. It would accommodate non-commercial visitors consisting of Kailua residents, Oahu residents and visitors to the Island. But they will sell books, crafts or food. Is that not commercial?*
City and County zoning considers that commercial, is the State different?
Response: Prior responses under No. 5.f and 6.p discuss that non-profit organizations can charge entrance fees, fees for classes, etc. to support operation of facilities. Transactions to support operations by non-profit organizations are allowed, and commonly occur at many visitor centers. Restricting commercial tour groups is being applied to this project to address opposition to visitors. The first paragraph of this page states that "commercial tours" would not be allowed, unless permitted by DSP. The City zoning code does not restrict selling of books, entrance fees, etc. as part of education or visitor centers at State or City parks (e.g. Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden).

bb. *Page 5-8, 5-13: Wastewater Facilities.*
You say that there is no sewer service along Kapa'a Quarry Road to serve the proposed facilities, and that the future design phase would evaluate wastewater flows and treatment requirements in greater detail including the septic tank absorption bed. Because these are critical facilities surrounding the water of the wetland, detailed information needs to be prepared before impacts of the facilities can be evaluated.
Response: Sufficient information on wastewater improvements are provided in the DEIS to adequately address project effects. Section 5.2 includes projected daily demand and septic tank size requirements. As with any project evaluated under the environmental review process, detailed plans are developed later during final project design. The project's wastewater improvements would need to follow state design

requirements, and construction plans will be reviewed and approved by the State DOH. Proposed septic tank systems would have minimal or negligible impact on Kawainui's waters or wetland. This wetland receives discharges from significantly larger areas with extensive urban development. The DEIS analysis shows that this wetland has not been negatively impacted by these discharges and is performing its natural function to remove pollutants.

cc. *Page 6-29:Conservation District Use Permit (COUP) OA-3068 (2002).*
This COUP permits Kawainui Marsh improvements to be made by DLNR. As you say, it expired in 2012, and was given a 10-year extension to 2022 by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).Our understanding is that the BLNR may only approve two-year extensions, and that a new permit may be required.
Response: The Land Board may issue extensions longer than two years, and has already done so for CDUP OA-3068 as discussed in Section 6.3.3.

dd. *Page 6-45:Aloha+ Challenge.*
The DEIS incorrectly interprets the "Natural Resource Management" objective of the Governor's Aloha+
Challenge. The objective is to "reverse the trend" of losses of natural resources, not to add to it as does the proposed plans' assault on endangered species control(sending humans into the sanctuary), as well as the lack of the prescribed Community Based Marine Management of the wetland's water areas (non-removal of the peat mat, lack of flow in Kawainui Stream, etc).
Response: Project restoration, reforestation, and educational initiatives facilitated by proposed improvements would reverse the trend of natural resource loss at Kawainui and Hāmākua. We disagree that other project improvements, such as pedestrian trails and education and cultural centers, would result in an "assault" on endangered waterbird species. The analysis of the DEIS shows that such improvements and activities would not significantly impact waterbirds. Activities are restricted to upland areas, and persons would not enter the wetland.
As stated in the DEIS Aloha+ Challenge discussion, reversal of natural resource loss trends for areas outside the project area and DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction are not proposed because these agencies do not have ownership or jurisdiction for this property. Therefore, community-based marine management objectives are not applicable to the project. However, benefits to marine areas downstream of these wetlands would occur from restoration improvements that would enhance the pollutant filtration functions of Kawainui and Hāmākua.

ee. *Page 7-11: Concerns with Commercial Activities.*
You say that the community has a misunderstanding of the commercialactivities in the proposed plan. Yet your tables show an increase to 9,950 visitors per month, and admit sales at the Education Center and fees at Wai'auia. How do you explain that discrepancy?
Response: There is no discrepancy in the DEIS discussion in this section on community concerns with for-profit commercial tour operations, which are being restricted. Your concerns and opposition are against visitors in general, and particularly tourists visiting as part of commercial tours. Section 2.2.5 explains what the term "visitors" entails and Section 2.1 discusses the project objective to improve public access, which includes visitors. Various management actions are proposed to restrict commercial tour groups

from the project area to address your concerns. As already discussed, entrance fees, sales from the education center, or charges for classes or programs are allowed and support the operation of these centers by non-profit organizations. Such operations are different from privately-operated commercial tour operators.

6. The following responses address the additional general comments provided.
   a. *Comprehensive Security Plan for the Area: What steps will be taken to ensure security after hours and what is the comprehensive security plan for the entire project?*
   Response: A comprehensive security plan is not required as sufficient information and details are already discussed in the DEIS to address this subject. The cultural centers operated by non-profit organizations would be responsible for the operations and security of guests participating in activities at their facilities. Facilities would be appropriately designed and secured. The cultural center at Kapa'a is proposing a structure for a permanent caretaker to monitor and secure the site. The education center and other facilities would be appropriately closed, secured and locked at the end of the day similar to other State park facilities.
   Public safety is important for this project as upland areas are made available for public access in a phased and managed manner as discussed in the DEIS. Such management efforts include: adding DOCARE officers; opening areas for public access only when DOFAW and DSP are able to manage them (phased implementation); increasing stewardship partnerships that expand monitoring of activities; and allowing the education center to serve an important management function as the primary point of entrance and orientation for visitors to that area. Furthermore, additional sections of the pedestrian trail have been eliminated to address concerns on the DEIS. Thus, the only remaining sections of the trail would be along upland areas from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku and from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station. Persons using trails would need to exercise common sense and typical precautions when visiting, which is no different from persons visiting other trails or State parks.
   b. *Waterbird protection: Kawainui is a unique small wetland habitat necessary to sustain four endangered bird species. Where does the DEIS address the impact of 6,000 additional visitors per month on these waterbirds throughout the year? Where does the DEIS address the curtailment of human activities during fledgling season?*
   Response: Kawainui is not a small wetland habitat area for endangered waterbirds, and includes over 740 acres of wetland. Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS addresses the project's effect on waterbirds and discusses measures to minimize impacts. Visitors would not be allowed to enter the wetland and would use observation decks or other designated viewing areas. Interaction with waterbirds should be minimal because visitor access would be limited to specific areas and along pedestrian trails. Vegetative buffers are planned along wetland fringes to provide separation from open water areas, mud flats, and wetland vegetation. Once facilities and other improvements are completed allowing public access, appropriate signage and Informational and Educational (I&E) signage would be placed predominately to notify visitors of the site's importance, the legal status of the protected waterbirds, and the restrictions on public usage and behavior. If necessary, DOFAW may also impose additional restrictions on public access within certain areas or times of year, e.g., during bird nesting season as discussed in Section 2.2.5. DOFAW can restrict access to certain areas if waterbird nesting sites

are established within more popular visitor areas. DOFAW could also construct low fencing along pertinent sections of the wetland perimeter that would physically restrict access to areas along the wetland fringe.

c. *Pavements: If permeable pavement is used, how will pollutants from vehicles be prevented from entering the wetland and streams? If gravel is used anywhere within the project, how will the gravel be prevented from migrating into the wetland and streams?*

Response: Parking areas would include permeable pavement material and environmentally-friendly design measures (e.g. bioswales). Vegetated landscape depressions and swales would allow storm water runoff from parking lots to be collected and detained, and vegetation to absorb pollutants similar to the wetland function in removing pollutants. Overall, pollutants from vehicles using parking lots would have negligible or minimal effect on wetlands as discussed in Section 3.4.5. Runoff from all project improvements at Kawainui would account for only about 0.3 percent of the total estimated runoff discharging into Kawainui, and parking lots would account for an even smaller percentage of this volume. In comparison, the majority of storm water runoff into Kawainui is from streams (53%) that transport far more pollutants from mauka urban areas (e.g. residences, streets). The drainage systems serving State highways (Kalaniana'ole Highway has about 50,000 cars a day) and City drainage systems for surrounding urban development also contribute far more pollutants from cars and activities. Kawainui's wetland is naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Improvements at Hāmākua intended to support DOFAW operations and programs are smaller in scope and would have even less of an effect on that wetland. Gravel is not expected to migrate into the wetland and streams from its use with parking areas or pedestrian trails. The majority of trails would be grassed or unpaved foot trails. Parking lots and trails are located within upland areas that are sufficient distances away from the wetland. If a few loose gravel fragments do migrate into the wetland or streams, the effects would be negligible and would not negatively impact these resources. Gravel and other smaller rock fragments are already dispersed into streams from mauka areas and surrounding urban development that eventually get discharged in Kawainui's wetland.

d. The following responses address your questions on night events.

1) *Will overnight camping be permitted within the boundaries of Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh? If so, how many nights a year and how many permits will be granted per month, per year?*

Response: Overnight camping is not proposed at either Kawainui or Hāmākua, therefore, no permits are planned to be issued for such use.

2) *Will overnight stays be allowed at the Education Center Pohakea, Wai'auia Cultural Center, Kapa'a Cultural Center, kauhale Complex, Pohakea, Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, Ulupo Heiau and Kalaheo Park? If so how many nights will be allowed each month and each year for each of the above facilities? How many consecutive nights will be permitted for each facility each month, each year?*

Response: The education center and kauhale at Pōhakea are proposed for day use only. The cultural center at Kapa'a is planning to have a structure to accommodate a caretaker to reside on site to manage and provide monitoring and security. The

cultural center at Wai'auia is not planning to have overnight stays or camping. The Kapa'a and Wai'auia cultural centers could have activities that run into the night, such as classes or programs, and such activities do not require a permit since they would be part of the non-profit organization's operations. Nā Pōhaku, Ulupō Heiau and the Kalāheo site do not support overnight camping or stays, and existing activities have not required overnight stays. These park sites would be closed at the end of the day. Therefore information on the number of overnight stays is not applicable.

3) *What time will Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh close to visitors every day of the week? Will the Education Center Pohakea, Wai'auia Cultural Center, Kapa'a Cultural Center, kauhale Complex, Pohakea, Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, Ulupo Heiau and Kalaheo Park be open at night? If so, what are the days and hours each will be open.*

Response: Hāmākua Marsh is not open to the general public. Operational activities, educational and cultural programs would occur during daylight hours because night lighting is not provided. The scheduling of such programs would be coordinated with DOFAW, and the entrance gate would be secured at the end of the day.

At Kawainui, the education center and kauhale complex would operate during normal daylight hours, typical with other State park facilities. Specific operating days and times would be determined by the non-profit organization managing the center, or by DSP. Nā Pōhaku and Ulupō Heiau would continue to be closed at the end of the day since no night lighting is provided. The park site at Kalāheo would operate daily during daylight hours typical with other parks.

e. *Aquifer protection: The Project is located within the high-level groundwater Waimanalo Aquifer system with water that is considered irreplaceable. Since "Kawainui serves as a basin for surface water flow into the wetlands and provides some recharge of the groundwater aquifer system" what precautions and mitigation measures are in place in Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands to prevent human-induced contaminants from migrating into the groundwater?*

Response: The Kawainui-Hāmākua project site is within a groundwater area consisting of a caprock aquifer resting on a basalt aquifer. The caprock aquifer is not used as a drinking water source, and is replaceable as discussed in Section 3.4.2. The basalt aquifer beneath corresponds to groundwater that is currently used, but not as an ecological or drinking water source, is irreplaceable, and has a low vulnerability to contamination. Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands naturally function as large basin traps for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from waters discharged into it from streams, drainage systems, and upland surface runoff. Therefore, these wetlands currently do not require precautions or mitigative measures to prevent effects on the underlying caprock aquifer. This project site is not an area used for drinking water, and is below (makai of) the State DOH's underground injection control (UIC) program line as discussed in Section 3.4.2. Under the UIC program, the project site overlies exempted aquifers from underground source drinking water. Exempted aquifers are those that: 1) do not currently serve as a source of drinking water; and 2) will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water. Therefore, no additional mitigative measures beyond those best management practices

and measures already discussed in the DEIS are needed to address pollutants or other contaminants.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife OFAW at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

2.3.4 Other Alternatives Considered

Alternative plans have been suggested by certain organizations for consideration instead of the proposed project concepts. These alternatives were considered, but have been eliminated from further consideration because of various reasons such as they do not support the project's purpose and need or were not feasible and practicable to implement. The alternative plans generally support wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements proposed under the project. However, alternatives differ in the area of public access and cultural practices. In summary, the common theme proposed under these alternatives was eliminating most if not all reasonable public access and support facilities within the project site, and providing minimal support for cultural practices. These suggested alternatives are summarized.

~~**Kailua Neighborhood Board Recommendations**~~ **Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation**

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) Planning, Zoning and Environment Committee supported a Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation plan they refer to as "The Community Plan" ~~proposed their version of a plan~~ as an alternative. This ~~version of the~~ plan was adopted by the Committee in October 2013, and received the Board's support at their November 2013 meeting. Exhibit 2.23 includes the map of ~~their~~ this alternative plan showing all facilities instead proposed.

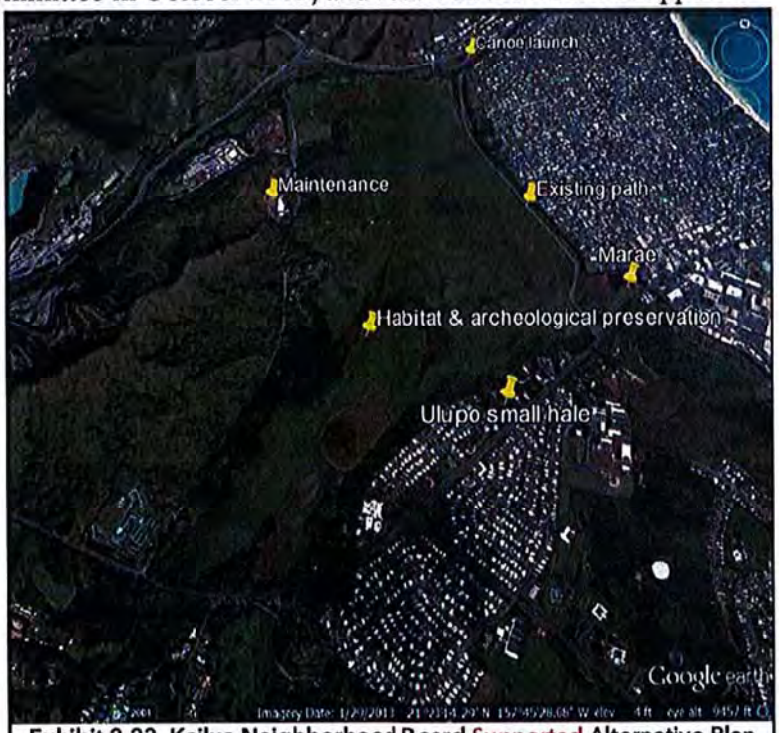

Exhibit 2.23 Kailua Neighborhood Board Supported Alternative Plan ~~Proposed~~

The plan was prepared by some Kailua and Waimanalo residents, including the President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (at the time) and the Chairperson (at the time) of the KNB. However, it is noted that The Community Plan has never been supported by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club up to today. The KNB has explained that this plan was first presented to certain community organizations that included the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep It Kailua, and Hawaii's Thousands Friends. Only after these organizations endorsed The Community Plan, did the KNB review and endorse it.

to expand existing structures or to provide additional amenities. Requests to diversify and increase ~~the~~ programmatic offerings may occur, such as cultural or environmental programs with Hawaii schools, or offering opportunities to non-residents such as volunteer/service tourism for students from other parts of the U.S. Expansion of proposed facilities beyond the scope proposed by this project would require separate environmental review to determine the merit and effect of the expansion. Necessary land use entitlements would also be need to be obtained.

Similarly, cultural center facilities would be limited to those proposed by the project and are expected to accommodate higher participation levels. Activity levels projected for the cultural centers are reasonable. The actual increase in participants is not expected to be significantly greater than levels projected. Facilities would be developed in phases, subject to the finances of stewarding organizations. As a result, it is reasonable to expect that the increase in program participants would occur gradually over time. Therefore, it is unlikely that facility expansion beyond the scope proposed by this project would be needed with minimal secondary impacts on the environment anticipated.

Demand for and participation in programs held at proposed facilities beyond levels projected would be a beneficial secondary effect. This secondary effect would result in more students and residents learning and benefitting from the programs. Increased participation is not expected to cause significant adverse secondary impacts to the environment, infrastructure, or public facilities. Additional details supporting this determination are discussed in Section 7.2.

Expansion of Commercial Activities. Opening of new scenic and recreational areas ~~will inevitably~~ could attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities—such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, unless allowed by permit, individuals may seek "creative ways" to bypass restrictions. The project should not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment from secondary effects related to unauthorized commercial activities at Kawainui. Sufficient management practices are proposed to address the unauthorized commercial activities discussed. These management practices include phasing the expansion of public access to the project area, restricting areas available for public access, and enforcing prohibitions on unauthorized commercial activities. In particular, enforcement activities would be conducted by DOCARE with additional officers needed. DOFAW and DSP would not expand access to the project area if staffing capacity to conduct enforcement is unavailable. These management practices would alleviate concerns voiced by some community members regarding the expansion of commercial activities in the project area. ~~Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also requires financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists.~~

~~A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent project area parks generate revenue, these earnings should remain in the park system rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state's general fund. Funds raised by community partners should be used to support their project area programs.~~

Other Development Pressures. Development pressure on adjacent project area land is a potential secondary impact. The periphery of Kawainui Marsh is already occupied by many existing institutional and residential uses. Numerous commercial establishments also line Hāmākua Drive adjacent to Hāmākua Marsh. There have been previous proposals to expand urban uses around the marsh. Some proposals encountered public opposition and were halted. Others, such as the relatively recent Kawainui Vista subdivision adjacent to St. John Lutheran Church, were completed. Beneficial impacts to the project area from the project may result in adjacent lands becoming coveted for urban development. Proposed development adjacent to the project area would require an extensive land use approval process at both the State and County levels, and is likely to encounter strong community and governmental opposition. Project improvements would not affect the core factors (e.g. neighborhood beach town character, access to popular beaches) contributing to the desirability of living in Kailua. Therefore, the project would to support secondary effects related to the expansion of residential or commercial developments in the area. The decision of Kailua landowners to pursue development expansion would be based on other relevant economic driven factors. ~~Project initiatives are clearly defined and are limited in scope. They are intended to further environmental, recreational and cultural objectives. That said, there are existing social, economic, and market conditions at work that can contribute to pressures to expand project initiatives beyond those currently proposed.~~

~~7~~8 RATIONALE FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE PROJECT NOTWITHSTANDING UNAVOIDABLE EFFECTS

The project would not cause short- or long-term adverse effects that cannot be avoided or minimized. Section 7.5 discusses mitigation measures and best management practices that would be implemented to minimize anticipated adverse impacts. Despite anticipated adverse impacts requiring mitigation, the primary reasons for proceeding with the project includes the need to restore project area wetland and upland regions; improve habitat for endangered waterbird recovery; integrate a stronger native Hawaiian presence at Kawainui Marsh; integrate cultural practices, educational programing, and resource stewardship in the project area; create opportunities for public enjoyment of project area natural and cultural resources; enact initiatives that facilitating improved land management and public access responsibilities for DOFAW and DSP.

~~1.8~~9 UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors to Kailua as a whole by some organizations and members of the community, and any project

2.2.1.4 Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

The construction of maintenance roads is proposed in upland areas to support DOFAW's management and maintenance operations within Kawainui-Hāmākua. Existing maintenance roads presently consist of dirt trails located within some upland areas of the Kahanaiki area, at Mokulana, and at DOFAW's management and research station. Existing access roads being used would be improved to better support maintenance vehicles, transport of equipment, and reduce erosion. Additional access roads along the southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would also be created to support maintenance of the restoration ponds and connect DOFAW's management and research station with Mokulana, and eventually with the Kahanaiki area.

Maintenance roads would generally be located well inland, however, vegetation buffers would be provided between certain sections of the road and the wetland, as appropriate. The roads would generally be about 10 feet wide, and could be constructed of compacted gravel, soil or reinforced grass. Only DOFAW vehicles or other authorized users would be allowed to use these roads.

A bridge ~~Bridges~~ would need to be constructed over Maunawili Stream ~~and Kahanaiki Stream~~ along the southern section of Kawainui ~~generally along Kalaniana'ole Highway~~ to connect access roads serving DOFAW's management station and the Mokulana peninsula to support management activities~~through these areas~~. The specific design of ~~these~~ this bridge~~s~~ would be developed during the design phase ~~of these improvements~~ when implemented. However, this bridge~~s are~~ is proposed to span over ~~these streams~~ Maunawili Stream to not impact ~~their~~ its bed or banks. A bridge across Kahanaiki Stream is no longer required because the pedestrian trail connecting the Kahanaiki upland area with Mokulana has been eliminated.

The new DOFAW maintenance road bridge spanning over Maunawili Stream could be a single span bridge superstructure consisting of pre-cast, prestressed solid planks, and a composite concrete topping. The bridge could have a span about 25 to 30 feet in length and 12 to 16 feet wide within the bridge railings. It would accommodate one travel lane to support DOFAW maintenance vehicles and equipment transport.

Some segments of maintenance roads could also serve as pedestrian trails during specified periods as determined by DOFAW. At Pu'uoehu hillside, a maintenance trail is planned about midway up the hillside along with along the top of the ridgeline to support future reforestation and management efforts.

A predator control program currently in operation would continue and be expanded throughout the project areas as larger areas are restored. Effective predator control would become more important as improved waterbird habitat is created and nesting activity increases. Traps would continue to be the primary predator control method utilized to control mongoose and feral cats. Traps would generally be established around the perimeter of the upper reaches of the wetland and extend into the upland areas.

KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

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Comments by the Kailua Neighborhood Board
on DEIS for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project
February 1, 2018

Aloha Mr. Sato,

The comments and questions contained in this letter were unanimously approved by the Kailua Neighborhood Board at its regular meeting on February 1, 2018.

The Kailua Neighborhood Board has reviewed the document Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We have also reviewed our comments on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) and your responses to those. We support the plan's wetland restoration and reforestation improvements that would enhance habitat for endangered waterbirds.

We want to first point out that the plan you refer to as the Kailua Neighborhood Board plan is actually titled: **"Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."** (The Community Plan). The genesis of the plan was specifically explained to the community and HHF Planners on a number of occasions including the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) presentation at your November 30, 2013 "Envisioning Kawainui" meeting at Le Jardin School. As was explained, the plan was prepared by Kailua and Waimanalo residents including the President (at the time) of the Hawaiian Civic Club and the Chairperson (at the time) of the KNB. The plan was first presented to community organizations including the LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep It Kailua, and Hawaii's Thousands Friends. Only after these organizations endorsed the Community Plan, did the KNB review it and endorse it. Your error must be corrected in the final EIS along with your comments on the Community Plan that are not consistent with these facts. Please refer to your copy.
The Community Plan is a brief, but comprehensive, document that supports restoration, preservation and maintenance of the Kawainui Marsh including DLNR facilities and the continuance of the cultural activities at Ulupo, Cash ranch (Kekuha O' Kualii), Na Pohaku, and adds a cultural site at Wai'auia. It recommends habitat enhancement and removal of the "peat mat."

In addition, as an existing plan, the Community Plan must be addressed as an alternative in the DEIS along with your discussions of the "do nothing" alternative and the proposed plan. Your stated basis for dismissing the Community Plan is not consistent with its genesis or its content.

Additional Comments are as follows:

Page 7: You state that there will be road and drainage improvements on Kapa'a Quarry Road, but fail to explain how this will be accomplished given the City and County and private ownership of portions of the area slated for these improvements.

Page 8: You state that design features can be incorporated, but do not explain what or how, or any impacts or mitigations.

Page 9: Re. impact on birds from visitors - you say "Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) **may** enact mitigation measures." Will they? When? What are they? What is the cost?

Page 14: We understand that Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants allow for the recreational component to be provided off site. This should be addressed.

Page 23: "Sustainment of educational and cultural programs … cannot rely on volunteers alone." How many employees will be required and who will pay for them and the maintenance required?

Page 23: "A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored." This contradicts statements made in many parts of the DEIS that, except for 100 persons per day, commercial activities will not be permitted. Also, how can anyone examine the impacts and mitigations of "may be explored"?

Page 24: You say the only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors. Strong concerns have also been raised concerning removal of the peat mat as a priority, increased flood protection, intrusion of humans in the Bird Sanctuary, and others.

Chapter 1.
Page 1-2: States that the applicant is DOFAW and Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As explained in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) 11-200 this is an "agency action." Yet Table 1-1 includes actions by non-profit organizations which are not agencies. Their activities would be "applicant actions." No Environmental Assessment (EA) for applicant actions has been submitted. The accepting authority for an EIS may also differ.

Chapter 2.
Page 2-9: The list of plans does not include the **"Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."**

Page 2-30: Item 5. Peat Mat Zone states "an area important for Kawainui flood control capability … would remained unchanged." Removal of the peat mat is critical to improving the restoration of the wetland and flood retention capability of the Kawainui Marsh. A major flaw in the proposed plan is that it does not include this necessary remediation. It is included as a priority in the "Community Plan."

Related to this is a matter that is not addressed in the proposed plan. This is the provision of a permanent siphon facility over the dike transmitting water from the Kawainui Marsh into Kawainui Stream. As many people in Kailua know, this system was tested by a temporary DLNR demonstration project. A letter received from DLNR acknowledged that the test was a success in remediating the flow problems in Kawainui Stream without adding to flood potential in the Coconut Grove area. This facility should be addressed as part of the DEIS because it is a critical project related to the water quality of the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes.

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Other culverts **would** be identified.
Culvert repair **could** involve.
Drainage improvements **would likely be.**
Other measures **could** include.
Drainage swales **could**.

Given that these facilities are directly related to runoff, speculation concerning them - the would (later), could (or maybe not) are an insufficient assessment of the impacts. Is it correct for us to assume that these culvert projects will be assessed in a future EA before implementation?

Page 2-37: You state storm water improvements are necessary in the area along residences near DOFAW's Hamakua entrance due to flooding. What are the details of the improvements, when will they be constructed, and at what cost?

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Page 2-44: The map shows two bridges 191 feet and 644 feet long in the wetland for trails and vehicles, plus four boardwalks. What construction procedures and materials will be used for these in the wetland, and what would be their impact?

Page 2-45: You state that the design of accessory facilities and the Education Center would be determined during the design phase. How can impacts of facilities that are not yet designed be assessed? Are we correct to assume that there will be a future EA for these facilities?

Page 2-48: "Examples of learning projects … include…." Examples do not provide information on impacts of what will be done. Specifics of what will be done are necessary.

Page 2-53: Kahanaiki area.
Approximately 25 parking stalls are proposed. How many of them are for buses? What specifically will the pavement consist of? Proposed is a septic tank for the restroom. What is the size of the system, and will the soils in the area preclude leaching of effluent into the wetland?

Page 2-54: Education Center.
Only a conceptual layout of the Education Center is provided as in a programmable EIS. Details to evaluate impacts are absent. Will a future EA be prepared by the Department of State Parks (DSP) or the Request for Proposal (RFP) selectee for the final design? Will that EA be an agency or an applicant action?

Page 2-60: Kapa'a area (Kapa'a Cultural Complex).
Same comment as in Page 2-54 above. Also, the proposed cultural complex appears to duplicate the activities at the Education Center kauhale. Why are both needed?
Why is a water storage component required?
Is the restroom and caretaker house served by the same septic system, and is the system feasible given the soils, its proximity to the wetland, and the former landfill site?
Will structures meet the commercial fire code?
Re. last paragraph - What are the specific adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds, and the specific mitigative measures to be utilized? Without this information there is no way to assess the effect of the facility on the endangered birds.
Page 2-62: Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalaheo section.
Will the parking area accommodate buses? What are the sizes of the buildings? What specific cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank will be done to enable safe canoe access to the canal? How much will DLNR have to increase its 100 person daily visitor limit to accommodate the park canoe education activity? What are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' requirements for design of the canoe launching facility? What effect will the canoe building and repair have on community noise and the water quality in the canal? Will access be limited to or by the successful bidder, or will it be open to the public? How many visitors and buses a day will be permitted?

Page 2-65: Wai'auia.
Only conceptual plans are provided as in a programmable assessment. Specific plans are needed to evaluate impacts.

Page 2-68: A burial or re-internment site is a cemetery. State laws and rules concerning cemeteries should be made explicit. Has an EA for the re-internment project been done or contemplated by DLNR or Board of Water Supply (BWS)? Why is Hawaiian Memorial Park not considered as an alternative?

Wai'auia Cultural Center - The cultural practices facility is the fourth or fifth non-profit cultural facility proposed in the plan. Why are so many such facilities needed in one community?
The facility proposed includes a center for Hawaiian studies in performing and literary arts. This would appear to require permanent educational structures not shown on the area map. Only a Halau and hula mound are depicted. What other structures will be included?
Will buses be allowed in the parking lot? Will fees be charged for public access and performances? Will an EA be prepared for the final design, and will it be an agency or applicant action?

Levee to Ulupo - What will be the construction materials, including the footing, for the 365-foot boardwalk? What is the cost of the boardwalk? How and when will it be funded? What was the cost per foot of the Maui example of a boardwalk given?
Will there be public parking for residents at Wai'auia to access the trail to Ulupo?

Ulupo Heiau - The City and County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that was approved for the expansion of the neighboring YMCA required additional parking. The expansion has been completed but the additional parking has not yet been provided. Does the State intend to purchase the YMCA land needed for the YMCA parking?

Page 2-74: Hamakua-Pu'uoehu. Subarea E.
The program staging area and restroom are very close to residential homes only a few feet away. Were those residents notified? The three trails are a visual intrusion to the landscape that is identified as part of an important view plane by the Kooluapoko Sustainable Communities Plan.
The erosion that will occur, like the pill box and Maunawili trails, plus the fire hazard created by numerous hikers during the dry season, makes the trails a bad idea adjacent to a suburban community if just for safety reasons. We can learn from the California fires and mud slides.
The fence proposed will affect the view of the area from Hamakua Drive. What are the cost, design and materials of the fence?

Pages 2-77 and 2-78: Program and Visitor Activity Estimates.
The estimate of the number of visitors to Ulupo Heiau does not mention the two tour buses with up to 47 seats each that visit Ulupo. Additionally, according to the estimates, the number of people using the areas on a daily basis approximately equals the 100 person limit currently established by DLNR. Also, the estimates given for the three non-profit facilities of 115 appears to be inconsistent with your estimate of 9,950 visitors per month.

Page 2-82: The total projected visitor activity is 9,950 persons per month, which is a large increase over your estimate of current visitors - 2,960. This should be made explicit.
The estimate of 6,000 visitors per month for the Education Center is inconsistent with your statements that the Education Center and the other non-profits developments will not be open to visitors, and that commercial permits (including tours) will not be issued. Why is there this discrepancy?
How will the non-profits fund their facilities without charging users for visits or events?

Page 2-92: You note that all design guidelines are preliminary. Does this mean that the EIS is preliminary or programmatic?
You also state that "Finalized design guidelines would be included in the final master plan." Will an EA be prepared for the final master plan when the designs and other unknowns may be available?

Page 2-96, Table 2.8: The overall cost estimate is nearly $67,000,000. How will this be funded? Which developments have priority for funding? Will there be phasing?
We understand that the cost estimates for the non-profit facilities (even though they have not been designed) are:
Wai'auia - $2,430,000
Kapa'a Cultural Center - $7,870,000
Ulupo Heiau - $630,000
Education Center - $5,450,000.
How firm are these estimates? How will they be funded?

Page 3-7, Section 3.1.1.2: You state "Design of site improvements and facilities would be developed by the non-profit organizations." Would further EA be required prior to implementation of the improvements and facilities?

Page 3-99: "…efforts to improve coastal water quality should focus on improving the quality of …Kawainui canal and Kaelepulu Stream. Agreed, but see earlier comments re. the siphon project.

Page 4-82, Para 3: Says the plan will not increase commercial visitors. However, the plan estimates that there will be 9,950 visitors per month (Table 2.6). Are you saying that tourists are not commercial?

Page 4-83: You say that the Education Center will not be commercial. It would accommodate non-commercial visitors consisting of Kailua residents, Oahu residents and visitors to the Island. But they will sell books, crafts or food. Is that not commercial?
City and County zoning considers that commercial, is the State different?

Page 5-8, 5-13: Wastewater Facilities.
You say that there is no sewer service along Kapa'a Quarry Road to serve the proposed facilities, and that the future design phase would evaluate wastewater flows and treatment requirements in greater detail including the

septic tank absorption bed. Because these are critical facilities surrounding the water of the wetland, detailed information needs to be prepared before impacts of the facilities can be evaluated.

Page 6-29: Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) OA-3068 (2002).
This CDUP permits Kawainui Marsh improvements to be made by DLNR. As you say, it expired in 2012, and was given a 10-year extension to 2022 by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Our understanding is that the BLNR may only approve two-year extensions, and that a new permit may be required.

Page 6-45: Aloha+ Challenge.
The DEIS incorrectly interprets the "Natural Resource Management" objective of the Governor's Aloha+ Challenge. The objective is to "reverse the trend" of losses of natural resources, not to add to it as does the proposed plans' assault on endangered species control (sending humans into the sanctuary), as well as the lack of the prescribed Community Based Marine Management of the wetland's water areas (non-removal of the peat mat, lack of flow in Kawainui Stream, etc).

Page 7-11: Concerns with Commercial Activities.
You say that the community has a misunderstanding of the commercial activities in the proposed plan. Yet your tables show an increase to 9,950 visitors per month, and admit sales at the Education Center and fees at Wai'auia. How do you explain that discrepancy?

Additional general comments:

Comprehensive Security Plan for the Area: What steps will be taken to ensure security after hours and what is the comprehensive security plan for the entire project?

Waterbird protection: Kawainui is a unique small wetland habitat necessary to sustain four endangered bird species. Where does the DEIS address the impact of 6,000 additional visitors per month on these waterbirds throughout the year? Where does the DEIS address the curtailment of human activities during fledgling season?

Pavements: If permeable pavement is used, how will pollutants from vehicles be prevented from entering the wetland and streams? If gravel is used anywhere within the project, how will the gravel be prevented from migrating into the wetland and streams?

Nighttime events: (1) Will overnight camping be permitted within the boundaries of Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh? If so, how many nights a year and how many permits will be granted per month, per year? (2) Will overnight stays be allowed at the Education Center Pohakea, Wai`auia Cultural Center, Kapa`a Cultural Center, kauhale Complex, Pohakea, Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, Ulupo Heiau and Kalaheo Park? If so how many nights will be allowed each month and each year for each of the above facilities? How many consecutive nights will be permitted for each facility each month, each year? (3) What time will Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh close to visitors every day of the week? Will the Education Center Pohakea, Wai`auia Cultural Center, Kapa`a Cultural Center, kauhale Complex, Pohakea, Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, Ulupo Heiau and Kalaheo Park be open at night? If so, what are the days and hours each will be open.

Aquifer protection: The Project is located within the high-level groundwater Waimanalo Aquifer system with water that is considered irreplaceable. Since "Kawainui serves as a basin for surface water flow into the wetlands and provides some recharge of the groundwater aquifer system" what precautions and mitigation measures are in place in Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands to prevent human-induced contaminants from migrating into the groundwater?

Mahalo nui loa for your patience and diligence in addressing our questions and concerns. A response is requested.

Aloha,

William M. Hicks

William M. Hicks
Chairman

Copy to:
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Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. William M. Hicks, Chair
Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31
923 Akumu Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 1, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *The comments and questions contained in this letter were unanimously approved by the Kailua Neighborhood Board at its regular meeting on February 1, 2018. The Kailua Neighborhood Board has reviewed the document Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We have also reviewed our comments on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) and your responses to those. We support the plan's wetland restoration and reforestation improvements that would enhance habitat for endangered waterbirds.*
   Response: We appreciate the Board's support for proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements.

2. *We want to first point out that the plan you refer to as the Kailua Neighborhood Board plan is actually titled: "**Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation.**" (The Community Plan). The genesis of the plan was specifically explained to the community and HHF Planners on a number of occasions including the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) presentation at your November 30, 2013 "Envisioning Kawainui" meeting at Le Jardin School. As was explained, the plan was prepared by Kailua and Waimanalo residents including the President (at the time) of the Hawaiian Civic Club and the Chairperson (at the time) of the KNB. The plan was first presented to community organizations including the LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep It Kailua, and Hawaii's Thousands Friends. Only after these organizations endorsed the*

Community Plan, did the KNB review it and endorse it. Your error must be corrected in the final EIS along with your comments on the Community Plan that are not consistent with these facts. Please refer to your copy. The Community Plan is a brief, but comprehensive, document that supports restoration, preservation and maintenance of the Kawainui Marsh including DLNR facilities and the continuance of the cultural activities at Ulupo, Cash ranch (Kekuha O' Kualii), Na Pohaku, and adds a cultural site at Wai'auia. It recommends habitat enhancement and removal of the "peat mat.

Response: Section 2.3.4 will be revised to reflect the name indicated for "The Community Plan" that was supported by the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB), and the revisions are attached. We appreciate the information provided on the background associated with The Community Plan's development. We do note that although the President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, at that time, worked with a limited number of individuals developing that plan, it has never been adopted or embraced by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. It should also be noted that you clarify The Community Plan was only presented to those community organizations identified, each has expressed opposition to the project plans proposed. The KNB then reviewed and endorsed the Community Plan, although you state the former Chair of the KNB at that time worked on developing it. The Final EIS (FEIS) will include this background information on the plan in Section 2.3.4, and revisions are attached.

3. *In addition, as an existing plan, the Community Plan must be addressed as an alternative in the DEIS along with your discussions of the "do nothing" alternative and the proposed plan. Your stated basis for dismissing the Community Plan is not consistent with its genesis or its content.*

   Response: We appreciate the effort made to develop The Community Plan, which supports the restoration, preservation and maintenance of Kawainui. Section 2.3.4, describes why the plan was considered as an alternative to the proposed project, and why concepts proposed were eliminated from consideration. Certain recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features from this plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, specifically related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preservation of historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences associated with The Community Plan, related to interpretive facilities, support features, and not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project's purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation are not met by this alternative. There is no accommodation made for reasonable public access. Unfortunately, it is clear the main objective of the plan is to prohibit or restrict public access and visitors to Kawainui, which is also consistent with the KNB's opposition to visitors. We believe the basis for not incorporating those elements of the plan are adequately addressed. As already stated, portions of the plan supporting restoration and reforestation are consisent with project plans.

4. We have provided the following responses corresponding to the comments identified by page number of topic in your letter. It is noted that the comments provided from Page 7 to 24 (our responses numbered "a" to "g") refer to pages from the Executive Summary of the DEIS. It should be clarified that under §11-200-17, HAR, the DEIS needs to have a "summary sheet" that concisely discusses various items. One item identified is a "brief description" of the action because more detailed description of the action is provided in a separate chapter. The

DEIS's Executive Summary goes into far more details on the project than just providing a brief description as required under §11-200-17, HAR. Therefore, information related to these various comments are addressed, and more project details and information are provided in other pertinent chapters of the DEIS.

a. *Page 7: You state that there will be road and drainage improvements on Kapa'a Quarry Road, but fail to explain how this will be accomplished given the City and County and private ownership of portions of the area slated for these improvements.*
Response: The reference to drainage improvements is from the fourth paragraph of that page under the heading summarizing impacts to topography. Thus, the "impacts" of drainage improvements are summarized, which would have a positive impact by reducing current erosion. That paragraph does not state there will be "road" improvements to Kapa'a Quarry Road. Section 2.2.1 discusses proposed drainage improvements along Kapa'a Quarry Road in detail to address storm water runoff from upland areas. Drainage culvert improvements would only occur within State property, and Section 2.2.8 discusses how this would be implemented by phasing and estimated costs. Thus, such improvements would not occur within City or private property associated with that road.

b. *Page 8: You state that design features can be incorporated, but do not explain what or how, or any impacts or mitigations.*
Response: The comment on "design features" refers to bridges that would be constructed across streams, and that such construction plans would be developed during the design phase. Information on bridge improvements are discussed in Section 2.2.1, and impacts from such bridges are covered under pertinent sections of the DEIS (e.g. streams). The maintenance/pedestrian bridge across Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated, along with sections of the pedestrian path addressing community concerns on the DEIS. Therefore, only a bridge across Maunawili Stream serving DOFAW maintenance and programs activities is still proposed.

c. *Page 9: Re. impact on birds from visitors - you say "Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) may enact mitigation measures." Will they? When? What are they? What is the cost?*
Response: Section 3.3.2 discusses mitigative measures DOFAW can implement to mitigate effects on waterbirds from visitors. These include restricting access within certain areas at specific times of year (e.g., during bird nesting season), closing trail sections, or constructing low fencing along the wetland perimeter. Whether such measures are warranted and when they would occur would be determined as part of proposed public access management (Section 2.2.5) along with adaptive management and monitoring activities discussed. The projected level of public visitation and activities are expected to be fairly low and manageable. Therefore, such measures may not be warranted. There are no notable costs associated with such management activities (e.g. restricting access during periods) and any such inconsequential costs would not change the overall impacts discussed in the DEIS.

d. *Page 14: We understand that Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants allow for the recreational component to be provided off site. This should be addressed.*
Response: Lands acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants must remain in public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity unless the Secretary of the Interior approves conversion of LWCF lands to another use, and acceptable

replacement lands are substituted. The outdoor recreational component of this project cannot be provided on other property off site. DSP and DOFAW do not intend to convert project LWCF lands to alternate uses resulting in the need for a conversion and finding replacement lands. Use of LWCF lands for passive outdoor recreation aligns with the project purpose along with recreational and educational objectives associated with agency missions. Section 6.2.1 of the DEIS discusses LWCF requirements in further detail.

e. *Page 23: "Sustainment of educational and cultural programs ... cannot rely on volunteers alone." How many employees will be required and who will pay for them and the maintenance required?*

Response: The statement noted is from a summary of secondary effects related to commercial activities. The sustainment of educational and cultural programs was in reference to the operation of the education center. DSP or a non-profit organization managing that center would need financial support for operations and maintenance. Table 2.5 identifies existing and projected staffing levels. Section 2.2.5 also addresses management activities proposed to support public access and additional DSP staffing support needed. Because DSP intends to have a non-profit organization manage the education center, only three additional staff (two DSP staff for park maintenance) would be required for Kawainui activities. State staffing would be funded by the State as part of DLNR's operational budget. Maintenance of the education and cultural centers, would be the responsibility of the non-profit organizations operating them.

f. *Page 23: "A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored." This contradicts statements made in many parts of the DEIS that, except for 100 persons per day, commercial activities will not be permitted. Also, how can anyone examine the impacts and mitigations of "may be explored"?*

Response: The statement on financing options refers to the educational center's operation by a non-profit organization which would require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue would be a commercial activity, but it would support operation of the center and any excess revenues could be used to fund further Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities. DOFAW and DSP do not plan to permit "privately-operated, for-profit commercial tours." DOFAW is currently allowed to permit up to 100 "commercial" visitors a day as a guideline within the wildlife sanctuary. DOFAW does not intend to permit privately-operated commercial tours within the wildlife sanctuary. However, activities at the proposed cultural centers that charge a fee by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) would be considered a "commercial" activity. DOFAW would be allowed to permit such activities associated with the cultural centers. That section of Page 23 of the DEIS will be revised, and is attached to this letter.

g. *Page 24: You say the only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors. Strong concerns have also been raised concerning removal of the peat mat as a priority, increased flood protection, intrusion of humans in the Bird Sanctuary, and others.*

Response: We do not view the other issues you raise, separate from opposition to visitors, as "unresolved issues." Your other concerns have been addressed within pertinent sections of the DEIS and are not unresolved. Removal of peat mat along with

increased flood protection are project priorities and major objectives (see Section 2.1.2). Section 2.2.1 discusses wetland restoration and other improvements proposed to address these priorities and objectives. There would not be an "intrusion of humans" occurring within Kawainui's wetland, and the DEIS adequately addresses such impacts and identifies mitigative measures, when warranted. Public access would be restricted to upland areas, and recent changes eliminating sections of the pedestrian trail further reduces potential impacts. It should be clarified that Kawainui is not a "bird sanctuary" but a wildlife sanctuary that supports public access. Thus, your concerns with human intrusion are really associated with visitors and public access that have been addressed in Section 7.6 of the DEIS.

5. The following responses address the comments provided for various pages of DEIS chapters.
   a. *Page 1-2: States that the applicant is DOFAW and Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As explained in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) 11-200 this is an "agency action." Yet Table 1-1 includes actions by non-profit organizations which are not agencies. Their activities would be "applicant actions." No Environmental Assessment (EA) for applicant actions has been submitted. The accepting authority for an EIS may also differ.*
   Response: Table 1.1 states that DOFAW, a division of the State DLNR, is the applicant for this project and the entity responsible for preparing the EIS. The improvements proposed in the DEIS are an Agency Action because DOFAW, whieh includes DSP as a partner, is proposing the improvements and activities within these State lands. Non-profit organizations selected by DOFAW or DSP would implement these agency proposed improvements or activities and do not need to prepare their own environmental document because they are covered by this EIS. The accepting authority for this EIS is as discussed in Section 1.1.1.
   b. *Chapter 2.*
   Page 2-9: The list of plans does not include the "Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."
   Response: Page 2-9 referenced is from the section discussing the 1994 master plan for Kawainui, which is why the Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation Plan was not included in this section. That plan was considered and discussed as an alternative to the project in Section 2.3 of the DEIS. That section also explains the reasons for its elimination as an alternative. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics from that plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with recommended interpretive facilities and support features, along with not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation were not met by this alternative.
   c. *Page 2-30: Item 5. Peat Mat Zone states "an area important for Kawainui flood control capability ... would remained unchanged." Removal of the peat mat is critical to improving the restoration of the wetland and flood retention capability of the Kawainui*

Marsh. A major flaw in the proposed plan is that it does not include this necessary remediation. It is included as a priority in the "Community Plan."
Related to this is a matter that is not addressed in the proposed plan. This is the provision of a permanent siphon facility over the dike transmitting water from the Kawainui Marsh into Kawainui Stream. As many people in Kailua know, this system was tested by a temporary DLNR demonstration project. A letter received from DLNR acknowledged that the test was a success in remediating the flow problems in Kawainui Stream without adding to flood potential in the Coconut Grove area. This facility should be addressed as part of the DEIS because it is a critical project related to the water quality of the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes.
Response: This page discusses the various DOFAW-designated management areas within Kawainui. The Peat Mat Zone consists of the northern mid-section of the wetland as shown on Figure 2.5 of the DEIS. This zone is important for flood control because vegetation helps to reduce the velocity of water flow through the wetland before discharging into Kawainui Canal. Removal of peat mat from the entire wetland is not necessary or practical. The southern half of the wetland proposed for restoration would meet waterbird enhancement and resource objectives. This is not a "major flaw" in the project, and proposed plans better serve the resource than that suggested in the "Community Plan." Proposed restoration plans are based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise managing wetlands, coordination with the COE, and studies conducted, such as a modeling study evaluating hydraulic conditions from the 1994 master plan report.

Installing a permanent siphon facility over the levee transmitting water from Kawainui marsh into Kawainui Stream will not be included as part of this project. Your reference was to a prior demonstration experiment. Although this siphon experiment has some beneficial effects, it is not a "critical project" related to water quality within Kawainui. DOFAW would be evaluating the results of this experiment and other possible implications to their wetland restoration efforts to determine if they would want to alter this water flow in the future as well as potential impacts to the levee. Such an improvement would need to be coordinated with other government agencies, and appropriate environmental studies and permitting would be pursued at that time.

d. *Page 2-36: Statements on this page refer to future culverts including: Other culverts would be identified.*
Culvert repair could involve.
Drainage improvements would likely be.
Other measures could include. Drainage swales could.
Given that these facilities are directly related to runoff, speculation concerning them - the would (later), could (or maybe not) are an insufficient assessment of the impacts. Is it correct for us to assume that these culvert projects will be assessed in a future EA before implementation?
Response: The section for which phrases are cited is to identify the types of storm water runoff improvements and is not an assessment of their impacts. Impacts from such improvements are discussed in respective sections of the DEIS, such as Sections 3.4.5 (water quality) and 5.3.2 (drainage). Thus, such drainage improvements are properly identified and impacts are adequately addressed in the DEIS, so separate environmental

documentation is not necessary for each individual culvert repair project implemented in the future. Further, drainage improvements within the Kahanaiki subzone were already included and covered under an environmental document completed for the Kawainui environmental restoration project in 2012.

e. *Page 2-37: You state storm water improvements are necessary in the area along residences near DOFAW's Hamakua entrance due to flooding. What are the details of the improvements, when will they be constructed, and at what cost?*
Response: As discussed on Page 2-37, occasional flooding within Hāmākua from runoff discharged from the hillside near residences could trigger constructing a causeway or other structural improvements. A description of typical causeway improvements are included in Section 2.2.1 and consist of minor site work as shown on Exhibit 2.14. An infiltration trench could also be implemented instead. Such minor improvements were included as part of costs shown on Table 2.8, under "Maintenance Trail, Staging Areas" costs for Hāmākua. Such minor improvements would be approximately $10,000. Implementation was identified under project phasing in Section 2.2.8.

f. *Page 2-42: You state that no recreational activities are planned within Hamakua or on Pu'uoehu hillside. Are the planned trails not recreational?*
Response: As discussed in Section 2.2.4, no recreational trails are proposed at Hāmākua or on the Pu'uoehu hillside. Section 2.2.4 further states the trails on the hillside would be solely to support DOFAW reforestation and management efforts. Trails could also be used for occasional educational or stewardship programs, but they would not be recreational trails open to the general public. Figure 2.7 shows proposed pedestrian trails for public use, which do not include Hāmākua or Pu'uoehu.

g. *Page 2-44: The map shows two bridges 191 feet and 644 feet long in the wetland for trails and vehicles, plus four boardwalks. What construction procedures and materials will be used for these in the wetland, and what would be their impact?*
Response: The two bridges shown on Figure 2.7 are not located within the wetland, but within upland areas that cross over streams. Figure 2.7 shows three boardwalks, not four. Based upon the elimination of some sections of the pedestrian trail in reducing the overall project, there would now be no boardwalks proposed. In addition, the large bridge crossing Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated as well. The bridge across Maunawili Stream would now be used to support DOFAW management and operations. More information on the one bridge now planned will be added in the FEIS, and the revised text is attached to this letter.

h. *Page 2-45: You state that the design of accessory facilities and the Education Center would be determined during the design phase. How can impacts of facilities that are not yet designed be assessed? Are we correct to assume that there will be a future EA for these facilities?*
Response: The design of accessory facilities and the education center do not need to be first completed in order to be addressed by the environmental review process. The level of project information provided in the DEIS is sufficient and allows for environmental impacts to be reasonably identified and assessed. Therefore, future EAs for these facilities would not be necessary. Information on the location of the education center and accessory facilities are provided in the DEIS as previously discussed to allow for the assessment of impacts. Accessory facilities for the pedestrian trail consist of minor

structures that were described in Section 2.2. The locations of observation decks, restrooms, and open pavilions are shown on the site plans, and approximate sizes (floor area) are provided. Exhibit 2.17 included conceptual sketches of the observation deck and an information kiosk. The impact of such accessory facilities could be evaluated and addressed. Figure 2.9 shows the site plan for the education center's location and building footprint. Exhibit 2.18 shows the building interior. Other descriptive information on features and activities is discussed in Section 2.2. Information is provided describing the center's activities and visitors, which is of greater importance in identifying impacts, as opposed to design elements for interior spaces or exterior design. Such information is sufficient to address the impact of the education center and trail accessory facilities.

The type of building material used for structures, determine during the design process, would not adversely impact and the environment and thus not change the results of the impact assessments. The effects of earth-moving activities for site improvements were addressed in pertinent sections of the DEIS. Information on site locations, impact assessments, and site improvements are discussed in Sections 3.1.2 (topography) and 3.1.3 (soils). The education center is proposed to utilize post-and-pier construction to further minimize site disturbance. Accessory facilities (e.g. open pavilion) would cause minimal site disturbance due to the small footprints required. The information included in the DEIS discusses building footprints, structures would require minimal to minor site grading, are located in previously disturbed areas, and best management practices (BMPs) are discussed. Design plans would be reviewed and approved by pertinent agencies, and necessary permits (e.g. NPDES, grading) would be obtained to ensure structures and other improvements meet regulatory requirements and minimize effects. Therefore, the impacts from accessory support facilities and the education center have been addressed in appropriate sections of the DEIS.

i. *Page 2-48: "Examples of learning projects ... include...." Examples do not provide information on impacts of what will be done. Specifics of what will be done are necessary.*

Response: As discussed on page 2-48, service learning is an important teaching strategy for environmental literacy supported by the State. Service learning projects provide students and adults with "hands-on" knowledge in learning about science and the environment. The paragraph cited further explains examples of existing programs. Sufficient information is available to identify impacts. Such educational programs are beneficial and do not generate significant impacts, as discussed in Section 5.9.1.

j. *Page 2-53: Kahanaiki area.*

Approximately 25 parking stalls are proposed. How many of them are for buses? What specifically will the pavement consist of? Proposed is a septic tank for the restroom. What is the size of the system, and will the soils in the area preclude leaching of effluent into the wetland?

Response: There are no parking stalls planned for bus parking at this lot. As discussed in the first paragraph of page 2-53, schools must coordinate with DOFAW to access the parking lot as part of educational programs. School buses could be accommodated by using certain areas of the parking lot. That paragraph also stated the parking area would have a compacted gravel or other permeable surface. The specific surface

materials for the parking lot would be determined during design, and the information described in the DEIS is sufficient to reasonably address impacts.

Section 5.2 discusses wastewater and addresses projected flows and the size of septic tanks. The restroom at Kahanaiki would need to have a septic tank and associated system to accommodate only 120 gallons per day. Section 5.2.2 also explains that most available septic tank sizes start from 1,000 gallons. All individual septic systems would be designed and developed in compliance with State DOH requirements (§11-62, HAR). This includes conducting a soil percolation test during the design phase for this septic system. The leach field area for such a small system would likely be only about 200 square feet, and would be appropriately designed. Soils in the area should not prohibit use of this system, and it would not have a significant impact on the wetland. It should be noted the City Model Airplane Park's restroom system is much larger and has not demonstrated a negative impact on the wetland.

k. *Page 2-54: Education Center.*

Only a conceptual layout of the Education Center is provided as in a programmable EIS. Details to evaluate impacts are absent. Will a future EA be prepared by the Department of State Parks (DSP) or the Request for Proposal (RFP) selectee for the final design? Will that EA be an agency or an applicant action?

Response: The conceptual site plan of the education center, along with other information on its design and activities in Section 2.2.4 are sufficient to address environmental impacts. Section 2.2.5 discusses visitor activities associated with the education center in detail, allowing for impacts to be properly addressed, especially since visitor activity is the main concern associated with this facility. The response to comment No. 1 clarified that there are no State regulations regarding programmatic EISs. Therefore, a future EA for the education center would not be required because this use is addressed under this EIS document. The question regarding agency or applicant action is not applicable.

l. *Page 2-60: Kapa'a area (Kapa'a Cultural Complex).*

1) Same comment as in Page 2-54 above. Also, the proposed cultural complex appears to duplicate the activities at the Education Center kauhale. Why are both needed?

Response: With regard to the cultural center proposed at Kapa'a, the same response to Item 6.k. applies to your comments referencing Page 2-54. Some of the educational and cultural activities proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea are similar to those proposed at the Kapa'a site. However, as discussed in Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.4, programs at the kauhale complex would be offered as part of the education center's activities, would focus on traditional land management and subsistence, and would be open to the general public with the education center. The cultural center at Kapa'a has a different cultural focus and would not be open to the general public. Use of both sites is appropriate for cultural practices, provides increased educational programs, and supports increased stewardship of areas and cultural practices.

2) Why is a water storage component required? Is the restroom and caretaker house served by the same septic system, and is the system feasible given the soils, its proximity to the wetland, and the former landfill site? Will structures meet the commercial fire code?

Response: Water storage would be used for irrigation and other non-potable water use as part of design and sustainability measures to minimize potable water use. The septic system for this center would likely serve both the caretaker house and restroom. Section 5.2 discussed the impacts from such a system that would require a small system (septic tank of 570 gallons) as compared to the City model airplane park's existing restroom that has two 1,000-gallon tanks. A system serving this cultural center is feasible, as the site consists of over 7 acres, soils in the area should not prohibit this system's use, and there would not be a significant impact on the wetland. This Kapa'a site was not a former landfill, but was used by the City as a maintenance baseyard. Building structures would be designed to meet building and fire code requirements.

3) *Re. last paragraph - What are the specific adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds, and the specific mitigative measures to be utilized? Without this information there is no way to assess the effect of the facility on the endangered birds.*

Response: Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS discussed the effects of building structures, such as the cultural center, on endangered waterbirds. That section addressed measures to implement during short-term construction activities along with long-term measures. Buildings would be sited away from the wetland, and vegetative buffers or low fencing could be added around the wetland perimeter to separate waterbirds from activities at this cultural center. The information discussed in this section provides sufficient information to reasonably assess effects on endangered waterbirds.

m. *Page 2-62: Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalaheo section.*

1) *Will the parking area accommodate buses? What are the sizes of the buildings?*

Response: With elimination of the hale wa'a proposed at the Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR), Kalāheo site, the project does not propose any changes to this passive park site. Therefore, only those improvements already permitted by existing entitlements for the Gateway Park plan would be implemented. The park's approved plans did not specify accommodating buses, but school buses could be accommodated with prior authorization from DSP. DSP does not plan to issue permits for commercial tour buses to visit this park. Gateway Park plans proposed a pavilion of about 1,000 square feet, and a restroom of about 600 square feet.

2) *What specific cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank will be done to enable safe canoe access to the canal? How much will DLNR have to increase its 100 person daily visitor limit to accommodate the park canoe education activity? What are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's requirements and design of the canoe launching facility?*

Response: Cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank would not be required to support launching canoes. Minor improvements to stabilize the launch entrance could consist of adding permeable pavers, such as Grasspave2. Coordination with the Corps of Engineers (COE) would address such minor improvements, and there are no COE design requirements for this launch site. There is no launch "facility" proposed under the Gateway Park plans. This Kalāheo site is not part of the Kawainui wildlife sanctuary, and is thus not subject to any commercial visitor limit. DSP plans to allow only schools to launch from this site for practices.

3) *What effect will the canoe building and repair have on community noise and the water quality in the canal? Will access be limited to or by the successful bidder, or will it be open to the public? How many visitors and buses a day will be permitted?*
Response: No canoe building or repair activities are planned under the Gateway Park plans that would impact noise and water quality of the canal. As already discussed, DSP can already implement the Gateway Park plans that have received approval. This site would be a passive park with restrooms and open pavilion. As a State Park facility, it would be open to the general public, access would be limited to normal park hours (7:00 AM to 6:45 PM), and would be operated by DSP. The DEIS addressed the projected number of visitors to this park site, and commercial buses are not allowed unless they have a permit from DSP.

n. *Page 2-65: Wai'auia.*
Only conceptual plans are provided as in a programmable assessment. Specific plans are needed to evaluate impacts.
Response: Sufficient information on the cultural center at Wai'auia was included in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS (description of activities, buildings, and site plan showing building foot prints and locations). This information is sufficient to identify and address impacts from this facility. A programmatic assessment is not applicable to this project as discussed under response Item No. 1.

o. *Page 2-68: A burial or re-internment site is a cemetery. State laws and rules concerning cemeteries should be made explicit. Has an EA for the re-internment project been done or contemplated by DLNR or Board of Water Supply (BWS)? Why is Hawaiian Memorial Park not considered as an alternative?*
Response: It should be noted that Page 2-68 does not address a reinternment site. The already permitted reinternment site at Wai'auia is for native Hawaiian burials, and is regulated under Title 13, Chapter 300, HAR. These types of native Hawaiian reinternment burials do not fall under State regulations applicable to cemeteries for the general public. State laws and rules on cemeteries thus do not need to be made explicit in the DEIS, and the permitted reinternment site is not part of the Kawainui-Hāmākua project. You should consult with the City Board of Water Supply on questions regarding an EA for the reinternment site. Hawaiian Memorial Park does not need to be considered as an alternative because the reinternment site is not proposed under this project and is already permitted. As discussed, native Hawaiian burials fall under separate regulations from cemeteries.

p. *Wai'auia Cultural Center - The cultural practices facility is the fourth or fifth non-profit cultural facility proposed in the plan.*

1) *Why are so many such facilities needed in one community?*
Response: The cultural center at Wai'auia would have a different focus on the types of cultural programs and activities. Section 2.2.2 discusses the objectives for cultural resources management. Support for cultural centers were received throughout the planning process. Only the Wai'auia and Kapa'a cultural sites fall within DOFAW's jurisdictional areas, and use of both sites is appropriate for cultural practices, provides increased educational programs, and supports increased stewardship of areas. As already discussed, the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site has now been eliminated from this project.

2) *The facility proposed includes a center for Hawaiian studies in performing and literary arts. This would appear to require permanent educational structures not shown on the area map. Only a halau and hula mound are depicted. What other structures will be included?*
Response: The cultural center at Wai'auia is proposed to have permanent structures to support operations, programs, and activities. Figure 2.12 of the DEIS shows proposed structures that are more than just a hālau and hula mound, and Section 2.2.4 discusses this use and proposed activities.

3) *Will buses be allowed in the parking lot? Will fees be charged for public access and performances? Will an EA be prepared for the final design and will it be an agency or applicant action ?*
Response: The small parking lot proposed for this center would not be able to accommodate school buses. Activities at this cultural center would likely require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations for educational or cultural classes, programs, etc. to support operations. A separate EA would not be required for this cultural center as discussed under response No. 1 unless future plans for this site change significantly from that currently proposed.

q. *Levee to Ulupo - What will be the construction materials, including the footing, for the 365-foot boardwalk? What is the cost of the boardwalk? How and when will it be funded? What was the cost per foot of the Maui example of a boardwalk given? Will there be public parking for residents at Wai'auia to access the trail to Ulupo?*
Response: The section of the pedestrian trail that included the boardwalk has been eliminated from this project. Boardwalk costs were included as part of pedestrian costs in Table 2.8., and materials could have consisted of wood or composite decking. Funding and phasing for improvements were discussed in Section 2.2.8. Your interest in the cost per lineal foot for the boardwalk on Maui should be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The cost for that development is not applicable to this project because it was completed several years ago. Project costs are presented in Table 2.8, and this information is sufficient to address project effects. As discussed in Section 2.2.4, some parking stalls would be available for the public to use at Wai'auia to access the levee. The pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau has been removed from this project.

r. *Ulupo Heiau - The City and County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that was approved for the expansion of the neighboring YMCA required additional parking. The expansion has been completed but the additional parking has not yet been provided. Does the State intend to purchase the YMCA land needed for the YMCA parking?*
Response: The Windward YMCA is responsible for any additional parking required at Ulupō Heiau as part of their entitlements. Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS discussed the status of DSP's coordination with the YMCA. DSP is not planning to acquire YMCA property for the purposes of satisfying the YMCA's additional parking requirements.

s. *Page 2-74: Hamakua-Pu'uoehu. Subarea E.*

1) *The program staging area and restroom are very close to residential homes only a few feet away. Were those residents notified?*
Response: Neighboring residents were not notified directly about this project. However, public notifications of this project were distributed throughout the

community and through social media as discussed in the DEIS. DOFAW will coordinate with neighboring residents at Hāmākua as appropriate.

2) *The three trails are a visual intrusion to the landscape that is identified as part of an important view plane by the Kooluapoko Sustainable Communities Plan.*
Response: We disagree that the trails planned along the Pu'uoehu hillside for DOFAW restoration and maintenance activities will be a significant visual intrusion to that landscape. Such trails would likely be difficult to see due to screening by the existing tall vegetation present on the hillside. Furthermore, existing commercial and industrial uses along Hāmākua Drive block all views of the hillside along that roadway section. The City's Ko'olau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan identifies the viewplane of this hillside area as occurring from South Kainalu Drive at Kailua District Park, which is over 0.5 miles away and has views largely obscured by Kailua Town development. Maintenance trails would thus have negligible effect on such views.

3) *The erosion that will occur, like the pill box and Maunawili trails, plus the fire hazard created by numerous hikers during the dry season makes the trails a bad idea adjacent to an urban community if just for safety reasons. We can learn from the California fires and mud slides. The fence proposed will affect the view of the area from Hamakua Drive. What are the cost, design and materials of the fence?*
Response: Erosion would not occur for these maintenance trails like the examples provided (e.g. Pill Box). As discussed in Section 2.2.4, these trails would not be open to the general public. They would support DOFAW reforestation and management efforts, and therefore would not host numerous hikers, fire hazards, or cause safety issues for the public. Proposed fencing along the maintenance trail would support DOFAW management activities and would not affect the view of this hillside from Hāmākua Drive. Such wire fencing would be similar to other perimeter fencing planned as shown on Exhibit 2.15 of the DEIS (4-foot-tall), and would be screened by existing vegetation along the hillside. The costs for such "hog wire" fence ($3 to $5 per foot) would be modest (about $25,000 per mile), and are part of maintenance trail costs (Table 2.8). Design and costs have negligible relevance to addressing project physical impacts.

t. *Pages 2-77 and 2-78: Program and Visitor Activity Estimates.*
The estimate of the number of visitors to Ulupo Heiau does not mention the two tour buses with up to 47 seats each that visit Ulupo. Additionally, according to the estimates, the number of people using the areas on a daily basis approximately equals the 100 person limit currently established by DLNR. Also, the estimates given for the three non-profit facilities of 115 appears to be inconsistent with your estimate of 9,950 visitors per month.
Response: There are no permitted commercial tour buses that visit the Ulupō Heiau site on a daily basis that need to be accounted for in the estimate of existing visitors. Prior unauthorized commercial visitation by large tour buses has been addressed by DSP coordinating with the Windward YMCA. As discussed, in Section 2.2.5, existing estimates are based upon multiple sources and are reasonable.
The Ulupō Heiau site is a State park under DSP jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not part of DOFAW's Kawainui wildlife sanctuary, and is not subject to any commercial visitor

limit. We do not see your reference in this section to 115 visitors for three non-profit facilities, but the 9,950 visitors per month on Table 2.6 is correct.

u. *Page 2-82: The total projected visitor activity is 9,950 persons per month, which is a large increase over your estimate of current visitors - 2,960. This should be made explicit.*
The estimate of 6,000 visitors per month for the Education Center is inconsistent with your statements that the Education Center and the other non-profits developments will not be open to visitors, and that commercial permits (including tours) will not be issued. Why is there this discrepancy?
How will the non-profits fund their facilities without charging users for visits or events?
Response: The information discussing projected visitor activity is sufficiently explicit to objectively discuss the changes, and does not need to subjectively characterize this activity. Your opinion that this is a "large increase" is acknowledged. However, the projected change translates into about 250 persons a day that is a reasonable and manageable level of activity.
As discussed in Section 2.2.3 and other sections of Chapter 2, the education eenter is intended to serve as a management center for public access within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku upland area. This area, under DSP jurisdiction, would be open for the general public to visit Kawainui and participate in programs or utilize pedestrian and foot trails. The cultural centers planned at Kapa'a and Wai'auia would not be open to the general public. Private commercial tour operators are not planned to be issued permits to visit the education eenter. There is no discrepancy in the projections. The prior responses under No. 5.f and 6.p above, discuss that non-profit organizations would charge entrance fees, fees for classes, etc. to support operation of facilities.

v. *Page 2-92: You note that all design guidelines are preliminary. Does this mean that the EIS is preliminary or programmatic?*
You also state that "Finalized design guidelines would be included in the final master plan." Will an EA be prepared for the final master plan when the designs and other unknowns may be available?
Response: Section 2.2.7 discusses design guidelines. This information is sufficient to support project details already provided in the DEIS and to address project effects. There is no State programmatic EIS as already addressed in response No. 1. A separate EA is not required for the final master plan, and the project information included in the DEIS is sufficient to identify project effects.

w. *Page 2-96, Table 2.8: The overall cost estimate is nearly $67,000,000. How will this be funded? Which developments have priority for funding? Will there be phasing?*
We understand that the cost estimates for the non-profit facilities (even though they have not been designed) are: Wai'auia - $2,430,000
Kapa'a Cultural Center - $7,870,000
Ulupo Heiau - $630,000
Education Center - $5,450,000.
How firm are these estimates? How will they be funded?
Response: Funding from the State Legislature would be required for the majority of improvements listed in Table 2.8. The project phasing discussed in Section 2.2.8 identifies improvements with a higher priority. Section 2.2.8 states that priority would be given to areas already accessible to the public, where the community has initiated

restoration and other programs. DOFAW would utilize adaptive management to identify priority as restoration and situations evolve. Section 2.2.8 states the non-profit organizations would be responsible for funding of the cultural centers, but DSP would fund the education center construction and Ulupō Heiau improvements. The costs are estimates, would be subject to final design of improvements, and are sufficient to identify impacts associated with the project.

x. *Page 3-7, Section 3.1.1.2: You state "Design of site improvements and facilities would be developed by the non- profit organizations." Would further EA be required prior to implementation of the improvements and facilities?*
Response: No further EA would be required for improvements as already discussed under response No. 1.

y. *Page 3-99: "...efforts to improve coastal water quality should focus on improving the quality of ...Kawainui canal and Kaelepulu Stream. Agreed, but see earlier comments re. the siphon project.*
Response: Please refer to response 6.c. regarding your siphon suggestion.

z. *Page 4-82, Para 3: Says the plan will not increase commercial visitors. However, the plan estimates that there will be 9,950 visitors per month (Table 2.6). Are you saying that tourists are not commercial?*
Response: Yes, visitors can consist of residents, off-island State residents, or visitors from out of State. Tourists are visitors. Your opposition to "commercial visitors" refers to persons touring an area as part of a privately-operated commercial tour, which are not planned to be issued for this project.

aa. *Page 4-83: You say that the Education Center will not be commercial. It would accommodate non-commercial visitors consisting of Kailua residents, Oahu residents and visitors to the Island. But they will sell books, crafts or food. Is that not commercial?*
City and County zoning considers that commercial, is the State different?
Response: Prior responses under No. 5.f and 6.p discuss that non-profit organizations can charge entrance fees, fees for classes, etc. to support operation of facilities. Transactions to support operations by non-profit organizations are allowed, and commonly occur at many visitor centers. Restricting commercial tour groups is being applied to this project to address opposition to visitors. The first paragraph of this page states that "commercial tours" would not be allowed, unless permitted by DSP. The City zoning code does not restrict selling of books, entrance fees, etc. as part of education or visitor centers at State or City parks (e.g. Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden).

bb. *Page 5-8, 5-13: Wastewater Facilities.*
You say that there is no sewer service along Kapa'a Quarry Road to serve the proposed facilities, and that the future design phase would evaluate wastewater flows and treatment requirements in greater detail including the septic tank absorption bed. Because these are critical facilities surrounding the water of the wetland, detailed information needs to be prepared before impacts of the facilities can be evaluated.
Response: Sufficient information on wastewater improvements are provided in the DEIS to adequately address project effects. Section 5.2 includes projected daily demand and septic tank size requirements. As with any project evaluated under the environmental review process, detailed plans are developed later during final project design. The project's wastewater improvements would need to follow state design

requirements, and construction plans will be reviewed and approved by the State DOH. Proposed septic tank systems would have minimal or negligible impact on Kawainui's waters or wetland. This wetland receives discharges from significantly larger areas with extensive urban development. The DEIS analysis shows that this wetland has not been negatively impacted by these discharges and is performing its natural function to remove pollutants.

cc. *Page 6-29:Conservation District Use Permit (COUP) OA-3068 (2002).*
This COUP permits Kawainui Marsh improvements to be made by DLNR. As you say, it expired in 2012, and was given a 10-year extension to 2022 by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).Our understanding is that the BLNR may only approve two-year extensions, and that a new permit may be required.
Response: The Land Board may issue extensions longer than two years, and has already done so for CDUP OA-3068 as discussed in Section 6.3.3.

dd. *Page 6-45:Aloha+ Challenge.*
The DEIS incorrectly interprets the "Natural Resource Management" objective of the Governor's Aloha+
Challenge. The objective is to "reverse the trend" of losses of natural resources, not to add to it as does the proposed plans' assault on endangered species control(sending humans into the sanctuary), as well as the lack of the prescribed Community Based Marine Management of the wetland's water areas (non-removal of the peat mat, lack of flow in Kawainui Stream, etc).
Response: Project restoration, reforestation, and educational initiatives facilitated by proposed improvements would reverse the trend of natural resource loss at Kawainui and Hāmākua. We disagree that other project improvements, such as pedestrian trails and education and cultural centers, would result in an "assault" on endangered waterbird species. The analysis of the DEIS shows that such improvements and activities would not significantly impact waterbirds. Activities are restricted to upland areas, and persons would not enter the wetland.
As stated in the DEIS Aloha+ Challenge discussion, reversal of natural resource loss trends for areas outside the project area and DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction are not proposed because these agencies do not have ownership or jurisdiction for this property. Therefore, community-based marine management objectives are not applicable to the project. However, benefits to marine areas downstream of these wetlands would occur from restoration improvements that would enhance the pollutant filtration functions of Kawainui and Hāmākua.

ee. *Page 7-11: Concerns with Commercial Activities.*
You say that the community has a misunderstanding of the commercialactivities in the proposed plan. Yet your tables show an increase to 9,950 visitors per month, and admit sales at the Education Center and fees at Wai'auia. How do you explain that discrepancy?
Response: There is no discrepancy in the DEIS discussion in this section on community concerns with for-profit commercial tour operations, which are being restricted. Your concerns and opposition are against visitors in general, and particularly tourists visiting as part of commercial tours. Section 2.2.5 explains what the term "visitors" entails and Section 2.1 discusses the project objective to improve public access, which includes visitors. Various management actions are proposed to restrict commercial tour groups

from the project area to address your concerns. As already discussed, entrance fees, sales from the education center, or charges for classes or programs are allowed and support the operation of these centers by non-profit organizations. Such operations are different from privately-operated commercial tour operators.

6. The following responses address the additional general comments provided.
   a. *Comprehensive Security Plan for the Area: What steps will be taken to ensure security after hours and what is the comprehensive security plan for the entire project?*
   Response: A comprehensive security plan is not required as sufficient information and details are already discussed in the DEIS to address this subject. The cultural centers operated by non-profit organizations would be responsible for the operations and security of guests participating in activities at their facilities. Facilities would be appropriately designed and secured. The cultural center at Kapa'a is proposing a structure for a permanent caretaker to monitor and secure the site. The education center and other facilities would be appropriately closed, secured and locked at the end of the day similar to other State park facilities.
   Public safety is important for this project as upland areas are made available for public access in a phased and managed manner as discussed in the DEIS. Such management efforts include: adding DOCARE officers; opening areas for public access only when DOFAW and DSP are able to manage them (phased implementation); increasing stewardship partnerships that expand monitoring of activities; and allowing the education center to serve an important management function as the primary point of entrance and orientation for visitors to that area. Furthermore, additional sections of the pedestrian trail have been eliminated to address concerns on the DEIS. Thus, the only remaining sections of the trail would be along upland areas from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku and from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station. Persons using trails would need to exercise common sense and typical precautions when visiting, which is no different from persons visiting other trails or State parks.
   b. *Waterbird protection: Kawainui is a unique small wetland habitat necessary to sustain four endangered bird species. Where does the DEIS address the impact of 6,000 additional visitors per month on these waterbirds throughout the year? Where does the DEIS address the curtailment of human activities during fledgling season?*
   Response: Kawainui is not a small wetland habitat area for endangered waterbirds, and includes over 740 acres of wetland. Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS addresses the project's effect on waterbirds and discusses measures to minimize impacts. Visitors would not be allowed to enter the wetland and would use observation decks or other designated viewing areas. Interaction with waterbirds should be minimal because visitor access would be limited to specific areas and along pedestrian trails. Vegetative buffers are planned along wetland fringes to provide separation from open water areas, mud flats, and wetland vegetation. Once facilities and other improvements are completed allowing public access, appropriate signage and Informational and Educational (I&E) signage would be placed predominately to notify visitors of the site's importance, the legal status of the protected waterbirds, and the restrictions on public usage and behavior. If necessary, DOFAW may also impose additional restrictions on public access within certain areas or times of year, e.g., during bird nesting season as discussed in Section 2.2.5. DOFAW can restrict access to certain areas if waterbird nesting sites

are established within more popular visitor areas. DOFAW could also construct low fencing along pertinent sections of the wetland perimeter that would physically restrict access to areas along the wetland fringe.

c. *Pavements: If permeable pavement is used, how will pollutants from vehicles be prevented from entering the wetland and streams? If gravel is used anywhere within the project, how will the gravel be prevented from migrating into the wetland and streams?*

Response: Parking areas would include permeable pavement material and environmentally-friendly design measures (e.g. bioswales). Vegetated landscape depressions and swales would allow storm water runoff from parking lots to be collected and detained, and vegetation to absorb pollutants similar to the wetland function in removing pollutants. Overall, pollutants from vehicles using parking lots would have negligible or minimal effect on wetlands as discussed in Section 3.4.5. Runoff from all project improvements at Kawainui would account for only about 0.3 percent of the total estimated runoff discharging into Kawainui, and parking lots would account for an even smaller percentage of this volume. In comparison, the majority of storm water runoff into Kawainui is from streams (53%) that transport far more pollutants from mauka urban areas (e.g. residences, streets). The drainage systems serving State highways (Kalaniana'ole Highway has about 50,000 cars a day) and City drainage systems for surrounding urban development also contribute far more pollutants from cars and activities. Kawainui's wetland is naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Improvements at Hāmākua intended to support DOFAW operations and programs are smaller in scope and would have even less of an effect on that wetland. Gravel is not expected to migrate into the wetland and streams from its use with parking areas or pedestrian trails. The majority of trails would be grassed or unpaved foot trails. Parking lots and trails are located within upland areas that are sufficient distances away from the wetland. If a few loose gravel fragments do migrate into the wetland or streams, the effects would be negligible and would not negatively impact these resources. Gravel and other smaller rock fragments are already dispersed into streams from mauka areas and surrounding urban development that eventually get discharged in Kawainui's wetland.

d. The following responses address your questions on night events.

1) *Will overnight camping be permitted within the boundaries of Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh? If so, how many nights a year and how many permits will be granted per month, per year?*

Response: Overnight camping is not proposed at either Kawainui or Hāmākua, therefore, no permits are planned to be issued for such use.

2) *Will overnight stays be allowed at the Education Center Pohakea, Wai'auia Cultural Center, Kapa'a Cultural Center, kauhale Complex, Pohakea, Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, Ulupo Heiau and Kalaheo Park? If so how many nights will be allowed each month and each year for each of the above facilities? How many consecutive nights will be permitted for each facility each month, each year?*

Response: The education center and kauhale at Pōhakea are proposed for day use only. The cultural center at Kapa'a is planning to have a structure to accommodate a caretaker to reside on site to manage and provide monitoring and security. The

cultural center at Wai'auia is not planning to have overnight stays or camping. The Kapa'a and Wai'auia cultural centers could have activities that run into the night, such as classes or programs, and such activities do not require a permit since they would be part of the non-profit organization's operations. Nā Pōhaku, Ulupō Heiau and the Kalāheo site do not support overnight camping or stays, and existing activities have not required overnight stays. These park sites would be closed at the end of the day. Therefore information on the number of overnight stays is not applicable.

3) *What time will Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh close to visitors every day of the week? Will the Education Center Pohakea, Wai'auia Cultural Center, Kapa'a Cultural Center, kauhale Complex, Pohakea, Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, Ulupo Heiau and Kalaheo Park be open at night? If so, what are the days and hours each will be open.*

Response: Hāmākua Marsh is not open to the general public. Operational activities, educational and cultural programs would occur during daylight hours because night lighting is not provided. The scheduling of such programs would be coordinated with DOFAW, and the entrance gate would be secured at the end of the day.

At Kawainui, the education center and kauhale complex would operate during normal daylight hours, typical with other State park facilities. Specific operating days and times would be determined by the non-profit organization managing the center, or by DSP. Nā Pōhaku and Ulupō Heiau would continue to be closed at the end of the day since no night lighting is provided. The park site at Kalāheo would operate daily during daylight hours typical with other parks.

e. *Aquifer protection: The Project is located within the high-level groundwater Waimanalo Aquifer system with water that is considered irreplaceable. Since "Kawainui serves as a basin for surface water flow into the wetlands and provides some recharge of the groundwater aquifer system" what precautions and mitigation measures are in place in Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands to prevent human-induced contaminants from migrating into the groundwater?*

Response: The Kawainui-Hāmākua project site is within a groundwater area consisting of a caprock aquifer resting on a basalt aquifer. The caprock aquifer is not used as a drinking water source, and is replaceable as discussed in Section 3.4.2. The basalt aquifer beneath corresponds to groundwater that is currently used, but not as an ecological or drinking water source, is irreplaceable, and has a low vulnerability to contamination. Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands naturally function as large basin traps for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from waters discharged into it from streams, drainage systems, and upland surface runoff. Therefore, these wetlands currently do not require precautions or mitigative measures to prevent effects on the underlying caprock aquifer. This project site is not an area used for drinking water, and is below (makai of) the State DOH's underground injection control (UIC) program line as discussed in Section 3.4.2. Under the UIC program, the project site overlies exempted aquifers from underground source drinking water. Exempted aquifers are those that: 1) do not currently serve as a source of drinking water; and 2) will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water. Therefore, no additional mitigative measures beyond those best management practices

and measures already discussed in the DEIS are needed to address pollutants or other contaminants.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife OFAW at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

2.3.4 Other Alternatives Considered

Alternative plans have been suggested by certain organizations for consideration instead of the proposed project concepts. These alternatives were considered, but have been eliminated from further consideration because of various reasons such as they do not support the project's purpose and need or were not feasible and practicable to implement. The alternative plans generally support wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements proposed under the project. However, alternatives differ in the area of public access and cultural practices. In summary, the common theme proposed under these alternatives was eliminating most if not all reasonable public access and support facilities within the project site, and providing minimal support for cultural practices. These suggested alternatives are summarized.

~~**Kailua Neighborhood Board Recommendations**~~ **Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation**

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) Planning, Zoning and Environment Committee supported a Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation plan they refer to as "The Community Plan" ~~proposed their version of a plan~~ as an alternative. This ~~version of the~~ plan was adopted by the Committee in October 2013, and received the Board's support at their November 2013 meeting. Exhibit 2.23 includes the map of ~~their~~ this alternative plan showing all facilities instead proposed.

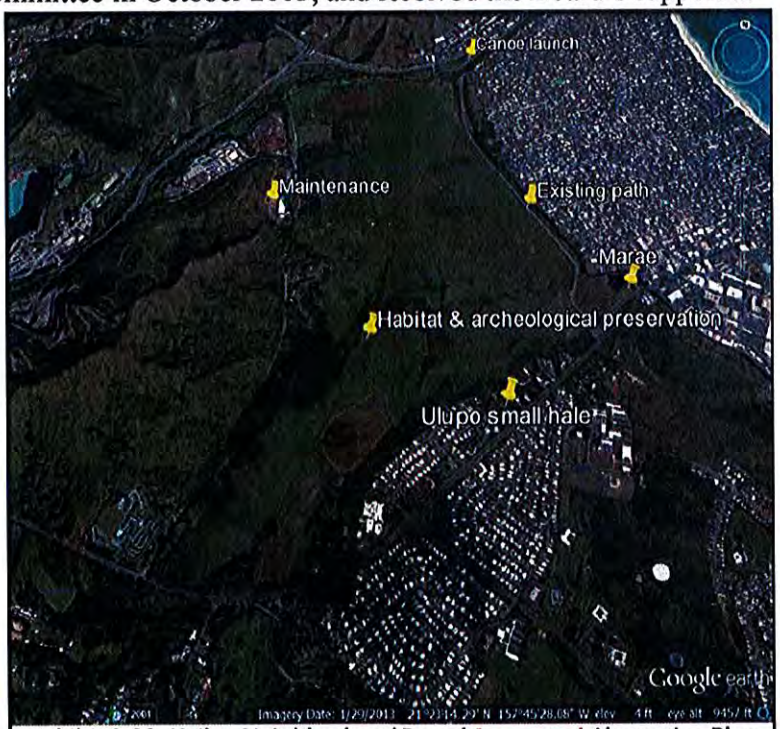

Exhibit 2.23 Kailua Neighborhood Board Supported Alternative Plan ~~Proposed~~

The plan was prepared by some Kailua and Waimanalo residents, including the President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (at the time) and the Chairperson (at the time) of the KNB. However, it is noted that The Community Plan has never been supported by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club up to today. The KNB has explained that this plan was first presented to certain community organizations that included the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep It Kailua, and Hawaii's Thousands Friends. Only after these organizations endorsed The Community Plan, did the KNB review and endorse it.

to expand existing structures or to provide additional amenities. Requests to diversify and increase ~~the~~ programmatic offerings may occur, such as cultural or environmental programs with Hawaii schools, or offering opportunities to non-residents such as volunteer/service tourism for students from other parts of the U.S. Expansion of proposed facilities beyond the scope proposed by this project would require separate environmental review to determine the merit and effect of the expansion. Necessary land use entitlements would also be need to be obtained.

Similarly, cultural center facilities would be limited to those proposed by the project and are expected to accommodate higher participation levels. Activity levels projected for the cultural centers are reasonable. The actual increase in participants is not expected to be significantly greater than levels projected. Facilities would be developed in phases, subject to the finances of stewarding organizations. As a result, it is reasonable to expect that the increase in program participants would occur gradually over time. Therefore, it is unlikely that facility expansion beyond the scope proposed by this project would be needed with minimal secondary impacts on the environment anticipated.

Demand for and participation in programs held at proposed facilities beyond levels projected would be a beneficial secondary effect. This secondary effect would result in more students and residents learning and benefitting from the programs. Increased participation is not expected to cause significant adverse secondary impacts to the environment, infrastructure, or public facilities. Additional details supporting this determination are discussed in Section 7.2.

Expansion of Commercial Activities. Opening of new scenic and recreational areas ~~will inevitably~~ could attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities—such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, unless allowed by permit, individuals may seek "creative ways" to bypass restrictions. The project should not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment from secondary effects related to unauthorized commercial activities at Kawainui. Sufficient management practices are proposed to address the unauthorized commercial activities discussed. These management practices include phasing the expansion of public access to the project area, restricting areas available for public access, and enforcing prohibitions on unauthorized commercial activities. In particular, enforcement activities would be conducted by DOCARE with additional officers needed. DOFAW and DSP would not expand access to the project area if staffing capacity to conduct enforcement is unavailable. These management practices would alleviate concerns voiced by some community members regarding the expansion of commercial activities in the project area. ~~Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also requires financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists.~~

~~A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent project area parks generate revenue, these earnings should remain in the park system rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state's general fund. Funds raised by community partners should be used to support their project area programs.~~

Other Development Pressures. Development pressure on adjacent project area land is a potential secondary impact. The periphery of Kawainui Marsh is already occupied by many existing institutional and residential uses. Numerous commercial establishments also line Hāmākua Drive adjacent to Hāmākua Marsh. There have been previous proposals to expand urban uses around the marsh. Some proposals encountered public opposition and were halted. Others, such as the relatively recent Kawainui Vista subdivision adjacent to St. John Lutheran Church, were completed. Beneficial impacts to the project area from the project may result in adjacent lands becoming coveted for urban development. Proposed development adjacent to the project area would require an extensive land use approval process at both the State and County levels, and is likely to encounter strong community and governmental opposition. Project improvements would not affect the core factors (e.g. neighborhood beach town character, access to popular beaches) contributing to the desirability of living in Kailua. Therefore, the project would to support secondary effects related to the expansion of residential or commercial developments in the area. The decision of Kailua landowners to pursue development expansion would be based on other relevant economic driven factors. ~~Project initiatives are clearly defined and are limited in scope. They are intended to further environmental, recreational and cultural objectives. That said, there are existing social, economic, and market conditions at work that can contribute to pressures to expand project initiatives beyond those currently proposed.~~

~~7~~8 RATIONALE FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE PROJECT NOTWITHSTANDING UNAVOIDABLE EFFECTS

The project would not cause short- or long-term adverse effects that cannot be avoided or minimized. Section 7.5 discusses mitigation measures and best management practices that would be implemented to minimize anticipated adverse impacts. Despite anticipated adverse impacts requiring mitigation, the primary reasons for proceeding with the project includes the need to restore project area wetland and upland regions; improve habitat for endangered waterbird recovery; integrate a stronger native Hawaiian presence at Kawainui Marsh; integrate cultural practices, educational programing, and resource stewardship in the project area; create opportunities for public enjoyment of project area natural and cultural resources; enact initiatives that facilitating improved land management and public access responsibilities for DOFAW and DSP.

~~1.8~~9 UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors to Kailua as a whole by some organizations and members of the community, and any project

2.2.1.4 Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

The construction of maintenance roads is proposed in upland areas to support DOFAW's management and maintenance operations within Kawainui-Hāmākua. Existing maintenance roads presently consist of dirt trails located within some upland areas of the Kahanaiki area, at Mokulana, and at DOFAW's management and research station. Existing access roads being used would be improved to better support maintenance vehicles, transport of equipment, and reduce erosion. Additional access roads along the southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would also be created to support maintenance of the restoration ponds and connect DOFAW's management and research station with Mokulana, and eventually with the Kahanaiki area.

Maintenance roads would generally be located well inland, however, vegetation buffers would be provided between certain sections of the road and the wetland, as appropriate. The roads would generally be about 10 feet wide, and could be constructed of compacted gravel, soil or reinforced grass. Only DOFAW vehicles or other authorized users would be allowed to use these roads.

A bridge ~~Bridges~~ would need to be constructed over Maunawili Stream ~~and Kahanaiki Stream~~ along the southern section of Kawainui ~~generally along Kalaniana'ole Highway~~ to connect access roads serving DOFAW's management station and the Mokulana peninsula to support management activities~~through these areas~~. The specific design of ~~these~~ this bridge~~s~~ would be developed during the design phase ~~of these improvements~~ when implemented. However, this bridge~~s are~~ is proposed to span over ~~these streams~~ Maunawili Stream to not impact ~~their~~ its bed or banks. A bridge across Kahanaiki Stream is no longer required because the pedestrian trail connecting the Kahanaiki upland area with Mokulana has been eliminated.

The new DOFAW maintenance road bridge spanning over Maunawili Stream could be a single span bridge superstructure consisting of pre-cast, prestressed solid planks, and a composite concrete topping. The bridge could have a span about 25 to 30 feet in length and 12 to 16 feet wide within the bridge railings. It would accommodate one travel lane to support DOFAW maintenance vehicles and equipment transport.

Some segments of maintenance roads could also serve as pedestrian trails during specified periods as determined by DOFAW. At Pu'uoehu hillside, a maintenance trail is planned about midway up the hillside along with along the top of the ridgeline to support future reforestation and management efforts.

A predator control program currently in operation would continue and be expanded throughout the project areas as larger areas are restored. Effective predator control would become more important as improved waterbird habitat is created and nesting activity increases. Traps would continue to be the primary predator control method utilized to control mongoose and feral cats. Traps would generally be established around the perimeter of the upper reaches of the wetland and extend into the upland areas.

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February 2, 2018

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Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS

Hawaii's Thousand Friend (HATF) has the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project.

The primary purpose of an EIS is to inform government agencies as well as the public about all that is being planned and the details of what is being planned before any permits are granted. This DEIS fails to do that instead it is vague, puts off evaluation of projects specifics and impacts until a future design phase, and does not mention what if any significant environmental impacts are anticipated.

This DEIS is like a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement because it does not evaluate cumulative effects of DOFAW restoration and private project developments on the environment, it lacks details saying that issues will be defined and dealt with at the design phase or that projects will be phased in at a later date. All the non-designed actions will be conducted without an Environment Assessment and rely on this EIS as having reviewed and mitigated, when necessary, all cumulative, short and long term impacts. Of course, that is not the case because the document does not sufficiently detail past, present and future projects and analyze how these projects and differences between the projects will impact the environment.

An illegally segmented EIS does what a PEIS does and this DEIS does: it puts off disclosing the details and other planned parts of the Project until later. By being vague DLNR avoids disclosing

not only details but the full impact of all that is being planned for protected public trust resources, i.e. the cumulative effects of this "Project" when it is completed when added together with the cumulative effects of the current stressors that are degrading the wetlands and contributing to the growth of the mat, i.e. water diversions, pollution, alien species, etc. It is illegal because the full sum of what is being planned and the potential impact of it escape review once this comment period is ended.

Since water either runs downhill naturally or is directed, what happens uphill in the Maunawili Valley, Kapa`a Valley, surrounding roads and residences is relevant. The fact that the buildings are not sitting IN the water is irrelevant if they and their uses degrade the downhill wetland ecosystem.

The DEIS is deficient.

- DEIS illustrates that the Project is being segmented with later phases of developments and actions to be defined at the design phase.
- DEIS failed to provide adequate cumulative impact analysis on Kawainui Marsh's riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered water birds, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from *individual* structures, activities and actions within ***each*** subarea.
- DEIS does not discuss methodology used to reach conclusions or give supporting data for findings
- DEIS does not contain information on methods that DOFAW and DSP will use to measure the existing amount of habitat needed for endangered waterbirds and what additional amount is needed.
- DEIS did not asses the role of foreseeable future projects such as the Kapa`a Light Industrial Park expansion on Kawainui riparian area, wetlands, and water quality.
- DEIS does not identify or appropriately designate "riparian reserves" or "restricted watershed."
- DEIS fails to recognize that riparian terrain, high quality stream and wetland habitat and watersheds are crucial to at risk species and provide high quality of water.
- DEIS fails to provide adequate information on the stability of the sites proposed for buildings, trails, septic systems, roads and bridges.
- DEIS does not consider environmental impacts from trails is evident in the DEIS and backed up with statements such as "The environmental impact of path construction was addressed in the Kawai Nui Pathway Plan EA (HHF, 2003)." (Page 3-116)

Page 2-97 Tale 2.8 **Cost Estimates (2017 dollars)**

A. Kahanaiki Area **$16,410,000**

- Wetland restoration, upland reforestation, drainage
- Pedestrian/Foot Trails, observation deck, and parking
    - It is unclear if this figure includes the cost for proposed fencing, 2 restrooms, roads

B. Pohakea-Na Pohaku Area **$16,020,000**

- Wetland restoration, upland reforestation
- Pedestrian and foot trails
- Education center, parking, kauhale
    - It is unclear if this figure includes 2 proposed new septic systems, parking lot

C. Kapa`a Area – total costs for these actions **$14,280,000**

- Wetland restoration, upland site clearing/grading
- Pedestrian trail
- Cultural center
- Vegetation processing facility
    - It is unclear if this figure includes 2 proposed new septic systems, 2 parking lots

D. Kawainui State Park Reserve; Kapa`a Section **$800,000**

- Upland site clearing/grading

E Kawainui State Park Reserve; Kalaheo Section **$2,380,000**

- Upland site clearing/grading, parking
- Hale wa`a, restrooms, interpretive center

F. Wai`auia Area **$4,810,000**

- Wetland restoration, upland site clearing/grading
- Cultural center, parking
- Pedestrian/foot trail, observation deck

G. Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park Area **$1,300,000**

- Halau, greenhouse
- Pedestrian/foot trail, viewing platforms along Kukanono slope

H. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Peninsula Area **$8,340,000**

- DOFAW support facilities, greenhouse
- Pedestrian/foot trail, staging areas, bridges
- Mokulana maintenance road/trail, pavilions, storage
    - It is unclear if this figure includes new or enlarged septic system, road

I. Hamakua – Pu`uoehu Hillside Area **$2,380,000**

- Wetland creation, upland site clearing/grading
- Maintenance trail, staging areas
- Restrooms, storage

Total **$66, 720,000**

It is unclear if these costs include proposed 2,000 sq ft of boardwalks, 350-foot causeway, construction, labor, design, materials, and maintenance.

Page. 2-96 states that "…some improvements supporting cultural practices would be constructed by a non-profit organization (e.g. Kapa`a Cultural Center)" If these facilities are to be paid for by a private entity why were they included in the cost estimate? The Wai`auia Cultural Center should have been included since a non-profit organization will construct this project.

Page states that about $13.5 million for construction would be paid for by non-profits. It is unclear if that amount includes maintenance of the structures, facilities and area they are built on.

$53,220,000 is a staggering number for DLNRs tightly stretched budget. How will DLNR fund these proposals including the never-ending operation and maintenance costs?

Once the trails and facilities are in place Kawainui will attract people all hours of the day. Kawainui can't be locked up so to prevent destruction and misuse of property, facilities and resources security will be needed 24 hours a day because unless the entire marsh has security night lighting it will be an attractive nuisance. How will security be and how much will it cost?

Ramsar Convention

As a Ramsar Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Wetland Complex *Wetland of International Importance* the Ramsar Convention represents much more than "sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices within designated wetlands" (Page 7-10)

As one of the Ramsar applicants with the National Audubon Society for designation of Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex as a Ramsar *Wetland of International Importance* Hawaii's Thousand Friends knows that Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex is much more than a recreation tourism destination. The *Wetland of International Importance* Complex is of cultural, archaeological, historical and ecological significance and should adhere to the vision and goals in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-24: The Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets

- "The Vision: "Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all."
- The Ramsar Mission: Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"
- Strategic Goal 1 – Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation
    - (2) Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfill their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone
    - (4) Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Strategic Goal 2 – Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network
    - (5) The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management

    - (7) Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed
- Strategic Goal 3 Wisely Using All Wetlands
    - (9) The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone
- Operational Goal – Enhancing Implementation

Carrying Capacity

Because of the extensive amount of development proposed in the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project: 4, possibly 5, new septic systems; approximately18 new structures with 3 areas up to 5,000 sq ft interior space; 7 new parking lots/areas; approximately 5 new pavilions and 8 viewing decks; approximately 2,000 sq ft of new boardwalk; at least 3 new bridges/causeways and unknown miles of paths, trails, and roads; 9,950 visitors a month, which is an increase of 7,450 people a month.

Hawaii's Thousand Friends asked, in our October 21, 2016 EISPN response letter that a carrying capacity study be done.

DLNR's November 21, 2017 response was in part *"The carry capacity concept is also viewed to be problematic in the sense that it implies that there is an absolute threshold of (for example) visitor numbers below which there is no or minimal impact. In addition capacity in relation to one variable is only practically meaningful when related to other linked variables. For example, the amount of visitors that can acceptably be accommodated within an area would be dependent on other factors such as the behavior of visitors, the age of the visitors, the applicability of support improvements (e.g. paths, quality of education material and guidance provided visitors etc. Projected visitors to Kawainui are at levels not expected to cause intolerable visitor experiences (e.g. overcrowding) or significant degradation of upland areas. Visitors would not be entering Kawainui's large wetland area or disturb endangered waterbirds, and access would be managed, such as providing viewing opportunities at designated observation sites (e.g. viewing platforms). Acceptable visitor levels under such a capacity concept could also be much higher than that projected."*

HTF was not alone in this request. Meredith Speicer, representative for the National Parks Service who providing technical assistance to *Ho`olaulima Ia Kawainui*, stated in an interview for this DEIS that *"One of the ways that Ho`olaulima believed [it could] assist with the misconceptions and real threats that people see, is to develop a management plan that can address the concerns of overuse. Capacity and overuse needs to be addressed. This was a real concern with those opposed to doing anything in the marsh, and they do have a point. This was something that we asked HHF to do, but they believed it was too much work and out of their scope. I do think some kind of carrying capacity limits of acceptable change management structure would help address the potential for overuse and help to control the fear of commercialization."* Ms. Speicer included recommendations for a carrying capacity study. (Appendix by Cultural Surveys CIA for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan pg 2-11 Cultural Surveys)

Ho`olaulima was created in 2003, as network of concerned organizations, including HTF, government agencies and individuals who came together t*o foster public awareness and understanding of the natural, cultural and scenic resources of Kawainui Marsh and environs to ensure the long term protection, restoration and stewardship of the area* and referred to in the

DEIS as "…an appropriate entity to work with in establishing a future community advisory board..." (Page 8-21)

A carrying capacity study is needed to evaluate the acceptable level of change and establish limits. Without established limits the potential for overuse and requests for more and more will be never ending.

Cumulative Impacts

The DEIS does not consider the cumulative impacts of night lighting on migratory and endangered waterbirds from activities surrounding the marsh: City Transfer Station on Kapa`a Quarry Road, Kapa`a Light Industrial Park adjacent to Kapa`a Quarry Road, Kalaheo High School, Mokapu Blvd., H-3, Pali Highway, residences along the marsh periphery, Le Jardin School and Castle Hospital on federally protected migratory birds and endangered waterbirds.

The DEIS does not address the environmental cumulative impacts of the current water diversions to Waimanalo or storm water runoff from Kapa`a Quarry Road, H-3, Mokapu Blvd., Pali Highway, Kapa`a Industrial Park, the Quarry, Le Jardin School, the City Transfer Station or the polluted waters of Impaired Waters from Kapa`a Stream or the infiltration of wastewater infiltration from septic systems at the City Transfer Station, model airplane field, Kapa`a Light Industrial Park, and the Quarry on the Class I.a. waters of Kawainui Marsh.
The fact that buildings and facilities are not sitting IN the water is irrelevant if they degrade the downhill wetland ecosystem and since all water runs downhill what happens uphill impacts the wetland ecosystem and is relevant.

If all or some of the proposed facilities and uses along Kapa`a Quarry Road, which currently does not have lighting, are built encouraging people to visit it is inevitable that lighting will need to be installed along Kapa`a Quarry Road for the safety of the public thus further impacting migratory and endangered waterbirds.

There is not sufficient detail and in some cases no information at all on night lighting within each of the subareas making it impossible to evaluate the direct, indirect , short, long and cumulative impact of night lighting on federally protected migratory birds.

The cumulative impacts on Kawainui Marshes riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered water birds, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from individual structures, activities and actions within ***each*** subarea are not discussed in this DEIS.

The cumulative impacts on Kawainui Marshes riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered water birds, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from ***all*** structures, activities and actions proposed within Kawainui riparian areas and wetland are not discussed in this DEIS

Page 3-42 the DEIS states "Declining precipitation trends have caused a decrease in stream vase flow over the last 70 years" which "could reduce …freshwater supplies and influence aquatic and riparian ecosystems…" and that with "…an overall decline in rainfall…" more drought and heavy rains "causing more flash flooding.." is projected. (UH Manoa Sea Grant 2014)

- The DEIS does not make any recommendations on ways to increase water flow into Kawainui marsh such as clearing the overgrown banks of Maunawili, Kahanaiki and Kapa`a Streams.
- The DEIS does not require that plans for structures, accessory facilities, bridges, trails, foot paths, roads, septic systems etc. be included and evaluated for flooding potential. Instead the common theme is that these *issues will be considered at the design phase*
- The DEIS states that "…subtle but cumulative environmental changes could adversely impact endangered species." Yet, no recommendations on how to prepare for these pending changes are in this disclosure document.

For decades Kawainui Marsh has been thought of and used as a depositor for runoff, polluted or not, from the Maunawili Valley and Kapa`a Valley watersheds, surrounding subdivisions, and road drainage as if individually or cumulative they have no impact. With statements like those below it appears that the lack of understanding of the ecosystem will continue.

> Page 3-111 "Kawainui wetland's pollutant scrubbing functions would continue to protect downstream waters, and should have the capacity to accommodate and cleanse any additional runoff attributable to these improvements…"
>
> Page 3-107 "It is better to consider the wetland as a treatment system intercepting surface runoff and removing or retaining inorganic nutrients, processing organic wastes, and reducing suspended sediments before they reach open water."

Subarea A: Kawainui Wetland

Proposed activities include: wetland restoration improvements to approximately 60-acres near Kahanaiki Stream, construction of perimeter fencing, clearing vegetation, removing alien species, removing the mat that covers Kawainui, maintaining 11 terraced ponds

The direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui Marshes riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered waterbirds and their habitat, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from proposed *individual* structures, activities and uses within ***this*** subarea are not discussed in this DEIS.

When Kahanaiki Stream reaches Kawainui wetland it fans out and does not have defined boarders.

- Will fencing be around this area, the corner of Pali Highway and Kapa`a Quarry Road, to prevent people and dogs from getting too close to the endangered waterbirds and their habitat?

Since the vegetation mat has over taken the wetland the pathways for native o`opu and other fish to the ocean have been reduced or eliminated.

- Does restoration include opening pathways for native stream fish migration?
- The DEIS does not provide data on the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts from ***all*** development proposed around Kawainui on the wetland,

riparian areas, water quality, endangered waterbirds and their habitat, migratory birds, and migratory native stream fish.

Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Na Pohaku-Kapa`a

Proposals for this subarea include: 11 new structures (three of them up to 5,000 sq ft each), 3 new septic systems, 3 new parking lots, 3 new entrances/exists onto Kapa`a Quarry Road, unknown number of feet of trails, paths and roads, approximately 800 feet of boardwalk, at least 1 observation pavilion, a viewing platform extending into the marsh. Presently there are no structures or septic systems in this subarea.

Education Center

Page 2-45 states that various facilities will be accessory support facilities to the Education Center and are proposed at various locations along the pedestrian trail, observation decks shelters (open pavilion), interpretive devices and directional signage.

- Where are the exact locations of each facility? Why was the location and dimensions of these accessory facilities not in the DEIS? Without this information it is impossible to address any potential adverse environmental effects on the wetland ecosystem.

Pg 45 states that "The actual location and design of these facilities would be determined during the design phase as improvements are implemented, and may involve refinements to the site location and design characteristic due to terrain and topography of the area."

- What are the "refinements" referred to?
- From Exhibit 2.18 (Conceptual Interior Layout of Education Center) it appears that the Education Center has been designed and what has, perhaps, not been decided is the location. Has the location of the Education Center been determined?
- Without information on locations, types of building materials, earth-moving requirements etc. it is impossible to evaluate direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the ecosystem.
- Does the lack of information and delaying specifics until the design phase mean that an EA or SEIS will be developed for this site once the design phase is completed?

Page 8 states that "Grubbing and grading activities required for proposed structures are anticipated to be minimal. In particular, structures constructed for the education center would require grubbing and grading of the sites to accommodate building footprints. Given the sloped topography of the education center site, the building would be designed using post and pier construction to minimize the need for grading. BMPs would also be incorporated in design plans to address, short-term impacts, such as erosion, during construction activities. Final site conditions, siting of building footprints, and BMPs implemented would be developed during the design phase of improvements."

- How much grubbing, grading and earth moving will be required to accommodate the Education Center, parking lot, septic system? Will soil be brought in or removed from the area? If so how much soil will be imported and how much soil will be removed? Where will the soil come from and will it be tested for pollutants before it is used?

- DEIS does not provide the methodology used or the underlying data to support the assertion that "Grubbing and grading activities required for proposed structures are anticipated to be minimal."
- What BMP measures will be used during construction of all facilities to prevent runoff and erosion from entering the wetland and streams?

Page 8 "Proposed buildings, driveways and parking areas have been sited to minimize grading and potential impacts on soils from erosion. The structure's parking area and associated entry road have been sited to minimize grading," and that "Design features can be incorporated to minimize site disturbance and reduce erosion potential (e.g. post and pier design of buildings)"

- Explain how the locations of the buildings, driveways and parking areas have been selected without going through the design phase?
- Have the buildings, driveways and parking areas already designed but not included in this DEIS? What type of material will be used on the driveway and parking area?
- What BMP measures are proposed for the driveway and parking area construction?
- Where is the location of the "associated entry road" and how will that location "minimize grading?" No underlying data was provided supporting the assertion that grading would be minimized.
- DEIS suggests that the Education Center will be designed and constructed at a later date by a non- government entity using post and pier construction. Will the Education Center be built over the wetland? If so, how far into the wetland will the Education Center intrude? Has the soil been tested for stability? What is the depth of each pier? What are the dimensions of each pier and footing? How many piers will be needed?

Page 8 "Some leveling of site conditions may be required for improved pedestrian trails and sections meeting ADA requirements (e.g. trails to the education center, but such changes should not significantly impact soils."

- What methodology was to determine that leveling will not "significantly impact soils"?
- What BMPs will be used during construction to prevent erosion and runoff from entering the wetland?
- What methodology was used to determine that "changes should not significantly impact soils"?
- How much ground leveling will be required for each pedestrian trail? What material will the trails be made out to ensure that they are ADA acceptable?

Page 8 "BMPs would be incorporated in design plans to address short-term impacts during construction activities" "…utilized to manage stormwater and potential erosion during larger storm events. Actual BMPs implemented will be developed during the final design phase for improvements." and "once the structures and trail segments are completed, there would be no long-term impacts on soils."

- DEIS does not provide underlying data to support the assertion that "…there would be no long-term impacts on soils" once structures and trail segments are completed." What does impact to soils mean? Short, long and cumulative impacts would be to riparian areas and the wetland – not just soil.
- The DEIS does not identify the types of BMPs (Best Management Practices) that will be used during construction or BMPs for construction activities such as importing/exporting soil, excavating parking lots and building sites, development of a septic system etc.
- Without that information it is impossible to assess direct, indirect short, long term or cumulative environmental impacts from construction on the riparian area, wetland, archaeological sites, waterbirds and their habitat
- What are "actual BMPs?"

Page 2-56 "The entry gate would be open during daylight hours and locked at night."

- What are the hours that the Education Center will be open?
- Will there be night lighting in the parking lot, at the driveway entrance, within and outside of the Education Center and observation decks? If so, what types of lighting will be used? This information should have been in the DEIS because lighting within the Kawainui ecosystem is a great hazard for migratory birds. The birds become disoriented and collide with buildings or fly around until exhausted and fall to the ground,

Page 2-56 "The parking area would include a drop-off area for permitted buses at the entrance to the education center" This parking area would have a compacted gravel or other permeable surface to minimize storm water runoff."

- Where is the bus drop-off located – along Kapa`a Quarry Road or in/adjacent to the Education Center parking lot? How many parking stalls out of the 35 are devoted to bus drop-off? Will bus parking be permitted in the Education Center area?
- What methodology was used to suggest that the use of "compacted gravel" in parking areas is the appropriate permeable surface? Gravel eventually comes loose and with time and with rain could be washed into the wetland. What measures are proposed to prevent gravel from going into the wetland?
- Exhibit 2.19 depicts a sloping area. Is this a depiction of the exact area before or after grading and grubbing for the Education Center?

Page 2-86 "The individual septic system would comply with DOH regulations governing design and development of these systems."

- The DEIS does not provide information on the type of septic system or the size and capacity of a system needed to accommodate 6,000 visitors per month.
- The DEIS does not provide information on whether a septic leach field will be required or if there is an appropriate location and adequate space within the site to locate a septic drain field without impacting the wetland.

- Since explicit information is not given about materials to be used in the parking lot, location and type of septic system, increased number of people and location of the Education Center it is impossible to evaluate any direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative impacts on the riparian area, endangered waterbirds, their habitat and the wetland.

- Since the DEIS lacks specifies on the design and location of the Education Center and other facilities such as a septic system an EA or Supplemental EIS must be done for this and the kauhale site after the design phase is completed so that environmental impacts can be comprehensively evaluated?

- The DEIS states that there will be a parking lot with about 35 parking stalls…for visitors to the area as well as volunteers participating in restoration activities at Na Pohahu o Hauwahine including a drop-ff area for permitted buses at the entrance to the education center.

- What are the plans for parking if the parking lot is full? Will parking be allowed on Kapa`a Quarry Road? If parking isn't allowed along the narrow two lane Kapa`a Quarry Road what remedies are being proposed to accommodate people who want to visit the Education Center and kauhale?

Page 2-56 states that a "10 acre (approximate) kauhale cultural site will be located next to the education center, have up to 8 hale and/or halau (traditional Hawaiian pole and thatch structures), lo`i kalo, native plants and "recreational features..."

DEIS states that the "Proposed complex structures would occupy foot prints ranging from 570 to 1800 square feet. However, the actual designing of complex structures and the footprint they may occupy would be determined during the design of these structures"

- The DEIS does not identify the locations of the 8 hale/halau in relation to the wetland but says that "the foot print" and structure designing "would be determined during the design of these structures."

- Calculating an average of 1,000 sq ft each for 8 hale equals 8,000 sq ft. Along with the 5,000 sq ft interior space for the Education Center, unknown dimensions for the parking lot and septic system with leach field this is a huge footprint in the Kawainui riparian area.

- Not providing information on the location and size of each hale/halau does not give decision makers enough information on which to evaluate the appropriateness of the location and size of each hale/halau or determine direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland ecosystem.

- While the DEIS suggests that structures within the kauhale would be constructed using traditional Hawaiian pole and thatch structures, which would have lower impact on the environment that type of construction isn't guaranteed because "the actually designing of complex structures" would be done by a non-profit selected through an RFP process" at a later time. What guarantees are be in place to ensure that the hale/halau are constructed as defined in this DEIS?

- Will the kauhale area have restrooms and require a separate septic system?
- Combine the 8 hale/halau, the 5,000 sq ft interior space for the Education Center, two parking lots and unknown feet/miles of trails and roads, 2 restrooms, 2 septic systems with leach fields, 1 large pavilion, at least 6,000 thousand people visiting/traversing this riparian area monthly and the impact on the environment is tremendous. This area currently does not have any structures yet there is no information of the cumulative impacts from these projects on the riparian area, wetland, endangered waterbirds and their habitat .

Page 2-80 Table 2.5 projected staff and program activity for the Education Center is estimated at about 500 people monthly and the kauhale complex projected activity at 100 people monthly. This is almost a 100% human foot print increase over present activities at the site.

- Were these 600 people counted as part of the 6,000 monthly visitors to this area?

Page 2-80 Other than to state that a "few larger cultural events (e.g. Makahiki) may occur at the kauhale twice a year, typically on the weekend" no other information is given.

- How many people are estimated to attend a large cultural event? Where will they park? Will the event be at night? Will night lighting be required?
- What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts from unknown numbers of people attending events held in the Kawainui riparian area?

Page 2-82 Table 2.6 gives a summary of projected visitor activity for the Na Pohaku o Hauwahine site (located near the Education Center), the Education Center, kauhale complex, and Kahanaiki area will have a projected 6,000 people per month (200 visitors a day) up from the current 250 visitors a month.

- This is a very significant increase in the number of people coming to this sensitive riparian area yet this DEIS does not provide any information on the direct, indirect or cumulative environmental impacts from so many people and cars coming to these areas.
- Since direct, indirect, cumulative, short or long-term impacts were not addressed or specifics given in this DEIS and Supplemental EA must be done for this subarea.

Page 2-82 estimates that about "20% of the visitors to the education center would be traveling there as the primary reason for their visitation. The remaining 80% of the visitors would already be traveling to Kailua and Windward Oahu for beach activities, shopping etc, as part of their primary trip. Kawainui would be an incidental stop."

- It is unclear what this statement is meant to convey but human activity has an impact on the environment so it doesn't matter why a person stops at Kawainui the impact on the environment, riparian area and wetland is the same

Page 4-85 states that "The impact of the education center with surrounding pedestrian trails attracting additional tourists to Kailua would be rather small, or about 20 to 30 additional visitors a day."

- What methodology was used to determine that "additional tourists in Kailua would be rather small"?

Page 2-95 The time given for the Kawainui State Park Reserve, Na Pohaku of Hauwahine to Pohakea Education Center build-out is 10 to 20 years.

- A lot of factors could change in 10 – 20 years that may make this EIS obsolete and this development not practical or necessary.

Pg 2-58 mentions a trail along Kapa`a Quarry Road

  - Where will the trail start and end? What is the length of the trail?
  - What is the width of the trail? What material will the trail be made of?
  - Will it be a dirt trail or cement sidewalk?
  - Will bicycles be permitted on the trail?
  - What types of improvements such as lighting, curbs, walls etc. need to be made to Kapa`a Quarry Road to accommodate the trail?
  - How much excavation, grading and grubbing, imported and exporting soil be required to construct the trail? Where will soil be imported from?
  - Will the trail have to be built to Federal Highway standards
  - How many bridges will be constructed along the trail? Will the trail be at grade?
  - What safety measures will be used to protect pedestrians and bicycle riders from being hit by a car on this narrow two-lane road? Will the trail be constructed along Kapa`a Quarry Road or away from the road?

- What are the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui wetland, riparian area, endangered waterbirds, their habitat and water quality from constructing a trail along the periphery of Kawainui that will attract untold numbers of walkers, hikers, bicyclists?

Kahanaiki

Page 5-6 Kahanaiki the DEIS states that a "small, modest" restroom will be built in the Kahanaiki to "primarily service DOFAW staff working in the area and occasional students and adults participating in educational and community service project activities and be connected to the existing 36-inch transmission main via a service lateral.

- If the "small, modest restroom" is not built what other type of restroom facilities will be used – portable toilets, structure with septic tank, composting toilet?

- How many stalls will be in the "small, modest" restroom?

- Where will the restroom be located? What types of material will be used to construct the restroom? If a septic system is used is there enough space for a leach field? Will the area need to be graded and grubbed? Will soil be imported or exported?

- Without this information it is impossible to evaluate the short, long and cumulative environmental impacts of building a restroom facility in a riparian area that currently does not have any structures.

Page 2-72 this statement conflicts with the statement above "A service lateral connecting to the excising 36-inch transmission main would *need to be added* to provide service to this restroom"

- Is there an existing line or will a new 36-inch transmission line need to put in?
- If a new line is needed how much excavation will be required? What is the distance to the main line and what are the direct and indirect environmental impacts from adding the new line?

Page 2-53 states that "A small restroom facility with septic tank system is proposed near the pavilion."

- Is this a different and second restroom facility within Kahanaiki? Why are two restroom facilities needed?
- Will this septic tank system have a leach field? What are the dimensions of the septic system and where will the leach field be located? How much grading and grubbing will be required for the restroom, septic system and leach field?
- Once again it is impossible to assess direct and indirect environmental impacts because no information on size, type of system, location, earthmoving requirements etc. is provided in this DEIS.

Page 2-53 states **"**An open air pavilion is proposed near the program staging area in proximity to the observation area and boardwalk" and will be a "approximately 350 sq foot wooden structure" to provide shelter and a place to rest.

- What is the purpose of the open pavilion? How is it different from the program staging area, and observation area? Why are so many structures necessary? Where will each be located in relation to the wetland?

Pg 2-53 "Visitor parking lot at south end also used as program staging area 25 parking stalls, including handicapped "…serve visitors to Kawainui accessing pedestrian trails and foot trails" mention of school buses but not any bus parking "…parking area would have compacted gravel or other permeable surface to minimize storm water runoff along with other environmental design measures (e.g. bioswale).

- Is this staging area the same as the one mentioned above or the same one?
- The DEIS repeatedly states that one of the purposes of the Education Center is to have an idea of how many people visit Kawainui yet this parking lot and trails in Kahanaiki are open to anyone to enter the marsh. It is the same with the trail at DOFAW center and the levee. So it appears that there is no comprehensive way to count the number of people coming to Kawainui or accurately evaluate human impacts on this wetland ecosystem.
- Some sort of visitor count should be scheduled for the Project area to determine how many people visit Kawainui and evaluate their impacts on the environment.
- What is the difference between "pedestrian trails and foot trails"? How many of each will be constructed within the Kahanaiki area?

- What methodology was used to determine that compacted gravel in the parking lot was the best product to use to minimize storm water runoff and erosion? While gravel may minimize runoff the rocks can come loose and rain will carry them downhill where they may eventually make their way into the wetland. What are the short, long and cumulative impacts of gravel in the wetland?

Pg 2-53 "The access located further north across from Le Jardin Academy's entrance would continue to serve DOFAW for their management activities. A program staging area would be established for loading/unloading of students educational programming and service learning activities."

- Where is the "program staging area" located, is this different from the one mentioned above? Is the staging area part of the parking lot?

Page 2-53 "DOFAW's existing unpaved maintenance roads within the upland area used for management activities would also function as pedestrian trails for visitors." "Additional trail segments or foot trails would extend from these roads to provide access closer to the wetland and to observation areas."

- How many additional "..trail segments or foot trails" will "extend from the roads"?
- Where will these segments lead too? How close will the trails be to the wetland and the mud flats created for endangered waterbird habitat?
- Will there be fencing around this section of Kahanaiki to prevent people and dogs from getting too close to the endangered waterbirds?
- Was an analysis done on the impact of human voices on the endangered waterbirds? Since people are being invited into their habitat it is important that all information is known before the welcome mat is rolled out and DOFAW initiates the 60-acre restoration only to find out that some endangered waterbirds are sensitive to human voices and will not use the restored wetland.
- Where in relation to the mud flats will the "observation areas" be placed?

Pg 2-53 "Maintenance roads and pedestrian trails would be about 10 to 12 feet wide, and continue to be unpaved or improved with permeable surface materials such as gravel, grass crete etc. Foot trails would be comprised of grass or dirt, similar to hiking trails, about 4-6 feet wide and only accessible by foot. At the southern end of this section, a bridge would be needed to provide a crossing over Kahanaiki Stream to extend DOFAWs maintenance road toward Mokulana Peninsula. This single-lane bridge would support DOFAW maintenance vehicles and pedestrian use and would span over the stream to minimize effects."

- What methodology was used and where is the data confirming gravel would be a good permeable surface for the maintenance roads and trails?
- What materials will be used to construct the bridge over Kahanaiki Stream? What construction method will be used to construct the bridge?
- What are the dimensions of the bridge – length, width? Will the bridge connect to the existing bridge or be a stand along bridge? Will there be lighting on the bridge?

- Since the DOFAW station is a short distance from Kahanaiki via the Pali Highway why is a road and bridge needed through the riparian area and across Kahanaiki Stream?

Pg 2-57 "Contact between humans and endangered waterbirds may occur during the construction and operations of these facilities. Development of facilities proposed near wetlands would be coordinated with DOFAW to minimize adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds, Mitigative measures such as having an experience biologist survey areas for waterbird nests would occur to minimize adverse impacts."

- What other measures are recommended to avoid human/endangered waterbird encounters?

Page 2-37 "The specific design of the bridges would be developed during the design phase of these improvements when implemented."

- The DEIS states that the bridges will "span over these streams (Maunawili and Kahanaiki) to not impact their bed or banks." From this wording it seems as if there are designs for the bridges. Why weren't the designs part of this DEIS?

Page 2-37 "Additional access roads along the southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would also be created to support maintenance of the restoration ponds and connect DOFAWs management and research station with Mokulana and eventually with the Kahanaiki."

- Why are new roads and bridges over Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams being proposed for the wetland riparian area when the Pali Highway connects the DOFAW maintenance and research center to Mokulana to Kahanaiki?
- The DEIS does not provide specific information on the materials to be used, locations, need for dredging, construction methods for roads and bridges just a general 10 to 12 feet wide making it impossible to evaluate direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative impacts on the riparian area and wetlands.

Page 2-11 The DEIS mentions that certain improvements are permitted under Land Division CDUP (OA-3068B).

- Is relocation of existing electrical lines, utility poles installation of 16,200 linear feet of fencing permitted under this CDUP?
- Is development of the vegetation processing area, trails, roads, bridges, interpretive areas, wastewater systems and structures permitted under this CDUP?
- Is construction of sediment basins and other future possible facilities permitted under this CDUP?
- When does this CDUP expire?

Will any of the facilities – restrooms, trails, roads, observation decks within the Kahanaiki area require night lighting?

- If night lighting will be necessary what are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts of night lighting on Kawainui migratory and endangered waterbirds?

Subarea C: Kapa`a-Kalaheo-Levee

Proposals for this subarea include: 11 buildings with approx. 4,000 sq ft interior space, assumed yet not mentioned a septic system with leach field, caretakers cottage, nursery, 2 parking lots, catchment system at the Kapa`a Cultural Complex; vegetation processing area and facilities with about 5,000 sq ft interior space, parking lot, long drive way, storage containers septic tank system with leach field; Kalaheo Park 3,000 sq ft hale wa`a, 42 stall parking lot, restrooms and showers and 1,000 sq ft interpretive shelter. Other than the levee there are presently there are no structures or septic systems in this subarea.

Kapa`a Cultural Center

Page 4-51 states that the Kapa`a Cultural Complex will be managed by a non-profit organization and will "*not be open to the general public.* " even though "Other organizations may also use their facilities for meetings, classes, etc."

- Why is this facility, which is being built on public land, not open to the general public but is open to "Other organizations…"?
- Will the Complex be open to all organizations island/statewide to use for meetings, classes etc.?
- What is the State's justification for excluding the general public from public land at the Kapa`a Cultural Center, which is located in a Ramsar designated wetland?
- Will the Kapa`a Cultural Center require night security lighting?
- Will performance bonds be required for the non-profit organization operating the Kapa`a Cultural Center? Will non-profit organizations be required to have insurance or will the facility and users be covered by government insurance?

Page 2-81 "This complex at Kapa`a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public" and hold "Periodic events (three events a year) (that) may be limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only)."

- The DEIS does not give any explanation as to why the Kapa`a Cultural Center, to be constructed on public land, will be closed to the general public and that "Periodic events (three events a year) may have "limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only)."
- The DEIS does not provide any information on the impacts to the environment from "…200 to 500 persons…" attending "Periodic" *invitation only* events at the Kapa`a Cultural Center three times a year or give the methodology used to determine that three events a year was acceptable.
- Will these "events" be at night and will night lighting be needed? Will lighting including security lighting be needed for nights other than the event night?

- This information should have been in the DEIS because night lighting disorients migratory birds and they either crash into buildings or fall to the ground from exhaustion either wounded or dead.
- Not providing information on the lighting needed for the "Periodic events" makes it impossible to evaluate the direct, short and long term impacts of lighting on migratory birds.
- If structures are constructed, operated and paid for by non-profit organizations does that mean that organization own the structure and is responsible for maintenance?

Page 5-56 "Site user will consist of individuals associated with the site non-profit steward and their guest participating in programs and activities. An anticipated 300 to 400 persons would utilize the facility on a monthly basis equating to about 13 persons traveling to the facility each day." With 13 vehicles daily there would be "negligible effect on traffic conditions along Kapa`a Quarry Road."

- Will the two parking lots proposed for the Kapa`a Cultural Center require night security lighting? Will lighting be used at the three entrance/exits onto Kapa`a Quarry Road?
- Since night lighting is hazardous to federally protected migratory birds information on lighting should have been provided in this disclosure document
- Without information on night lighting it is impossible to evaluate direct and cumulative impacts on federally protected migratory birds.
- What is the plan for parking if people drive to the special events and there is no parking available? Will people be permitted to park on Kapa`a Quarry Road?

Page 5-56 "Three larger, single day events would be held yearly at the site. Events would have limited public attendance or would be accessible only by invitation. Guests would range from 200 to 500 persons per event with a total of about 1,000 guests each year. The non-profit organizing these events could encourage guests to carpool to minimize the number of vehicles traveling to the site or retain the service of busses to transport participants"

- Is it practical to anticipate 200 to 500 people will attend an event and not have adequate parking? Even if people carpool they will need somewhere to park. If the parking lot is full where will people park? What are the impacts to the environment from having 200 to 500 in this area at one time?
- Will overnight stays be permitted at the Kapa`a Cultural Center? If so, how many people will be allowed to stay each night?
- What statute, law or rule permits private (invitation only) events on public land?
- Will the single day events be held at night? Will night lighting be needed for each event?
- What is the State's justification for allowing only the non-profit organization or their guests/partners by invitation only to participate in cultural and educational programs and activities on state public land?

Page 2-61 states that the Kapa`a Cultural Center will be "Up to 4,000 square feet not including nursery" and that "The actual design would be developed in the future by the non-profit organization, and be responsible for construction and operating this complex. The selected organization would need to be qualified and selected through a RFP"

- Not including the design of facilities segments the DEIS and allows DLNR to be vague in disclosing not only details but the full impact of all that is being planned for protected public trust resources, i.e. the cumulative effects of this Project.
- Exhibit 2.20 shows a "Concept Sketches of Cultural Complex Structures" so there must be some design information available. Why wasn't that information included in this disclosure document?
- While restrooms are mentioned there is no mention of type of septic system that will be used at this site. Since sewer hookup is not available along Kapa`a Quarry Road it is assumed that some type of septic system will be needed for this area. What type of septic system will be used at this site?
- Since the site is a former landfill information on the stability of the soil and ability to construct structures on the site should have included in this disclosure document

Page 2-59 Figure 2.10 shows 11 buildings yet the DEIS only mentions 4,000 sq ft interior space, green house and caretakers cottage.

- Does the interior of the 11 buildings equal 4,000 sq ft of interior space?
- What are the dimensions of the caretaker's cottage? Where will it be located in relation to the wetland? Will the cottage have a bathroom and kitchen?
- What is the location of each of the 11 buildings in relation to the wetland?
- Construction of 11 buildings, two parking lots, presumably some sore of wastewater treatment system, even though nothing was in the DEIS, hundreds of people and a catchment system will have a huge environmental impact yet this information was not included in the DEIS. Since critical information is missing a Supplement EA must be done for this area.

Page 2-60 states that "Visitors may come into contact with endangered waterbirds during construction and operation of these facilities. Development of these facilities would be coordinated with DOFAW to minimize adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds from facility construction and operation. Mitigative measures such as avoiding construction of facilities during waterbird nesting season would occur to minimize adverse impacts."

- The protective measure is good. Since the complex will be operated by a private non-profit organization who will be responsible for ensuring that this protective measure is enforced?
- While acknowledging that people may come into contact with endangered waterbirds at this site the DEIS does not evaluate impacts on endangered waterbirds from human contact..

- Even more alarming is the acknowledgement that human and endangered waterbird encounters are anticipated to occur during the "operation" of the complex. What preventative measures will be used to reduce/eliminate human and waterbird encounters?
- This complete lack of information on mitigation measures to prevent human endangered waterbird encounters during operations is very troubling.
- Information on preventative measures must be in a Supplemental EIS.

Page 2-60 states that the Kapa`a Cultural Center will have a water storage system, a plant nursery and caretakers cottage yet there is no information on the locations, dimensions or type of water storage system in the DEIS.

- The DEIS does not provide information on how much earth moving will be required, how much soil will be imported or exported, the depth of the water table or the permeability of the soil. Without this information it is impossible to assess impacts on the wetland and endangered waterbirds from these developments.
- The DEIS does not provide information on lighting needs of the various complex buildings (Exhibit 2-20). Will the caretaker's cottage, plant nursery, each of the 11 buildings, the parking lot need night security lighting? This information is needed to evaluate the short and long-term impacts of night lighting on migratory birds and must be included in a Supplemental EIS.

Page 2-60 states that "LID elements such as bioswales, bioretention areas, and rain catchment systems would also be considered in the project's design."

- Information on types, placement, size, effectiveness and purpose of these LID elements should have been included in this disclosure document so that the effectiveness of each measure on protecting the wetland can be assessed.
- What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui wetland, endangered waterbirds and water quality from building 11 new structures, a new septic system, a new catchment system, 2 new parking lots, and creating unknown miles of trails through the area?

Vegetation processing area

Proposed: 5,000 sq ft interior space, a vegetation processing area, a long driveway road, staging area, storage containers, a new septic system

Page 1-22 "…DOFAW is planning to clear vegetation from this processing site to prepare it for use with restoration activities"

- How much vegetation will be removed from the site? Will the vegetation be taken off site? Will the vegetation be reused? Will the vegetation be tested for contaminants before being used or removed?

Page 2-12 Figure 2.2 shows a "Proposed Maintenance Base Yard" within the Vegetation Processing Area.

- Is a Maintenance Base Yard part of the vegetation-processing site or is it a separate entity? What is the purpose of the Base Yard? Will DOFAW oversee the Base Yard?

Table 2.1 identifies the Vegetation Processing Area as 9.9 acres and under DOFAW jurisdiction while Page 2-61 lists Vegetation Processing site as 14 aces would be used to compost green waste.

- Are these the same sites or are there two vegetation-processing sites?

Page 2-62 Vegetation processing site would have "facilities totaling about 5,000 square feet of interior space and would include a single-story office building for administration and operations, a maintenance building and a large shed for supporting equipment storage and other necessary operations support."

- What isn't mentioned in this description is the long driveway that extends to the edge of Kawainui wetland. (Page 2-59 Figure 2-10).
- How long is the driveway? How much grading, grubbing, excavating will be required to create the driveway? How much soil will be imported or exported to construct the driveway? What type of material will be used on for the driveway?
- How high is the water table at this site? How much fill will be required to make the land stable enough for structures and the driveway?
- What is the length of the driveway/road? What is the purpose of the driveway/road going to the edge of the wetland? Will green waste be brought to the site by some sort of barge?

Page 2-61 states "The site would also require staging areas for receiving and disposing of green waste, areas for windows, and other processing areas." **"**…storage containers (320 square feet) would be used for temporary office space during research activities, similar to containers used during construction)"

- How large will the staging area be? Will there be plastic sheeting or some type of impermeable ground covering under the staging and the vegetation processing area to prevent contaminants from entering the underlying aquifer?
- How many storage containers will be located on the site?

Page 3-111 states that **"**As a whole, buildings and parking area from the vegetation site account for the largest percentage of runoff from improvements proposed for the Kapa`a portion of Subarea B. About 370 cubic feet per hour (cfh) of runoff is estimated from this site. Runoff estimates could be reduced further if LID elements were used in construction of facilities."

- What LID measures will be used to reduce runoff?
- Since there will be 5,000 sq ft of hardened surface, storage containers, and a long driveway and it was determined that buildings and parking lots cause the greatest amount of runoff what preventative measures will be used during and after construction to prevent runoff from entering the wetland?

- Will there be night lighting for night work and security?
- This information is critical because night lighting is deadly for federally protected endangered, such as shearwaters, who are known to traverse Kawainui and surrounding areas and become disoriented by lights and fall to the ground injured or dead
- What types of light shielding and lowest wattage bulbs will be used if night lighting is needed?

Page 3-82 While the aquifer below the vegetation-processing site is not a drinking water source it is still critical that wastewater contaminants are filtered before water migrates into the aquifer. It is not sufficient to say that since the aquifer is not a "drinking water source" that it "would not be negatively impacted by the small wastewater generated from vegetation processing operations."

- Where is the data to support the statement that it "would not be negatively impacted by the small wastewater generated from vegetation processing operations"? What methodology was used to come to that conclusion?
- What measures will be used to prevent wastewater contaminants from migrating into the aquifer?
- What measures will be used to prevent erosion from migrating into the wetland?
- Preventative measures should have been in this disclosure document so that decision makers can determine if the suggested measures are sufficient to prevent contaminants from entering the aquifer and wetland.

Page 4-73 "The vegetation processing facility would be considered an industrial use that is located within an established industrial area along Kapa`a Quarry Road across from the City's transfer station and Kapa`a Light Industrial Park. This facility would be compatible with surrounding industrial uses…"

- Kawainui marsh is not an established industrial area. All industrial uses are on the mauka side of Kapa`a Quarry Road. The vegetation processing area is on the makai side of Kapa`a Quarry Road and within Kawainui marsh.

Page 3-32 "The vegetation processing site would be potentially exposed to possible damages because it is located closer to the canal, near Kapa`a Stream and at a lower elevation."

- What type of damages does this statement refer too?
- What canal is near Kapa`a Stream and why would the canal damage the vegetation processing area?

Page 5-10 The vegetation-processing site would generate about 100 gpd of wastewater from restroom facilities and require a small septic tank with leach field system. Based upon a manual for septic tank practice, a septic tank volume of 150 gallons would be required (septic tank volume = 1.5 daily demand) (AECOM 2017). The size of the leach field would be subject to further design because the absorption bed area is dependent on the soil percolation rate. However, the vegetation processing site has sufficient area to accommodate this system."

- Has a septic system design been selected? If so, information about that system should have been in this disclosure document that decision makers can evaluate whether the system is sufficient to prevent wastewater migration to the aquifer.
- Figure 3.2 identifies the area as MZ Marsh. Page 3-14 states that "Much of the upland area at Kawainui particularly along Kapa`a Quarry Road consists of fill…"
- Since this site is low-lying marsh with water standing on the surface what process(s) will be used to dewater the site in preparation for construction of the staging area, development of structures and septic system?
- How and where will the water be disposed after each dewatering event?
- How often will the site have to be dewatered?
- Will the water be tested before it is disposed?
- Has the ground been tested to ensure that it is stable enough for the construction of buildings?
- Has the area been tested to ensure that the soil is impermeable so wastewater contaminants do not seep through the leach field into the aquifer without being filtered?

Page 3-28 since facilities at the vegetation processing area could be damaged by strong winds what materials will be used to construct the buildings? What precautions will be taken to ensure that during high winds green waste is not blown into the wetland?

Page 3-35 while the upland areas may not be susceptible to flooding the flat vegetation processing area gradually slops down into the marsh. What is the possibility of the vegetation processing area flooding?

- The vegetation processing area may be far from Oneawa Canal but the site is low and was created from fill so it could be susceptible to tidal surge. What precautions will be taken to ensure that a tidal surge does not inundate the vegetation processing area and sweep green waste into the wetland?

- What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui wetland, endangered waterbirds and water quality from installing a new septic system with leach field, creating a green waste processing and staging area, a 5,000 sq ft building, and unknown number of containers over an aquifer and in an area almost level with the wetland?
- Are these manmade areas considered wetland riparian areas?

Kawainui State Park Reserve: Kalaheo Park

Uses and new facilities: canoe launching, a approximately 3,000 sq ft hale wa`a accommodates up to six 6-man canoes/equipment and have a small meeting room, large covered lanai, and be used for cultural programs including canoe building and repair; a 1,000 sq ft wood frame interpretive center with gathering space and small office; 42 stall parking lot, showers and restrooms that would be open during daylight hours and locked at night.

Page 2-63 Figure 2-11 shows Hale wa`a Canoe/Kayak Storage.

- The DEIS mentions that the hale wa`a will only be used for canoes. Will kayaks also be stored in the hale wa`a?
- Can personal use kayaks be stored in the hale wa`a or will kayak owners have to be part of a club or school? If the hale wa`a can accommodate up to six 6-man canoes how many kayaks can be stored in the hale wa`a?

Pg 4-32 "Based on the properties topography, history, and observations of a drainage ditch, fill sediments on the park site would likely be more than 6 feet thick, and possibly as much as twice as that (12 feet) The site has been heavily modified and consists of fill material from excavation of Kawainui Canal and construction of Mokapu Saddle Road and Mokapu Boulevard."

- What methodology was used to determine that the fill "would likely be more than 6 feet thick, and possibly as much as twice as that (12 feet)"? Where is the data from the findings?
- What are the other options if the fill is not stable enough to handle the proposed structures?
- Continuously carrying 6-man canoes over the edge of the park and riparian area into Oneawa Canal can cause sever erosion. What measures will be used to prevent erosion?
- What security measures are in place to prevent stealing the canoes?
- Will there be night lighting in the restrooms, for park security, at the hale wa`a and outdoor canoe storage area for security and use? What are direct and cumulative impacts on federally protected migratory birds from night lighting at this site?
- Will the canoe launch area be grass or dirt? Who will be responsible for maintaining the area and preventing erosion and runoff into Oneawa Canal – a non-profit organization or DSP?
- The DEIS lacks information on direct, indirect, cumulative, short and long term and cumulative environmental impacts from erosion to Oneawa Canal and Kawainui wetland from continuous canoe launching.

Page 5-11 Kalaheo park "Wastewater generated from this restroom facility should have minimal impact on the City's municipal system, and no impact if a separate septic system is used." ,

- What methodology was used to determine that there would be "no impact if a separate septic system" was used? Where is the data to back up that assertion?
- Since this site is adjacent to Mokapu Blvd. what would prevent hooking up the restroom and showers to the City municipal wastewater system?
- Under what circumstances would a septic system be used? If a septic system is used is there adequate from for a leach field?
- At what point in the process will the decision be made whether hook up is possible or a septic system will be needed?

- Page 4-40 “Design plans associated with the hale wa`a structure would be designed to not exceed the depth of the fill material.”
- SHPD recommended that an AIS be done if construction goes beyond the fill. If a septic system is needed will an AIS be done?

Page 2-81 states “Activities are estimated to generate up to about 1,100 persons a month…”

Page 2-80 Table 2.5 shows “projected” and “increase in activity” at 100 a month.

- Which number is the correct number – 100 people a month or 1,100 people a month?
- Does the correct number of people include people just stopping to view the marsh and are not part of an organization?

Page 5-66 “The pedestrian bridge constructed over the Kawainui Canal would have a beneficial impact by providing another access point to the levee for the public, and increase outdoor recreational activities (walking).”

There are contradicting statements about the bridge over Oneawa Canal. Which is correct?

- **Pg 5-69 states “**The only project related change in this subarea is adding a hale wa`a and *not* constructing a pedestrian bridge over Kawainui Canal at the Kalaheo Park site compared to the No Action Alternative.” and
- **Page 3-28** “New structures built at the Kalaheo Park site that include the comfort station, interpretive shelter, and pedestrian bridge over the canal could e damaged from strong winds.
- What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on Oneawa Canal, endangered waterbirds and water quality and the banks of the canal from building 2 new structures, creating a parking lot, and canoe/kayak launching area over the canal riparian area?

Levee

Pg 2-65 states that No improvements are proposed for the levee.

Page 5-63 states that the levee is open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm with about 1,800 persons a month using the levee (60 people per day)

- After trails connecting the levee to Wai`auia and the trail to Ulupo Heiau are constructed how many people who use the levee are expected to use those trails?
- Since people using the levee will most likely not go to the Education Center how will the number of people accessing trails around Kawainui from the levee be counted?

Pg 2-67 Pedestrian Trial Figure 2.12 “A pedestrian trail is proposed along Kailua Road. This trail would extend north from the Hawaiian center at Wai`auia to the levee. The trail would be about 10 -12 feet wide and consist of a permeable surface (e.g. gravel, grass crete) that would be determined during the design phase. The trail would be designed to provide vehicle access to

support DOFAW wetland management and maintenance operations. An observation deck with interpretive signs is proposed to provide scenic views of Kawainui."

- What is the purpose of a 10-12 foot trail/road that will parallel Kailua Road?
- Where will the observation deck be located? What are the dimensions of the observation deck?

Page 2-68 "A foot trail is planned to link the levee with the Ulupo Heiau SHP area. The trail would be about 4 to 6 feet wide. Fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision, a boardwalk about 365 feet long would be required for the trail to cross over the wetland, while providing a 100-foot buffer from the residences on top the bluff. The specific alignment and requirements for this trail section would be determined during a later design phase when DOFAW is ready for its implementation."

- From the above statements on pages 2-67 and 2-68 it seems that there will be two trails linking the levee and Wai`auia with Ulupo Heiau and Mokulana. The10-12 foot wide pedestrian trail is proposed along Kailua Road while the 4 to 6 feet wide foot trail goes along Kawainui Marsh.
- Why are two trails needed? Is it really necessary for DOFAW to have its own road/trail when the 10-12 foot wide trail will run parallel to the existing Kailua Road?
- The DEIS states that design for both of these trails will occur at another time. During the Chapter 343 EIS process is the proper time to discuss projects, their design and potential environmental impacts and not after the environmental review has occurred.
- The DEIS does not have any information about the impacts from the 365 foot long boardwalk on the wetland and endangered waterbirds and their habitat.

Pg 3-119 the levee open water channel is regularly used by `alae`ula.

- With increased use of the levee because of the additional trails what precautions will be taken to protect endangered waterbirds from humans and dogs?

Pg 2-85 "About 500 visitors a month are projected to utilize the pedestrian trail created from the levee (at Wai`auia), to Ulupo Heiau SHP, and Mokulana peninsula area."

- What methodology was used to determine that 500 people would use the new pedestrian trail? Where is the supporting data?
- What are the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the Kawainui riparian area, endangered waterbirds and wetland from approximately 500 people a month using a trails adjacent to Kawainui wetland?

Subarea D: Wai`auia-Ulupo-Mokulana

Proposals for this subarea include: trail from Wai`auia Cultural Center to the levee; Wai`auia Cultural Center three buildings with up to 5,000 sq ft interior space; 3 parking lots; 350 foot long causeway behind Kawainui Vista subdivision and an observation deck; Ulupo Heiau greenhouse, halau, storage shed; 3 staging areas, 1 pavilion; DOFAW 3,000 sq ft new floor space, 1 septic new

system, trail and road between Wai`auia, Ulupo Heiau and Mokulana; road and bridge over Maunawili Stream to Mokulana. Presently there are no structures in this subarea.

Wai`auia plans are for three single story structures with up to 5,000 sq ft interior space to be used to support administrative operations, have classrooms, a hale for programs and performances, work areas for artisans, storage, meeting rooms, a kitchen, restrooms that will hook up to the municipal sewer system and a 15 stall parking lot "with some stalls available during certain times to the public."

- What are the hours and days that "some stalls" will be available for the general public? How many parking stalls will be available for the general public? What entity will determine the days, time and number of stalls available to the general public?
- The parking lot will only have 15 stalls yet the DEIS says that about 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 pm) and evenings. Where will people park?
- With limited parking stalls where will the average 247 persons per 7 days a week park?
- Will there be night lighting in the parking lot and around the building for security? Since Wai`auia Cultural Center will be open at night what are the direct and cumulative impacts from night lighting on migratory and endangered waterbirds?
- Information on night lighting should have been provided in the DEIS so that the direct and indirect impacts on federally protected migratory birds could have accessed.

Pg 4-51 Wai`auia will not be "open to the general public, the non-profit organization managing the center would support holding and conducting educational programs for the public and students in coordination with DOFAW and DSP."

"A non-profit organization would construct and operate the complex and would need to meet specific qualifications and be selected through an RFP process." "Site users would include individuals associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities."

- What department will define the RFP "specific qualifications" and process?
- Under what statute or rule and circumstances can the general public be excluded from public land?
- Under what statute, rule and circumstance can public land be for the exclusive use of "individuals associated with the non-profit organization" and "their guest/partners"?
- Will performance bonds be required for the non-profit organization operating the Kapa`a Cultural Center? Will non-profit organizations be required to have insurance or will the facility and users be covered by government insurance?
- What is the State's justification for excluding the general public from public land at the Kapa`a Cultural Center, which is located in a Ramsar designated wetland?

The DEIS states that "periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."

- What does "limited attendance" mean"?
- Where will 200 to 300 people park?
- Will the events be held outdoors and will there be outdoor lighting?

Pg 2-65 Wai`auia Cultural Center "It would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization that would also support the long-term care and management of the burial preserve."

- There is very little in the DEIS about the burial preserve in the DEIS. Was it exempt from the EIS process?

Page 2-81 About 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 pm) and evenings. Some periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."

- Will the 1,730 people projected to use the center have to be invited, be associated with an organization or can the general public attend classes?
- What does "limited public attendance" mean?
- Will the 200 to 300 persons projected to attend periodic events have to be part of an associated organization or invited to attend the event?
- What are the direct, indirect , short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts including light pollution on the Kawainui wetland and riparian area, endangered waterbirds and from 1,730 persons at month in the area and between 200 and 300 people at periodic events? Presently there are no structures or lighting at this area.

Ulupo Heiau

Proposed project improvements consist of adding a greenhouse and halau that are intended to support stewardship activities in the area, restoration improvements and general maintenance of the area

Pg 2-71 "A foot trail from the Ulupo Heiau site to the DOFAW Kawainui Management and Research Station… would be 4 to 6 foot wide and unimproved (dirt or gravel). The trail would be routed along the base of the adjacent hillside approx 250 to 300 feet away from residences of the Kukanono subdivision and buffered by vegetation associated with the hillside. Some short segments…may include a boardwalk to cross over drainage areas. The specific alignment of this foot trail section would be determined during a later design phase when DOFAW is ready for its implementation. The trail will be routed to avoid impacts to archaeological sites in the area" "A small viewing platform or pavilion with interpretive signage would be provided along the trail to provide viewing opportunities…."

- What methodology was used to determine that 200 to 300 feet away from Kukanono residences is an adequate distance to protect homes from being broken into?

- Where will the "small viewing platform or pavilion" be located?
- How many boardwalks will be needed to cross various drainage areas?
- Once again no design information is provided so that direct, indirect, short or long adverse effects on the wetland, archaeological sites, endangered waterbirds and their habitat from the trail, boardwalks and viewing platform can be assessed.
- What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on the Kawainui riparian area and wetland from adding a 4-6 foot wide dirt or gravel trail, boardwalks, and viewing platforms?

DOFAW Kawainui Management and Research Station

Page 2-73 "The DOFAW research station would be clustered within a 1 acre of the site with facilities…to accommodate up to 30 employees. About 3,000 square feet of new floor area would be added bringing the total operational space to about 9,000 square feet. New structures would include, a restroom and laundry building. The existing temporary office trailers and shipping containers would be removed.

- Will the new restroom and laundry be hooked up to the City municipal system or will a new septic tank system with leach field be added or will the present septic tank/leach field system be enlarged?
- Where will a new septic system be located in relation to the wetland? Is there adequate space for a new or expanded septic system and leach field without encroaching into the wetland?
- Have studies been done evaluating impacts of the existing septic system on the wetland?
- Has DOFAW looked into the cost of hooking up the City municipal wastewater system? If this area is going to be DOFAWs permanent headquarters than hooking up to the City system might make financial sense.
- What are the dimensions of the proposed septic tank system whether an expanded system or new system and where will the new system be located?
- What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of adding a new septic system and leach field or increasing the existing system?

Page 2-73 "Other improvements would include greenhouses…an open-aired interpretive pavilion of about 350 square feet with restrooms near the restoration ponds…" "Wooden decks about 10 to 15 feet in diameter would be provided for viewing waterbirds and scenic resources associated with the restoration ponds, Maunawili Stream and Kawainui" "A pedestrian bridge would be required to cross over Maunawili Stream."

- Where will the 350-foot open aired interpretive pavilion and "wooden decks" be located in relation to the wetland?

- Are the 10-15 foot "wooden decks" part of the 350-foot open-air pavilion or separate entities?
- Are the wooden decks and pavilion the same as the "small viewing platform or pavilion" mentioned on page 2-71?
- How many "wooden decks" will be between DOFAW research center and Mokulana?
- What is the route and width of the pedestrian path and bridge and what material will be used to create the trail and construct the bridge?
- What is the route of the pedestrian trail and where will it cross Maunawili Stream?
- The DEIS does not provide sufficient information on what a bridge over Maunawili Stream will be constructed or whether the bridge will be able to withstand stream flood events. Since Maunawili floods there should be information on the safety of people crossing the bridge and what safety measures will be implemented.
- What BMPs will be used in construction of facilities, trails, bridges and boardwalks?
- What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and riparian area of adding a bridge, viewing platforms, trails, and restrooms?

Page 2-73 " A 1.5 acre area at the southwest end of DOFAW's station is proposed for passive outdoor recreation for the public." A wooden shade pavilion of about 800 square feet would be provided along with parking for 15 vehicles and "Additional space using a trailer could be added at the site for other environmental research projects."

- What is the purpose of the 800 square foot "wooden shade pavilion" and how it is different than the 350-foot pavilion? Where will the pavilion be located?
- Without information about location and materials to be used for the proposed facilities it is impossible to evaluate direct, indirect, short, long-term and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and stream environment.
- What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and riparian area of adding a trailer, 800 sq ft pavilion and parking lot?
- Will night lighting be needed in the parking lot and at the new structures? What are the direct and cumulative impacts of night lighting in this area on federally protected migratory birds?

Pg 2-87 "A small park area below DOFAWs management station includes support (e.g. parking, shelter) for public access.

- Where is this park located and what are the amenities in the park? Will night lighting be needed?

Mokulana (6.5 acres)

DOFAW equipment storage/office space building, a parking lot, program staging area, 2 interpretive viewing pavilions, trail

Page 4-85 "there is no public parking provided to Mokulana."

- Inviting people to use the trails and viewing platforms at Mokulana and not provide adequate parking means that people will park in Maunawili, which will exacerbate parking problems from people going to hike Mt Olomana.
- What are the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the Maunawili Community from adding a trail, program staging area and two viewing pavilions and not providing public parking?

Page 3-111 "All improvements would occur in discreet areas that are comparatively smaller than undeveloped areas." "„improvements would not have a measureable effect on water quality unless runoff produced contained high amounts of particulates and nutrients. These contaminants may be conveyed to the wetland when stormwater flows over parking areas and buildings ." "…the total amount of runoff from proposed improvements is comparatively smaller than other wetland water inputs." "Kawainui wetland's pollutant scrubbing functions would continue to protect downstream waters, and should have the capacity to accommodate and cleanse any additional runoff attributable to these improvements…"

- What methodology was used to determine these conclusions and where is the data to substantiate the conclusions?

Subarea E: Hamakua-Pu`uoehu

Proposals for this subarea include**:** Proposed facilities include program staging areas, restrooms, maintenance access road, trail, fencing

Page 5-14 The proposed 200 sq ft restroom and program staging area will be located next to residences yet there is no information or discussion about impacts on adjacent residents. An evaluation of impacts on the neighbors must be in the FEIS.

Pg 2-76 Pu`uoehu Hillside "…two foot trails are proposed. One trail would extend up to and along the summit of Pu`uoehu while a second trail would extend about halfway up and along the hillside.."

- What material will be used to create the trails?
- Where will the trails begin and end? Will the trails connect to each other so that a hiker can make a circle or is a hiker expected to use the same trail to return.
- Will the trails be open to the general public?
- Will the restroom and parking have night lighting?
- What are the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and riparian area of adding two new foot trails in the Pu`uoehu watershed?

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AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Donna Wong
Hawai'i's Thousand Friends
300 Kuulei Road, Unit A #281
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Wong:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 2, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings to better correspond to your comments.

1. *The primary purpose of an EIS is to inform government agencies as well as the public about all that is being planned and the details of what is being planned before any permits are granted. This DEIS fails to do that instead it is vague, puts off evaluation of projects specifics and impacts until a future design phase, and does not mention what if any significant environmental impacts are anticipated.*

   Response: It should be clarified that the purpose of the State environmental review process is to alert decision-makers to significant environmental effects that may result from implementation of the project. No permits are granted as part of the environmental review process. An EIS is an informational document to disclose the environmental effects of a proposed action to permit informed decision-making under §343-2, HRS.

   The DEIS does address the environmental effects of the project throughout the document in compliance with State regulations. It should be noted that under the rule of reason standard applied from prior judicial rulings issued, an EIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the proposed action. The utility and validity of this standard was established through prior legal cases evaluating the application of both federal and State of Hawai'i environmental regulations. An EIS is considered adequate if it has been compiled in good faith and sets forth sufficient information to enable the decision-maker to consider the environmental factors involved and to make a reasoned decision after balancing

the risks of harm to the environment against the benefits to be derived by the proposed action. The DEIS was adequate in meeting this criteria and the assessment results and documentation included are clearly not erroneous. The DEIS was not vague and includes considerable project information in Chapter 2. It adequately identifies and addresses project effects.

Section 2.2 of the DEIS provides significant project details, shows conceptual plans with building locations and footprints, along with exhibits and descriptions to provide a reasonable understanding of improvements proposed so that likely impacts can be identified. Certain details, such as building interior configuration and construction plans, are not available because they have not been designed at this stage of the environmental review process. The project information provided is sufficient to identify and address impacts. It is precedent for such environmental reviews of projects to be completed without available specific design and construction plans because other sufficient project information is provided to allow identification and assessment of impacts. Such design plans would be reviewed by agencies as part of future permit applications in accordance with pertinent regulations. The DEIS was prepared in good faith, addressed concerns raised, and adequately documented the effects of the proposed action by identifying significant environmental impacts and measures to minimize or mitigate such effects, as appropriate.

In addition, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui have now been eliminated from this project to address general community concerns with these activities. Such improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Reducing some proposed improvements are intended to further reduce effects on the environment. These revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

2. *This DEIS is like a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement because it does not evaluate cumulative effects of DOFAW restoration and private project developments on the environment, it lacks details saying that issues will be defined and dealt with at the design phase or that projects will be phased in at a later date. All the non-designed actions will be conducted without an Environment Assessment and rely on this EIS as having reviewed and mitigated, when necessary, all cumulative, short and long term impacts. Of course, that is not the case because the document does not sufficiently detail past, present and future projects and analyze how these projects and differences between the projects will impact the environment.*

Response: Regarding your reference to a "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" (PEIS), the State EIS rules under both Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR do not address, regulate or provide rules governing the requirement for, scope, or content for a PEIS. Therefore, we do not believe it is proper or applicable to be characterizing the DEIS as a PEIS. We also disagree with your general and unsubstantiated statements identifying perceived deficiencies with the DEIS because the document adequately provides sufficient project information and identifies likely impacts. The DEIS addresses the cumulative effects of both restoration improvements and other structures and uses within the project site, and chapter subsections include separate headings addressing these effects. The DEIS does not

state that "issues will be defined" and dealt with at the design phase or that projects will be phased in at a later date. Section 2.2.8 identifies the project's likely phasing timeframe addressing agency priorities for implementing improvements over time. The DEIS thus addresses the impacts from all improvements and activities proposed to be included under this environmental review.

The DEIS addressed all proposed improvements, identified likely impacts, and identified mitigative measures where applicable. Therefore, separate Environmental Assessments (EA) are not necessary when implementing proposed improvements, and the DEIS better addresses the cumulative effect by including all improvements proposed instead of analysis by separate EAs. EIS rules require projects to be considered in their entirety and not segmented. Applicable short and long-term impacts have been addressed in respective sections of the DEIS.

Cumulative impact refers to the incremental impact from implementing improvements proposed under the project when added to other past, present, and **reasonably foreseeable** future actions. The DEIS addresses project impacts on the environment from relevant past, present, and **reasonably foreseeable** future actions as discussed in respective sections of the DEIS, including Section 7.3. For example, Section 3.4.3 deals with streams within the project site. Included is water flow information reflecting present conditions; flow data over a period of years; and prior changes to upland areas that have influenced flows. The impact of the proposed action on streams is discussed based upon this information and concludes that adverse effects are not anticipated. Section 2.1.1 identifies prior planning efforts undertaken for the project site, Section 1.4 discusses existing conditions, including past improvements implemented in the area, and Section 1.5.4 identifies prior land use approvals, all of which provide the background and basis for addressing cumulative effects.

3. *An illegally segmented EIS does what a PEIS does and this DEIS does: it puts off disclosing the details and other planned parts of the Project until later. By being vague DLNR avoids disclosing not only details but the full impact of all that is being planned for protected public trust resources, i.e. the cumulative effects of this "Project" when it is completed when added together with the cumulative effects of the current stressors that are degrading the wetlands and contributing to the growth of the mat, i.e. water diversions, pollution, alien species, etc. It is illegal because the full sum of what is being planned and the potential impact of it escape review once this comment period is ended.*

   Since water either runs downhill naturally or is directed, what happens uphill in the Maunawili Valley, Kapa`a Valley, surrounding roads and residences is relevant. The fact that the buildings are not sitting IN the water is irrelevant if they and their uses degrade the downhill wetland ecosystem.

   Response: We disagree with your inference that the DEIS is illegally segmented and reads like a PEIS. The DEIS includes all improvements that are part of the proposed action, provides adequate project details, and addresses the cumulative effects of the project. The DEIS discloses all proposed improvements. If other improvements are later proposed that

are not included in the Final EIS (FEIS), they would need to comply with the State's environmental review procedures that may include the preparation of a separate environmental document.

Information on wetlands is discussed in Section 3.4.4 and includes the history, former uses that contributed to present conditions, and current conditions from which project impacts have been addressed. Other sections (e.g. Section 2.1) provide additional details on wetland conditions, concluding that restoration improvements are needed. Overall, the project would have a positive beneficial effect on wetlands. Restoration activities would remove and control invasive vegetation and improve water flow. Impacts from the entire proposed action are addressed under separate subheadings (e.g. wetland restoration, structures and trails), and have been made available for public review. Therefore, the proposed action did not "escape review" as part of the environmental review process.

We acknowledge your interest with upland (mauka) areas outside of the project site, such as Maunawili and Kapa'a Valleys. The DEIS includes information on existing conditions, history of the area, etc. that include these valleys and their influence on Kawainui's wetland. However, DOFAW and DSP cannot control what water diversions, pollution discharges, or land use activities occur within the larger mauka areas outside of the Kawainui and Hāmākua project site because those largely privately-owned properties are not under DOFAW or DSP jurisdiction or control. DOFAW and DSP have no authority to regulate activities on private properties or along roadways. Furthermore, the purpose for this project is not to change water diversions, human use, or other activities outside of the project site limits. DOFAW can manage the wetlands within the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area to support and improve their function and value within the watershed. As already discussed, information provided on the existing condition of Kawainui's wetland reflects what occurs within these upland valleys.

Facilities proposed within upland areas of the project site are addressed, are relatively modest, would only have minor or negligible effect on the wetland and streams within the project site, and would not significantly impact lower lying areas, such as Kawainui Canal. It is relevant that buildings are not proposed within the wetland because project improvements have been planned to minimize effects on the wetland. There are no wetlands makai of Kawainui and Hāmākua that would be affected by the project. As already discussed, the DEIS provides information addressing the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions associated with resources, such as streams, and discusses the probable impacts associated with the proposed action. Project improvements would not degrade the wetland ecosystem based upon the results documented in application sections of the DEIS (e.g. water quality, streams, wetlands). Overall, the proposed action will have a beneficial effect on wetlands and streams, and the DEIS includes sufficient information to identify current conditions and address project-related impacts.

4. *The DEIS is deficient.*
Response: We have the following responses addressing each of your bulleted comments.

a. *DEIS illustrates that the Project is being segmented with later phases of developments and actions to be defined at the design phase.*
Response: The DEIS does not segment the proposed action as all proposed improvements are identified and evaluated. A phasing timeframe for implementation based upon DOFAW and DSP priorities were provided in Section 2.2.8. Sufficient information regarding project improvements is included in Section 2.2 to identify and address significant impacts as explained under our response No. 1. It is accepted practice for project environmental reviews to be completed without detailed construction plans because sufficient project information is provided to allow for assessment of impacts. Further, such design plans would be reviewed by agencies as part of future permit applications in accordance with pertinent regulations.

b. *DEIS failed to provide adequate cumulative impact analysis on Kawainui Marsh's riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered water birds, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from individual structures, activities and actions within each subarea.*
Response: As explained under our response No. 2, the DEIS addressed project cumulative impacts on the environment in regard to relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions as discussed in the DEIS, including Section 7.3. Chapter 3 included several sections addressing riparian (wetland/upland, botany, etc.) areas, wetlands (Section 3.4.4), water quality (Section 3.4.5), waterbirds and migratory birds (Section 3.3.2), and aquatic resources (Section 3.4.6). These sections address the impacts from restoration activities, and constructing buildings and trails, etc. as appropriate. Discussing such impacts within each subarea is a formatting preference, and applicable sections do discuss either existing conditions or impacts by subareas, such as Sections 3.4.5 (water quality) and 3.3.1 (botanical). The DEIS is not required under environmental regulations to discuss project impacts and existing conditions of a project site by "subareas." However, where appropriate, sections were formatted to allow discussion by subareas to simplify review. Sections already include sufficient information to identify and address impacts from the project, particular improvements (e.g. education center) where applicable, and cumulative effects.

c. *DEIS does not discuss methodology used to reach conclusions or give supporting data for findings.*
Response: The DEIS discusses the methodology used to identify existing conditions and impacts, [Sections 3.3.1 (botanical), 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 (avifauna and mammals), 3.4.5 (water quality), and 4.1 (historic and cultural)], including supporting data, where appropriate, and explanations to support results.

d. *DEIS does not contain information on methods that DOFAW and DSP will use to measure the existing amount of habitat needed for endangered waterbirds and what additional amount is needed.*
Response: Regarding waterbird habitat, the purpose for proposed improvements is to enhance existing habitat. Section 2.1 explains the need and objectives for enhancing habitat. There is no need or requirement to "measure the existing amount of habitat needed" and what additional amounts are needed for such habitat. Section 2.2.1 discusses in detail the wetland restoration plan and program proposed for this project. This program is based upon DOFAW's Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project that covers the Kahanaiki area. In addition, restoration plans were developed based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise working with wetlands on O'ahu in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). As discussed in Section 2.2, Figure 2.5 shows DOFAW management areas and identifies the Kahanaiki and Open Water zones that would serve as the main waterbird habitat areas due to creation of more open water areas, mudflats, etc. These areas would provide significantly enhanced habitat areas for waterbirds. Management activities for this habitat are discussed in Section 2.2.5.

e. *DEIS did not asses the role of foreseeable future projects such as the Kapa`a Light Industrial Park expansion on Kawainui riparian area, wetlands, and water quality.*
Response: Section 7.3 addresses cumulative impacts. The Kapa'a light industrial park's expansion plans would improve present water quality and storm water runoff discharged from that site into Kapa'a Stream before entering Kawainui's wetland (due to planned drainage improvements discussed in a 2011 Final EIS). Wetland restoration and upland improvements proposed in Kawainui's project area would not significantly impact riparian and wetland areas or water quality as discussed in the DEIS. Section 7.3 includes more information addressing cumulative impacts with the light industrial site expansion. A copy of that revised section is attached.

f. *DEIS does not identify or appropriately designate "riparian reserves" or "restricted watershed."*
Response: Riparian zones typically consist of the interface between land and a stream. Within the project site, such riparian areas include the transition from wetlands at Kawainui and Hāmākua to upland areas. Streams within Kawainui are generally situated within the wetland. It is not necessary or required to designate riparian reserves within the project area based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise working with wetlands on O'ahu and statewide. Section 2.2.1 of the DEIS discusses plans for riparian areas, and Figure 2.6 and Exhibit 2.11 include exhibits showing typical sections covering such areas. Transitional plantings using cultural plants along with theme plantings would be incorporated between the wetland and low mesic forest areas. Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetland and upland project area are not areas needing to be designated as a restricted watershed. As discussed in Section 3.4.4, these wetlands are already serving their ecological function for flood control, water quality, etc. The Pu'uochu hillside, recently acquired by the State, above Hāmākua's wetland appropriately serves the watershed function. Section 3.4.1 includes sufficient

information on the watersheds serving the project area to allow for project effects to be identified and addressed. Furthermore, designating restricted watershed areas are not necessary or required for this project based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise working with such resources on a regular basis.

g. *DEIS fails to recognize that riparian terrain, high quality stream and wetland habitat and watersheds are crucial to at risk species and provide high quality of water.*
Response: The DEIS recognizes that riparian areas, streams, wetland habitat and watersheds are important to endangered waterbirds. The applicable sections of the DEIS address these various areas, and our prior response addresses riparian areas. Regarding water quality, Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands naturally function as large basin traps for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from waters discharged into it from streams, drainage systems, and upland surface runoff. Wetlands are not intended or required to have "high quality" of water due to their natural function. The respective sections of the DEIS show that the project would not adversely impact endangered waterbirds or other threatened birds, and would not adversely impact watersheds, streams, or wetlands. These results are supported by DOFAW's experience and expertise working with waterbirds and other similar resources on a regular basis and proposed management activities.

h. *DEIS fails to provide adequate information on the stability of the sites proposed for buildings, trails, septic systems, roads and bridges.*
Response: The DEIS includes information addressing the topography and soils of upland areas (Chapter 3) that would support proposed improvements. Sites proposed for cultural centers and the educational center are relatively flat and do not have severe slopes (e.g. >40%). Section 3.1.3 addresses soils. Soils within the surrounding area do not have stability issues. Sites proposed for these facilities are relatively flat and should require minimal grading activities for building footprints and general site preparation, as discussed in Section 3.1.3. The stability of these sites are adequate and were already modified for prior uses and constructed structures that operated without known stability issues, such as ranching, a City baseyard, and a former radio tower site.

Pedestrian and foot trails would consist of dirt (unimproved) or improved trails typically used for walking, consisting of a permeable surface with gravel, Grass Crete, etc. There would be no major issues associated with site stability for such trails. Roads used for maintenance activities would similarly consist of permeable surfaces and not have stability issues. Most roads planned are already existing unpaved trails currently used by DOFAW for their management activities. A bridge crossing a stream would be properly designed to span over it. Septic systems would not have issues with the stability of sites, and all individual septic systems constructed would be designed and developed in compliance with State DOH requirements (§11-62, HAR). This includes conducting a soil percolation test under State DOH requirements during the design phase for any septic systems, and receiving necessary permits based upon agency review of specific system plans.

i. *DEIS does not consider environmental impacts from trails is evident in the DEIS and backed up with statements such as "The environmental impact of path construction was addressed in the Kawai Nui Pathway Plan EA (HHF, 2003)." (Page 3-116)*
Response: Page 3-116 describes water quality impacts, and the statement referenced notes that path construction short-term effects were addressed in the prior Kawai Nui Pathway Plan Final EA. However, that section does include a current assessment addressing water quality impacts from trails that describes project runoff estimates (Table 3.13), discussing using low impact design features (e.g. grass) to reduce runoff. It also states that best management practices would be implemented during construction activities. Other sections of the DEIS address the impacts of trails as well.

5. *Page 2-97, Table 2.8 Cost Estimates*
Response: We have the following responses addressing your bulleted comments on certain portions of Table 2.8.

a. *A. Kahanaiki Area* *$16,410,000*
- *Wetland restoration, upland reforestation, drainage*
- *Pedestrian/Foot Trails, observation deck, and parking*
  - *It is unclear if this figure includes the cost for proposed fencing, 2 restrooms, roads*

Response: The cost for the Kahanaiki area has been updated to include fencing and just one restroom facility proposed. Costs for roads (mainly gravel or unpaved in this section, and includes already established DOFAW maintenance roads) were already included. Wire fencing would be similar to other perimeter "hog wire" fencing planned as shown on Exhibit 2.15 of the DEIS (4-foot-tall), and such costs would generally be negligible in relation to other associated costs. With elimination of the boardwalk in this area, the cost for this area decreases slightly. A copy of the revised Table 2.8 is attached.

b. *B. Pōhakea-Na Pohaku Area* *$16,020,000*
- *Wetland restoration, upland reforestation*
- *Pedestrian and foot trails*
- *Education center, parking, kauhale*
  - *It is unclear if this figure includes 2 proposed new septic systems, parking lot*

Response: For Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku, only one septic system (not two as you indicate) is proposed that would service the education center, as discussed in Section 2.2.4. The septic system and parking lot costs are included in that total.

c. *C. Kapa`a Area – total costs for these actions* *$14,280,000*
- *Wetland restoration, upland site clearing/grading*
- *Pedestrian trail*
- *Cultural center*
- *Vegetation processing facility*
  - *It is unclear if this figure includes 2 proposed new septic systems, 2 parking lots*

Response: For the Kapa'a area, estimated costs for a restroom with septic system serving the vegetation processing facility has been added. The cultural center cost includes a restroom facility with treatment. Costs for parking areas were already included. With elimination of the pedestrian trail and boardwalk in this area, the costs for this area have been reduced by about 45%.

d. *H. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Peninsula Area* *$8,340,000*
- *DOFAW support facilities, greenhouse*
- *Pedestrian/foot trail, staging areas, bridges*
- *Mokulana maintenance road/trail, pavilions, storage*
  - *It is unclear if this figure includes new or enlarged septic system, road*

Response: For the DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana, the existing septic system at DOFAW's station is sufficient and no expansion is proposed under the project. Costs for road improvements were included in the estimate.

e. *It is unclear if these costs include proposed 2,000 sq ft of boardwalks, 350-foot causeway, construction, labor, design, materials, and maintenance.*
Response: The costs estimated under Table 2.8 of the DEIS were for construction (labor and materials) and included a factor for design and contingencies. The costs did include boardwalks and causeways. As discussed in Section 2.2.1, causeways are minor grading improvements along access roads, using gravel, as part of storm water management initiatives. With elimination of boardwalks, these costs were similarly removed from the revised Table 2.8 included in the FEIS, and included as an attachment.

f. ***Page. 2-96*** *states that "...some improvements supporting cultural practices would be constructed by a non-profit organization (e.g. Kapa`a Cultural Center)" If these facilities are to be paid for by a private entity why were they included in the cost estimate? The Wai`auia Cultural Center should have been included since a non-profit organization will construct this project.*
Response: Costs for cultural centers that would be funded by selected non-profit organizations were included to provide a cumulative total of cost estimates associated with the project. The cost for the cultural center at Wai'auia was included. Section 2.2.8 states that the costs for such complexes are on the order of $13.5 million.

g. ***Page*** *states that about $13.5 million for construction would be paid for by non-profits. It is unclear if that amount includes maintenance of the structures, facilities and area they are built on.*
Response: The cost estimates for cultural centers developed by non-profit organizations include the construction of such facilities. Maintenance costs for these centers were not included because they would be funded by the selected non-profit organizations. Maintenance programs would be determined by those non-profit organizations and do not significantly change the overall assessment of impacts resulting from improvements.

h. ***$53,220,000*** *is a staggering number for DLNRs tightly stretched budget. How will DLNR fund these proposals including the never-ending operation and maintenance costs?*

Response: As discussed under Section 2.2.8 (project phasing), funding for State-initiated improvements would be subject to funding allocations from the State Legislature and phased over several years. DOFAW and DSP would continue to work with the Administration and Legislature in prioritizing projects and operations as part of their annual budget requests. Operation and maintenance costs are similarly programmed under the DLNR's operating budget allocated by the Legislature. Such State-funded operational and maintenance costs would not apply to the cultural centers operated by non-profit organizations. DSP may support maintenance costs for the educational center, if not operated by a non-profit organization. Without those facilities, new State-responsible maintenance costs for remaining improvements would be fairly modest that include: 1) DOFAW management station; 2) vegetation processing site; 3) a restroom and parking lot at Kahanaiki; 4) a greenhouse at Ulupō Heiau; and 5) pedestrian and foot trails that would only require minor maintenance costs. Costs for maintaining and repairing State facilities would thus be programmed as part of the department's operational budget.

i. *Once the trails and facilities are in place Kawainui will attract people all hours of the day. Kawainui can't be locked up so to prevent destruction and misuse of property, facilities and resources security will be needed 24 hours a day because unless the entire marsh has security night lighting it will be an attractive nuisance. How will security be and how much will it cost?*

Response: Pedestrian trails would only be available during daylight hours. Night lighting is not proposed along trails or at parking areas. Kawainui would thus not attract visitors during all hours of the day, as tourists would not visit Kawainui at night or when closed. The education center would also be operational only during daylight hours, and thus night lighting for security is not required nor proposed because it would be closed during the evening. Facilities would be locked and parking lots gated at the end of the day as is typical with other facilities. As with other State parks, security is not required nor provided 24 hours a day, and these improvements would be no different. Security for cultural centers would be the responsibility of the individual non-profit organizations operating them.

6. *Ramsar Convention*

As a Ramsar Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Wetland Complex Wetland of International Importance the Ramsar Convention represents much more than "sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices within designated wetlands" (Page 7-10). As one of the Ramsar applicants with the National Audubon Society for designation of Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance Hawaii's Thousand Friends knows that Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex is much more than a recreation tourism destination. The Wetland of International Importance Complex is of cultural, archaeological, historical and ecological significance and should adhere to the

vision and goals in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-24: The Vision, Mission, Goals and Targets.

- *"The Vision: "Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all."*
- *The Ramsar Mission: Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"*
- *Strategic Goal 1 – Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation*
  - *(2) Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfill their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone*
  - *(4) Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.*
- *Strategic Goal 2 – Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network*
  - *(5) The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management*
  - *(7) Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed*
- *Strategic Goal 3 Wisely Using All Wetlands*
  - *(9) The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone*
- *Operational Goal – Enhancing Implementation*

Response: The statement quoted from page 7-10 of the DEIS is taken from a section discussing adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided and was in reference to objectives supported under Ramsar. We agree that Ramsar objectives include more than referenced in that section's statement because the complex has cultural, historical and ecological significance. Proposed cultural centers support cultural and historical factors, and wetland and upland restoration support the ecological factor. The project supports the vision and goals you identify, and Section 6.1 includes more detailed discussion of the project's conformance with Ramsar. That section discussed how the project is consistent with the center of Ramsar's philosophy is the "wise use" concept, defined as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development." It also addressed the project's consistency with the criterion used to nominate Kawainui-Hāmākua under Ramsar.

Your organization's participation in the nomination application is appreciated, and the project addresses the vision and Ramsar mission as discussed in Section 6.1 of the DEIS. The project will support ongoing and expanded stewardship activities, and provide opportunities for the public to experience and learn about the wetland areas through trails,

viewing opportunities, and educational programs that are coordinated through the education center and cultural centers. Other improvements seek to provide a permanent and sustainable native Hawaiian cultural presence, support cultural practices, and to integrate cultural aspects with long-term resource stewardship. We also note that the Ramsar application supported having tours of Kawainui bringing up to 200 visitors at a time. Section 6.1 has been revised to add the strategic goals identified in your letter, and pages from that revised section are attached to this letter.

7. *Carrying Capacity.*

   a. *Because of the extensive amount of development proposed in the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project: 4, possibly 5, new septic systems; approximately 18 new structures with 3 areas up to 5,000 sq ft interior space; 7 new parking lots/areas; approximately 5 new pavilions and 8 viewing decks; approximately 2,000 sq ft of new boardwalk; at least 3 new bridges/causeways and unknown miles of paths, trails, and roads; 9,950 visitors a month, which is an increase of 7,450 people a month.*

   Response: We disagree with your characterization of the project consisting of an "extensive amount of development" based upon the information discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Overall, project improvements are fairly modest given the large previously disturbed upland area available, and are reasonable to meet project needs and objectives. Furthermore, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been eliminated from the project due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors. Improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail, a bridge over Kahanaiki Stream, and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site.

   Structures proposed within the built environment would total only a little over one acre in floor area (about 48,300 sf) and would be dispersed over about 66 acres of upland areas. In addition, DSP is considering implementing more modest improvements for the education center in the interim consisting of just parking, a restroom, and an open pavilion at Pōhakea. These interim improvements focus more on programs support rather than full build-out of the more permanent education center. These project revisions would also reduce the projected number of visitors.

   The number of new structures referenced also needs to be put into proper perspective, otherwise it could be misleading. For example, structures include: traditional native Hawaiian hale (Pōhakea kauhale complex) to support cultural practices and programs; two open pavilions that are common at parks; a restroom and storage facility at Hāmākua for DOFAW management activities; and a greenhouse to support cultural landscape restoration at Ulupō Heiau. More relevant buildings are: 1) DOFAW's management station and the vegetation processing sites to support office, storage, operations, management, and restoration activities; 2) the education center; and 3) structures for the cultural centers. In addition, the number of structures at the cultural centers could be less based upon the non-profit organization's design plans, however, the total cumulative floor area would set the limit for these uses.

The City's *Land Use Ordinance* development standards for the General Preservation District, applicable to the project's upland areas, limits the maximum building area to 5% of the lot, or about 143,750 square feet. The project would utilize significantly less than that (only 1.7% of the total floor area) allowed under zoning standards. In contrast, the Kūkanono subdivision development adjacent to Kawainui's wetland (over 130 residential structures) is far a more intrusive development. However, the DEIS shows that such large scale urban residential development along Kawainui has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality.

Other improvements similarly need to be put into proper perspective to prevent misperception. Septic systems for restrooms are standard and common treatment systems for wastewater that would be designed in accordance with State DOH regulations. As discussed in Section 5.2 of the DEIS, projected daily demands would not be significant and generally require smaller systems. Viewing decks are minor accessory support facilities common along park trails to provide managed public viewing at designated locations. Viewing decks have been reduced, and no boardwalks are now included as part of the proposed project. Two bridges previously proposed have now been reduced to one bridge across Maunawili Stream to only support DOFAW vehicle access for management and maintenance activities. Causeways are beneficial and simple site improvements to improve storm water runoff by detaining discharges within low lying areas along maintenance roads. Pedestrian trails typically involve minor site improvements (e.g. grassing, pervious surfaces) or consist of natural foot trails that have minor physical impacts on the environment. Proposed trail routes have also been scaled back to reduce public access.

b. *Hawaii's Thousand Friends asked, in our October 21, 2016 EISPN response letter that a carrying capacity study be done. DLNR's November 21, 2017 response was in part "The carry capacity concept is also viewed to be problematic in the sense that it implies that there is an absolute threshold of (for example) visitor numbers below which there is no or minimal impact. In addition capacity in relation to one variable is only practically meaningful when related to other linked variables. For example, the amount of visitors that can acceptably be accommodated within an area would be dependent on other factors such as the behavior of visitors, the age of the visitors, the applicability of support improvements (e.g. paths, quality of education material and guidance provided visitors etc. Projected visitors to Kawainui are at levels not expected to cause intolerable visitor experiences (e.g. overcrowding) or significant degradation of upland areas. Visitors would not be entering Kawainui's large wetland area or disturb endangered waterbirds, and access would be managed, such as providing viewing opportunities at designated observation sites (e.g. viewing platforms). Acceptable visitor levels under such a capacity concept could also be much higher than that projected."*

Response: Your request for a carrying capacity study would primarily be associated with concerns related to visitor levels. As stated in our November 21, 2017 response letter, the application of the carrying capacity concept is flawed because it is derived from biological models of the capability of resources to sustain a given number of

animals over a period of time in a particular place. This does not translate readily into the management of human recreational experiences.

As pointed out previously, the carrying capacity concept is problematic because it improperly implies that there is an absolute threshold, for example, of visitor numbers, below which there is no or minimal impact. Furthermore, National Park Service research papers, several other publications, and a Waikiki recreational carrying capacity study have collectively determined that "carrying capacity" doesn't apply well to recreational settings. The issue is really addressing how many visitors or what level of use is too much, and trying to determine the "magic number" of visitors. Focus is typically on the "environmental carrying capacity" of an area, such as Kawainui, to accommodate visitors. However, environmental carrying capacity is difficult to measure because it is influenced by a variety of factors, such as weather, site characteristics and durability, type of use, time and duration of use, and species composition. Because public values are diverse and recreational experiences are multi-dimensional, the number of visitors acceptably accommodated are dependent on other factors such as the behavior of visitors, their age, the applicability of support improvements, quality of education material and guidance provided to visitors, etc. Thus, capacity in relation to one variable is only practically meaningful when related to other linked variables. Furthermore, management decisions can change (increase/decrease) recreation capacity through factors such as personnel, budget, regulations, fee systems, reservation and permit systems, educational programs, etc.

Studies show that the more appropriate term is "visitor capacity" for recreational planning and management, which is evaluating the social capacity level of use beyond which social experiences, such as crowding and user conflicts, are unacceptable. Professional judgments should be used to predict what use level will be consistent with a given management prescription, and monitoring and adaptive management increases certainty by tracking changes and making adjustments accordingly. Improving public access at Kawainui will inevitably result in some change. It is important to recognize when change becomes unacceptable. Change must also be balanced against the positive benefit of expanding educational and recreational opportunities in a managed setting.

As we stated previously, visitors would not enter Kawainui's large wetland area and would not impact that wetland resource or adversely impact endangered waterbirds. Projected visitors discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS are at levels not expected to cause intolerable visitor experiences (e.g. overcrowding) or significant degradation of upland areas based upon the DEIS results. Elimination of some sections of the pedestrian trail provides the means to reduce impacts. Acceptable visitor levels would be much higher than that projected in the DEIS (about 200 per day). A Waikiki carrying capacity study in 2008 surveyed the area between Sans Souci/Kaimana Beach and Diamond Head/Kuilei Cliffs beaches. The study determined that the "minimum point" where one's toleration toward crowding changes (from acceptable to unacceptable) is between 200 to 330 persons at one time for an area of only about 20 acres. Being a minimum point, a higher number of persons per area (crowding) could thus be

tolerated. Given that the upland area from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku encompasses about 66 acres, it is possible that several hundred visitors (over 600 persons) could occupy that area at one time before one's experience changes due to crowding (visitor "capacity" being approached). With visitors to Kawainui expected to stay for one to two hours during a day visit, the number of total visitors a day could potentially increase by multiple times before approaching some type of crowding level. Therefore, the project area would be able to accommodate considerably more than the 200 persons a day projected, which is well below such levels that could potentially be perceived as starting to become too crowded.

The Waikiki study also evaluated four management strategies consisting of: 1) improving education and awareness; 2) restricting the number of people allowed; 3) improving maintenance; and 4) providing more facilities and services. Based upon the public input received by users, improving education and awareness was the most strongly supported management action. Respondents were most strongly opposed to restricting the number of people allowed in the area. Therefore, these results further show that education and improving public awareness are better management practices, compared to restricting the number of visitors.

Other references support informed judgement as being preferred by park and wilderness managers to manage sites. Managers would make value-based judgements about the level of impacts and related visitor use levels and experience that are acceptable. Therefore, the more feasible and practicable approach being proposed under this project is to allow DOFAW and DSP to make informed judgement and to develop monitoring, planning, and management protocols based on levels of impact or changes that consider both the receiving environment and the visitor experience. The level of acceptable change from these factors can be more appropriately evaluated. Management options and monitoring would be more practicable and feasibly implemented to evaluate whether the amount of change occurring can be tolerated, changes to visitor experiences and satisfaction, and when steps should be taken to prevent further undesirable changes. The management options discussed in the Draft EIS support these efforts. DOFAW's expertise managing wildlife sanctuaries and waterbird habitat can work in partnership with DSP to manage visitors and evaluate their experience (e.g. crowdedness) and impacts to wildlife.

c. *HTF was not alone in this request. Meredith Speicer, representative for the National Parks Service who providing technical assistance to Ho`olaulima la Kawainui, stated in an interview for this DEIS that "One of the ways that Ho`olaulima believed [it could] assist with the misconceptions and real threats that people see, is to develop a management plan that can address the concerns of overuse. Capacity and overuse needs to be addressed. This was a real concern with those opposed to doing anything in the marsh, and they do have a point. This was something that we asked HHF to do, but they believed it was too much work and out of their scope. I do think some kind of carrying capacity limits of acceptable change management structure would help address the potential for overuse and help to control the fear of commercialization."*

Ms. Speicer included recommendations for a carrying capacity study. (Appendix by Cultural Surveys CIA for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan pg 2-11 Cultural Surveys)

Response: Ms. Speicher's comments, as part of cultural impact assessment study, also stated "that there was unfortunate miscommunication and people in the community heard things out of context, never bothered to review the plans and it pitted the community against one another. Leaving the marsh alone was seen as somehow more conservation minded and people were very fearful of more tourists flooding the marsh and their neighborhoods. They saw commercialization of the marsh and buildings and just wanted it to stay the way it is." She believed that some form of carrying capacity or limits of acceptable change management structure "would really help to address the potential for overuse and help to control the fear of commercialization." Her perception of the planner's position, although not accurate, does not change the fact that a carrying capacity study does not translate well to recreational settings because management decisions can change (increase/decrease) recreation capacity. As already discussed, the projected 200 visitors a day would not reflect overuse or unacceptable crowding experiences. The Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area can accommodate several hundred more visitors a day than that projected.

Commercialization, in the form of unpermitted privately-operated commercial tours, is similarly not desired by DSP and DOFAW, and Section 2.2.5 discusses several management actions proposed to address this issue. Ms. Speicher's suggestion was to help address this fear of commercialization and visitors that were partially influenced by miscommunication or misinformation spread throughout the community. Informed judgement and management decisions by DOFAW and DSP staff based upon the level of impacts and acceptable visitor use levels observed are more appropriate and already proposed by the DEIS.

d. *Ho`olaulima was created in 2003, as network of concerned organizations, including HTF, government agencies and individuals who came together to foster public awareness and understanding of the natural, cultural and scenic resources of Kawainui Marsh and environs to ensure the long term protection, restoration and stewardship of the area and referred to in the DEIS as "...an appropriate entity to work with in establishing a future community advisory board..." (Page 8-21). A carrying capacity study is needed to evaluate the acceptable level of change and establish limits. Without established limits the potential for overuse and requests for more and more will be never ending.*

Response: We appreciate Ho'olaulima's interest in Kawainui over the years, and we have shared plans and information with them, including several project presentations and updates to solicit input, as discussed in Chapter 8 of the DEIS. HTF's carrying capacity suggestion implies that HTF agrees that some level of visitors to Kawainui-Hāmākua is acceptable. The question is to determine how many visitors or what level of use is too much. In summary, a carrying capacity study is not appropriate for recreational settings. Instead of carrying capacity, evaluating visitor capacity based upon one's experience changes due to crowding is a more appropriate approach.

Physical improvements alone would not cause a significant impact to the environment. Some improvements consist of minor structures, such as open pavilions, that are common at parks and do not generate significant environmental impacts affecting the "capacity" of the wetland and wildlife habitat. The real concern is with potential "overuse" of the area by visitors, and DOFAW and DSP both want to accommodate a reasonable and managed level of visitors, and plan to restrict unpermitted commercial tours. The projected visitor levels are reasonable, and lower than what could potentially be accommodated within publically accessible designated upland areas without reaching crowded or unacceptable levels based upon the Waikiki study. The actions proposed in Section 2.2.5, which include adaptive management, supports management and monitoring of areas to assess visitor levels and activities. DOFAW and DSP are experienced sufficiently to determine if changes are acceptable, and can implement several actions to restrict or limit public access, if warranted. These actions would prevent overuse of upland areas.

8. *Cumulative Impacts.*
Response: As discussed in earlier responses, cumulative impact refers to the incremental impact resulting from implementing project improvements when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The DEIS addressed project impacts on the environment from relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions as discussed in respective sections of the DEIS. Specific responses to your comments are provided.

a. The DEIS does not consider the cumulative impacts of night lighting on migratory and endangered waterbirds from activities surrounding the marsh: City Transfer Station on Kapa`a Quarry Road, Kapa`a Light Industrial Park adjacent to Kapa`a Quarry Road, Kalaheo High School, Mokapu Blvd., H-3, Pali Highway, residences along the marsh periphery, Le Jardin School and Castle Hospital on federally protected migratory birds and endangered waterbirds.
Response: DOFAW has not experienced any major issues with impacts on migratory seabirds from night lighting at Kawainui or Hāmākua. Endangered waterbirds within Kawainui and Hāmākua are not presently adversely impacted by night lighting within the project site or from outside surrounding uses. The FWS recovery plan for Hawaiian waterbirds does not identify night lighting as a threat to these species. Predation by introduced animals is the greatest threat and hybridization with feral mallards is the primary threat to the Hawaiian duck's recovery. DOFAW has protocols in place and staff are trained to address seabird recovery from such fallout if it occurs.

This condition reflects the results from prior land use changes and development occurring in the larger general area outside the project site, such as those uses identified in your comment. Furthermore, DOFAW and DSP have not implemented prior improvements within Kawainui and Hāmākua that contribute to night lighting effects on seabirds. The majority of present activities and uses within Kawainui and Hāmākua are for day activities only, such as Nā Pōhaku, Ulupō Heiau, and DOFAW's management station.

With implementation of the project, the majority of accessory structures (e.g. pavilions, restrooms) and buildings supporting management and operations (DOFAW station, vegetation processing site) would similarly be for day activities that will not contribute to night lighting concerns. Night lighting for driveways and parking areas are not anticipated. Buildings associated with the cultural centers could have outdoor lighting, but would be required to have then shielded to the extent possible and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible. These design measures are standard agency accepted protocols applied to developments and would address and minimize potential seabird fallout risk. Therefore, the project would not contribute any significant cumulative impacts to migratory seabirds associated with night lighting. Section 7.3 of the FEIS includes more discussion to address your night lighting and cumulative effects concerns, and these changes are attached.

b. *The DEIS does not address the environmental cumulative impacts of the current water diversions to Waimanalo or storm water runoff from Kapa`a Quarry Road, H-3, Mokapu Blvd., Pali Highway, Kapa`a Industrial Park, the Quarry, Le Jardin School, the City Transfer Station or the polluted waters of Impaired Waters from Kapa`a Stream or the infiltration of wastewater infiltration from septic systems at the City Transfer Station, model airplane field, Kapa`a Light Industrial Park, and the Quarry on the Class I.a. waters of Kawainui Marsh. The fact that buildings and facilities are not sitting IN the water is irrelevant if they degrade the downhill wetland ecosystem and since all water runs downhill what happens uphill impacts the wetland ecosystem and is relevant.*

Response: Section 3.4.3 of the DEIS discussed streams within the project site, including water flow information reflecting present conditions, flow data over a period of years, prior changes to upland areas that have influenced flows, etc. This included discussion of 1.4 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from Maunawili Stream being diverted to the Waimanalo Irrigation system. Section 3.4.1 discussed the general hydrology and watershed serving the Kawainui-Hāmākua project site, and provided information on other activities influencing water flow into the wetlands. The project would not change nor affect prior water diversions to Waimanalo from upland areas that are both outside of the project site and DOFAW's and DSP's jurisdiction. However, the past results of such diversions are reflected in current stream conditions (water flows) and information discussed in the DEIS.

Section 3.4.3 included information on water flow into Kawainui, estimating freshwater inflow from all sources at anywhere from a low of 6.8 mgd to a high of 13.1 mgd. Further, other sources reviewing stream flow data estimated flows from Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams to be 12.3 mgd (98%) and 0.3 mgd from other sources (surface runoff). Upland developed areas and drainage systems are designed to direct stormwater runoff into streams for eventual discharge. Clearly, stormwater discharged from streams into Kawainui account for almost all of the water flow, as compared to storm water runoff from surrounding areas. The State highway drainage systems in the area are similarly designed to direct runoff into these streams. The FEIS for the Kapa'a light industrial expansion similarly determined that 96% of the runoff from the Kapa'a

watershed, which includes the City transfer station and quarry, discharge into Kapa'a Stream before eventually discharging into Kawainui's wetland.

Therefore, information on current conditions reflects past developments, all of which provide the background and basis for addressing cumulative effects. Section 2.1.1 identified prior planning efforts undertaken for the project site, Section 1.4 discussed existing conditions, including past improvements implemented in the area, and Section 1.5.4 identified prior land use approvals, all of which provide the background and basis for addressing cumulative effects. The DEIS analysis further shows that project improvements would not have a significant impact on stormwater runoff into Kawainui, as discussed in Sections 3.4 and 5.3. As discussed in our response No. 2, all this information discussed in the DEIS provides background on past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that were used to reasonably address cumulative project impacts. Further, project improvements would not change or worsen existing developed conditions outside of the project site, water diversions, or storm water runoff from upland areas.

Water quality samples from Kawainui (addressed in Section 3.4.5) reveal the effects from cumulative discharges of stormwater runoff from all surrounding upland areas and land uses. This data reflects the results of past developments and current conditions that were used to address project-related effects. The results show that the wetlands are presently naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Drainage improvements from the Kapa'a light industrial development would improve the Kapa'a watershed conditions by reducing runoff and pollutants being discharged based upon information in their development's FEIS.

Prior water diversions or sheet flow of storm water runoff from upland areas have not significantly impacted Kawainui's wetland or its function based upon the DEIS. Project improvements would similarly not adversely impact Kawainui's water quality as discussed in Section 3.4.5. It is important to note that construction of buildings and other structures would not occur within the wetland, and project improvements discussed in Section 2.2 identify low impact development measures proposed, such as pervious pavement material, detention basins, etc., to minimize impacts. Therefore, the project would not have an adverse cumulative effect on waters and water quality. Section 7.3 of the FEIS includes more discussion of cumulative effects related to water flow and water quality to address your comments, and is attached.

Finally, the purpose of this project is not to rectify or change prior uses or current activities of private property owners outside of this project area, for which DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction. Project improvements would not change, or have any effect on prior or future water diversion or other urban activities within the upland watershed outside of the project site. Still, the project's direct and cumulative effects discussed in the DEIS do reflect the present conditions resulting from those outside activities. Further, DOFAW can manage the wetlands within the Kawainui and

Hāmākua project area to support and improve their function and value within the watershed, and the project includes several measures to improve such cumulative effects. Addressing such larger watershed issues have also been addressed by the City Board of Water Supply in the *Ko'olau Poko Watershed Management Plan* (2012) and the State Commission on Water Resource Management's *Water Resource Protection Plan* (2008).

It is relevant that buildings are not proposed within the wetland because project improvements have been planned to minimize effects on the wetland. Conditions above (mauka) and outside the project site are applicable and have been addressed in several sections of the DEIS based upon responses. These conditions were included in addressing the project's impacts on the wetland, and there are no wetlands makai of Kawainui and Hāmākua that would be affected by the project. Facilities proposed on upland areas within the project site are addressed, are relatively modest, would only have minor or negligible effect on the wetland and streams within the project site, and would not significantly impact lower lying areas.

c. *If all or some of the proposed facilities and uses along Kapa`a Quarry Road, which currently does not have lighting, are built encouraging people to visit it is inevitable that lighting will need to be installed along Kapa`a Quarry Road for the safety of the public thus further impacting migratory and endangered waterbirds. There is not sufficient detail and in some cases no information at all on night lighting within each of the subareas making it impossible to evaluate the direct, indirect , short, long and cumulative impact of night lighting on federally protected migratory birds.*
Response: Street lighting along Kapa'a Quarry Road is neither required or necessary due to the project, and no such lighting is proposed. Uses and activities along that road associated with the proposed project for the general public would be for day activities. Therefore, migratory seabirds would not be impacted by new street lighting that are not proposed along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Response 8.a. (above) addresses night lighting associated with the project, and no adverse cumulative effects to migratory seabirds are expected from the project associated with such lighting.

d. *The cumulative impacts on Kawainui Marshes riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered water birds, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from individual structures, activities and actions within each subarea are not discussed in this DEIS.*
Response: As already stated under responses 8.b and 4.b., the DEIS addressed the project's cumulative impact on the environment from relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, including Section 7.3. Information obtained on existing conditions for various resource areas reflect the results of past actions and present conditions associated with upland areas outside of the project site (e.g. water flow, water quality). Discussion of cumulative effects were included in the DEIS and more information has been included in the FEIS to address your comments, and these revisions are attached. Discussion provided is sufficient for addressing cumulative effects and formatted more appropriately by environmental factors (e.g. natural

resources, historic resources). Such discussion does not need to be by subarea, which is more of a formatting preference you desire. Under our response No. 4.b., the DEIS is not required under environmental regulations to discuss project impacts and existing conditions of a project site by "subareas." However, where appropriate, sections were formatted to allow discussion by subareas to simplify review. Sections already include sufficient information to identify and address impacts from the project, particular improvements (e.g. education center) where applicable, and cumulative effects.

Chapter 3 included several sections addressing riparian (wetland/upland, botany, etc.) areas, wetlands (Section 3.4.4), water quality (Section 3.4.5), waterbirds and migratory birds (Section 3.3.2), and aquatic resources (Section 3.4.6). These sections address the impacts from restoration activities, buildings, trails, etc. and include information by subarea, where appropriate, such as Section 3.4.5 (Water Quality). Information from these sections support addressing cumulative effects discussed in Section 7.3. Overall, these sections discuss how the project would have a beneficial effect from wetland restoration that enhances waterbird habitat, improves riparian areas, improves water quality by reducing invasive vegetation within the wetland and by implementing stormwater improvements within upland areas, and creates more open water areas supporting aquatic resources. Section 3.4.6 discusses that a body of water covered by a layer of peat is biologically dead (except for bacteria). Therefore, wetland restoration would improve light penetration generating oxygen for aquatic algae supporting invertebrates and vertebrates in the area. Upland improvements would not significantly impact these resources as discussed in those respective sections.

e. *The cumulative impacts on Kawainui Marshes riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered water birds, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from all structures, activities and actions proposed within Kawainui riparian areas and wetland are not discussed in this DEIS*

Response: Section 7.3 addresses the cumulative effect for the entire project (structures, activities, etc.), and discussion of effects were provided more appropriately by environmental factors. The formatted information provided in Section 7.3 along with individual sections of the FEIS are sufficient to alert decision-makers to any significant environmental effects that may result from implementation of the project. Under the rule of reason standard, the EIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the proposed action. The document is adequate as it has been compiled in good faith and sets forth sufficient information in a reasonable format to enable decision-makers to consider the environmental factors involved.

f. *Page 3-42 the DEIS states "Declining precipitation trends have caused a decrease in stream vase flow over the last 70 years" which "could reduce ...freshwater supplies and influence aquatic and riparian ecosystems..." and that with "...an overall decline in rainfall..." more drought and heavy rains "causing more flash flooding.." is projected. (UH Manoa Sea Grant 2014)*

Response: It should be clarified that your statements referenced from page 3-42 of the DEIS was summarizing the results from a 2014 University of Hawai'i (U.H.) study on sea level rise at a statewide level.

1) *The DEIS does not make any recommendations on ways to increase water flow into Kawainui marsh such as clearing the overgrown banks of Maunawili, Kahanaiki and Kapa`a Streams.*

   Response: The purpose for the project is not to increase water flow from upland areas into Kawainui, but to restore the wetlands and enhance their use for waterbird habitat. DOFAW and DSP are not responsible for water diversions or land use activities contributing to runoff into streams outside of the project site. There is a considerable volume of water already flowing into Kawainui from streams, (as discussed in Section 3.4.3), which changes seasonally. Reducing invasive vegetation within the wetland as part of restoration activities would allow water to more easily flow through the wetlands, create more open water areas, and improve the wetland's ability to naturally function as large basin traps. Clearing overgrown banks of streams within Kawainui is already permitted as part of DOFAW's operational and maintenance activities. Within the project site, Kawainui Stream is relatively flat, less than a foot deep (Section 3.4.3), and does not require clearing overgrown banks. Water from Kapa'a Stream enters Kawainui's wetland through culverts within Kapa'a Road which then disperses, thus, there are no overgrown banks of this stream within the project area to maintain.

2) *The DEIS does not require that plans for structures, accessory facilities, bridges, trails, foot paths, roads, septic systems etc. be included and evaluated for flooding potential. Instead the common theme is that these issues will be considered at the design phase*

   Response: Page 3-42 does not state or use a "common theme" that issues will be considered at the design phase. Section 3.2.4 of the DEIS addresses flooding and evaluates impacts from structures and trails. This section states that all structures proposed at the sites of the education center and cultural complex at Kapa'a would be sited outside of flood prone areas (Zone X). At Wai'auia, one of the structures planned for the cultural center would be situated within Zone AEF, and its design would need to address compliance with the City's flood hazard requirements. The structure's finished floor elevation would thus need to be at least one foot above the base flood elevation that would minimize flood impacts. That section further states that such design would ensure that it does not impede storm water flow or negatively impact the wetland's function. Other areas and structures at Wai'auia are outside the flood hazard (Zone X).

   Pedestrian trail segments and foot trails would have minimal effect on existing flood conditions and would not increase flood hazards because they are either located within upland areas or along the wetland perimeter, and would consist of pervious surfaces or dirt/grassed hiking trails. Septic systems are underground and would not impact above ground surface runoff associated with flooding. The

only bridge proposed to cross over Maunawili Stream would not impact flooding or impede water flow within the stream.

3) *The DEIS states that "...subtle but cumulative environmental changes could adversely impact endangered species." Yet, no recommendations on how to prepare for these pending changes are in this disclosure document.*
Response: The statement referenced is from discussion on global climate change that could affect waterbirds by the loss or diminished quality of wetland habitat (e.g. increased salinity). It was from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's waterbird recovery plan that identified this potential concern due to larger global issues associated with climate change. Any effects resulting from global climate change will not be due to this project. A U.H. study on climate change discussed in Section 3.2.5 identified recommended actions such as conserving wetlands and monitoring for invasive species to help address climate change effects. Project improvements address these issues, including wetland restoration and DOFAW management of resources that support enhancing waterbird habitat and preparing for potential global changes. Enhancement of waterbird habitat occurs on the southern half of Kawainui, well away from Kawainui Canal and potential effects from rising salinity levels. Section 3.4.3 explains that the canal is tidally influenced below (makai of) Kawainui's wetland, but is effectively blocked from intruding into the wetland by a weir of vegetation. The water in the wetland normally remains higher than high tide levels in the canal, maintaining a positive head against saltwater intrusion. Maintaining the vegetation on this northern end of the wetland proposed under the project would support this condition.

g. *For decades Kawainui Marsh has been thought of and used as a depositor for runoff, polluted or not, from the Maunawili Valley and Kapa`a Valley watersheds, surrounding subdivisions, and road drainage as if individually or cumulative they have no impact. With statements like those below it appears that the lack of understanding of the ecosystem will continue.*

Page 3-111 "Kawainui wetland's pollutant scrubbing functions would continue to protect downstream waters, and should have the capacity to accommodate and cleanse any additional runoff attributable to these improvements..."

Page 3-107 "It is better to consider the wetland as a treatment system intercepting surface runoff and removing or retaining inorganic nutrients, processing organic wastes, and reducing suspended sediments before they reach open water."

Response: Kawainui's wetland naturally functions as a large basin trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from waters discharged from streams, drainage systems, and upland surface runoff. In general wetlands serve an important flood protection function, improve water quality from stormwater runoff, and support the ecology of fish and wildlife habitat. The DEIS provides a thorough understanding of the ecosystem associated with Kawainui, and the statements referenced on pages 3-107 and 3-111 are accurate and do not reflect a lack of understanding of the ecosystem. Information describing Kawainui wetland's function were also obtained from biological studies conducted by persons (AECOS, Inc.) with experience and expertise on such

ecosystems. The project site does not include upland areas outside of DOFAW and DSP's jurisdiction, nor is the purpose for the project to change other existing privately-owned properties. The natural functions of Kawainui's wetland would be improved by removing invasive vegetation, increasing open water areas that support flood protection, and enhancing habitat for waterbirds and aquatic resources improving the wetland's ecosystem. Project improvements are intended to support these wetland functions.

9. *Subarea A: Kawainui Wetland.*

   a. *Proposed activities include: wetland restoration improvements to approximately 60-acres near Kahanaiki Stream, construction of perimeter fencing, clearing vegetation, removing alien species, removing the mat that covers Kawainui, maintaining 11 terraced ponds. The direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui Marshes riparian areas, wetland, water quality, endangered waterbirds and their habitat, migratory native stream fish and migratory birds from proposed individual structures, activities and uses within this subarea are not discussed in this DEIS.*

   Response: The applicable direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts from improvements proposed within Kawainui's wetland are discussed in the DEIS. Chapter 3 included several sections addressing riparian (wetland/upland, botany, etc.) areas, wetlands (Section 3.4.4), water quality (Section 3.4.5), waterbirds and migratory birds (Section 3.3.2), and aquatic resources (Section 3.4.6). In addition, Section 7.3 addresses cumulative impacts and Section 7.2 addresses secondary or indirect impacts associated with the project. There are no structures proposed within the wetland (Subarea A), and impacts on the wetland from structures, trails, and activities are discussed in pertinent sections of the DEIS.

   Under response No. 4.b., the DEIS is not required under environmental regulations to discuss project impacts and existing conditions of a project site by "subareas." Discussing impacts by subarea is a formatting matter, and where appropriate, sections were organized by subareas to simplify review. DEIS sections already include sufficient information to identify and address impacts from the project. The information provided in these sections are sufficient to alert decision-makers to significant environmental effects that may result from implementation of the project. Under the rule of reason standard, the EIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the proposed action. The DEIS and FEIS are adequate, as they were compiled in good faith and sets forth sufficient information in a reasonable format to enable decision-makers to consider the environmental factors involved.

   b. *When Kahanaiki Stream reaches Kawainui wetland it fans out and does not have defined boarders.*

      - *Will fencing be around this area, the corner of Pali Highway and Kapa`a Quarry Road, to prevent people and dogs from getting too close to the endangered waterbirds and their habitat?*

   Response: As discussed in Section 3.4.3, Kahanaiki Stream has a defined flow path from its entrance at Kalaniana'ole Highway. Exhibit 3.12 clearly shows this entry point

and a connection with Maunawili Stream is shown on Figure 3.7. Fencing at the corner of Kalaniana'ole Highway and Kapa'a Quarry Road could be provided as part of perimeter fencing that is planned to delineate State property boundaries and deter unauthorized access as discussed in Section 2.2.1. Such fencing improvements are already permitted as part of DOFAW management activities. However, the purpose for such fencing is not needed at this highway intersection corner to prevent the public from getting too close to endangered waterbirds. There is considerable upland area present at this corner of the property before reaching the wetland below. Dogs would not be allowed within Kawainui, (such behavior is typically associated with residents as opposed to visitors). Anyone coming to Kawainui would not be able to approach endangered waterbirds because access would be restricted to specific upland areas along pedestrian trails as discussed in Section 3.3.2. Fencing along wetland perimeter fencing could be added and vegetative buffers are planned along wetland fringes to provide separation from wetland areas with upland areas.

c. *Since the vegetation mat has over taken the wetland the pathways for native o`opu and other fish to the ocean have been reduced or eliminated.*
   - *Does restoration include opening pathways for native stream fish migration?*
   - *The DEIS does not provide data on the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts from* ***all*** *development proposed around Kawainui on the wetland, riparian areas, water quality, endangered waterbirds and their habitat, migratory birds, and migratory native stream fish.*

   Response: Wetland restoration would create more open water flow mainly in the southern half of Kawainui as shown on Figure 2.5. Although restoration activities would not extend to the northern half of Kawainui, increased open waterways would have a beneficial effect supporting and improving potential migration of aquatic resources within Kawainui. The response under 9.a. along with our several responses provided under heading No. 8 comments address your comment here regarding cumulative impacts. In summary, the applicable direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts from all improvements proposed within Kawainui are discussed in various sections of the DEIS, including Sections 7.2 and 7.3.

10. *Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a*

    Response: With the proposed reduction of project improvements explained in response No. 1, it should be clarified that this subarea includes: 1) the education center with kauhale complex at Pōhakea; 2) cultural center at Kapa'a; 3) a new parking lot with restroom and pavilion at Kahanaiki; 4) buildings to support the vegetation processing site; and 5) reduced amount of pedestrian trails within the upland area from Kahanaiki to Pōhakea. You can also refer to the FEIS to get more information.

    a. *Education Center*

       1) Page 2-45 states that various facilities will be accessory support facilities to the Education Center and are proposed at various locations along the pedestrian trail, observation decks shelters (open pavilion), interpretive devices and directional signage.

- *Where are the exact locations of each facility? Why was the location and dimensions of these accessory facilities not in the DEIS? Without this information it is impossible to address any potential adverse environmental effects on the wetland ecosystem.*

Response: As stated on page 2-45 of the DEIS, the location of accessory support facilities (e.g. pavilion, observation deck) are shown on individual conceptual site plans, and information on the dimensions or character of such minor facilities is provided. Figure 2.8 shows the proposed locations of such accessory facilities. Section 2.2.4 identifies an approximately 350 square foot open pavilion wooden structure, and Section 2.2.3 describes other support facilities. Exhibit 2.17 provides a conceptual sketch of these improvements that show their characteristics and scale. The information provided on these support facilities is sufficient to identify likely significant environmental impacts, and have been addressed in respective sections of the DEIS. It should be noted that such accessory support facilitates are exempt from the State's environmental review process under the State DLNR's exemption list because they would have minimal or no significant effect on the environment.

2) *Pg 45 states that "The actual location and design of these facilities would be determined during the design phase as improvements are implemented, and may involve refinements to the site location and design characteristic due to terrain and topography of the area."*
   - *What are the "refinements" referred to?*

   Response: "Refinements" refers to minor changes to an accessory facility to improve its use, function, location, and reduce environmental effects. It can include siting a structure in a nearby area from that proposed to make it more visible, have better access, or reduce site improvements (e.g. clearing vegetation). It can include minor modifications to the design of a structure, such as having a smaller observation deck, smaller open pavilion, using other material instead of wood to improve long-term maintenance, etc. Actual accessory facilities would be determined during the design phase, are common at other parks, and such refinements would not change the overall assessment of impacts associated with structures.
   - *From Exhibit 2.18 (Conceptual Interior Layout of Education Center) it appears that the Education Center has been designed and what has, perhaps, not been decided is the location. Has the location of the Education Center been determined?*

   Response: The proposed location for the education center is shown on Figure 2.9. This site was previously disturbed from former ranching activities, and included structures that have since been removed, such as tool sheds, a small house, and covered parking sheds. The site is appropriate for the education center.
   - *Without information on locations, types of building materials, earth-moving requirements etc. it is impossible to evaluate direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the ecosystem.*

   Response: Information on the location of the education center and accessory facilities are provided in the DEIS as previously discussed to allow for the

assessment of impacts. The type of building material used for structures would not adversely impact and the environment and thus not change the results of the impact assessments. Other alternatives to wood, such as plastic lumber, would improve the structure's life and reduce maintenance. The effects of earth-moving activities for site improvements were addressed in pertinent sections of the DEIS. Information on site locations, impact assessments, and site improvements are discussed in Sections 3.1.2 (topography) and 3.1.3 (soils). The education center is proposed to utilize post-and-pier construction to further minimize site disturbance. Accessory facilities (e.g. open pavilion) would cause minimal site disturbance due to the small footprints required. The information included in the DEIS discusses building footprints, structures would require minimal to minor site grading, are located in previously disturbed areas, and best management practices (BMPs) are discussed. Design plans would be reviewed and approved by pertinent agencies, and necessary permits (e.g. NPDES, grading) would be obtained to ensure structures and other improvements meet regulatory requirements and minimize effects. Therefore, the impacts from accessory support facilities and the education center have been addressed in appropriate sections of the DEIS. The applicable direct, indirect, short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts from all improvements proposed within Kawainui are discussed in various sections of the DEIS, including Sections 7.2 and 7.3. The response under 9.a. along with our several responses provided under heading No. 8 comments also address your comment regarding cumulative impacts.

3) *Does the lack of information and delaying specifics until the design phase mean that an EA or SEIS will be developed for this site once the design phase is completed?*

Response: As stated under response No. 2, the DEIS addressed all proposed improvements, identified likely impacts, and identified mitigative measures where applicable. Sufficient project information has been included to identify likely significant impacts. Therefore, a Supplemental EIS or separate EAs are not necessary when implementing these accessory support facilities or the education center. Such accessory support facilitates are already exempt from the State's environmental review process under the State DLNR's exemption list.

b. *Page 8 states that "Grubbing and grading activities required for proposed structures are anticipated to be minimal. In particular, structures constructed for the education center would require grubbing and grading of the sites to accommodate building footprints. Given the sloped topography of the education center site, the building would be designed using post and pier construction to minimize the need for grading. BMPs would also be incorporated in design plans to address, short-term impacts, such as erosion, during construction activities. Final site conditions, siting of building footprints, and BMPs implemented would be developed during the design phase of improvements."*

Response: We note your comment on page 8 refers to a page from the Executive Summary of the DEIS. Under §11-200-17, HAR, the DEIS needs to have a "summary sheet" that concisely discusses various items. One item identified is a "brief description" of the action because a more detailed description of the action is provided

in a separate chapter. The DEIS's Executive Summary provides far more detail on the project than just a brief description as required under §11-200-17, HAR. More project information and details are included in Chapter 2 of the DEIS.

1) *How much grubbing, grading and earth moving will be required to accommodate the Education Center, parking lot, septic system? Will soil be brought in or removed from the area? If so how much soil will be imported and how much soil will be removed? Where will the soil come from and will it be tested for pollutants before it is used?*

   Response: Minimal grubbing and grading would be required for the education center because most of the site has already been disturbed from prior ranch structures. Exhibit 2.19 of the DEIS includes a section view of the education center using post-and-pier construction that minimizes grading work. It is estimated that less than 50 cubic yards of material would be disturbed, mainly from the leveling of site conditions for parking areas. It should be noted that a City grading permit is not required for activities involving less than 50 cubic yards because of the low disturbance. The septic tank system would be underground and covered with material excavated. Therefore, no import or export of material would be required for site preparation because minimal grading (cut/fill) is likely. Material excavated could be used to create berms for runoff, landscaping elements, etc. resulting in a balanced cut and fill design. Any excess materials from can also be distributed throughout this site to level areas (e.g. walkways). Since no import of soil is required, there would be no need to test import material. There are no known issues with hazardous materials associated with the planned education center site. Therefore, no testing would be required.

2) *DEIS does not provide the methodology used or the underlying data to support the assertion that "Grubbing and grading activities required for proposed structures are anticipated to be minimal."*

   Response: Section 3.1.2 discusses the existing topography associated with the education center site and explains that planned post-and-pier construction would minimize grading activities. Section 3.1.3 discusses soils associated with the education center, and explains that no significant issues are expected since minimal grading is necessary. Figure 2.9 is the conceptual site plan that shows existing slightly sloping topography of the site with the education center and associated parking. Rough estimates were also calculated using CAD topo data and project plans. The combined site and project information (section view, topography, and soils) with CAD calculations are sufficient to determine that grading activities would not have a significant impact. Grubbing activities would also be minimal because the site is grassed and not heavily vegetated. Accessory structures, such as pavilions, signage, and observation decks are small in size and only require leveling of site conditions. As shown on Figures 2.8 and 2.9, locations proposed for these minor structures are relatively flat or gently sloping, and only limited grading activities would be necessary. Exhibit 2.17 also showed that observation decks could be constructed on post-and-piers to further minimize site disturbance.

3) *What BMP measures will be used during construction of all facilities to prevent runoff and erosion from entering the wetland and streams?*
Response: Potential BMP measures that can be used during construction are discussed in Section 3.1.2 (for wetland restoration) and consist of common practices, such as silt fences, stabilizing construction area entrances, etc. that can be used for other upland site improvements. BMP measures would also be developed in more detail for each site condition during the design phase for individual improvements, and would be subject to agency review and approval during the processing of required ministerial permits.

c. *Page 8 "Proposed buildings, driveways and parking areas ... and reduce erosion potential (e.g. post and pier design of buildings)"*
1) *Explain how the locations of the buildings, driveways and parking areas have been selected without going through the design phase?*
Response: The proposed locations of buildings, driveways and parking areas were based upon standard site planning practices with consideration of environmental effects. This included conducting site visits to inspect areas, observation and assessment of existing conditions and terrain, identification of opportunities and constraints, and evaluation of reasonable access. Other information used to assist site planning consisted of mapping data (e.g. topography, aerial photography), existing studies (e.g. archaeological reports), and review and coordination with DOFAW and DSP. At this planning and environmental review phase, specific design and construction plans are not necessary to identify locations for improvements; but potential impacts can be identified.
2) *Have the buildings, driveways and parking areas already designed but not included in this DEIS? What type of material will be used on the driveway and parking area?*
Response: There are no design or construction plans developed for new buildings, driveways, or parking areas proposed under this project. Available information on proposed plans has been included in the DEIS for the purposes of identifying and evaluating impacts. As stated in Chapter 2, driveways and parking areas are planned to be constructed with permeable surfaces that could consist of compacted gravel, soil or reinforced grass to minimize storm water runoff.
3) *What BMP measures are proposed for the driveway and parking area construction?*
Potential BMPs that could be used during construction activities were discussed under Section 3.1.2. These include silt fences, stabilizing construction area entrances, etc. BMPs development during the design of specific improvements would likely consist of standard measures typically included under permit conditions because driveways and parking area proposed are common and do not involve unusual or unique circumstances.
4) *Where is the location of the "associated entry road" and how will that location "minimize grading?" No underlying data was provided supporting the assertion that grading would be minimized.*
Response: The Executive Summary section reference to the "associated entry road" is for the education center, and is the main entrance road shown on Figure 2.9.

There is already an existing access road into that site; therefore, minimal grading would be required. This existing condition along with our response in 10.b. above support minimal grading expectations.

5) *DEIS suggests that the Education Center will be designed and constructed at a later date by a non-government entity using post and pier construction. Will the Education Center be built over the wetland? If so, how far into the wetland will the Education Center intrude? Has the soil been tested for stability? What is the depth of each pier? What are the dimensions of each pier and footing? How many piers will be needed?*

Response: Section 2.2.4 states that DSP would design the educational center, and intends to have a non-profit organization operate it. However, DSP could operate it as well. Another possible scenario is that a non-profit organization could construct the center. As shown on Figure 2.9 and discussed in Section 2.2.4, the education center would be constructed within an upland area at a site formerly used for ranching. It would not intrude into the wetland. Upland soils have not been tested for stability, but such tests can be conducted, if warranted, during the design process. This site was previously used for ranching and supported several structures already. Soils at that site are also present within other areas of Kailua that support urban development. Therefore, there would not be an issue with constructing the education center at this site based upon soils. The depth of each pier foundation would be determined based upon structural design loads from building interior plans and use. The design would also determine the appropriate dimensions and numbers of pier foundations. The design, dimensions, and number of piers would have negligible environmental impact.

d. *Page 8 "Some leveling of site conditions may be required for improved pedestrian trails ... but such changes should not significantly impact soils."*

1) *What methodology was to determine that leveling will not "significantly impact soils"?*

Response: A reasonable evaluation and assessment of existing site conditions and proposed changes was used to determine that "leveling" of areas for trails would not significantly impact soils. Leveling activities would not involve extensive grading activities, but would consist of minor surface movement of soils to smooth out transitions along pathways. Trails would generally follow existing terrain and topographic conditions. Upland areas proposed for trails do not have extreme conditions (e.g. severely steep) and consist primarily of unpaved foot trails that would not require leveling. Any minor modifications to site conditions for trail segments would not result in export or import of soil material.

2) *What BMPs will be used during construction to prevent erosion and runoff from entering the wetland?*

Response: As discussed under response 10.c.(3), potential BMP measures that can be used during construction were discussed under Section 3.1.2 and consist of common practices, such as silt fences, stabilizing construction area entrances, etc.

3) *What methodology was used to determine that "changes should not significantly impact soils"?*
Response: Our previous response to 10.d.(1) stated that reasonable evaluation and assessment of existing site conditions and proposed changes was used to determine that the trails would not significantly impact soils. The previous response also addressed that BMPs would further minimize soil impacts.

4) *How much ground leveling will be required for each pedestrian trail? What material will the trails be made out to ensure that they are ADA acceptable?*
Response: Site improvements required for each section of pedestrian trails would be determined during construction design. The majority of trails (foot trails) would be unpaved, and would not require site improvements. Ground leveling would not require extensive excavation or filling. Responses to your comments and information provided in the DEIS are sufficient to allow for a reasonable assessment and evaluation of likely impacts from such trails. As discussed in Section 2.2.3, permeable material (e.g. gravel, Grasscrete) would be used for sections of pedestrian trails that are ADA accessible, such as at the education center. Exhibit 2.16 included a typical trail section.

e. *Page 8 "BMPs would be incorporated in design plans to address short-term impacts ... there would be no long-term impacts on soils."*

1) *DEIS does not provide underlying data to support the assertion that "...there would be no long-term impacts on soils" once structures and trail segments are completed." What does impact to soils mean? Short, long and cumulative impacts would be to riparian areas and the wetland – not just soil.*
Response: Section 3.1.3 provides sufficient data on existing soil conditions within the project site, and adequately addresses the project's effect on soils. Soil impacts are mainly associated with short-term construction activities during site disturbance. BMPs are proposed to minimize effects, and ministerial permits required would further mitigate any potential effects. Section 3.1.3. further explains that minor or minimal site disturbance would be required at several sites proposed for structures because the sites are relatively flat (e.g. Wai'auia, Kapa'a), reducing the need for extensive site improvements. Impact on soils are evaluated based upon proposed changes to existing conditions and soil characteristics. The most common effect to soils is erosion, which already occurs during heavy rains. The DEIS discusses measures to mitigate short-term construction effects via BMPs (adding permeable material to trails, post-and-pier construction, etc.). Short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts to riparian areas and the wetland are discussed in applicable sections of the DEIS, as explained under responses No. 8 and 9, above.

2) *The DEIS does not identify the types of BMPs (Best Management Practices) that will be used during construction or BMPs for construction activities such as importing/exporting soil, excavating parking lots and building sites, development of a septic system etc.*
Response: As described in response 10.c.(3), potential BMP measures that can be used during construction were discussed under Section 3.1.2 of the DEIS and consist of common practices, such as silt fences, stabilizing construction area

entrances, etc. No import or export of material should be required from construction activities. BMPs for site improvements needed for parking areas, building sites, and upland areas were addressed in Sections 3.1.2 and 2.2.1 of the DEIS, and as explained in several responses under No. 10, above.

3) *Without that information it is impossible to assess direct, indirect short, long term or cumulative environmental impacts from construction on the riparian area, wetland, archaeological sites, waterbirds and their habitat*
Response: Our responses to comments Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS does not make it possible to allow for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

4) *What are "actual BMPs?"*
Response: Actual BMPs that would be employed during construction activities refer to specific BMP measures that will be designed for implementation by the contractor as part of the construction plans prepared. BMP measures would be designed specifically for each improvement as part of construction design plans that would be reviewed by jurisdictional agencies for ministerial permits. Reviewing agencies have the experience and expertise to determine appropriate BMPs for implementation.

f. *Page 2-56 "The entry gate would be open during daylight hours and locked at night."*

1) *What are the hours that the Education Center will be open?*
Response: The education center would be open to the public during daylight hours. The entry gate would be locked at night as stated on Page 2-56 of the DEIS. Operational hours would be determined by either the non-profit organization operating the center or DSP. Typical hours could be between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

2) *Will there be night lighting in the parking lot, at the driveway entrance, within and outside of the Education Center and observation decks? If so, what types of lighting will be used? This information should have been in the DEIS because lighting within the Kawainui ecosystem is a great hazard for migratory birds. The birds become disoriented and collide with buildings or fly around until exhausted and fall to the ground.*
Response: No night lighting is proposed because the education center would be closed at night. Therefore, information on night lighting at the educational center is not necessary. However, any outside lights would need to be designed to be shielded as discussed under Section 3.3.2. Our response No. 8.a. also addresses night lighting.

g. *Page 2-56 "The parking area would include a drop-off area for ... minimize storm water runoff."*

1) *Where is the bus drop-off located – along Kapa`a Quarry Road or in/adjacent to the Education Center parking lot? How many parking stalls out of the 35 are devoted to bus drop-off? Will bus parking be permitted in the Education Center area?*

Response: A bus drop-off area for educational programs or other permitted activities is planned within the on-site parking lot. No parking stalls are devoted to "bus drop-offs". A bus parking area for permitted educational and other programs would be designed within the parking area since such events would need to be coordinated with the center operator ahead of time.

2) *What methodology was used to suggest that the use of "compacted gravel" in parking areas is the appropriate permeable surface? Gravel eventually comes loose and with time and with rain could be washed into the wetland. What measures are proposed to prevent gravel from going into the wetland?*
Response: Compacted gravel is one type of material commonly used for pervious surfacing. Page 2-56 also states that other permeable surfaces could be used to minimize stormwater runoff. It is very unlikely that gravel from the parking area would get washed into the wetland over time due to its location well away from the wetland perimeter. Any gravel that is dislodged would migrate to the surrounding landscaping. Maintenance of the parking area would further eliminate such potential.

3) *Exhibit 2.19 depicts a sloping area. Is this a depiction of the exact area before or after grading and grubbing for the Education Center?*
Response: Exhibit 2.19 generally reflects the existing topographic condition of the site from a section view. As shown, the site slopes gradually from Kapa'a Quarry Road, and then has an increased slope where the education center constructed using post-and-pier design would occur. Minor site improvements would occur for the parking areas utilizes areas that are already relatively flat. It shows that minimal site excavation and fill would be required for construction of the education center. Exhibit 2.19 also shows native vegetation serving as a buffer within riparian areas, separating the wetland from upland areas.

h. *Page 2-86 "The individual septic system would comply with DOH regulations governing design and development of these systems."*

1) *The DEIS does not provide information on the type of septic system or the size and capacity of a system needed to accommodate 6,000 visitors per month.*
Response: Table 5.3 of the DEIS addresses projected wastewater flows from the project, which includes visitors to the education center. A septic tank of 1,450 gallons is projected for the education center. Section 5.2.2 also explains that most septic tank sizes start from 1,000 gallons.

2) *The DEIS does not provide information on whether a septic leach field will be required or if there is an appropriate location and adequate space within the site to locate a septic drain field without impacting the wetland.*
Response: Section 5.2 explains that all septic systems would be designed in conformance with State DOH regulations and requirements. There is adequate upland area to accommodate a leach field for projected wastewater flows. Additional information addressing leach fields has been added to Section 5.2 of the FEIS. This addition is attached to this letter.

3) *Since explicit information is not given about materials to be used in the parking lot, location and type of septic system, increased number of people and location of the*

Education Center it is impossible to evaluate any direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative impacts on the riparian area, endangered waterbirds, their habitat and the wetland.

Response: The prior responses under Nos. 2,, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS makes it possible to allow for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment. Information on materials used for parking areas has been provided and support the projected impact results from various sections of the DEIS. Septic systems are accessory to the primary use (e.g. education center) and impacts from such wastewater systems are discussed in Section 5.2, with additional information as stated in response 10.h.(2), above.

4) *Since the DEIS lacks specifies on the design and location of the Education Center and other facilities such as a septic system an EA or Supplemental EIS must be done for this and the kauhale site after the design phase is completed so that environmental impacts can be comprehensively evaluated?*

Response: The DEIS includes sufficient information on the location and conceptual design of the education center and other facilities to address impacts. The kauhale complex at Pōhakea does not include a wastewater system. Therefore, a separate EA for these improvements when construction design is completed is not warranted. The DEIS, and the FEIS, comprehensively evaluate the impacts of the project and addressed comments received. As discussed under response No. 1, an EIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the proposed action under the rule of reason standard. This EIS provides sufficient information to enable decision-makers to consider environmental factors involved, and to make a reasoned decision.

5) *The DEIS states that there will be a parking lot with about 35 parking stalls...for visitors to the area as well as volunteers participating in restoration activities at Na Pohahu o Hauwahine including a drop-off area for permitted buses at the entrance to the education center.*

Response: The statement about parking at the education center is from page 2-56 of the DEIS.

6) *What are the plans for parking if the parking lot is full? Will parking be allowed on Kapa`a Quarry Road? If parking isn't allowed along the narrow two lane Kapa`a Quarry Road what remedies are being proposed to accommodate people who want to visit the Education Center and kauhale?*

Response: As with any other park site or development, visitors would need to find alternative solutions if there are no available parking stalls. Persons could leave, return to the education center at another time, wait for stalls to become available, or park along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Limiting parking stalls is sometimes viewed as a way of managing use or activity levels. Based upon the projected levels of visitors, the parking lot should be sufficient. There are currently no restrictions preventing vehicle parking along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Parking already occurs on the street at Nā Pōhaku, and does not negatively affect any residences or businesses. The only limitation is related to available shoulder space for vehicles to park. Site

design for the education center can include accommodating some street parking stalls, and restricting street parking for other areas in the immediate vicinity.

i. *Page 2-56 states that a "10 acre (approximate) kauhale cultural site located next to ... may occupy would be determined during the design of these structures"*

1) The DEIS does not identify the locations of the 8 hale/halau in relation to the wetland but says that "the foot print" and structure designing "would be determined during the design of these structures."

Response: Figure 2.9 shows the proposed locations of structures with conceptual building footprints associated with the kauhale complex within upland areas.

2) Calculating an average of 1,000 sq ft each for 8 hale equals 8,000 sq ft. Along with the 5,000 sq ft interior space for the Education Center, unknown dimensions for the parking lot and septic system with leach field this is a huge footprint in the Kawainui riparian area.

Response: Only about 10,900 square feet in total is proposed for both the education center and kauhale complex. We also disagree that this building area is a "huge footprint" within this upland area. The dimensions for a proposed parking lot serving the education center are shown on Figure 2.9. A septic system would be situated underground and would not be visible. The City's Land Use Ordinance development standards for the P-2, General Preservation District, allows a maximum building area of 5%. The Pōhakea-Nā Pōhaku upland area encompasses about 19.5 acres allowing for about 42,470 square feet of building area. The 10,900 square foot estimate reflects less than a 1.3% building area, which is much less than the maximum allowed.

3) Not providing information on the location and size of each hale/halau does not give decision makers enough information on which to evaluate the appropriateness of the location and size of each hale/halau or determine direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland ecosystem.

Response: Information on the proposed locations and size of kauhale structures are shown on Figure 2.9 and discussed in Section 2.2.4. This material is sufficient and reasonable to provide decision-makers with information to evaluate project effects. Further, the several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS do make it possible to allow for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

4) While the DEIS suggests that structures within the kauhale would be constructed using traditional Hawaiian pole and thatch structures, which would have lower impact on the environment that type of construction isn't guaranteed because "the actually designing of complex structures" would be done by a non-profit selected through an RFP process" at a later time. What guarantees are be in place to ensure that the hale/halau are constructed as defined in this DEIS?

Response: The intent and objective for the kauhale complex is to provide traditional Hawaiian structures for educational and cultural programs. DSP would ensure that its construction meets this intent. If the use of this site is significantly different from that proposed under this DEIS, then further compliance with the State's

environmental review process would be required, including possible preparation of a separate EA.

5) *Will the kauhale area have restrooms and require a separate septic system?*
Response: The kauhale complex will not have restrooms, and will not generate wastewater.

6) *Combine the 8 hale/halau, the 5,000 sq ft interior space for the Education Center, two parking lots and unknown feet/miles of trails and roads, 2 restrooms, 2 septic systems with leach fields, 1 large pavilion, at least 6,000 thousand people visiting/traversing this riparian area monthly and the impact on the environment is tremendous. This area currently does not have any structures yet there is no information of the cumulative impacts from these projects on the riparian area, wetland, endangered waterbirds and their habitat.*
Response: We disagree that the improvements proposed for the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area would have a tremendous impact on the environment. The analysis in the DEIS shows that these improvements would not have a significant or adverse effect on the environment. As discussed in response No. 7, overall project improvements are modest given the large upland area available (66 acres), and are reasonable to meet project needs and objectives. Furthermore, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS have been eliminated, further reducing the scope of the project and any environmental effects. Concerns with cumulative impacts were addressed under our responses to Nos. 2 and 8.

j. *Page 2-80 Table 2.5 projected staff and program activity for the Education Center is estimated at about 500 people monthly and the kauhale complex projected activity at 100 people monthly. This is almost a 100% human foot print increase over present activities at the site.*
Response: Because there are no regular educational programs or activities occurring at the education center site now, any new activities would be a change. However, only 500 persons a month, or about 25 persons a weekday, for educational programs is a reasonable use and beneficial to the community while meeting the project's purpose and agency missions. That translates into only one class a day visiting the education center. Cultural programs at the kauhale complex having only 100 persons a month translates into only about one activity a week (e.g. weekend) with about 25 persons that is a reasonable use and beneficial to the community.

- *Were these 600 people counted as part of the 6,000 monthly visitors to this area?*
Response: The 600 persons a month projected for educational and cultural programs are separate from monthly projected "visitors." Those projected visitors are persons from the public (residents, tourists) that might visit for wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation (walking), etc. Programs would include activities such as school visitations, cultural practices by practitioners, community service learning activities, etc. consisting primarily of residents.

k. *Page 2-80 Other than to state that a "few larger cultural events (e.g. Makahiki) may occur at the kauhale twice a year, typically on the weekend" no other information is given.*

- *How many people are estimated to attend a large cultural event? Where will they park? Will the event be at night? Will night lighting be required?*
  Response: The few larger cultural events occurring at the kauhale complex may have between 200 to 500 persons, similar levels to that discussed for the cultural centers. Such larger events would need to be coordinated with DSP, and accommodations would be pre-arranged for parking. Shuttles from other parking areas could be used to transfer persons, or other sites made available, such as parking at the cultural center at Kapa'a, Kahanaiki, etc. Such accommodations would be similar to occasional events that occur now, such as World Wetlands Day. Occasional larger cultural events would not occur at night and would not require night lighting.
- *What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts from unknown numbers of people attending events held in the Kawainui riparian area?*
  Response: The number of people likely to attend such cultural events is not unknown based upon our prior response, and the effects from few larger cultural events are already addressed as part of the impact assessments from the various sections of the DEIS. Such events are temporary (day only) and would not generate long-term adverse effects on the environment. The several responses under No. 2, 4, 8 and 9 explain that information included in the DEIS make it possible to allow for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment from project activities.

l. Page 2-82 Table 2.6 gives a summary of projected visitor activity for the Na Pohaku o Hauwahine site (located near the Education Center), the Education Center, kauhale complex, and Kahanaiki area will have a projected 6,000 people per month (200 visitors a day) up from the current 250 visitors a month.

- *This is a very significant increase in the number of people coming to this sensitive riparian area yet this DEIS does not provide any information on the direct, indirect or cumulative environmental impacts from so many people and cars coming to these areas.*
  Response: Proposed structures and activities would be located within upland areas that do not consist of sensitive riparian area as discussed in several sections of the DEIS. These upland areas have been previously disturbed (e.g. former ranching), are overgrown with invasive vegetation, and already have some educational and cultural activities occurring. Projected visitors to the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area, including the education center, reflects a moderate increase from current conditions because presently only a small number of visitors go to Nā Pōhaku. However, the projected visitor level is reasonable and averages about 200 visitors a day. As discussed under response 7.b., a study in Waikiki shows that a far higher number of persons (e.g. 600 persons range) could reasonably be accommodated in this area at one time before tolerance toward crowding changes.
- *Since direct, indirect, cumulative, short or long-term impacts were not addressed or specifics given in this DEIS and Supplemental EA must be done for this subarea.*
  Response: The DEIS included information on projected activities, and addressed the likely environmental effects under several resource sections. The several

responses already provided under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9 explain that information included in the DEIS makes it possible to allow for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment from project activities. Correspondingly, a supplemental EA is not warranted for implementation of these improvements.

m. *Page 2-82 estimates that about "20% of the visitors to the education center would be traveling there as the primary reason for their visitation. The remaining 80% of the visitors would already be traveling to Kailua and Windward Oahu for beach activities, shopping etc, as part of their primary trip. Kawainui would be an incidental stop."*

- *It is unclear what this statement is meant to convey but human activity has an impact on the environment so it doesn't matter why a person stops at Kawainui the impact on the environment, riparian area and wetland is the same*

  Response: The discussion on page 2-82 of the DEIS on visitation is to provide more information on the characteristics associated with visitors to Kawainui. Therefore, of the 6,000 projected monthly visitors, about 4,800 of them would already be traveling to Kailua and the windward district as part of day trips (e.g. beaches, shopping, site seeing), regardless of whether the education center and public access were provided in the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area. Therefore, about 1,200 visitor a month, or 40 visitors a day, would be "new" visitors making a trip to Kailua primarily due to the project improvements. The discussion of project impacts on natural resources (e.g. wetland, flora) does not change based upon this visitation characteristic.

n. *Page 4-85 states that "The impact of the education center with surrounding pedestrian trails attracting additional tourists to Kailua would be rather small, or about 20 to 30 additional visitors a day."*

- *What methodology was used to determine that "additional tourists in Kailua would be rather small"?*

  Response: Page 4-85 explains how 20 to 30 additional visitors a day to Kailua was determined, and is related to the discussion of visitor characteristics on page 2-82. The determination of the effect on Kailua's social and economic characteristics from these numbers are based upon a reasoned evaluation and assessment of the change. Section 4.2.2 also discusses social and community issues in greater detail. The effect of these few additional visitors are actually inconsequential relative to the thousands of visitors (O'ahu residents and tourists) to Kailua on a daily basis.

o. *Page 2-95 The time given for the Kawainui State Park Reserve, Na Pohaku of Hauwahine to Pōhakea Education Center build-out is 10 to 20 years.*

- *A lot of factors could change in 10 – 20 years that may make this EIS obsolete and this development not practical or necessary.*

  Response: The EIS evaluates the project's effect based upon existing conditions with a reasonable estimate of future conditions. The DEIS assumes implementation of the project over a 20-year timeframe. There are factors that could change over this timeframe within the Kawainui-Hāmākua project site, however, such factors

would not render the EIS obsolete. The project site property is under DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction, therefore, any changes within this area would be under the control and authority of these agencies. Changes occurring would he from implementation of project improvements that the DEIS addressed. Therefore, the FEIS completed would not be obsolete. It is possible that DSP may not implement the education center based upon agency priorities and funding appropriations by the Legislature, as discussed under Section 2.2.8. Further, DSP may implement more modest improvements in the interim (parking, restroom, pavilion) to focus more on programs support rather than full build-out of the more permanent education center.

p. *Page 2-58 mentions a trail along Kapa'a Quarry Road*

1) *Where will the trail start and end? What is the length of the trail?*
   Response: Figure 2.10 of the DEIS showed the location of the trail ending at the City's model airplane park. However, with reduced project improvements now proposed, this trail would only extend within upland areas from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku. The trail segment within the upland area of this section would extend about 0.91 miles. The actual length of the trails created would be dependent upon the design of the extent of foot trails and pedestrian trails created for use. Figures 2.8 and 2.9 shows the conceptual extent of these trails.
2) *What is the width of the trail? What material will the trail be made of?*
   Response: Section 2.2.3 discusses pedestrian trails providing information on width, design, and materials, and includes Exhibit 2.16 providing a typical section view of such trails.
3) *Will it be a dirt trail or cement sidewalk?*
   Response: Section 2.2.3 discusses pedestrian trails and explains that foot trails would be unimproved grass or dirt trails. Cement sidewalks are not proposed.
4) *Will bicycles be permitted on the trail?*
   Response: Bicycles will not be permitted on the trail within this section along Kapa'a Quarry Road.
5) *What types of improvements such as lighting, curbs, walls etc. need to be made to Kapa`a Quarry Road to accommodate the trail?*
   Response: This trail segment would not include lighting because it is intended only for day use. No improvements to Kapa'a Quarry Road, such as curbs or walls, would be necessary since the trail would be within the State's property.
6) *How much excavation, grading and grubbing, imported and exporting soil be required to construct the trail? Where will soil be imported from?*
   Response: Construction of the trail would not require extensive grading activities because upland areas within this section along Kapa'a Quarry Road is relatively flat, and would be designed to follow the natural contours similar to the road. Primary trails would utilize existing unpaved maintenance roads used by DOFAW. Other trails would utilize open grassed areas generally following the natural terrain making them suitable for public access. No import or export of soil material would be necessary since any excavated material would be used within the project site.
7) *Will the trail have to be built to Federal Highway standards*
   Response: The trail would not have to meet federal standards.

8) *How many bridges will be constructed along the trail? Will the trail be at grade?*
Response: No bridges would be necessary for the trail within this section along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and trails would be constructed at-grade.

9) *What safety measures will be used to protect pedestrians and bicycle riders from being hit by a car on this narrow two-lane road? Will the trail be constructed along Kapa`a Quarry Road or away from the road?*
Response: Bicyclists would not be allowed on the trail. Trails are routed a considerable distance away from Kapa'a Quarry Road as shown on Figure 2.10, thus, no additional safety measures are warranted. Figure 2.10 shows the trail's route and location away from the road.

q. *What are the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui wetland, riparian area, endangered waterbirds, their habitat and water quality from constructing a trail along the periphery of Kawainui that will attract untold numbers of walkers, hikers, bicyclists?*
Response: The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment from project activities, including this trail and level of activity. Overall, a relatively low number of persons (200 or less a month) would have used this section of the trail in Kapa'a because it would only provide a connection between Kahanaiki and Nā Pōhaku.

11. Kahanaiki

a. *Page 5-6 Kahanaiki the DEIS states that a "small, modest" restroom ... and be connected to the existing 36-inch transmission main via a service lateral.*

1) *If the "small, modest restroom" is not built what other type of restroom facilities will be used – portable toilets, structure with septic tank, composting toilet?*
Response: A permanent restroom facility is proposed for this site to accommodate programs, DOFAW staff, and visitors. Portable toilets are not planned for this project unless needed on a short-term basis to accommodate programs or other permitted scheduled activities. Another type of restroom that could be constructed could be a self-contained facility (e.g. vault) utilizing green technology for treatment that is more environmentally friendly.

2) *How many stalls will be in the "small, modest" restroom?*
Response: The restroom facility would likely have two stalls each for men and women, and could be similar to a restroom at the City's model airplane park.

3) *Where will the restroom be located? What types of material will be used to construct the restroom? If a septic system is used is there enough space for a leach field? Will the area need to be graded and grubbed? Will soil be imported or exported?*
Response: Figure 2.8 shows the location proposed for the restroom. The materials used would be determined at the time of design, but could be similar to that at the airplane park. The type of material used to construct the restroom would not change the overall results of the impact assessments. The septic system serving this

restroom would likely be the minimum required due to the relatively low projected use and flows that are discussed in Section 5.2. This Kahanaiki upland area has over 20 acres of land, which is more than sufficient to accommodate such a small system and leach field. Some minor grading may be needed to create a level foundation for the restroom and septic system. It is estimated that likely less than 50 cubic yards of material may be disturbed. A City grading permit would not be required for such small quantities of grading. No importation or exportation of materials would be required.

4) *Without this information it is impossible to evaluate the short, long and cumulative environmental impacts of building a restroom facility in a riparian area that currently does not have any structures.*
Response: There is sufficient information provided in the DEIS to address the impacts from this small accessory restroom facility. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment from project activities, including this restroom. It is also noted that such minor accessory facilities (restrooms) are already exempt from having to prepare an Environmental Assessment under State regulations because they have been determined to have minimal impact on the environment.

b. Page 2-72 this statement conflicts with the statement above "A service lateral connecting to the excising 36-inch transmission main would need to be added to provide service to this restroom"
Response: It is noted that page 2-72 referred to in your comment references Figure 2.14, which is the concept plan for DOFAW's management station and Mokulana. Page 5-6 correctly states that a service lateral would need to connect to the existing 36-inch water transmission main within Kapa'a Quarry Road to provide water to the restroom at Kahanaiki.

1) *Is there an existing line or will a new 36-inch transmission line need to put in?*
Response: A new 36-inch transmission main is not required for the restroom because there is already a main along the road.

2) *If a new line is needed how much excavation will be required? What is the distance to the main line and what are the direct and indirect environmental impacts from adding the new line?*
Response: A water service lateral line serving the restroom would typically be 1-inch or less in diameter. Installing such a line would typically have a 12-inch wide trench and be placed 18-inches below the surface, which would not require extensive excavation or significantly impact the environment. The restroom shown on Figure 2.8 would be about 100 feet away from Kapa'a Quarry Road, and the water lateral would be designed and constructed in accordance with City Board of Water Supply standards and specifications.

c. *Page 2-53 states that "A small restroom facility with septic tank system is proposed near the pavilion."*

1) *Is this a different and second restroom facility within Kahanaiki? Why are two restroom facilities needed?*
Response: The identified restroom facility is the sole restroom proposed at Kahanaiki. A second restroom facility in this area is not proposed.

2) *Will this septic tank system have a leach field? What are the dimensions of the septic system and where will the leach field be located? How much grading and grubbing will be required for the restroom, septic system and leach field?*
Response: A septic tank system serving this restroom facility would have a leach field. The dimensions of this treatment system would be determined when the restroom facility is designed, but there is enough area available to accommodate this facility within the over 30 acres of upland area of Kahanaiki. Given the relatively low use of this facility, less than 5,000 square feet of area would likely be needed for both the leach field and building footprint. Minimal grading and grubbing would be required for the restroom facility, which would be similar or smaller than the 175-square foot City model airplane park restroom, including a slab foundation. The septic system would similarly involve a small area of disturbance for the septic tank, trench for line, and absorption field.

3) *Once again it is impossible to assess direct and indirect environmental impacts because no information on size, type of system, location, earthmoving requirements etc. is provided in this DEIS.*
Response: There is sufficient information provided in the DEIS to address the impacts from such a small accessory restroom facility. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment from this accessory structure.

d. *Page 2-53 states "An open air pavilion is proposed near the program ... to provide shelter and a place to rest.*

- *What is the purpose of the open pavilion? How is it different from the program staging area, and observation area?*
Response: As stated on page 2-53, the pavilion would provide shelter from the elements for visitors and serve as a rest area supporting programs and outdoor recreation. These are common accessory structures at many parks. As shown on Figure 2.8, the program staging area consists of an open area used to assemble or organize groups for educational and cultural programs. Observation areas consist of improved wildlife viewing locations, and are discussed in Section 2.2.3 and Exhibit 2.17.
- *Why are so many structures necessary? Where will each be located in relation to the wetland?*
Response: There is a small number of structures proposed within this Kahanaiki area, and these improvements are necessary to support programs and visitors using the area. Figure 2.8 shows the locations of these structures that are within the upland area away from the wetland.

e. *Pg 2-53 "Visitor parking lot at south end also used as program staging area ... along with other environmental design measures (e.g. bioswale).*

1) Is this staging area the same as the one mentioned above or the same one?
Response: As stated on page 2-53, the parking lot could also serve as a staging area for programs where students or visitors can meet and assemble before visiting the area. Figure 2.8 shows this parking lot and another area designated as a staging area with access directly from DOFAW's existing gated entry location.

2) The DEIS repeatedly states that one of the purposes of the Education Center is to have an idea of how many people visit Kawainui yet this parking lot and trails in Kahanaiki are open to anyone to enter the marsh. It is the same with the trail at DOFAW center and the levee. So it appears that there is no comprehensive way to count the number of people coming to Kawainui or accurately evaluate human impacts on this wetland ecosystem.
Response: Section 2.2.4 has a subheading discussing the education center, but that section does not state a purpose for the center is to "have an idea how many people visit Kawainui." Section 2.2.3.1 states that the education center is intended to serve as the management center for public access within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area. It would facilitate collecting information on the number of visitors to the area. The center will not, and is not intended to, count all visitors to Kawainui as the public could also access the site from the Kahanaiki parking lot. Similarly, the center will not track people who use the levee or the trail at DOFAW's management station. The center serves as an orientation and visitor center that also supports management of that area. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses several management actions regarding public access, and the results of the various resource sections show that the wetland ecosystem would not be adversely impacted.

3) Some sort of visitor count should be scheduled for the Project area to determine how many people visit Kawainui and evaluate their impacts on the environment.
Response: A visitor count to evaluate their effects is clearly a post-development management action, and visitation would likely occur gradually as improvements and public access are implemented in phases. Projected visitor levels are reasonable, and lower than what could potentially be accommodated within designated upland areas without reaching crowded or unacceptable levels as discussed under response No. 7. The actions proposed in Section 2.2.5, include adaptive management and supports management and monitoring of areas to assess visitor levels and activities. Such actions could include obtaining information on visitor levels. DOFAW and DSP have expertise in managing these resources to determine if changes in visitor use is acceptable, and can implement actions to restrict or limit public access, if warranted.

4) What is the difference between "pedestrian trails and foot trails"? How many of each will be constructed within the Kahanaiki area?
Response: Section 2.2.3 describes what pedestrian and foot trails entail. Figure 2.7 includes information on trail length, and the individual site plans show proposed trails within upland areas. The actual trails created would be dependent upon the design designating foot and pedestrian trails since DOFAW's existing unpaved

maintenance roads would be used, open grassed areas, etc. Similar to a park, visitors could also be allowed to openly walk within designated areas as they visit the area.

5) *What methodology was used to determine that compacted gravel in the parking lot was the best product to use to minimize storm water runoff and erosion? While gravel may minimize runoff the rocks can come loose and rain will carry them downhill where they may eventually make their way into the wetland. What are the short, long and cumulative impacts of gravel in the wetland?*

Response: As explained in response 10.g. above, compacted gravel is one type of material commonly used for pervious parking areas. Page 2-56 of the DEIS states that other permeable surfaces could be used to minimize stormwater runoff. It is unlikely that gravel from the parking area would get washed into the wetland. With parking areas located further upland, any gravel dislodged would end up as part of surrounding landscaping. Gravel from the few parking areas planned would not have an adverse short or long-term effect on the wetland. Storm water runoff discharged into streams and surrounding drainage systems already include debris, including small rocks and rock fragments naturally dislodged from area geology as part of erosion, from urban areas outside the project site. Even with these discharges, Kawainui's wetland is functioning naturally in removing pollutants, supporting flood protection, and serving as habitat for waterbirds. DOFAW's wetland restoration efforts are thus focused on removing the invasive vegetation and peat, and there is no need to remove gravel or rocks that may be present. Consequently, there would be no significant cumulative impacts on the wetland from the limited gravel associated with proposed parking areas.

f. *Pg 2-53 "The access located further north across from Le Jardin Academy's entrance would continue to serve DOFAW for their management activities. A program staging area would be established for loading/unloading of students educational programming and service learning activities."*

- *Where is the "program staging area" located, is this different from the one mentioned above? Is the staging area part of the parking lot?*

  Response: Figure 2.8 shows the location of this program staging area, which is accessed from DOFAW's existing gated driveway. This is the same staging area addressed by response 11.d, above. As shown on Figure 2.8, this staging area is not part of the parking lot near the southern end of Kahanaiki.

g. *Page 2-53 "DOFAW's existing unpaved maintenance roads within the upland area used for ... closer to the wetland and to observation areas."*

1) *How many additional "..trail segments or foot trails" will "extend from the roads"?*

Response: Figure 2.8 shows pedestrian and foot trails associated with the existing unpaved DOFAW maintenance road. Additional foot trail segments could extend from this road to guide visitor access within the area. Such trails would be determined during the design of pedestrian trails, and would typically consist of unpaved walking trails. Our prior response to No. 11.e.(4) further addresses additional trail segments (e.g. foot trails).

2) *Where will these segments lead too? How close will the trails be to the wetland and the mud flats created for endangered waterbird habitat?*
Response: Foot trail segments would provide visitors with access to lower areas closer to the wetland vegetated buffer. As shown on Figure 2.8, vegetated wetland buffers would serve to separate access from the wetland. As discussed in Section 3.3.2, vegetated buffers proposed along with wetland perimeter fencing would restrict access to the wetland and support managing public access to provide sufficient separation.
3) *Will there be fencing around this section of Kahanaiki to prevent people and dogs from getting too close to the endangered waterbirds?*
Response: Sections 2.2.1 and 3.3.2 discuss fencing around the wetland perimeter that could be used to restrict access. DOFAW may also impose additional restrictions on public access within certain areas or times of year, e.g., during bird nesting season. DOFAW can restrict access to certain areas if waterbird nesting sites are established within more popular visitor areas.
4) *Was an analysis done on the impact of human voices on the endangered waterbirds? Since people are being invited into their habitat it is important that all information is known before the welcome mat is rolled out and DOFAW initiates the 60-acre restoration only to find out that some endangered waterbirds are sensitive to human voices and will not use the restored wetland.*
Response: An analysis of human voices is not necessary nor required to identify impacts on waterbirds because audible voices would not have a significant impact. All of the waterbird species that reside in populated areas in the Hawaiian Islands have become habituated to noise, be it human voices or vehicular traffic. Therefore, visitors talking while walking or viewing the wetland would not adversely impact waterbirds. Other wildlife sanctuaries, including Ramsar designated ones, typically include visitors as part of their activities, and would not allow such interaction if human voices were adverse to waterbirds. In comparison, the commercial and industrial businesses along the Hāmākua wetland presently generate noise from activities likely louder than would occur from visitors at Kawainui, and that noise has not adversely impacted waterbirds or use of that resource. This position is also based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise in managing waterbirds and habitat areas throughout the state, some of which occur in highly urbanized areas.
5) *Where in relation to the mud flats will the "observation areas" be placed?*
Response: Observation decks are shown on Figure 2.8, and would be upland, away from the wetland and the vegetative buffer. As shown on Exhibit 2.11, seasonal mud flats are located along open water areas that are further separated by native wetland vegetation and transitional wetland vegetation (e.g. vegetative buffers along riparian areas).

h. Pg 2-53 "Maintenance roads and pedestrian trails would be about 10 to 12 feet wide, and ... pedestrian use and would span over the stream to minimize effects."
1) What methodology was used and where is the data confirming gravel would be a good permeable surface for the maintenance roads and trails?

Response: No methodology is required to identify gravel as one type of permeable surface that could be used for maintenance roads and pedestrian trails. Gravel is a standard and widely accepted material that can be used as permeable pavement. Gravel is loosely packed on top of soil allowing rainwater to infiltrate into the soil.

2) *What materials will be used to construct the bridge over Kahanaiki Stream? What construction method will be used to construct the bridge?*
Response: The bridge across Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated from the project due to the removal of the pedestrian trail section from Mokulana to Kahanaiki as discussed in response 7.a. Materials for that bridge could have consisted of concrete (pre-cast solid planks and composite concrete topping) or steel. The construction method would have been determined based upon the bridge's design, but it would span over Kahanaiki Stream. Design plans would include BMPs to address short-term construction effects. However, the type of construction method or materials used would not change the significance of impacts already discussed in the DEIS.

3) *What are the dimensions of the bridge – length, width? Will the bridge connect to the existing bridge or be a stand along bridge? Will there be lighting on the bridge?*
Response: The bridge would have been between 12 and 16 feet wide to support DOFAW maintenance vehicles and equipment, and about 90 feet long similar to the highway bridge crossing this stream. It would be a separate bridge for DOFAW use, and not for public vehicle access. The bridge would not have lighting.

4) *Since the DOFAW station is a short distance from Kahanaiki via the Pali Highway why is a road and bridge needed through the riparian area and across Kahanaiki Stream?*
Response: As discussed in Section 2.2.1, the bridge would have supported DOFAW maintenance activities and an access road connecting Kahanaiki to Mokulana. It would have simplified movement of equipment, vehicles, and staff within Kawainui instead of having to transport them on the highway. However, with elimination of this bridge, DOFAW would continue to utilize the highway to transport equipment and staff.

i. *Pg 2-57 "Contact between humans and endangered waterbirds may occur ... biologist survey areas for waterbird nests would occur to minimize adverse impacts."*
- *What other measures are recommended to avoid human/endangered waterbird encounters?*
Response: This comment is in reference to visitor activities at the education center and the kauhale complex. As discussed in Section 3.3.2, several measures were identified to address both short-term construction and long-term operational activities, including vegetative buffers along wetland fringes that physically separate visitors from the wetland, signage, fencing, and restricting access during certain times of the year, as warranted.

j. *Page 2-37 "The specific design of the bridges would be developed during the design phase of these improvements when implemented."*

- *The DEIS states that the bridges will "span over these streams (Maunawili and Kahanaiki) to not impact their bed or banks." From this wording it seems as if there are designs for the bridges. Why weren't the designs part of this DEIS?*
  Response: The project concept for a bridge would be to span over the stream, outside the stream bed and banks. Such bridge designs are common within the State, particularly as part of roadways or highways. Design and construction plans have not yet been prepared for improvements at this planning and environmental review phase. Response 4.a. explained that sufficient information is provided on project improvements in Chapter 2 to identify and address significant impacts. It is precedent for environmental reviews of projects to be completed without detailed design and construction plans because sufficient project information is provided to allow identification and assessment of impacts. Further, detailed design plans would be reviewed by jurisdictional agencies during permit application review in accordance with pertinent regulations.

k. *Page 2-37 "Additional access roads along the southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would ... and research station with Mokulana and eventually with the Kahanaiki."*

1) Why are new roads and bridges over Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams being proposed for the wetland riparian area when the Pali Highway connects the DOFAW maintenance and research center to Mokulana to Kahanaiki?
Response: Maintenance roads within Kawainui are needed to support DOFAW management activities. There are existing unpaved roads used by DOFAW within upland areas, and improving other portions of upland areas to increase DOFAW access is needed to support management activities. Additional access roads would not occur within wetland riparian areas as shown on the various site plans in the DEIS. As discussed, an access road and bridge across Kahanaiki Stream connecting Mokulana with Kahanaiki has been eliminated, and DOFAW will continue using the highway to transport equipment and staff to Kahanaiki. The bridge across Maunawili Stream would support DOFAW management activities.

2) The DEIS does not provide specific information on the materials to be used, locations, need for dredging, construction methods for roads and bridges just a general 10 to 12 feet wide making it impossible to evaluate direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative impacts on the riparian area and wetlands.
Response: The various site plans in Section 2.2 show the locations of access roads. Additional information on the bridge across Maunawili Stream has been added to this section, and these revisions are attached. Page 2-37 states that access roads would consist of compacted gravel, soil (unimproved), or reinforced grass. No dredging activities would be required for access road and bridge improvements because they would be located within upland areas. As already responded, bridge designs are common within the State, particularly as part of roadways or highways. Sufficient project information is provided in the DEIS, and the FEIS, to allow identification and assessment of impacts. Detailed design plans developed when this improvement is implemented would be reviewed by jurisdictional agencies during permit application review in accordance with pertinent regulations. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, explain that information included in the

DEIS allows for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

l. Page 2-11 The DEIS mentions that certain improvements are permitted under Land Division CDUP (OA-3068B).

1) Is relocation of existing electrical lines, utility poles installation of 16,200 linear feet of fencing permitted under this CDUP?
Response: As stated on page 2-11, relocation of electrical lines within Kawainui and fencing are already permitted by Conservation District Use Permit OA-3068.

2) Is development of the vegetation processing area, trails, roads, bridges, interpretive areas, wastewater systems and structures permitted under this CDUP?
Response: The improvements identified on page 2-11 and shown on Figure 2.2 are already permitted. Bridges, roads, and restrooms that require wastewater systems are not included in OA-3068. The vegetation processing facility is permitted. Other structures supporting wetland management are permitted subject to review by the State DLNR, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL).

3) Is construction of sediment basins and other future possible facilities permitted under this CDUP?
Response: Sediment basins are part of stormwater management of the area, and are already permitted. Other facilities supporting wetland management are addressed in the previous response.

4) When does this CDUP expire?
Response: OA-3068 was issued a time extension to 2022, and subsequent time extensions can be granted.

5) Will any of the facilities – restrooms, trails, roads, observation decks within the Kahanaiki area require night lighting?
Response: The facilities proposed in the Kahanaiki area will not require night lighting because all activities are proposed for day use.

6) If night lighting will be necessary what are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts of night lighting on Kawainui migratory and endangered waterbirds?
Response: As previously responded, night lighting is not required for those facilities questioned at Kahanaiki, thus, discussion of night lighting effects is not applicable. Our response to No. 8.a. also provides further information addressing concerns with night lighting.

12. Subarea C: Kapa`a-Kalaheo-Levee.
Proposals for this subarea include: 11 buildings with approx. 4,000 sq ft interior space, assumed yet not mentioned a septic system with leach field, caretakers cottage, nursery, 2 parking lots, catchment system at the Kapa`a Cultural Complex; vegetation processing area and facilities with about 5,000 sq ft interior space, parking lot, long drive way, storage containers septic tank system with leach field; Kalaheo Park 3,000 sq ft hale wa`a, 42 stall parking lot, restrooms and showers and 1,000 sq ft interpretive shelter. Other than the levee there are presently there are no structures or septic systems in this subarea.

Response: It should be clarified that Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS includes the cultural center at Kapa'a in the description of improvements. Section 5.2 discusses wastewater generated from the cultural center. As discussed in Section 2.1.1, improvements at the Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalāheo Section site are already permitted by previous land use entitlements for the Kawainui Gateway Park project. The hale wa'a has now been eliminated, as discussed in prior responses to your comments. Therefore, the proposed project does not include any improvements at this site.

13. Kapa'a Cultural Center
    a. *Page 4-51 states that the Kapa`a Cultural Complex will be managed by a non-profit organization and will "not be open to the general public. " even though "Other organizations may also use their facilities for meetings, classes, etc."*
        1) *Why is this facility, which is being built on public land, not open to the general public but is open to "Other organizations..."?*
        Response: The site may be leased to a non-profit organization to construct facilities and conduct activities supporting cultural practices and educational programs as described in Section 2.2.4. State lands are commonly leased to private entities and non-profit organizations for various activities and uses, which are not open to the general public, such as agricultural farms, businesses, and residences. The non-profit organization would have programs that would be open to guests, other organizations, or the public. As discussed in Section 2.2.4, DOFAW and DSP would coordinate, conduct and participate in programs at this center that are open to the public as well. The distinction is that unlike a public park open to all, unauthorized visitors would not be able to visit this center unless they are participating in programs or have been invited.
        2) *Will the Complex be open to all organizations island/statewide to use for meetings, classes etc.?*
        Response: It is proposed that the non-profit organization managing the center would allow other organizations wanting to use the center's facilities for educational and cultural programs.
        3) *What is the State's justification for excluding the general public from public land at the Kapa`a Cultural Center, which is located in a Ramsar designated wetland?*
        Response: As already discussed, the State commonly leases its lands to various entities for uses that are not always open to the general public. The cultural center at Kapa'a is not located within a wetland, but cultural practices, stewardship opportunities, and educational programs conducted at this center support Ramsar objectives.
        4) *Will the Kapa`a Cultural Center require night security lighting?*
        Response: The cultural center could include night lighting for buildings as part of security measures in addition to a caretaker's cottage. However, any outside night lighting would be required to be shielded and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible, as discussed in Section 3.3.2.
        5) *Will performance bonds be required for the non-profit organization operating the Kapa`a Cultural Center? Will non-profit organizations be required to have insurance or will the facility and users be covered by government insurance?*

Response: The non-profit organization selected would be responsible for the financing mechanism used for construction and their operations. DOFAW does not determine whether bonds or other revenue sources are required by the non-profit organization. Under standard State lease agreements, the lessee would be required to have their own sufficient insurance.

b. *Page 2-81 "This complex at Kapa`a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization ... may be limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only)."*

1) *The DEIS does not give any explanation as to why the Kapa`a Cultural Center, to be constructed on public land, will be closed to the general public and that "Periodic events (three events a year) may have "limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only)."*
Response: Response 13.a.(1) addresses your comment on the site being restricted from general public use similar to public parks. Thus, the non-profit organization could hold a few larger events that can be either for invited guests (private) or open to public attendance. Such larger events would need to be coordinated with DOFAW.

2) *The DEIS does not provide any information on the impacts to the environment from "...200 to 500 persons..." attending "Periodic" invitation only events at the Kapa`a Cultural Center three times a year or give the methodology used to determine that three events a year was acceptable.*
Response: The discussion of impacts from cultural center activities throughout the DEIS sections includes consideration of periodic events. Such events would be short-term in that they would occurs only a few times a year for a few hours associated with the event. Activities would be centralized at the cultural center site. Thus, guests would not be impacting other areas of Kawainui or Hāmākua, or the wetlands. Scheduling a few larger events during the year (e.g. three) is reasonable and would be consistent with center's intent to support cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship. Our response to No. 10.k. provided more information addressing concerns with these types of periodic events.

3) *Will these "events" be at night and will night lighting be needed? Will lighting including security lighting be needed for nights other than the event night?*
Response: The periodic larger events would probably be scheduled during the day. Any outside night lighting would be required to be shielded and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible, as discussed in Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS.

4) *This information should have been in the DEIS because night lighting disorients migratory birds and they either crash into buildings or fall to the ground from exhaustion either wounded or dead.*
Response: Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS provides information addressing night lighting and standard design measures to minimize effects associated with night lighting.

5) *Not providing information on the lighting needed for the "Periodic events" makes it impossible to evaluate the direct, short and long term impacts of lighting on migratory birds.*
Response: Information in the DEIS addressing night lighting supports the assessment of direct, short, and long-term effects on migratory seabirds. Further, it

is not the number of guests or type of infrequent events that would influence impacts on seabirds from night lighting. Night lighting effects would be determined by the type of outdoor building lighting fixtures regardless of the size of groups at the cultural center. Rather it is the use of standard design measures such as shielding light bulbs that would minimize effects on seabirds. Our response to No. 8.a. also provided more information addressing concerns with night lighting.

6) *If structures are constructed, operated and paid for by non-profit organizations does that mean that organization own the structure and is responsible for maintenance?*
Response: The non-profit organizations selected for the cultural center would own and be responsible for the maintenance of any facilities they construct.

c. *Page 5-56 "Site user will consist of individuals associated with the site non-profit steward ... "negligible effect on traffic conditions along Kapa`a Quarry Road."*

1) *Will the two parking lots proposed for the Kapa`a Cultural Center require night security lighting? Will lighting be used at the three entrance/exits onto Kapa`a Quarry Road?*
Response: Night lighting for security would not be required for the parking lots serving the cultural center at Kapa'a. Night lighting would not be required for the driveway entrances along Kapa'a Quarry Road serving this cultural center.

2) *Since night lighting is hazardous to federally protected migratory birds information on lighting should have been provided in this disclosure document*
Response: Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS provides information addressing night lighting and standard agency accepted design measures to minimize effects.

3) *Without information on night lighting it is impossible to evaluate direct and cumulative impacts on federally protected migratory birds.*
Response: Response 13.b.(5) and other responses above explain that information in the DEIS addressing night lighting supports the assessment of direct, short, and long-term effects on migratory seabirds. Our response to No. 8.a. also provided more information addressing concerns with night lighting.

4) *What is the plan for parking if people drive to the special events and there is no parking available? Will people be permitted to park on Kapa`a Quarry Road?*
Response: Parking accommodations for special events that may have larger attendance would he pre-arranged and coordinated with DOFAW. As discussed under response 10.k., shuttles from other parking areas could be used to transfer persons, or other sites can be made available, such as parking at Pōhakea, Kahanaiki, etc. As stated in response 10.h.(6), there are currently no restrictions preventing vehicle parking along Kapa'a Quarry Road and people already legally park on the street at Nā Pōhaku. At the Kapa'a site, there is currently shoulder space along the road to accommodate about 15 cars. Therefore, some cars could park along this road where shoulder areas are available.

d. Page 5-56 "Three larger, single day events would be held yearly at the site. ... number of vehicles traveling to the site or retain the service of busses to transport participants"

1) Is it practical to anticipate 200 to 500 people will attend an event and not have adequate parking? Even if people carpool they will need somewhere to park. If the parking lot is full where will people park? What are the impacts to the environment from having 200 to 500 in this area at one time?

Response: It is reasonable and practical to allow a few educational and cultural events a year that are available to a larger audience, such as that discussed in Section 5.6 because other accommodations can be made to address parking as indicated in our prior response. Carpooling would help address parking issues, and the non-profit organization would be responsible to coordinate logistics with DOFAW prior to scheduling any event to accommodate parking and shuttles. Otherwise, DOFAW could restrict events or limit the number of guests. If the parking lot is full, some cars could park along Kapa'a Quarry Road or utilize pre-arranged alternatives, as previously discussed. Response 13.b.(2), discusses impacts from a few yearly larger periodic cultural center events considered and addressed throughout the DEIS. Activities would be centralized at the cultural center; would not impact other areas of Kawainui, Hāmākua, or the wetlands; and would be short-term (day event). Such few larger events are thus reasonable and would be consistent with the center's intent to support cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship while providing benefits to the community.

2) Will overnight stays be permitted at the Kapa`a Cultural Center? If so, how many people will be allowed to stay each night?

Response: No overnight stays by guests are proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a. Only a caretaker's cottage is planned to serve as a full-time manager and curator for the site.

3) What statute, law or rule permits private (invitation only) events on public land?

Response: Under Chapter 171, HRS, the State, through the Board of Land and Natural Resources, is authorized to dispose of public land by lease, license, permit, and in fee simple. Therefore, the BLNR through their divisions, are permitted to issue permits for events on public land.

4) Will the single day events be held at night? Will night lighting be needed for each event?

Response: Single day events would be held during the day, and night lighting has already been addressed in response 13.c.

5) What is the State's justification for allowing only the non-profit organization or their guests/partners by invitation only to participate in cultural and educational programs and activities on state public land?

Response: As discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS, the purpose for the cultural center is to support native Hawaiian cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship opportunities for the area which support agency missions and the purpose for this project. The cultural center would be developed by a selected non-profit organization. The organization would be responsible for the management and operation of facilities and programs. As discussed in Section 2.2, there would be programs that would be made available to the public and coordinated with DOFAW

and DSP. Responses 13.a. and 13.d.(3) address the State's ability to lease land for various uses and activities. Programs conducted by the non-profit organization could be made available to the public as well. However, guests visiting the center would be for the purpose of participating in such programs. This would not be a facility that is open for anyone thus alleviating your concerns about visitors.

e. *Page 2-61 states that the Kapa`a Cultural Center will be "Up to 4,000 square feet ... selected organization would need to be qualified and selected through a RFP"*

1) Not including the design of facilities segments the DEIS and allows DLNR to be vague in disclosing not only details but the full impact of all that is being planned for protected public trust resources, i.e. the cumulative effects of this Project.
Response: It is noted that your statement on the center is actually from page 2-60. Section 2.2 of the DEIS provides sufficient information (e.g. building footprints, locations, activities, uses) to address project effects and identify significant impacts. Responses No. 1 through 4 address your concern with project details, segmentation, and cumulative impacts.

2) Exhibit 2.20 shows a "Concept Sketches of Cultural Complex Structures" so there must be some design information available. Why wasn't that information included in this disclosure document?
Response: As discussed on page 2-60, Exhibit 2.20 contain sketches to provide a conceptual framework for the cultural center so that impacts can be assessed. The cultural center would be designed by the selected non-profit organization, but their design would be required to meet the purpose, concept, size, and area proposed in the DEIS. The organization could similarly design a smaller facility.

3) While restrooms are mentioned there is no mention of type of septic system that will be used at this site. Since sewer hookup is not available along Kapa`a Quarry Road it is assumed that some type of septic system will be needed for this area. What type of septic system will be used at this site?
Response: Section 5.2 discusses wastewater and addresses the projected flows and the size of septic tanks required, including the cultural center at Kapa'a. There are different types of septic systems (e.g. chamber, evapotranspiration, etc.) that could be installed, and the non-profit organization would determine the most appropriate system for the center. All individual septic systems must be designed and developed in compliance with State DOH requirements (§11-62, HAR).

4) Since the site is a former landfill information on the stability of the soil and ability to construct structures on the site should have included in this disclosure document
Response: Information on soils and site conditions are discussed in sections of Chapter 3 of the DEIS, and provide sufficient information to address project impacts. This site was previously used as a City baseyard and would be sufficient to accommodate structures associated with the cultural center. Upland soils at this site could be tested for stability if warranted during the design process. However, any foundation improvements needed are design considerations that can be addressed at the time of final design. The overall impacts to soils are not anticipated to be significant since the area is relatively flat.

f. Page 2-59 Figure 2.10 shows 11 buildings yet the DEIS only mentions 4,000 sq ft interior space, green house and caretakers cottage.

1) Does the interior of the 11 buildings equal 4,000 sq ft of interior space?
Response: The interior space for the 11 buildings, without nursery, associated with the cultural center should have been 14,000 sf, and the "4,000" sf in the DEIS was a typographical error. The number of buildings proposed has since been reduced to eight to address concerns from the community, and a maximum floor area of 10,000 square feet is proposed. Thus, fewer but larger buildings could eventually be constructed, but would not exceed 10,000 square feet of floor area. Revisions to that page of the Final EIS are attached with this letter.

2) What are the dimensions of the caretaker's cottage? Where will it be located in relation to the wetland? Will the cottage have a bathroom and kitchen?
Response: The caretaker's cottage shown on Figure 2.10 has a floor area of about 1,200 sf, and dimensions of about 25 feet by 48 feet. Its location shown on that figure is about 150 feet away from the wetland. The cottage would have a bathroom and kitchen.

3) What is the location of each of the 11 buildings in relation to the wetland?
Response: Figure 2.10 shows the location of all proposed buildings relative to the wetland.

4) Construction of 11 buildings, two parking lots, presumably some sore of wastewater treatment system, even though nothing was in the DEIS, hundreds of people and a catchment system will have a huge environmental impact yet this information was not included in the DEIS. Since critical information is missing a Supplement EA must be done for this area.
Response: Information on the improvements shown in Figure 2.10 is discussed in Section 2.2.4. Activities planned at the cultural center are addressed in Section 2.2.5. Wastewater associated with the center is discussed in Section 5.2, and impacts from structures and activities were discussed under respective sections of the DEIS, which covered the natural environment, the human environment, and infrastructure. As discussed in Section 2.2.5, the cultural center is projected to have about 400 persons a month participating in activities, which reflects a relatively low level of activity. Critical information is not missing from the DEIS, and a Supplemental EA is not applicable nor required for this subarea.

g. Page 2-60 states that "Visitors may come into contact with ... avoiding construction of facilities during waterbird nesting season would occur to minimize adverse impacts."

1) The protective measure is good. Since the complex will be operated by a private non- profit organization who will be responsible for ensuring that this protective measure is enforced?
Response: DOFAW would be responsible to manage and monitor construction of a cultural center along with any conditions required. DOFAW would also manage activities and operations occurring at the center.

2) *While acknowledging that people may come into contact with endangered waterbirds at this site the DEIS does not evaluate impacts on endangered waterbirds from human contact.*
Response: The statements referenced from this page are from a description of the project and activities. Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS addresses project effects on waterbirds and identifies potential impacts from human activities, such as the cultural center. Measures to address potential impacts were discussed, including vegetation buffers and wetland perimeter fencing. Furthermore, waterbird areas are located within the southern half of Kawainui, where open water is more plentiful, as discussed in the COE's 1992 FEIS for the flood control project and DLNR's 2000 Final EA for their management plan. This condition would continue with the proposed project as a result of proposed restoration activities occurring within the southern half of Kawainui. There are fewer opportunities for waterbirds to come into contact with human activities associated with the cultural center at Kapa'a situated on the northern half of Kawainui.
3) *Even more alarming is the acknowledgement that human and endangered waterbird encounters are anticipated to occur during the "operation" of the complex. What preventative measures will be used to reduce/eliminate human and waterbird encounters?*
Response: Please refer to the response above that identified Section 3.3.2 as addressing effects and mitigative measures, and the low likelihood of waterbirds occurring in the northern half of Kawainui. The cultural center at Kapa'a is situated at the northern half of Kawainui where wetland restoration is not proposed. Most nesting and other waterbird activities would continue to occur in the southern half (Kahanaiki) of the wetland, well removed from the cultural center. Therefore, the likelihood of human encounters and disruptions would be further reduced.
4) *This complete lack of information on mitigation measures to prevent human endangered waterbird encounters during operations is very troubling.*
Response: As discussed in other responses, Section 3.3.2 addresses effects on waterbirds.
5) *Information on preventative measures must be in a Supplemental EIS.*
Response: Information addressing effects on waterbirds and mitigative measures were addressed in Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS, and a supplemental EIS is not necessary.

h. *Page 2-60 states that the Kapa`a Cultural Center will have a water storage system, a plant nursery and caretakers cottage yet there is no information on the locations, dimensions or type of water storage system in the DEIS.*
Response: Water storage would be used to supplement non-potable water use, such as for landscape irrigation, to reduce demand on potable water. This would consist of rain catchment system as discussed on page 2-60 that would be a minor accessory improvement to buildings. Rainwater harvesting tanks could be as simple as trash-can sized barrels or slightly larger tanks depending upon the desired use. The location of such minor accessory components would generally be next to buildings and thus within the cultural center development area. A nursery structure was shown on Figure 2.10

and would likely be about 2,000 square feet or less in size. The caretaker cottage was also shown on Figure 2.10 and would likely consist of a single-story structure in the range of 1,200 square feet or less. The nursery and caretaker's cottage would need to fit within the 10,000 square feet floor area proposed for this site.

1) *The DEIS does not provide information on how much earth moving will be required, how much soil will be imported or exported, the depth of the water table or the permeability of the soil. Without this information it is impossible to assess impacts on the wetland and endangered waterbirds from these developments.*

   Response: As discussed in Section 3.1.2, the topography associated with the cultural center site is relatively flat with gentle slopes (3%). Consequently, grading activities for building footprints (e.g. caretaker's cottage, nursery) would be minimal and would not result in significant earth moving activities. The actual design of buildings could utilize post-and-pier construction that would further minimize ground disturbance. Given these existing conditions, no soils would need to be imported or exported, and this site was formerly used for a City baseyard. Site improvements would not affect the water table as the site is at 10 to 15 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). In contrast, existing Kailua residences makai of the levee are situated at lower elevations. The overall permeability of the soils associated with the approximately 9-acre site would not be significantly impacted by a water storage system or building footprints. Figure 2.10 shows areas with buildings and parking areas, and the vast majority of the site would remain grassed or landscaped, with minimal effect on soils. Sections 3.3.2 (Avifauna) and 3.4.4 (Wetlands) adequately address project effects based upon the project information included in the DEIS. Our responses Nos. 1 through 4 also address the adequacy of project information included to address likely significant impacts.

2) *The DEIS does not provide information on lighting needs of the various complex buildings (Exhibit 2-20). Will the caretaker's cottage, plant nursery, each of the 11 buildings, the parking lot need night security lighting? This information is needed to evaluate the short and long-term impacts of night lighting on migratory birds and must be included in a Supplemental EIS.*

   Response: As discussed in prior responses, parking lots would not require night security lighting, and a plant nursery does not require night lighting because landscape activities occur during the day. The caretaker's cottage and other buildings could include outside lighting (e.g. at doorway entrance), and such lighting would need to be shielded and include other agency accepted minimization measures as discussed in Section 3.3.2. The project's effect on migratory birds from night lighting is discussed in Section 3.3.2, and a Supplemental EIS is not necessary. Response 13.b.(5) and other prior responses explain that information in the DEIS addressing night lighting supports the assessment of direct, short, and long-term effects on migratory seabirds. Our response to No. 8.a. also provided more information addressing concerns with night lighting.

i. *Page 2-60 states that "LID elements such as bioswales, bioretention areas, and rain catchment systems would also be considered in the project's design."*

1) *Information on types, placement, size, effectiveness and purpose of these LID elements should have been included in this disclosure document so that the effectiveness of each measure on protecting the wetland can be assessed.*
Response: Bioswales and bioretention areas are vegetated stormwater conveyance systems that help absorb runoff, and provide a beneficial effect on the environment and Kawainui's wetland. They are components of low impact development (LID) approaches supporting retention and infiltration of rainfall. The actual LID measures constructed would be determined during the final design of the cultural center and site improvements. They would be appropriately sized and located to increase effectiveness. As a result, the specific LID type, placement, and size do not need to be determined now to reasonably assess whether they have significant impacts, and addressing the "effectiveness of each measure" is not practical or necessary. The effectiveness of LID measures in minimizing effects are well established, there are several standard design guidelines available (e.g. State Office of Planning's Low Impact Development guide published in 2006), and such measures provide beneficial results reducing environmental effects. Their design would also be reviewed by jurisdictional agencies as part of ministerial permits, which includes assessing their appropriateness and design sufficiency.

2) *What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui wetland, endangered waterbirds and water quality from building 11 new structures, a new septic system, a new catchment system, 2 new parking lots, and creating unknown miles of trails through the area?*
Response: Respective sections of the DEIS address the effects of the cultural center at Kapa'a on the natural and human environments and infrastructure facilities. There is sufficient information provided in the DEIS to address the impacts from these improvements. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allows for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment. Pedestrian trails are not proposed within the cultural center at Kapa'a, and responses under No. 10 address comments on trails.

14. Vegetation Processing Area.

a. *Page 1-22 "...DOFAW is planning to clear vegetation from this processing site to prepare it for use with restoration activities"*

- *How much vegetation will be removed from the site? Will the vegetation be taken off site? Will the vegetation be reused? Will the vegetation be tested for contaminants before being used or removed?*

Response: Clearing vegetation at this site for use as part of vegetation processing activities is already permitted as discussed in Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS. When improvements are implemented, existing vegetation present then would be cut and cleared to the extent needed to provide open space for facilities and vegetation processing operations. This would likely include the upper mauka half of the site as shown on Figure 2.10. This site is relatively flat characterized by invasive

California grass and koa haole that needs to be removed. Harvested vegetation would be processed and disposed on site as part of DOFAW's regular maintenance activities. The removed invasive vegetation would not be reused. This vegetation does not need to be tested for contaminants before being removed. Section 4.7.2 addresses hazardous materials.

b. *Page 2-12 Figure 2.2 shows a "Proposed Maintenance Base Yard" within the Vegetation Processing Area.*
   - *Is a Maintenance Base Yard part of the vegetation-processing site or is it a separate entity? What is the purpose of the Base Yard? Will DOFAW oversee the Base Yard?*
     Response: A "maintenance baseyard" is not proposed for the vegetation processing site. What is proposed consists of support facilities (buildings) for vegetation processing activities as discussed under Section 2.2.4.2. Single-story buildings would be used for administration and operations, maintenance and equipment storage, and other necessary operations support. Portions of buildings could also be used as office space supporting State DLNR agencies, such as DOCARE as discussed in the DEIS. DOFAW would be responsible for managing facilities at this vegetation processing site.

c. *Table 2.1 identifies the Vegetation Processing Area as 9.9 acres and under DOFAW jurisdiction while Page 2-61 lists Vegetation Processing site as 14 aces would be used to compost green waste.*
   - *Are these the same sites or are there two vegetation-processing sites?*
     Response: There is only one vegetation processing site under the project, which page 2-61 identified as 14 acres. The vegetation processing site is actually about 13.8 acres and the cultural center site is 9.2 acres, and this has been updated in Table 2.1 in the FEIS, and a copy of that revised table is attached to this letter. The area approved by prior entitlements for vegetation processing operations included the entire upland area that is now proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a along with the vegetation processing site.

d. *Page 2-62 Vegetation processing site would have "facilities totaling ... and a large shed for supporting equipment storage and other necessary operations support."*
   1) *What isn't mentioned in this description is the long driveway that extends to the edge of Kawainui wetland. (Page 2-59 Figure 2-10).*
      Response: A gravel main access driveway serving the vegetation processing site is discussed under the description of the site improvements. The extent of the driveway would be determined based upon the vegetation processing operations and areas needed on the site.
   2) *How long is the driveway? How much grading, grubbing, excavating will be required to create the driveway? How much soil will be imported or exported to construct the driveway? What type of material will be used on for the driveway?*
      Response: The driveway shown on Figure 2.10 is about 950 feet in length to provide access throughout the site. The site relatively flat with an average slope of about 1 percent as discussed in Section 3.1.2. A gravel driveway would require minimal

grading with some grubbing of vegetation to improve the driveway. No import or export of soil would be required for the driveway. As already discussed, gravel would be imported to create a permeable driveway.

3) *How high is the water table at this site? How much fill will be required to make the land stable enough for structures and the driveway?*
Response: Boring data of Kawainui within the COE's FEIS in 1992 showed the water table varied in areas between a high of about 1 foot AMSL to a low of -3 to -7 feet below mean sea level. As shown on Figure 3.1A, the majority of the processing site is at about 10 to 20 feet AMSL; well above the water table. Kailua residences makai of the levee are situated at lower elevations. This Kawainui area and lower (makai) urban development are situated above the aquifer system that is not a drinking water source, as discussed in Section 3.4.2. This site is already stable for structures proposed and a gravel driveway, thus, no fill material should be required. The City previously used this area for their baseyard facility reflecting its appropriateness for such light industrial type use.

4) *What is the length of the driveway/road? What is the purpose of the driveway/road going to the edge of the wetland? Will green waste be brought to the site by some sort of barge?*
Response: The driveway shown on Figure 2.10 is about 950 feet, and intended to provide access throughout the site. The actual extent of the driveway would be determined based upon the vegetation processing operations and could be shorter in length. Green waste is not proposed to be brought to the site by barge.

e. *Page 2-61 states "The site would also require staging areas for receiving and disposing of green waste, areas for windows, and other processing areas." "...storage containers (320 square feet) would be used for temporary office space during research activities, similar to containers used during construction)"*

1) *How large will the staging area be? Will there be plastic sheeting or some type of impermeable ground covering under the staging and the vegetation processing area to prevent contaminants from entering the underlying aquifer?*
Response: Staging areas needed for vegetation processing would be determined as part of operational activities. As shown on Figure 2.10, there is sufficient area within the 13.8 acre site to accommodate needed staging areas. Underlying sheeting could be used, if appropriate, for processing areas (windrows). However, if not used, there would not be a significant impact to the underlying aquifer as discussed in Section 3.4.2. Section 4.7 also addressed hazardous materials associated with Kawainui, which supports the impacts discussed under Section 3.4.2.

2) *How many storage containers will be located on the site?*
Response: The question on storage containers relates to the discussion of temporary research activities occurring at the vegetation processing site (page 2-61). As discussed, temporary research projects under grants or other programs could use part of the vegetation processing site for base operations. This would involve using a storage container for offices, similar to offices for construction projects. It is unlikely that more than two programs requiring such containers would occur at the

same time, so up to two containers could be located there. Containers could also function as a temporary use as part of research programs.

f. *Page 3-111 states that "As a whole, buildings and parking area ... Runoff estimates could be reduced further if LID elements were used in construction of facilities."*

1) What LID measures will be used to reduce runoff?
Response: Low impact development (LID) measures addressing stormwater runoff could include vegetative buffers, detention basins, etc. Specific measures would be designed when the site is developed for processing activities. As discussed, vegetation processing activities are already permitted at this site by previous entitlements.

2) Since there will be 5,000 sq ft of hardened surface, storage containers, and a long driveway and it was determined that buildings and parking lots cause the greatest amount of runoff what preventative measures will be used during and after construction to prevent runoff from entering the wetland?
Response: Design plans would include BMPs to address short-term construction related effects, and would require obtaining ministerial permits and agency review of construction plans. LID measures as part of site improvements would also be included as part of agency review.

3) Will there be night lighting for night work and security?
Response: Night work is not proposed for vegetation processing activities, and would not require night lighting or security.

4) This information is critical because night lighting is deadly for federally protected endangered, such as shearwaters, who are known to traverse Kawainui and surrounding areas and become disoriented by lights and fall to the ground injured or dead
Response: The previous response addresses night lighting effects.

5) What types of light shielding and lowest wattage bulbs will be used if night lighting is needed?
Response: The previous response addresses lighting shielding and wattage bulbs.

g. *Page 3-82 While the aquifer below the vegetation-processing site is not a drinking water source it is still critical that wastewater contaminants are filtered before water migrates into the aquifer. It is not sufficient to say that since the aquifer is not a "drinking water source" that it "would not be negatively impacted by the small wastewater generated from vegetation processing operations."*
Response: Your reference to Page 3-82 statements on the vegetation processing site is from that section's discussion of impacts under the No Action Alternative. Section 3.4.2 discusses the State DOH's classification given to the aquifer and underground injection control (UIC) program for this area, and supports the determination that wastewater treatment by septic systems and leach fields would not adversely impact the aquifer. Septic systems are common and accepted methods to process and dispose of wastewater, and alternative systems (e.g. vaults) can further minimize effects. It is also reasonable and appropriate to consider the effects based upon the low volume (100 gpd that is lower than a family residence of four) of wastewater generated from

vegetation processing operations. The adjacent City model airplane park has a restroom with septic system that was similarly assessed and approved for implementation by the State DOH. State DOH review and approval of the project's system further ensures that its design meets requirements and would be appropriate for this site.

1) *Where is the data to support the statement that it "would not be negatively impacted by the small wastewater generated from vegetation processing operations"? What methodology was used to come to that conclusion?*
   Response: Section 5.2 explains that about 100 gpd of wastewater would be generated and treated from a restroom serving employee processing operations. In comparison, a home generates between 70 to 100 gpd per person, so a family of four would generate more wastewater per day compared to this facility. Typically, the smallest septic tanks used for residential use are sized for a 1,000 gallon capacity. Therefore, it is reasonable to assess and determine that wastewater generated from processing activities would not significantly impact the underlying aquifer. Our response above also provides information addressing this comment.
2) *What measures will be used to prevent wastewater contaminants from migrating into the aquifer?*
   Response: As discussed in Section 5.2.2 (No Action Alternative), the individual wastewater system (IWS) serving the vegetation processing site must be designed and constructed in compliance with State DOH standards and requirements. Such systems use a combination of nature and proven technology to treat wastewater. After separating solids in the tank, effluent discharged to the leach field allows wastewater to percolate into the soil, naturally removing harmful bacteria and nutrients. Additional measures are thus not necessary to "prevent" any effluent contaminants from percolating into the aquifer.
3) *What measures will be used to prevent erosion from migrating into the wetland?*
   Response: The wastewater system would not cause erosion of land and sedimentation migrating into the wetland. A septic tank and associated lines are located underground; thus no erosion would result from its operation. The leach field must be designed to meet State DOH standards. The City airplane park's restroom facility and similar treatment system adjacent to this site have not resulted in erosion issues.
4) *Preventative measures should have been in this disclosure document so that decision makers can determine if the suggested measures are sufficient to prevent contaminants from entering the aquifer and wetland.*
   Response: Preventive measures were discussed under Section 5.2.2 of the DEIS, and the document provides decision-makers with reasonable and sufficient information to identify and address significant effects. IWS are allowed within this site, must meet DOH design standards, and is a common and accepted method to process and dispose of wastewater as explained in our responses above. There would be no significant impact on the underlying aquifer, especially given the minimal wastewater volumes projected for the vegetation processing site.

h. *Page 4-73 "The vegetation processing facility would be considered an industrial use that is located within an established industrial area along Kapa`a Quarry Road across*

from the City's transfer station and Kapa`a Light Industrial Park. This facility would be compatible with surrounding industrial uses..."

- *Kawainui marsh is not an established industrial area. All industrial uses are on the mauka side of Kapa`a Quarry Road. The vegetation processing area is on the makai side of Kapa`a Quarry Road and within Kawainui marsh.*
  Response: The statement referenced from the DEIS is from Section 4.2.2 addressing effects on business and economic conditions (actually page 4-74). It does not state Kawainui is an industrial area, but explains the industrial area is "along Kapa'a Quarry Road." Therefore, in assessing business and economic conditions, the processing facility would be compatible with the other surrounding industrial uses. As discussed in Section 1.5.4, the vegetation processing site is already permitted by previous entitlements. The proposed project does not change this use. The purpose for this vegetation processing site is to support wetland and upland restoration activities, and is more conveniently located at Kawainui to better support DOFAW operations. This site has already been used for similar vegetation processing activities by the City, and the City's former baseyard (a type of industrial use) was located within Kawainui's upland area adjacent to this site. That processing site is also located within previously disturbed upland area, and is not within Kawainui's wetland.

i. *Page 3-32 "The vegetation processing site would be potentially exposed to possible damages because it is located closer to the canal, near Kapa`a Stream and at a lower elevation."*

   1) *What type of damages does this statement refer too?*
   Response: As discussed in section 3.2.3, the vegetation processing site is outside the standard tsunami evacuation zone. However, the City's "Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone" area extends further inland as major stream routes and Kawainui's wetland could be inundated by an extreme tsunami. Thus, the processing site could potentially be impacted by tsunami-generated flooding.

   2) *What canal is near Kapa`a Stream and why would the canal damage the vegetation processing area?*
   Response: Kawainui Canal could receive inundation from an extreme tsunami event. Tsunami waters flowing inland through the canal could back into Kawainui's wetland, and potentially flood the vegetation processing site along with other areas, such as the City's airplane park.

j. *Page 5-10 The vegetation-processing site would generate about 100 gpd ... However, the vegetation processing site has sufficient area to accommodate this system."*

   1) *Has a septic system design been selected? If so, information about that system should have been in this disclosure document that decision makers can evaluate whether the system is sufficient to prevent wastewater migration to the aquifer.*
   Response: A septic system or other type of IWS has not yet been determined or designed for the vegetation processing site since design plans have not been developed for this facility. Although the vegetation processing site is already

entitled, information on wastewater effects from this facility is included in the DEIS (e.g. Section 5.2.2) that allows for its evaluation.

2) *Figure 3.2 identifies the area as MZ Marsh. Page 3-14 states that "Much of the upland area at Kawainui particularly along Kapa'a Quarry Road consists of fill..."*
Response: Figure 3.2 is based upon State GIS data that is not accurate for the vegetation processing site because it does not consist of wetland (MZ – marsh). As stated on page 3-14 much of this upland area consists of fill material, such as this vegetation processing site.

3) *Since this site is low-lying marsh with water standing on the surface what process(s) will be used to dewater the site in preparation for construction of the staging area, development of structures and septic system?*
Response: As discussed above, the site does not consist of low-lying wetland with standing water. Exhibit 1.17 includes an aerial photo and Exhibit 4.26 has a photo of this site clearly showing a lack of wetland conditions. Therefore no dewatering activities are necessary.

4) *How and where will the water be disposed after each dewatering event?*
Response: The prior response addresses this question.

5) *How often will the site have to be dewatered?*
Response: The prior response addresses this question.

6) *Will the water be tested before it is disposed?*
Response: The prior response addresses this question.

7) *Has the ground been tested to ensure that it is stable enough for the construction of buildings?*
Response: The ground associated with the proposed processing site is sufficiently stable to accommodate single-story buildings. The adjacent airplane park has a restroom building constructed without issues, and the City had a former baseyard located south of this location. Information on soils and site conditions are sufficient to reasonably assess the environmental effects from this facility, which reflect there would not be an adverse effect on soils. During the design phase for the processing facility, soil tests could be conducted if warranted.

8) *Has the area been tested to ensure that the soil is impermeable so wastewater contaminants do not seep through the leach field into the aquifer without being filtered?*
Response: As discussed in Section 5.2.2, the design of the wastewater system would include soil percolation tests as part of State DOH design requirements. The soil does not need to be impermeable as wastewater would be properly treated by the IWS to allow infiltration into the aquifer. IWS are permitted within these areas. Our prior responses to No. 14.g. provide further information addressing this comment.

k. *Page 3-28 since facilities at the vegetation processing area could be damaged by strong winds what materials will be used to construct the buildings? What precautions will be taken to ensure that during high winds green waste is not blown into the wetland?*
Response: Page 3-28 discusses effects from hurricane hazards. The type of materials used to construct facilities would be determined during project design. Structures would be designed to meet applicable building codes, including regulations related to

hurricane exposure. Other design features, such as hurricane ties (rafter ties), would reduce potential damage from a hurricane. In the event of a hurricane of sufficient strength, green waste could be blown into the wetland along with branches, trees, vegetation and numerous debris coming from other outside surrounding areas, residences, etc. It is not reasonable or practical to prevent such effects from a hurricane, however, such green waste should not have an adverse effect on Kawainui's wetland in comparison to other debris and the flooding resulting from a hurricane event.

1. *Page 3-35 while the upland areas may not be susceptible to flooding the flat vegetation processing area gradually slops down into the marsh. What is the possibility of the vegetation processing area flooding?*
Response: With the exception of ponding occurring within some areas of the processing site, the probability of this site flooding is low as discussed on page 3-35. Storm water runoff would naturally flow into existing drainageways outside of this site, and the site topography's gradual slope would naturally direct storm water to flow into the wetland.
   1) The vegetation processing area may be far from Oneawa Canal but the site is low and was created from fill so it could be susceptible to tidal surge. What precautions will be taken to ensure that a tidal surge does not inundate the vegetation processing area and sweep green waste into the wetland?
   Response: As discussed under Section 3.4.3, water from Kawainui Canal is effectively blocked from intruding into Kawainui's wetland by a weir of vegetation under normal conditions. The processing site is not susceptible to normal tidal fluctuations, and facilities are sited inland away from the wetland perimeter. Therefore, no precautions are required to address issues with tidal surges or fluctuations. Furthermore, there is considerable wetland vegetation and open space between the Canal and the processing site to prevent such effects.
   2) What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on Kawainui wetland, endangered waterbirds and water quality from installing a new septic system with leach field, creating a green waste processing and staging area, a 5,000 sq ft building, and unknown number of containers over an aquifer and in an area almost level with the wetland?
   Response: Although the vegetation processing site is already permitted and the project does not change this allowed use, discussion of this site and its operations were included in Section 2.2 to provide information to address effects. As shown on Figure 3.1A, the majority of the processing site is at about 10 to 20 feet AMSL that does not reflect a condition being "almost level" with the wetland. The direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative effects from project improvements proposed were addressed in sections of the DEIS. The several responses under No. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.
   3) Are these manmade areas considered wetland riparian areas?
   Response: The vegetation processing site is not considered a wetland riparian area. Riparian areas consist of the interface between land and the wetland. Thus, just the small area where the wetland meets the upland area of the processing site would be

considered riparian area. As shown on Figure 2.10, a vegetation buffer is proposed for this riparian area to separate processing operations from the wetland.

15. Kawainui State Park Reserve: Kalāheo Park
Response: As discussed in response No. 7.a., the hale wa'a has been removed from the proposed project. Therefore, the project does not include any improvements to this site, other than those already permitted as part of the prior Kawainui Gateway Park proposal.

a. Page 2-63 Figure 2-11 shows Hale wa`a Canoe/Kayak Storage.

1) The DEIS mentions that the hale wa`a will only be used for canoes. Will kayaks also be stored in the hale wa`a?
Response: As discussed in response No. 7.a., the hale wa'a has been removed from the project, therefore, there will be no canoes or kayaks stored in a hale wa'a.

2) Can personal use kayaks be stored in the hale wa`a or will kayak owners have to be part of a club or school? If the hale wa`a can accommodate up to six 6-man canoes how many kayaks can be stored in the hale wa`a?
Response: The response above addresses your questions on canoes and kayaks associated with the hale wa'a. The hale wa'a was initially planned to allow storage only for schools and permitted canoe clubs in the DEIS. Storage of canoes and kayaks would have been determined by the school or non-profit organization managing the hale wa'a.

b. Pg 4-32 "Based on the properties topography, history, and observations ... excavation of Kawainui Canal and construction of Mokapu Saddle Road and Mokapu Boulevard."

1) What methodology was used to determine that the fill "would likely be more than 6 feet thick, and possibly as much as twice as that (12 feet)"? Where is the data from the findings?
Response: Information on fill material associated with the Kalāheo Park site is based upon Cultural Surveys Hawai'i's archaeological report in Appendix F of the DEIS. That report included information from a prior survey conducted for the site that identified fill sediments based upon background research and field inspections.

2) What are the other options if the fill is not stable enough to handle the proposed structures?
Response: Fill material on this site should be sufficiently stable to accommodate already permitted structures and improvements. The design of these improvements would determine if any additional foundation improvements were needed for structures.

3) Continuously carrying 6-man canoes over the edge of the park and riparian area into Oneawa Canal can cause sever erosion. What measures will be used to prevent erosion?
Response: As discussed in Section 2.2.4, the embankment would have been reinforced with grass to stabilize the slope and minimize erosion. Minor improvements to stabilize the launch entrance and minimize erosion could consist of adding permeable pavers, such as Grasspave2.

4) What security measures are in place to prevent stealing the canoes?
Response: The hale wa'a would have been closed, locked, and secured after use.

5) *Will there be night lighting in the restrooms, for park security, at the hale wa`a and outdoor canoe storage area for security and use? What are direct and cumulative impacts on federally protected migratory birds from night lighting at this site?*
Response: No night lighting would have been necessary for the hale wa'a because it would have supported day activities. Any night lighting for the restroom facility would be consistent with design measures to shield lighting and use low wattage bulbs applicable to other buildings at Kawainui and serve as agency accepted minimization measures. The park site would be closed at the end of the day and not support night activities or require night lighting. Response 13.b.(5) and other previous responses explain that information in the DEIS addressing night lighting supports the assessment of direct, short, and long-term effects on migratory seabirds. Our response to No. 8.a. also provided more information addressing concerns with night lighting.

6) *Will the canoe launch area be grass or dirt? Who will be responsible for maintaining the area and preventing erosion and runoff into Oneawa Canal – a non-profit organization or DSP?*
Response: The canoe launch location would be grassed or improved with permeable pavers to minimize erosion as already responded. This would be a DSP managed and maintained park site.

7) *The DEIS lacks information on direct, indirect, cumulative, short and long term and cumulative environmental impacts from erosion to Oneawa Canal and Kawainui wetland from continuous canoe launching.*
Response: DSP plans to only allow schools to launch canoes using this site on a permit basis. Canoe clubs would not be allowed to launch from this site. This would greatly minimize the level of canoe launch activities, and would typically only occur during the school canoe season (November – February) and would not occur year round. Various sections of the DEIS address the effects of such launch activities, including Section 3.1.3 (Soils) under the No Action Alternative. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9 explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment. As already explained, the hale wa'a is no longer proposed as part of this project and only those uses and improvements already permitted would occur at this site.

c. *Page 5-11 Kalaheo park "Wastewater generated from this restroom facility should have minimal impact on the City's municipal system, and no impact if a separate septic system is used."*

1) *What methodology was used to determine that there would be "no impact if a separate septic system" was used? Where is the data to back up that assertion?*
Response: It should be clarified that the statement on page 5-11 refers to effects on the City's municipal wastewater system. Therefore, an IWS used for the restroom facility would have no effect on the City's existing system because there would be no connection to that system. Other data is not needed to reasonably assess and evaluate this situation.

2) *Since this site is adjacent to Mokapu Blvd. what would prevent hooking up the restroom and showers to the City municipal wastewater system?*
Response: Connection to the City's sewer system is possible and its feasibility would be determined by DSP as part of detailed project design when improvements are implemented. Factors that could affect this choice include cost considerations.
3) *Under what circumstances would a septic system be used? If a septic system is used is there adequate from for a leach field?*
Response: An IWS would be used if connection to the City's sewer system is not feasible or practicable from a design or cost perspective. This park site is about 4.6 acres in size and would have sufficient space to accommodate a leach field. The restroom facility at the City's model airplane park required less than 1,400 sf of space for a leach field.
4) *At what point in the process will the decision be made whether hook up is possible or a septic system will be needed?*
Response: A decision on the treatment system for wastewater would occur during the project's design phase when this already permitted improvement is implemented by DSP.
5) *Page 4-40 "Design plans associated with the hale wa`a structure would be designed to not exceed the depth of the fill material."*
Response: The hale wa'a has been eliminated from this project.
6) *SHPD recommended that an AIS be done if construction goes beyond the fill. If a septic system is needed will an AIS be done?*
Response: If the design of a septic tank system requires excavation below the fill material, an archaeological inventory survey would be conducted for that system.

d. *Page 2-81 states "Activities are estimated to generate up to about 1,100 persons a month..."*
Response: Projected visitors to this park site were estimated to be about 1,100 persons a month (35 to 40 persons a day), mostly associated with canoe activities. However, this level of activity would be less with elimination of the hale wa'a and restricting canoe launches to schools for practice during paddling season (November – February).

e. *Page 2-80 Table 2.5 shows "projected" and "increase in activity" at 100 a month.*
1) *Which number is the correct number – 100 people a month or 1,100 people a month?*
Response: Table 2.5 identifies projected educational and cultural program-related activities. It was projected that possibly one or two classes or programs could be held at the Kalāhco site for students or residents, likely associated with the sport of canoe paddling. Therefore, 100 persons a month would be associated with participating in such educational programs. Another 1,100 persons a month are projected to visit the park for outdoor recreation or canoe launch. Thus, a total of 1,200 persons a month would visit this site as shown on Table 2.6. With elimination of the hale wa'a, the projected visitor would be reduced.
2) *Does the correct number of people include people just stopping to view the marsh and are not part of an organization?*

Response: As discussed above, the projected visitors include those associated with educational or cultural programs, canoe related users, and general visitors to view the wetland or participate in passive outdoor recreation. Any visitors connected with organizations would likely be associated with programs or canoe launch (schools).

f. *Page 5-66 "The pedestrian bridge constructed over the Kawainui Canal would have a beneficial impact by providing another access point to the levee for the public, and increase outdoor recreational activities (walking)." There are contradicting statements about the bridge over Oneawa Canal. Which is correct? There are contradicting statements about the bridge over Oneawa Canal. Which is correct?*
Response: The following responses clarify comments on the pedestrian bridge.

1) *Pg 5-69 states "The only project related change in this subarea is adding a hale wa`a and not constructing a pedestrian bridge over Kawainui Canal at the Kalaheo Park site compared to the No Action Alternative." and*
Response: Pages 5-66 and 5-69 of the DEIS address project effects on recreational facilities. Page 5-66 addresses effects under the No Action Alternative for which improvements proposed under the Kawainui Gateway Park proposal can be implemented as they are already permitted. These approved improvements include a pedestrian bridge over the Kawainui Canal. However, DSP did not plan on implementing the pedestrian bridge as discussed in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS. Page 5-69 addresses impacts from the Proposed Action that would only add the hale wa'a structure to other already allowed park improvements.

2) *Page 3-28 "New structures built at the Kalaheo Park site that include the comfort station, interpretive shelter, and pedestrian bridge over the canal could be damaged from strong winds.*
Response: Page 3-28 discusses impacts from natural hazards under the No Action Alternative and describes improvements already allowed at this site from the prior Kawainui Gateway Park approval.

3) *What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on Oneawa Canal, endangered waterbirds and water quality and the banks of the canal from building 2 new structures, creating a parking lot, and canoe/kayak launching area over the canal riparian area?*
Response: The park improvements are already allowed by prior environmental review and land use approvals. Thus, these improvements are discussed in sections of the DEIS associated with the No Action Alternative. With elimination of the hale wa'a, the proposed project would not result in any new changes to this site. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

16. Levee

a. *Pg 2-65 states that No improvements are proposed for the levee.*
Response: The discussion of the levee on page 2-65 is correct.

b. *Page 5-63 states that the levee is open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm with about 1,800 persons a month using the levee (60 people per day)*

1) After trails connecting the levee to Wai`auia and the trail to Ulupo Heiau are constructed how many people who use the levee are expected to use those trails?
Response: As discussed on page 5-68, only about 500 persons a month were projected to utilize the trail from Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau. It is reasonable that about 50% of this number (250 persons a month) could be those also walking the levee. The extended distance utilizing this section (toward Ulupō Heiau and back to Wai'auia) would likely discourage many persons already walking the levee. However, as already discussed in response No. 7.a., the Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau section of the trail has been eliminated from tbis project. Therefore, persons from the levee would not have a trail to walk to Ulupō Heiau.

2) Since people using the levee will most likely not go to the Education Center how will the number of people accessing trails around Kawainui from the levee be counted?
Response: It is not necessary to count the number of people accessing trails from the levee around Kawainui. DOFAW and DSP management of areas may obtain periodic counts to help evaluate activities, but other practices would be used to manage public access as discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS (e.g. phased implementation). Furthermore, the only trail connection from the levee would be a short distance to Wai'auia where a few public parking stalls are proposed.

c. *Pg 2-67 Pedestrian Trial Figure 2.12 "A pedestrian trail is proposed along Kailua Road. This trail would extend north from ... An observation deck with interpretive signs is proposed to provide scenic views of Kawainui."*

1) What is the purpose of a 10-12 foot trail/road that will parallel Kailua Road?
Response: As discussed on page 2-67, the trail is to support DOFAW access for maintenance and operations, and to provide the public with a short pedestrian trail connecting a small parking lot at Wai'auia with the levee.

2) Where will the observation deck be located? What are the dimensions of the observation deck?
Response: The location of the observation deck shown on Figure 2.12 is west of the cultural center. The size of an observation deck would be smaller than a pavilion, possibly in the range of 225 to 300 sf in size. Such a viewing area could be circular in design as conceptually shown on Exhibit 2.17 or rectangular in shape. The appropriate design for an observation area would be determined when implemented by DOFAW or DSP and such accessory structures are typically exempt from preparing an EA under the State DLNR's exemption list because they have minimal impact on the environment.

d. *Page 2-68 "A foot trail is planned to link the levee with the Ulupo Heiau ... would be determined during a later design phase when DOFAW is ready for its implementation."*

1) *From the above statements on pages 2-67 and 2-68 it seems that there will be two trails linking the levee and Wai`auia with Ulupo Heiau and Mokulana. The 10-12 foot wide pedestrian trail is proposed along Kailua Road while the 4 to 6 feet wide foot trail goes along Kawainui Marsh.*

Response: The majority of trails in this area would be foot trails due to existing site conditions, however, some wider pedestrian trails could be provided where feasible. Figures 2.12, 2.13, and 2.14 of the DEIS show the trail initially proposed from Wai'auia to Mokulana consisting of sections comprised of either a pedestrian trail (10-12 feet wide) or foot trail (4-6 feet wide). A pedestrian trail from Wai'auia to the levee is described on page 2-67 due to space already available. From the levee to Ulupō Heiau and to DOFAW's management station, a narrower foot trail was proposed due to the terrain. However, only a foot trail from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station is now proposed as part of the scaled back project.

2) *Why are two trails needed? Is it really necessary for DOFAW to have its own road/trail when the 10-12 foot wide trail will run parallel to the existing Kailua Road?*

Response: There is only one trail proposed along this section as shown on Figures 2.12 to 2.14 and described in Section 2.2.4. Please refer to the response above to clarify the pedestrian and foot trail sections proposed. DOFAW would utilize the single trail between Wai'auia and the levee.

3) *The DEIS states that design for both of these trails will occur at another time. During the Chapter 343 EIS process is the proper time to discuss projects, their design and potential environmental impacts and not after the environmental review has occurred.*

Response: Response Nos. 1 to 4 address this comment. They explain why the information provided in the DEIS is sufficient to identify and address impacts. Response 4.a. explains that sufficient information was provided on project improvements in Chapter 2 to identify and address significant impacts. It is precedent for environmental review of projects to be completed without detailed design and construction plans because sufficient project information is provided to allow identification and assessment of impacts. Further, detailed design plans would be reviewed by agencies during processing of permit applications in accordance with pertinent regulations.

4) *The DEIS does not have any information about the impacts from the 365 foot long boardwalk on the wetland and endangered waterbirds and their habitat.*

Response: Sections of the DEIS address impacts from the pedestrian trail that includes boardwalks. The section of trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk, has since been eliminated from the project.

e. *Pg 3-119 the levee open water channel is regularly used by `alae`ula.*

- *With increased use of the levee because of the additional trails what precautions will be taken to protect endangered waterbirds from humans and dogs?*

Response: The project does not propose improvements to the levee, and existing use levels and activities would continue with the project. In addition, persons using the levee are not permitted to access the open water channel. Page 2-65 states that dogs would be prohibited on the levee.

f. Pg 2-85 "About 500 visitors a month are projected to utilize the pedestrian trail created from the levee (at Wai`auia), to Ulupo Heiau SHP, and Mokulana peninsula area."

1) What methodology was used to determine that 500 people would use the new pedestrian trail? Where is the supporting data?

Response: Section 2.2.5 discusses program and visitor estimates, which included projected use of pedestrian trails. Information on existing visitation levels, use along the levee, visitor data at other similar sites, etc. provide background data on current conditions used to project future visitors and use. This section explained that the majority of persons using this section of the trail would likely be residents.

2) What are the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the Kawainui riparian area, endangered waterbirds and wetland from approximately 500 people a month using a trails adjacent to Kawainui wetland?

Response: Impacts from trails along this section of Kawainui were discussed in respective sections of the DEIS. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

17. Subarea D: Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana

a. Wai`auia plans are for three single story structures ... and a 15 stall parking lot "with some stalls available during certain times to the public."

1) What are the hours and days that "some stalls" will be available for the general public? How many parking stalls will be available for the general public? What entity will determine the days, time and number of stalls available to the general public?

Response: Stalls at Wai'auia made available to the public would be open daily during normal daylight hours. Five to eight parking stalls would be available for the public to use depending upon the final design of the parking lot. DOFAW would be responsible to determine the days, times, and number of stalls available to the public.

2) The parking lot will only have 15 stalls yet the DEIS says that about 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 pm) and evenings. Where will people park?

Response: Section 5.6.2 discusses projected vehicle trips to the cultural center, which is about 57 persons a day. Based upon two to three persons per vehicle, about 20 to 30 vehicle trips per day would be generated, and the 7 to 10 parking stalls for the center should accommodate most guests. Guests of the cultural center would be encouraged to be dropped off, use public transportation, or park along streets within surrounding commercial areas of Kailua town.

3) *With limited parking stalls where will the average 247 persons per 7 days a week park?*
Response: An average of 57 persons a day is projected to be visiting the cultural center. The prior response addresses parking.

4) *Will there be night lighting in the parking lot and around the building for security? Since Wai`auia Cultural Center will be open at night what are the direct and cumulative impacts from night lighting on migratory and endangered waterbirds?*
Response: Night lighting for the parking lot is not required or expected to be necessary. Any outside lighting of buildings would be designed to be shielded and would use low wattage bulbs (see Section 3.3.2). These standard agency accepted design measures would minimize impacts on seabirds. Building outdoor lighting is not a concern for waterbirds. Response 13.b.(5) and other previous responses explain that information in the DEIS addressing night lighting supports the assessment of direct, short, and long-term effects on migratory seabirds. Our response to No. 8.a. also provided more information addressing concerns with night lighting. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allows for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

5) *Information on night lighting should have been provided in the DEIS so that the direct and indirect impacts on federally protected migratory birds could have accessed.*
Response: Discussion of night lighting and its effects on seabirds are addressed in Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS, and our prior response addresses this comment.

b. *Pg 4-51 Wai`auia will not be "open to the general public, the non-profit organization managing the center ... or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities."*

1) *What department will define the RFP "specific qualifications" and process?*
Response: DOFAW would develop the RFP, or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) requirements for lands under their jurisdiction, and DSP would do the same for lands under their jurisdiction. Such RFP or RFQ processes would follow standard State procurement procedures.

2) *Under what statute or rule and circumstances can the general public be excluded from public land?*
Response: Under Chapter 171, HRS, the State, through the Board of Land and Natural Resources, is authorized to dispose of public land by lease, license, permit, and in fee simple. Therefore, the BLNR is permitted to issue permits or leases for use of public land. State lands are regularly allotted to private owners, businesses, and non-profit organizations for various uses that in some cases exclude the general public, such as agricultural lands.

3) *Under what statute, rule and circumstance can public land be for the exclusive use of "individuals associated with the non-profit organization" and "their guest/partners"?*

Response: The prior response addresses this question. The BLNR reviews and evaluates activities and circumstances involved with use of State land.

4) *Will performance bonds be required for the non-profit organization operating the Kapa`a Cultural Center? Will non-profit organizations be required to have insurance or will the facility and users be covered by government insurance?*
Response: Performance bonds are not anticipated to be required for the non-profit organization operating the cultural center at Kapa'a. The non-profit organization would be required to have proper insurance as part of standard conditions of lease documents and other permits issued by the BLNR.

5) *What is the State's justification for excluding the general public from public land at the Kapa`a Cultural Center, which is located in a Ramsar designated wetland?*
Response: The prior response (17.b.(2)) addressed this question. The Ramsar designation does not regulate or govern how the State is allowed to utilize their property.

c. *The DEIS states that "periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."*

1) *What does "limited attendance" mean"?*
Response: Your question on "limited attendance" is associated with discussion of Wai'auia cultural activities for occasional larger events held. A few larger cultural events held at the center could be open to the general public, or allow for a limited number of spaces for the public. Thus, the public could sign-up on a first-come, first-served basis to attend such events, allowing the non-profit organization to better manage the number of persons attending such events.

2) *Where will 200 to 300 people park?*
Response: Prior coordination with DOFAW would address parking areas for such events, such as using shuttles and utilizing other sites for parking (e.g. schools, churches), etc. Shuttles from other parking areas could be used to transfer persons, or other sites made available, such as parking at the cultural center at Kapa'a, Kahanaiki, etc. Such accommodations would be similar to occasional events that occur now, such as World Wetlands Day.

3) *Will the events be held outdoors and will there be outdoor lighting?*
Response: At Wai'auia, such events would utilize their facilities, lanais, and outdoor open areas based upon the type of function (e.g. hula mound). Such larger periodic events would likely occur during the day, and not require outdoor lighting. Any structures with outdoor lighting would be designed to be shielded as discussed in Section 3.3.2.

d. *Pg 2-65 Wai`auia Cultural Center "It would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization that would also support the long-term care and management of the burial preserve."*

- *There is very little in the DEIS about the burial preserve in the DEIS. Was it exempt from the EIS process?*
Response: The reinterment site is already entitled and was exempt from preparing an EA under the City Board of Water Supply's exemption list because they were

the responsible agency for its construction. There is a lot of information in the DEIS discussing the reinterment site. Please refer to page 1-26, Section 1.5.4 (existing entitlements), Section 2.2.4, and Section 4.1.3.

e. *Page 2-81 About 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 pm) and evenings. Some periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."*

1) *Will the 1,730 people projected to use the center have to be invited, be associated with an organization or can the general public attend classes?*
Response: Persons using this center would predominantly consist of invited guests or others participating in educational or cultural programs conducted by the responsible non-profit organization. This would include persons associated with various organizations along with the public signing up for available classes or programs. Other educational and cultural programs would be available for the community that are coordinated with DOFAW and DSP.

2) *What does "limited public attendance" mean?*
Response: Response 17.c.(1) addresses this question.

3) *Will the 200 to 300 persons projected to attend periodic events have to be part of an associated organization or invited to attend the event?*
Response: Those attending larger periodic events could be associated with other organizations or include the general public. Response 17.c.(1) provides further information addressing this question.

4) *What are the direct, indirect , short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts including light pollution on the Kawainui wetland and riparian area, endangered waterbirds and from 1,730 persons at month in the area and between 200 and 300 people at periodic events? Presently there are no structures or lighting at this area.*
Response: Impacts from activities associated with the cultural center were addressed in several sections of the DEIS. Project effects on waterbirds were addressed in Section 3.3.2, and stated facilities would be situated away from the wetland and low fencing can be provided along the wetland perimeter to further restrict activities from disturbing waterbirds. Project plans also provided for vegetation to serve as buffers (Figure 2.12). Periodic events would not have long-term adverse effects on waterbirds because they would be infrequent and of a temporary duration during the day (e.g. 2 to 4 hours). Light pollution would not have an adverse effect on seabirds, and standard design measures were identified (e.g. light shielding) in Section 3.3.2 for buildings. Our response to No. 8.a. provides more information addressing concerns with night lighting. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

18. Ulupō Heiau

a. Pg 2-71 "A foot trail from the Ulupo Heiau site to the DOFAW Kawainui Management and Research Station ... interpretive signage would be provided along the trail to provide viewing opportunities...."

- *What methodology was used to determine that 200 to 300 feet away from Kukanono residences is an adequate distance to protect homes from being broken into?*
  Response: There is no required setback distance for trails from Kūkanono residences. Therefore, trails could be sited closer than the 200 to 300 foot setback currently proposed. It should be noted that other urban bike and pedestrian trails are commonly routed next to residences and businesses in many areas of the island. As shown on Figure 2.13, and discussed on page 2-71, the trail is routed along the base of the existing hillside taking into consideration existing terrain and site conditions that allow for a buffer of 200 to 300 feet. In addition, the steep hillside and extensive vegetation support this buffer and increase security for Kūkanono residents. Page 2-71 also states fencing would be included along this trail providing further security and management of trail users along the route. As discussed in Section 2.2.1, DOFAW also plans to construct perimeter fencing along the State's property, which includes this Kūkanono area, and provides further separation and restriction of access within Kawainui.

b. Where will the "small viewing platform or pavilion" be located?
Response: Viewing area locations along this section of trail below the Kūkanono subdivision are shown on Figures 2.12 and 2.13. Only one viewing pavilion was proposed and shown along this corridor.

c. How many boardwalks will be needed to cross various drainage areas?
Response: Figure 2.7 of the DEIS identified the location and approximate length of the three boardwalks planned to allow the trail to cross across major drainageways. All of these boardwalks have since been eliminated from this project now as part of efforts to reduce the project's scale. Boardwalks would not be needed for other trail sections since most would consist of foot trails comprised of grass or dirt.

d. Once again no design information is provided so that direct, indirect, short or long adverse effects on the wetland, archaeological sites, endangered waterbirds and their habitat from the trail, boardwalks and viewing platform can be assessed.
Response: Section 2.2.3 includes sufficient discussion of proposed trails that is adequate to address the impacts of such improvements. Exhibit 2.16 provides a graphic of a typical section, and Figure 2.7 shows the overall trail. Individual site plans in Section 2.2 provide more details showing trails, and discussion of trails are included in the various subareas. Based upon this information, the impacts of trails were identified and addressed in respective sections of the DEIS. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

e. What are the direct, indirect, short, long and cumulative environmental impacts on the Kawainui riparian area and wetland from adding a 4-6 foot wide dirt or gravel trail, boardwalks, and viewing platforms?

Response: Riparian area typically consist of the interface between land and a stream. Within the project site, such riparian areas include the transition from wetlands at Kawainui to upland areas. Section 2.2 describes 4- to 6-foot wide foot trails and accessory improvements (viewing decks) that would be sited within upland areas and thus outside of riparian areas. As discussed in the many impact sections of the DEIS, they would not have a significant or adverse effect on the environment. Boardwalks and several sections of the pedestrian trail have been eliminated from the project that would further reduce impacts along with passive outdoor recreation opportunities. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

19. DOFAW Kawainui Management and Research Station

a. Page 2-73 "The DOFAW research station would be clustered within ... The existing temporary office trailers and shipping containers would be removed.

1) Will the new restroom and laundry be hooked up to the City municipal system or will a new septic tank system with leach field be added or will the present septic tank/leach field system be enlarged?

Response: The existing septic system would be used for the restroom and laundry as it is sufficient to accommodate the additional DOFAW staff projected over time as discussed in Section 5.2.2. As shown on Table 5.3, a daily wastewater generation of only about 630 gpd would occur with the management station. The typical minimum septic tank size is 1,000 gallons.

2) Where will a new septic system be located in relation to the wetland? Is there adequate space for a new or expanded septic system and leach field without encroaching into the wetland?

Response: As discussed above, a new IWS (septic tank system) would not be required. If an expanded system is required, there is sufficient space within the 14-acre management station site to accommodate a leach field without encroaching into the wetland.

3) Have studies been done evaluating impacts of the existing septic system on the wetland?

Response: The existing septic system is designed in accordance with existing standards, and has been reviewed and approved by the State DOH. Based upon the water quality and other studies conducted for this DEIS, the DOFAW IWS does not have a negative impact on the wetland. Extensive vegetation and waterbirds have not been affected by the IWS, and DOFAW has not experienced problems with its operation and maintenance.

4) Has DOFAW looked into the cost of hooking up the City municipal wastewater system? If this area is going to be DOFAWs permanent headquarters than hooking up to the City system might make financial sense.

Response: The present IWS is sufficient to accommodate existing and projected DOFAW wastewater needs. Connection to the City's sewer system is not necessary

and would be costly since wastewater would need to be pumped up Ulukahiki Street.

5) *What are the dimensions of the proposed septic tank system whether an expanded system or new system and where will the new system be located?*
Response: An expanded or new IWS would not be required for DOFAW's management station as explained in our prior responses.

6) *What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of adding a new septic system and leach field or increasing the existing system?*
Response: An expanded or new IWS would not be required for DOFAW's management station.

b. *Page 2-73 "Other improvements would include greenhouses ... A pedestrian bridge would be required to cross over Maunawili Stream."*

1) *Where will the 350-foot open aired interpretive pavilion and "wooden decks" be located in relation to the wetland?*
Response: Figure 2.14 shows the location of pavilions and observation decks. All structures are appropriately sited outside and away from the wetland boundary, while providing convenient views of the wetland and ponds.

2) *Are the 10-15 foot "wooden decks" part of the 350-foot open-air pavilion or separate entities?*
Response: Wooden decks are separate from the pavilions, and consist of an improved viewing location for the ponds, similar to a small lanai (see Exhibit 2.17). These decks would manage viewing activities and minimize erosion of grassed areas near the ponds.

3) *Are the wooden decks and pavilion the same as the "small viewing platform or pavilion" mentioned on page 2-71?*
Response: Wooden decks consist of the two viewing decks shown in Figure 2.14, and are different from the pavilions shown and labeled on this figure.

4) *How many "wooden decks" will be between DOFAW research center and Mokulana?*
Response: Two viewing decks are shown in Figure 2.14.

5) *What is the route and width of the pedestrian path and bridge and what material will be used to create the trail and construct the bridge?*
Response: The proposed route of foot trails and pedestrian trails along DOFAW's management station are shown in Figure 2.14. Foot trails would typically be 4 to 6 feet wide. The pedestrian trail shown southwest of the management station would be 10 to 12 feet wide as discussed in Section 2.2.3 and shown on Exhibit 2.16. Section 2.2.3 discusses the material and design concept for trails that would apply to the trail in the management station area. The bridge would be between 12 to 16 feet wide in order to accommodate DOFAW maintenance vehicles. Materials for the bridge could consist of concrete (pre-cast solid planks and composite concrete topping) or steel.

6) *What is the route of the pedestrian trail and where will it cross Maunawili Stream?*
Response: Figure 2.14 shows the location of pedestrian trails and the DOFAW maintenance bridge crossing Maunawili Stream. The pedestrian trail from the management station to and within Mokulana has been eliminated from the project.

7) *The DEIS does not provide sufficient information on what a bridge over Maunawili Stream will be constructed or whether the bridge will be able to withstand stream flood events. Since Maunawili floods there should be information on the safety of people crossing the bridge and what safety measures will be implemented.*
Response: The bridge would span over Maunawili Stream and would not impact the stream bed and banks. Construction methods would be determined based upon final design. The stream has a narrow width (10 to 15 feet). Designs spanning short crossings are common within the State. Such a bridge would be designed to withstand flood events. The bridge would be used for DOFAW maintenance activities. Therefore safety for the public should not be a concern. Furthermore, DOFAW staff, or the public, would not be using the bridge during storm events that may generate flooding concerns.

8) *What BMPs will be used in construction of facilities, trails, bridges and boardwalks?*
Response: Design plans would include BMPs to address short-term construction effects. BMP measures would be designed specifically for this project and reviewed and approved by appropriate agencies. Reviewing agencies have the experience and expertise to review and determine the appropriateness of BMP measures for implementation. In addition, the type of construction method or materials used would not change the significance of impacts already discussed in the DEIS. BMPs were identified for pertinent impact sections associated with project improvements, such as Sections 3.1.2 (topography) and 3.1.3 (soils).

9) *What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and riparian area of adding a bridge, viewing platforms, trails, and restrooms?*
Response: Pedestrian and foot trails would not have a significant or adverse effect on the environment as discussed in the many impact sections of the DEIS. Boardwalks and several sections of the pedestrian trail have been eliminated from the project that would further reduce impacts along with passive outdoor recreation opportunities. Impacts associated with a bridge over Maunawili Stream and restrooms have been addressed in pertinent impact sections. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

c. *Page 2-73 " A 1.5 acre area at the southwest end of DOFAW's station ... space using a trailer could be added at the site for other environmental research projects."*

1) *What is the purpose of the 800 square foot "wooden shade pavilion" and how it is different than the 350-foot pavilion? Where will the pavilion be located?*
Response: Open pavilions in this area are proposed to provide the public with areas to view the wetland and ponds, conduct programs and other educational activities, and provide students and adults with some shade and rest areas. Figure 2.14 shows

the locations of proposed pavilions. As shown in this figure, a smaller program pavilion is located near the ponds to support activities there, and the larger pavilion is located in the southwest area to support passive outdoor recreation for the public.

2) *Without information about location and materials to be used for the proposed facilities it is impossible to evaluate direct, indirect, short, long-term and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and stream environment.*
Response: Sufficient information on these pavilions and other uses associated with passive outdoor recreation area are provided in Section 2.2, (which includes site plans showing their locations), to address the impacts from these minor accessory structures. Information on materials is provided, and the type of materials used for such structures would not change the impact assessment results. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

3) *What are the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and riparian area of adding a trailer, 800 sq ft pavilion and parking lot?*
Response: A temporary trailer used for environmental research projects or grants would not have a long-term or significant impact on the environment in this area southwest of DOFAW's management station. Impacts from a small pavilion and parking area were addressed in various impact sections of the DEIS. The several responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, explain that information included in the DEIS allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

4) *Will night lighting be needed in the parking lot and at the new structures? What are the direct and cumulative impacts of night lighting in this area on federally protected migratory birds?*
Response: Night lighting would not be required for the parking area or accessory structures in this area. Consequently, no lighting effects would occur on seabirds.

d. *Pg 2-87 "A small park area below DOFAWs management station includes support (e.g. parking, shelter) for public access.*
- *Where is this park located and what are the amenities in the park? Will night lighting be needed?*
Response: Page 2-87 discusses management of public access, and the reference to the small park area below DOFAW's management station is one of several areas proposed for public access as shown on Figure 2.16. This is the same park discussed on page 2-73 that includes its location and amenities. Previous responses address your comments on location, features, and night lighting would not be needed.

20. Mokulana
a. *Page 4-85 "there is no public parking provided to Mokulana."*
1) *Inviting people to use the trails and viewing platforms at Mokulana and not provide adequate parking means that people will park in Maunawili, which will exacerbate parking problems from people going to hike Mt Olomana.*

Response: As discussed in Section 2.2.4, driveway entrances to Mokulana would be gated and restricted subject to DOFAW use. Further, this site would now only be used for DOFAW management activities and scheduled educational programs. As part of project changes reducing improvements, the public trail proposed within Mokulana in the DEIS has been eliminated along with observation areas. Therefore, any parking needed for educational programs or management activities would occur within the Mokulana site, or other arrangements would be coordinated through DOFAW, such as parking within their management station and shuttling students or adults to Mokulana. Therefore, there would not be issues with the public parking in the Maunawili community because this site is not open to the public. It is highly unlikely persons visiting Mokulana would park within the Maunawili community because no street parking is available along Maunawili Road or Auloa Road until one reaches the residences located about 0.5 miles inland from Mokulana. These conditions would discourage most people to park there because they would not want to walk that distance along narrow roads to visit Mokulana.

2) *What are the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the Maunawili Community from adding a trail, program staging area and two viewing pavilions and not providing public parking?*
Response: Mokulana trails and accessory improvements would not negatively or adversely impact the Maunawili community for reasons explained above. Even with the public trails discussed in the DEIS, only 500 visitors a month (15 to 20 persons a day) were projected as discussed on page 4-85, which reflects low activity and would mainly consist of O'ahu residents. Therefore, the Maunawili community would not have be significantly impacted. With elimination of public access for trails at Mokulana now proposed under this project, reduced activities would have even less effect on the community. Use of this site would be limited to DOFAW operations and authorized educational programs. Section 4.2 addresses relevant effects from Mokulana on the community and environment, and prior responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above, allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

b. Page 3-111 "All improvements would occur in discreet areas that are comparatively smaller than undeveloped areas. ... should have the capacity to accommodate and cleanse any additional runoff attributable to these improvements..."

- *What methodology was used to determine these conclusions and where is the data to substantiate the conclusions?*
Response: Comments associated with page 3-111 are from Section 3.4.5, covering discussion of water quality effects from Mokulana improvements under the No Action Alternative. The assessment was based upon the information covering existing conditions, the water quality sampling results, water quality study (Appendix E of the DEIS), and consideration of minor improvements (new storage building at management station) occurring under the No Action Alternative. Further, that page explains that the level of particulates and nutrients included in any site runoff produced would be inconsequential.

21. Subarea E: Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu

a. Page 5-14 The proposed 200 sq ft restroom and program staging area will be located next to residences yet there is no information or discussion about impacts on adjacent residents. An evaluation of impacts on the neighbors must be in the FEIS.

Response: Page 5-14 covers discussion of project impacts on wastewater facilities. The proposed restroom would to process minimal wastewater generated by Hāmākua activities. Further, that page states that the restroom would likely be connected to the City's existing wastewater system, further minimizing any effects on surrounding residences. The entrance area at Hāmākua is already used as a staging area for DOFAW management activities and education programs. Therefore, improving that staging area would not change such activities or adversely impact adjacent residents. Adding a small restroom with storage building would not change the type or intensity of management activities or educational programs already occurring at Hāmākua. Section 4.2 addresses community and social issues.

b. Pg 2-76 Pu`uoehu Hillside "...two foot trails are proposed. One trail would extend up to and along the summit of Pu`uoehu while a second trail would extend about halfway up and along the hillside.."

1) What material will be used to create the trails?

Response: The trails on Pu'uoehu's hillside would support DOFAW upland restoration, programs, and maintenance activities, and would be unimproved (dirt paths).

2) Where will the trails begin and end? Will the trails connect to each other so that a hiker can make a circle or is a hiker expected to use the same trail to return.

Response: Figure 2.15 shows the proposed trails, which begin and end at the northern and southern ends of the hillside. As discussed on that page 2-76 referenced, these trails would only be for DOFAW activities, and would not be open to the public. Only DOFAW authorized programs would allow other persons to access those trails, which would occur on an infrequent basis.

3) Will the trails be open to the general public?

Response: The response above addresses this question.

4) Will the restroom and parking have night lighting?

Response: The restroom and staging area at the Hāmākua entrance would not have night lighting.

5) What are the direct, indirect, short, long term and cumulative environmental impacts on the wetland and riparian area of adding two new foot trails in the Pu`uoehu watershed?

Response: The trails would not have a negative or adverse effect on the environment, Hāmākua wetland, or waterbirds as discussed in the respective sections of the DEIS. These trails would only be for DOFAW activities and authorized programs, and would not be open for public use. Hāmākua's wetland riparian area is situated along the wetland boundary well below (makai) the Pu'uoehu hillside as shown on Figure 2.15, therefore, activities on the hillside would not affect that riparian area. Prior responses under Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 9, above,

allowed for the reasoned identification and assessment of direct, indirect, short-, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

There are no existing fire hydrants serving DOFAW's management station and fronting the Wai'auia site. The design of these facilities will include evaluation of on-site fire protection requirements and improvements. An interior sprinkler system for buildings can also be evaluated to address HFD building fire protection requirements. Coordination with appropriate agencies will occur during the design phase to ensure this interior sprinkler system is compliant with requirements. DOFAW would coordinate with the non-profit organization developing facilities at Wai'auia to determine payments for water use along with any applicable water system facilities charges. BWS Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention requirements would be complied with prior to the issuance of facility building permits.

Subarea E: Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu. At Hāmākua, water service is only required for restrooms planned at the program staging area. To support the facility, a service lateral will be connected to the existing line on Hāmākua Drive. A potable water demand of only 95 gpd is projected for this site to accommodate DOFAW staff working in the area, and persons participating in occasional educational programs or community service learning projects. This small increase in demand is expected to have minimal effect on the water system serving this area. DOFAW would coordinate with the BWS to determine payments for water use along with any applicable water system facilities charges. BWS Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention requirements would be complied with prior to the issuance of building permits for this restroom facility.

5.2 WASTEWATER FACILITIES

5.2.1 Existing Conditions

The City Department of Environmental Services (DES) provides municipal wastewater collection and treatment in the Kailua district via a system of wastewater pump stations and sewer lines. Figure 5.2 shows the locations of pump stations and main collection lines serving the project area. The municipal collection system conveys wastewater from the project area to the Kailua Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located along Kāne'ohe Bay Drive in the 'Aikahi community (see Figure 5.2 inset).

Wastewater Collection System

Within the project area vicinity, there is a sewer main running along Kailua Road that collects wastewater from the Maunawili, Olomana, and Kūkanono subdivisions~~,~~; the Windward YMCA; and Le Jardin Academy~~,~~. The sewer main ~~and~~ transports wastewater collected to the Kailua Road Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS). This sewer main varies from 8 to 15-inches in size from Maunawili to the Ulupō Heiau area. Along Wai'auia, this main increases to 18-inches. A sewer collection system also serves the Kawainui Vista subdivision, and transports wastewater toward the sewer main in Kailua Road. There is no sewer service along the length of Kapa'a Quarry Road.



Source: State of Hawai'i GIS

Kawainui - Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Figure 5.2 - Sewer Lines

Kailua, O'ahu

0 800 1,600 FEET

HHF PLANNERS places for people

Along Mōkapu Boulevard, an 8-inch sewer main begins fronting the residences and collects and transports wastewater in the makai (eastbound) direction toward the treatment plant. However, there is no sewer main along the Kalāheo park site and area further mauka toward the H-3 Freeway within Mōkapu Saddle Road. A 30-inch sewer main along Hāmākua Drive collects wastewater from residences and businesses in the area, and transports it in a northwest direction toward Kailua Road.

~~Some residences in the Kūkanono subdivision and non-residential uses in this area along Kailua Road, such as the Windward YMCA and several churches, are not connected to the municipal sewer system, and are likely on individual (e.g. septic tank) systems based upon City GIS data.~~ Along Kapa'a Quarry Road, the Kailua light industrial subdivision and model airplane park are serviced by individual systems.

The only existing land use and activities within the project site that currently generates wastewater is the DOFAW maintenance station. Wastewater generated from DOFAW's facility is estimated to be about 360 gpd based upon estimated water use, mainly from restrooms by staff working there. Wastewater is serviced by a septic tank and leach field system at this site.

Wastewater Pump Stations

The Kūkanono wastewater pump station (WWPS) is located on a separate parcel at the end of Manu O'o Street, west of Ulupō Heiau, and below the Kūkanono subdivision. This pump station was built in 1988, has an average design flow of 0.186 mgd, and collects wastewater from residences of the Kūkanono subdivision and Castle Medical Center. Wastewater is then pumped toward an 18-inch sewer main on Kailua Road.

The Kailua Road WWPS is located on a parcel next to the Wai'auia site along Kawainui Stream. This pump station was built in 1966, has an average design flow of 5.60 mgd, and collects wastewater from the sewer main within Kailua Road. Wastewater is then pumped toward a sewer main in Kihipai Street that eventually transports wastewater to the Kailua Regional WWTP.

Kailua Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Kailua Regional WWTP was originally built in 1965 to serve the town of Kailua and surrounding communities. In 1994, the former treatment plans at Āhuimanu and Kāne'ohe were converted to preliminary treatment facilities, and the Kailua Regional WWTP was expanded to accommodate these flows. This change was done to allow the Kailua Regional WWTP to provide regional treatment and eliminate discharge of treated wastewater into Kāne'ohe Bay. The Kailua Regional WWTP now serves the island's Ko'olaupoko District extending from Kahalu'u, Kāne'ohe, Kailua, and Maunawili (USEPA, 2010).

Treated effluent is discharged though a 48-inch outfall located over 5,000 feet offshore at an average depth of 110 feet. The WWTP has an average daily flow design capacity of 15 million gallons per day (mgd), with a peak hourly maximum of 30 mgd. The facility was operating at about 12 mgd based upon a 2010 study by the U.S. EPA (USEPA, 2010). Average daily flows are projected to increase to about 13.9 mgd in 2020. The volume of average daily flow could decline slightly by 2035 based upon the City's population projections for the Ko'olaupoko district that project a 3.5% population decline (WOC, 2011).

The City is currently in the process of constructing a new three-mile-long wastewater treatment tunnel that will connect the Kāne'ohe pretreatment facility with the Kailua Regional WWTP. The tunnel is the largest sewer project in state history, according to the City, and will replace an older force main that has been subject to numerous failures. It is part of Honolulu's ongoing efforts to eliminate sewer overflows and spills.

Individual Wastewater Systems

Wastewater generated by facilities that are not connected to the municipal wastewater system can be serviced by individual wastewater systems (IWS). These systems provide a means of on-site wastewater disposal when connection to municipal infrastructure is not available or infeasible. IWS vary in the level of wastewater treatment provided.

Septic tank systems provide a primary method of wastewater treatment by digesting organic matter while allowing floatable matter and solids to separate. Treated wastewater, now referred to as effluent, is discharged into a subsurface leach field via piping. Leach fields generally consist of an arrangement of subsurface trenches containing porous material (e.g. gravel) covered by soil to avoid human or animal contact with effluent. The effluent percolates outward from the trenches into the surrounding soil that filters out pollutants before treated waters reach surface or underground water bodies. Secondary treatment is also possible in some systems where effluent percolates into a media that neutralizes and removes pollutants (e.g. sand or a constructed wetland) before waters travel into the surrounding soil.

Another type of treatment system involves restroom facilities (e.g. park use) consisting of a self-contained facility utilizing green technology for treatment that is more efficient with regard to energy consumption and water utilization (water use reduction up to 70%). Section 2.2.3 discussed such systems. Such facilities are modular buildings featuring vault toilets that can be constructed with or without utilities, with options to utilize solar power and rainwater collection. Wastewater is stored in the sealed sewage vault below the floor, and would need to be pumped by a disposal service similar to other individual treatment systems.

Some residences in the Kūkanono subdivision along with non-residential uses (e.g. churches) in this area along Kailua Road presently use IWS. Along Kapa'a Quarry Road, the Kailua light industrial subdivision and Model Airplane Park utilize IWS. Wastewater generated from DOFAW's management and research station is serviced by a septic tank and leach field system.

The management and research station is the only land use with activities within the project site that currently generates wastewater. Wastewater generated by these DOFAW management and operational activities is estimated to be about 360 gpd based upon estimated water use, mainly from restrooms by staff working there.

5.2.2 Potential Project Impact and Mitigation

5.2.2.1 No Action Alternative

Wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities occurring under this alternative would not generate wastewater requiring treatment and sewer system improvements. The vegetation processing site would generate about 100 gpd of wastewater from restroom facilities for persons working there. Wastewater treatment for this facility would require a small septic tank with leach field system. Based upon a manual for septic tank practice, a septic tank volume of 150 gallons would be required (septic tank volume = 1.5 x daily demand) (AECOM, 2017).

The size of a leach field is generally determined by the daily wastewater volume that must be accommodated and the water percolation rate of the surrounding soil. State DOH wastewater system guidelines (§11-62, HAR) governing the design of soil absorption systems such as leach fields were used to calculate the preliminary sizing of the leach field needed for septic systems. Based on these guidelines, a leach field with an absorption area of 350 SF would be needed. The leach field would be subject to further design informed by a percolation test conducted in compliance with applicable DOH requirements. The approximately 13.8-acre vegetation processing site has sufficient area to accommodate this system. Being situated next to the City Model Airplane Park and restroom facility, the vegetation site is likely comprised of similar fill material as that at the Airplane Park. Consequently, there should not be absorption issues with the soil material, and the site has more than enough area to accommodate this IWS. The location of the IWS would be determined during the design phase of this improvement. ~~The size of the leach field would be subject to further design because the absorption bed area is dependent on the soil percolation rate. However, this vegetation processing site has sufficient area to accommodate this system.~~

There will also be restrooms constructed at Kalāheo Park requiring wastewater treatment for an estimated 200 gpd. Wastewater treatment of this facility would likely use a septic tank system (300 gallon tank volume) because connection to the municipal system would require a long lateral connection or additional improvements to the sewer main in Mōkapu Boulevard located over 750 feet away. A leach field with an absorption area of 200 SF would be needed to accommodate projected septic tank effluent flows. The eventual wastewater system implemented by DSP would be developed during the design phase for park improvements and would be designed in compliance with applicable DOH requirements if not connected to the municipal system. ~~and could~~ include other environmentally sustainable methods (e.g. self-contained vault facility ~~constructed wetland~~). The 4.7-acre Kalāheo Park site has enough area to accommodate an IWS and the system's location would be determined during the design phase. Wastewater

generated from this restroom facility should have minimal impact on the City's municipal system, and no impact if a separate septic system is used.

Individual Wastewater Systems ~~(IWS)~~, such as individual septic system, resulting from project implementation must comply with applicable State and City requirements. IWS are regulated by the DOH under HAR 11-62. Individual septic system that may be constructed must comply with applicable DOH requirements governing design and development of these systems. As discussed in HAR 11-62, all areas of the State are considered Critical Wastewater Disposal Areas (CWDA), indicating that wastewater disposal in these areas may have an adverse effect on human health or the environment. As a result, the State DOH may impose additional wastewater disposal standards when septic system are developed. The project is not located in the City's "No Pass Zone" that was established to protect inland water resources. As a result, City BWS approval is not required for construction of IWS in the project area. Individual septic system constructed under the No Action Alternative will be compliant with applicable State and City requirements.

5.2.2.2 Proposed Action

Wetland Restoration and Upland Reforestation

Continuation and expansion of ongoing restoration and upland reforestation would have no impact on existing municipal sewer systems because no wastewater would be generated requiring treatment and sewer system improvements.

Structures and Trails

Pedestrian trails and accessory structures (e.g. observation decks, pavilion) would not impact the sewer system because no wastewater would be generated. Facility improvements proposed would generate wastewater from restrooms and activities conducted. Table 5.3 shows the projected wastewater generated by these facilities, ~~and~~ septic tank volumes ~~volume~~ needed, and preliminary sizing of leach fields that would receive effluent. ~~Most septic tank sizes start from 1,000 gallons.~~ Typically, the smallest septic tanks used for residences in Hawai'i start at 1,000 gallons. Such tanks would likely be utilized for these new systems. Of these improvements proposed, most would need to utilize an individual septic system or other green alternative system (e.g. self contained vault) for wastewater treatment because there are no sewer mains within Kapa'a Quarry Road or near these sites. Connection to the municipal sewer system is available for the following: 1) Wai'auia Cultural Center; and 2) restroom at Hāmākua.

Overall, projected wastewater would be about 2,650 gpd, and should have minimal impact on the City's municipal system because the majority of wastewater would be treated by individual septic systems. Additional demands placed on the sewer system from the restroom at Hāmākua and cultural center activities at Wai'auia should not have a significant impact due to the relatively low average daily volumes projected. ~~At the Kalāheo park site (Subarea C), the only~~

~~addition under the Proposed Action would be adding a hale wa'a structure, which would not generate wastewater.~~ For the education center, the septic tank volume was calculated based upon the State DOH's §11-62, HAR for wastewater because flows would be greater than 1,000 gpd (septic tank volume = 1,000 + (daily demand - 800) x 1.25).

Associated leach fields would be designed with consideration of site characteristics (e.g. soil percolation rates) and wastewater volumes that must be accommodated. This ensures the leach field developed is appropriate for the site so adverse impacts to the surrounding environment are avoided. The dimensions of proposed leach fields were calculated in compliance with DOH wastewater system design guidelines (§11-62, HAR) for soil absorption systems. These design guidelines take into consideration the water percolation rate of site soils as well as anticipated wastewater flows that must be accommodated to aid the design of a leach fields that are appropriate for site conditions.

Table 5.3
Projected Wastewater Flows With Proposed Action

Description of Project Subarea	Average Daily Demand (gpd)	Septic Tank Volume (Gallons)	Leach Field Dimensions (SF)
Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a			
Kahanaiki (Restroom)	80	120	200
Education Center, Pōhakea 1. Restroom (Employees) 2. Restroom (Educational Program Visitors)	60 1,100	1,740	1,500
Kapa'a Cultural Center 1. Cultural Center Facilities 2. Caretaker's Cottage	280 100	570	600
Subarea D: Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana			
Wai'auia Cultural Center 1. Restroom (Employees) 2. Restroom (Cultural Program Visitors)	60 275	503*	500*
DOFAW Management & Research Station 1. Restroom (Employees, Including Existing) 2. Restroom (Educational Program Visitors)	600** 30	945	800
Subarea E: Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu			
Hāmākua 1. Restroom (Employees) 2. Restroom (Educational Program Visitors)	40 55	143*	300*
Total Average Daily Demand	2,650		

Source: AECOM, 2017
Note: "*" Connection to Municipal System Possible
"**" Includes existing demand of 360 gpd for 18 DOFAW staff present now

~~Table 5.3~~
~~Projected Wastewater Flows With Proposed Action~~

~~Description of Project Subarea~~	~~Average Daily Demand (gpd)~~	~~Septic Tank Volume (Gallons)~~
~~Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a~~		
~~Kahanaiki (Restroom)~~	~~50~~	~~50~~
~~Education Center, Pōhakea~~ ~~1. Restroom (Employees)~~ ~~2. Restroom (Educational Program Visitors)~~	~~60~~ ~~1,100~~	~~1,450~~
~~Kapa'a Cultural Center~~ ~~1. Cultural Center Facilities~~ ~~2. Caretaker's Cottage~~	~~280~~ ~~100~~	~~570~~
~~Subarea D: Wai'auia-Ulupō Mokulana~~		
~~Wai'auia Cultural Center~~ ~~1. Restroom (Employees)~~ ~~2. Restroom (Cultural Program Visitors)~~	~~60~~ ~~275~~	~~503*~~
~~DOFAW Management & Research Station~~ ~~1. Restroom (Employees, Including Existing)~~ ~~2. Restroom (Educational Program Visitors)~~	~~600~~ ~~30~~	~~945~~
~~Subarea E: Hāmākua Pu'uochu~~		
~~Hāmākua~~ ~~1. Restroom (Employees)~~ ~~2. Restroom (Educational Program Visitors)~~	~~40~~ ~~55~~	~~443*~~
~~Total Average Daily Demand~~	~~2,650~~	

~~Source: AECOM, 2017~~
~~Note: "*" Connection to Municipal System Possible~~

The design phase occurring for improvements when implemented would evaluate wastewater flows and treatment requirements in greater detail. This would include evaluating the size needed for the absorption bed area that is dependent on the soil percolation rate. The eventual wastewater system implemented by DOFAW, DSP or non-profit organization for respective improvements could also include incorporating other environmentally sustainable methods (e.g. constructed wetland). All individual septic system constructed would be designed and developed in compliance with State DOH requirements governing IWS discussed in HAR 11-62. Discussion of wastewater effects by subareas is provided.

Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a. Proposed project improvements that will generate wastewater demand include: 1) restrooms at Kahanaiki; 2) restrooms and administrative office use (e.g. sink) at the education center at Pōhākea; and 3) the Kapa'a Cultural Center. The education center generates the greatest wastewater flows projected at 1,160 gpd primarily due to restroom use by visitors. None of these areas will be connected to the municipal wastewater system, as there is no existing sewer main along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Extending sewer lines from either Kalaniana'ole Highway or Mōkapu Saddle Road would be cost prohibitive. These facilities would be served by a septic tank and leach field system, similar to what exists at the Model Airplane Park.

As indicated in Table 5.3, the septic system proposed for the education center would consist of a septic tank sized to accommodate 1,740 gallons of daily wastewater and require a 1,500 SF leach field. The preliminary sizing of the leach field accounts for anticipated wastewater flows as well as the moderate permeability of site's existing soils. The area needed for such as system would be relatively confined and encompass less than 5,000 square feet of area. This Pōhakea program area is about 10 acres in size, and has sufficient area for a septic system serving the education center. The system location would be determined during the design phase.

Kapa'a Cultural Center restroom facilities are expected to generate about 380 gpd of wastewater due to use by the non-profit stewarding organization and their guests. A septic system consisting of a 570 gallon septic tank with a 600 SF leach field would be needed to accommodate anticipated daily wastewater flows. It is likely a 1,000 gallon tank would be used since that is typically the smallest size available from local manufacturers and is what's used for residences. An area of less than 5,000 square feet would thus be sufficient to accommodate this system, and there is more than enough area at this site.

Subarea D: Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana. The existing DOFAW management station is currently served by a septic tank and leach field system. The existing system should be adequate to accommodate new permanent facilities to replace existing trailers, and the estimated future capacity of 30 staff working there. There are presently 18 staff operating there now.

The Wai'auia Cultural Center is projected to generate about 335 gpd of wastewater from restrooms and administrative office use. A connection to the City's system would likely occur because the existing sewer main is located adjacent to the Wai'auia site. The sewer main runs along the access road leading to the Kailua Road WWPS, and the additional demand should have minimal effect on the overall system and wastewater pump station operations.

Subarea E: Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu. At Hāmākua, the proposed restroom near the program staging area would likely be connected to the City's 30-inch sewer main on Hāmākua Drive. Additional wastewater generated from this improvement (95 gpd) should have minimal impact on the sewer main and municipal system.

5.3 DRAINAGE FACILITIES

5.3.1 Existing Conditions

Existing City drainage facilities surrounding the Kawainui project site are predominantly provided within urbanized areas developed as part of residential subdivisions, Le Jardin Academy, Kapa'a transfer station, and Castle Medical Center. At Hāmākua, drainage facilities are provided within Hāmākua Drive and along existing businesses. The drainage system generally consists of storm drains of various sizes within roadways conveying storm water, inlets

2.2.1.4 Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

The construction of maintenance roads is proposed in upland areas to support DOFAW's management and maintenance operations within Kawainui-Hāmākua. Existing maintenance roads presently consist of dirt trails located within some upland areas of the Kahanaiki area, at Mokulana, and at DOFAW's management and research station. Existing access roads being used would be improved to better support maintenance vehicles, transport of equipment, and reduce erosion. Additional access roads along the southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would also be created to support maintenance of the restoration ponds and connect DOFAW's management and research station with Mokulana, and eventually with the Kahanaiki area.

Maintenance roads would generally be located well inland, however, vegetation buffers would be provided between certain sections of the road and the wetland, as appropriate. The roads would generally be about 10 feet wide, and could be constructed of compacted gravel, soil or reinforced grass. Only DOFAW vehicles or other authorized users would be allowed to use these roads.

A bridge ~~Bridges~~ would need to be constructed over Maunawili Stream ~~and Kahanaiki Stream~~ along the southern section of Kawainui ~~generally along Kalaniana'ole Highway~~ to connect access roads serving DOFAW's management station and the Mokulana peninsula to support management activities~~through these areas~~. The specific design of ~~these~~ this bridge~~s~~ would be developed during the design phase ~~of these improvements~~ when implemented. However, this bridge~~s~~ ~~are~~ is proposed to span over ~~these streams~~ Maunawili Stream to not impact ~~their~~ its bed or banks. A bridge across Kahanaiki Stream is no longer required because the pedestrian trail connecting the Kahanaiki upland area with Mokulana has been eliminated.

The new DOFAW maintenance road bridge spanning over Maunawili Stream could be a single span bridge superstructure consisting of pre-cast, prestressed solid planks, and a composite concrete topping. The bridge could have a span about 25 to 30 feet in length and 12 to 16 feet wide within the bridge railings. It would accommodate one travel lane to support DOFAW maintenance vehicles and equipment transport.

Some segments of maintenance roads could also serve as pedestrian trails during specified periods as determined by DOFAW. At Pu'uoehu hillside, a maintenance trail is planned about midway up the hillside along with along the top of the ridgeline to support future reforestation and management efforts.

A predator control program currently in operation would continue and be expanded throughout the project areas as larger areas are restored. Effective predator control would become more important as improved waterbird habitat is created and nesting activity increases. Traps would continue to be the primary predator control method utilized to control mongoose and feral cats. Traps would generally be established around the perimeter of the upper reaches of the wetland and extend into the upland areas.

DOFAW and DSP would be ~~available~~ able to conduct educational or stewardship activities related to native Hawaiian cultural practices at this site in coordination with the non-profit organization(s). The complex could host school groups of 20 to 25 students up to three times per week as part of DOFAW or DSP educational programs. Two or more times per week, the complex could conduct stewardship work sessions for up to 25 volunteers from the public at the site, at Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine, and other areas within Kawainui. Occasional larger gatherings for special celebrations could also take place during the year that could be open to the general public. Thus, the public could sign-up on a first-come, first-served basis to attend events, allowing the non-profit organization to better manage the number of persons attending such events.

The complex would be comprised of several (about eight) single-story structures incorporating traditional hale design concepts about 800 to 1,500 square feet in size along with a plant nursery (about 2,000 sf). Structures would support administrative space, classrooms, hale for programs, restrooms, storage, workshops, kitchen, and a caretaker's cottage. Support structures would include on-site water storage and a plant nursery with shade structures for irrigation of grounds and landscaping and enhancing sustainability concepts.

Other components would include a hula mound and imu. Buildings are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements, and incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines. LID elements such as bioswales, bioretention areas, and rain catchment systems would also be considered in the project's design.

Up to ~~4,000~~ 10,000 square feet of ~~interior space~~ floor area would be allowed (~~not~~ including nursery), and concept sketches for the complex are shown on Exhibit 2.20. Buildings having exterior night lighting would be required to have them

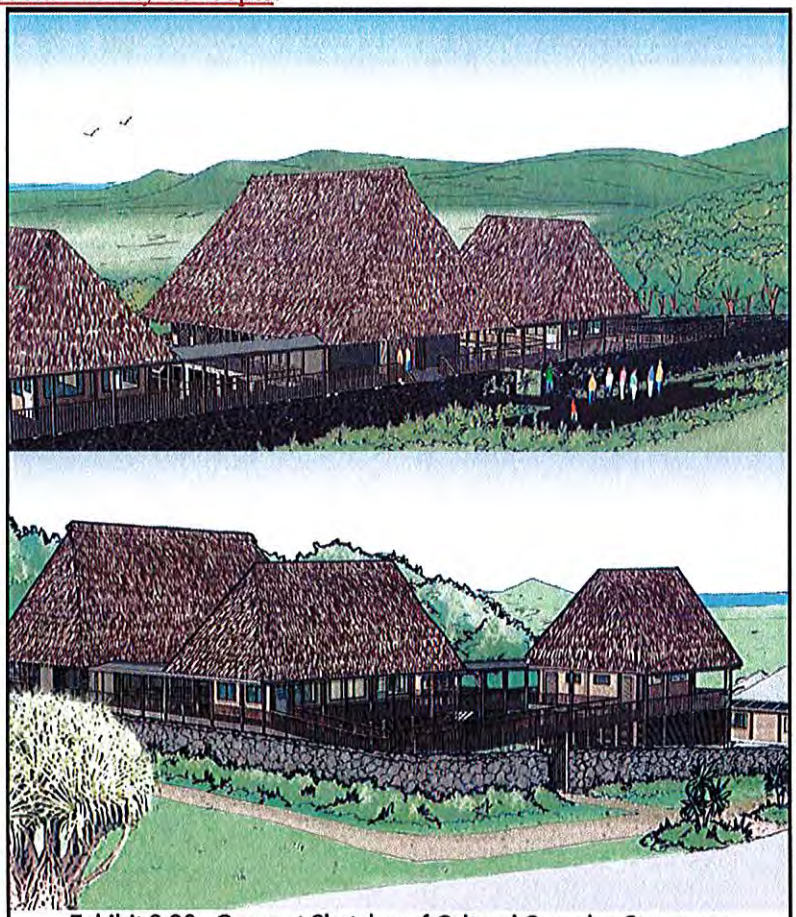

Exhibit 2.20. Concept Sketches of Cultural Complex Structures
Source: 'Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club & Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima

Table 2.1
Acreage Designated for Resource Management and Program Areas

General Description of Area	Acreage	Jurisdiction
Natural Resource Management Areas		
Wetland Restoration - Kawainui (Includes Levee)	741.6	DOFAW
Kawainui Upland Reforestation & Open Space (Includes Areas for Trails)	~~88.5~~ 84.7	DOFAW/DSP
Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary	22.7	DOFAW
Pu'uoehu	67.2	DOFAW
Management Area Acreage	~~920.0~~ 916.2	**93%**
Cultural, Educational and Other Program Areas		
Kawainui-Hāmākua Management & Research Station	14.2	DOFAW
Vegetation Processing Area	~~9.9~~ 13.8	DOFAW
Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine	11.1	DSP
Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park	9.2	DSP
Kapa'a Cultural Center	~~7.3~~ 9.2	DOFAW
Wai'auia Cultural Center	1.3	DOFAW
Pōhakea	~~8.4~~ 6.4	DSP
Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalāheo Park	4.6	DOFAW/DSP
Program Area Acreage	~~66.0~~ 69.8	**7%**
Total Project Area Acreage	**986.0**	

Figure 2.5 shows DOFAW-designated management areas. As illustrated, a large majority of the project area consists of wetlands needing restoration. This also includes wetland management activities at the restoration ponds and Hāmākua. All wetland restoration activities would generally take place in this area highlighted in blue. As shown in the figure, the wetland management area is further divided into subzones based upon DOFAW's specific planned restoration and management objectives for that area. Resource management initiatives occurring in the upland management area, identified with an orange border, include reforestation, storm water improvements, and facility improvements supporting DOFAW operations.

A majority of the wetland restoration and management work is already permitted under prior entitlements received by DOFAW or is allowed as part of their normal operations and activities. Fencing is planned around the perimeter of project areas, and additional fencing planned around wetland boundaries to support habitat management. Discussion of improvements planned within these zones is provided.

Project-related improvements would not affect the core factors contributing to the popularity and desirability for living in Kailua. Kailua's popularity would continue to be based primarily upon its beach town character, convenient access to renowned beaches and ocean recreational activities, being a more upscale and affluent residential community, availability and diversity of shops and businesses, and its convenient location to downtown Honolulu. Therefore, the project would not trigger secondary effects expanding residential or commercial developments in the area. Such decisions by landowners and developers would be based upon other economic factors. ~~Project initiatives are clearly defined and are limited in scope. They are intended to further environmental, recreational and cultural objectives. That said, there are existing social, economic, and market conditions at work—e.g., Kailua's popularity as a visitor destination and residential community; the public's desire for unique outdoor experiences; growing interest in hands-on, project-based education; and the cultural and historic significance of the area. These conditions can contribute to pressures to expand programs, facilities, and/or activities beyond what is currently being proposed.~~

7.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The focus is on "reasonably foreseeable" actions that are those likely or probable to occur rather than those that are merely possible or subject to speculation. The prediction of reasonably foreseeable impacts thus requires judgment based on information obtained from reliable sources such as approved development plans and land use entitlements received. While they may be insignificant by themselves, cumulative impacts accumulate over time, from one or more sources, and can result in the degradation of important resources. Project initiatives have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts—both positive and negative--on the natural and human made environment. The discussion below addresses potential cumulative impacts throughout the ~~life of the~~ project's study year.

The only other known development in the immediate area that is reasonably anticipated to have ongoing development within the 2037 study year, and possibly contribute to cumulative impacts for this project is the expansion of the Kapa'a Light Industrial site. This privately-owned property is situated next to the City's Kapa'a Transfer Station, and mauka (west) of the City Model Airplane Park and Kawainui's Kapa'a subarea. This development completed a Final EIS (SD&C, 2011) and obtained land use entitlements in 2014. The development would expand the existing industrial site by adding new warehouse buildings for industrial floor space, use remaining areas of the property as a buffer zone being mainly unaltered with the exception of some landscaping, and utilize low impact development and other design measures.

Cumulative effects from the project would mainly be associated with direct short- and long-term effects resulting from construction activities for restoration and facility improvements supporting cultural practices, public access, and outdoor recreation. The various sections of the Final EIS include reasonable assessments of various environmental factors that provide sufficient information for addressing cumulative impacts when evaluated in conjunction with the Kapa'a industrial site expansion.

Relevant past actions associated with the Kawainui-Hāmākua project area were discussed in Sections 1.3 to 1.5 that included a summary of: 1) property information; 2) site conditions and surrounding uses; and 3) existing land use entitlements and approvals. Section 4.1 discussed the history and prior usage of the area, and an archaeological report (Appendix F) and cultural impact assessment (Appendix G) included extensive background information. All of this provides a background from past activities. Present conditions are addressed in the various sections covering environmental factors and such existing conditions reflect the effects from past actions. For example, discussion of the existing condition of the Kawainui wetland reflects past actions, or lack of actions under former property owners, to manage the resource. Therefore, information on the past coupled with information on present conditions provide a basis to address cumulative effects. The entire build-out of the project was included in the assessments of impacts for the study year. Discussion of cumulative impacts associated with the project is provided.

7.3.1 Wetland Restoration and Upland Reforestation

Project initiatives include the removal of invasive wetland vegetation, creation of open water mud flats, replanting native wetland species, repair of drainage culverts and other stormwater improvements, and upland reforestation. The project also includes constructing maintenance roads to support DOFAW management activities, expansion of predator control, installation of protective fencing, and monitoring wildlife activities.

The majority of these activities would not have significant cumulative effects on the environment because they involve minor accessory improvements (e.g. maintenance roads, fencing) or management activities (e.g. predator control) normally conducted as part of DOFAW's regular operations. Most of these activities would also occur in other areas of Kawainui (e.g. DOFAW management station) that are too far away from the light industrial park expansion to result in cumulative effects on the environment. Furthermore, these minor accessory improvements and management activities generally have a beneficial effect on Kawainui's wetland and resources.

The Kapa'a light industrial site expansion proposed several improvements that support and complement the project's wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities. The industrial expansion proposed site and design improvements to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. Measures proposed include maximizing open space within their property with landscaping and a "green" landscape barrier around warehouses,

improving management of stormwater runoff discharged from the site, and using harvested rainwater from buildings to support irrigation of landscaping, which decreases discharges (SD&C, 2011).

These improvements, from both the light industrial expansion and the proposed project ~~will~~ would not have ~~positive~~ significant nor adverse cumulative impacts on two major resource areas - 1) water resources, including wetlands, streams, watershed, and water quality; and 2) biological resources, including threatened and endangered waterbirds, native plants, and native aquatic species. The proposed project would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts on human environmental factors, such as historic sites or cultural resources and practices, because such effects are more site specific. For example, the industrial expansion site did not identify historic sites or cultural practices present that would be impacted, and would thus have no cumulative impact with Kawainui. Other pertinent human environmental factors, infrastructure, and public facilities are addressed.

Water Resources. Proposed expansion of wetland restoration and upland reforestation will build upon past, present and future restoration efforts at Kawainui and Hāmākua. In recent years, various initiatives by DOFAW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have succeeded in improving a neglected and degraded wetland, enhancing its ability to provide flood control, wildlife habitat, and to reduce water pollution.

The Kapa'a light industrial site is located above (mauka of) the northern end of Kawainui where the existing wetland consists of the peat mat and remediation zones. These zones would remain unchanged, with the exception of selective removal of trees and managing peat mat growth, due to these areas flood control capability. Therefore, there should not be significant cumulative impacts to the Kawainui wetland from the project and industrial expansion. The industrial expansion stormwater design includes detention basins, underground rainwater harvesting cisterns (for irrigation), and other management systems that would minimize and mitigate effects on Kapa'a Stream and discharges into Kawainui. City approval of land use entitlements for the industrial expansion also included review and agreement that these measures were sufficient to address effects.

Kapa'a Stream is the only stream in the vicinity of the Kapa'a industrial site that could be affected. Stormwater management measures for the industrial expansion would minimize effects on Kapa'a Stream by reducing sediment, debris, and pollutants (e.g. oil). Filter units would remove over 80% of pollutants, thereby meeting LEED Silver certification. The Kawainui project does not include wetland restoration or upland reforestation improvements impacting Kapa'a Stream. Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impacts to this stream with the project.

There should be no significant cumulative impacts to the watershed area affected by the industrial expansion and the proposed project at Kawainui. The Kawainui wetland has effectively served this watershed area that includes the industrial site along with the City transfer

station, landfill, and airplane park. Project improvements would continue this function even with the industrial expansion. As discussed in Section 3.4.1, the project would improve the functionality of the watershed by enhancing the wetland's important hydrologic function of regulating the movement of water within this area of the watershed before discharging into Kailua Bay. Design measures for the industrial expansion would also minimize effects on the watershed.

Water quality samples show that the Kawainui wetland is naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Even with the existing industrial uses mauka of this area of Kawainui, there were no significant water quality issues arising from the sampling. Drainage improvements from the light industrial expansion would minimize development effects and reduce pollutants by 80% to meet LEED Silver certification. Thus, there should be no significant cumulative effects from the proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities coupled with the light industrial expansion.

These efforts within the project area contribute cumulatively to other watershed management efforts within windward O'ahu and island-wide. The project area is located within the designated Ko'olau Poko watershed area, which was the subject of the Ko'olau Poko Watershed Management Plan (KPWMP) (Townscape, Inc., 2012). The KPWMP is part of a comprehensive O'ahu-wide watershed management effort. The recommendations of the KPWMP include promoting a sustainable watershed, protect water quality, and native Hawaiian rights and customary practices. The KPWMP specifically mentions and endorses the ongoing watershed management efforts at Kawainui and Hāmākua. Other KPWMP recommendations include controlling illegal dumping, native plant propagation, control of alien species, feral pig control, and restoration of forested area, all of which are included in project initiatives. Within the larger context of the island of O'ahu, the project supports the O'ahu-wide watershed management objectives to promote sustainable watersheds, protect and enhance water quality and quantity, and to protect native Hawaiian rights and traditional and customary practice.

The majority of the industrial expansion site is located within Zone D (undetermined flood hazards). A drainage channel along a section of Kapa'a Quarry Road near the mouth of Kapa'a Stream is identified as a flood area being inundated at times by heavy rainfall. No development is planned within this flood area (drainage channel) (SD&C, 2011). Therefore, development would not have a significant impact on flood hazards, and storm water design measures would minimize impacts to Kapa'a Stream and the Kawainui wetland. Wetland restoration planned within this northern section of Kawainui would be minimal, and there would be no significant cumulative impact on flood hazards or flooding in the general area.

Biological Resources. The cumulative impact of the wetland and upland improvements, upgraded DOFAW management station, and the current and future efforts of community partners, volunteers and cultural practitioners would enhance the restoration and long-term survival of the area's biological resources. The proposed removal of invasive vegetation, creation of mud flat habitat, improved water quality, and more robust predator control would have long-

term benefits to native flora, fauna, and aquatic resources within the project site. Improvements in water quality will support stream biota and biota in nearshore areas over the long-term. Strengthening partnerships with established community groups and cultural practitioners will ensure that these efforts continue into the future.

The industrial expansion site has historically been heavily disturbed from landfill and quarry operations from the 1940s to 1960s. These activities have changed the site's original soils (SD&C, 2011). Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impact to soils, topography, geology, or botanical resources in conjunction with the proposed project.

Wetland restoration and upland reforestation coupled with the industrial expansion would not have significant cumulative impacts on avian and mammalian resources, which includes endangered waterbirds. The industrial expansion site has no endangered species present, and in conjunction with the Kawainui project, would not impact any endangered species. This northern area of Kawainui (peat mat and remediation zones) is not know for suitable waterbird habitat. Even so, Section 3.3.2 discussed various measures to be implemented during restoration activities to minimize effects on waterbirds.

There would be no significant cumulative impact on aquatic resources with the restoration work and industrial expansion. As discussed in Section 3.4.6, the body of water covered by a layer of peat is biologically dead (except for bacteria). Without light penetration, oxygen cannot be generated by aquatic algae, and the subsurface of the wetland supports no invertebrates (such as aquatic insects and prawns) or vertebrates (such as fishes) over most of its area. Given the extensive peat mat covering the northern section of Kawainui, aquatic resources should not be negatively impacted. The industrial expansion drainage and storm water design improvements would further minimize effects on potential aquatic resources that may be present in this area.

Wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities would only occur during the day, and thus not affect endangered seabirds from night lighting. The industrial expansion entitlements include standard conditions to mitigate exterior lighting (e.g. shielding) effects. Therefore, the proposed project restoration and reforestation improvements would not contribute to significant cumulative effects on seabirds. The industrial site does not include tall vegetation (taller than 15 feet) that would be of potential concern to Hawaiian hoary bats, and the project reforestation work would not affect such tall vegetation during the bat birthing and rearing season. Therefore, no significant cumulative impact on mammals would occur.

Short-Term Effects. Short-term construction-related activities from the industrial expansion and wetland restoration and reforestation activities would not have a significant cumulative impact on the environment, natural resources, or human environmental factors. This includes factors such as fugitive dust emissions, construction noise, and erosion control during site disturbance. Construction activities for the industrial expansion would be site specific, and various design and best management practices required as part of entitlement conditions would minimize and mitigate potential impacts. Furthermore, ministerial permits required, such as grading permits,

NPDES permit, etc., would include review of design plans by jurisdictional agencies to ensure appropriate mitigation measures and best management practices are implemented. Minimal wetland restoration would occur within this northern area of Kawainui, and no upland reforestation is proposed. Therefore, the project would not contribute to short-term cumulative impacts on the environment.

7.3.2 Structures and Trails

With the proposed project reductions at Kawainui (Section 2.2), the only facility improvements proposed in the vicinity of the industrial expansion would be the cultural center at Kapa'a and facilities supporting the vegetation processing site or other research and agency support activities. Other project facilities and trails are located considerable distances away from the industrial expansion site, and those activities would not significantly affect or influence the environment near the industrial expansion. Therefore, pertinent cumulative impacts evaluated would primarily be associated with the industrial expansion combined with the cultural center at Kapa'a and vegetation processing facilities. The following sections discuss the cumulative impacts of pertinent environmental factors associated with the project.

Natural Resources. The cultural center at Kapa'a and facilities at the vegetation processing site would not significantly impact the project site's topography, soils, geology, and botanical resources. This area is relatively flat, comprised of fill material, does not contain unique geologic features, and is generally overgrown with non-native invasive vegetation. As already discussed, the industrial expansion site has historically been heavily disturbed from landfill and quarry operations. Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impact on topography, geology, soils, and botanical resources associated with proposed project improvements and industrial expansion.

Project improvements coupled with the industrial expansion would not have significant cumulative impacts on avian and mammalian resources, which includes endangered waterbirds. This northern area of Kawainui (peat mat and remediation zones) is not known for waterbird nesting because the wetland does not provide suitable habitat. The proposed vegetation processing site and cultural center are located mauka of the wetland area, and the industrial site is even further inland. Low fencing and vegetation buffers are proposed along the wetland perimeter to physically restrict and separate cultural practices and activities providing further protection and minimization measures. The industrial expansion site does not have endangered species present, and the combined impact with the proposed project would not negatively impact pertinent avian and mammalian species.

There would be no adverse cumulative impacts on seabirds due to exterior lighting from these facilities, and there are no other project facilities contributing to outdoor lighting in this general area. Exterior lighting from existing uses in the project area that include the City's transfer station, State highways (Kalaniana'ole Highway, Mōkapu Saddle Road), schools, residences, and

medical and commercial uses have not resulted in significant fallout issues with seabirds. DOFAW has not experienced any major issues with impacts on migratory seabirds from night lighting at Kawainui or Hāmākua. Endangered waterbirds within Kawainui and Hāmākua are not adversely impacted by night lighting within the project site or from outside surrounding uses. Furthermore, the FWS recovery plan for Hawaiian waterbirds also does not identify night lighting as a threat to these species. Activities at the vegetation processing site would typically occur during daylight hours. Outdoor lighting for buildings at the cultural center would be required to be shielded to the extent possible, and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible similar to design requirements for the industrial expansion. These measures are standard agency accepted protocols applied for developments and would address and minimize potential seabird fallout risk. DOFAW also has protocols in place and staff are trained to address seabird recovery from such fallout if it occurs.

The industrial site does not include tall vegetation (taller than 15 feet) that would be of potential concern to Hawaiian hoary bats, and the cultural center and processing site would not affect such tall vegetation during the bat birthing and rearing season. Therefore, there would be no significant negative cumulative impact on mammals, especially since the majority of mammals present are alien species and deleterious to native ecosystems.

The cultural center and vegetation processing sites are not located within the 100-year flood area, but are within the 500-year flood area (Zone X) designated for moderate to low risk areas. The majority of the industrial expansion site is located within Zone D (undetermined flood hazards). The drainage channel along a section of Kapa'a Quarry Road near the mouth of Kapa'a Stream is identified as a flood area being inundated at times by heavy rainfall. No industrial expansion is planned within this flood area (drainage channel) (SD&C, 2011). Development of the cultural center and vegetation processing facilities would thus have no adverse cumulative impact on flood hazards even with the industrial expansion. Project improvements along with the industrial expansion would also not experience cumulative adverse effects from climate change based upon the assessments results discussed.

The Kapa'a light industrial site is located above (mauka of) the north end of Kawainui where the existing wetland consists of a peat mat and remediation zones. These zones would remain unchanged, with the exception of selective removal of trees and managing peat mat growth, due to these areas flood control capability. Therefore, there should be no significant cumulative impacts to the Kawainui wetland from the proposed project and industrial expansion. The industrial expansion stormwater design includes detention basins, underground rainwater harvesting cisterns (for irrigation), and other management systems that would minimize and mitigate effects on Kapa'a Stream and discharges into Kawainui. City approval of land use entitlements for the industrial expansion also included review and agreement that these measures were sufficient to address potential effects. Design plans for improvements would also be reviewed by jurisdictional agencies to ensure site improvements adequately address drainage conditions.

Kapa'a Stream is the only stream in the vicinity of the Kapa'a industrial site that could be affected. The Final EIS for the industrial expansion discussed several measures to minimize and mitigate effects from stormwater (sediments, nutrients, and suspended solids). The industrial expansion stormwater management measures would minimize effects on Kapa'a Stream by reducing sediment, debris, and pollutants (e.g. oil). Filter units would remove over 80% of pollutants meeting the LEED Silver certification. Kawainui improvements do not include wetland restoration or upland reforestation improvements impacting Kapa'a Stream. Thus, there would be no significant cumulative impacts to this stream.

There should be no significant cumulative impacts to the watershed area that includes the industrial expansion site and Kawainui. The Kawainui wetland effectively serves this watershed area that includes the industrial site along with the City transfer station, landfill, and airplane park. As discussed in Section 3.4.1, the proposed project would improve the function of the watershed by enhancing the wetland's important hydrologic function of regulating the movement of water before discharging into Kailua Bay. The industrial expansion design measures would also minimize effects on the watershed.

Water quality samples show that Kawainui naturally functions as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Even with the existing industrial uses above this area of Kawainui, there were no significant water quality issues identified from the sampling. Drainage improvements from the light industrial expansion would reduce pollutants by 80% to meet LEED Silver certification. The cultural center and vegetation processing sites would not significantly impact water quality based upon the assessment addressing stormwater runoff and wastewater restroom facilities. Thus, no significant cumulative effects are expected from the proposed project and the light industrial expansion.

Aquatic resources should not be adversely impacted by the proposed project and industrial expansion due to the proposed stormwater management design measures. Further, the body of water in the wetland covered by a layer of peat is biologically dead (except for bacteria). Without light penetration, oxygen cannot be generated by aquatic algae, and the subsurface of the wetland supports no invertebrates (such as aquatic insects and prawns) or vertebrates (such as fishes) over most of this area along with the broader Kawainui wetland area.

Historic and Cultural Resources. The proposed project structures ~~and trails~~ below the industrial expansion area are expected to have positive cumulative impacts on historic resources, and contribute to sustaining the cultural significance of Kawainui and Hāmākua. No historic sites would be adversely affected by the physical structures planned by the industrial expansion, cultural center, and vegetation processing sites. The provision of limited pedestrian trails will make historic and cultural resources within Kawainui accessible for public appreciation and facilitate access for maintenance and restoration activities that have been ongoing for years. The creation of new areas for cultural practice and education will build upon the efforts at Ulupō and Nā Pōhaku, existing partnerships with schools and non-profit organizations, as well as larger cultural endeavors such as the Hōkūle'a Mālama Honua, whose crew visited the project area in

2013 on their worldwide journey. Project initiatives create new places for kanaka maoli to gather and share knowledge, care for historic and natural resources, and exchange with other indigenous cultures. The combination of cultural practices and resource stewardship is consistent with DOFAW and DSP objectives and with Ramsar guidance on wetlands and culture. The proposals are expected to have positive cumulative impacts on historic resources, and contribute to the enhancement and sustainment of the Hawaiian culture.

Social and Economic Factors. The proposed project coupled with the industrial expansion should have minimal, if any, cumulative effect on the demographic characteristics of Kailua as discussed in Section 4.2.2, since there are no residential or visitor units proposed except for a caretakers unit at the cultural center at Kapa'a. These projects would not change Kailua's resident population, the number of housing units, or resident demographic characteristics.

There would be no significant cumulative effect on military uses and jobs because improvements are not located within MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay, and would not affect business operations occurring within the base. The industrial expansion would have a positive beneficial effect on light industrial businesses by providing increased jobs and business opportunities that would support the region's economic condition. Kawainui improvements would have minimal effect on light industrial uses and commercial and retail businesses, except for short-term construction-related activities. Therefore, these activities would have a small beneficial cumulative economic effect.

The project and industrial expansion would not have a cumulative adverse effect significantly exacerbating the major community issues of: 1) over-commercialization by tourism; 2) attracting more tourists; 3) traffic impacts with residential areas; 4) security and crime; and 5) long-term management of Kawainui improvements. Issues related to the over-commercialization of tourism would be mainly related to community perceptions of Kawainui's improvements. The light industrial expansion would not have an issue with over-commercialization by tourism or attract large number of tourists. Typical light industrial businesses would be associated with manufacturing, repairs, suppliers that would be pertinent to businesses and residents (e.g. home renovation). Tourists would be more attracted to commercial retail businesses such as boutique shops, restaurants, etc. that have been popular in Kailua town. Kawainui would not have significant issues with "over-commercialization" from tourism because improvements, including cultural centers, do not include commercial uses (e.g. Starbucks, restaurants) as discussed in Section 2.2. DOFAW and DSP have currently not permitted any commercial tourism activities, and do not plan on permitting privately-owned for-profit tourism operations at Kawainui.

Kawainui would attract some visitors as discussed in Section 2.2, however, the visitation levels projected would be moderate and manageable. Section 4.2.2 also includes measures to address this issue, such as increased DOCARE enforcement and restricting public access. Thus, concerns with attracting more tourists are primarily associated with Kawainui improvements and do not involve a significant cumulative effect involving the light industrial expansion that would serve residents and businesses. The cumulative effect of tourist attraction is therefore similar to that

discussed in Section 4.2.2, and measures such as effective management along with support by non-profit organizations were identified.

Traffic issues associated with the project would mainly be related to the education and cultural centers that are not expected to have much effect on traffic because they would not generate a significant amount of daily traffic, as discussed in Sections 4.2.2 and 5.6. In addition, traffic would not impact the morning commuter peak hour because activities would occur later in the morning, and many cultural activities would occur in the early evening (after work for participants) or on weekends, reducing effects on the afternoon commuter peak hour. The light industrial expansion project mitigated traffic effects as a result of street improvements included with conditions of their entitlement approvals. The majority of industrial related traffic occurs along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and not within residential areas. Therefore, the industrial project would contribute some traffic to roadways, but this increase would not have a significant or adverse cumulative traffic impact on roadways, particularly in residential areas.

Issues with security and crime would only be associated with proposed Kawainui improvements because the light industrial expansion is a private development and can properly address concerns with the homeless and crime. For example, tenants would have their own security systems, and the industrial development management would address general security of the property. Thus, there would be no significant cumulative impacts on this issue.

In terms of economic and fiscal cumulative effects, short-term construction of both projects would have a temporary positive effect by creating direct and indirect construction-related jobs along with additional income for workers that would be spent within the local economy. There would also be a small, but positive (relative to Windward region and islandwide jobs), cumulative effect in creating additional long-term jobs and incomes associated with continued wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts combined with employees working for new business tenants at the light industrial expansion.

Air, Noise, and View Factors. There would be no adverse cumulative impact on air quality and noise from the proposed project and the light industrial expansion. Impacts on air quality and noise would be primarily associated with short-term construction activities. There are no noise sensitive properties (e.g. residences) located adjacent to the light industrial site and the proposed project area. Only the City Model Airplane Park, vegetation processing site, and cultural center at Kapa'a are situated in the vicinity of the industrial site. Sufficient measures were identified to address short-term effects on air quality and noise, such as required State DOH noise permits, BMP measures, and existing government regulations.

The light industrial expansion does not affect important scenic coastal views or significant open space resources that were identified in Section 4.6. Industrial expansion would include a buffer zone consisting of earth berms and vegetation to screen views of the development and mitigate noise generated by industrial activities. Visual impacts associated with proposed Kawainui improvements were addressed in Section 4.6, and determined there would be no significant

impacts on the scenic character of Kawainui, important viewsheds or scenic resources. Most of the improvements at Kawainui would not be visible from Kapa'a Quarry Road and other areas due to the extensive existing vegetation along the perimeter of the project area. Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impacts on important views or scenic resources.

Infrastructure Facilities. There would be no adverse cumulative impact on existing infrastructure facilities based upon the results discussed in Chapter 5 and the Final EIS for the light industrial expansion (SD&C, 2011). A summary of these results is provided below since more detailed discussion of Kawainui project effects are discussed in this FEIS.

1. *Water Facilities.* Kawainui improvements would generate modest average daily demands for potable water that would not significantly impact the existing water system. The City BWS has indicated that the existing water system is adequate to accommodate proposed improvements. Similarly, the industrial expansion would require additional water, which has been addressed in their Final EIS. Increased water demands would be met by the BWS when they review project design plans and determine Water System Facility Charges. Therefore, there would not be a significant cumulative impact on water facilities.
2. *Wastewater Facilities.* The light industrial expansion would implement an advanced on-site wastewater system that includes a recirculation pump chamber with sand filter before discharging to a leach field to improve treatment. Treated wastewater would be used for irrigation use. As discussed in Section 5.2.2, the Kawainui improvements would not generate a large volume of wastewater, and proposed on-site treatment methods are adequate to process such volumes, and would not adversely impact the wetland or environment. Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impact to the City's existing wastewater systems or the surrounding environment from proposed treatment methods.
3. *Drainage Facilities.* Project improvements and the industrial expansion would increase impervious surface areas and stormwater runoff volumes that eventually discharge into the Kawainui wetland. Kawainui effectively serves the greater watershed area that includes the Kapa'a light industrial site, City transfer station and landfill, the Model Airplane Park, and other surrounding uses. Water quality results show that Kawainui is naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from such runoff.

   Project trails account for about 40 percent of attributable estimated runoff, as they are primarily comprised of compacted soils, having a high runoff coefficient. Proposed reductions in trail segments would reduce estimated runoff volumes as discussed in Section 5.3.2. Other facility improvements would include LID elements and BMPs incorporated into the design to detain runoff, further reducing effects of stormwater runoff. LID elements could include greywater gardens, bioswales, rain gardens, bioretention areas, rain catchment systems, and infiltration trenches. The industrial expansion project similarly includes measures to detain and improve the quality of stormwater runoff eventually discharged into Kapa'a Stream and the Kawainui

wetland. Such measures include underground rainwater harvesting cisterns for irrigation use and underground detention basins allowing for settlement and treatment of stormwater runoff before being released. These measures were evaluated and acceptable as part of the project entitlements process. Further design details would be reviewed during the project design and ministerial permit phase. Consequently, stormwater runoff from the project and industrial expansion should not have an adverse cumulative effect on existing drainage facilities or Kapa'a Stream and the Kawainui wetland.

During short-term construction activities, applicable BMPs and conditions included in approved ministerial permits would minimize and mitigate discharges of stormwater runoff. Because the project would be phased, all construction activities would not occur within one concentrated area. Therefore, drainage impacts would be minimized. Only the cultural center at Kapa'a is proposed within the area that would be cumulatively effected by the light industrial expansion. Runoff from short-term construction activities should thus not have a significant cumulative impact on existing drainage facilities or the receiving waters of Kapa'a Stream and the Kawainui wetland.

4. *Transportation Facilities.* The project is not expected to have a significant effect on transportation facilities because activities would not generate a significant volume of daily traffic as discussed in Section 5.6. Project generated traffic would not impact the morning commuter peak hour because activities (e.g. education center) occur later in the morning, and many cultural activities would occur in the early evening (after work for participants) or on weekends, reducing effects on the afternoon commuter peak hour. The light industrial expansion project had a traffic study conducted for the project Final EIS. Traffic effects from that development were mitigated. The project is required to implement street improvements as part of entitlement conditions. Consequently, the project would contribute some traffic to roadways, but this increase would not have a significant or adverse cumulative traffic impact on roadways.

Education. The construction of the education center, parking areas, and pedestrian trails and viewing areas are intended to support ongoing environmental education. The proposals would support educational programs and make possible further partnerships between DOFAW and DSP, local schools and community groups. The industrial expansion would not impact schools or school operations. The project would not have ~~an~~ a cumulative adverse impact on public educational facilities. Due to the demand for hands-on outdoor classroom learning opportunities and interest in Kawainui and Hāmākua, educational programs associated with the project area are likely to expand in years to come.

Recreation. The industrial expansion would not impact existing recreational facilities or activities. The only existing recreational facility in the immediate vicinity is the City Model Airplane Park. Operation of the expanded industrial site would not prevent or significantly disrupt activities occurring at this park. An objective of the project is to increase public access

and passive outdoor recreational use. The proposed trails and parking areas support this objective. Enhanced public access to State park lands is mandated by Section 6(f) of the federal LWCF Act. In addition, the provision of trails and viewing and interpretive areas is consistent with a State-wide initiative toward development of greenways and protected lands within urban areas. Act 233, Establishment of a Statewide Greenways System for Hawai'i, was signed by Governor Neil Abercrombie in 2011. This act recognized the benefits that greenways and trails can have on Hawai'i communities, and directed the State Office of Planning (OP) to develop a plan to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails. Although no funds were appropriated, OP's study identified State and County activities related to greenways and trails, and existing resources and entities engaged in greenways planning and development in Hawai'i.

DLNR's Na Ala Hele Trails and Access program housed with DOFAW is charged with planning, developing, and acquiring land or rights for public use of land, construction and coordination of activities to implement a trail and access system in Hawai'i. The proposed trails within the project area would have a positive cumulative impact on the State's greenway effort. The cultural center at Kapa'a, vegetation processing site, and the activities conducted there would not negatively impact activities occurring at the Model Airplane Park. Thus, the project and expansion of the light industrial site would not have an adverse cumulative impact on existing recreational facilities.

7.4 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources refers to impacts on or losses of resources that cannot be recovered or reversed. Some of the irreversible and irretrievable commitments include the use and commitment of fiscal resources, labor, construction materials and energy.

Use of these resources would be needed to conduct wetland restoration and upland reforestation. The State DOFAW and DSP would utilize resources to construct proposed trails, the education center, and DOFAW maintenance facilities~~, and improvements at the Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo site~~. Other cultural facilities will be constructed by private entities and will not involve a commitment of public resources. Land used for proposed structures and improvements will be physically altered and modified. All land within the project area will still be owned by the State of Hawai'i. No significant cultural or natural resources will be irretrievably harmed or lost.

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Table 2.8 Preliminary Order-of-Magnitude Cost Estimates

Description of Subarea and Major Activities	Estimated Costs by Subarea: Cost by Activities	Estimated Costs by Subarea: Total Costs (2017 Dollars)
A. Kahanaiki Area		~~**$16,410,000**~~ $16,390,000
1. Wetland Restoration, Upland Reforestation, Drainage	$14,800,000	
2. Pedestrian/Foot Trails, Observation Deck, Parking, Fencing and a Restroom	~~$1,610,000~~ $1,590,000	
B. Pōhakea-Nā Pōhaku Area		~~**$16,020,000**~~ $14,870,000
1. Wetland Restoration, Upland Reforestation	$10,200,000	
2. Pedestrian and Foot Trails	$370,000	
3. Education Center, Parking, Kauhale	~~$5,450,000~~ $4,300,000	
C. Kapa'a Area		~~**$14,280,000**~~ $8,040,000
1. Wetland Restoration, Upland Site Clearing/Grading	$1,040,000	
2. Pedestrian Trail	~~$1,010,000~~	
3. Cultural Center	~~$7,870,000~~ $4,700,000	
4. Vegetation Processing Facility	~~$4,360,000~~ $2,300,000	
D. Kawainui State Park Reserve; Kapa'a Section		**$800,000**
1. Upland Site Clearing/Grading	$800,000	
E. Kawainui State Park Reserve; Kalāheo Section		~~**$2,380,000**~~
~~1. Upland Site Clearing/Grading, Parking~~	~~$630,000~~	
~~2. Hale Wa'a, Restrooms, Interpretive Center~~	~~$1,750,000~~	
F. Wai'auia Area		~~**$4,810,000**~~ $5,330,000
1. Wetland Restoration, Upland Site Clearing/Grading	$1,630,000	
2. Cultural Center, Parking	~~$2,430,000~~ $3,400,000	
3. Pedestrian/Foot Trail, Observation Deck	~~$750,000~~ $300,000	
G. Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park Area		~~**$1,300,000**~~ $1,280,000
1. Halau, Greenhouse	~~$630,000~~ $670,000	
2. Pedestrian/Foot Trail, Viewing Platforms along Kūkanono Slope	~~$670,000~~ $610,000	
H. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Peninsula Area		~~**$8,240,000**~~ $4,400,000
1. DOFAW Support Facilities, Greenhouse	~~$4,230,000~~ $2,300,000	
2. Pedestrian/Foot Trail, Staging Areas, Bridge~~s~~	~~$2,900,000~~ $1,800,000	
3. Mokulana Maintenance Road~~/Trail, Pavilions,~~ Storage	~~$1,210,000~~ $300,000	
I. Hāmākua – Pu'uoehu Hillside Area		**$2,380,000**
1. Wetland Creation, Upload Site Clearing/Grading	$880,000	
2. Maintenance Trail, Staging Areas	$1,740,000	
3. Restrooms, Storage	$370,000	
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE		~~**$66,720,000**~~ $53,210,000

- **Discussion:** Kawainui meets this criterion because the wetland provides a migration path from the ocean to mountain streams for indigenous and endemic amphidromous fish and crustaceans, including *Awaous guamensis* (indigenous goby), *Stenogobius hawaiiensis* (endemic goby), *Eleotris sandwicensis* (endemic eleotrid), and *Atyoida bisulcata* (endemic shrimp). The project enhances the suitability of Kawainui as a migration path for these biota through wetland restoration improvements proposed. Removal of invasive vegetation and the floating peat mat from wetland areas would restore natural stream and water flow through the area. Removal of the peat layer will also allow sunlight to penetrate marsh waters, allowing aquatic algae to generate oxygen thereby improving stream habitat suitability for these migratory indigenous and endemic species.

6.1.1.1 Compatibility with Ramsar Mission and Philosophy

Ongoing and proposed wetland stewardship activities are the primary focus of the project and directly support the Ramsar Convention mission to utilize an ecosystem approach, within the context of sustainable development.

In keeping with the Ramsar wise use philosophy, the project will support ongoing and proposed stewardship activities, and provide opportunities for the public to experience and learn about the wetland areas through trails, viewing platforms, and an education center. Other improvements seek to enhance a sustainable native Hawaiian cultural presence, and to integrate cultural aspects with long-term resource stewardship. These improvements are compatible with Ramsar Convention guidance as discussed below.

6.1.1.2 Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024

The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 is the fourth strategic plan of the Ramsar convention. This strategic plan provides guidance on how the convention can be implemented over the nine year period covered. Plan guidance facilitates implementation of the convention by orienting the actions of Contracting Parties and stakeholders involved with wetland conservation and management. The strategic plan is guided by the following vision, "Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all" (Ramsar, 2016).

- **Discussion:** The project supports the vision of the fourth strategic plan. This vision is focused on the conservation, wise use, restoration, and recognition of wetlands and their benefits. The objective of the project is similar as discussed in Section 2.1, and focuses on the restoration and improved management of project area wetlands and their natural resources. Project areas would be restored through wetland restoration, upland reforestation activities, and associated facility improvements that support these activities. Proposed management initiatives would aid the conservation of wetland natural resources and endangered waterbirds. Physical improvements including trails

and structures enhance access to upland areas within the project site, and support programs that educate attendees on the value of wetlands and allow them to participate in restoration efforts. In this manner, wise use components of this vision are supported as the project facilitates ongoing stewardship and sustainable usage of Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands.

Strategic plan guidance is oriented around four goals that facilitate implementation of the Ramsar Convention from 2016-2024. These goals constitute four priority areas for the Ramsar Convention during this period. Strategic plan goals are operationalized through actionable targets. The project's adherence to pertinent goals and their associated targets is discussed below.

Strategic Goal 1 – Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation

Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.

- **Discussion:** Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands possess valuable natural functions that benefit downstream coastal water resources. These natural functions include detention of stormwater and subsequent filtration of pollutants before being released into Kawainui Canal and eventual discharge at the shoreline. However, these functions have been impeded due to the ongoing terrestrialization of wetlands. The project supports this strategic plan target by restoring, enhancing, and ultimately improving these natural functions. Proposed wetland restoration improvements would remove invasive vegetation, increasing the presence of open water areas and improving water flow. As a result, waterborne pollutants would have time to settle and be filtered by vegetation rather than being conveyed directly to coastal areas. Stormwater entering the project's wetlands would also be better detained. Invasive vegetation removal may require usage of approved herbicides. DOFAW has also obtained State NPDES coverage for herbicide use and wetland restoration for certain areas planned for implementation. Facility improvements and associated infrastructure, such as parking lots and staging areas, would support restoration and management efforts, while having minimal impact on these wetlands and their natural functions. LID elements such as permeable pavers would be incorporated into these improvements, allowing continued groundwater recharge. Although the area occupied by impervious surfaces in the project area would increase, usage of detention basins as part of on-site drainage improvements would detain any additional stormwater produced over existing conditions. Facility improvements would also enhance DOFAW's capacity to conduct ongoing restoration and operational activities conducted by agency staff and the public. By extension, development of these facilities would aid enhancement of wetland natural functions.

Target 3: The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.

- **Discussion:** This state DLNR initiated project was guided by a draft master plan that identified improvements for DOFAW and DSP to consider for the project area. This environmental document refined project plans based upon community input and evaluation of environmental effects, and identified best management practices, minimization and mitigative measures to guide good practices and use of areas. This plan and associated guidance is in alignment with the Ramsar wise use philosophy that calls for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Project plans provide a guide for how proposed restoration, reforestation, and facility improvements can be implemented so that wetlands are enhanced in a manner that is sustainable and does not degrade wetland resources. For example, implementation of LID site design elements with proposed facilities allow for minimizing effects and allowing sustainable use of project areas. The project also provides broad guidance on how wetland restoration improvements should be phased and implemented, supporting the conservation of project area wetlands. In this manner, this project supports this strategic plan target by identifying guidelines and various measures that further Ramsar wise use principles.

Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

- **Discussion:** The project's focus on managing the presence of invasive plants and vegetation found in the wetlands support this strategic plan target. Invasive mammalian, avian, and vegetative species have been identified by DOFAW with specific management efforts proposed. For example, a predator control program is already operational and would be continued. This program involves usage of traps as the primary method of regulating the presence of mongoose and feral cats that are invasive mammalian species in the project area. Perimeter fencing around the wetland boundaries is proposed to minimize the access by larger invasive mammals in wetland areas, such a feral pigs.

Strategic Goal 2 – Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.

- **Discussion:** The project plans support this strategic plan target. The project plans provide guidance to DOFAW and DSP that effectively integrates their agency responsibilities in a manner that enhances the restoration of Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands. For example, development of a trail system within Kawainui's upland areas that surround the wetland allows fulfilment of objectives to support public access and create passive recreational opportunities within the project area. The environmental

review process allowed for public input to be evaluated along with assessments of environmental impacts from proposed improvements. This supported effective planning of the project to ensure the ecological character of Kawainui-Hāmākua is not adversely impacted. Proposed coordination with agencies and community organizations increasing stewardship opportunities, cultural practices, educational programs, etc. support an integrated management approach to this project site.

Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.

- **Discussion:** The ecological character of Kawainui's wetlands has been degraded due to anthropogenic impacts and the long-term overgrowth of invasive vegetation. Anthropogenic impacts including the large scale urbanization of the surrounding area over decades and the overgrowth of invasive vegetation have adversely impacted the wetland's ecological character. The project supports this strategic plan target by proposing improvements and activities that alleviate these threats. Upland drainage infrastructure improvements along Kapa'a Quarry Road will repair existing drainage facilities and improve upslope detention (e.g. causeways). Connections between these facilities and downslope stormwater detention improvements are proposed. Drainage improvements would facilitate retention of sediments and other pollutants conveyed to the wetland by runoff. As a result, a threat source to the ecological character of these wetlands in the form of waterborne pollutants would be addressed. Wetland restoration improvements involve removal of invasive vegetation and replanting of native vegetation. Restoration improvements address the overgrowth of invasive vegetation, which has threatened and diminished the vegetative aspects of the area's ecological character.

Strategic Goal 3 – Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.

- **Discussion:** The variety of natural resources found within the project area are integrated in proposed natural resource management initiatives. These initiatives are mutually supporting, restoring and enhancing various project area natural resources in support of the Ramsar wise use concept. For example, wetland restoration improvements involve removal of invasive vegetation and the replanting of native vegetation. Increased open water areas result from invasive vegetation removal that support aquatic resources, improve flood protection, and enhance waterbird habitat. Multiple natural resources benefit from wetland restoration improvements. In this manner, wetland restoration improvements are a form of integrated resource management, enhancing multiple natural resources of the project area in support of the Ramsar wise use concept.

Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- **Discussion:** The project supports this strategic plan target by proposing improvements that further ongoing wetland restoration improvements occurring in the project area. A diverse population of vegetation and fauna are found within Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetland areas. These wetlands also provide important stormwater retention functions and support flood risk reduction for downstream areas. However, the ongoing degradation of these wetlands has adversely impacted the ecological characteristics previously discussed. DOFAW operational staff and associated volunteers continue to conduct wetland restoration activities that aim to reverse degradation of these wetlands, benefiting wetland biodiversity and stormwater retention functions. Project improvements will provide facilities and infrastructure that would better facilitate the restoration work of DOFAW and their volunteers. The proposed trail system would improve access to the wetland for agency operational staff and volunteers. Improvements to DOFAW's management and research station would also support these restoration efforts. The project supports this strategic plan target by providing improvements that facilitate improved execution of DOFAW restoration efforts.

Operational Goal 4 – Enhancing Implementation

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.

- **Discussion:** The project supports this strategic plan target by proposing improvements that enhance the efficacy of DOFAW programs focusing on wetland conservation and education. Infrastructure improvements such as proposed staging areas and trails improve access to wetland areas for DOFAW operational staff and volunteers. This enhances the capacity of DOFAW operational staff to conduct these programs. These programs not only allow volunteers to participate in wetland restoration but educate volunteers about the value of the wetlands and their resources. In this manner, the project supports this strategic plan target.

6.1.1.3 Culture and Wetlands

In the years following the signing of the Ramsar Convention, it became clear that natural resources conservation could not be successful without considering the welfare of local populations and ensuring their active participation. Since 2006, the Ramsar Culture Working Group has been responsible for the Convention's work on the cultural aspects of wetlands. In 2008, the Culture Working Group released a guidance document on cultural aspects of wetland management. In its introduction, the document states that *"it has become more than evident that*

NPDES permit, etc., would include review of design plans by jurisdictional agencies to ensure appropriate mitigation measures and best management practices are implemented. Minimal wetland restoration would occur within this northern area of Kawainui, and no upland reforestation is proposed. Therefore, the project would not contribute to short-term cumulative impacts on the environment.

7.3.2 Structures and Trails

With the proposed project reductions at Kawainui (Section 2.2), the only facility improvements proposed in the vicinity of the industrial expansion would be the cultural center at Kapa'a and facilities supporting the vegetation processing site or other research and agency support activities. Other project facilities and trails are located considerable distances away from the industrial expansion site, and those activities would not significantly affect or influence the environment near the industrial expansion. Therefore, pertinent cumulative impacts evaluated would primarily be associated with the industrial expansion combined with the cultural center at Kapa'a and vegetation processing facilities. The following sections discuss the cumulative impacts of pertinent environmental factors associated with the project.

Natural Resources. The cultural center at Kapa'a and facilities at the vegetation processing site would not significantly impact the project site's topography, soils, geology, and botanical resources. This area is relatively flat, comprised of fill material, does not contain unique geologic features, and is generally overgrown with non-native invasive vegetation. As already discussed, the industrial expansion site has historically been heavily disturbed from landfill and quarry operations. Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impact on topography, geology, soils, and botanical resources associated with proposed project improvements and industrial expansion.

Project improvements coupled with the industrial expansion would not have significant cumulative impacts on avian and mammalian resources, which includes endangered waterbirds. This northern area of Kawainui (peat mat and remediation zones) is not known for waterbird nesting because the wetland does not provide suitable habitat. The proposed vegetation processing site and cultural center are located mauka of the wetland area, and the industrial site is even further inland. Low fencing and vegetation buffers are proposed along the wetland perimeter to physically restrict and separate cultural practices and activities providing further protection and minimization measures. The industrial expansion site does not have endangered species present, and the combined impact with the proposed project would not negatively impact pertinent avian and mammalian species.

There would be no adverse cumulative impacts on seabirds due to exterior lighting from these facilities, and there are no other project facilities contributing to outdoor lighting in this general area. Exterior lighting from existing uses in the project area that include the City's transfer station, State highways (Kalaniana'ole Highway, Mōkapu Saddle Road), schools, residences, and

medical and commercial uses have not resulted in significant fallout issues with seabirds. DOFAW has not experienced any major issues with impacts on migratory seabirds from night lighting at Kawainui or Hāmākua. Endangered waterbirds within Kawainui and Hāmākua are not adversely impacted by night lighting within the project site or from outside surrounding uses. Furthermore, the FWS recovery plan for Hawaiian waterbirds also does not identify night lighting as a threat to these species. Activities at the vegetation processing site would typically occur during daylight hours. Outdoor lighting for buildings at the cultural center would be required to be shielded to the extent possible, and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible similar to design requirements for the industrial expansion. These measures are standard agency accepted protocols applied for developments and would address and minimize potential seabird fallout risk. DOFAW also has protocols in place and staff are trained to address seabird recovery from such fallout if it occurs.

The industrial site does not include tall vegetation (taller than 15 feet) that would be of potential concern to Hawaiian hoary bats, and the cultural center and processing site would not affect such tall vegetation during the bat birthing and rearing season. Therefore, there would be no significant negative cumulative impact on mammals, especially since the majority of mammals present are alien species and deleterious to native ecosystems.

The cultural center and vegetation processing sites are not located within the 100-year flood area, but are within the 500-year flood area (Zone X) designated for moderate to low risk areas. The majority of the industrial expansion site is located within Zone D (undetermined flood hazards). The drainage channel along a section of Kapa'a Quarry Road near the mouth of Kapa'a Stream is identified as a flood area being inundated at times by heavy rainfall. No industrial expansion is planned within this flood area (drainage channel) (SD&C, 2011). Development of the cultural center and vegetation processing facilities would thus have no adverse cumulative impact on flood hazards even with the industrial expansion. Project improvements along with the industrial expansion would also not experience cumulative adverse effects from climate change based upon the assessments results discussed.

The Kapa'a light industrial site is located above (mauka of) the north end of Kawainui where the existing wetland consists of a peat mat and remediation zones. These zones would remain unchanged, with the exception of selective removal of trees and managing peat mat growth, due to these areas flood control capability. Therefore, there should be no significant cumulative impacts to the Kawainui wetland from the proposed project and industrial expansion. The industrial expansion stormwater design includes detention basins, underground rainwater harvesting cisterns (for irrigation), and other management systems that would minimize and mitigate effects on Kapa'a Stream and discharges into Kawainui. City approval of land use entitlements for the industrial expansion also included review and agreement that these measures were sufficient to address potential effects. Design plans for improvements would also be reviewed by jurisdictional agencies to ensure site improvements adequately address drainage conditions.

improving management of stormwater runoff discharged from the site, and using harvested rainwater from buildings to support irrigation of landscaping, which decreases discharges (SD&C, 2011).

These improvements, from both the light industrial expansion and the proposed project ~~will~~ would not have ~~positive~~ significant nor adverse cumulative impacts on two major resource areas - 1) water resources, including wetlands, streams, watershed, and water quality; and 2) biological resources, including threatened and endangered waterbirds, native plants, and native aquatic species. The proposed project would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts on human environmental factors, such as historic sites or cultural resources and practices, because such effects are more site specific. For example, the industrial expansion site did not identify historic sites or cultural practices present that would be impacted, and would thus have no cumulative impact with Kawainui. Other pertinent human environmental factors, infrastructure, and public facilities are addressed.

Water Resources. Proposed expansion of wetland restoration and upland reforestation will build upon past, present and future restoration efforts at Kawainui and Hāmākua. In recent years, various initiatives by DOFAW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have succeeded in improving a neglected and degraded wetland, enhancing its ability to provide flood control, wildlife habitat, and to reduce water pollution.

The Kapa'a light industrial site is located above (mauka of) the northern end of Kawainui where the existing wetland consists of the peat mat and remediation zones. These zones would remain unchanged, with the exception of selective removal of trees and managing peat mat growth, due to these areas flood control capability. Therefore, there should not be significant cumulative impacts to the Kawainui wetland from the project and industrial expansion. The industrial expansion stormwater design includes detention basins, underground rainwater harvesting cisterns (for irrigation), and other management systems that would minimize and mitigate effects on Kapa'a Stream and discharges into Kawainui. City approval of land use entitlements for the industrial expansion also included review and agreement that these measures were sufficient to address effects.

Kapa'a Stream is the only stream in the vicinity of the Kapa'a industrial site that could be affected. Stormwater management measures for the industrial expansion would minimize effects on Kapa'a Stream by reducing sediment, debris, and pollutants (e.g. oil). Filter units would remove over 80% of pollutants, thereby meeting LEED Silver certification. The Kawainui project does not include wetland restoration or upland reforestation improvements impacting Kapa'a Stream. Therefore, there would be no significant cumulative impacts to this stream with the project.

There should be no significant cumulative impacts to the watershed area affected by the industrial expansion and the proposed project at Kawainui. The Kawainui wetland has effectively served this watershed area that includes the industrial site along with the City transfer

station, landfill, and airplane park. Project improvements would continue this function even with the industrial expansion. As discussed in Section 3.4.1, the project would improve the functionality of the watershed by enhancing the wetland's important hydrologic function of regulating the movement of water within this area of the watershed before discharging into Kailua Bay. Design measures for the industrial expansion would also minimize effects on the watershed.

Water quality samples show that the Kawainui wetland is naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Even with the existing industrial uses mauka of this area of Kawainui, there were no significant water quality issues arising from the sampling. Drainage improvements from the light industrial expansion would minimize development effects and reduce pollutants by 80% to meet LEED Silver certification. Thus, there should be no significant cumulative effects from the proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities coupled with the light industrial expansion.

These efforts within the project area contribute cumulatively to other watershed management efforts within windward O'ahu and island-wide. The project area is located within the designated Ko'olau Poko watershed area, which was the subject of the Ko'olau Poko Watershed Management Plan (KPWMP) (Townscape, Inc., 2012). The KPWMP is part of a comprehensive O'ahu-wide watershed management effort. The recommendations of the KPWMP include promoting a sustainable watershed, protect water quality, and native Hawaiian rights and customary practices. The KPWMP specifically mentions and endorses the ongoing watershed management efforts at Kawainui and Hāmākua. Other KPWMP recommendations include controlling illegal dumping, native plant propagation, control of alien species, feral pig control, and restoration of forested area, all of which are included in project initiatives. Within the larger context of the island of O'ahu, the project supports the O'ahu-wide watershed management objectives to promote sustainable watersheds, protect and enhance water quality and quantity, and to protect native Hawaiian rights and traditional and customary practice.

The majority of the industrial expansion site is located within Zone D (undetermined flood hazards). A drainage channel along a section of Kapa'a Quarry Road near the mouth of Kapa'a Stream is identified as a flood area being inundated at times by heavy rainfall. No development is planned within this flood area (drainage channel) (SD&C, 2011). Therefore, development would not have a significant impact on flood hazards, and storm water design measures would minimize impacts to Kapa'a Stream and the Kawainui wetland. Wetland restoration planned within this northern section of Kawainui would be minimal, and there would be no significant cumulative impact on flood hazards or flooding in the general area.

Biological Resources. The cumulative impact of the wetland and upland improvements, upgraded DOFAW management station, and the current and future efforts of community partners, volunteers and cultural practitioners would enhance the restoration and long-term survival of the area's biological resources. The proposed removal of invasive vegetation, creation of mud flat habitat, improved water quality, and more robust predator control would have long-

Kapa'a Stream is the only stream in the vicinity of the Kapa'a industrial site that could be affected. The Final EIS for the industrial expansion discussed several measures to minimize and mitigate effects from stormwater (sediments, nutrients, and suspended solids). The industrial expansion stormwater management measures would minimize effects on Kapa'a Stream by reducing sediment, debris, and pollutants (e.g. oil). Filter units would remove over 80% of pollutants meeting the LEED Silver certification. Kawainui improvements do not include wetland restoration or upland reforestation improvements impacting Kapa'a Stream. Thus, there would be no significant cumulative impacts to this stream.

There should be no significant cumulative impacts to the watershed area that includes the industrial expansion site and Kawainui. The Kawainui wetland effectively serves this watershed area that includes the industrial site along with the City transfer station, landfill, and airplane park. As discussed in Section 3.4.1, the proposed project would improve the function of the watershed by enhancing the wetland's important hydrologic function of regulating the movement of water before discharging into Kailua Bay. The industrial expansion design measures would also minimize effects on the watershed.

Water quality samples show that Kawainui naturally functions as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Even with the existing industrial uses above this area of Kawainui, there were no significant water quality issues identified from the sampling. Drainage improvements from the light industrial expansion would reduce pollutants by 80% to meet LEED Silver certification. The cultural center and vegetation processing sites would not significantly impact water quality based upon the assessment addressing stormwater runoff and wastewater restroom facilities. Thus, no significant cumulative effects are expected from the proposed project and the light industrial expansion.

Aquatic resources should not be adversely impacted by the proposed project and industrial expansion due to the proposed stormwater management design measures. Further, the body of water in the wetland covered by a layer of peat is biologically dead (except for bacteria). Without light penetration, oxygen cannot be generated by aquatic algae, and the subsurface of the wetland supports no invertebrates (such as aquatic insects and prawns) or vertebrates (such as fishes) over most of this area along with the broader Kawainui wetland area.

Historic and Cultural Resources. The proposed project structures ~~and trails~~ below the industrial expansion area are expected to have positive cumulative impacts on historic resources, and contribute to sustaining the cultural significance of Kawainui and Hāmākua. No historic sites would be adversely affected by the physical structures planned by the industrial expansion, cultural center, and vegetation processing sites. The provision of limited pedestrian trails will make historic and cultural resources within Kawainui accessible for public appreciation and facilitate access for maintenance and restoration activities that have been ongoing for years. The creation of new areas for cultural practice and education will build upon the efforts at Ulupō and Nā Pōhaku, existing partnerships with schools and non-profit organizations, as well as larger cultural endeavors such as the Hōkūle'a Mālama Honua, whose crew visited the project area in

HIKA'ALANI

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February 6, 2018

Ronald A. Sato, AICP
Senior Associate, HHF Planners
Via Email: rsato@hhf.com

C: Ms. Marigold Zoll
O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager, State of Hawai'i
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Via Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Aloha Mr. Sato,

The Calling
I feel the mana emerging from the
heiau, the sacred place
I hear the mo'olelo of my ancestors
calling to me like a mother speaking to her child
I smell the light stench of the marsh
I taste the sweetness of the sugar cane
I ate earlier, it was a sweet day in one bite…
I taste the freshness of nature
I feel joy knowing that people are restoring
a part of Hawaiian history
I know now it's time to begin.
— [name redacted] Kailua Intermediate School, Oct. 1, 2017

The poem above was written by a Kailua Intermediate School 8th grader after a four-hour session of ceremonial eating, lo'i clearing, kalo learning, and mo'olelo sharing on the grounds of Ulupō Heiau under the direction of Hika'alani staff members Kaleo Wong, Maya Saffery, and Ryan Ueunten.

Our poet and his classmates walked to Ulupō and back from their KIS campus (and did not, therefore, contribute to the Kukanono traffic and parking issues). They are part of an ongoing walk-and-learn relationship that we have "developed" with this school and that is becoming part of its STE(A)M curriculum.

The poem speaks to what we've been doing at Kawainui for the last three years and of what we plan to be doing there for years, for generations, to come. As Kaleo is fond of saying, of all that we endeavor at Ulupō, the most important is growing kids to become the aloha ʻāina stewards of this land; kids who come to the personal realization that "now it's time to begin."

This is the kind of development that we advocate; it has nothing to do with a tourist invasion, nothing to do with commercialization, disruption, elitism, degradation of environment, or any of the other accusations that have been leveled at us by critics of the Master Plan – critics who, to the best of our knowledge, have never visited us at Ulupō to experience, first hand, the work of restoration, reclamation, and revitalization that has occurred there during our brief tenure.

No ia mea he aloha ʻāina (for this reason, for this love of that which feeds us) the board of directors of Hikaʻalani would like to express its ongoing and unanimous support for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS as released in December 2017.

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of land, culture, and identity at Kawainui. We are educators, scholars, and practitioners of Hawaiian culture with deep-rooted ties to our Kailua home. As such, we are especially appreciative of the plan's continued, cool-headed recognition of the critical role that a permanent Hawaiian cultural presence must play in the stewardship of Kawainui if it is to become, again, the thriving, life-giving piko of our ahupuaʻa.

The Kawainui DEIS identifies the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC) and ʻAhahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi (AML) as the curators of Ulupō. In fact, Hikaʻalani has taken-on that volunteer agreement with the State of Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks as of December 20, 2017.

This was done in compliance with a directive from the State Attorney General who ruled against co-curatorships; it was done, as well, with the support of KHCC and AML and with the understanding that we are all partner organizations that will continue to work together and kākoʻo each other because of our shared vision and love for Kawainui.

We offer below a list of the groups we've worked with this year:

- Schools: Kailua Intermediate School, Trinity Christian School, Kalāheo High School, Ka'ōhao Charter School, Hui Mālama o ke Kai Charter School, Kamehameha Schools, Punahou School, 'Iolani, Semester at Sea, Windward Community College, University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Pacific University
- Youth Groups: Kailua Mustangs, Windward YMCA, Boy Scouts of America
- Community & Cultural groups: Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Ka Lei Papahi o Kakuhihewa, Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima, Board and Stone in Every Home, Pacific American Foundation, Paepae o He'eia, Hale Kealoha 'Ai Pono, Hui Mālama i ke Ala 'Ūlili, Ho'okua'āina, Kailua Canoe Club, and Mālama Honua Huaka'i.
- Women's Community Correctional Center
- Restoration specialist groups Kupu, NALU, and Dawson.
- First Nations' Futures Program: Papa Mau cohort

A more thorough documentation of our work can be found on the Hika'alani facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/hikaalani96734/timeline) and Hika'alani website (http://hikaalani.website/index.html). We offer these links and the summary above in order to provide evidence of Ulupō as a successful model for the Hawaiian cultural presence that we envision for all of Kawainui. In essence, we see Kawainui itself as an again-thriving fishpond and food-provider around which are clustered marae of specific, specialized purpose.

Marae, as we understand it, refers to a sacred enclosure that consists of an open, ceremonial space (marae ākea) and a cluster of hale that serves the cultural needs of the kānaka honua (native people) of that place. The largest hale at a marae is meant to gather its people in the embrace of their ancestors; it is, in fact, a physical manifestation of those ancestors. The smaller, auxiliary spaces (sometimes attached to the hale nui, sometimes free-standing) include cooking, instructional, caretaker, and restroom facilities. Often, but not always – a marae is also home to a pā ilina or urupā, a burial ground.

A marae, as we understand it, is defined by place and presence. A marae is a place designed by its people to bind its people to who they are. It is a place of refuge, continuity, and regeneration for these people. It is a place where they are most uncompromisingly present. Their marae is central to their cultural identity, especially when their identity is threatened by those who would discredit and marginalize them. It cannot be a marae if it is defined for them by others. Nor can it be a marae if its use is regulated for them by others.

Marae is a Maori word. Its specific Hawaiian language equivalent is *malae* (a cleared space), but its more accurate connotative equivalents include *pu'uhonua* (place of refuge), *kīpuka* (oasis of continuity in a landscape of change), and *piko* (center, nexus, connection point). We envision each of the proposed Hawaiian educating/sharing/practicing centers at Kawainui – the gathering place below the transfer station, the canoe facility below Kalāheo School, the center for performance and literary excellence at Wai'auia, and the garden-temple at Ulupō – as marae, pu'uhonua, kīpuka, and piko, each with its own cluster of hard and soft spaces, each facing and serving the largest and most inspiring of our marae ākea: Kawainui itself. Together these places of regeneration embrace us, and we them, and allow for the fullest expression and transmission of who we are.

The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS of December 2017 – though not a complete expression of our desire for a permanent and thriving Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui – was produced with Hawaiian community input, does accommodate our vision of a "permanent, thriving presence," does credit us with leadership and integrity, and definitely gives us the opportunity to pursue our vision in our own generation. For this we are most grateful.

'O au nō me ka ha'aha'a,

Tanya Pi'ilani Alston

Tanya Pi'ilani Alston

Hika'alani Board of Directors 2018
President: Tanya Alston. Vice President: Kahulu De Santos. Secretary-Treasurer: Melody MacKenzie.
Directors: Kauka de Silva, Momi Ramolete, Maya Saffery

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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Tanya Pi'ilani Alston
Hika'alani

Via Email: halauhikaalani@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Alston:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter emailed on February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your letter's comments.

1. *The Calling*

I feel the mana emerging from the heiau, the sacred place
I hear the mo'olelo of my ancestors
calling to me like a mother speaking to her child
I smell the light stench of tbe marsh
I taste the sweetness of the sugar cane
I ate earlier, it was a sweet day in one bite...
I taste the freshness of nature
I feel joy knowing that people are restoring a part of Hawaiian history
I know now it's time to begin.
-[name redacted] Kailua Intermediate School, Oct. 1, 2017

The poem above was written by a Kailua Intermediate School 8th grader after a four-hour session of ceremonial eating, lo'i clearing, kalo learning, and mo'olelo sharing on the grounds of Ulupo Heiau under the direction of Hika'alani staff members Kaleo Wong, Maya Saffery, and Ryan Ueunten.

Response: Thank you for sharing the poem written by an 8th grader that stemmed from a session at Ulupō Heiau with Hika'alani staff members. We believe restoration efforts and proposed improvements would continue providing inspiration and other benefits to students and adults.

2. *Our poet and his classmates walked to Ulupo and back from their KIS campus (and did not, therefore, contribute to the Kukanono traffic and parking issues). They are part of an ongoing walk-and-learn relationship that we have "developed" with this school and that is becoming part of its STE(A)M curriculum.*

   The poem speaks to what we've been doing at Kawainui for the last three years and of what we plan to be doing there for years, for generations, to come. As Kaleo is fond of saying, of all that we endeavor at Ulupo, the most important is growing kids to become the aloha 'aina stewards of this land; kids who come to the personal realization that "now it's time to begin."

   This is the kind of development that we advocate; it has nothing to do with a tourist invasion, nothing to do with commercialization, disruption, elitism, degradation of environment, or any of the other accusations that have been leveled at us by critics of the Master Plan- critics who, to the best of our knowledge, have never visited us at Ulupo to experience, first hand, the work of restoration, reclamation, and revitalization that has occurred there during our brief tenure.

   Response: The State DLNR appreciates the effort school students took upon themselves to walk to Ulupō Heiau and back to minimize traffic and parking activities that have been concerns raised by some Kūkanono residents. We are pleased to see such innovations incorporated into educational programs, and these activities incorporated into STE(A)M curriculum. The proposed project would support these types of programs and activities.

   The State DLNR also acknowledges and appreciates your organization's commitment to Kawainui. It is important to recognize the importance of children serving as the future stewards of the land. Education and cultural practices are important components of the project.

   We concur that project plans are reasonable and include improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. It is unlikely that Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent some in the community fear. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed.

3. *No ia mea he aloha 'aina (for this reason, for this love of that which feeds us) the board of directors of Hika'alani would like to express its ongoing and unanimous support for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS as released in December 2017.*

   We are a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of land, culture, and identity at Kawainui. We are educators, scholars, and practitioners of Hawaiian culture with deep-rooted ties to our Kailua home. As such, we are especially appreciative of the plan's continued, cool- headed recognition of the critical role that a permanent Hawaiian cultural presence must play in the stewardship of Kawainui if it is to become, again, the thriving, life-giving piko of our ahupua'a.

   Response: The State DLNR acknowledges the unanimous support for the project expressed by the Board of Directors of Hika'alani. The project, will support the opportunity to establish

a permanent Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui and increase stewardship partnerships with the State.

4. *The Kawainui DEIS identifies the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC) and 'Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi (AML) as the curators of Ulupō. In fact, Hika'alani has taken-on that volunteer agreement with the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks as of December 20, 2017. This was done in compliance with a directive from the State Attorney General who ruled against co-curatorships; it was done, as well, with the support of KHCC and AML and with the understanding that we are all partner organizations that will continue to work together and kako'o each other because of our shared vision and love for Kawainui.*
Response: Thank you for updating us that Hika'alani is the current curator of Ulupō Heiau, and that this change was executed with the support of 'Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, who will continue to work together at Kawainui. We appreciate the work that all these organizations have been doing at Ulupō Heiau.

5. *We offer below a list of the groups we've worked with this year:*
    - *Schools: Kailua Intermediate School, Trinity Christian School, Kalaheo High School, Ka'ohao Charter School, Hui Malama o ke Kai Charter School , Kamehameha Schools, Punahou School, 'Iolani, Semester at Sea, Windward Community College, University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Pacific University*
    - *Youth Groups: Kailua Mustangs, Windward YMCA, Boy Scouts of America*
    - *Community & Cultural groups: Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Ka Lei Papahi o Kakuhihewa, Halau Mohala 'Ilima, Board and Stone in Every Home, Pacific American Foundation, Paepae o He'eia, Hale Kealoha 'Ai Pono, Hui Malama ike Ala 'Ulili, Ho'okua'aina, Kailua Canoe Club, and Malama Honua Huaka'i.*
    - *Women's Community Correctional Center*
    - *Restoration specialist groups Kupu, NALU, and Dawson.*
    - *First Nations' Futures Program: Papa Mau cohort*

    A more thorough documentation of our work can be found on the Hika'alani facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/hikaalani96734/timeline) and Hika'alani website (http://hikaalani.website/index.html). We offer these links and the summary above in order to provide evidence of Ulupo as a successful model for the Hawaiian cultural presence that we envision for all of Kawainui. In essence, we see Kawainui itself as an again-thriving fishpond and food- provider around which are clustered marae of specific, specialized purpose.
    Response: Thank you for sharing the list of the many groups that Hika'alani has worked with this year. Such widespread participation by schools, universities, and non-profit organizations in educational and cultural programs at Kawainui is an example of the activities the project desires to support and expand. We agree the accomplishments at Ulupō Heiau serve as a successful example of a Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui.

6. *Marae, as we understand it, refers to a sacred enclosure that consists of an open, ceremonial space (marae ākea) and a cluster of hale that serves the cultural needs of the kanaka Honua (native people) of that place. The largest hale at a marae is meant to gather its people in the embrace of their ancestors; it is, in fact, a physical manifestation of those ancestors. The*

smaller, auxiliary spaces (sometimes attached to the hale nui, sometimes free-standing) include cooking, instructional, caretaker, and restroom facilities. Often, but not always - a marae is also home to a pa ilina or urupa, a burial ground.

A marae, as we understand it, is defined by place and presence. A marae is a place designed by its people to bind its people to who they are. It is a place of refuge, continuity, and regeneration for these people. It is a place where they are most uncompromisingly present. Their marae is central to their cultural identity, especially when their identity is threatened by those who would discredit and marginalize them. It cannot be a marae if it is defined for them by others. Nor can it be a marae if its use is regulated for them by others.

Marae is a Maori word. Its specific Hawaiian language equivalent is malae (a cleared space), but its more accurate connotative equivalents include pu'uhonua (place of refuge), kīpuka (oasis of continuity in a landscape of change), and piko (center, nexus, connection point). We envision each of the proposed Hawaiian educating/sharing/practicing centers at Kawainui-the gathering place below the transfer station, the canoe facility below Kalaheo School, the center for performance and literary excellence at Wai'auia, and the garden-temple at Ulupo-as marae, pu'uhonua, kīpuka, and piko, each with its own cluster of hard and soft spaces, each facing and serving the largest and most inspiring of our marae ākea: Kawainui itself. Together these places of regeneration embrace us, and we them, and allow for the fullest expression and transmission of who we are.
Response: Thank you for information clarifying marae and the elements associated with it defining place and presence. The project supports such cultural practices and the establishment of a permanent presence at Kawainui where non-profit organizations can support DOFAW's stewardship efforts, and further educational and cultural programs desired by both DOFAW and DSP. Thank you for supporting the project's plans to provide opportunities for establishing cultural centers around Kawainui, which would support a marae.

Unfortunately, DSP has decided to remove the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site due to concerns from neighbors and the community. However, the other areas designated around Kawainui remain, and would support a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui.

7. *The Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS of December 2017-though not a complete expression of our desire for a permanent and thriving Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui- was produced with Hawaiian community input, does accommodate our vision of a "permanent, thriving presence," does credit us with leadership and integrity, and definitely gives us the opportunity to pursue our vision in our own generation. For this we are most grateful.*
Response: We acknowledge your support for the projeet, and agree that it would allow for a permanent and thriving Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui. The State DLNR acknowledges the input received from the Hawaiian community throughout this planning process.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop St., Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Testimony of Hui Kailua Kawainui Ka Wai Ola
Regarding: The Kawainui Hāmākua Master Plan DEIS

Aloha Mr. Sato,

The Boardmembers of Hui Kailua Kawainui Ka Wai Ola resoundingly support the current Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan DEIS because this plan is in accordance with the mission and goals of our organization. We are working group focused on restoration and health of the Kailua ahupuaʻa watershed, of which Kawainui and Hāmākau wetlands are predominate features. Specific projects such as the creation of buffer zones/rain gardens to protect the Kailua watershed support for sustainability measures such as kalo agriculture and aquaculture at Kawainui, environmental education, watershed research and education, hydrologic research and education, and acquiring the wetlands of Maunawili for preservation are goals of our organization. The master plan would help us achieve these goals.

We are concerned about the years of neglect and abuse suffered by the wetlands of Kawainui and its deterioration to swamp-like conditions. We are concerned about the destruction of wetland bird habitats, lowland native forest loss, the tremendous loss of native fish and other aquatic life, the proliferation of invasive species, the lack of knowledge about the geological history and other scientific findings at Kawainui, the loss of knowledge of the moʻolelo of Kawainui, the ignorance about the ancient history of native Hawaiian culture at Kawainui and how the involvement of native Hawaiians at Kawainui today is key to its restoration and preservation. Because of this, the master plan needs to be implemented so that restoration of the wetlands occurs, so that organizations actively involved in healing Kawainui are supported, and more educational programs can be provided and facilitated.

Hui Kailua-Kawainui Ka Wai Ola has been meeting for three years and learning from experts invited to speak at our meetings, as well as from each other, about the best ways to restore and protect water resources and wetlands. Our board members and meeting attendees include educators, scientists, environmentalists, conservationists, kalo farmers, cultural practitioners, experts in eco-technology hydrologic systems, and University professors, researchers, and graduate students. Most have been involved with watershed/wetland education, cultural education and cultural practices, research projects, and restoration projects at Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes. Components of the master plan that support place-based learning about wetlands, education about endangered native

Hawaiian birds, natural resources, and native Hawaiian culture are essential features necessary to achieving the goal of restoring and preserving the health of the watershed. The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan includes restoration of the wetlands of Kailua as well as features such as research facilities, a cultural center, an education center, plant nurseries, and trails which are crucial to achieving the goal of restoring and preserving the health of the Kailua ahupuaʻa watershed. Therefore, we support this State master plan that provides the framework and pieces to achieve that end.

Sincerely,

Charles Peʻapeʻa Makawalu K. Burrows, Chairman
Bill Sager, Vice President
Paul Brennan, Treasurer
Beth Anderson, Recorder

ENDORSEMENT OF THE KAWAINUI/HAMAKUA MARSH MASTER COMPLEX PLAN

The following organizations and individuals support and endorse The Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh Master Complex Plan in its entirety because of the following invaluable educational, recreational, cultural, and environmental components that will be achieved if it is implemented:

*Restoration of the wetland ponds, thus opening up habitats for endangered birds, fish, and estuary organisms.

*Educational access and an increase in the quality and quantity of existing programs by providing education facilities, research facilities, bird viewing platforms, and trails and pavilions for hands-on learning experiences.

*A Native Hawaiian presence, along with native Hawaiian cultural/educational centers at the marsh which are key to its restoration and preservation, the continuation of educational and stewardship programs, preservation of cultural sites there, and sustainability measures such as ancient Hawaiian agricultural and fishpond aquaculture.

The plan confirms, not denigrates, this wetland and will restore it to some of its ancient preeminence. It has survived centuries of use, neglect and abuse, but still functions as a living organism, waiting to be restored and protected. It deserves to be shared, not fenced off, or relegated to secondary status. It deserves the respect and restorative efforts that the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Complex Plan provides and sanctions.

ʻAhahui Mālama I ka Lōkahi
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Conservation Council for Hawaiʻi
Derek Esibill, Watershed Investigative Research Education program
Hālau Mōhala ʻIlima
Hikaʻalani
Hui Maunawili-Kawainui Coalition
Hui Kailua-Kawainui Ka Wai Ola

Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director, Blue Planet Foundation
Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
Kailua Historical Society
Pacific American Foundation
Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, Executive Committee
The Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Charles Pe'ape'a Makawalu K. Burrows, Chairman
Hui Kailua Kawainui Ka Wai Ola

Mr. Bill Sager, Vice President
Mr. Paul Brennan, Treasurer
Ms. Beth Anderson

Via Email: kailua5@aol.com

Dear Mr. Burrows and Organization Members:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your comments.

1. *The Boardmembers of Hui Kailua Kawainui Ka Wai Ola resoundingly support the current Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan DEIS because this plan is in accordance with the mission and goals of our organization. We are working group focused on restoration and health of the Kailua ahupua'a watershed, of which Kawainui and Hāmākau wetlands are predominate features. Specific projects such as the creation of buffer zones/rain gardens to protect the Kailua watershed support for sustainability measures such as kalo agriculture and aquaculture at Kawainui, environmental education, watershed research and education, hydrologic research and education, and acquiring the wetlands of Maunawili for preservation are goals of our organization. The master plan would help us achieve these goals.*

   Response: Thank you for the Board's support of the proposed project discussed in the DEIS. We acknowledge that planned improvements support your organization's mission and goals. We appreciate information shared on the organization's activities and goals, and concur the project would support the restoration and health of Kawainui and Hāmākua while providing educational and cultural programming opportunities.

2. *We are concerned about the years of neglect and abuse suffered by the wetlands of Kawainui and its deterioration to swamp-like conditions. We are concerned about the destruction of wetland bird habitats, lowland native forest loss, the tremendous loss of native fish and other aquatic life, the proliferation of invasive species, the lack of knowledge about the geological history and other scientific findings at Kawainui, the loss of knowledge of the mo'olelo of Kawainui, the ignorance about the ancient history of native Hawaiian culture at Kawainui and how the involvement of native Hawaiians at Kawainui today is key to its restoration and preservation. Because of this, the master plan needs to be implemented so that restoration of the wetlands occurs, so that organizations actively involved in healing Kawainui are supported, and more educational programs can be provided and facilitated.*
Response: DOFAW and DSP both share your concerns with the deterioration of Kawainui's wetland over the years, including the proliferation of invasive vegetation and effects on waterbird habitat and aquatic life. The project includes several improvements to restore the wetland and implement upland reforestation. As discussed in several sections of the DEIS, the project would improve waterbird habitat, improve conditions for aquatic resources, and support cultural practices and educational programs. We also recognize the importance of increasing knowledge about Kawainui, and the project provides opportunities to expand programs and support managed public access. The importance of native Hawaiian history and culture at Kawainui is acknowledged, and the involvement of organizations to restore Kawainui and conducting educational and cultural programs are appreciated. DOFAW and DSP view such partnerships as beneficial, and increase needed stewardship of this resource. We concur that it is important for project improvements to be implemented to further restoration activities already occurring, support increased educational programming, and support a permanent Hawaiian presence at Kawainui.

3. *Hui Kailua-Kawainui Ka Wai Ola has been meeting for three years and learning from experts invited to speak at our meetings, as well as from each other, about the best ways to restore and protect water resources and wetlands. Our board members and meeting attendees include educators, scientists, environmentalists, conservationists, kalo farmers, cultural practitioners, experts in eco-technology hydrologic systems, and University professors, researchers, and graduate students. Most have been involved with watershed/wetland education, cultural education and cultural practices, research projects, and restoration projects at Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes. Components of the master plan that support place-based learning about wetlands, education about endangered native Hawaiian birds, natural resources, and native Hawaiian culture are essential features necessary to achieving the goal of restoring and preserving the health of the watershed. The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan includes restoration of the wetlands of Kailua as well as features such as research facilities, a cultural center, an education center, plant nurseries, and trails which are crucial to achieving the goal of restoring and preserving the health of the Kailua ahupua'a watershed. Therefore, we support this State master plan that provides the framework and pieces to achieve that end.*
Response: We acknowledge your organization's interest and participation in various activities at Kawainui, and the diverse background of your Board and other associated members. We concur that project improvements supporting place-based learning of Kawainui and Hāmākua's resources and wildlife are important to increase public awareness and knowledge of this resource. Increasing public awareness supports efforts to further

restore this resource and achieve other project objectives (e.g. increased public access, cultural practices).

We concur that the project includes improvements, (parking areas, restrooms, etc.) that would support these efforts and objectives. Planned educational centers would provide opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui and support stewardship of areas and educational and cultural programs. Due to community concerns with increased public access and visitors, DSP may construct more modest improvements in the interim consisting of on-site parking, restrooms, and open shelter (e.g. pavilion) instead of the education center. Such improvements would support educational and cultural programs.

We appreciate your support for this project, and believe it provides the framework for achieving the goals and objectives of your organization and the State DLNR. Thank you for including the position paper endorsing support for the project, which included a diverse list of organizations, including the Sierra Club of Hawai'i and Blue Planet Foundation.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Kailua

HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB
P.O. Box 1123, Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com
cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Aloha Mr. Sato,

We have a saying which, in its simplest form, tells us "huli ka lima i lalo, 'ai ka waha." When we turn our hands down in work, we will have food to eat. The Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club tries very hard to be a hands-down organization: we hold almost all of our monthly meetings at Ulupō, and these meetings are almost always dedicated to the work of clearing, weeding, planting, tending, pruning, and – above all – honoring that sacred place. The food we eat is quite often the taro of Ulupō's now-thriving lo'i, but even more significantly, it is the reward of knowing that we have helped to reclaim a place that feeds our souls. It causes us great pain, therefore, when we have to defend our efforts against the mostly spurious accusations of people we have never seen at Ulupō, people who do not know how its mud feels between their fingers and toes, people who do not turn their hands down in any other manner than to type unfounded nonsense into their favorite social media pages.

We appreciate that the current Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017) carefully and thoroughly addresses the "development" issues (tourism, buildings, parking lots, privatization, commercialization, traffic, homeless, pollution, management, and enforcement) that continue to concern so many members of our quick-to-react, slow-to-listen community. We have, in fact recommended that all of our civic club members share the letter/response section of the DEIS with their own families and associates: it addresses point-by-point, in clear and convincing fashion, the realities of the plan as opposed to its boogie-man doppelgänger.

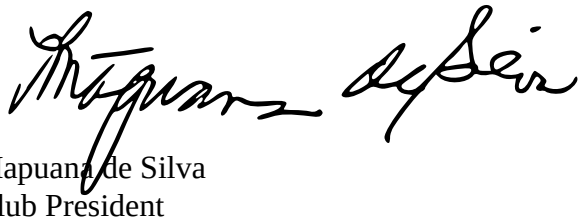
We especially appreciate the DEIS inclusion of our Article XII rights under the State Constitution, as well as its support of native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources as stipulated in the DSP and DOFAW core-value statements. We also appreciate, and would like to reiterate, the DEIS mention of the unanimous approval, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, of our own club's resolution in support of the Draft Master Plan. This is not small potatoes; it represents the 58-club, 600-member voice of native Hawaiians from all over our islands and the continental U.S.

This, then, is a letter that reaffirms our ongoing, long-term endorsement of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan and its current DEIS iteration. We endorse it with hope, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to making it work.

We have said this before, but it bears repeating: we need to care for the bones of our ancestors. We need to honor our gods and keep their dwelling places in good order. We need to grow the food that is our older brother. We need to conduct our ceremonies, dance our dances, chant our chants, and tell our stories. And we need to teach all of this to our children and grandchildren so that they are not lost to us.

The Master Plan provides us with the opportunity for permanent presence and real stewardship. It allows us to be more than visitors in the heart of our own homeland. And this, we believe, is a right to which we are entitled and a challenge for which we are well-prepared.

Me ka haʻahaʻa,



Mapuana de Silva
Club President
kumumapuana@gmail.com

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Mapuana de Silva, President
Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
P.O. Box 1123
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. de Silva:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *We have a saying which, in its simplest form, tells us "huli ka lima i lalo, 'ai ka waha." When we turn our hands down in work, we will have food to eat. The Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club tries very hard to be a hands-down organization: we hold almost all of our monthly meetings at Ulupō, and these meetings are almost always dedicated to the work of clearing, weeding, planting, tending, pruning, and – above all – honoring that sacred place. The food we eat is quite often the taro of Ulupō's now- thriving lo'i, but even more significantly, it is the reward of knowing that we have helped to reclaim a place that feeds our souls. It causes us great pain, therefore, when we have to defend our efforts against the mostly spurious accusations of people we have never seen at Ulupō, people who do not know how its mud feels between their fingers and toes, people who do not turn their hands down in any other manner than to type unfounded nonsense into their favorite social media pages.*
   Response: The State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP acknowledge the efforts of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club over the years to restore and improve Kawainui and the Ulupō Heiau. The considerable improvements at that site, the thriving lo'i, and using the Ulupō Heiau site for Civic Club meetings demonstrates the organization's commitment. It is unfortunate that some members of the community do not understand ongoing activities at Ulupō Heiau, and instead rely on social media or other communication forums for information that does not accurately reflect the project.

2. *We appreciate that the current Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017) carefully and thoroughly addresses the "development" issues (tourism, buildings, parking lots, privatization, commercialization, traffic, homeless, pollution, management, and enforcement) that continue to concern so many members of our quick-to-react, slow-to-listen community. We have, in fact recommended that all of our civic club members share the letter/response section of the DEIS with their own families and associates: it addresses point-by-point, in clear and convincing fashion, the realities of the plan as opposed to its boogie-man doppelgänger.*
   Response: The DEIS carefully and thoroughly addresses community concerns regarding development issues, primarily those associated with increased public access and visitors to Kawainui. It is beneficial that the DEIS was shared with your civic club members for review to better understand concerns and issues expressed by others, and how the project proposes to mitigate and address them.

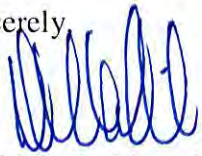
3. *We especially appreciate the DEIS inclusion of our Article XII rights under the State Constitution, as well as its support of native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources as stipulated in the DSP and DOFAW core-value statements. We also appreciate, and would like to reiterate, the DEIS mention of the unanimous approval, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, of our own club's resolution in support of the Draft Master Plan. This is not small potatoes; it represents the 58-club, 600-member voice of native Hawaiians from all over our islands and the continental U.S.*
   Response: We note your acknowledgement that the DEIS addresses Article XII of the State Constitution, and that native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources are important objectives of the project. The project includes improvements and provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to support cultural practices. We appreciate the unanimous approval given by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supporting this project, and recognize the importance and magnitude of this support.

4. *This, then, is a letter that reaffirms our ongoing, long-term endorsement of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan and its current DEIS iteration. We endorse it with hope, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to making it work.*
   We have said this before, but it bears repeating: we need to care for the bones of our ancestors. We need to honor our gods and keep their dwelling places in good order. We need to grow the food that is our older brother. We need to conduct our ceremonies, dance our dances, chant our chants, and tell our stories. And we need to teach all of this to our children and grandchildren so that they are not lost to us.
   The Master Plan provides us with the opportunity for permanent presence and real stewardship. It allows us to be more than visitors in the heart of our own homeland. And this, we believe, is a right to which we are entitled and a challenge for which we are well-prepared.
   Response: Thank you for supporting the improvements proposed in the DEIS, which are intended to enhance continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices.

The State DLNR is committed to moving forward with improvements that are needed and would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State. DOFAW and DSP look forward to the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club's continued support and commitment to Ulupō Heiau and Kawainui. The project provides the native Hawaiian community with an opportunity to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui, and would enrich stewardship partnerships with non-profit organizations that would benefit Kawainui.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com
cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Aloha Mr. Sato,

Kailua Kau a Hoʻoilo was founded in 2006 by Native Hawaiians of the Kailua community whose multi-generational ties to this ʻahupuaʻa are defined in Hawaiʻi State burial rules as "cultural descendancy." Our group consists of members of the Mahoe, Kaniaupio, Boyd, Olds, Kaanaana, Burrows, Kekuewa, Nahalau, Kailikapuolono, de Silva, Kailiewa, Howell, Saffery, and Wong families – many of us can trace their Kailua ancestry to the time of the Mahele; several are able to reach back as far as Kualii and Kakuhihewa. We are a council of equals. We have no board of directors, no constitution and by-laws, no office, logo, or letterhead. We welcome all who are similarly connected and committed to our single purpose. That purpose is to *mālama i nā iwi kūpuna*, to care for the bones of our ancestors in our home district. We hold to the belief that these iwi are sacred, that they contain – in perpetuity – the essence of the people to whom they belong, that they are entitled to *moe kau a hoʻoilo* (undisturbed sleep for all time), and that disturbing iwi and their resting places is equally a disruption of the harmony that should exist between the land and generations past, present, and future.

In short, we hold to the belief that disturbance is desecration. We are, therefore, fundamentally opposed to actions that threaten our iwi with exposure, damage, removal, and relocation. In the last eleven years, we have worked on dozens of projects (Target, Whole Foods, First Hawaiian Bank, 151 Hekili, 143 Hekili, Lauhala Shops, Central Pacific Bank, Boys and Girls Club, Ka Malanai I and II, Board of Water and Hawaiian Electric infrastructure improvements on shoreline roads from Kapoho Point to Wailea Point, Kihapai Apartments, Kainalu Elementary School, Atherton Pre-School) with more than a dozen developers, private land-owners, businesses, state agencies, and archaeology firms in a reasonably successful effort to: 1) avoid disturbance to iwi kūpuna whenever possible, 2) preserve-in-place when disturbance, nevertheless, occurs, 3) relocate iwi to appropriate burial preserves when preserve-in-place invites further desecration, and 4) treat our iwi kūpuna at all times with the utmost, culturally informed respect.

In these eleven years of working on iwi kūpuna issues in Kailua, we have convinced many developers, large and small, to avoid the desecration of ancestral remains by making every effort to stay out of the ground. Projects like 151 Hekili, First Hawaiian Bank, Whole Foods, Target, and Central Pacific Bank are built, in large part, on

imported fill and spread footings. Target employs an innovative “bump” in its parking lot to keep a fire line out of sensitive ground; FHB repositioned its building and re-designed its drive-thru lane and sewage line in order to avoid ground penetration in an equally sensitive area; Ka Malanai I features a modified storm drain and a completely redesigned “notch" in one of its buildings to avoid the preserved-in-place burials below; Atherton Pre-School is installing a new building on above-ground footings to avoid potential discoveries of iwi below; in order to completely eliminate the need for an AIS, a private developer on Kailua Beach has agreed to eliminate four swimming pools from her construction plans and to build (and run utility lines) entirely on imported fill. These projects demonstrate the potential for the coexistence of construction and iwi kūpuna when consultation, care, ingenuity, and innovation are integral to the planning process.

I say this to give the weight of experience to my contention that **the Kawainu-Hamakua Project Master Plan DEIS does not pose an inordinate danger to our iwi kūpuna**. We know that our kūpuna were buried in considerable numbers in the Jaucus sands of Kailua, sands that lie ma kai of Kaʻiwa Ridge, Kaʻelepulu, Puʻuoehu, and Kawainui We have little or no evidence that our kūpuna were buried ma uka of these sands along the inland perimeter of Kawainui. This does not preclude the possibility of their discovery in those Master Plan areas where ground disturbance is proposed, but it certainly suggests that the current Kau a Hoʻoilo protocols for construction in lower Kailua, if followed at Kawainui, will continue to protect our iwi kūpuna to the fullest extent possible. Kailua Kau a Hoʻoilo has every intention of holding the State to these protocols, of being present at planning meetings, construction sites, SHPD offices, and Oʻahu Burial Council hālāwai.

We try not to talk much in public because we believe that it is culturally inappropriate to discuss iwi kūpuna with those who are not directly involved. We try not to “hang them out in the sun” for all to see. I find it necessary, however, to address the following misinterpretations of the Kawainui Master Plan as expressed on social media and at the HHF Master Plan community meeting of January 18, 2018.

False: The Waiʻauia burial preserve will hold the iwi kūpuna that were found in the Liberty House / Macy’s parking lot.

True: None of the iwi kūpuna at Waiʻauia will be from the old LH-Macy’s lot. In fact, we have no record of construction-caused disturbances in that lot. Louie and Howell Mahoe, founding members of Kailua Kau a Hoʻoilo, do have a family story about family burials at LH-Macyʻs, but that story is theirs to tell and does not involve desecration of any kind. I prefer not to release it, but I can provide a complete list of the iwi kūpuna that will be reinterred at Waiʻauia: where and when they were disinterred, how and why they came into my care, and how it is that they cannot be returned to the locations at which they were found.

False: The Waiʻauia burial preserve will be built on archaeologically sensitive land.

True: Hal Hammett's Culture Surveys of Hawai'i recently completed an AIS trenching of the proposed site. CSH reports that the preserve won't dig into anything that isn't highly compacted fill – fill that Hal says probably resulted from cutting into Pu'uoehu when the road into Kailua town was built.

I will leave it to HHF to further explain that: 1) the Wai'auia burial preserve has gone through an exhaustive design and permitting process, 2) that it is being built under a separate agreement between the State and the Board of Water Supply (and is not contingent on the approval of the Master Plan), 3) that the BLNR granted the BWS a Consent of Entry (COE) to build the burial site at Wai'auia at its 10-17-17 meeting, and 3) that BWS will be putting the project out to bid as soon as DOFAW writes that COE.

I should also note, in closing, that Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo, as a native council that is completely outside of western purview, cannot sign a Wai'auia Burial Preserve curator/ caretaker agreement with the State or BWS. We have agreed, with all concerned parties, that one of our trusted partner organizations – Hika'alani – will serve that legal purpose. Hika'alani will be the paper curator; Kau a Ho'oilo will be the actual lima hana maiau (carefully working hands) – as we have quietly, carefully been for more than a decade.

me ka mahalo nui,



Kihei de Silva
founding member, Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo
desilvak009@gmail.com

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Kihei de Silva
Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo

Via Email: desilvak009@gmail.com

Dear Mr. de Silva:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo was founded in 2006 by Native Hawaiians of the Kailua community whose multi-generational ties to this 'ahupua'a are defined in Hawai'i State burial rules as "cultural descendancy." Our group consists of members of the Mahoe, Kaniaupio, Boyd, Olds, Kaanaana, Burrows, Kekuewa, Nahalau, Kailikapuolono, de Silva, Kailiewa, Howell, Saffery, and Wong families – many of us can trace their Kailua ancestry to the time of the Mahele; several are able to reach back as far as Kualii and Kakuhihewa. We are a council of equals. We have no board of directors, no constitution and by-laws, no office, logo, or letterhead. We welcome all who are similarly connected and committed to our single purpose. That purpose is to mālama i nā iwi kūpuna, to care for the bones of our ancestors in our home district. We hold to the belief that these iwi are sacred, that they contain – in perpetuity – the essence of the people to whom they belong, that they are entitled to moe kau a ho'oilo (undisturbed sleep for all time), and that disturbing iwi and their resting places is equally a disruption of the harmony that should exist between the land and generations past, present, and future.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing background information on Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo, and noting the purpose of this group is to care for the bones of your ancestors. The State DLNR gives high priority to protecting iwi kūpuna and in respecting the wishes of family members regarding their treatment.

2. *In short, we hold to the belief that disturbance is desecration. We are, therefore, fundamentally opposed to actions that threaten our iwi with exposure, damage, removal, and*

relocation. In the last eleven years, we have worked on dozens of projects (Target, Whole Foods, First Hawaiian Bank, 151 Hekili, 143 Hekili, Lauhala Shops, Central Pacific Bank, Boys and Girls Club, Ka Malanai I and II, Board of Water and Hawaiian Electric infrastructure improvements on shoreline roads from Kapoho Point to Wailea Point, Kihapai Apartments, Kainalu Elementary School, Atherton Pre- School) with more than a dozen developers, private land-owners, businesses, state agencies, and archaeology firms in a reasonably successful effort to: 1) avoid disturbance to iwi kūpuna whenever possible, 2) preserve-in-place when disturbance, nevertheless, occurs, 3) relocate iwi to appropriate burial preserves when preserve-in- place invites further desecration, and 4) treat our iwi kūpuna at all times with the utmost, culturally informed respect.

In these eleven years of working on iwi kūpuna issues in Kailua, we have convinced many developers, large and small, to avoid the desecration of ancestral remains by making every effort to stay out of the ground. Projects like 151 Hekili, First Hawaiian Bank, Whole Foods, Target, and Central Pacific Bank are built, in large part, on imported fill and spread footings. Target employs an innovative "bump" in its parking lot to keep a fire line out of sensitive ground; FHB repositioned its building and re- designed its drive-thru lane and sewage line in order to avoid ground penetration in an equally sensitive area; Ka Malanai I features a modified storm drain and a completely redesigned "notch" in one of its buildings to avoid the preserved-in-place burials below; Atherton Pre-School is installing a new building on above-ground footings to avoid potential discoveries of iwi below; in order to completely eliminate the need for an AIS, a private developer on Kailua Beach has agreed to eliminate four swimming pools from her construction plans and to build (and run utility lines) entirely on imported fill. These projects demonstrate the potential for the coexistence of construction and iwi kūpuna when consultation, care, ingenuity, and innovation are integral to the planning process.

Response: We acknowledge the extensive efforts your group has made over the years to work with various landowners, developers, and government agencies to address the proper treatment of iwi kūpuna. We also acknowledge that innovative measures and design modifications could be incorporated into projects to demonstrate that construction can coexist with protecting iwi kūpuna.

3. *I say this to give the weight of experience to my contention that the Kawainu- Hamakua Project Master Plan DEIS does not pose an inordinate danger to our iwi kūpuna. We know that our kūpuna were buried in considerable numbers in the Jaucus sands of Kailua, sands that lie ma kai of Ka'iwa Ridge, Ka'elepulu, Pu'uoehu, and Kawainui We have little or no evidence that our kūpuna were buried ma uka of these sands along the inland perimeter of Kawainui. This does not preclude the possibility of their discovery in those Master Plan areas where ground disturbance is proposed, but it certainly suggests that the current Kau a Ho'oilo protocols for construction in lower Kailua, if followed at Kawainui, will continue to protect our iwi kūpuna to the fullest extent possible. Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo has every intention of holding the State to these protocols, of being present at planning meetings, construction sites, SHPD offices, and O'ahu Burial Council hālāwai.*

Response: Thank you for your observation that improvements proposed under the Kawainui-Hāmākua master plan project would not pose an inordinate danger to iwi kūpuna based upon your extensive background and experience. Proposed improvements should not impact iwi kūpuna as upland sites were selected for facilities and structures to minimize impacts. Such

upland areas consist predominantly of fill material or were previously disturbed during prior use (e.g. ranching, City baseyard). In addition, non-profit organizations selected to construct the cultural centers should already be sensitive to issues regarding iwi kūpuna and be better prepared to work on appropriate design measures to minimize effects and provide necessary treatment if warranted.

In the event such sites are encountered during construction, all work at the site would stop and follow State regulations concerning burials. Implementing Kau a Ho'oilo protocols can also be incorporated to address the proper treatment of iwi kūpuna, if encountered.

4. *We try not to talk much in public because we believe that it is culturally inappropriate to discuss iwi kūpuna with those who are not directly involved. We try not to "hang them out in the sun" for all to see. I find it necessary, however, to address the following misinterpretations of the Kawainui Master Plan as expressed on social media and at the HHF Master Plan community meeting of January 18, 2018.*
False: The Wai'auia burial preserve will hold the iwi kūpuna that were found in the Liberty House / Macy's parking lot.
True: None of the iwi kūpuna at Wai'auia will be from the old LH-Macy's lot. In fact, we have no record of construction-caused disturbances in that lot. Louie and Howell Mahoe, founding members of Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo, do have a family story about family burials at LH-Macy's, but that story is theirs to tell and does not involve desecration of any kind. I prefer not to release it, but I can provide a complete list of the iwi kūpuna that will be reinterred at Wai'auia: where and when they were disinterred, how and why they came into my care, and how it is that they cannot be returned to the locations at which they were found.
False: The Wai'auia burial preserve will be built on archaeologically sensitive land.
True: Hal Hammett's Culture Surveys of Hawai'i recently completed an AIS trenching of the proposed site. CSH reports that the preserve won't dig into anything that isn't highly compacted fill – fill that Hal says probably resulted from cutting into Pu'uoehu when the road into Kailua town was built.
Response: It is understandable and appropriate that iwi kūpuna are not discussed in public due to cultural sensitivity. We appreciate your clarification about misinterpretations concerning the project that have been expressed on social media and at the January 18, 2018 public informational meeting. The burial preserve at Wai'auia is actually not part of this Kawainui-Hāmākua project because it has already been approved by the City Board of Water Supply (BWS). However, the cultural center proposed at Wai'auia is intended to support the management and maintenance of that reinterment site.

Thank you for clarifying information on the burial preserve planned at Wai'auia, and that no iwi kūpuna from the old Liberty House (former Macy's) lot would be reinterred there. A list or other information regarding iwi kūpuna which would be reinterred at Wai'auia is not necessary for DOFAW and DSP, as that is a sensitive matter that should be coordinated with the City BWS and the non-profit organization managing that site.

We concur that the Wai'auia burial preserve would not be constructed on archaeologically sensitive land. That small upland area consists of fill material, as you state, and thus the cultural center developed on that site should similarly not impact historic sites.

5. *I will leave it to HHF to further explain that: 1) the Wai'auia burial preserve has gone through an exhaustive design and permitting process, 2) that it is being built under a separate agreement between the State and the Board of Water Supply (and is not contingent on the approval of the Master Plan), 3) that the BLNR granted the BWS a Consent of Entry (COE) to build the burial site at Wai'auia at its 10-17-17 meeting, and 3) that BWS will be putting the project out to bid as soon as DOFAW writes that COE.*
   Response: Chapter 1 of the DEIS discusses the background of the Wai'auia site and prior approval obtained by the City BWS to construct the reinterment site with approval from the State DLNR. We concur that this previously approved reinterment site is not part of the master plan project and can proceed based upon the approvals stated in your letter.

6. *I should also note, in closing, that Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo, as a native council that is completely outside of western purview, cannot sign a Wai'auia Burial Preserve curator/caretaker agreement with the State or BWS. We have agreed, with all concerned parties, that one of our trusted partner organizations – Hika'alani – will serve that legal purpose. Hika'□l□ni will b□th□p□p□r c□r□t□r; K□l□□H□'□il□will b□th□□ct□l lim□Hāna maiau (carefully working hands) – as we have quietly, carefully been for more than a decade.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing additional information on Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo being a native council that would not be involved in a curator or caretaker agreement with the State or City BWS. We note that the non-profit organization Hika'alani has been selected to serve that legal purpose for the reinterment site, but that Kailua Kau a Ho'oilo would be active in the actual maintenance of the site.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 6, 2018

RE: Comments on the DEIS Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and treatment of non-profit organization Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i.

This is a formal request that all corrections be made into the Master Plan to accurately represent Ke Kahua O Kuāli‘i’s information and the organization’s contributions to Kawainui.

First, our letter requests fair and equal treatment in representation of our organization in the Master Plan. The process for the Master Plan marginalized our organization’s efforts and continues to effectively dismiss the contributions by our non-profit organization.

- **Page 176 - the DEIS only mentions stewardship efforts at Na Pohaku O Huawahine under Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi (AML) and at Ulupo Heiau under the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and Hika’alani The EIS failed to mention the volunteers and number of people that go to Ke Kahua for restoration and stewardship programs under Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i DSP agreement. This needs to be corrected.**
- **Page 178 - “It is assumed that AML and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club will continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration efforts and educational programming activities. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites is anticipated to generate increased interest from schools or other organizations that would be supported by AML and the civic club”. Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i should be included in this statement.**
- **By excluding Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i volunteer efforts and numbers, all projections are inaccurate (Table 2.6 on page 180) and should be corrected.**
- **Page 582 - Why is Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i referred to as a community group and not a non-profit organization? Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i has been a non-profit since 2012. Your lack of diligence to this matter is astounding.**
- **Page 584 - SCORP goals and strategies fall in line with what Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i is already doing and fulfills requirements of the LWCF Act. The DEIS needs to acknowledge this.**

Further more:

1. **Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization**. Our organization should not be excluded from an part of the process due to lack of diligence on the planners part. Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i should have equal say and input and the DEIS clearly shows this is not the case.
2. Again, **Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i is not a lua group.** This is gross misrepresentation of our organization by continuing usage of this labeling, even after notification.
3. **Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i is federally recognize 501(c)(3)** and is 100% volunteered based organization operated by residents of Kailua. Our organization’s information was not presented to the public at the Le Jardin meeting held in January 2018 and is an example of the selective, and non-inclusive process.
4. **Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i has held monthly volunteer work days for the last three years**.

Year	2015	2016	2017
Number of Visitors	481	607	760
Hours per visitor (4 hrs/ea)	1924	2428	3040

5. Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i has organized **annual Makahiki Nui religious ceremonies and cultural celebrations for the past four years** celebrating the change in seasons. We are the only organization at Kawainui that provides this ceremony for the public.

6. Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i has been conducting **annual Wehe Kū religious ceremonies and cultural celebration for the past 5 years,** again celebrating the change in seasons

7. **Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i has been providing care for Pōhakea/Palalupe site since 2009, clearing invasive plants, removing illegally dumped debris, and cultivating the area with native plants. Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i has removed over 40 tons of debris.**

8. **Our name is not “Ke Kahua.” Our organization’s name is Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i.** Continued use of a shortened version of our name is disparaging and disrespectful and is another example of continued marginalization of our non-profit. Use of “Ke Kahua” is not demonstrating respect for our organization‘s name, the historical or cultural affiliation of our name to Kawainui and very grave slight to the importance of our great chief of Kailua, Kūali‘i.

It is pertinent that Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i’s contributions are accurately portrayed and included in all publication pertaining to the Master Plan and it is equally important that our name is used appropriately.

Second, it is of grave concern that HHF and DOFAW may be demonstrating less than fair opinions about Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i’s work and possibly influencing public opinion about our efforts as not reflective of the objectives.

It has come to our attention that the following words were written about Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i:

> “…non-profit organizations already involved with stewardship, curatorship, and other activities in the project area have proven to be good and committed partners with DOFAW and DSP.”

As outlined in the above points, Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i would surmise that this was inclusive of our organization, however the following seem to state otherwise.

> “We view increased partnerships and activities with organizations supporting the project objectives as being beneficial to this resource… The education center would support education programs and serve as an entry and orientation for visitors to Kawainui. The center would support the non-profit organization‘s management of visitors and activities occurring in this area. *The alternative plans proposed by the Ke Kahua organization would not adequately achieve the objectives for this area.* In addition, Ke Kahua may not be the selected organization constructing and managing the kauhale complex because that selection would be open to the State‘s open procurement process.”

1) As pointed out earlier, Page 584 - SCORP goals and strategies fall in line with what Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i is already doing and fulfills requirements of the LWCF Act. The DEIS needs to acknowledge this. It is frustrating that these are the remarks that are being sent out by the planers about our organization and is an another example of bias and unequal treatment of Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i.

2) Lastly, the State's open procurement process is applied to only <u>one</u> area that directly affects the livelihood of our organization Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i. This is of great concern. The RFP now looks like it was used as a process to obstruct our organization's efforts at Pōhakea and Palalupe. Again, on Page 178 "It is assumed that AML and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club will continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration efforts and educational programming activities. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites is anticipated to generate increased interest from schools or other organizations that would be supported by AML and the civic club". Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i should be included in this statement. Please explain why we are not.

3) Again, let it be known that Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i is a Native Hawaiian organization. Our organization sees Kawainui as an ancestor and an ancestral component to our community's health and well-being, far more than just a resource, but a living entity, integral to the child born from our mother earth, Papahānaumoku.

Your immediate attention to all of our concerns is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Natasha "Makanani" P. Lopes
Co-founder
Ke Kahua O Kūali‘i

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Natasha "Makanani" P. Lopes
Ke Kahua O Kūali'i

Via Email: kekahua@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Lopes:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your bulleted and numbered comments.

A. *This is a formal request that all corrections be made into the Master Plan to accurately represent Ke Kahua O Kuāli'i's information and the organization's contributions to Kawainui.*
First, our letter requests fair and equal treatment in representation of our organization in the Master Plan. The process for the Master Plan marginalized our organization's efforts and continues to effectively dismiss the contributions by our non-profit organization.
Response: Pertinent revisions will be incorporated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), as appropriate, associated with your organization's contributions to Kawainui. We note your references to the "Master Plan" is for project information discussed in the DEIS from which your comments are based upon. The specific page comments suggested and revisions being incorporated are addressed later in this response letter.

We believe the DEIS included fair and equal treatment representing information on your organization based upon available information. We do not agree that the planning process marginalized your organization's efforts or try to effectively dismiss contributions. Much of the information provided in your letter was not previously available. However, information provided on your organization's activities is appreciated.

The following responses address your bulleted comments identified by DEIS page number. It should be noted that the page numbers referenced in your letter correspond to pages associated with the pdf file for the DEIS, and not the actual page number of the DEIS that begins with a Chapter number, dash, and page number (e.g. 2-78).

1) *Page 176 - the DEIS only mentions stewardship efforts at Na Pohaku O Huawahine under Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi (AML) and at Ulupo Heiau under the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and Hika'alani The EIS failed to mention the volunteers and number of people that go to Ke Kahua for restoration and stewardship programs under Ke Kahua O Kūali'i DSP agreement. This needs to be corrected.*
   Response: This section will be revised in the FEIS to identify that restoration and stewardship programs also occur at Pōhakea under your organization. Revised text is attached to this letter.
2) *Page 178 - "It is assumed that AML and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club will continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration efforts and educational programming activities. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites is anticipated to generate increased interest from schools or other organizations that would be supported by AML and the civic club". Ke Kahua O Kūali'i should be included in this statement.*
   Response: This section will be revised to indicate your organization may also likely continue conducting cultural landscape restoration and other activities at Kawainui. Revised text is attached to this letter.
3) *By excluding Ke Kahua O Kūali'i volunteer efforts and numbers, all projections are inaccurate (Table 2.6 on page 180) and should be corrected.*
   Response: Table 2.6 is correct and does not need to be revised because this includes information on projected visitors (e.g. general public). The information you provided reflects volunteers participating in your programs and activities, and has been added to Table 2.3 associated with programs. The revised Table 2.3 is attached to this letter.
4) *Page 582 - Why is Ke Kahua O Kūali'i referred to as a community group and not a non-profit organization? Ke Kahua O Kūali'i has been a non-profit since 2012. Your lack of diligence to this matter is astounding.*
   Response: The sentence referenced will be revised appropriately. Revised text is attached to this letter.
5) *Page 584 - SCORP goals and strategies fall in line with what Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is already doing and fulfills requirements of the LWCF Act. The DEIS needs to acknowledge this.*
   Response: SCORP goals and strategies fall in line with the activities conducted by many non-profit organizations. Therefore, specific organizations do not need to be identified. These plans are policies are addressed on a broader scale associated with the overall project.

The following responses correspond to your numbered comments.

1. *Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization. Our organization should not be excluded from an part of the process due to lack of diligence on the planners part. Ke Kahua O Kūali'i should have equal say and input and the DEIS clearly shows this is not the case.*

Response: We disagree that your non-profit organization has been excluded from the planning and environmental review process. The organization has been included and its representatives attended several community meetings, public informational meetings, and have provided written comments on the project. Your organization has had opportunities to provide input and comments participating in the process similar to other organizations interested in this project. The DEIS reflects your organization's participation and input received as discussed in Chapter 8, several meeting attendance sheets in Appendix A, and comment letters received.

2. *Again, Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is not a lua group. This is gross misrepresentation of our organization by continuing usage of this labeling, even after notification.*
   Response: Section 8.1.2 of the DEIS does not state your organization is a lua group. A description of the organization explains that "men's lua activities" are just one of several activities conducted, and the mission is to create "a Hawaiian place of culture, a healthy landscape for the perpetuation of cultural practices." We do not believe this reflects a gross misrepresentation of your organization. Nevertheless, the reference to men's lua activities will be removed. Revised text is attached to this letter.
3. *Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is federally recognize 501(c)(3) and is 100% volunteered based organization operated by residents of Kailua. Our organization's information was not presented to the public at the Le Jardin meeting held in January 2018 and is an example of the selective, and non-inclusive process.*
   Response: We acknowledge your organization's non-profit status and volunteer base. The purpose for the presentation given at the January 2018 informational meeting was to update the community on the status of the project and to clarify project information to facilitate public review of the DEIS. It was not to promote or draw attention to individual community organizations. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to selectively provide information promoting your organization, and was not an example of a selective and non-inclusive process, as your organization has been actively involved as previously discussed.
4. *Ke Kahua O Kūali'i has held monthly volunteer work days for the last three years.*

Year	2015	2016	2017
Number of Visitors	481	607	760
Hours per visitor (4 hrs/ea)	1924	2428	3040

   Response: Thank you for information on visitors associated with your volunteer work days. We will incorporate pertinent information in the FEIS. Revised text is attached to this letter. Additional activities and volunteer information that should have been submitted to DSP as part of your required annual reports would be reviewed as well.
5. *Ke Kahua O Kūali'i has organized annual Makahiki Nui religious ceremonies and cultural celebrations for the past four years celebrating the change in seasons. We are the only organization at Kawainui that provides this ceremony for the public.*
   Response: DOFAW and DSP acknowledge information on your annual Makahiki Nui celebrations, and presume such larger events have been coordinated with DSP as part of curatorship agreement conditions.

6. *Ke Kahua O Kūali'i has been conducting annual Wehe Kū religious ceremonies and cultural celebration for the past 5 years, again celebrating the change in seasons*
   Response: DOFAW and DSP acknowledge information on your annual Wehe Kū celebrations.
7. *Ke Kahua O Kūali'i has been providing care for Pōhakea/Palalupe site since 2009, clearing invasive plants, removing illegally dumped debris, and cultivating the area with native plants. Ke Kahua O Kūali'i has removed over 40 tons of debris.*
   Response: Your activities at Pōhakea clearing invasive plants and removing illegally dumped debris is acknowledged.
8. *Our name is not "Ke Kahua." Our organization's name is Ke Kahua O Kūali'i. Continued use of a shortened version of our name is disparaging and disrespectful and is another example of continued marginalization of our non-profit. Use of "Ke Kahua" is not demonstrating respect for our organization's name, the historical or cultural affiliation of our name to Kawainui and very grave slight to the importance of our great chief of Kailua, Kūali'i.*
   Response: The reference to Ke Kahua is an abbreviated name for the organization as discussed in Section 1.4.2 of the DEIS. Abbreviated names have been used for other organizations as well. It was not meant to disrespect or marginalize your organization. References to the abbreviated Ke Kahua will be revised in the FEIS, as appropriate. Revised text is attached to this letter.

B. *It is pertinent that Ke Kahua O Kūali'i's contributions are accurately portrayed and included in all publication pertaining to the Master Plan and it is equally important that our name is used appropriately.*
   Response: Your organization's contributions at Kawainui have been discussed, and additional information provided will be incorporated in the FEIS as appropriate as already discussed in prior responses.

C. *Second, it is of grave concern that HHF and DOFAW may be demonstrating less than fair opinions about Ke Kahua O Kūali'i's work and possibly influencing public opinion about our efforts as not reflective of the objectives.*
   It has come to our attention that the following words were written about Ke Kahua O Kūali'i:
   > *"...non-profit organizations already involved with stewardship, curatorship, and other activities in the project area have proven to be good and committed partners with DOFAW and DSP."*

   As outlined in the above points, Ke Kahua O Kūali'i would surmise that this was inclusive of our organization, however the following seem to state otherwise.
   > *"We view increased partnerships and activities with organizations supporting the project objectives as being beneficial to this resource... The education center would support education programs and serve as an entry and orientation for visitors to Kawainui. The center would support the non-profit organization's management of visitors and activities occurring in this area. The alternative plans proposed by the Ke Kahua organization would not adequately achieve the objectives for this area. In addition, Ke Kahua may not be the selected organization constructing and managing the kauhale complex because that selection would be open to the State's open procurement process."*

Response: DOFAW and the planning consulting firm have not demonstrated less than fair opinions about your organization's work, and have not tried to publically influence public opinion about your activities as they relate to project objectives. As already discussed, your organization has been included in the consultation process, and representatives attended several community meetings and public informational meetings, in addition to submitting written comments on the project. Opportunities to provide input during the process have been provided, similar to many other organizations interested in this project.

Your reference to the statement concerning non-profit organizations' involvement in stewardship and curatorship activities at Kawainui was in general reference to the several organizations that have been involved with both DOFAW and DSP, and not just about your organization. Your organization, along with other organizations, has been a good partner, and DOFAW and DSP appreciate the efforts contributed by all.

Your reference to statements about alternative plans proposed by your organization and the State's open procurement process was taken from an EIS Preparation Notice response letter to an individual's comment letter, likely associated with your organization. That comment was promoting your organization's plans for the Pōhakea area only, instead of having the education center. The reasons explaining the importance and role of the education center were addressed in that response letter. DSP believes plans that include either the education center, or a reduced level of improvements along with the kauhale complex, would be beneficial to the public. It is also correct that the selection of the non-profit organization to operate the education center and kauhale complex would be subject to the State open procurement process. Consequently, given the open process, it is possible that another non-profit organization could be selected instead of your organization.

1) *As pointed out earlier, Page 584 - SCORP goals and strategies fall in line with what Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is already doing and fulfills requirements of the LWCF Act. The DEIS needs to acknowledge this. It is frustrating that these are the remarks that are being sent out by the planers about our organization and is an another example of bias and unequal treatment of Ke Kahua O Kūali'i.*
   Response: The activities conducted by your organization do support the State's broad SCORP goals and objectives referenced. Such activities also support Land and Water Conservation Fund Act requirements, but do not adequately fulfill the federal requirements for providing general public access and outdoor recreational activities, which is why the various improvements are being proposed under this project. We do not agree that the statements made in the response letters and in the DEIS reflect bias and unequal treatment of your organization.
2) *Lastly, the State's open procurement process is applied to only one area that directly affects the livelihood of our organization Ke Kahua O Kūali'i. This is of great concern. The RFP now looks like it was used as a process to obstruct our organization's efforts at Pōhakea and Palalupe. Again, on Page 178 "It is assumed that AML and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club will continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration efforts and educational programming activities. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites is anticipated to generate increased interest from schools or other organizations that would be supported by AML*

and the civic club". Ke Kahua O Kūali'i should be included in this statement. Please explain why we are not.

Response: The State open procurement process for cultural center use by non-profit organizations would apply to several areas, and not just the Pōhakea area as discussed in the DEIS. Any Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Qualifications (RFQ), or other appropriate procurement process utilized would not obstruct your organization's presently efforts at Pōhakea because such selection efforts have not been developed. Page 178 of the DEIS pdf file (DEIS Page 2-80) will be revised in the FEIS, as it should have included your organization as well. Revised text is attached to this letter.

3) *Again, let it be known that Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is a Native Hawaiian organization. Our organization sees Kawainui as an ancestor and an ancestral component to our community's health and well-being, far more than just a resource, but a living entity, integral to the child born from our mother earth, Papahānaumoku.*

Response: We acknowledge that Ke Kahua O Kūali'i is a native Hawaiian non-profit organization, and has cultural ties to Kawainui. Again, both DOFAW and DSP appreciate your efforts at Pōhakea.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ulupō Heiau, as well as developing and implementing educational, interpretive, and cultural programs.

2. Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC). The KHCC was established in 1959 to perpetuate Hawaiian culture, improve the lives of Hawaiians and the Kailua community, and to malama the Kailua ahupua'a. They have been curators of Ulupō Heiau under a curatorship agreement with DSP since 1987. In 2006, KHCC and AML joined as co-curators of a 7-acre area that encompasses Ulupō Heiau. They are currently working to restore the cultural landscape of the heiau with the gradual removal of the alien vegetation, restoration of lo'i kalo, and planting of native and Polynesian-introduced plants. KHCC also sponsors the Ulupō Heiau Ho'ike to heighten public awareness and understanding of the cultural history of Kawainui and Kailua. They are also active in the future reinterment of iwi at Wai'auia.
3. Hui Kanaka 'Oiwi. Hui Kanaka Oiwi consists of several Hawaiian cultural organizations that came together in 2009 to form this organization. This group consists of native Hawaiian cultural practitioners in Kailua such as AML, KHCC, Kailua Descendant Group, and other cultural practitioners. The group developed the idea of a cultural and educational center in Kailua within the boundaries of the Kawainui complex due to the site's historical and cultural significance to the Hawaiian community as a center of spiritual, agricultural, and civic life.
4. Hika'alani. Hika'alani's mission is to reestablish Kailua as a place appropriate to the dedicated study, practice, and promotion of Hawaiian culture. The five areas the organization is involved in are: 1) performing and language arts; 2) traditional applied arts; 3) pacific cultural exchange; 4) ceremony, ritual, protocol for iwi kūpuna; and 5) cultural performance and exhibition. They are also active in the reinterment of iwi at Wai'auia with the KHCC.
5. Ke Kahua O Kuali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~. ~~Ke Kahua's~~ This organization's mission is to create a Hawaiian place of culture, a healthy landscape for the perpetuation of cultural practices. Their vision is a native Hawaiian environment that practices traditional land management principles for perpetuating cultural practices. The organization conducts men's ~~lua~~ activities, programs for women, landscape restoration, cultural programs and celebrations, and has partnerships with other cultural organizations.
6. 'Ālele. This recently formed organization is comprised of mostly young adults, many who have been active in paddling through the years, and its creation was sparked by the visit of Hōkūle'a to Kailua. One of its missions is supporting canoeing in Kailua to provide people with a sense of community and a sense of pride. For this organization, canoes at Kawainui are culturally symbolic.
7. Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Annual Meeting. A presentation on the project's draft master plan was given to the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) at their annual meeting held on the Island of Hawai'i on October 31, 2014. The AHCC unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the project's master plan.

DOFAW has completed some phased upland restoration improvements in this section in implementing their Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project (HHF, 2012). Upland improvements included replacing a damaged drainage culvert along Kapa'a Quarry Road and completing reforestation improvements with native plants on a one-acre site.

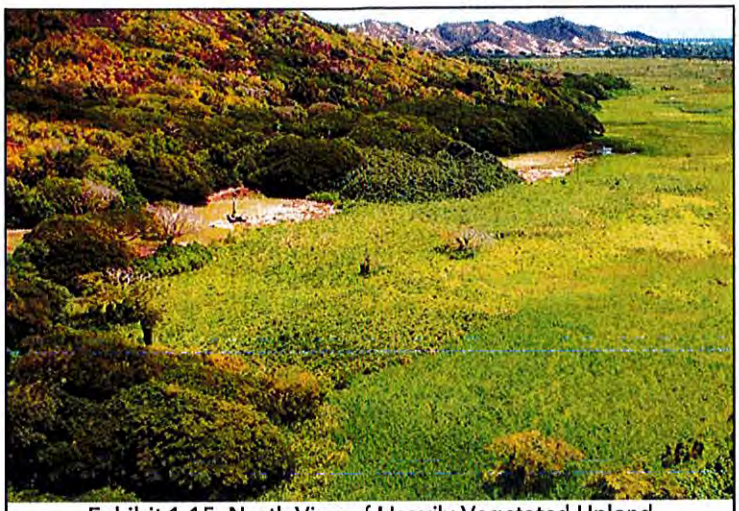

Exhibit 1.15 North View of Heavily Vegetated Upland Area of Kahanaiki

Nā Pōhaku Section

The Nā Pōhaku section includes the middle portion of this subarea that's under DSP jurisdiction. This section includes two upland areas identified as Pōhakea and Nā Pōhaku. The Pōhakea area was formerly used for ranching-related activities that have since ended, and the area has been cleared of structures. A portion of this former ranch site, approximately 14 acres, is currently being used under a short-term (5-year) curatorship agreement from DSP (December 2016) by the non-profit organization Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~ for traditional native Hawaiian cultural practices. A pole and thatch hālau structure with stacked rock wall was constructed by this organization, and a taro lo'i for cultural practices and cultural landscape restoration is being created. ~~Ke Kahua's~~ The organization's responsibilities under this DSP permit include: 1) maintaining the site by removing select vegetation to be replanted with native vegetation; 2) delineating parking areas and trails for public visitation; and 3) installing passive park facilities and providing educational and interpretive programs with approval from DSP.

Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine is a culturally significant site of approximately 12 acres located adjacently north of Pōhakea (Exhibit 1.16). Nā Pōhaku is a unique setting of volcanic rock formations where native plants are being planted to replace the non-native vegetation. A foot trail is also provided within this area.



Exhibit 1.16 Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area

The non-profit organization 'Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML) has been conducting lowland forest restoration work for many years at Nā Pōhaku, which include the removal of alien vegetation, planting native plants, installation of a water catchment

5. SMA Minor Permit 2015/SMA-52 (2015). The State DOFAW received approval to construct a new storage building within their Kawainui Management and Research Station site to replace existing shipping containers being used temporarily for storage.
6. SMA Minor Permit 2016/SMA-69 (2016). The City Board of Water Supply received approval to establish a reinterment site at a site located northwest of Kailua Road at the eastern end of the project area. The site provides space to reinter the remains of individuals disinterred by projects in the Kailua ahupua'a since the 1990s.

State Right-of-Entry Permits and Other Authorizations

1. AML Management Right-of-Entry (2012). AML received ROE (right-of-entry) approval from the BLNR to implement conservation and management improvements, educational programs, and subsistence, traditional, and customary native Hawaiian practices consistent with the long-term preservation of sanctuary resources within about 800 acres of Kawainui. This ROE permit allows AML to implement activities stemming from a 2010 Memorandum of Agreement executed between them and the BLNR to engage as partners in managing Kawainui. Activities include conservation management, and wetland and upland restoration activities near and around Ulupō Heiau and Na Pōhaku o Hauwahine. This includes creating lo'i kalo at Ulupō Heiau along with wetland restoration and maintenance at both the heiau and Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine.
2. AML Curatorship Agreement (2016). AML executed a 5-year curatorship agreement with the BLNR to implement conservation and management improvements, educational and interpretive programs, a landscape plan, and install passive park facilities at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine in coordination with DSP.
3. Ke Kahua O Kūali'i Curatorship Agreement (2016). Ke Kahua O Kūali'i executed a 5-year curatorship agreement with the BLNR to implement conservation and management improvements, educational, cultural, and interpretive programs, a landscape plan, and install passive park facilities within a 14-acre area of the Kawainui SPR, Pōhakea in coordination with DSP.

The park only has a small parking area in front of the main entrance for a few cars, and additional parking occurs along the shoulder of Kapa'a Quarry Road. An informal weekday survey of site visitors conducted by HHF in November 2016 found that the site has about 250 visitors a month (8 per day). Educational and cultural programs also occur occasionally resulting in about 50 additional visitors a month. Visitors typically arrive by car, and bike use is rare to infrequent, likely due to site location along Kapa'a Quarry Road. There are no bus stops along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and no pedestrian traffic along this road.



Exhibit 5.7 Parking Area in Front of Nā Pōhaku

The Nā Pōhaku site contains educational program areas, unpaved foot trails, and viewing areas that allow visitors opportunities for passive recreational enjoyment of the area (Exhibit 5.8). The site is curated by AML, with the non-profit organization conducting restoration work and educational programs at the site under a Memorandum of Agreement with the BLNR and Right-of-Entry Permit with DOFAW. Similar to the Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park, the parcel (TMK 4-2-013:010) that Nā Pōhaku is located on was purchased using LWCF funds, which require that the site be protected for public outdoor recreational use.

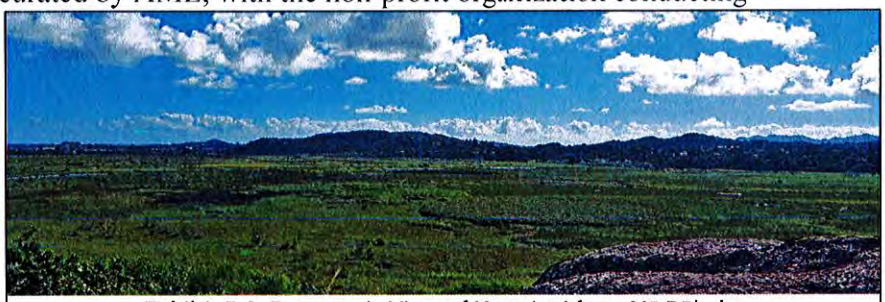

Exhibit 5.8 Panoramic View of Kawainui from Nā Pōhaku

The Pōhakea area located adjacently south of Nā Pōhaku is currently used by the Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~ non-profit organization for traditional native Hawaiian cultural practices under a December 2016 short-term curatorship agreement permit (5-years) from DSP (Exhibit 5.9). Their responsibilities include: 1) maintaining the site by removing select vegetation to be replanted with native vegetation; 2) delineating parking areas and trails for public

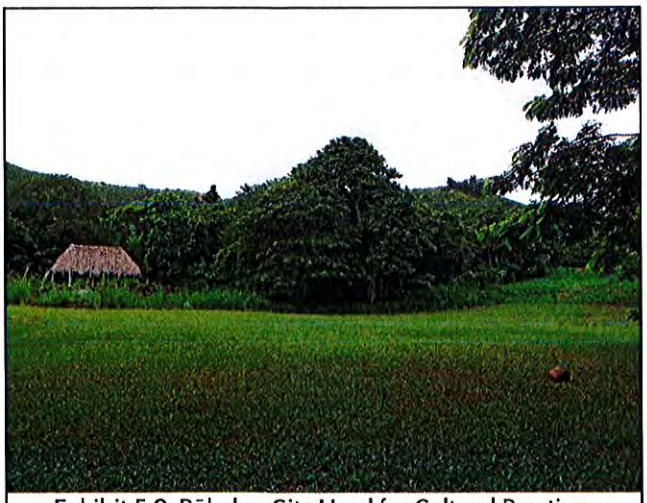

Exhibit 5.9 Pōhakea Site Used for Cultural Practices

6.3.4 HRS Chapter 195D and State of Hawai'i Wildlife Sanctuaries

6.3.4.1 HRS Chapter 195D

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 195D, Conservation of Aquatic Life, Wildlife and Land Plants, states that all indigenous species of aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants are integral parts of Hawai'i's native ecosystems and represent a natural resource of scientific, cultural, educational, environmental, and economic value to future generations. To insure their continuation, it is necessary that the State take positive actions to enhance their prospects for survival.

6.3.4.2 State of Hawai'i Wildlife Sanctuaries

Hawai'i state wildlife sanctuaries are established by the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for "the conservation, management, and protection of indigenous wildlife and their habitats." (Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-126-3). The project area includes two State-designated wildlife sanctuaries, Kawainui Marsh and Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuaries. The boundaries of the wildlife sanctuaries in relation to the overall project area are shown in Figure 6.1. As shown in the figure, the Pu'uoehu Hillside is not a designated wildlife sanctuary, but as part of the Hāmākua Marsh reserve, serves as the watershed for the Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary.

State wildlife sanctuaries are regulated under Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 126, Rules Regulating Wildlife Sanctuaries. Designation as a state wildlife sanctuary imposes controls on entry and the types of uses allowed. Public access within state wildlife sanctuaries is restricted to marked trails and roads and no motorized public vehicles are allowed. Within Kawainui Marsh, access is "restricted to the perimeter marked trails and roads, or other marked trails or roads." Within Hāmākua Marsh, access is "prohibited in wetland areas bounded by the perimeter fence and Makai canal." According to state regulations, commercial activities may be permitted within the Kawainui and Hāmākua Marshes, though at a limit of 100 visitors per day (Chapter 126 HAR).

Currently, there are no marked trails or roads designated for public use within the Kawainui and Hāmākua sanctuary areas. Access is restricted to DOFAW employees for management and maintenance operations, and contractors hired by DOFAW or others authorized by DOFAW to support management activities. DOFAW has authorized limited access to the non-profit organization 'Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML) to conduct restoration and educational activities within Kawainui. ~~The community group,~~ Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua),~~ works with the DSP to clean up and revitalize a portion of Kawainui for cultural and educational programs, and eventual public use.

Ulupō Heiau, as well as developing and implementing educational, interpretive, and cultural programs.

2. Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC). The KHCC was established in 1959 to perpetuate Hawaiian culture, improve the lives of Hawaiians and the Kailua community, and to malama the Kailua ahupua'a. They have been curators of Ulupō Heiau under a curatorship agreement with DSP since 1987. In 2006, KHCC and AML joined as co-curators of a 7-acre area that encompasses Ulupō Heiau. They are currently working to restore the cultural landscape of the heiau with the gradual removal of the alien vegetation, restoration of lo'i kalo, and planting of native and Polynesian-introduced plants. KHCC also sponsors the Ulupō Heiau Ho'ike to heighten public awareness and understanding of the cultural history of Kawainui and Kailua. They are also active in the future reinterment of iwi at Wai'auia.
3. Hui Kanaka 'Oiwi. Hui Kanaka Oiwi consists of several Hawaiian cultural organizations that came together in 2009 to form this organization. This group consists of native Hawaiian cultural practitioners in Kailua such as AML, KHCC, Kailua Descendant Group, and other cultural practitioners. The group developed the idea of a cultural and educational center in Kailua within the boundaries of the Kawainui complex due to the site's historical and cultural significance to the Hawaiian community as a center of spiritual, agricultural, and civic life.
4. Hika'alani. Hika'alani's mission is to reestablish Kailua as a place appropriate to the dedicated study, practice, and promotion of Hawaiian culture. The five areas the organization is involved in are: 1) performing and language arts; 2) traditional applied arts; 3) pacific cultural exchange; 4) ceremony, ritual, protocol for iwi kūpuna; and 5) cultural performance and exhibition. They are also active in the reinterment of iwi at Wai'auia with the KHCC.
5. Ke Kahua O Kuali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~. ~~Ke Kahua's~~ This organization's mission is to create a Hawaiian place of culture, a healthy landscape for the perpetuation of cultural practices. Their vision is a native Hawaiian environment that practices traditional land management principles for perpetuating cultural practices. The organization conducts men's ~~lua~~ activities, programs for women, landscape restoration, cultural programs and celebrations, and has partnerships with other cultural organizations.
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7. Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Annual Meeting. A presentation on the project's draft master plan was given to the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) at their annual meeting held on the Island of Hawai'i on October 31, 2014. The AHCC unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the project's master plan.

Utilities, Elected Officials, and Organizations (continued)

Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) No. 31
» Planning, Zoning, and Environment Committee
Kāne'ohe Neighborhood Board No. 30
Le Jardin Windward O'ahu Academy
Maunawili Community Association
Pōhakupu-Kūkanono Community Association
» Pacific American Foundation
Ho'olaulima iā Kawainui (Ho'olaulima)
» Castle Medical Center
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
» 'Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML)
Hui Kanaka 'Ōiwi
Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC)
» Hika'alani
Kailua Chamber of Commerce
» Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
Kailua Historical Society
» Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~
» Hawai'i's Thousand Friends
» Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle
Hui o Ko'olaupoko
Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter
The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Windward Ahupua'a Alliance
YMCA of Honolulu – Windward Branch
Kailua United Methodist Church
Daybreak Church
Faith Baptist Church
Pillar Church
Windward Christian Church
Rock Church
Christ Church Uniting Disciples & Presbyterians
HC&D (Ameron Hawai'i)
Kapa'a I LLC (John King)

Listing of Others Submitting Comments on the EISPN

» Aloha 'Aina Health Center, Inc.
» Ms. B.A. Alexander
» Ms. Beth Anderson
» Ms. Beth Anderson with Other Supporting Organizations
'Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML)
Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Consulted Organizations and Individuals (continued)

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
Hawai'i's Thousand Friends
Hika'alani
Ho'olaulima iā Kawainui (Ho'olaulima)
Hui Kanaka 'Ōiwi
Hui o Ko'olaupoko
Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC)
Kailua Chamber of Commerce
Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
Kailua Historical Society
Kailua United Methodist Church
Kailua Urban Design Task Force
Kapa'a I LLC (John King)
Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua)~~
Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle
Le Jardin Windward O'ahu Academy
Maunawili Community Association
Pōhakupu-Kūkanono Community Association
Pacific American Foundation
Pillar Church
Rock Church
Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter
The Hawai'i Audubon Society
The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Windward Ahupua'a Alliance
Windward Christian Church
YMCA of Honolulu – Windward Branch

Barbara Alexander
Tania Alston
Charles K. Burrows
Kevin Butterbaugh
Mapuana deSilva
Bobbi Gail
Melinda Hamm
Diane Harding
Vernon Hinsvark
Levani Lipton
Stephen Mechler
J. Mahelani McClellan
Pauline Mac Neil

DOFAW presently has about 18 employees working at Kawainui and Hāmākua on a regular basis. All DOFAW operations originate out of their Makiki baseyard on a daily basis before staff disburse to areas within Kawainui and Hāmākua to conduct activities. DOFAW presently has a biologist assigned to Hāmākua to implement management activities and accommodate educational programs. The 17 persons working at Kawainui include a biologist, equipment operator, forestry personnel, DOCARE officers, and personnel associated with other programs (e.g. O'ahu Invasive Species Committee) or research activities. There are presently no DSP staff operating on a regular basis within the project site.

About ~~460~~ 520 persons per month participate in educational and cultural programs within the project area on a monthly basis. DOFAW-based programs presently occur at Hāmākua and at Kawainui's restoration ponds. Educational and cultural program activities occur at Ulupō Heiau, Pōhakea and Nā Pōhaku. Currently, about 240 persons per month participate in DOFAW guided educational programs, with the majority of activity occurring at Hāmākua. Most of this activity takes place during the 10-month school year.

AML supports visits of roughly 50 persons per month participating in educational or stewardship/restoration programs at Nā Pōhaku. These activities similarly occur during the school year. AML organizational staff work on landscape restoration on a weekly basis. At Pōhakea, Ke Kahua O Kūali'i conducts landscape restoration, cultural and educational activities, and has periodic ceremonial and cultural celebrations. At Ulupō Heiau, the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club in partnership with Hika'alani has a caretaker working on-site on a daily basis, and coordinates cultural and educational programs that have about 170 participants per month. In summary, about 2~~2~~80 persons participate in educational or cultural programs conducted by non-profit organizations each month.

Existing Visitor Activity

Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, Ulupō Heiau SHP, and the levee are the only areas within Kawainui that are currently open to visitation by the general public. Visitations to Nā Pōhaku and Ulupō Heiau SHP are predominantly associated the viewing of cultural and scenic resources. Visitors to the levee are predominantly residents using it for passive outdoor recreational activities (walking or jogging). A total estimated 2,500 visitors a month utilize these resources at Kawainui as shown on Table 2.4 below.

About 1,800 visitors are estimated to use the levee on a monthly basis (60-70 persons/day) for passive outdoor recreational activities, such as walking or jogging, based upon an informal day survey, field observations, and input from others. The majority of activity occurs during the early morning hours and late afternoon. The vast majority of visitors using the levee appear to be residents, likely from Kailua and nearby communities. Access onto the levee is primarily from the Kalāheo side using the Kawainui Community Park parking lot. There are no convenient parking areas available on the Hāmākua side of the levee for access.

Table 2.5 Summary of Projected Staff and Programs Activity

Description of Activity and Area	Projected Monthly Staff and Activity (Participants)		
	Current Activity	Projected Activity	Increase in Activity
A. ~~DOFAW~~ DLNR Related Operational Staff	~~18~~	~~30~~	~~12~~
1. Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu Subarea			
a. Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary	1	2	1
2. Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana Subarea			
a. Kawainui Management & Research Station			
1) DOFAW Staff	5	10	5
2) DLNR Related Staff	2	5	3
3) Personnel with Other Programs	10	13	3
3. Pōhakea - Education Center (Non-Profit)	0	3	3
Total Operational Activities	18	30~~3~~	12~~5~~
B. Educational and Cultural Programs			
1. Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu Subarea	160	320	160
a. Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary	160	320	160
2. Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana Subarea	250	2,300	2,050
a. Kawainui Restoration Ponds	80	320	240
b. Ulupō Heiau	170	250	80
c. Wai'auia Cultural Center	0	1,730	1,730
3. Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a Subarea	~~5~~110	1,070	~~1,029~~60
a. Education Center, Pōhakea	0	500	500
b. Kauhale Complex, Pōhakea	60	100	~~10~~40
c. Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine	50	70	20
d. Kapa'a Cultural Center	0	400	400
4. Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee Subarea	0	~~100~~	~~100~~
a. Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo ~~(Canoe)~~	0	~~100~~	~~100~~
Total Educational and Cultural Activities	~~460~~ 520	~~3,790~~ 3,690	~~3,330~~ 3,170

DSP and ~~a~~ non-profit organizations would support educational and cultural programs at Kahanaiki utilizing the education center and kauhale complex at Pōhakea. The education center would likely have a staff of 3 persons, and would be operated by a non-profit organization. These programs are projected to attract a combined total of about 600 persons per month typically as part of group visits about two to three times each week. It is likely that Ke Kahua O Kūali'i may continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration, cultural, and educational programming activities in the future with the kauhale. A few larger cultural events (e.g. Makahiki) may occur at the kauhale twice a year, typically on a weekend.

Educational and cultural activities at Nā Pōhaku and Ulupō Heiau are expected to increase to a combined 320 persons a month. It is ~~assumed~~ likely that AML, Hika'alani, and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club ~~will~~ may continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration, cultural, ~~efforts~~ and educational programming activities in the future. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites are anticipated to generate increased

2.2.5 Programs and Visitor Activity Estimates

Proposed improvements will result in increased activity at Kawainui-Hāmākua in the form of employees, educational and cultural program participants, and visitors. Employees would include DOFAW and DLNR related staff operating at various sites within the project area. Educational participants would predominantly be students and teachers from local schools, and cultural program participants would attend activities at specific locations identified in the master plan guiding the project. General visitors to the area include persons participating in passive outdoor recreational activities or site-seeing in the area. Visitors would be comprised of Kailua residents, O'ahu-island residents, neighbor island residents, and out-of-state visitors.

2.2.5.1 Present Level of Activity

Operations and Programs

DOFAW staff presently operate out of their Makiki baseyard with equipment stored at the Kawainui management and research station, and conduct field work or maintenance activities within Hāmākua and Kawainui. Educational and cultural programs occur at Hāmākua, Kawainui's restoration ponds, Ulupō Heiau, Nā Pōhaku, and Pōhakea. Table 2.3 summarizes the present level of these activities by project subareas.

Table 2.3 Summary of Existing Staff and Programs Activity

Description of Activity and Area	Current Monthly Activity (Persons)	
	Persons By Category	Total Persons
A. DOFAW Related Operational Staff		18
1. Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu Subarea (Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary)	1	1
2. Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana Subarea (Kawainui Management & Research Station)		~~18~~7
a. DOFAW Staff	~~6~~5	
b. DLNR Related Staff	2	
c. Personnel with Other Programs	10	
B. Educational and Cultural Programs		~~460~~-520
1. Hāmākua-Pu'uoehu Subarea (Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary - DOFAW)	160	
2. Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana Subarea		
a. Kawainui Management & Research Station (DOFAW)	80	
b. Ulupō Heiau SHP	170	
3. Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a Subarea		
a. ~~(~~Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine~~)~~	50	
b. Pōhakea	60	

6.3.4 HRS Chapter 195D and State of Hawai'i Wildlife Sanctuaries

6.3.4.1 HRS Chapter 195D

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 195D, Conservation of Aquatic Life, Wildlife and Land Plants, states that all indigenous species of aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants are integral parts of Hawai'i's native ecosystems and represent a natural resource of scientific, cultural, educational, environmental, and economic value to future generations. To insure their continuation, it is necessary that the State take positive actions to enhance their prospects for survival.

6.3.4.2 State of Hawai'i Wildlife Sanctuaries

Hawai'i state wildlife sanctuaries are established by the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for "the conservation, management, and protection of indigenous wildlife and their habitats." (Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-126-3). The project area includes two State-designated wildlife sanctuaries, Kawainui Marsh and Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuaries. The boundaries of the wildlife sanctuaries in relation to the overall project area are shown in Figure 6.1. As shown in the figure, the Pu'uoehu Hillside is not a designated wildlife sanctuary, but as part of the Hāmākua Marsh reserve, serves as the watershed for the Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary.

State wildlife sanctuaries are regulated under Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 13, Chapter 126, Rules Regulating Wildlife Sanctuaries. Designation as a state wildlife sanctuary imposes controls on entry and the types of uses allowed. Public access within state wildlife sanctuaries is restricted to marked trails and roads and no motorized public vehicles are allowed. Within Kawainui Marsh, access is "restricted to the perimeter marked trails and roads, or other marked trails or roads." Within Hāmākua Marsh, access is "prohibited in wetland areas bounded by the perimeter fence and Makai canal." According to state regulations, commercial activities may be permitted within the Kawainui and Hāmākua Marshes, though at a limit of 100 visitors per day (Chapter 126 HAR).

Currently, there are no marked trails or roads designated for public use within the Kawainui and Hāmākua sanctuary areas. Access is restricted to DOFAW employees for management and maintenance operations, and contractors hired by DOFAW or others authorized by DOFAW to support management activities. DOFAW has authorized limited access to the non-profit organization 'Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML) to conduct restoration and educational activities within Kawainui. ~~The community group,~~ Ke Kahua O Kūali'i ~~(Ke Kahua),~~ works with the DSP to clean up and revitalize a portion of Kawainui for cultural and educational programs, and eventual public use.

THE LANI-KAILUA OUTDOOR CIRCLE

January 22, 2018

Re: **Response to the November 2017 DEIS for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project**

Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
HHF Planners
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Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
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Aloha,

We support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project stated goals that provide for:

- Natural Resource Restoration and Habitat Enhancement
- Cultural Practices and Stewardship
- Public Access for Outdoor Recreation and Educational Opportunities
- Resource Management.

We also support the Plan's underlying goal of allowing public/private partnership and stewardship activity to continue and flourish there.

However, The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle would like to go on record as opposing the current Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project, as described in the November 2017 DEIS, for the following reasons:

Concern #1: Project Scale

The Project scale, as presented in the DEIS, is too large, and the potential impacts of provisions in the plan would be large as well. We feel:

- The planners' implementation of "*LWCF 6(f) requirements that necessitate increased public access and outdoor recreational activities based upon DSP coordination with the*

National Park Service" is too broad. Having to provide public access and recreational activities should not require the installation of miles of trails as provided in the plan. Yes, provision for a minimal trail system with viewing platforms is needed.

- The planners' implementation providing for educational opportunities and native Hawaiian cultural practices, (as per *Article XII of the Hawaii State Constitution*), is too broad, and ignores public input asking that more environmentally friendly structures and facilities be built. State and Federal regulations do not require that hardscape structures be built in order provide for these practices. Yes, provisions for support facilities are necessary to this stewardship activity, but not the extensive multi-acre multi-structure 'centers' provided for in the plan.

- The potential irreparable degradation of this fragile natural resource, due to construction at multiple sites around the marsh perimeter, are just not acceptable. It is troubling to see statements such as "*Design features can be incorporated to minimize site disturbance and reduce erosion potential*" p. 8, or "*the education center is proposed on a sloped area and is envisioned to be built with post-and-pier construction to minimize ground modification*" p. 8. These do not indicate that this is what would/could actually occur, and add to our concern that the cumulative impacts of this multi-site construction will, over time, result in the degradation of this important resource.

- The projected 20-year phased implementation should not be covered by a single all-encompassing EIS. Further, it appears that the RFP process to select site stewardship proprietors will not have any provision for public input regarding the real nature and scope of any construction that may occur. We are troubled by statements such as the following that are sprinkled throughout the plan: "*Specific best management practices and strategies used would be determined during the design phase of improvements*".

Concern #2: Lack of full examination and consideration of proposed Alternative Plans

The overwhelming majority of public input (as evident in Appendix A of the DEIS), has been largely ignored. The input that has been considered appears to be confined to a small contingent of private organizations, including those that have been working on design plans and have indicated their readiness to pay for buildings and have the funding to do so. This is not to say that said input is invalid. It is simply to note that the range of alternatives presented in the DEIS, has not been rigorously explored or objectively evaluated, nor has the extent of community support of these alternative ideas been given its due weight and consideration.

Section 1502.14 of NEPA requires the EIS to examine all reasonable alternatives to the proposal. In particular, dismissing our LKOC Alternative Plan at this level of the process, and not including it as an Alternative to be considered for inclusion in the EIS, foregoes the opportunity for a decision maker to consider it over the "preferred alternative", which we

believe is more environmentally harmful. Section 1502.14(b) specifically requires that each alternative be given "substantial treatment" in the EIS.

As stated in the DEIS (p. 2-108), the two Alternatives considered (from Ho'olaulima and Kailua Neighborhood Board) were eliminated because they were seen as: "*eliminating most if not all reasonable public access and support facilities within the project site, and providing minimal support for cultural practices*". We object to this conclusion, and **would like to see those proposals (along with ours) given the "substantial treatment" they deserve**.

- The LKOC Alternative Plan was not addressed in the list of "Other Alternatives Considered" (2-108), although its recommendations addressed all of the project's purpose and need, regarding allowing for cultural activities, public access, and wetland restoration, and were feasible and practical to implement from a technical and economic standpoint. (Note: the LKOC Alternative Plan can be found in Appendix A, pp. 874-886.)

  LKOC's Alternative Plan supports educational research, stewardship activities and service learning projects and would require less financial support from the legislature. When support is available, our Alternative would direct financial resources to DOFAW facility maintenance, restoration of the wetland and rehabilitation of the streams flowing into it. LKOC's Alternative supports most of the Natural Resource Management Activities listed in the DEIS, including the removal of invasive vegetation covering the wetland and the creation of additional wetland areas. It differs from the agency's preferred plan in that it only supports facilities that are necessary for maintenance and restoration of the wetland, including the riparian upland slopes surrounding the wetland. It provides for traditional hale and storage sheds that support traditional cultural practices, as well as open-air shelters for educational programs and visitor orientation. Our Alternative proposes trails in designated areas to support recreational uses such as birdwatching, photography and hiking.

- We feel that Ho'olaulima's recommendations were not given adequate consideration nor any weight given to the scope of their community involvement: 6 community meetings (one in each of Kailua's neighborhoods that would be impacted by the plan). These meetings were sponsored by State Parks and DOFAW (with resource support from the National Parks Service) and the public told that they had a voice in the outcome.

- The Community Alternative Plan approved by the Kailua Neighborhood Board and other organizations is not identified by name and is wrongly named the "Kailua Neighborhood Board Recommendations". The Alternative we speak of is entitled, **"Kawainui Marsh Restoration: Priorities, Protocols, Participation, and Plan, Hawaiian Community Perspective"**. It was written by a member of the Hawaiian community and a member of the non-Hawaiian community, in

consultation with other community members, and presented to, and approved by the Kailua Neighborhood in 2013. It was later challenged by some Hawaiians who said it did not represent their position, and they referred to it as "The Kailua Neighborhood Board Alternative". It should be identified by its original title in the DEIS. This would better reflect the actual extent of community input that went in to developing the alternative, and the weight which it should be afforded.

Additionally, according to the DEIS p. 2-110, this proposed alternative appears to have been dismissed based largely on the following subjective criteria:

- It "*does not provide a reasonable alternative to support cultural practices*" (by whose 'reasonable' definition?), and
- It "*conflicts with both DOFAW and DSP core agency mission objectives for protecting and managing cultural resources*" (in what way does limiting new construction of hardscape structures conflict with protecting and managing cultural resources?), and
- It "*does not support traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiian's for cultural purposes under Article XII of the State Constitution*" (again, how does limiting modern structures, in favor of providing for more appropriate environmentally conscious construction, while still allowing cultural practices to occur, not support the rights of native Hawaiians for cultural purposes?).

Therefore, we feel a proper evaluation of Plan Alternatives was not included in the DEIS.

We feel that the 'preferred alternative' given in the DEIS is not the 'environmentally preferable' one that best protects, preserves and enhances historic, cultural and natural resources, and is supported by a large contingent in the community, but, rather, it is one slanted to support its own alternative over reasonable and feasible other alternatives.

We request an opportunity to present LKOC's environmentally preferable alternative, and subject it to the degree of analysis given to the proposed action.

Concern #3: Lack of full examination and consideration of Community Input

The current plan, as presented, leaves many of us who favor restoration and protection of the marsh over extensive development questioning whether the process utilized to solicit and evaluate public input was inadequate and/or flawed. The Kailua Neighborhood Board made this same assessment back in 2013. Has anything changed?

As further evidence of the planners' unresponsiveness to community input, the Plan has not changed significantly, since originally presented in 2014, to be reflective of vast community input in opposition to the damaging effects of structures, parking lots, and trails, and vast

community concern regarding security, on-going maintenance, and management of visitor access. In the currently presented Plan, vis a vis the 2014 Draft Plan, as reflected on pp. 8-12 – 8-13:

- A minimal number facilities or structures were removed, moved, or modified to reduce significant environmental impacts as raised in community input. Six additional 'kauhale concept' structures were added. We propose that only traditional, non-modern structures be allowed to be constructed at any building site. **We feel support facilities can be incorporated into this low impact design concept.**

- Minimal reduction was made to the number, scope, and size of public access trails; Changes were mainly in the Kapaa to Kalaheo Subarea; While attention is given to addressing security and homeless issues, via the statement "*DOCARE officers would be available to respond to suspicious or inappropriate activities, enforce regulations, and ultimately increase security in the area.*" p. 4-88, we still have concerns about illegal activity, particularly at night, on the proposed miles of trails not under individual site jurisdiction. **The number and extent of such trails should be reduced.**

- No attention was given to addressing the restoration of the upstream water sources that supply the marsh; the marsh restoration is futile if that water source is not managed. It is irresponsible to not consider this crucial factor when evaluating a marsh 'restoration' plan. Additionally, the DEIS is incomplete in that it should include flood control analysis of the cumulative impact the project could have on the human environment of people living downslope of the levee. **Please revise the DEIS to include reference to and analysis of these two elements.**

Concern #4: Unprofessional handling of organizations opposing the plan

We feel there was an unprofessional handling of organizations opposing the plan, as evidenced by:

- Including language criticizing the Kailua Neighborhood Board of "dictating to the native community what type of facilities should be provided to support their traditional policies" p. 2-110. The Marsh is within the public domain, and belongs to all, not just the native Hawaiian community. We all have a right and duty to protect it. By specifically calling out this criticism in the DEIS, it discredits the KNB and their right to speak out and be heard. **This type of wording should be removed from the DEIS.**

- Misrepresentation of the position of "The Outdoor Circle" by inserting language suggesting their concern for visitor impact on the natural, historic and cultural resources of Kawainui is only in opposition to visitors to Kailua. (Appendix A, p. 887). For the record, LKOC has never been opposed to visitors to Kailua. We are opposed

to illegal visitor-related activity only, such as unlicensed commercial beach activity. **We would like a correction to that misrepresentation**.

- Misrepresentation of the position of "The Outdoor Circle" (p. 4-81) by inserting an erroneous statement regarding our press release in which Hanauma Bay and Polynesian Cultural Center were mentioned. What we said in that press release was simply a query as to whether, in order to provide funding for the project, might DLNR consider a visitor destination modelled after the two named sites? We never stated the project would be modelled after Hanauma Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center. **We would like this reference to The Outdoor Circle removed from the DEIS**.

- Misrepresentation of valid public concerns raised as being based on "*misinformation*", "*out of context*", and due to "*not bothering to read the plan*" (p. 4-81). These kinds of statements do a disservice to all those individuals and organizations that have done their research, and voiced their opposition to the plan based on the potentially detrimental effects that certain actions proposed will have on this fragile resource. **We feel that this type of phrasing, which appears to minimalize valid community concerns as baseless and not worth considering, does not belong in the DEIS, and should be removed.**

For the above reasons, we feel the DEIS is incomplete, inadequate and inaccurate, and we would like to see it revised, as stated above, before final approval. Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your response.

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AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Diane Harding, President
The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle
P.O. Box 261
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Harding:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *We support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project stated goals that provide for:*
   - *Natural Resource Restoration and Habitat Enhancement*
   - *Cultural Practices and Stewardship*
   - *Public Access for Outdoor Recreation and Educational Opportunities*
   - *Resource Management.*

   We also support the Plan's underlying goal of allowing public/private partnership and stewardship activity to continue and flourish there. However, The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle would like to go on record as opposing the current Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project, as described in the November 2017 DEIS, for the following reasons:

   Response: We appreciate your support for project objectives concerning: 1) natural resource restoration and habitat enhancement; 2) cultural practices and stewardship; 3) public access for outdoor recreation and educational opportunities; 4) resource management; 5) allowing public-private partnerships; and 6) stewardship activities to continue and expand within the project site. We have provided responses to address your comments expressing concerns with other components of the project.

2. *Concern #1: Project Scale*
   The Project scale, as presented in the DEIS, is too large, and the potential impacts of provisions in the plan would be large as well. We feel:

Response: We acknowledge your concern with the scale of the project being "too large". However, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and the Division of State Parks (DSP) do not believe the scale of the project is too large. Overall, project improvements are modest given the large upland area available, and are reasonable to meet project needs and objectives.

Due to community concerns generally expressed with increasing public access and visitors, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have been removed from the proposed project. This includes portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site, and revised text explaining this change in the Final EIS (FEIS) is attached to this letter. Structures associated with the built environment total a little over one acre in size (about 48,300 sf) and would be dispersed in designated areas across about 66 acres of upland area. In addition, DSP is considering implementing scaled-back improvements as an interim facility for the education center consisting of just parking, restroom, and an open pavilion at Pōhakea to focus more on programs support. These changes would significantly reduce the projected number of visitors.

In contrast, the Kūkanono subdivision development adjacent to Kawainui's wetland has over 130 residential structures and about 460,000 square feet of building footprint, not to mention associated roads and driveways. Therefore, in comparison, the Kūkanono subdivision above Kawainui would be considered far more intrusive on the environment and appropriately characterize as a "large" development. However, the DEIS shows that such large scale urban residential development along Kawainui has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality, and the proposed project would similarly not either.

a. *The planners' implementation of "LWCF 6(f) requirements that necessitate increased public access and outdoor recreational activities based upon DSP coordination with the National Park Service" is too broad. Having to provide public access and recreational activities should not require the installation of miles of trails as provided in the plan. Yes, provision for a minimal trail system with viewing platforms is needed.*

   Response: DSP disagrees that the proposed project improvements supporting federal LWCF 6(f) requirements are too broad. Pedestrian and foot trails proposed are within reasonable upland areas that DOFAW and DSP can manage, and are necessary to improve public access and outdoor recreation. With elimination of some sections of the pedestrian trail, the only remaining sections would now be along upland areas from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku and from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station. What you consider a "minimal trail system" is not explained or justified. DOFAW and DSP believe the revised areas proposed for the pedestrian trail are reasonable and the various minimization and mitigative measures discussed in the DEIS address community issues with visitor and public access.

b. *The planners' implementation providing for educational opportunities and native Hawaiian cultural practices, (as per Article XII of the Hawaii State Constitution), is too broad, and ignores public input asking that more environmentally friendly structures and facilities be built. State and Federal regulations do not require that hardscape structures be built in order provide for these practices. Yes, provisions for*

support facilities are necessary to this stewardship activity, but not the extensive multi-acre multi-structure 'centers' provided for in the plan.

Response: We disagree with your opinion that project improvements supporting educational programs and native Hawaiian cultural practices are "too broad." As discussed in Section 2.2.2, structures proposed would be environmentally friendly. Proposed locations with building footprints are shown on site plans, and other information is provided to evaluate structure characteristics and activities. Buildings proposed are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements, and incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines. Low impact design (LID) elements such as bioswales, bioretention areas, and rain catchment systems would also be considered in project design.

The project does reflect considering public input as improvements have been scaled back considerably since the EIS Preparation Notice. Some comments received from the community, such as your organization, feel that less buildings and more "environmentally friendly" structures should be proposed instead. However, other comments from the community support proposed plans. As discussed in Section 2.2.2, the ultimate design for buildings and structures would be determined by the selected non-profit organization during their design process. Nevertheless, the impacts from such facilities would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in several sections of the DEIS, and they would provide beneficial effects supporting cultural, educational, and stewardship opportunities.

Federal regulations are not applicable to the sites proposed for cultural centers. State regulations do not prevent such structures from being constructed. Cultural center plans are reasonable and would not adversely impact the environment based upon the DEIS analysis. Structures associated with the cultural centers would total only about 17,000 square feet of floor area, which does not reflect "extensive multi-acre" structures.

c. *The potential irreparable degradation of this fragile natural resource, due to construction at multiple sites around the marsh perimeter, are just not acceptable. It is troubling to see statements such as "Design features can be incorporated to minimize site disturbance and reduce erosion potential" p.8, or "the education center is proposed on a sloped area and is envisioned to be built with post-and-pier construction to minimize ground modification" p. 8. These do not indicate that this is what would/could actually occur, and add to our concern that the cumulative impacts of this multi-site construction will, over time, result in the degradation of this important resource.*

Response: It should be clarified that the wetlands of Kawainui are not a pristine or fragile resource. The ecological character of Kawainui is currently a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts. Upland areas where cultural centers and other structures are proposed consist of previously disturbed areas (e.g. City baseyard, ranching). The DEIS demonstrates that such improvements would not adversely impact the environment, and various best management practices and other measures are proposed to further minimize effects. As discussed, the surrounding Kūkanono subdivision development is far more intrusive and extensive, however,

Kawainui has not been adversely impacted from such large scale urban residential development. The wetlands of Kawainui and Hāmākua naturally function as large basin traps for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from waters discharged from streams, drainage systems, and upland surface runoff.

We do not believe statements regarding design features to minimize disturbances are troubling. The design of actual improvements would be conducted when implemented, and it is correct that design features can be incorporated into those plans to minimize effects or that the education center could be built using post-and-pier construction. All design plans would be reviewed by DOFAW or DSP, as appropriate, and subject to pertinent regulatory requirements and ministerial permits.

It is also noted that the statements referenced are from the Executive Summary of the DEIS, which is intended to provide a brief description of the proposed action because a more detailed description of the action is provided in a separate chapter. Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS states that the post-and-pier design is proposed for the education center. The project description (Section 2.2) includes more details and does state what is proposed and is sufficient to identify impacts. As discussed in the DEIS, these improvements would not result in a cumulative adverse impact on the resource.

d. *The projected 20-year phased implementation should not be covered by a single all-encompassing EIS. Further, it appears that the RFP process to select site stewardship proprietors will not have any provision for public input regarding the real nature and scope of any construction that may occur. We are troubled by statements such as the following that are sprinkled throughout the plan: "Specific best management practices and strategies used would be determined during the design phase of improvements".*

Response: It is appropriate that the entire project be covered under a single EIS document as required under the State's environmental regulations. A 20-year timeframe is used to address the long-term effects of the project as improvements would be phased for implementation during this time period.

The RFP process would include requests for sufficient information from applicants, and would adequately identify the scope of improvements and activities that would be allowed. Thus, there would not be any questions or concerns related to what can be implemented under the RFP solicitation. Such RFP or RFQ processes are implemented regularly by State and City agencies for projects and improvements. Selection of non-profit organizations under this process would require Land Board approval, therefore, the public would have the opportunity to provide input concerning the nature or scope of the improvement during land board proceedings.

Regarding best management practices; specific measures and practices would be determined during the design phase of improvements. Various types of measures that could be implemented were identified in Chapter 2 or specific impact sections of the DEIS. Furthermore, agency review of design plans and ministerial permits obtained would review detailed measures to ensure the project complies with applicable regulations and requirements.

3. *Concern #2: Lack of full examination and consideration of proposed Alternative Plans The overwhelming majority of public input (as evident in Appendix A of the DEIS), has been largely ignored.*

Response: We disagree with your opinion that the overwhelming majority of public input has been largely ignored. We also disagree that the input considered has just been from a small contingent of organizations. Based upon community input, the project has been scaled back to reduce areas initially proposed for public access. Other reductions are discussed in the response to No. 2, above. The State also needs to consider the broader public interest because this is state resource for the benefit of all.

a. *The input that has been considered appears to be confined to a small contingent of private organizations, including those that have been working on design plans and have indicated their readiness to pay for buildings and have the funding to do so. This is not to say that said input is invalid. It is simply to note that the range of alternatives presented in the DEIS, has not been rigorously explored or objectively evaluated, nor has the extent of community support of these alternative ideas been given its due weight and consideration.*

Response: We disagree that input has been confined to a small contingent of organizations. The planning process for this project has been ongoing since late 2010, and significant volume of public input has been received. There has been considerable effort to notify the Kailua community about this project. Outreach activities included five public informational meetings (legal notices published), several smaller community and stakeholder meetings, Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) presentations and discussions, and several meetings with the Ho'olaulima group comprised of a diverse group of organizations. In addition, a public website on the project has been available, social media was used to spread information throughout the community, and there has been frequent media coverage over the years. The DEIS included information on all these consultation efforts.

Alternatives raised by the community have been explored, considered and objectively evaluated. This is discussed in Section 2.3 of the DEIS. Most input on alternatives was supportive of wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and management of these resources. Concerned comments have focused on the issue of public access and visitors that may be attracted to the site. Alternatives need to meet the purpose and objectives of the project. Some suggestions did not satisfactorily achieve that requirement. There was some community support for certain elements of alternatives raised. However, other community input opposed those alternatives, and there has been community input supporting proposed project plans. Nevertheless, DOFAW and DSP appreciate the input received, which is included in Appendix A of the FEIS. Project modifications have been made to address concerns. However, consideration of alternatives is not based upon popularity, but upon whether such suggestions better meet the project need, objectives, and agency mission compared to impacts that might result from the proposed project. The State also needs to consider the interests of the broader public from a statewide perspective when evaluating alternatives because this is a resource for all residents of Hawai'i.

b. *Section 1502.14 of NEPA requires the EIS to examine all reasonable alternatives to the proposal. In particular, dismissing our LKOC Alternative Plan at this level of the process, and not including it as an Alternative to be considered for inclusion in the EIS, foregoes the opportunity for a decision maker to consider it over the "preferred alternative", which we believe is more environmentally harmful. Section 1502.14(b) specifically requires that each alternative be given "substantial treatment" in the EIS.*

Response: The Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which includes your references to Sections 1502.14 and 1502.14(b), is not applicable to this project. This environmental review process and DEIS have been prepared under State regulations (Chapter 343, HRS) as discussed in Section 1.1.1. Reasonable alternatives have been considered and addressed under Section 2.3 of the DEIS in accordance with State regulations, and as explained in our prior response.

The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle's (LKOC) proposed Alternative Plan (Alternative Plan) was described in your October 24, 2016 comment letter on the EISPN. A response letter was provided to the LKOC addressing this alternative plan, and these letters were included in Appendix A of the DEIS. Although you believe the LKOC's alternatives would be less environmentally harmful, they do not adequately support the project purpose and objectives. Furthermore, the results of the DEIS show that the proposed project would not have significant adverse impacts on the environment, and several management measures were identified to address concerns with public access and visitors along with other best management practices to minimize impacts. The FEIS will include discussion of the LKOC's Alternative Plan in Section 2.3. Revised text is attached to this letter.

Some of the themes proposed by LKOC's Alternative Plan are consistent with major components of the proposed project, such as wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and enhancing habitat for endangered waterbirds. Therefore, the project supports portions of the Alternative Plan. However, other suggestions do not practicably support important components of the purpose and need for the project, the State's mission, the need to provide reasonable public access for all, nor do they support Ramsar objectives. Several elements of the LKOC's Alternative Plan provide restricted, limited, and superficial access for the public. Although the Alternative Plan supports preservation of historic and cultural resources, it does not provide many suggestions that support reasonable and practicable opportunities for non-profit organizations and cultural practitioners to establish a permanent presence in this area to support and conduct cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship. The justification for smaller scale improvements is to avoid negative impacts on Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands, watershed, waterbird habitat, and archaeological sites. However, the scale of improvements are reasonable, and the DEIS analysis shows improvements would not have an adverse effect on these areas. The project also does not provide privately-owned, for-profit commercial operations or activities for visitors, and commercial tour buses are not being accommodated within areas. Consequently, these other components of the Alternative Plan were considered, but eliminated from further consideration.

c. *As stated in the DEIS (p. 2-108), the two Alternatives considered (from Ho'olaulima and Kailua Neighborhood Board) were eliminated because they were seen as: "eliminating most if not all reasonable public access and support facilities within the project site, and providing minimal support for cultural practices". We object to this conclusion, and would like to see those proposals (along with ours) given the "substantial treatment" they deserve.*

Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the elimination of alternatives proposed by Ho'olaulima and the Kailua Neighborhood Board. However, the reasons they were eliminated were discussed in Section 2.3 of the DEIS. As responded previously, those alternatives do eliminate most reasonable public access and support facilities, and have minimal support for cultural practices. The LKOC and other alternatives suggested were thus properly considered and evaluated, but were eliminated for important reasons. Although your organization supports these alternatives, there were several comments that opposed them.

1) *The LKOC Alternative Plan was not addressed in the list of other Alternatives Considered" (2-108), although its recommendations addressed all of the project's purpose and need, regarding allowing for cultural activities, public access, and wetland restoration, and were feasible and practical to implement from a technical and economic standpoint. (Note: the LKOC Alternative Plan can be found in Appendix A, pp. 874-886.)*

LKOC's Alternative Plan supports educational research, stewardship activities and service learning projects and would require less financial support from the legislature. When support is available, our Alternative would direct financial resources to DOFAW facility maintenance, restoration of the wetland and rehabilitation of the streams flowing into it. LKOC's Alternative supports most of the Natural Resource Management Activities listed in the DEIS, including the removal of invasive vegetation covering the wetland and the creation of additional wetland areas. It differs from the agency's preferred plan in that it only supports facilities that are necessary for maintenance and restoration of the wetland, including the riparian upland slopes surrounding the wetland. It provides for traditional hale and storage sheds that support traditional cultural practices, as well as open-air shelters for educational programs and visitor orientation. Our Alternative proposes trails in designated areas to support recreational uses such as birdwatching, photography and hiking.

Response: The EISPN response letter to your organization addressed your alternative, and discussion of the LKOC alternative has been added to Section 2.3 of the FEIS as discussed in response No. 3.b. We do not agree that the LKOC alternative adequately supports the purpose and need for the project for reasons previously discussed (e.g. providing restricted, limited, and superficial access for the public). Project improvements are feasible and practicable to implement from a technical and economic standpoint based upon the information included in the DEIS.

LKOC's plan does support educational programs and stewardship activities, but does not provide reasonable and sufficient support facilities for those activities, and

proposes unreasonable restrictions on public access. For example, suggesting to allow only a once a year opportunity for the general public to visit the Kahanaiki area under staff-led tours does not support reasonable public access, LWCF requirements, or the project need and objectives.

DOFAW and DSP are confident they can obtain financial support for project improvements, and have been receiving such support over the years. DSP may proceed with more modest interim improvements at Pōhakea instead of the educational center, which would allow such improvements to be implemented sooner. Development of the cultural centers at Kapa'a and Wai'auia would be funded by selected non-profit organizations, which does not require State funding. State funding support for restoration efforts and DOFAW's management station are already identified and would be phased over time, which is not changed by LKOC's suggestions.

We agree that LKOC's alternative supports natural resource management activities, and the project is consistent with improvements proposed to meet those objectives. However, as you state, LKOC's suggestions provide minimal support facilities for public access, visitors, and even less facilities supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices. Suggestions (hale and storage shed) to support cultural practices are inappropriate and do not reasonably support cultural practices and other activities because they only provide superficial support for temporary access.

2) *We feel that Ho'olaulima's recommendations were not given adequate consideration nor any weight given to the scope of their community involvement: 6 community meetings (one in each of Kailua's neighborhoods that would be impacted by the plan). These meetings were sponsored by State Parks and DOFAW (with resource support from the National Parks Service) and the public told that they had a voice in the outcome.*

Response: We disagree with your opinion on Ho'olaulima's recommendations because they were considered and discussed in Section 2.3 in detail. Alternative sites for the education center were not feasible or practicable because they suggested using privately-owned properties (commercial businesses along Hāmākua Drive, a commercial building, and a boating business). The proposed project is for State-owned properties under DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction. Using sites that alternative proposed would involve the displacement of existing commercial businesses which is not justifiable as a prudent and practicable alternative for DSP. Other alternative sites suggested are also separated from Kawainui and would not adequately support the education center's purpose to provide visitor orientation, guidance of restrictions, etc.

We appreciate the efforts Ho'olaulima initiated in conducting community meetings and getting community input. However, the review of their alternative suggestions still need to be evaluated based upon the project purpose and objectives like all other alternatives. We also need to clarify that DOFAW and DSP were not "sponsors" of Ho'olaulima's efforts and recommendations, and the State did not

adopt or endorse their recommendations. Those efforts were initiated by certain community organizations, with support from a staff from the National Park Service.

3) *The Community Alternative Plan approved by the Kailua Neighborhood Board and other organizations is not identified by name and is wrongly named the "Kailua Neighborhood Board Recommendations". The Alternative we speak of is entitled, "Kawainui Marsh Restoration: Priorities, Protocols, Participation, and Plan, Hawaiian Community Perspective". It was written by a member of the Hawaiian community and a member of the non-Hawaiian community, in consultation with other community members, and presented to, and approved by the Kailua Neighborhood in 2013. It was later challenged by some Hawaiians who said it did not represent their position, and they referred to it as "The Kailua Neighborhood Board Alternative". It should be identified by its original title in the DEIS. This would better reflect the actual extent of community input that went in to developing the alternative, and the weight which it should be afforded.*

   Response: Section 2.3.4 will be revised to reflect the name indicated for "The Community Plan" that was supported by the KNB. Revised text is attached to this letter.

   We received background information associated with the plan's development from the KNB that has also been added to the FEIS. The KNB stated that the former Chair of the KNB worked on developing the plan. We do note that the former President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club worked with the former KNB Chair to develop the plan. However, that plan was, and is, not supported by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. We also note your comment that some native Hawaiians similarly stated that the alternative plan did not represent their position on this project. The KNB also commented that The Community Plan was only presented to certain community organizations identified that have been opposed to the proposed project, and was not widely circulated in its development.

   This alternative was discussed in Section 2.3 of the DEIS, and we appreciate the effort made in developing The Community Plan, which supports restoration, preservation and maintenance of Kawainui. However, there were significant differences regarding interpretive facilities and support features recommended, along with not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presense at Kawainui. Key elements of the purpose and need for the proposed project are improving public access and outdoor recreation, which were not met by this alternative. There was also insufficient accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access, which was also addressed in prior responses.

4) *Additionally, according to the DEIS p. 2-110, this proposed alternative appears to have been dismissed based largely on the following subjective criteria:*

   Response: Your comments referring to page 2-110 of the DEIS refer to discussion of the KNB's Community Plan alternative. Certain elements of that Community Plan are consistent with the proposed project. However, Section 2.3 addresses the basis for eliminating other elements of that plan. Given the nature of evaluating such alternative suggestions, the criteria used were reasonable and not subjective.

It is noted that the Community Plan did not provide objective or quantitative data to justify and support why concepts better met the project purpose and objectives. A response to your bulleted comments is provided below.

a) *It "does not provide a reasonable alternative to support cultural practices" (by whose 'reasonable' definition?), and*

Response: "Reasonable" represents having fair, sensible, and logical judgement in determining what is appropriate. The Community Plan proposed no facilities supporting cultural practices at Kapa'a, Wai'auia, and Pōhakea. Only a hula mound was proposed for Wai'auia, which is not a reasonable alternative.

b) *It "conflicts with both DOFAW and DSP core agency mission objectives for protecting and managing cultural resources" (in what way does limiting new construction of hardscape structures conflict with protecting and managing cultural resources?), and*

Response: The alternative does not limit, rather it prohibits, any new structures to support cultural practices, and makes it difficult and unreasonable to support cultural practices. As discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS, the areas proposed for cultural centers would support and assist DOFAW in stewardship of areas and Kawainui's cultural landscape. Permanent facilities would also better support educational programs and stewardship opportunites at the designated sites. Under Article XII of the State Constitution, supporting traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiians for cultural purposes is required, and part of agency missions. The purpose for the project is to support cultural practices by allowing centers to be developed at designated areas. The DEIS resulIts show that such "hardscape structures" would not have an adverse effect on the environment, are sited in previously disturbed areas, and would not significantly impact historic sites or cultural resources. Therefore, it is reasonable for such facilities to accommodate and support cultural practices and practitioners.

c) *It "does not support traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiian's for cultural purposes under Article XII of the State Constitution" (again, how does limiting modern structures,in favor of providing for more appropriate environmentally conscious construction, while still allowing cultural practices to occur, not support the rights of native Hawaiians for cultural purposes?).*

Response: The alternative proposes no facilities, and thus does not support, cultural practices or provide a permanent presence at Kawainui given its cultural significance to the native Hawaiian community. There are no "environmentally conscious" alternative structures proposed for construction to support cultural practices. A hula mound does not support cultural practices intended for areas under the project objectives. Based upon the DEIS results, such structures and activities are reasonable, would not adversely impact the environment, and are appropriate at designated areas.

d. *Therefore, we feel a proper evaluation of Plan Alternatives was not included in the DEIS. We feel that the 'preferred alternative' given in the DEIS is not the 'environmentally preferable' one that best protects, preserves and enhances historic,*

cultural and natural resources, and is supported by a large contingent in the community, but, rather, it is one slanted to support its own alternative over reasonable and feasible other alternatives. We request an opportunity to present LKOC's environmentally preferable alternative, and subject it to the degree of analysis given to the proposed action.

Response: Proper evaluation of alternatives, such as the Community Plan and LKOC alternative, occurred, as presented in Section 2.3 of the DEIS with additional information added in the FEIS as discussed in response No. 3.b. The reasons supporting why certain elements of those alternative plans were not appropriate are discussed in the DEIS and our prior responses. Those alternatives prohibit new structures to support cultural practices, make it difficult and unreasonable to accommodate cultural practices and activities, and does not support reasonable public access and outdoor recreation. Those alternatives do support your concerns and opposition to visitors and public access at Kawainui, but do not adequately support the project need and objectives. Although you may feel the proposed project is not an "environmentally preferable" solution, it is a reasonable proposal that better meets the project need and objectives, and would not have an adverse effect on the environment based upon DEIS results. Furthermore, elements of the proposed project have been reduced (e.g. pedestrian trails), the DEIS discusses management actions to address visitors and public access, and other best management practices and measures have been identified to further minimize effects.

Project improvements would support improving natural resources (e.g. wetland restoration, waterbird habitat enhancement), and cultural centers would greatly enhance cultural practices and increase stewardship of areas that support natural and cultural resources. While there may be some support in the community for the LKOC and KNB alternatives, there are also many in the community that support the proposed project and are opposed to those alternative plans. For example, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) comprised of 58 clubs and several thousand members statewide unanimously supported this project at their 2014 annual convention through adoption of AHCC Resolution 14-36. Furthermore, the State needs to consider the interests of the broader public from a statewide perspective when evaluating alternatives because this is a resource for all residents of Hawai'i. We disagree that the DEIS did not consider other reasonable and feasible alternatives, and this was discussed in our responses addressing the importance of the project need, reduction in project improvements, and why components of other alternatives were not acceptable.

We appreciate your request to present LKOC's alternative, however, we are clear in understanding what is proposed under that alternative, and a presentation is not necessary. LKOC's position on this project and proposed improvements have been made clear based upon the prior comment letters and input received from representatives at informational meetings, Ho'olaulima meetings, etc. As already stated, several of the LKOC's Alternative Plan concepts are already consistent with major components of the proposed project, such as wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and enhancing habitat for endangered waterbirds. However, other suggestions do not practicably support important elements of the purpose and need for

the project, the State's missions, the need to provide reasonable public access for all, nor do they support Ramsar objectives, and cultural practices. Those components instead provide only restricted, very limited, and superficial access for the public.

4. *Concern #3: Lack of full examination and consideration of Community Input*

The current plan, as presented, leaves many of us who favor restoration and protection of the marsh over extensive development questioning whether the process utilized to solicit and evaluate public input was inadequate and/or flawed. The Kailua Neighborhood Board made this same assessment back in 2013. Has anything changed?

As further evidence of the planners' unresponsiveness to community input, the Plan has not changed significantly, since originally presented in 2014, to be reflective of vast community input in opposition to the damaging effects of structures, parking lots, and trails, and vast community concern regarding security, on-going maintenance, and management of visitor access. In the currently presented Plan, vis a vis the 2014 Draft Plan, as reflected on pp. 8-12 -8-13:

Response: The project includes wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and several improvements supporting management activities that are consistent with your organization's desire for Kawainui-Hāmākua as discussed in Section 2.2. We don't view other project improvements as consisting of "extensive development" as already responded to. In addition, several reductions have been incorporated to address concerns with the level of improvements proposed. In comparison, construction of the Kūkanono subdivision above Kawainui would be more fairly considered a far more intrusive and extensive development than what is proposed under this project.

We disagree with your opinion of the process used to solicit and evaluate public input on this project and during the environmental review process. As already stated under our response No. 3, the planning process on this project has been ongoing since late 2010, considerable public input has been received, and this is documented under Chapter 8 of the DEIS. Such activities included several public informational meetings, several smaller community and stakeholder meetings, KNB presentations and discussions by members, a public website on the project, and considerable social media information spread throughout the community. The KNB can have their own opinion on the process as well, since their role under the Neighborhood Board system is advisory providing input to agencies, which have been received and considered.

We also disagree with your opinion that the project has been unresponsive to community input and has not changed significantly since the draft master plan presented in 2014. Section 2.2 of the EISPN discussed changes to the project since the 2014 draft master plan based upon public input received, and further project revisions (e.g. eliminating sections of pedestrian trails) have been added due to DEIS comments as discussed under our response No. 2. Just because alternatives raised or all comments suggested do not get incorporated into project plans do not mean they were not considered. The environmental review process allows for public input, but ultimately decisions need to be made by the agency after reviewing the information. Furthermore, the DEIS showed that proposed improvements, such as trails and structures, would not have an adverse effect on the environment. Security and maintenance activities, and management of visitor access (Section 2.2.5) have been

addressed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS. Responses to your bulleted comments on specific items are addressed.

a. *A minimal number facilities or structures were removed, moved, or modified to reduce significant environmental impacts as raised in community input. Six additional 'kauhale concept' structures were added. We propose that only traditional, non-modern structures be allowed to be constructed at any building site. We feel support facilities can be incorporated into this low impact design concept.*

Response: Structures proposed for the kauhale complex at Pōhakea would consist of traditional Hawaiian pole and thatch structures, as discussed in Section 2.2.4. Initial kauhale structures proposed in the DEIS have been reduced after considering public input, and will be reflected in the FEIS based upon our prior response No. 2. For other cultural centers, buildings would be appropriately designed consistent with design guidelines, as discussed in the DEIS. Having properly designed "modern" structures is appropriate, and is needed to support their intended use. Traditional structures (hale) are available if the non-profit organizations desire such design, but the DEIS provides information on the concept and character of such buildings for the cultural centers. In addition, the education center would be appropriately designed to meet its purpose and use.

Buildings and other structures encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui upland area, and would not adversely impact the environment. Site improvements would be designed using pervious material and LID elements. Buildings are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements, and incorporate LEED or other similar sustainable building design principles. In comparison, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge on Maui constructed a large modern visitor center with a paved parking lot and other improvements constructed along that wetland to support visitor and educational programs.

b. *Minimal reduction was made to the number, scope, and size of public access trails; Changes were mainly in the Kapaa to Kalaheo Subarea; While attention is given to addressing security and homeless issues, via the statement "DOCARE officers would be available to respond to suspicious or inappropriate activities, enforce regulations, and ultimately increase security in the area." p. 4-88, we still have concerns about illegal activity, particularly at night, on the proposed miles of trails not under individual site jurisdiction. The number and extent of such trails should be reduced.*

Response: As discussed in prior responses, additional sections of the pedestrian trail along with accessory structures (e.g. pavilions) have been removed from the project to address DEIS comments. Trails would not be open at night and there would not be lighting provided to support night use. Trails along the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku upland section do not affect any nearby residences, and various measures discussed in Section 2.2.5 address security concerns. Along the Kūkanono subdivision section, various measures were identified to address security, such as fencing along the trail and at the State's property line bordering residences.

c. *No attention was given to addressing the restoration of the upstream water sources that supply the marsh; the marsh restoration is futile if that water source is not managed. It is irresponsible to not consider this crucial factor when evaluating a marsh 'restoration' plan. Additionally, the DEIS is incomplete in that it should include flood control analysis of the cumulative impact the project could have on the human environment of people living downslope of the levee. Please revise the DEIS to include reference to and analysis of these two elements.*

Response: We appreciate your interest with the larger watershed area. However, DOFAW and DSP cannot control water diversions and pollution discharges, which occur in the mauka watershed areas outside of the Kawainui and Hāmākua project site. Those lands are largely privately-owned property, and DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction or authority over activities occurring within those properties. It is also impracticable and infeasible for this project to develop a larger watershed plan to dictate what type of activities should be conducted on those properties. The purpose of this project is not to restore upstream water sources or change uses of private property outside of the project area for which DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction. The City Board of Water Supply (*Ko'olau Poko Watershed Management Plan*, 2012) and the State Commission on Water Resource Management (*Water Resource Protection Plan*, 2008) have already addressed larger watershed issues.

However, DOFAW can manage the wetlands within the Kawainui and Hāmākua project site to support and improve their function and value within the watershed. The DEIS considered and includes sufficient information on tbis project area to identify current conditions, which result from outside activities, and address project-related impacts. The DEIS includes information on existing conditions, history of the area, etc. that include these upland areas and valleys and their influence on Kawainui's wetland and water source. The DEIS addressed project cumulative impacts on the environment in regard to relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions as discussed in the DEIS, including Section 7.3.

The DEIS addresses flood control impacts in Section 3.2.4 and Section 5.3 addresses runoff and impacts from site improvements. The project's only effect on Kawainui wetland's flood control capacity would be increased stormwater runoff from impervious improvements. As discussed in Section 5.3, project improvements (e.g. parking, buildings) would contribute minimal additional runoff, as the vast majority of runoff occurs from undeveloped upland and vegetated areas within the project site. Cumulatively, the increase from the proposed project would be negligible in relation to the large quantities of water already being discharged from streams and outside areas into Kawainui's wetland. Hāmākua has minimal improvements proposed to support management and programs, and would have negligible influence on that wetland's flood control capacity. Flood control of Kawainui is addressed by the COE and improvements have occurred to the levee. Removal of the large amounts of vegetation from wetland restoration would further improve the wetland's flood control function.

5. *Concern #4: Unprofessional handling of organizations opposing the plan*

We feel there was an unprofessional handling of organizations opposing the plan, as evidenced by:

Response: We disagree with your opinion on the manner in which information addressing organizations' comments were discussed in the DEIS. Responses to your bulleted comments are addressed below.

a. *Including language criticizing the Kailua Neighborhood Board of "dictating to the native community what type of facilities should be provided to support their traditional policies" p. 2-110. The Marsh is within the public domain, and belongs to all, not just the native Hawaiian community. We all have a right and duty to protect it. By specifically calling out this criticism in the DEIS, it discredits the KNB and their right to speak out and be heard. This type of wording should be removed from the DEIS.*

Response: The sentence (DEIS page 2-110) criticizing the KNB's approach toward the native Hawaiian community and traditional cultural practices is not based upon unprofessional handling of comments, but correctly reflects input received. The sentence prior to that (on page 2-110) explains that the criticism is based upon comments received from organizations and individuals. Such concerns, particularly from the native Hawaiian community, have been received in comment letters and input from public meetings and smaller community meetings. We disagree that the statement discredits the KNB or their right to provide input. Nevertheless, that statement has been rephrased in the FEIS. Revised text is attached to this letter.

b. *Misrepresentation of the position of "The Outdoor Circle" by inserting language suggesting their concern for visitor impact on the natural, historic and cultural resources of Kawainui is only in opposition to visitors to Kailua. (Appendix A, p.887). For the record, LKOC has never been opposed to visitors to Kailua. We are opposed to illegal visitor-related activity only, such as unlicensed commercial beach activity. We would like a correction to that misrepresentation.*

Response: Your concern refers to the first page of the November 24, 2017 response letter to the LKOC's October 24, 2016 comment letter included in the DEIS Appendix. That language was based upon the comments received in that letter which included the Alternative Plan proposing minimal support for public access and facilities for visitors. We are pleased to clarify through this response letter that the LKOC organization's official position is not being opposed to visitors to Kailua, and correspondingly is not opposed to accommodating visitors at Kawainui associated with the proposed project. Accordingly, the LKOC should not be opposed to providing reasonable support facilities for visitors to Kawainui, such as parking, trails, and restrooms because it is unreasonable to properly accommodate visitors without such facilities. Further, based upon the LKOC's position of not being opposed to visitors, it would be reasonable that the LKOC understand why certain components of the Community Plan and LKOC's Alternative Plan supported in your comments were not incorporated into project plans. As discussed in prior responses, several elements of the LKOC's Alternative Plan and Community Plan provide restricted, limited, and superficial access for the public. Those alternative plan components do not provide many suggestions supporting

reasonable and practicable opportunities to establish a permanent presence to support cultural practices, educational programs, stewardship, and public access.

We share your concerns with impacts, and such facility and public access improvements would not have an adverse effect on the environment based upon the DEIS. Proposed reductions with certain improvements would further reduce such effects. DOFAW and DSP are also concerned with illegal visitor activities, such as unpermitted privately-operated commercial tour groups, and share your concern. The proposed project does not involve any commercial beach activity. Section 2.2.5 discusses various management actions proposed to address illegal visitor activities, and a reasonable level of visitors projected could be adequately managed.

c. *Misrepresentation of the position of "The Outdoor Circle" (p. 4-81) by inserting an erroneous statement regarding our press release in which Hanauma Bay and Polynesian Cultural Center were mentioned. What we said in that press release was simply a query as to whether, in order to provide funding for the project, might DLNR consider a visitor destination modelled after the two named sites? We never stated the project would be modelled after Hanauma Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center. We would like this reference to The Outdoor Circle removed from the DEIS.*

Response: The statement referred to on Page 4-81 of the DEIS correctly discussed information spread throughout the community that likely contributed to misperceptions of the project by the public. Many comment letters subsequently referenced the Polynesian Cultural Center and raised concerns against having this type of facility in the proposed project. As discussed on DEIS page 4-81, the information was obtained from a blog that was posted on The Outdoor Circle's website, (not the LKOC website), on October 7, 2013, and was written by two individuals, and was not a press release. That blog stated "*the consultants argue that the trail system, parking lots and buildings are needed to service local and international visitors who will be better able to appreciate the marsh and it looks like DLNR might support a visitor destination modeled after Haunama Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center because they believe development and tourism will attract funding.*" Nevetheless, that section of the DEIS has been rephrased to better clarify what the blog stated. Revised text is attached to this letter.

d. *Misrepresentation of valid public concerns raised as being based on "misinformation", "out of context", and due to "not bothering to read the plan" (p. 4-81). These kinds of statements do a disservice to all those individuals and organizations that have done their research, and voiced their opposition to the plan based on the potentially detrimental effects that certain actions proposed will have on this fragile resource. We feel that this type of phrasing, which appears to minimalize valid community concerns as baseless and not worth considering, does not belong in the DEIS, and should be removed.*

Response: The statements referenced on Page 4-81 of the DEIS are not misrepresentations of public concerns. Rather, they discuss various factors that contributed to or influenced community perception of the project. We do not believe such statements do a disservice to other organizations or individuals that did review

plans and offer comments on the proposed project. Such phrasing does not minimalize community concerns, nor state them as being baseless or not worth considering. Statements referring to misperceptions were based upon public input and EISPN comment letters received that indicated several comments were based upon incorrect information that did not reflect project plans and current information. Other comments and letters received further suggested that persons did not fully review project plans.

6. *For the above reasons, we feel the DEIS is incomplete, inadequate and inaccurate, and we would like to see it revised, as stated above, before final approval. Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your response.*

   Response: We believe the DEIS is complete, adequate and accurate in the information discussed contrary to your perception of it, and our responses to your comments address this. We appreciate your comments, and revisions have been incorporated into the FEIS to address them, clarify areas, or better explain information as stated in our responses provided.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

ATTACHMENT - DRAFT EIS REVISIONS - LANI-KAILUA OUTDOOR CIRCLE, COMMENT 2

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area

   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

off from Kawainui by Kapa'a Quarry Road, and would not support pedestrian paths nor provide a suitable experience for visitors. It would not support management and monitoring of visitor activities within the Kawainui area, particularly along the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku corridor.

Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Plan

The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC) proposed an Alternative Plan (Alternative Plan) to the project as described in their October 24, 2016 comment letter on the EISPN. A response letter was provided to the LKOC addressing this alternative plan. These letters were included in Appendix A of the DEIS. Some of the themes proposed by this Alternative Plan are consistent with major components of the proposed project, such as wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and enhancing habitat for endangered waterbirds. However, other suggestions do not practicably support important components of the purpose and need for the proposed project, the State's missions, and the need to provide reasonable public access for all. Nor do they support Ramsar objectives. Consequently, these other components of the Alternative Plan were considered, but eliminated from further consideration.

It should be noted that Ramsar supports sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices within designated international wetlands of importance. Ramsar views sustainable tourism as maintaining a high level of visitor satisfaction, ensuring a meaningful experience, and raising awareness about sustainability issues.

Several elements of the LKOC Alternative Plan do not support project objectives. Instead the plan proposes restricted, limited, and superficial access for the public. The justification for smaller scale improvements is to avoid negative impacts on the Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands, watershed, waterbird habitat, and archaeological sites. However, the analysis in the DEIS shows proposed improvements would not have an adverse effect on these areas. The proposed project does not provide privately-owned, for-profit commercial operations or activities for visitors. Commercial tour buses are not accommodated by the proposed project.

Although the Alternative Plan supports preservation of historic and cultural resources, it does not provide many suggestions which support reasonable and practicable opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence to conduct cultural practices, educational programs, and participate in stewardship of the area. The Alternative Plan suggests that "modern buildings," trails, pavilions, and other structure additions are not needed to meet project objectives. However, "modern" buildings are not viewed as being detrimental to the environment. Such buildings would include tool sheds, plant nurseries, restrooms, and parking shelters to support restoration work, public access, educational programs, and cultural practices. The more important consideration of proposed structures relates to their purpose and the type of activities they support. The suggested form of public access in the Alternative Plan also does not support LWCF requirements for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities for all.

The details by areas suggested in the Alternative Plan are addressed below. Several of the suggested details are already proposed by this project.

1. Kawainui-Hāmākua. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements are included in the proposed project. Commercial for-profit activities for visitors are not included as part of project improvements.
2. Kahanaiki. Educational programs, cultural practices, community service learning projects are supported by proposed improvements. However, allowing only a once a year opportunity for the general public to visit this area under staff-led tours does not support reasonable public access, LWCF requirements, and project need and objectives. A parking lot at the south end of the Kahanaiki area is needed to provide reasonable access for the public, and would support educational programs. The proposed bridge crossing over Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated along the section of pedestrian trail connecting Kahanaiki with Mokulana.
3. Nā Pōhaku (Pōhakea). Suggestions for this site do not support reasonable public access because the kauhale complex would not adequately serve the purpose of the education center for visitors. The Draft EIS discusses the purpose for this education center. Overall, the size and footprint of this education center would not have a significant impact on the environment. However, based upon comments received during the DEIS comment period, DSP may instead implement a facility on a smaller or interim scale that includes parking, restrooms, and a pavilion, as discussed in Section 2.2. The project's proposed parking lot is sufficient to accommodate projected visitor levels, whereas a 15-stall parking lot would not be adequate, and provides only minimal and superficial support for public access.
4. Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine. The only improvements proposed at this site by the proposed project would connect foot trails from Pōhakea to this site. Existing structures are not planned to be replaced with a new covered pavilion because these structures were built by a non-profit organization for educational and cultural programs conducted under a curatorship agreement. Public access at this site is already allowed, and DOFAW would address wetland access restrictions as part of their ongoing management activities. There are no 10 to 12 foot wide pedestrian trails proposed at Nā Pōhaku, since existing foot trails would continue to be used. There is not enough space at the present trail head entrance to Nā Pōhaku to accommodate a 10 car parking lot. The parking lot proposed at Pōhakea is intended to satisfy this need, and would provide a safer area with vehicles located further away from the roadside. Restrooms proposed at Pōhakea would provide better facilities to serve the public instead of portable toilets.
5. Hawaiian Cultural Center. This site is proposed to allow construction of a cultural center by a non-profit organization to support cultural practices, stewardship opportunities, and educational programs. Based upon prior studies of Kawainui, there are no known hazardous waste issues associated with this site. The non-profit organization developing this site can conduct soil tests, if necessary. Reforestation of this area with native vegetation is included.

6. Vegetation Processing Site. Facilities proposed for this site are needed to adequately support vegetation processing activities and operations.
7. Kapa'a Stream, Ditches, Culverts. The drainage ditches along Kapa'a Quarry Road near the City Model Airplane Park are owned by the City. Therefore, any maintenance or vegetation clearing for them would need to be performed by the City. Pedestrian trails or boardwalks from Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, toward the Model Airplane Park, and toward Kalāheo have been eliminated from the proposed project. Improvements from the bend in Kapa'a Quarry Road to Mōkapu Boulevard consist of wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements that would not contribute to increased long-term traffic along this roadway.
8. Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR). Improvements shown for the Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo Section (park site) are already permitted and entitled. The hale wa'a initially proposed has been eliminated from the proposed project. Therefore, the project does not propose any new improvements to this site.
9. Levee. DOFAW is planning to restrict dogs from the levee, and will be taking steps to enforce this prohibition in the near future.
10. Wai'auia and Center for Hawaiian Studies. Wai'auia needs wetland restoration and does not provide important habitat for endangered waterbirds. Only a pedestrian trail and observation area are proposed here to provide a connection with the levee. The site for the cultural center is culturally important, which supports locating the center there and management and maintenance of a proposed reinterment site. There are no known historic sites present within this upland area. A suggested alternative of a hale or pavilion located here instead would be inappropriate and does not support cultural practices and other activities. Such a structure provides superficial support for temporary access and does not adequately support the project need. The cultural center would not have significant impacts to view planes of Kawainui. Landscaping would provide further visual buffering.
11. Ulupō Heiau and State Historical Park. The pedestrian and foot trail linking the levee with Ulupō Heiau is no longer included with this project to address public access concerns. The other program-related elements, buffers, and restriction of commercial activity proposed by the Alternative Plan are generally included by the proposed project or are presently occurring (e.g. educational programs). The project does not include using the gated driveway from Kailua Road to the Windward YMCA's rear parking lot to serve Ulupō Heiau. The final design of the foot trail along the Kūkanono subdivision hillside would be routed to avoid impacting existing historic sites in this area that predominantly consist of terraced walls.
12. DOFAW Management Station. The replacement of DOFAW's temporary structures with permanent modern buildings and program-related elements supported by the Alternative Plan are already proposed under this project. Educational and research programs, etc. are presently occurring within this area in coordination with DOFAW. Commercial activities are not proposed at the passive outdoor recreational area west of DOFAW's management station. A restroom facility suggested can be considered

for this area, both on an interim and permanent basis using an individual treatment system.

13. Mokulana Peninsula. Both driveway accesses to this peninsula are planned to be gated and available only for management activities, and educational and cultural programs, etc. coordinated with DOFAW. The other components suggested for this site are already incorporated in project plans. Dogs would not be allowed within these areas. This area would not be open at night. A bridge crossing over Maunawili Streams would not be constructed within the wetland, and is intended to support DOFAW management access within areas.
14. Hāmākua Marsh. Educational programs, cultural programs, and community service learning projects are already permitted and occurring within Hāmākua. The proposed project does not change this condition. Improvements proposed at the gated entrance are needed to support maintenance activities, serve as a staging area, and accommodate programs occurring.
15. Pu'uoehu Hillside. Proposed trails on Pu'uoehu would not be open to the general public because they are intended to support DOFAW management and reforestation activities. However, DOFAW may permit occasional community service learning projects or day events for the public to visit this area, learn of the resource and activities, etc.

2.3.4 Other Alternatives Considered

Alternative plans have been suggested by certain organizations for consideration instead of the proposed project concepts. These alternatives were considered, but have been eliminated from further consideration because of various reasons such as they do not support the project's purpose and need or were not feasible and practicable to implement. The alternative plans generally support wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements proposed under the project. However, alternatives differ in the area of public access and cultural practices. In summary, the common theme proposed under these alternatives was eliminating most if not all reasonable public access and support facilities within the project site, and providing minimal support for cultural practices. These suggested alternatives are summarized.

~~**Kailua Neighborhood Board Recommendations**~~ **Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation**

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) Planning, Zoning and Environment Committee supported a Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation plan they refer to as "The Community Plan" ~~proposed their version of a plan~~ as an alternative. This ~~version of the~~ plan was adopted by the Committee in October 2013, and received the Board's support at their November 2013 meeting. Exhibit 2.23 includes the map of ~~their~~ this alternative plan showing all facilities instead proposed.

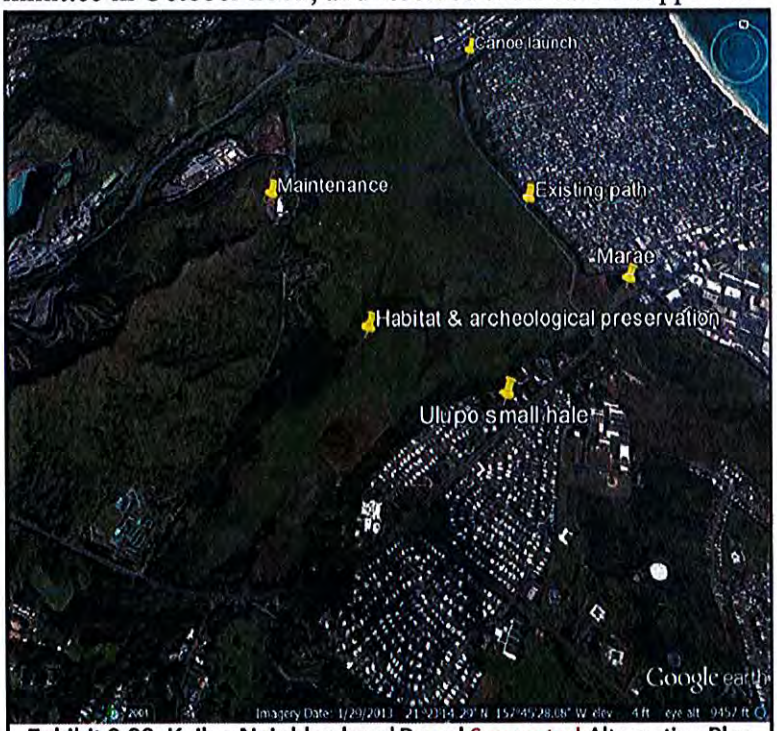

Exhibit 2.23 Kailua Neighborhood Board Supported Alternative Plan ~~Proposed~~

The plan was prepared by some Kailua and Waimanalo residents, including the President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (at the time) and the Chairperson (at the time) of the KNB. However, it is noted that The Community Plan has never been supported by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club up to today. The KNB has explained that this plan was first presented to certain community organizations that included the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep It Kailua, and Hawaii's Thousands Friends. Only after these organizations endorsed The Community Plan, did the KNB review and endorse it.

There would be no improvements supporting public access in the form of pedestrian trails, support facilities (e.g. restrooms, observation decks), or the education center. This alternative creates a situation conflicting with DOFAW and DSP agency missions that support public access. This alternative also does not meet LWCF 6(f) requirements that necessitate increased and improved public access and outdoor recreational activities.

In addition to not supporting public access, this alternative plan provides no reasonable or practicable support for cultural practices. For example, a proposed marae hula mound and small hale at Wai'auia to accommodate "occasional" activities do not support establishing a long-term and permanent cultural presence to support cultural practices, stewardship, and educational opportunities by non-profit organizations and cultural practitioners. Such a mound and hale only accommodate temporary use for activities, and are more appropriate for being components within a more appropriate cultural center. Reasonable represents having fair, sensible, and logical judgement in determining what is appropriate. The Community Plan does not include facilities to support a permanent presence for cultural practices at Kapa'a, Wai'auia, and Pōhakea, and is consequently not fair, sensible or logical as an alternative for that component of the project.

These superficial accommodations proposed for cultural practices do not provide a reasonable alternative to truly and practicably support a long-term and permanent presence for cultural practices. Comments from other organizations and individuals, particularly from the native Hawaiian community, have criticized this ~~neighborhood board's~~ alternative plan. A particular area of their criticism is on the appropriateness of such a plan supported by the KNB ~~this board~~ to be ~~dictating~~ determining for ~~to~~ the native Hawaiian community what type of facilities should be provided to support their traditional cultural practices. Based upon the KNB's comments, the plan was not presented to native Hawaiian community organizations for their input prior to being adopted by the KNB. Organizations that the plan was presented to have long established their opposition to the proposed project, increasing public access, supporting visitors, and cultural centers. This alternative conflicts with both DOFAW and DSP core agency mission objectives for protecting and managing cultural resources. It also does not support traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiian's for cultural purposes under Article XII of the State Constitution.

Ho'olaulima Recommendations

Ho'olaulima prepared a document titled *Interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update* (July 2012) to provide DOFAW and DSP with their suggestions as part of the master plan's development. Ho'olaulima believes that interpretation can be used to heighten awareness and understanding, and develop better stewardship of the Kawainui-Hāmākua area. After a series of community meetings held, the organization identified the following alternatives related to the siting of the education center as shown on Exhibit 2.24. These alternative locations consisted of the following.

Restoration efforts and improved public access at Kawainui would provide visitors to Kailua with another passive outdoor recreational and educational site to visit. However, activities at Kawainui (wildlife viewing) would not serve as a primary destination that attracts most visitors as previously discussed. Activities at Kawainui would likely take only a couple hours to complete, and are not as popular as compared to spending most of the day at the renowned beaches, participating in ocean recreational activities, and shopping at boutiques, other retail shops, and the diversity of available restaurants.

Renovation of the commercial town center providing a diversity of boutique and retail shopping experiences that are popular with visitors would not be changed by the project. Future decisions on commercial redevelopment or tenant mix would be influenced by other economic factors instead of improvements and visitors to Kawainui. As an example, what occurs at Kawainui would have little influence in a decision made selecting a particular restaurant tenant or new boutique shop. The "Obama effect" generating popularity with Kailua (e.g. shave ice) would not be influenced or increased by proposed project improvements, and this Obama influence would likely diminish over time (e.g. 10 years from now).

Much of the visitor-related concerns with the project are also attributable to misinformation distributed throughout the community that leads to misinterpretation of what is actually planned at Kawainui-Hāmākua. As discussed in Section 4.1.2 (cultural resources), a level of miscommunication on Kawainui had occurred in which people in the community heard things out of context and never bothered to review the plans based upon interviews conducted. For example, an October 7, 2013 blog published on The Outdoor Circle's website stated *"... it looks like DLNR might support a visitor destination modeled after Haunama Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center because they believe development and tourism will attract funding."* ~~the project would support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay (for education center) or the Polynesian Cultural Center (for cultural centers), which~~ Those developments are significantly different and negatively exaggerates the concept of plans proposed under the project.

Effects from Wetland Restoration and Upland Reforestation

The proposed expansion of wetland restoration and upland reforestation at Kawainui and Hāmākua should have minimal, if any, effect on the social character of Kailua and should not generate significant concerns from the community. The community is generally supportive of restoration efforts recognizing the need to address the expansion of invasive species due to decades of minimal management efforts until DOFAW acquired jurisdiction of these areas. The long-term benefits to wetland functions, waterbird habitat, flood control, and water quality are widely supported by the community. Comments received on the EISPN showed community support for wetland restoration and upland reforestation plans, and recognize its value as a statewide public resource.

THE LANI-KAILUA OUTDOOR CIRCLE

Ms. Suzanne Case, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

January 22, 2018

Aloha Chairperson Case,

The Lani-Kailua Branch of the Outdoor Circle (LKOC) has received the DLNR response to our input on the **Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project** and has been reviewing the latest DEIS for the project. We commend your staff for their thorough responses to the multitude of comments submitted, as presented in Appendix A of the DEIS.

As you know, LKOC's interest in this DEIS, and any plans for the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh, both now and for the past half century, has always been strictly from an environmental point of view, where our only concerns are for preservation and restoration of

a) the function of the marsh as an integral part of the Windward aquifer,
b) its wildlife habitat, and
c) its archeological and cultural significance.

We have always recognized and supported the need for restorative, stewardship and cultural activities to occur there. We have participated in and supported such activities for over 50 years.

However, in our reading of the current DEIS, we see two significant misrepresentations of LKOC's position on the plan that we'd like to see corrected.

1) In **Chapter 4, Human Environment,** p 4-81 of the DEIS, there is a paragraph which includes statements that discredit The Outdoor Circle, specifically, as an example of a disseminator of '*out of context*' '*misinformation*' to the public, regarding visitor-related concerns, and included therein is a distortion of a press release that LKOC published in October 2013, regarding our concerns about the proposed Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan.

In that press release, LKOC did <u>not</u> state: "*the project would support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay (for education center) or the Polynesian Cultural Center (for cultural centers)*", as reported in the DEIS. Rather, it simply posed the question as to whether, in order to attract funding for the project, DLNR <u>might</u> support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Additionally, stating in the DEIS, in said paragraph, that visitor-related concerns raised (by anyone) in the community are just a '*misinterpretation*' of the Plan by those who '*never bothered to review*' it, does a disservice to all those who care deeply about what happens there. LKOC and many other community groups have performed thorough reviews of all plans presented to date, and feel concerns expressed regarding visitor access are valid ones that need to be addressed.

For example, the impact of the projected visitor count at the proposed Educational Center alone, of 6000 visitors/month, as noted in the DEIS on page 4-85, is certainly not insignificant, and warrants both concern on the part of the surrounding community, and attention by the plan developers as to how the increased traffic on Kapaa Quarry Road will be handled.

In summary, we would like to see the following inflammatory paragraph on page 4-81 removed in its entirety from the DEIS:

Much of the visitor-related concerns with the project are also attributable to misinformation distributed throughout the community that leads to misinterpretation of what is actually planned at Kawainui-Hāmākua. As discussed in Section 4.1.2 (cultural resources), a level of miscommunication on Kawainui had occurred in which people in the community heard things out of context and never bothered to review the plans based upon interviews conducted. For example, an October 7, 2013 blog published on The Outdoor Circle's website stated the project would support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay (for education center) or the Polynesian Cultural Center (for cultural centers), which are significantly different and negatively exaggerates the concept of plans proposed under the project.

2) In **Appendix A**, p. 887, the DLNR response to LKOC contains a statement that misrepresents LKOC's position as having always been in '*opposition to visitors to Kailua*', and therefore opposed to the current plan and the potential increase in visitors to the marsh. This statement is untrue. For the record, LKOC has never been opposed to visitors to Kailua, and, in fact we welcome and recognize them as part of what makes our community thrive. What we are opposed to is illegal commercial visitor activity, such as unlicensed commercial beach operations. Additionally, LKOC is not opposed to visitors to the marsh; we are only concerned with managed visitor access to the marsh. It is a complete mischaracterization to say that our motives for voicing visitor-related concerns about the Plan are based on our opposition to visitors to Kailua in general. We would like to see this corrected.

We hope you will consider the concerns we raised here, and look forward to hearing from you.

Mahalo,
The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle
Diane Harding, President
Diane Harding
Cc: David Smith, DOFAW Administrator

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Diane Harding, President
The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle
P.O. Box 261
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Harding:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2018 to Chairperson Case providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses on behalf of the Chairperson that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *The Lani-Kailua Branch of the Outdoor Circle (LKOC) has received the DLNR response to our input on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project and has been reviewing the latest DEIS for the project. We commend your staff for their thorough responses to the multitude of comments submitted, as presented in Appendix A of the DEIS. As you know, LKOC's interest in this DEIS, and any plans for the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh, both now and for the past half century, has always been strictly from an environmental point of view, where our only concerns are for preservation and restoration of*

   a) the function of the marsh as an integral part of the Windward aquifer,
   b) its wildlife habitat, and
   c) its archeological and cultural significance.

   We have always recognized and supported the need for restorative, stewardship and cultural activities to occur there. We have participated in and supported such activities for over 50 years.

   Response: We appreciate your acknowledgement of thorough responses given to EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) comment letters included in the Appendix of the DEIS. We appreciate your interest in Kawainui-Hāmākua. We note your three areas of concern are: 1) the function of the wetland as a part of the aquifer; 2) wildlife habitat; and 3) archaeological and cultural significance.

We appreciate your support for restoration, stewardship, and cultural activities occurring at Kawainui-Hāmākua, and believe the proposed project meets those objectives. The proposed project supports your three areas of interest, and Chapter 2 of the DEIS discusses the project's purpose, objectives and improvements proposed to meet them. The project would not negatively impact the function of the underlying aquifer or change its protection status as discussed in Section 3.4.2 of the DEIS. Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands naturally function as large basin traps for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants from waters discharged into it from streams, drainage systems, and upland surface runoff as part of the larger watershed area. The DEIS discussed that proposed improvements would not have an adverse effect on wildlife since all terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems. However, waterbird habitat would be enhanced by restoration efforts, and would not be adversely impacted by visitors and other activities. The historic and cultural significance of Kawainui would be improved through establishment of cultural centers that allow for a permanent presence for the native Hawaiian community at Kawainui, and support their living culture and traditional and customary practices.

2. *However, in our reading of the current DEIS, we see two significant misrepresentations of LKOC's position on the plan that we'd like to see corrected.*

   a. *1) In Chapter 4, Human Environment, p 4-81 of the DEIS, there is a paragraph which includes statements that discredit The Outdoor Circle, specifically, as an example of a disseminator of 'out of context' 'misinformation' to the public, regarding visitor-related concerns, and included therein is a distortion of a press release that LKOC published in October 2013, regarding our concerns about the proposed Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan. In that press release, LKOC did not state: "the project would support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay (for education center) or the Polynesian Cultural Center (for cultural centers)", as reported in the DEIS. Rather, it simply posed the question as to whether, in order to attract funding for the project, DLNR might support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center.*

      Response: Unfortunately, we disagree with your opinion that the LKOC's position on the plan was misinterpreted on two areas discussed in the DEIS. The statements referenced on page 4-81 of the DEIS does not make statements, such as out of context or misinformation, directly discrediting comments from the LKOC. That statement stems from input provided from a National Park Service staff person interviewed as part of a cultural impact assessment, and discussed in Section 4.1.2 (Cultural Resources). That paragraph is associated with a section discussing various factors that have influenced the public's perception of community issues associated with the proposed project. It correctly explained information was spread throughout the community that likely contributed to misperceptions of the project by the public. Statements referring to misperceptions were also reflected in public input and EISPN comment letters received that indicated several comments were based upon incorrect information that did not reflect project plans and current information. Other comments and letters received further suggested that persons did not fully review project plans.

It should be clarified that the information was obtained from a blog that was posted on The Outdoor Circle's website, (not the LKOC website), on October 7, 2013, and was written by two individuals, and was not a press release. Many comment letters subsequently referenced the Polynesian Cultural Center and raised concerns against having such a development. The proposed cultural centers are very different from the Polynesian Cultural Center, and others opposed the perception of that being connected or envisioned to it. That blog stated "*the consultants argue that the trail system, parking lots and buildings are needed to service local and international visitors who will be better able to appreciate the marsh and it looks like DLNR might support a visitor destination modeled after Haunama Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center because they believe development and tourism will attract funding.*" Nevetheless, that section of the DEIS has been rephrased to better clarify what the blog stated. Revised text for this paragraph is attached to this letter.

b. *Additionally, stating in the DEIS, in said paragraph, that visitor-related concerns raised (by anyone) in the community are just a 'misinterpretation' of the Plan by those who 'never bothered to review' it, does a disservice to all those who care deeply about what happens there. LKOC and many other community groups have performed thorough reviews of all plans presented to date, and feel concerns expressed regarding visitor access are valid ones that need to be addressed. For example, the impact of the projected visitor count at the proposed Educational Center alone, of 6000 visitors/month, as noted in the DEIS on page 4-85, is certainly not insignificant, and warrants both concern on the part of the surrounding community, and attention by the plan developers as to how the increased traffic on Kapaa Quarry Road will be handled.*

Response: We disagree with your suggestion that the referenced page suggests that visitor-related concerns raised by anyone are a misinterpretation of the project or by those who did not review the plans. We do not believe discussion from that section does a disservice to other organizations or individuals that did review plans and provided concerns with the project. That section does not characterize all comments received as being invalid or needing to be addressed. That paragraph is associated with a section discussing various factors that have influenced the public's perception of community issues associated with the proposed project. Concerns with visitor access is valid and was addressed in the DEIS, such as under Sections 2.2.5 and 4.2.2. Public input received at meetings and EISPN comment letters showed several comments were based upon incorrect information that were not reflective of proposed plans and information distributed. Other comments and letters revealed that some persons did not review project plans. The projected 6,000 visitors a month to the education center is not insignificant, but it is also not excessive. That translates into only about 200 visitors a day, or about 30 to 35 visitors an hour (6 hour period), which is reasonable and manageable. Additional visitors are a concern to some members of the Kailua community, and the DEIS addresses those concerns along with traffic impacts (Section 5.6).

3. *In summary, we would like to see the following inflammatory paragraph on page 4-81 removed in its entirety from the DEIS:*

> *Much of the visitor-related concerns with the project are also attributable to misinformation distributed throughout the community that leads to misinterpretation of what is actually planned at Kawainui-Hamakua. As discussed in Section 4.1.2 (cultural resources), a level of miscommunication on Kawainui had occurred in which people in the community heard things out of context and never bothered to review the plans based upon interviews conducted. For example, an October 7, 2013 blog published on The Outdoor Circle's website stated the project would support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay (for education center) or the Polynesian Cultural Center (for cultural centers), which are significantly different and negatively exaggerates the concept of plans proposed under the project.*

Response: We do not view the referenced paragraph on page 4-81 as inflammatory, and our responses above clarifies this perspective. However, that paragraph has been revised to clarify information under response No. 2.a.

4. *2) In Appendix A, p. 887, the DLNR response to LKOC contains a statement that misrepresents LKOC's position as having always been in 'opposition to visitors to Kailua', and therefore opposed to the current plan and the potential increase in visitors to the marsh. This statement is untrue. For the record, LKOC has never been opposed to visitors to Kailua, and, in fact we welcome and recognize them as part of what makes our community thrive. What we are opposed to is illegal commercial visitor activity, such as unlicensed commercial beach operations. Additionally, LKOC is not opposed to visitors to the marsh; we are only concerned with managed visitor access to the marsh. It is a complete mischaracterization to say that our motives for voicing visitor-related concerns about the Plan are based on our opposition to visitors to Kailua in general. We would like to see this corrected.*

Response: Your concern refers to the first page of the November 24, 2017 response letter to the LKOC's October 24, 2016 comment letter included in the DEIS Appendix. That language was based upon the comments received in that letter which included the organization's Alternative Plan proposing minimal support for public access and facilities for visitors. We are pleased to clarify with this response letter that the official position of the LKOC is that the organization is not opposed to visitors to Kailua, but welcomes tourists and recognizes them as an important part of making the community thrive. Thus, the LKOC correspondingly is not opposed to accommodating visitors at Kawainui associated with the project. Accordingly, the LKOC should not be opposed to providing reasonable support facilities for visitors to Kawainui, such as parking, trails, and restrooms because it is unreasonable to properly accommodate visitors without such facilities.

We share your concerns with impacts and also support managed visitor access. Project improvements supporting visitors are reasonable and would not have an adverse effect on the environment based upon the analysis of the DEIS. DOFAW and DSP are also concerned about illegal commercial visitor activities, such as unpermitted privately-operated commercial tour groups, and share your concern. Section 2.2.5 discusses various management actions proposed to address such illegal visitor activities, and how a reasonable level of visitors projected could be adequately managed.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Restoration efforts and improved public access at Kawainui would provide visitors to Kailua with another passive outdoor recreational and educational site to visit. However, activities at Kawainui (wildlife viewing) would not serve as a primary destination that attracts most visitors as previously discussed. Activities at Kawainui would likely take only a couple hours to complete, and are not as popular as compared to spending most of the day at the renowned beaches, participating in ocean recreational activities, and shopping at boutiques, other retail shops, and the diversity of available restaurants.

Renovation of the commercial town center providing a diversity of boutique and retail shopping experiences that are popular with visitors would not be changed by the project. Future decisions on commercial redevelopment or tenant mix would be influenced by other economic factors instead of improvements and visitors to Kawainui. As an example, what occurs at Kawainui would have little influence in a decision made selecting a particular restaurant tenant or new boutique shop. The "Obama effect" generating popularity with Kailua (e.g. shave ice) would not be influenced or increased by proposed project improvements, and this Obama influence would likely diminish over time (e.g. 10 years from now).

Much of the visitor-related concerns with the project are also attributable to misinformation distributed throughout the community that leads to misinterpretation of what is actually planned at Kawainui-Hāmākua. As discussed in Section 4.1.2 (cultural resources), a level of miscommunication on Kawainui had occurred in which people in the community heard things out of context and never bothered to review the plans based upon interviews conducted. For example, an October 7, 2013 blog published on The Outdoor Circle's website stated *"... it looks like DLNR might support a visitor destination modeled after Haumama Bay or the Polynesian Cultural Center because they believe development and tourism will attract funding."* ~~the project would support a visitor destination modeled after Hanauma Bay (for education center) or the Polynesian Cultural Center (for cultural centers), which~~ Those developments are significantly different and negatively exaggerates the concept of plans proposed under the project.

Effects from Wetland Restoration and Upland Reforestation

The proposed expansion of wetland restoration and upland reforestation at Kawainui and Hāmākua should have minimal, if any, effect on the social character of Kailua and should not generate significant concerns from the community. The community is generally supportive of restoration efforts recognizing the need to address the expansion of invasive species due to decades of minimal management efforts until DOFAW acquired jurisdiction of these areas. The long-term benefits to wetland functions, waterbird habitat, flood control, and water quality are widely supported by the community. Comments received on the EISPN showed community support for wetland restoration and upland reforestation plans, and recognize its value as a statewide public resource.

For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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February 4, 2018

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Department of Land & Natural Resources
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Honolulu, HI 96809

HAS COMMENTS ON THE DEIS FOR THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MASTER PLAN PROJECT

The Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" and finds it that it does not meet the requirements of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 nor Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11 Section 200. This DEIS reads like a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) because it is in fact a segmented DEIS that is vague about details and does not address the cumulative effects of all that DLNR and its private partners say they intend to do in and around these wetlands. The DEIS does not explain how its Master Plan will probably have minimal or no significant impacts, both primary and secondary, on the wetlands environment, particularly when added together with the cumulative effects of the current stressors, i.e. water diversions, pollution, alien species, and human use that continue to degrade these wetlands.[1]

Neither a PEIS nor an illegally segmented DEIS is appropriate for the Kawainui-Hamakua marsh complex.[2] The DEIS for these wetlands should contained a detailed and comprehensive

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[1] HRS chapter 343-2. "Significant effect" means the sum of effects on the quality of the environment, including actions that irrevocably commit a natural resource, curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment, are contrary to the State's environmental policies or long-term environmental goals as established by law, or adversely affect the economic welfare, social welfare, or cultural practices of the community and State.

[2] The Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) manages fisheries in the US EEZ in the central Pacific under a PEIS that covers multiple fish species managed by multiple management plans over hundreds of thousands of miles of ocean that are amended with every new stock assessment. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Western Area Power Administration have published a final PEIS that evaluates the environmental impacts of wind energy development in the Upper Great Plains states of Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Only in these large scale situations a PEIS is appropriate.

wetlands ecosytem restoration plan and detailed habitat management plans in order to protect four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and several migratory waterbird species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These wetlands are part of a single mountain-to-ocean ecosystem that has been degraded by upstream water diversions to the Waimanalo watershed and the construction of a dyke/wall for flood control, which has prevented stream flow from following its natural course through Kawainui Marsh, through Hamakua Marsh, and on into the ocean, diverting it instead to the artificial Oneawa canal, which doesn't allow water out of the Kawainui wetland ecosystem at low water levels. The impact of these diversions, plus the Kappa`a valley industrial park pollution, alien California grass and Hale Koa introduced to feed cattle, private residences and a hospital along more than half of the Kawainui Marsh border, and businesses and parking lots along Hamakua Marsh, are all examples of existing cumulative impacts that have led to the buildup of the huge 8-10 feet thick floating peat mat in the center of Kawainui Marsh and the degradation of these RAMSAR wetlands. Adding more buildings, septic systems, parking lots and canoe ramps along the Quarry Road, which is the last undeveloped edge of Kawainui Marsh, will undoubtedly increase the cumulative and significant impacts on these already stressed wetlands.

While the DEIS may be purposefully vague and segmented to evade review, it does reveal a commitment to a far larger Project. As the 2014 iteration of the Kawainui-Hamakua Complex Master Plan indicates, the purpose of this very large Master Plan Project is the development of this watershed and these wetlands for increased human use when it should be the restoration of this severely degraded wetland ecosystem. While the environmental effects of each segment of this Master Plan Project may be limited, the cumulative impacts of all of these generally-described segments and ultimately the entire Project when completed will have a very significant effect on the watershed and wetland environments.

The Hawai`i Environmental Policy Act Citizen's Guide of October 2014 published by the State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) describes EA/EIS segmentation as follows:

8.1 Phased Actions - Project Segmentation.
"A group of actions proposed by an agency or an applicant shall be treated as a single action when:
A. The component actions are phased or increments for a larger project;
B. An individual project is a necessary precedent for a larger project;
C. An individual project represents a commitment to a larger project;
D. The actions in question are essentially identical and a single statement will adequately address the impacts of each individual action and those of the group of actions as a whole (Sec. 11-200-7 HAR)."

The above indicates that the DEIS for the Kawainui-Hamakua **Master Plan** is, in fact, a segmented EIS, as does its title. The Rule against Segmentation exists because by omitting the

requisite details the full sum of what is being planned and the potential impact of it all escapes review once the DEIS comment period is ended. Below are the examples identified by the Kailua Neighborhood Board of how this vague, segmented DEIS avoids describing the details of what DLNR has already planned for this resource, which it called its 'vision' in a letter sent to the Hawaii Audubon Society on November 24, 2017.

Comments by Kailua Neighborhood Board
On DEIS for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan
February 1, 2018

Page 7: You state that there will be road and drainage improvements on Quarry Road, but fail to explain how this will be accomplished given the City and County and private ownership of portions of the area slated for these improvements.

Page 8: You state that design features can be incorporated, but do not explain what or how, or any impacts or mitigations.

Page 9: Re. impact on birds from visitors - you say "DOFAW **may** enact mitigation measures." Will they? When? What are they? What is the cost?

Page 14: We understand that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants allow for the recreational component to be provided off site. This should be addressed.

Page 23: "Sustainment of educational and cultural programs … cannot rely on volunteers alone." How many employees will be required and who will pay for them and the maintenance required?

Page 23: "A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored." This contradicts statements made in many parts of the DEIS that, except for 100 persons per day, commercial activities will not be permitted. Also, how can anyone examine the impacts and mitigations of "may be explored?"

Page 24: You say the only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors. Strong concerns have also been raised concerning removal of the peat mat as a priority, increased flood protection, intrusion of humans in the Bird Sanctuary, and others.

Chapter 1.
Page 1-2: States that the applicant is DOFAW and DLNR. As explained in HAR 11-200 this is an "agency action." Yet Table 1-1 includes actions by non-profit organizations which are not agencies. Their activities would be "applicant actions." No Environmental Assessment (EA) for applicant actions has been submitted. The accepting authority for an EIS may also differ.

Chapter 2.
Page 2-9: The list of plans does not include the **"Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."**

Page 2-30: Item 5. Peat Mat Zone states "an area important for Kawainui flood control capability … would remained unchanged." Removal of the peat mat is critical to improving the restoration of the wetland and flood retention capability of the Kawainui Marsh. A major flaw in the

proposed plan is that it does not include this necessary remediation. It is included as a priority in the "Community Plan."

Related to this is a matter that is not addressed in the proposed plan. This is the provision of a permanent siphon facility over the dike transmitting water from the Kawainui Marsh into Kawainui Stream. As most people in Kailua know, this system was tested by a temporary DLNR demonstration project. A letter received from DLNR acknowledged that the test was a success in remediating the flow problems in Kawainui Stream without adding to flood potential in the Coconut Grove area. This facility should be addressed as part of the DEIS because it is a critical project related to the water quality of the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes.

Page 2-36: Statements on this page refer to future culverts including:
Other culverts **would** be identified.
Culvert repair **could** involve.
Drainage improvements **would likely be.**
Other measures **could** include.
Drainage swales **could**.

Given that these facilities are directly related to runoff, speculation concerning them - the would (later), could (or maybe not) are an insufficient assessment of the impacts. Is it correct for us to assume that these culvert projects will be assessed in a future EA before implementation?

Page 2-37: You state storm water improvements are necessary in the area along residences near DOFAW's Hamakua entrance due to flooding. What are the details of the improvements, when will they be constructed, and at what cost?

Page 2-42: You state that no recreational activities are planned within Hamakua or on Pu'uoehu hillside. Are the planned trails not recreational?

Page 2-44: The map shows two bridges 191 feet and 644 feet long in the wetland for trails and vehicles, plus four boardwalks. What construction procedures and materials will be used for these in the wetland, and what would be their impact?

Page 2-45: You state that the design of accessory facilities and the Education Center would be determined during the design phase. How can impacts of facilities that are not yet designed be assessed? Are we correct to assume that there will be a future EA for these facilities?

Page 2-48: "Examples of learning projects ... include...." Examples do not provide information on impacts of what will be done. Specifics of what will be done are necessary.

Page 2-53: Kahanaiki area.
Approximately 25 parking stalls are proposed. How many of them are for buses? What specifically will the pavement consist of? Proposed is a septic tank for the restroom. What is the size of the system, and will the soils in the area preclude leaching of effluent into the wetland?

Page 2-54: Education Center.
Only a conceptual layout of the Education Center is provided as in a programmable EIS. Details to evaluate impacts are absent. Will a future EA be prepared by the Division of State Parks

(DSP) or the Request For a Proposal (RFP) selectee for the final design? Will that EA be an agency or an applicant action?

Page 2-60: Kapaa area (Kapaa Cultural Complex).
Same comment as in Page 2-54 above. Also, the proposed cultural complex appears to duplicate the activities at the Education Center kauhale. Why are both needed?
Why is a water storage component required?
Is the restroom and caretaker house served by the same septic system, and is the system feasible given the soils, its proximity to the wetland, and the former landfill site?
Will structures meet the commercial fire code?
Re. last paragraph - What are the specific adverse impacts to endangered water birds, and the specific mitigative measures to be utilized? Without this information there is no way to assess the effect of the facility on the endangered birds.

Page 2-62: Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalaheo section.
Will the parking area accommodate buses? What are the sizes of the buildings? What specific cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank will be done to enable safe canoe access to the canal? How much will DLNR have to increase its 100 person daily visitor limit to accommodate the park canoe education activity? What are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's requirements and design of the canoe launching facility? What effect will the canoe building and repair have on community noise and the water quality in the canal? Will access be limited to or by the successful bidder, or will it be open to the public? How many visitors and buses a day will be permitted?

Page 2-65: Wai'auia.
Only conceptual plans are provided as in a programmable assessment. Specific plans are needed to evaluate impacts.

Page 2-68: A burial or re-internment site is a cemetery. State laws and rules concerning cemeteries should be made explicit. Has an EA for the re-internment project been done or contemplated by DLNR or Board of Water Supply (BWS)? Why is Hawaiian Memorial Park not considered as an alternative?

Wai'auia Cultural Center - the cultural practices facility is the fourth or fifth non-profit cultural facility proposed in the plan. Why are so many such facilities needed in one community?
The facility proposed includes a center for Hawaiian studies in performing and literary arts. This would appear to require permanent educational structures not shown on the area map. Only a Halau and hula mound are depicted. What other structures will be included?
Will buses be allowed in the parking lot? Will fees be charged for public access and performances? Will an EA be prepared for the final design and will it be an agency or applicant action?

Levee to Ulupo - What will be the construction materials, including the footing, for the 365-foot boardwalk? What is the cost of the boardwalk? How and when will it be funded? What was the cost per foot of the Maui example of a boardwalk given?
Will there be public parking for residents at Wai'auia to access the trail to Ulupo?

Ulupo Heiau - The City and County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that was approved for the expansion of the neighboring YMCA required additional parking. The expansion has been

completed, but the additional parking has not yet been provided. Does the State intend to purchase the YMCA land needed for the YMCA parking?

Page 2-74: Hamakua-Pu'uoehu. Sub area E.
The program staging area and restroom are very close to residential homes only a few feet away. Were those residents notified? The three trails are a visual intrusion to the landscape that is identified as part of an important view plane by the Kooluapoko Sustainable Communities Plan. The erosion that will occur, like the pill box and Maunawili trails, plus the fire hazard created by numerous hikers during the dry season makes the trails a bad idea adjacent to an urban community if just for safety reasons. We can learn from the California fires and mud slides. The fence proposed will affect the view of the area from Hamakua Drive. What are the cost, design and materials of the fence?

Page 2-77, 2-78: Program and Visitor Activity Estimates.
The estimate of the number of visitors to Ulupo Heiau does not mention the two tour buses with up to 47 seats each that visit Ulupo. Additionally, according to the estimates, the number of people using the areas on a daily basis approximately equals the 100 person limit currently established by DLNR. Also, the estimates given for the three non-profit facilities of 115 appears to be inconsistent with your estimate of 9,950 visitors per month.

Page 2-82: The total projected visitor activity is 9,950 persons per month which is a large increase over your estimate of current visitors - 2,960. This should be made explicit.
The estimate of 6,000 visitors per month for the Education Center is inconsistent with your statements that the Education Center and the other non-profits developments will not be open to visitors, and that commercial permits (including tours) will not be issued. Why is there this discrepancy? How will the non-profits fund their facilities without charging users for visits or events?

Page 2-92: You note that all design guidelines are preliminary. Does this mean that the EIS is preliminary or programmatic?
You also state that "Finalized design guidelines would be included in the final master plan." Will an EA be prepared for the final master plan when the designs and other unknowns may be available?

Page 2-96, Table 2.8: The overall cost estimate is nearly $67,000,000. How will this be funded? Which developments have priority for funding? Will there be phasing?
We understand that the cost estimates for the non-profit facilities (even though they have not been designed) is:
Wai'auia - $2,430,000
Kapaa Cultural Center - $7,870,000
Ulupo Heiau - $630,000
Education Center - $5,450,000.
How firm are these estimates? How will they be funded?

Page 3-7, Section 3.1.1.2: You state "Design of site improvements and facilities would be developed by the non-profit organizations." Would further environment assessment be required prior to implementation of the improvements and facilities?

Page 3-98: "...efforts to improve coastal water quality should focus on improving the quality of ...Kawainui canal and Kaelepulu Stream. Agreed, but see earlier comments re. the siphon project.

Page 4-82, Para 3: Says the plan will not increase commercial visitors. However, the plan estimates that there will be 9,950 visitors per month (Table 2.6). Are you saying that tourists are not commercial?

Page 4-83: You say that the Education Center will not be commercial. It would accommodate non-commercial visitors consisting of Kailua residents, Oahu residents and visitors to the Island. But they will sell books, crafts or food. Is that not commercial?
City and County zoning considers that commercial, is the State different?

Page 5-8, 5-13: Wastewater Facilities.
You say that there is no sewer service along Quarry Road to serve the proposed facilities, and that the future design phase would evaluate wastewater flows and treatment requirements in greater detail including the septic tank absorption bed. Because these are critical facilities surrounding the water of the wetland, detailed information needs to be prepared before impacts of the facilities can be evaluated.

Page 6-29: CDUP OA-3068 (2002).
This CDUP permits Kawainui Marsh improvements to be made by DLNR. As you say, it expired in 2012, and was given a 10-year extension to 2022 by the BLNR. Our understanding is that the BLNR may only approve two-year extensions, and that a new permit may be required.

Page 6-45: Aloha+Challenge.
The DEIS incorrectly interprets the "Natural Resource Management" objective of the Governor's Aloha+Challenge. The objective is to "reverse the trend" of losses of natural resources, not to add to it as does the proposed plans' assault on endangered species control (sending humans into the sanctuary), as well as the lack of the prescribed Community Based Marine Management of the wetland's water areas (non-removal of the peat mat, lack of flow in Kawainui Stream, etc).

Page 7-11: Concerns with Commercial Activities.
You say that the community has a misunderstanding of the commercial activities in the proposed plan. Yet your tables show an increase to 9,950 visitors per month, and admit sales at the Education Center and fees at Wai'auia. How do you explain that discrepancy?

These wetlands share international recognition as biosphere reserve sites under the auspices of UNESCO and as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Their wildlife and ecosystems are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) , the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and their Hawaii State Law counterparts. Only fully restored and ecologically functioning wetlands that provide an abundance of natural habitat and protection for Hawaii's endangered waterbirds and migratory birds, whose Class 1 waters are as clean and pure as possible, have adequate moving water to provide sufficient healthy waterbird nesting habitat and facilitate

native goby migration, actively protect known and suspected archaeological sites and is a secure and safe place to visit, can host a limited number of people to experience their wonders. Activities that do not need to be in a wetland should not be accommodated. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service allows no visitors into the wetlands at Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on Oahu's North Shore during the nesting seasons of Hawaii's endangered waterbirds. In contrast, the draft management plan for the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh complex allows 9,950 visitors a month into the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh complex during all 12 months of the year.

The DEIS for the Master Plan Project allows the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to grant long term leases to private organizations to construct buildings, parking lots and septic systems located mere yards from Class 1 waters for the purpose of conducting state-supported cultural-religious practices and educational activities that do not need to be built in or immediately next to a sensitive wetland and would not be open to the public. For example:

Pg 2-80 "DSP and a non-profit organization would support educational and cultural programs at Kahanaiki utilizing the education center and kauhale complex at Pohakea. These programs are projected to attract a combined total of about 600 persons per month typically as part of group visits about two to three times each week. A few larger cultural events (e.g. Makahiki) may occur at the kauhale twice a year, typically on a weekend."

Pg 2-80 "Educational and cultural activities at Na Pohaku and Ulupo Heiau area expected to increase to a combined 320 persons a month. It is assumed that AML and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club will continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration efforts and educational programming activities. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites are anticipated to generate increase interest from schools or other organizations that would be supported by AML and the Civic Club."

Pg 2-81 "Three new areas for non-profit organizations provide the opportunity to establish facilities supporting cultural activities and programs. Non-profit organizations would work in partnership with DOFAW and DSP to develop activities and programs that achieve the mission of the non-profits and fulfill agency goals. These areas include: 1) Kapa`a Cultural Center 2) Wai`auia Cultural Center and 3) canoe-related programs at Kawainui SPR, Kalaheo." What about the non-profit running the Educational Center?

1) Kapa`a Cultural Center: This complex at Kapa`a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public. Site users would include those associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. A range of 300 to 400 persons are projected to utilize this center each month. This includes some staff managing the complex on a daily basis. Periodic events (three events a year) may have limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only). About 200 to 500 persons may attend these periodic functions.

2) Wai`auia Cultural Center: This complex constructed and operated by a non-profit organization would not be open to the general public. Site users would include individuals associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. About 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this

cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00 pm) and evenings. Weekend activities would generally start in the morning from 9:00 am and run through early afternoon. Advanced artisan classes would accommodate up to four students during the week. Some periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."

As the title "Master Plan Project" suggests, this project plans for increased human use of the Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands. It is not a plan that will restore wetland ecosystems, the habitat of endangered and migratory waterbirds and protect a World Wetland of International Importance. Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh are Public Trust resources. The Public Trust Doctrine is incorporated into the Hawaii State Constitution, which recognizes the application of public trust principles in the management of all its natural resources, including prevention of water diversions from and pollution of public trust wetland resources. Article XI Section 1 "For the benefit of present and future generation, the State and its political subdivision shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation . . . All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people."

BLNR is responsible as trustee to manage Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh in the interest of the public and not support private appropriation of these wetlands as this DEIS allows. As trustee, the BLNR has an obligation not only to preserve state property subject to the public trust, but also not allow for any diminution of the trust corpus. The public trust doctrine places BLNR under fiduciary obligation to protect trust resources and prevent private appropriation. What the draft EIS proposes harms the public trust and violates Article IX Section 8 and Article XI Sections 1, 7 and 9 of the Hawaii Constitution.

It would be very unfortunate if Kawainui Marsh were to lose its RAMSAR designation because its "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" is inconsistent with the requirements for listing as a Wetland of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention and its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. Exhibit A at the end of our comments below contains four pages of information submitted with the Application for Designation of Kawainui Marsh as a RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance. Based in large measure on this information Kawainui Marsh was granted RAMSAR status.

After two years of research Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF) and the National Audubon Society (NAS) submitted an Information Sheet on RAMSAR Wetlands to have Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes declared a *Wetland of International Importance* under the RAMSAR Convention to the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Affairs. In 2005 Kawainui Marsh was formally accepted by the Secretary General to the RAMSAR Convention because it met the following four criteria:

- Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeography region.
    - Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes met this criterion because of their hydrological functions as a flood control reservoir of surrounding local community by storing runoff as surface water from major rainfall events, major role in maintaining natural functioning and high water quality of Kailua Bay by trapping sediment and uptakes nutrients and pollutants

- Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
    - Both marshes support four endangered species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. The wetland complex provides habitat for four endemic Hawaiian waterbirds listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: hybrids of the Hawaiian Duck (koloa maoli), Hawaiian Coot (`ale ke`o ke`o), Hawaiian Moorhen (`ale `ula) and Hawaiian Stilt (kukuluae`o – abbreviated as ae`o)

- Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
    - Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes provide a significant portion of habitat requirements for the four endangered waterbirds, which are all endemic to Hawai`i making the wetlands critical for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region.

- Criterion 8: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depending.
    - Kawainui Marsh provides a migration path from the ocean to mountain streams for indigenous and endemic amphidromous fish and crustaceans, including the indigenous goby, endemic goby, and endemic shrimp.

Once a country has become a signatory to the RAMSAR Convention, it can nominate wetlands for inclusion in the list of 'Wetlands of International Importance' (RAMSAR sites). To obtain and keep this designation the Kawainui/Hamakua wetland complex must continue to satisfy at least one of the internationally-accepted criteria in relation to their zoology, botany, ecology, hydrology or limnology and their importance to waterfowl and other wetland dependent biodiversity. International recognition of the importance of Hawaii's only RAMSAR *Wetland of International Importance* provides both value and recognition to the State of Hawaii and an added level of protection. RAMSAR's Contracting Parties, which include the United States, are obliged to maintain the ecological character of sites in their country that are designated as RAMSAR Sites.

DLNR/DOFAW's State Wildlife Sanctuaries program focuses on implementing wetland management techniques to restore, enhance, protect and maintain wetland ecosystems, recognizing that ecosystem condition and its ability to function properly as a wetland is critical to the recovery of endangered waterbird species. Yet this DEIS contains very little about the ecological significance of Kawainui and Hamakua marshes or how they will be managed and protected to ensure the continuation of biological diversity for the four endangered waterbirds and includes little detail about improvements and management to aid in opening the migration path of indigenous and endemic fish and crustaceans from the ocean to mountain streams. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Recovery Plan recommends minimizing human disturbance to waterbirds and their habitats, which includes controlling human access to waterbird habitats during breeding season. The DEIS is silent on how endangered and migratory birds will be protected at each site slated for development and public access. It does not mention the light pollution from the two high schools above the Marsh in addition to that from Castle Hospital and all the homes along the Marsh that currently contribute to the mortality of wedge-tailed shearwater fledglings nesting in the heights above the Marsh. This existing light pollution will be compounded by more lights in and around the new buildings and parking lots as well as the inevitable street lights that will need to be installed along the Quarry Road for safety with all the increased use. The DEIS does not include comprehensive management actions that will keep endangered water birds safe from people, feral cats and dogs, rats and mongooses that will become more of a problem once the marshes are made more accessible via trails and boardwalks across streams and wetlands that now are a deterrent. The DEIS says that a protective fence may be installed around wetland areas to deter larger predators such as dogs and feral pigs, but there is no mention of the specific wetland areas that will be fenced. Identification of the sensitive areas to be fenced and type of fencing to be used should be in the DEIS and available for review.

The DEIS needs to explain how the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' waterbird ponds, which were mitigation for the construction of the flood-control dyke pursuant to the U. S. no-net-loss-of-wetlands policy, will be modified so that they function and fulfill the purpose for which they were constructed as per the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's recommendations. The DEIS provides little information about how its preferred alternative will accomplish the restoration and management of the degraded wetlands and upland watershed, which should be the Master Plan's priority. The upland areas need to be re-established as native forest to curtail the sediment and debris that have flooded down into the Kawainui waterbird ponds during recent storm events. Managing the upland watershed is critical for achieving and maintaining the hydrological functions needed for flood control and to reverse the ongoing degradation of the wetlands. Yet the DEIS contains almost no specific substantive recommendations that address any of these components. The DEIS also needs to prioritize whole-scale removal of invasive vegetation to increase the amount of water bird habitat and

food availability. The final EIS should include an analysis of flood capacity, and how and when the vegetative mat in the center of Kawainui Marsh will be removed to aid in flood water capacity and better protect Kailua's Coconut Grove community.

It is common knowledge that water resources into Kawainui Marsh are dwindling for many reasons, including diversions of stream and spring water mauka (upland) of Kawainui for urban development, a golf course, etc. About 1.4 million gallons a day is being channeled out of the Kawainui watershed to neighboring Waimanalo for farming. The State Department of Agriculture recently repaired the Maunawili Ditch that conveys water from Maunawili Valley to Waimanalo thus eliminating approximately 1 million gallons of water per day that used to flow and seep into the ground and eventually into Kawainui Marsh. Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams are the main sources of water into Kawainui Marsh and their banks are overgrown and choked with invasive species. So much so that what use to be a rushing flow of water into Kawainui Marsh is now an insufficient flow.

The DEIS needs to include a program of research that will provide data important for understanding and managing the biota and other natural resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua wetlands and watershed. A comprehensive limnological study of the entire Marsh needs to be done before the DEIS is finalized. Limnology analyzes the biological, chemical, physical, geological and other attributes of running and standing waters, both fresh and saline, natural or man-made and includes the study of ponds, springs, streams and wetlands. Limnology is closely related to studies of the aquatic ecology and hydrobiology of fresh and brackish ecosystems and their aquatic organisms, with particular regard to their hydrological environment. This study and this DEIS should outline how the original water sources will be restored to achieve maximum endangered waterbird nesting success and prevent stagnant anoxic habitats prone to outbreaks of botulism fatal to endangered waterbirds. Instead this DEIS states that nesting pond habitat will not be constructed to avoid attracting waterbirds in a wetland of international importance!

This Master Plan Project allows substantial degradation of environmental quality to continue, which will also substantially affect human health. Kapa`a Stream, which flows from Kapa`a Valley into Kawainui Marsh, is referred to as an intermittent stream. Kapa`a Stream is bordered by auto repair shops and other industrial uses and a rock quarry for which TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) standards have been calculated because so many contaminates get into the stream. Waters from Kapa`a Stream flow into Kawainui Marsh, particularly during heavy rains, so the DEIS should include a detailed plan for cleaning up the water flowing from Kapa`a Stream into Kawainui Marsh. One action item should be the requirement that the ditches on either side of Kapa`a Quarry Road below the industrial park should be cleared of invasive vegetation so they can function as designed to filter water from the abandoned dump under the industrial park and Kapa`a Stream before it enters the Class 1 waters of Kawainui

Marsh. Kapa`a Stream is supposed to be a Class 2 inland stream under State Department of Health Water Quality Standards, whose objective as applied to Kapa`a Stream is "to protect its uses for recreational purposes, support and propagation of fish and other aquatic life..." Yet Kapa`a Stream is on the State Department of Health List of Impaired Waters prepared under the Clean Water Act §303(d) because of elevated concentrations of turbidity, total suspended solids, nutrients, and metals in the stream.

The DEIS indicates that DLNR is planning to facilitate more public and private visitation to Kawainui Marsh by creating trails around the 6-mile perimeter of the Marsh. While on some of these trails it is likely that people will come into contact with contaminated water originating in Kapa`a Industrial Park, which the City and County of Honolulu has allowed to expand to the borders of Kawainui Marsh. Yet, Kapa`a Stream is barely mentioned in the DEIS, let alone any discussion of the probability of human contact with contaminated water or any plan for cleaning up the waters moving both on the surface and underground from Kapa`a Stream and Valley into Kawainui Marsh to ensure better and safer water quality. The DEIS needs to inform the public about the impact of the Kapa`a industrial development and activities on the wetlands and include a plan to mitigate the polluted waters originating from the upstream industrial park and old Kailua landfill that will convert the contaminated waters to Class 1 waters before they enter Kawainui Marsh.

Concern for public safety and security for visitors that will be using the planned trails and boardwalks in the Kawanui-Hamakua wetland complex does not seem to be of paramount concern in the DEIS. This is unfortunate because people use public trails with the expectation that they are safe and that security measures are in place. Yet there is no detailed plan for providing for the safety and security of the thousands of visitors that the preferred alternative allows. Safety and security are also a big concern of the Kailua residents who live along the boundary of Kawainui Marsh. It is logical to expect that the number of homeless people will increase once trails are built that make it easier for people to gain access to residences along the edge the Marsh.

DLNR should not allow the Kawainui-Hamakua wetlands to be open and available to 10,000 visitors per month without ensuring that safety and security measures are in place and with a continuing budget to pay for them. While the DEIS seems to promise that there will be dedicated security personnel to enforce rules and regulations of the complex, there are no specific details such as hours of operation or how many people will patrol the miles of trails and boardwalks. To ensure the safety and security of the thousands of visitors this Plan proposes to invite into these already degraded wetlands, as well as the residents living along the borders of Kawainui Marsh, and the endangered and migratory bird species that need to be protected from the consequences of the increased human usage of these wetlands, sufficient adequate safety and security measures and their cost must be described in detail in the final EIS.

While some recreational activity should be allowed in state wildlife sanctuaries when it does not negatively impact the nesting behavior of the endangered waterbirds, we believe that such activity should be limited to low impact recreational activities such as bird watching, photography, citizen science data collection, citizen habitat restoration and archaeological exploration. We recommend that a human carrying capacity study be conducted for Kawainui Marsh and included in the final EIS. The study should evaluate the carrying capacity of each individual site proposed for human development and the Marsh as a whole to help ensure that this degraded yet fragile wetland is not overrun, overused and degraded further until it can no longer function as a marsh and wetland. There is great community concern about allowing commercial uses in Kawainui and Hamakua mashes and we recommend that commercial tourist traffic should not exceed 100 visitors per day for the entire Kawainui Marsh as well as Hamakua Marsh when the endangered waterbirds are NOT nesting, including permitted groups. To accommodate those who are not able to actually visit the Marsh, the final EIS should recommend that DOFAW create an educational "take the place to the people" interactive website such as the one that NOAA ONMS has established for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The DEIS alternatives analysis clearly favors increased human use of these already degraded wetlands, rejecting the Resource Management Activities alternative because it doesn't support "improvements to public access or efforts supporting cultural practices." The preferred alternative does not:

- Provide for a detailed and comprehensive wetlands ecosytem restoration plan and detailed habitat management plans to protect four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and several migratory waterbird species;
- Limit human use of these wetlands, such as closing Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh to all visitors during the endangered Hawaiian wetland birds and migratory wetland birds nesting seasons;
- Prohibit leasing or granting month-to-month permits to build on state land makai of the Quarry Road, Kalanianaole Highway between the Quarry Road and Castle Hospital and Kailua Road between the Highway and Hamakua Drive.
- Prohibit commercial activity on state land in and around the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex;
- Require all toilets within 2000 feet of Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh and on adjacent state land uphill from the wetlands to be connected to the nearest City and County of Honolulu waste water treatment facility;
- Provide for the restoration of natural water flow through these wetlands and prioritize the removal of the central peat mat in Kawainui Marsh to prevent future flooding of the downstream Coconut Grove residential area in Kailua.

- Relocate the Kapa`a Industrial Park out of the Kawainui-Hamakua complex watershed and provide for the cleanup of the contaminated soil in Kapa`a Valley.

In sum, this DEIS conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies, goals and guidelines and does not satisfy the purpose of the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act. The 2000 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society hope and expect that a much improved DEIS for these sensitive wetlands will be forthcoming before any EIS is finalized and approved.



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EXHIBIT A

The following information was submitted with the Application for Designation of Kawainui Marsh as a RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance. Based in large measure on this information Kawainui Marsh was granted RAMSAR status.

There are six extant species of endemic waterbirds in the Hawaiian Islands; the Hawaiian duck, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian moorhen, Laysan duck (Anas laysanensis), and Hawaiian goose or Nene (Branta sanvicensis) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). The Hawaiian Duck and Moorhen were listed as federally endangered species in 1967 under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Hawaiian Coot and Stilt were added to the federal endangered species list in 1970 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). The waterfowl, shorebirds, and coastal seabirds that use Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands are also protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Hunting of Hawaii's endemic waterbirds was outlawed by 1939 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002).

The Hawaiian Stilt (Ae`o), classified as a subspecies of the black-necked stilt, was historically known from all the Main Hawaiian Islands except Lana'i, Kaho'olawe, and possibly Hawaii. Historical population estimates are not available. The population may have declined to as low as 200 individuals by the early 1940s due to loss of wetlands and aquatic agricultural lands (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Stilts are now found on all of the Main Hawaiian Islands except Kaho'olawe, with a statewide population relatively stable for the past 30 years. The current population is estimated at between 1,200 and 1,600 birds (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Hawaiian Stilts disperse between the islands and constitute a homogeneous meta-population. O'ahu supports the largest number of stilts in the Hawaiian Islands, with the majority of stilts found on the north and windward coasts (includes the Kawainui and Hamakua wetland complex) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Between 1977 to 1996, O'ahu averaged between 40 to 60 percent of the stilt population (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Stilts use a variety of aquatic habitats, but require early successional marshlands with shallow water depth, perennial vegetation that is limited and low growing, or exposed tidal flats. Stilts prefer to nest on freshly exposed mudflats interspersed with low growing vegetation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002).

The Hawaiian Coot (`Alae Ke`oke`o), a distinct species, historically occurred on all of the larger Hawaiian Islands with the exception of Lana'i and Kaho'olawe, was likely common in large natural marshes and ponds and used wetlands created by Hawaiians for taro cultivation and fish production (there are no population estimates prior to the 1950s), and have always been most numerous on O'ahu, Maui, and Kaua'i, (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Currently, Hawaiian Coots inhabit all of the Main Hawaiian Islands except for Kaho'olawe, with a statewide population of between 2,000 and 4,000 birds, with a stable population for the past 25 years (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Maui support 80% of the total population. Intra and inter-island movements occur when surface water storage is drawn down and food sources become concentrated (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). The O'ahu population is most abundant along wetlands of the windward side (including Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes), and in natural wetlands at Kahuku Point. Coots prefer wetland habitats with suitable emergent plant growth interspersed with open water, and prefer freshwater wetlands and taro patches (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). Coots nest in open fresh and brackish water ponds, in shallow reservoirs, irrigation ditches, and small openings of marsh vegetation.

No historical population estimates are available for the Hawaiian Moorhen (`Alae `Ula), a subspecies of the common moorhen, but it was known to be common on all the Main Hawaiian Islands excluding Lana'i and Kaho'olawe. Hawaiian Moorhens currently inhabit O'ahu and Kaua'i, but precise population estimates are not available (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). On O'ahu, moorhens are most prevalent on the north and windward side of the island (includes the Hamakua and Kawainui wetland complex). Moorhen habitat includes freshwater marshes, taro patches, reedy margins of water courses, reservoirs, and wet pastures. Moorhens nest in freshwater wetlands, placing the nests within dense emergent vegetation over shallow water.

The Hawaiian Duck (Koloa), a distinct species, was historically found on all of the Main Hawaiian Islands except Lana'i and Kaho'olawe, and while there are no population estimates available prior to 1940, the species was likely fairly common in natural and farmed wetlands. The current population is estimated to be about 2,500 birds, with 300 birds (12%) found on O'ahu. The O'ahu population frequents Kawainui Marsh, Hamakua Marsh, and He'eia Marsh on the windward coast; James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Punahoolapa, and Hale'iwa wetlands on the north shore; and wetlands near Pearl Harbor on the leeward coast (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002). The Hawaiian Duck uses a wide variety of natural wetland habitats for nesting and feeding. Unfortunately, there has been extensive hybridization between Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) and Hawaiian Ducks on O'ahu, with the near disappearance of Hawaiian Duck alleles (Browne et al., 1993).

Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes also provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and wintering shorebirds (Ducks Unlimited, No Date and 1993). Migratory waterfowl, such as the Northern Pintail (Anas acuta), Northern Shoveler (Anas clypeata), Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), Canada Goose (Branta Canadensis), Lesser Scaup (Aytha affinis), Green-winged Teal (Anas crecca), American Wigeon (Anas americana), and Redhead (Aythea americana) are found within the small ponds in the wet pasture and the larger open water areas of Kawainui Marsh during winter months (Conant, 1981; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997). Feral mallards are regular, year-round inhabitants. Migratory shorebirds reported from Kawainui Marsh include the Pacific Golden Plover (Pluvialis fulva), Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres), Sanderling (Calidris alba), and Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanus) (adapted from Conant, 1981; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997).

The Auku'u or Black-crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli) is common within the open water areas and potholes of the wet pasture (Conant, 1981; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997). The only indigenous non-wetland dependent bird species that regularly frequents the Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes is the Iwa or Great Frigatebird (Fregata minor palmerstoni) (Conant, 1981; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998). The Cattle Egret (Bulbulcus ibis) is abundant in the marshes, and is the marshes' only alien waterbird (Conant, 1981).

Apart from the four endemic Hawaiian waterbirds described in Section 12, Kawainui Marsh supports relatively low densities of endangered waterbirds compared to other less disturbed wetlands found on O'ahu due to the loss of waterbird habitat in Kawainui Marsh from introduced invasive vegetation. This suggests that the marsh has the capacity to support significantly higher numbers of waterbird and shorebird populations if an ongoing management program involving extensive invasive vegetation removal and predator control activities is implemented (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997). Freshwater wells and pumps need to be installed to increase water flow through the Marsh to replace water diverted out of Kawainui's watershed.

There are approximately 700 acres of wetland in Kawainui, and probably less than 20 acres that provide habitat for native or migratory bird species, primarily due to overgrown exotic vegetation. Threats that adversely affect these species include predation and degradation of nesting habitat by introduced animals (Mongoose (Herpestes auropunctatus), Rats (primarily Rattus rattus), Cats (Felis catus), Dogs (Canis familiaris), fish such as Tilapia, Cattle Egrets, and Barn Owls), invasion of wetlands by alien plants, altered wetland hydrology, hybridization of the Hawaiian Duck with mallards, avian botulism and other diseases, pollution, urbanization of land adjacent to wetlands (increases the numbers of cats and dogs in wetlands, reduces the quality of water entering wetlands, alters the size of wetlands' contributing watersheds), and continued loss of wetland area to development (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002).

The Kawainui Marsh area has many landforms named for sacred persons revered in over 1,500 years of Hawaiian tradition (Drigot and Seto, 1982). There is Hawaiian legendary history associated with the Kawainui Marsh area, including a legend of Hau-wahine, a guardian spirit over the Kawainui fishpond, called a mo'o, and a famous mythological tree, Makalei, which had the power of attracting fish (Kelly and Nakamura, 1981). Mo'o purportedly lived in her grove of awa by the Makalei tree near where the waters drain from Kawainui Marsh to Hamakua. Hauwahine's companion mo'o, named Kilioe, lived at the opposite end of

Hamakua near where Kawainui Stream enters Ka'elepulu Stream. The length of Kawainui Stream is the area of coitus between the male, Kawainui, and the female, Ka'elepulu, explaining why those waters always teemed with the juvenile fish common to both ancient fishponds. The Hawaiian coot and Hawaiian moorhen are sacred to Hina, a Hawaiian Earth-mother category of goddess who can take the form of these birds. The eggs of these birds were traditionally used in ceremonies to consecrate chiefs and priests. The Hawaiian Stilt is sacred to the Hawaiian god Ku, in his form as a fisherman. These birds are a culturally significant and endangered resource.

About 500 years ago, early Hawaiians maintained the freshwater fishpond in Kawainui, which was joined by a stream to nearby Ka'elepulu Pond (Enchanted Lake). The fishpond was surrounded on all sides by a system of canals ('auwai) bringing water from Maunawili Stream and springs to walled taro lo'i (Handy et al., 1972). The historical walls from the lo'i still exist in Kawainui Marsh, thought to be approximately 50 cm below existing ground elevations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998). The system of terraces east of the seaward end of Pu'uo'ehu was fed by the stream running from Kawainui to Ka'elepulu Stream. Terraces west of Kawainui Pond at Kapa'a Valley were fed by Kapa'a Stream, while those to the north, below Mahinui, received waters diverted from Kawainui. Where the system of canals moved through what is now called the Hamakua area, excessive runoff could be directed into Kailua's other freshwater, spring-fed fishpond, Ka'elepulu (now called Enchanted Lake). Both fishponds were used to raise fish (milkfish, mullet, aholehole, and o'opu), with the residents of Waimanalo and Kailua seasonally called upon to help clear the ponds of excessive algae; all who participated in maintaining the fishponds were permitted to keep fish (Handy et al., 1972; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997).

Since the 1960s, the local community around Kawainui Marsh, and a variety of local and statewide environmental, educational, and native Hawaiian groups and individuals, have consistently advocated for resource protection and against development in and around the marsh (Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, 1994; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998).

Most of Kawainui Marsh is in the P-1 protective subzone of the State land use conservation district. The City and County of Honolulu's land use map designates most of Kawainui Marsh and all of Hamakua Marsh as "Preservation", and all of Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes are located within its Special Management Area boundaries.

Listing of Kawainui Marsh on the eligibility list for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as a "Cultural/Archaeological Historic District" requires compliance with Section 106 of the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act for any action that may impact the area.

In 1994 the Hawai`i State Department of Land and Natural Resources) prepared a master plan for Kawainui Marsh, which identifies objectives, policies, and recommended actions to protect the marsh. The majority of the Plan's recommendations, such as construction of a visitor center, cultural park, ethnobotanical garden, and commercial taro ponds, have not been implemented, but there are plans for construction of a perimeter recreational trail (section 29) and enhancement of waterbird habitat (mentioned above) (City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, 2002; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998).

*Other conservation measures mentioned as proposed but not yet implemented in the Application for Designation of Kawainui as a RAMSAR site included:

- *Finally listing Kawainui in both the Hawaii and National Registers of Historic Places, declared eligible in July of 1979 but unlisted as yet. Hawaiians are eager to grow taro again in the relocated ancient lo'i aided by studies and historic photographs, to benefit cultural education.*

- *Finalized land "swap" between Honolulu and DLNR of city-owned Kawainui, proposed in the Kawainui Management Plan in 1983 but not yet implemented.*

- *Environmental coalition proposals since 1983 that alien cows and horses now fertilizing excessive weeds and polluting wetland waters, to the detriment of water quality, be removed.*

- *Ongoing public and environmental coalition requests to government agencies for complete water quality studies which include a chemical component. There is a need for limnological studies of not less than three years' duration, as proposed by Dr. Paul K. Bienfang's (Oceanic Foundation) pro bono study for the Lani-Lailua Outdoor Circle in 1974. (Available on request).*

- *Federal acquisition of Kawainui: for National Park purposes and/or Critical wildlife habitat for Hawaii endangered waterbirds and aquatic species, and as a viable migratory wildfowl haven.*

- *Request that DLNR not charge not-for-profit organizations (i.e., the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi and Conservation Council) for pro bono volunteers cleaning waters, replanting native plants and repairing ancient water-garden walls. Professionals are aided by non-violent state prisoners and other volunteers for cultural and scientific education. Programs are led by a native Hawaiian retired science teacher to the benefit of everyone.*

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AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Linda M.B. Paul, President
Hawai'i Audubon Society
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Dear Ms. Paul:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 4, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1.a. The Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" and finds it that it does not meet the requirements of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 nor Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11 Section 200.

Response: We acknowledge your opinion on the adequacy of the published DEIS along with your continued opposition to this project and its associated improvements that may support visitors to Kailua. However, the DEIS does meet the requirements specified under Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) and Title 11, Chapter 200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) based upon the information included in that document that discusses the process implemented and addresses project effects. It should be clarified that an EIS is an "informational document" to disclose the environmental effects of a proposed action under §343-1(16), HRS. The purpose of this State environmental review process is to alert decision-makers to significant environmental effects that may result from implementation of the project.

b. This DEIS reads like a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) because it is in fact a segmented DEIS that is vague about details and does not address the cumulative effects of all that DLNR and its private partners say they intend to do in and around these wetlands. The DEIS does not explain how its Master Plan will probably have minimal or no

significant impacts, both primary and secondary, on the wetlands environment, particularly when added together with the cumulative effects of the current stressors, i.e. water diversions, pollution, alien species, and human use that continue to degrade these wetlands.[1]

[1] *HRS chapter 343-2. "Significant effect" means the sum of effects on the quality of the environment, including actions that irrevocably commit a natural resource, curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment, are contrary to the State's environmental policies or long-term environmental goals as established by law, or adversely affect the economic welfare, social welfare, or cultural practices of the community and State.*

Response: We disagree with your opinion that: 1) the DEIS reads like a PEIS because it is segmented; 2) is vague about details; and 3) does not explain impacts or address the cumulative effects of the project. The DEIS is not segmented because it identifies all improvements proposed under this project that are described under Chapter 2. The DEIS discusses the impacts of these proposed improvements.

Regarding your reference to a PEIS, the State EIS rules under both Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR do not address, regulate or provide rules governing the requirement for, scope, or content for a PEIS. Therefore, a PEIS is not applicable under State regulations and this project, and we do not believe it is proper or applicable to be characterizing the DEIS as a PEIS. A PEIS is applicable to federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental regulations for projects involving a federal action. This environmental document is being prepared under State environmental regulations. We also disagree with your unsubstantiated statements identifying general perceived deficiencies with the DEIS because the document adequately provides sufficient information for the project proposed and identifies likely impacts. The DEIS addresses the cumulative effects of both restoration improvements and other structures and uses within the project site, and chapter subsections include separate headings addressing these effects.

Section 2.2 of the DEIS provides significant project details, shows conceptual plans with building locations and footprints, along with exhibits and descriptions to provide a reasonable understanding of improvements proposed so that likely impacts can be identified. Certain details, such as building interior configuration and construction plans, are not available because they have not been designed at this stage of the environmental review process. The project information provided is sufficient to identify and address impacts. It is precedent for such environmental reviews of projects to be completed without available specific design and construction plans because sufficient project information is provided to allow identification and assessment of impacts. Such design plans would be reviewed by agencies as part of future permit applications in accordance with pertinent regulations. The DEIS was prepared in good faith, addressed concerns raised, and adequately documented the effects of the proposed action by identifying significant environmental impacts and measures to minimize or mitigate such effects, as appropriate.

The DEIS does address the environmental effects of the project throughout the document in compliance with State regulations. It should be noted that under the rule of reason standard applied from prior judicial rulings issued, an EIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the proposed action. The utility and validity of this

standard was established through prior legal cases evaluating the application of both federal and State of Hawai'i environmental regulations. An EIS is considered adequate if it has been compiled in good faith and sets forth sufficient information to enable the decision-maker to consider the environmental factors involved and to make a reasoned decision after balancing the risks of harm to the environment against the benefits to be derived by the proposed action. The DEIS was adequate in meeting this criteria and the assessment results and documentation included are clearly not erroneous.

The DEIS was not vague and includes considerable project information in Chapter 2 to allow project effects to be adequately identified. The various sections of the DEIS discuss the likely effects from proposed improvements in sufficient detail, and provides reasonable explanations and justifications for impact results. There were also several technical studies conducted by experts in their field used to address impacts, and available references and other technical documents were used to support impact results. Primary, or direct, impacts were identified in each section along with secondary effects (Section 7.2). The Final EIS (FEIS) also includes revisions to the DEIS that expand discussion of impacts for pertinent sections.

Cumulative impact refers to the incremental impact from implementing improvements proposed under the project when added to other past, present, and **reasonably foreseeable** future actions. The DEIS addresses project impacts on the environment from relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions as discussed in respective sections of the DEIS, including Section 7.3. For example, Section 3.4.3 deals with streams within the project site. Included is water flow information reflecting present conditions; flow data over a period of years; and prior changes to upland areas that have influenced flows. The impact of the proposed action on streams is discussed based upon this information and concludes that adverse effects are not anticipated. Section 2.1.1 identifies prior planning efforts undertaken for the project site, Section 1.4 discusses existing conditions, including past improvements implemented in the area, and Section 1.5.4 identifies prior land use approvals, all of which provide the background and basis for addressing cumulative effects.

Information on wetlands discussed in Section 3.4.4 includes the history, former uses that contributed to present conditions, and current conditions from which project impacts have been addressed. Other sections (e.g. Section 2.1) provide additional details on wetland conditions, concluding that restoration improvements are needed. Overall, the project would have a positive beneficial effect on wetlands. Restoration activities would remove and control invasive vegetation and improve water flow. Impacts from the entire proposed action are addressed under separate subheadings (e.g. wetland restoration, structures and trails), and have been made available for public review.

The DEIS addresses the type of impacts the project would have on wetlands, and Section 3.4.4 specifically discusses wetlands and provides background information and existing conditions of Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands. Section 1.4 provides information on these wetlands and the upland areas associated with the project area. Section 2.2.1 discusses wetland areas and management zones. Section 2.1.1 discusses several prior studies conducted for the project area and the need for wetland restoration due to prior activities and existing

conditions (e.g. overgrowth of invasive vegetation). The DEIS and FEIS include information on the history and factors influencing the wetlands, such as water diversions, pollution, alien species, and human use associated with surrounding upland areas.

It should be noted that DOFAW and DSP cannot control water diversions and pollution discharges which occur in the larger mauka watershed areas outside of the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area because those largely privately-owned properties are not under DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction or control. DOFAW and DSP cannot dictate what type of activities can or cannot be conducted at those properties because they lack the regulatory authority to do so. Furthermore, the purpose for this project is not to change water diversions, human use, or other activities outside of the project site limits. However, DOFAW can manage the wetlands within the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area to support and improve their function and value within the watershed. The DEIS includes sufficient information about this project area to identify current conditions, which result from outside activities, and address project-related impacts.

Your reference to "significant effect" under §343-2, HRS is the definition of that term that is more relevant to determine whether an EIS needs to be prepared. For this project, a DEIS has already been prepared due to the project likely having a significant effect.

2.a. *Neither a PEIS nor an illegally segmented DEIS is appropriate for the Kawainui-Hamakua marsh complex.*[2]

[2] *The Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) manages fisheries in the US EEZ in the central Pacific under a PEIS that covers multiple fish species managed by multiple management plans over hundreds of thousands of miles of ocean that are amended with every new stock assessment. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Western Area Power Administration have published a final PEIS that evaluates the environmental impacts of wind energy development in the Upper Great Plains states of Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Only in these large scale situations a PEIS is appropriate.*

Response: The DEIS does not illegally segment the project. Section 2.2 describes the entire project. The DEIS is prepared in compliance with State regulations as discussed in Section 1.1. As discussed under response No. 1, a PEIS is not applicable to an environmental document prepared under State regulations, and the DEIS prepared was not a PEIS. Federal PEIS documents are not at a project-specific level, and are more valuable in setting out the broad view or actions of environmental impacts and benefits from actions like new rulemaking or establishing a new federal policy or program.

The federal PEISs you reference apply to projects that are considerably broader in scope than the Kawainui-Hāmākua project. The Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) PEIS evaluated the environmental impact of shifting from a species-based to an ecosystem-based fishery management plan at multiple fishery basins, including those located in American Samoa, the Mariana Archipelago, Hawai'i, and the U.S. Pacific Remote Island areas. The nature and geographic scope of WESPAC's project (program based) differs considerably from the proposed project in global jurisdiction and size (hundreds of thousands of square miles of ocean). WESPAC's project concerns the impact of broad management policies on multiple fisheries throughout the Pacific for which a federal

PEIS was used. Similarly, the PEIS conducted for the Western Area Power Administration you cite evaluated how changes to environmental review procedures affect the environmental impact of wind energy projects in the Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region. This region encompassed several states including all or parts of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The impact analysis was conducted due to agency interest in streamlining environmental review procedures in alignment with federal directives encouraging increased renewable energy production.

b. *The DEIS for these wetlands should contained a detailed and comprehensive wetlands ecosytem restoration plan and detailed habitat management plans in order to protect four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and several migratory waterbird species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These wetlands are part of a single mountain-to- ocean ecosystem that has been degraded by upstream water diversions to the Waimanalo watershed and the construction of a dyke/wall for flood control, which has prevented stream flow from following its natural course through Kawainui Marsh, through Hamakua Marsh, and on into the ocean, diverting it instead to the artificial Oneawa canal, which doesn't allow water out of the Kawainui wetland ecosystem at low water levels. The impact of these diversions, plus the Kappa'a valley industrial park pollution, alien California grass and Hale Koa introduced to feed cattle, private residences and a hospital along more than half of the Kawainui Marsh border, and businesses and parking lots along Hamakua Marsh, are all examples of existing cumulative impacts that have led to the buildup of the huge 8-10 feet thick floating peat mat in the center of Kawainui Marsh and the degradation of these RAMSAR wetlands. Adding more buildings, septic systems, parking lots and canoe ramps along the Quarry Road, which is the last undeveloped edge of Kawainui Marsh, will undoubtedly increase the cumulative and significant impacts on these already stressed wetlands.*

Response: Section 2.2.1 discusses in sufficient detail the wetland restoration plan and program proposed for this project. This restoration program is based upon DOFAW's Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project that covered the Kahanaiki area. Plans for the Kahanaiki project were developed based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise working with wetlands on O'ahu and in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Improved management of the project area's wetland ecosystem and capacity to serve as a habitat for endangered waterbirds were a primary focus of the project. As discussed in Section 2.2.1, the plans include adaptive management and monitoring, a predator control program, management for control of avian botulism, and other components, including developing a Kawainui Marsh Restoration Area Management Plan in coordination with the FWS and COE. Proposed DOFAW operation and maintenance improvements would enhance DOFAW's capacity to manage these wetlands as well as to conduct education and service learning programs that allow the public to participate in stewardship and educational programs. Therefore, project plans, DOFAW and the FWS's agency expertise, and other actions proposed in the DEIS provide a sufficient plan to restore this resource and enhance waterbird habitat meeting the project's purpose and objectives. Your suggestion for a wetland ecosystem restoration plan and habitat management plan are appreciated, but project plans already appropriately address this need.

A number of the avian species identified in the project area (discussed in Section 3.3.2) are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA generally prohibits the killing, sale, transportation, and export of associated avian species. The project does not propose actions prohibited by the MBTA. DOFAW restoration programs and management of these wetlands and waterbird habitat would support these species along with MBTA objectives.

We appreciate your concern for previous land use changes and other activities occurring within upland areas or other areas outside of Kawainui, such as water diversion, the Kapa'a industrial area, and development of the Kūkanono subdivision. Those other land uses and activities do contribute runoff to Kawainui's current wetland condition. However, it is not necessary to determine how each individual, privately-owned site contributes to surface runoff and pollutants resulting in current conditions, as those property owners are responsible for their activities. The DEIS does discuss existing environmental conditions for various topic areas that include the effects from such outside activities (e.g. water quality testing reflecting runoff and pollutants from upland areas). Again, the EIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the proposed action. A good faith effort was made to reasonably identify existing conditions and address the project's effect on the environment.

As discussed in Section 3.4.5, the wetlands are naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Prior water diversions or sheet flow of storm water runoff from upland areas have not significantly impacted Kawainui's wetland or its function based upon analysis found in the DEIS (Section 3.4). Project improvements would not change, or have any effect on prior or future water diversion or other urban activities within the upland watershed outside of the project area. However, DOFAW can manage the wetlands within the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area to support and improve their function and value within the watershed. The DEIS addresses this existing condition and the effects the project would have.

As discussed under response No. 1, DOFAW and DSP cannot control the activities or sources of pollution that occur in the larger watershed because those mauka areas are outside of the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area, are not under DOFAW or DSP jurisdiction, and consist of privately-owned property. DOFAW and DSP have no authority over activities occurring within those private properties, and it is thus impracticable, infeasible, and unreasonable for this project to develop a larger watershed plan to dictate what type of activities should be conducted on those properties. Further, the purpose of this project is not to rectify or change prior uses or current activities of other private property outside of this project area for which DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction. Larger watershed issues have been addressed by the City Board of Water Supply in their Ko'olau Poko Watershed Management Plan (2012) and the State Commission on Water Resource Management's Water Resource Protection Plan (2008). The existing levee is a U.S. Department of Army, Corps of Engineers (COE) facility, and DOFAW is only responsible for its management and maintenance. Any future structural changes to the levee are the COE's responsibility, given the flood protection considerations resulting in its initial construction.

The effect of proposed buildings parking lots, restrooms and other improvements within Kawainui have been addressed in the DEIS, and specific sections of the document cover various natural resources, human environment, and infrastructure and public facilities. The DEIS shows that these improvements would not have a significant adverse effect on wetlands. Proposed improvements would not create a human footprint large enough to compromise the integrity of the wetland. Proposed improvements would be: phased over time; modest in scale given the extent of the area; less intrusive than other existing developments; planned to be environmentally sustainable; and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices. Based upon our response No. 1, the DEIS addresses cumulative impacts from the project on the environment from relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions as discussed in respective sections of the DEIS, including Section 7.3.

3. *While the DEIS may be purposefully vague and segmented to evade review, it does reveal a commitment to a far larger Project. As the 2014 iteration of the Kawainui-Hamakua Complex Master Plan indicates, the purpose of this very large Master Plan Project is the development of this watershed and these wetlands for increased human use when it should be the restoration of this severely degraded wetland ecosystem. While the environmental effects of each segment of this Master Plan Project may be limited, the cumulative impacts of all of these generally-described segments and ultimately the entire Project when completed will have a very significant effect on the watershed and wetland environments.*

Response: Section 2.2 of the DEIS describes the entire project, with effects addressed in various sections of the document. We disagree with your unsubstantiated assertion that the DEIS is "purposefully vague and segmented to evade review." The entire proposed project was discussed in the DEIS, and the FEIS includes information addressing likely effects from those improvements proposed under the project. Therefore, there is no commitment to a far larger project from that presented in the FEIS. Only those improvements proposed as the project are covered under that document. Any other actions not included would be subject to its own environmental review under State regulations.

Furthermore, due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have now been removed from this project, including portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. These project changes are discussed in the FEIS. A section from the FEIS that summarizes these changes is attached. In addition, DSP is considering implementing reduced improvements at Pōhakea in the interim consisting of a parking area, a restroom, and an open pavilion to focus more on programs support rather than full build-out of the more permanent education center. These changes would significantly reduce the projected number of visitors. Section 7.3 of the DEIS addresses the cumulative impacts of the project, and other sections of the DEIS address cumulative impacts, where appropriate, such as traffic impacts (Section 5.6).

It should be clarified that the project does not propose development of the larger "watershed," but proposes improvements within the project site identified in the DEIS. There would be no "development" within the wetland for increased human use, as public access (passive

outdoor recreation) would be limited to upland areas as discussed in Section 2.2. Project improvements include considerable wetland restoration as discussed in Section 2.2.1. The cumulative effects of the entire project are addressed by Section 7.3 of the DEIS, and other sections address the effects of the entire project. Section 2.2 provides project details, which includes an overall discussion of the entire project, and its main initiatives (natural and cultural resource management, and educational and recreational programs). Further, subdividing the text by subareas makes it easier for the reader to understand the information. Discussion of impacts is formatted into two categories (wetland restoration/upland reforestation and structures/trails) for easier reading.

4. *The Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act Citizen's Guide of October 2014 published by the State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) describes EA/EIS segmentation as follows:*
8.1 Phased Actions - Project Segmentation.
"A group of actions proposed by an agency or an applicant shall be treated as a single action when:
A. The component actions are phased or increments for a larger project;
B. An individual project is a necessary precedent for a larger project;
C. An individual project represents a commitment to a larger project;
D. The actions in question are essentially identical and a single statement will adequately address the impacts of each individual action and those of the group of actions as a whole (Sec. 11-200-7 HAR)."

The above indicates that the DEIS for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan is, in fact, a segmented EIS, as does its title. The Rule against Segmentation exists because by omitting the requisite details the full sum of what is being planned and the potential impact of it all escapes review once the DEIS comment period is ended. Below are the examples identified by the Kailua Neighborhood Board of how this vague, segmented DEIS avoids describing the details of what DLNR has already planned for this resource, which it called its 'vision' in a letter sent to the Hawaii Audubon Society on November 24, 2017.

Comments by Kailua Neighborhood Board
On DEIS for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan
February 1, 2018

Response: Your references to segmentation from the citizen's guide aligns with §11-200-7, HAR which addresses multiple or phased actions, as there is no "rule against segmentation" under these regulations. Your claim that those regulations indicate that the DEIS is a segmented EIS is not correct. The wording from the project title "Master Plan" you highlighted in bold does not determine whether a project has been segmented or not. The DEIS includes a discussion of the entire project being proposed. Section 2.2 describes the project in detail, and Section 2.2.8 discusses phasing for the entire project. Therefore, the DEIS treats this project as a single action, addresses the effects of the entire project being proposed, allowed for public review of the entire project, and is consistent with §11-200-7, HAR.

We note that you included comments from the Kailua Neighborhood Board's (KNB) comment letter on the DEIS to support your opinion on segmentation. Unfortunately, the

KNB's comments do not support a claim of segmentation, and are addressed below. In addition, the November 24, 2017 EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) response letter to the Hawai'i Audubon Society did not identify a "vision" as you state.

5. We note that you have copied the exact comments from the KNB's February 1, 2018 letter into your comments. We have provided the following responses corresponding to these comments. It is noted that the comments provided from Page 7 to 24 (our responses numbered "a" to "g") refer to pages from the Executive Summary of the DEIS. Under §11-200-17, HAR, the DEIS needs to have a "summary sheet" that concisely discusses various items. One item identified is a "brief description" of the action because more detailed description of the action is provided in a separate chapter. The DEIS's Executive Summary provides more details on the project than a brief description as required under §11-200-17, HAR. Therefore, information related to these various comments are included in other pertinent chapters of the DEIS.

   a. *Page 7: You state that there will be road and drainage improvements on Quarry Road, but fail to explain how this will be accomplished given the City and County and private ownership of portions of the area slated for these improvements.*
   Response: The reference to drainage improvements is from the fourth paragraph of that page under the heading summarizing impacts to topography. Thus, the "impacts" of drainage improvements are summarized, which would have a positive impact by reducing current erosion. That paragraph does not state there will be "road" improvements to Kapa'a Quarry Road. Section 2.2.1 discusses proposed drainage improvements along Kapa'a Quarry Road in detail to address storm water runoff from upland areas. Drainage culvert improvements would only occur within State property, and Section 2.2.8 discusses how this would be implemented by phasing and estimated costs. Thus, such improvements would not occur within City or private property associated with that road.

   b. *Page 8: You state that design features can be incorporated. but do not explain what or how or any impacts or mitigations.*
   Response: The comment on "design features" refers to bridges that would be constructed across streams, and that such construction plans would be developed during the design phase. Information on bridge improvements are discussed in Section 2.2.1, and impacts from such bridges are covered under pertinent sections of the DEIS (e.g. streams). The maintenance/pedestrian bridge across Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated, along with sections of the pedestrian path addressing community concerns on the DEIS. Therefore, only a bridge across Maunawili Stream serving DOFAW maintenance and programs activities is still proposed.

   c. *Page 9: Re. impact on birds from visitors- you say "DOFAW may enact mitigation measures." Will they? When? What are they? What is the cost'?*
   Response: Section 3.3.2 discusses mitigative measures DOFAW can implement to mitigate effects on waterbirds from visitors. These include restricting access within certain areas at specific times of year (e.g., during bird nesting season), closing trail sections, or constructing low fencing along the wetland perimeter. Whether such measures are warranted and when they would occur would be determined as part of proposed public access management (Section 2.2.5) along with adaptive management and monitoring activities discussed. The projected level of public visitation and

activities are expected to be fairly low and manageable. Therefore, such measures may not be warranted. There are no notable costs associated with such management activities (e.g. restricting access during periods) and any such inconsequential costs would not change the overall impacts discussed in the DEIS.

d. *Page 14: We understand that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants allow for the recreational component to be provided off site. This should be addressed.*
Response: Lands acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants must remain in public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity unless the Secretary of the Interior approves conversion of LWCF lands to another use, and acceptable replacement lands are substituted. The outdoor recreational component of this project cannot be provided on other property off site. DSP and DOFAW do not intend to convert project LWCF lands to alternate uses resulting in the need for a conversion and finding replacement lands. Use of LWCF lands for passive outdoor recreation aligns with the project purpose along with recreational and educational objectives associated with agency missions. Section 6.2.1 of the DEIS discusses LWCF requirements in further detail.

e. *Page 23: "Sustainment of educational and cultural programs... cannot rely on volunteers alone." How many employees will be required and who will pay for them and the maintenance required?*
Response: The statement noted is from a summary of secondary effects related to commercial activities. The sustainment of educational and cultural programs was in reference to the operation of the education center. DSP or a non-profit organization managing that center would need financial support for operations and maintenance. Table 2.5 identifies existing and projected staffing levels. Section 2.2.5 also addresses management activities proposed to support public access and additional DSP staffing support needed. Because DSP intends to have a non-profit organization manage the education center, only three additional staff (two DSP staff for park maintenance) would be required for Kawainui activities. State staffing would be funded by the State as part of DLNR's operational budget. Maintenance of the education and cultural centers, would be the responsibility of the non-profit organizations operating them.

f. *Page 23: "A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored." This contradicts statements made in many parts of the DEIS that, except for 100 persons per day, commercial activities will not be permitted. Also, how can anyone examine the impacts and mitigations of "may be explored?"*
Response: The statement on financing options refers to the educational center's operation by a non-profit organization which would require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue would be a commercial activity, but it would support operation of the center and any excess revenues could be used to fund further Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities. DOFAW and DSP do not plan to permit "privately-operated, for-profit commercial tours." DOFAW is currently allowed to permit up to 100 "commercial" visitors a day as a guideline within the wildlife sanctuary. DOFAW does not intend to permit privately-operated commercial tours within the wildlife sanctuary. However, activities at the proposed cultural centers that charge a fee by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) would be considered a "commercial" activity. DOFAW would be

allowed to permit such activities associated with the cultural centers. That section of Page 23 of the DEIS will be revised, and is attached to this letter.

g. *Page 24: You say the only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors. Strong concerns have also been raised concerning removal of the peat mat as a priority, increased flood protection, intrusion of humans in the Bird Sanctuary, and others.*
Response: We do not view the other issues you raise, separate from opposition to visitors, as "unresolved issues." Your other concerns have been addressed within pertinent sections of the DEIS and are not unresolved. Removal of peat mat along with increased flood protection are project priorities and major objectives (see Section 2.1.2). Section 2.2.1 discusses wetland restoration and other improvements proposed to address these priorities and objectives. There would not be an "intrusion of humans" occurring within Kawainui's wetland, and the DEIS adequately addresses such impacts and identifies mitigative measures, when warranted. Public access would be restricted to upland areas, and recent changes eliminating sections of the pedestrian trail further reduces potential impacts. It should be clarified that Kawainui is not a "bird sanctuary" but a wildlife sanctuary that supports public access. Thus, your concerns with human intrusion are really associated with visitors and public access that have been addressed in Section 7.6 of the DEIS.

6. The following responses address the comments provided for various pages of DEIS chapters.
   a. *Page 1-2: States that the applicant is DOFAW and DLNR. As explained in HAR 11 - 200 this is an "agency action." Yet Table 1-1 includes actions by non-profit organizations which are not agencies. Their activities would be "applicant actions." No Environmental Assessment (EA) for applicant actions has been submitted. The accepting authority for an EIS may also differ.*
   Response: Table 1.1 states that DOFAW, a division of the State DLNR, is the applicant for this project and the entity responsible for preparing the EIS. The improvements proposed in the DEIS are an Agency Action because DOFAW, which includes DSP as a partner, is proposing the improvements and activities within these State lands. Non-profit organizations selected by DOFAW or DSP would implement these agency proposed improvements or activities and do not need to prepare their own environmental document because they are covered by this EIS. The accepting authority for this EIS is as discussed in Section 1.1.1.
   b. *Page 2-9: The list of plans does not include the **"Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation."***
   Response: Page 2-9 referenced is from the section discussing the 1994 master plan for Kawainui, which is why the Kawainui Marsh Restoration Plan, Priorities, Protocols, and Participation Plan was not included in this section. That plan was considered and discussed as an alternative to the project in Section 2.3 of the DEIS. That section also explains the reasons for its elimination as an alternative. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics from that plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with recommended interpretive facilities and support features, along with not supporting establisbment of

a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation were not met by this alternative.

c. *Page 2-30: Item 5. Peat Mat Zone states "an area important for Kawainui flood control capability... would remained unchanged." Removal of the peat mat is critical to improving the restoration or the wetland and flood retention capability of the Kawainui Marsh. A major flaw in the proposed plan is that it does not include this necessary remediation. It is included as a priority in the "Community Plan."*

Response: This page discusses the various DOFAW-designated management areas within Kawainui. The Peat Mat Zone consists of the northern mid-section of the wetland as shown on Figure 2.5 of the DEIS. This zone is important for flood control because vegetation helps to reduce the velocity of water flow through the wetland before discharging into Kawainui Canal. Removal of peat mat from the entire wetland is not necessary or practical. The southern half of the wetland proposed for restoration would meet waterbird enhancement and resource objectives. This is not a "major flaw" in the project, and proposed plans better serve the resource than that suggested in the "Community Plan." Proposed restoration plans are based upon DOFAW's experience and expertise managing wetlands, coordination with the COE, and studies conducted, such as a modeling study evaluating hydraulic conditions from the 1994 master plan report.

Related to this is a matter that is not addressed in the proposed plan, This is the provision of a permanent siphon facility over the dike transmitting water from the Kawainui Marsh into Kawainui Stream. As most people in Kailua know, this system was tested by a temporary DLNR demonstration project. A letter received from DLNR acknowledged that the test was a success in remediating the flow problems in Kawainui Stream without adding to flood potential in the Coconut Grove area. This facility should be addressed as part of the DEIS because it is a critical project related to the water quality of the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes.

Response: Installing a permanent siphon facility over the levee transmitting water from Kawainui marsh into Kawainui Stream will not be included as part of this project. Your reference was to a prior demonstration experiment. Although this siphon experiment has some beneficial effects, it is not a "critical project" related to water quality within Kawainui. DOFAW would be evaluating the results of this experiment and other possible implications to their wetland restoration efforts to determine if they would want to alter this water flow in the future as well as potential impacts to the levee. Such an improvement would need to be coordinated with other government agencies, and appropriate environmental studies and permitting would be pursued at that time.

d. *Page 2-36: Statements on this page refer to future culverts including:*
*Other culverts **would** be identified.*
*Culvert repair **could** involve.*
*Drainage improvements **would likely be**.*
*Other measures **could** include.*
*Drainage swales **could**.*
Given that these facilities are directly related to runoff, speculation concerning them - the would (later), could (or may be not) are an insufficient assessment of the impacts.

Is it correct for us to assume that these culvert projects will be assessed in a future EA before implementation?

Response: The section for which phrases are cited is to identify the types of storm water runoff improvements and is not an assessment of their impacts. Impacts from such improvements are discussed in respective sections of the DEIS, such as Sections 3.4.5 (water quality) and 5.3.2 (drainage). Thus, such drainage improvements are properly identified and impacts are adequately addressed in the DEIS, so separate environmental documentation is not necessary for each individual culvert repair project implemented in the future. Further, drainage improvements within the Kahanaiki subzone were already included and covered under an environmental document completed for the Kawainui environmental restoration project in 2012.

e. *Page 2-37: You state storm water improvements are necessary in the area along residences near DOFAW's Hamakua entrance due to flooding. What are the details of the improvements, when will they be constructed. and at what cost ?*

Response: As discussed on Page 2-37, occasional flooding within Hāmākua from runoff discharged from the hillside near residences could trigger constructing a causeway or other structural improvements. A description of typical causeway improvements are included in Section 2.2.1 and consist of minor site work as shown on Exhibit 2.14. An infiltration trench could also be implemented instead. Such minor improvements were included as part of costs shown on Table 2.8, under "Maintenance Trail, Staging Areas" costs for Hāmākua. Such minor improvements would be approximately $10,000. Implementation was identified under project phasing in Section 2.2.8.

f. *Page 2-42: You state that no recreational activities are planned within Hamakua or on Pu'uoehu hillside. Are the planned trails not recreational?*

Response: As discussed in Section 2.2.4, no recreational trails are proposed at Hāmākua or on the Pu'uoehu hillside. Section 2.2.4 further states the trails on the hillside would be solely to support DOFAW reforestation and management efforts. Trails could also be used for occasional educational or stewardship programs, but they would not be recreational trails open to the general public. Figure 2.7 shows proposed pedestrian trails for public use, which do not include Hāmākua or Pu'uoehu.

g. *Page 2-44: The map shows two bridges 191 feet and 644 feet long in the wetland for trails and vehicles, plus four board walks. What construction procedures and materials will be used for these in the wetland, and what would be their impact?*

Response: The two bridges shown on Figure 2.7 are not located within the wetland, but within upland areas that cross over streams. Figure 2.7 shows three boardwalks, not four. Based upon the elimination of some sections of the pedestrian trail in reducing the overall project, there would now be no boardwalks proposed. In addition, the large bridge crossing Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated as well. The bridge across Maunawili Stream would now be used to support DOFAW management and operations. More information on the one bridge now planned will be added in the FEIS, and the revised text is attached to this letter.

h. *Page 2-45: You state that the design of accessory facilities and the Education Center would be determined during the design phase. How can impacts of facilities that are not yet designed be assessed? Are we content to assume that there will be a future EA for these facilities?*

Response: The design of accessory facilities and the education center do not need to be first completed in order to be addressed by the environmental review process. The level of project information provided in the DEIS is sufficient and allows for environmental impacts to be reasonably identified and assessed. Therefore, future EAs for these facilities would not be necessary. Information on the location of the education center and accessory facilities are provided in the DEIS as previously discussed to allow for the assessment of impacts. Accessory facilities for the pedestrian trail consist of minor structures that were described in Section 2.2. The locations of observation decks, restrooms, and open pavilions are shown on the site plans, and approximate sizes (floor area) are provided. Exhibit 2.17 included conceptual sketches of the observation deck and an information kiosk. The impact of such accessory facilities could be evaluated and addressed. Figure 2.9 shows the site plan for the education center's location and building footprint. Exhibit 2.18 shows the building interior. Other descriptive information on features and activities is discussed in Section 2.2. Information is provided describing the center's activities and visitors, which is of greater importance in identifying impacts, as opposed to design elements for interior spaces or exterior design. Such information is sufficient to address the impact of the education center and trail accessory facilities.

The type of building material used for structures, determine during the design process, would not adversely impact and the environment and thus not change the results of the impact assessments. The effects of earth-moving activities for site improvements were addressed in pertinent sections of the DEIS. Information on site locations, impact assessments, and site improvements are discussed in Sections 3.1.2 (topography) and 3.1.3 (soils). The education center is proposed to utilize post-and-pier construction to further minimize site disturbance. Accessory facilities (e.g. open pavilion) would cause minimal site disturbance due to the small footprints required. The information included in the DEIS discusses building footprints, structures would require minimal to minor site grading, are located in previously disturbed areas, and best management practices (BMPs) are discussed. Design plans would be reviewed and approved by pertinent agencies, and necessary permits (e.g. NPDES, grading) would be obtained to ensure structures and other improvements meet regulatory requirements and minimize effects. Therefore, the impacts from accessory support facilities and the education center have been addressed in appropriate sections of the DEIS.

i. *Page 2-48: "Examples of learning projects ... include...." Examples do not provide information on impacts of what will be done. Specifics or what will be done are necessary.*

Response: As discussed on page 2-48, service learning is an important teaching strategy for environmental literacy supported by the State. Service learning projects provide students and adults with "hands-on" knowledge in learning about science and the environment. The paragraph cited further explains examples of existing programs. Sufficient information is available to identify impacts. Such educational programs are beneficial and do not generate significant impacts, as discussed in Section 5.9.1.

j. *Page 2-53: Kahanaiki area.*

Approximately 25 parking stalls are proposed. How many of them are for buses? What specifically will the pavement consist of? Proposed is a septic tank for the restroom.

What is the size of the system, and will the soils in the area preclude leaching of effluent into the wetland?

Response: There are no parking stalls planned for bus parking at this lot. As discussed in the first paragraph of page 2-53, schools must coordinate with DOFAW to access the parking lot as part of educational programs. School buses could be accommodated by using certain areas of the parking lot. That paragraph also stated the parking area would have a compacted gravel or other permeable surface. The specific surface materials for the parking lot would be determined during design, and the information described in the DEIS is sufficient to reasonably address impacts.

Section 5.2 discusses wastewater and addresses projected flows and the size of septic tanks. The restroom at Kahanaiki would need to have a septic tank and associated system to accommodate only 120 gallons per day. Section 5.2.2 also explains that most available septic tank sizes start from 1,000 gallons. All individual septic systems would be designed and developed in compliance with State DOH requirements (§11-62, HAR). This includes conducting a soil percolation test during the design phase for this septic system. The leach field area for such a small system would likely be only about 200 square feet, and would be appropriately designed. Soils in the area should not prohibit use of this system, and it would not have a significant impact on the wetland. It should be noted the City Model Airplane Park's restroom system is much larger and has not demonstrated a negative impact on the wetland.

k. *Page 2-54: Education Center.*

Only a conceptual layout of the Education Center is provided as in a programmable EIS. Details to evaluate impacts are absent. Will a future EA be prepared by the Division of State Parks (DSP) or the Request for a Proposal (RFP) selectee for the final design? Will that EA be an agency or an applicant action?

Response: The conceptual site plan of the education center, along with other information on its design and activities in Section 2.2.4 are sufficient to address environmental impacts. Section 2.2.5 discusses visitor activities associated with the education center in detail, allowing for impacts to be properly addressed, especially since visitor activity is the main concern associated with this facility. The response to comment No. 1 clarified that there are no State regulations regarding programmatic EISs. Therefore, a future EA for the education center would not be required because this use is addressed under this EIS document. The question regarding agency or applicant action is not applicable.

l. *Page 2-60: Kapaa area (Kapaa Cultural Complex).*

1) Same comment as in Page 2-54 above. Also, the proposed cultural complex appears to duplicate the activities at the Education Center kauhale. Why are both needed?

Response: With regard to the cultural center proposed at Kapa'a, the same response to Item 6.k. applies to your comments referencing Page 2-54. Some of the educational and cultural activities proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea are similar to those proposed at the Kapa'a site. However, as discussed in Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.4, programs at the kauhale complex would be offered as part of the education center's activities, would focus on traditional land management and subsistence, and would be open to the general public with the education center. The cultural center at Kapa'a has a different cultural focus and would not be open to the

general public. Use of both sites is appropriate for cultural practices, provides increased educational programs, and supports increased stewardship of areas and cultural practices.

2) *Why is a water storage component required? Is the restroom and caretaker house served by the same septic system, and is the system feasible given the soils, its proximity to the wetland, and the former landfill site? Will structures meet the commercial fire code?*

Response: Water storage would be used for irrigation and other non-potable water use as part of design and sustainability measures to minimize potable water use. The septic system for this center would likely serve both the caretaker house and restroom. Section 5.2 discussed the impacts from such a system that would require a small system (septic tank of 570 gallons) as compared to the City model airplane park's existing restroom that has two 1,000-gallon tanks. A system serving this cultural center is feasible, as the site consists of over 7 acres, soils in the area should not prohibit this system's use, and there would not be a significant impact on the wetland. This Kapa'a site was not a former landfill, but was used by the City as a maintenance baseyard. Building structures would be designed to meet building and fire code requirements.

3) *Re. last paragraph - What are the specific adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds, and the specific mitigative measures to be utilized? Without this information there is no way to assess the effect of the facility on the endangered birds.*

Response: Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS discussed the effects of building structures, such as the cultural center, on endangered waterbirds. That section addressed measures to implement during short-term construction activities along with long-term measures. Buildings would be sited away from the wetland, and vegetative buffers or low fencing could be added around the wetland perimeter to separate waterbirds from activities at this cultural center. The information discussed in this section provides sufficient information to reasonably assess effects on endangered waterbirds.

m. *Page 2-62: Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalaheo section.*

1) *Will the parking area accommodate buses? What are the sizes of the buildings?*

Response: With elimination of the hale wa'a proposed at the Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR), Kalāheo site, the project does not propose any changes to this passive park site. Therefore, only those improvements already permitted by existing entitlements for the Gateway Park plan would be implemented. The park's approved plans did not specify accommodating buses, but school buses could be accommodated with prior authorization from DSP. DSP does not plan to issue permits for commercial tour buses to visit this park. Gateway Park plans proposed a pavilion of about 1,000 square feet, and a restroom of about 600 square feet.

2) *What specific cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank will be done to enable safe canoe access to the canal? How much will DLNR have to increase its 100 person daily visitor limit to accommodate the park canoe education activity? What are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's requirements and design of the canoe launching facility?*

Response: Cutting and reconstruction of the canal bank would not be required to support launching canoes. Minor improvements to stabilize the launch entrance could consist of adding permeable pavers, such as Grasspave2. Coordination with the Corps of Engineers (COE) would address such minor improvements, and there are no COE design requirements for this launch site. There is no launch "facility" proposed under the Gateway Park plans. This Kalāheo site is not part of the Kawainui wildlife sanctuary, and is thus not subject to any commercial visitor limit. DSP plans to allow only schools to launch from this site for practices.

3) *What effect will the canoe building and repair have on community noise and the water quality in the canal? Will access be limited to or by the successful bidder, or will it be open to the public? How many visitors and buses a day will be permitted?*
Response: No canoe building or repair activities are planned under the Gateway Park plans that would impact noise and water quality of the canal. As already discussed, DSP can already implement the Gateway Park plans that have received approval. This site would be a passive park with restrooms and open pavilion. As a State Park facility, it would be open to the general public, access would be limited to normal park hours (7:00 AM to 6:45 PM), and would be operated by DSP. The DEIS addressed the projected number of visitors to this park site, and commercial buses are not allowed unless they have a permit from DSP.

n. Page 2-65: Wai'auia.
Only conceptual plans are provided as in a programmable assessment. Specific plans are needed to evaluate impacts.
Response: Sufficient information on the cultural center at Wai'auia was included in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS (description of activities, buildings, and site plan showing building foot prints and locations). This information is sufficient to identify and address impacts from this facility. A programmatic assessment is not applicable to this project as discussed under response Item No. 1.

o. Page 2-68: A burial or reinternment site is a cemetery. State laws and rules concerning cemeteries should be made explicit. Has an EA for the re-internment project been done or contemplated by DLNR or Board of Water Supply (BWS)? Why is Hawaiian Memorial Park not considered as an alternative?
Response: It should be noted that Page 2-68 does not address a reinternment site. The already permitted reinternment site at Wai'auia is for native Hawaiian burials, and is regulated under Title 13, Chapter 300, HAR. These types of native Hawaiian reinternment burials do not fall under State regulations applicable to cemeteries for the general public. State laws and rules on cemeteries thus do not need to be made explicit in the DEIS, and the permitted reinternment site is not part of the Kawainui-Hāmākua project. You should consult with the City Board of Water Supply on questions regarding an EA for the reinternment site. Hawaiian Memorial Park does not need to be considered as an alternative because the reinternment site is not proposed under this project and is already permitted. As discussed, native Hawaiian burials fall under separate regulations from cemeteries.

p. Wai'auia Cultural Center - the cultural practices facility is the fourth or fifth non-profit cultural facility proposed in the plan.

1) Why are so many such facilities needed in one community?

Response: The cultural center at Wai'auia would have a different focus on the types of cultural programs and activities. Section 2.2.2 discusses the objectives for cultural resources management. Support for cultural centers were received throughout the planning process. Only the Wai'auia and Kapa'a cultural sites fall within DOFAW's jurisdictional areas, and use of both sites is appropriate for cultural practices, provides increased educational programs, and supports increased stewardship of areas. As already discussed, the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site has now been eliminated from this project.

2) *The facility proposed includes a center for Hawaiian studies in performing and literary arts. This would appear to require permanent educational structures not shown on the area map. Only a halau and hula mound are depicted. What other structures will be included?*
Response: The cultural center at Wai'auia is proposed to have permanent structures to support operations, programs, and activities. Figure 2.12 of the DEIS shows proposed structures that are more than just a hālau and hula mound, and Section 2.2.4 discusses this use and proposed activities.

3) *Will buses be allowed in the parking lot? Will fees be charged for public access and performances? Will an EA be prepared for the final design and will it be an agency or applicant action ?*
Response: The small parking lot proposed for this center would not be able to accommodate school buses. Activities at this cultural center would likely require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations for educational or cultural classes, programs, etc. to support operations. A separate EA would not be required for this cultural center as discussed under response No. 1 unless future plans for this site change significantly from that currently proposed.

q. *Levee to Ulupo - What will be the construction materials, including the footing, for the 365-foot board walk? What is the cost for the boardwalk? How and when will it be funded? What was the cost per foot for the Maui example of a boardwalk given? Will there be public parking for residents at Wai'auia to access the trail to Ulupo?*
Response: The section of the pedestrian trail that included the boardwalk has been eliminated from this project. Boardwalk costs were included as part of pedestrian costs in Table 2.8., and materials could have consisted of wood or composite decking. Funding and phasing for improvements were discussed in Section 2.2.8. Your interest in the cost per lineal foot for the boardwalk on Maui should be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The cost for that development is not applicable to this project because it was completed several years ago. Project costs are presented in Table 2.8, and this information is sufficient to address project effects. As discussed in Section 2.2.4, some parking stalls would be available for the public to use at Wai'auia to access the levee. The pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau has been removed from this project.

r. *Ulupo Heiau - The City and County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that was approved for the expansion of the neighboring YMCA required additional parking. The expansion has been completed, but the additional parking has not yet been provided. Does the State intend to purchase the YMCA land needed for the YMCA parking?*
Response: The Windward YMCA is responsible for any additional parking required at Ulupō Heiau as part of their entitlements. Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS discussed the status

of DSP's coordination with the YMCA. DSP is not planning to acquire YMCA property for the purposes of satisfying the YMCA's additional parking requirements.

s. *Page 2-74: Hamakua-Pu'uoehu. Subarea E.*

1) *The program staging area and restroom are very close to residential homes only a few feet away. Were those residents notified?*
Response: Neighboring residents were not notified directly about this project. However, public notifications of this project were distributed throughout the community and through social media as discussed in the DEIS. DOFAW will coordinate with neighboring residents at Hāmākua as appropriate.

2) *The three trails are a visual intrusion to the landscape that is identified as part of an important view plane by the Kooluapoko Sustainable Communities Plan.*
Response: We disagree that the trails planned along the Pu'uoehu hillside for DOFAW restoration and maintenance activities will be a significant visual intrusion to that landscape. Such trails would likely be difficult to see due to screening by the existing tall vegetation present on the hillside. Furthermore, existing commercial and industrial uses along Hāmākua Drive block all views of the hillside along that roadway section. The City's Ko'olau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan identifies the viewplane of this hillside area as occurring from South Kainalu Drive at Kailua District Park, which is over 0.5 miles away and has views largely obscured by Kailua Town development. Maintenance trails would thus have negligible effect on such views.

3) *The erosion that will occur, like the pill box and Maunawili trails, plus the fire hazard created by numerous hikers during the dry season makes the trails a bad idea adjacent to an urban community if just for safety reasons. We can learn from the California fires and mud slides. The fence proposed will affect the view of the area from Hamakua Drive. What are the cost, design and materials of the fence?*
Response: Erosion would not occur for these maintenance trails like the examples provided (e.g. Pill Box). As discussed in Section 2.2.4, these trails would not be open to the general public. They would support DOFAW reforestation and management efforts, and therefore would not host numerous hikers, fire hazards, or cause safety issues for the public. Proposed fencing along the maintenance trail would support DOFAW management activities and would not affect the view of this hillside from Hāmākua Drive. Such wire fencing would be similar to other perimeter fencing planned as shown on Exhibit 2.15 of the DEIS (4-foot-tall), and would be screened by existing vegetation along the hillside. The costs for such "hog wire" fence ($3 to $5 per foot) would be modest (about $25,000 per mile), and are part of maintenance trail costs (Table 2.8). Design and costs have negligible relevance to addressing project physical impacts.

t. *Page 2-77, 2-78: Program and Visitor Activity Estimates.*
The estimate of the number of visitors to Ulupo Heiau does not mention the two tour buses with up to 47 seats each that visit Ulupo. Additionally, according to the estimates, the number or people using the areas on a daily basis approximately equals the 100 person limit currently established by DLNR. Also, the estimates given for the three non-profit facilities of 115 appears to be inconsistent with your estimate of 9,950 visitors per month.

Response: There are no permitted commercial tour buses that visit the Ulupō Heiau site on a daily basis that need to be accounted for in the estimate of existing visitors. Prior unauthorized commercial visitation by large tour buses has been addressed by DSP coordinating with the Windward YMCA. As discussed, in Section 2.2.5, existing estimates are based upon multiple sources and are reasonable.

The Ulupō Heiau site is a State park under DSP jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not part of DOFAW's Kawainui wildlife sanctuary, and is not subject to any commercial visitor limit. We do not see your reference in this section to 115 visitors for three non-profit facilities, but the 9,950 visitors per month on Table 2.6 is correct.

u. *Page 2-82: The total projected visitor activity is 9,950 persons per month which is a large increase over your estimate of current visitors- 2,960. This should be made explicit. The estimate of 6,000 visitors per month for the Education Center is inconsistent with your statements that the Education Center and the other non-profits developments will not be open to visitors, and that commercial permits (including tours) will not be issued. Why is there this discrepancy? How will the non-profits fund their facilities without charging users for visits or events?*

Response: The information discussing projected visitor activity is sufficiently explicit to objectively discuss the changes, and does not need to subjectively characterize this activity. Your opinion that this is a "large increase" is acknowledged. However, the projected change translates into about 250 persons a day that is a reasonable and manageable level of activity.

As discussed in Section 2.2.3 and other sections of Chapter 2, the education center is intended to serve as a management center for public access within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku upland area. This area, under DSP jurisdiction, would be open for the general public to visit Kawainui and participate in programs or utilize pedestrian and foot trails. The cultural centers planned at Kapa'a and Wai'auia would not be open to the general public. Private commercial tour operators are not planned to be issued permits to visit the education center. There is no discrepancy in the projections. The prior responses under No. 5.f and 6.p above, discuss that non-profit organizations would charge entrance fees, fees for classes, etc. to support operation of facilities.

v. *Page 2-92: You note that all design guidelines are preliminary. Does this mean that the EIS is preliminary or programmatic? You also state that "Finalized design guidelines would be included in the final master plan." Will an EA be prepared for the final master plan when the designs and other unknowns may be available?*

Response: Section 2.2.7 discusses design guidelines. This information is sufficient to support project details already provided in the DEIS and to address project effects. There is no State programmatic EIS as already addressed in response No. 1. A separate EA is not required for the final master plan, and the project information included in the DEIS is sufficient to identify project effects.

w. *Page 2-96, Table 2.8: The overall cost estimate is nearly $67,000,000. How will this be funded? Which developments have priority for funding? Will there be phasing? We understand that the cost estimates for the non-profit facilities (even though they have not been designed) is:*

Wai'auia - $2,430,000
Kapaa Cultural Center - $7,870,000
Ulupo Heiau - $630,000

Education Center - $5,450,000.
How firm are these estimates? How will they be funded?
Response: Funding from the State Legislature would be required for the majority of improvements listed in Table 2.8. The project phasing discussed in Section 2.2.8 identifies improvements with a higher priority. Section 2.2.8 states that priority would be given to areas already accessible to the public, where the community has initiated restoration and other programs. DOFAW would utilize adaptive management to identify priority as restoration and situations evolve. Section 2.2.8 states the non-profit organizations would be responsible for funding of the cultural centers, but DSP would fund the education center construction and Ulupō Heiau improvements. The costs are estimates, would be subject to final design of improvements, and are sufficient to identify impacts associated with the project.

x. *Page 3-7, Section 3.1.1.2: You state "Design of site improvements and facilities would be developed by the non-profit organizations." Would further environment assessment be required prior to implementation of the improvements and facilities?*
Response: No further EA would be required for improvements as already discussed under response No. 1.

y. *Page 3-98: "...efforts to improve coastal water quality should focus on improving the quality of...Kawainui canal and Kaelepulu Stream. Agreed, but see earlier comments re. the siphon project.*
Response: Please refer to response 6.c. regarding your siphon suggestion.

z. *Page 4-82, Para 3: Says the plan will not increase commercial visitors. However, the plan estimates that there will be 9,950 visitors per month (Table 2.6). Are you saying that tourists are not commercial?*
Response: Yes, visitors can consist of residents, off-island State residents, or visitors from out of State. Tourists are visitors. Your opposition to "commercial visitors" refers to persons touring an area as part of a privately-operated commercial tour, which are not planned to be issued for this project.

aa. *Page 4-83: You say that the Education Center will not be commercial. It would accommodate non-commercial visitors consisting of Kailua residents, Oahu residents and visitors to the Island. But they will sell books, crafts or food. Is that not commercial? City and County zoning considers that commercial, is the State different?*
Response: Prior responses under No. 5.f and 6.p discuss that non-profit organizations can charge entrance fees, fees for classes, etc. to support operation of facilities. Transactions to support operations by non-profit organizations are allowed, and commonly occur at many visitor centers. Restricting commercial tour groups is being applied to this project to address opposition to visitors. The first paragraph of this page states that "commercial tours" would not be allowed, unless permitted by DSP. The City zoning code does not restrict selling of books, entrance fees, etc. as part of education or visitor centers at State or City parks (e.g. Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden).

bb. *Page 5-8, 5-13: Wastewater Facilities.*
You say that there is no sewer service along Quarry Road to serve the proposed facilities, and that the future design phase would evaluate wastewater flows and treatment requirements in greater detail including the septic tank absorption bed. Because these are critical facilities surrounding the water of the wetland, detailed information needs to be prepared before impacts of the facilities can be evaluated.

Response: Sufficient information on wastewater improvements are provided in the DEIS to adequately address project effects. Section 5.2 includes projected daily demand and septic tank size requirements. As with any project evaluated under the environmental review process, detailed plans are developed later during final project design. The project's wastewater improvements would need to follow state design requirements, and construction plans will be reviewed and approved by the State DOH. Proposed septic tank systems would have minimal or negligible impact on Kawainui's waters or wetland. This wetland receives discharges from significantly larger areas with extensive urban development. The DEIS analysis shows that this wetland has not been negatively impacted by these discharges and is performing its natural function to remove pollutants.

cc. Page 6-29: CDUP OA-3068 (2002).

This CDUP permits Kawainui Marsh improvements to be made by DLNR. As you say, it expired in 2012, and was given a 10-year extension to 2022 by the BLNR. Our understanding is that the BLNR may only approve two-year extensions, and that a new permit may be required.

Response: The Land Board may issue extensions longer than two years, and has done so for CDUP OA-3068, as discussed in Section 6.3.3.

dd. Page 6-45: Aloha+Challenge.

The DEIS incorrectly interprets the "Natural Resource Management" objective of the Governor's Aloha+Challenge. The objective is to "reverse the trend" of losses of natural resources, not to add to it as does the proposed plans' assault on endangered species control (sending humans into the sanctuary), as well as the lack of the prescribed Community Based Marine Management of the wetland's water areas (non-removal of the peat mat. lack of flow in Kawainui Stream, etc).

Response: Project restoration, reforestation, and educational initiatives facilitated by proposed improvements would reverse the trend of natural resource loss at Kawainui and Hāmākua. We disagree that other project improvements, such as pedestrian trails and education and cultural centers, would result in an "assault" on endangered waterbird species. The analysis of the DEIS shows that such improvements and activities would not significantly impact waterbirds. Activities are restricted to upland areas, and persons would not enter the wetland.

As stated in the DEIS Aloha+ Challenge discussion, reversal of natural resource loss trends for areas outside the project area and DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction are not proposed because these agencies do not have ownership or jurisdiction for this property. Therefore, community-based marine management objectives are not applicable to the project. However, benefits to marine areas downstream of these wetlands would occur from restoration improvements that would enhance the pollutant filtration functions of Kawainui and Hāmākua.

ee. Page 7-11: Concerns with Commercial Activities.

You say that the community has a misunderstanding of the commercial activities in the proposed plan. Yet your tables show an increase to 9,950 visitors per month, and admit sales at the Education Center and fees at Wai'auia. How do you explain that discrepancy?

Response: There is no discrepancy in the DEIS discussion in this section on community concerns with for-profit commercial tour operations, which are being restricted. Your

concerns and opposition are against visitors in general, and particularly tourists visiting as part of commercial tours. Section 2.2.5 explains what the term "visitors" entails and Section 2.1 discusses the project objective to improve public access, which includes visitors. Various management actions are proposed to restrict commercial tour groups from the project area to address your concerns. As already discussed, entrance fees, sales from the education center, or charges for classes or programs are allowed and support the operation of these centers by non-profit organizations. Such operations are different from privately-operated commercial tour operators.

7.a. *These wetlands share international recognition as biosphere reserve sites under the auspices of UNESCO and as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Their wildlife and ecosystems are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and their Hawaii State Law counterparts.*

Response: It should be clarified that Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands are not recognized as UNESCO biosphere reserve sites. UNESCO's Hawaiian Islands biosphere reserve sites are comprised only of Haleakala National Park and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park that are under the management of the U.S. National Park Service. The project area is a Ramsar wetland and project improvements support their objectives as discussed in several sections of the DEIS. It should also be clarified that National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations do not apply to this project because there is no federal funding or lands involved.

b. *Only fully restored and ecologically functioning wetlands that provide an abundance of natural habitat and protection for Hawaii's endangered waterbirds and migratory birds, whose Class 1 waters are as clean and pure as possible, have adequate moving water to provide sufficient healthy waterbird nesting habitat and facilitate native goby migration, actively protect known and suspected archaeological sites and is a secure and safe place to visit, can host a limited number of people to experience their wonders. Activities that do not need to be in a wetland should not be accommodated.*

Response: The Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands are ecologically functioning as discussed in Sections 3.4.4 and 3.4.5. A "fully restored" wetland is not required or proposed by the project, especially because wetlands are not static, but evolve over time requiring adaptive management. Thus, the project proposes to restore areas determined to be priorities for DOFAW, and which would support waterbird habitat enhancement. As discussed in Section 3.4.5, water quality parameters for wetlands cannot be compared with stream or ocean conditions due to characteristics comprised of decomposing vegetation, low flow rates, and removal of sediments and pollutants. Therefore, for the Class 1 classification, there are no specific water quality criteria that must be met or having it "as clean and pure as possible", just the basic water quality criteria for all waters and minimize pollution from human caused sources. Given the various frameworks you have identified, project objectives and proposed improvements do support a reasonable and managed number of visitors to Kawainui along with increasing educational and cultural programs and stewardship. Projected visitors are reasonable and allow for a practicable and manageable level of activities, and these activities do not occur within the wetland. Section 2.2.5 discusses management of proposed public access.

c. *The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service allows no visitors into the wetlands at Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on Oahu's North Shore during the nesting seasons of Hawaii's endangered waterbirds. In contrast, the draft management plan for the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh complex allows 9,950 visitors a month into the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh complex during all 12 months of the year.*

The James Campbell National Wildlife Reserve Comprehensive Conservation Plan has restrictions for visitors and public access dependent on the species of waterbird. If certain waterbirds are more easily disturbed, access is restricted during specific seasons. If waterbirds are not easily disturbed, access is limited just during the nesting season. For Kawainui, visitor related activities have been designed for upland areas, and would not occur within the wetland. As discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS, necessary steps can be taken to ensure visitors to Kawainui do not impact endangered waterbirds, which includes restricting public access to areas during certain times of the year (e.g. nesting season). Project related facilities are sited within upland areas sufficient distances away from the wetland and nesting areas that presently only consist of the restoration ponds. The 9,950 monthly visitors projected is reasonable, and includes 1,800 persons already using the levee. These projected levels would be reduced due to the elimination of certain pedestrian trails and restricting canoe launch activities to schools.

8. *The DEIS for the Master Plan Project allows the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to grant long term leases to private organizations to construct buildings, parking lots and septic systems located mere yards from Class 1 waters for the purpose of conducting state- supported cultural-religious practices and educational activities that do not need to be built in or immediately next to a sensitive wetland and would not be open to the public. For example:*

Pg 2-80 "DSP and a non-profit organization would support educational and cultural programs at Kahanaiki utilizing the education center and kauhale complex at Pohakea. These programs are projected to attract a combined total of about 600 persons per month typically as part of group visits about two to three times each week. A few larger cultural events (e.g. Makahiki) may occur at the kauhale twice a year, typically on a weekend."

Pg 2-80 "Educational and cultural activities at Na Pohaku and Ulupo Heiau area expected to increase to a combined 320 persons a month. It is assumed that AML and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club will continue to have DSP stewardship authorization for restoration efforts and educational programming activities. Continued cultural landscape restoration improvements at both these sites are anticipated to generate increase interest from schools or other organizations that would be supported by AML and the Civic Club."

Pg 2-81 "Three new areas for non-profit organizations provide the opportunity to establish facilities supporting cultural activities and programs. Non-profit organizations would work in partnership with DOFAW and DSP to develop activities and programs that achieve the mission of the non-profits and fulfill agency goals. These areas include: 1) Kapa'a Cultural Center 2) Wai'auia Cultural Center and 3) canoe-related programs at Kawainui SPR, Kalaheo." What about the non-profit running the Educational Center?

Response: It should be clarified that the DEIS only satisfies State environmental review regulations. Completing the EIS process does not authorize the Land Board to grant long-term leases for proposed improvements. As discussed, buildings and other improvements supporting public access and cultural practices are located in upland areas away from the

wetland. The analysis presented in the DEIS shows that such uses would not adversely impact the wetland. The nature of Class 1 designated waters for wetlands was also addressed by response No. 7.

The education center and kauhale complex are located a sufficient distance away from the wetland. Educational and cultural programs would be within upland areas and would not negatively impact the Kawainui wetland. Educational and cultural programs at Nā Pōhaku and Ulupō Heiau are valuable activities and support agency missions and project objectives. Such programs include stewardship and restoration activities that are beneficial to the resource. DOFAW and DSP support and encourage more such activities. Areas designated for cultural activities also support educational programs and increase stewardship of areas that are beneficial for the community and the resource. Canoe-related programs have been eliminated from the proposed project (removal of the hale wa'a). The section referred to on Page 2-81 discusses cultural centers, which does not include the education center.

9. *1) Kapa'a Cultural Center: This complex at Kapa'a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public. Site users would include those associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. A range of 300 to 400 persons are projected to utilize this center each month. This includes some staff managing the complex on a daily basis. Periodic events (three events a year) may have limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only). About 200 to 500 persons may attend these periodic functions.*

2) Wai'auia Cultural Center: This complex constructed and operated by a non-profit organization would not be open to the general public. Site users would include individuals associated with the non-profit organization or their guests/partners participating in cultural and educational programs and activities. About 1,730 persons a month are projected to use this cultural center for classes in the late afternoon (after 5:00pm) and evenings. Weekend activities would generally start in the morning from 9:00 am and run through early afternoon. Advanced artisan classes would accommodate up to four students during the week. Some periodic events (three events a year) would accommodate about 200 to 300 persons with limited public attendance."

Response: The information in your letter regarding the cultural center at Kapa'a is generally consistent with that presented in the DEIS. This center would not be open to the general public, but would have educational and cultural programs for the community coordinated through both DOFAW and DSP. Normal activities would be associated with guests (typically residents) of the non-profit organization operating the center. As you indicate, the typical daily visitation by guests is fairly low (10-15 persons/day), and these activities would not adversely impact the wetland or waterbirds. The cultural center restrictions on access (not being open to the general public and tourists) should alleviate your concerns regarding tourists. Similarly, the cultural center at Wai'auia has limited daily activities, which would not adversely impact the wetland or waterbirds. This center would not be open to the general public, but would have educational and cultural programs for the community coordinated through both DOFAW and DSP.

10.a. As the title "Master Plan Project" suggests, this project plans for increased human use of the Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands. It is not a plan that will restore wetland ecosystems, the

habitat of endangered and migratory waterbirds and protect a World Wetland of International Importance. Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh are Public Trust resources.
Response: The words "Master Plan Project" in the project name does not suggest the concerns you raised. Project plans do not include public access within the wetlands of Kawainui and Hāmākua. Structures and activities are located within upland areas that have already been disturbed from prior uses. Contrary to your opinion, the project does include plans and information to restore the wetland and enhanced waterbird habitat as discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS.

b. *The Public Trust Doctrine is incorporated into the Hawaii State Constitution, which recognizes the application of public trust principles in the management of all its natural resources, including prevention of water diversions from and pollution of public trust wetland resources. Article XI Section 1 "For the benefit of present and future generation, the State and its political subdivision shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation... All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people."*
Response: Project plans fully support the Public Trust Doctrine of the Hawai'i State Constitution, by conserving and protecting this natural resource for the benefit of present and future generations. Plans promote the utilization of this resource in a sustainable and managed manner by providing reasonable public access and opportunities for educational programs and stewardship consistent with the conservation and development of resources for future public enjoyment under the Constitution. The proposed project also supports traditional and customary rights of native Hawaiians under Article XII of the State Constitution.

The project would improve the Hāmākua wetland, restore the Kawainui wetland, enhance waterbird habitat, and reforest upland areas; all activities which are consistent with managing these public natural resources for the benefit of the community. Kawainui-Hāmākua are State resources that need to be evaluated for the broader public interest and benefit. There are no water diversions proposed by this project. Wetland restoration would improve water flow through the Kawainui wetland and support its flood protection role. Public benefits would further be achieved by providing managed public access (e.g. trails, parking) to allow for the enjoyment of this resource by all. Although some public use and access are being restricted to address Kailua community concerns, the project still includes reasonable access in a manageable manner. The DEIS makes appropriate assessments of impacts likely from the project and identifies reasonable measures to minimize or mitigate effects. The development and utilization of this resource is being provided in a manner consistent with its conservation for future public enjoyment.

c. *BLNR is responsible as trustee to manage Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh in the interest of the public and not support private appropriation of these wetlands as this DEIS allows. As trustee, the BLNR has an obligation not only to preserve state property subject to the public trust, but also not allow for any diminution of the trust corpus. The public trust doctrine places BLNR under fiduciary obligation to protect trust resources-and prevent*

private appropriation. What the draft EIS proposes harms the public trust and violates Article IX Section 8 and Article XI Sections 1, 7 and 9 of the Hawaii Constitution.
Response: The Land Board has the responsibility to review proposals affecting the broader public interest in accordance with their duty and authority to protect this resource. There are no private appropriations of wetlands proposed under this project. We disagree with your opinion that the project harms the public trust. The project does not violate the sections of the Hawai'i Constitution you identified. The project supports promoting and maintaining a healthful environment, including the prevention of any excessive demands upon the environment and the State's resources (Article IX, Section 8) by proposing managed public access, supporting educational programs, accommodating native Hawaiian cultural practices (Article XII), and increasing stewardship opportunities of this resource. Article IX, Section 1 has already been addressed.

Section 7 of Article IX (protecting, controlling and regulating use of Hawai'i's water resources for the people's benefit) is addressed by restoration and other resource improvements. The project allows for beneficial and reasonable uses of upland areas for public access, passive outdoor recreation, programs, and cultural practices. Based upon the DEIS, these improvements and activities would not have an adverse effect on wetlands or other important resources, and several measures were identified to minimize or mitigative impacts. Under Article IX Section 9, the project supports a clean and healthful environment, would be compliant with pertinent laws relating to environmental quality, it includes measures to minimize or mitigate impacts that support pollution control and conservation, and would protect and enhance natural resources by wetland restoration and upland reforestation.

11.a. It would be very unfortunate if Kawainui Marsh were to lose its RAMSAR designation because its "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" is inconsistent with the requirements for listing as a Wetland of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention and its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. Exhibit A at the end of our comments below contains four pages of information submitted with the Application for Designation of Kawainui Marsh as a RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance. Based in large measure on this information Kawainui Marsh was granted RAMSAR status.

Response: The project would support Kawainui-Hāmākua to achieve a higher achievement to meet its Ramsar designation. Section 6.1.1 of the DEIS discussed project consistency with Ramsar. The project would not negatively affect Kawainui's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and Section 4.1 discusses the project effect on historic and cultural sites. Proposed improvements would better support historic eligibility by providing increased educational and cultural programs for the public to learn about the history and cultural significance of this area.

Thank you for providing the Exhibit attached to your letter which discusses information obtained from the Ramsar nomination application for Kawainui-Hāmākua. Proposed restoration efforts would enhance waterbird habitat at these wetlands for endangered waterbirds. DOFAW facilities and management activities would further support habitat enhancement and maintenance. Proposed public access and accessory facilities support

educational and cultural programs, and would allow the public to view wildlife and enjoy this resource, which supports agency missions and the Public Trust doctrine. The historic and cultural significance of Kawainui would be improved by the establishment of cultural centers providing a permanent presence for the native Hawaiian community at Kawainui (living culture and traditional and customary practices). Various measures were also identified in Section 4.1 to minimize and mitigate effects on historic sites. Many recommendations from the 1994 master plan have not been implemented as you state, such as the visitor center, cultural park and perimeter trail. We also note that the Hawai'i Audubon Society published a Draft EA in 1998 proposing an education center at Kawainui, and the Ramsar application supported having tours of Kawainui bringing up to 200 visitors at a time. The Kawainui-Hāmākua project proposes many of these 1994 recommendations and other improvements, which support Ramsar objectives and the reasons for nomination.

b. *After two years of research Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF) and the National Audubon Society (NAS) submitted an Information Sheet on RAMSAR Wetlands to have Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes declared a Wetland of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention to the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of International Affairs. In 2005 Kawainui Marsh was formally accepted by the Secretary General to the RAMSAR Convention because it met the following four criteria:*

- *Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeography region.*
    - *Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes met this criterion because of their hydrological functions as a flood control reservoir of surrounding local community by storing runoff as surface water from major rainfall events, major role in maintaining natural functioning and high water quality of Kailua Bay by trapping sediment and uptakes nutrients and pollutants*
- *Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.*
    - *Both marshes support four endangered species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. The wetland complex provides habitat for four endemic Hawaiian waterbirds listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act: hybrids of the Hawaiian Duck (koloa maoli), Hawaiian Coot ('ale ke'o ke'o), Hawaiian Moorhen ('ale 'ula) and Hawaiian Stilt (kukuluae'o - abbreviated as ae'o)*
- *Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.*
    - *Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes provide a significant portion of habitat requirements for the four endangered waterbirds, which are all endemic to Hawai'i making the wetlands critical for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region.*

- *Criterion 8: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depending.*
    - *Kawainui Marsh provides a migration path from the ocean to mountain streams for indigenous and endemic amphidromous fish and crustaceans, including the indigenous goby, endemic goby, and endemic shrimp.*

Once a country has become a signatory to the RAMSAR Convention, it can nominate wetlands for inclusion in the list of 'Wetlands of International Importance' (RAMSAR sites). To obtain and keep this designation the Kawainui/Hamakua wetland complex must continue to satisfy at least one of the internationally-accepted criteria in relation to their zoology, botany, ecology, hydrology or limnology and their importance to waterfowl and other wetland dependent biodiversity. International recognition of the importance of Hawaii's only RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance provides both value and recognition to the State of Hawaii and an added level of protection. RAMSAR's Contracting Parties, which include the United States, are obliged to maintain the ecological character of sites in their country that are designated as RAMSAR Sites.

Response: We appreciate the Audubon Society's participation to help obtain the Ramsar designation for Kawainui-Hāmākua. The four criteria you identify were addressed in Section 6.1.1, which includes information on project consistency with these criteria. However, it is not correct that the Contracting Party to Ramsar, such as the United States, must continue satisfying one of the accepted criteria which qualified the site for its designation, in order to maintain the Ramsar designation. Per Ramsar's 2016 handbook, the only obligation of Contracting Parties is for the U.S. to designate one wetland for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Several other sites within the U.S. have been designated for inclusion, thereby meeting this obligation. Furthermore, there are no formal or legal obligations to maintain the characteristics of Kawainui's wetland area related to these criteria. Per Ramsar's handbook, the Ramsar Convention is not a regulatory regime and cannot take punitive action against Contracting Parties if characteristics of a designated site changes. Nevertheless, DOFAW and DSP are committed to maintaining Kawainui's compliance with the criteria that qualified this site for this designation. The project's restoration and reforestation improvements would facilitate continued compliance with these requirements by enhancing the wetland's natural flood control functions and habitat for endangered waterbirds and other aquatic biota that contribute to the wetland's biodiversity. These improvements are discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS, and environmental impacts from activities are addressed in other respective sections.

12.*a. DLNR/DOFAW's State Wildlife Sanctuaries program focuses on implementing wetland management techniques to restore, enhance, protect and maintain wetland ecosystems, recognizing that ecosystem condition and its ability to function properly as a wetland is critical to the recovery of endangered waterbird species. Yet this DEIS contains very little about the ecological significance of Kawainui and Hamakua marshes or how they will be managed and protected to ensure the continuation of biological diversity for the four endangered waterbirds and includes little detail about improvements and management to aid in opening the migration path of indigenous and endemic fish and crustaceans from the ocean to mountain streams.*

Response: To clarify, the State's wildlife sanctuary regulations do not "focus on implementing wetland management techniques to restore, enhance" and maintain ecosystems. The purpose for these rules are to conserve, manage, and protect wildlife and their habitats within sanctuaries. The DEIS includes considerable information on the ecological significance of Kawainui and Hāmākua as discussed in the many sections of Chapter 3, including botanical, fauna, hydrology, streams, wetlands, and water quality. Chapter 2 discusses the project's purpose and objectives, improvements proposed to accomplish objectives, and management efforts with reasonable public access. Section 2.2.1 discusses the various natural resource management activities that would restore the wetland, enhance waterbird habitat, and support DOFAW operations. The purpose for this project is not to open migration paths for aquatic biota to "mountain streams" that are upland of and outside of the project site. However, wetland restoration would increase open water areas and reduce invasive vegetation that would support aquatic biota within the wetland as discussed in Section 3.4.6.

b. *The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Recovery Plan recommends minimizing human disturbance to waterbirds and their habitats, which includes controlling human access to waterbird habitats during breeding season. The DEIS is silent on how endangered and migratory birds will be protected at each site slated for development and public access.*
Response: It should be clarified that under the FWS Recovery Plan, human disturbance is only one of several reasons for the decline of waterbirds. Several other factors include loss of wetland areas due to development (filling), hydrology alteration, invasive plants encroachment, predators, and hybridization. Furthermore, "human disturbance" refers to impacts on waterbirds in wetlands created and managed for a specific use; in particular agricultural and aquacultural wetlands due to flooding or draining of taro fields or employees working in wetlands. As discussed in Section 2.2, proposed structures and public access (viewing and walking) occur within upland areas and not within wetlands. Section 2.2.1 identified having wire fencing around wetland perimeters along with signage to restrict visitor access within areas, Section 3.3.2 discussed vegetative buffers and restricting public access during certain times of the year (e.g. nesting season).

c. *It does not mention the light pollution from the two high schools above the Marsh in addition to that from Castle Hospital and all the homes along the Marsh that currently contribute to the mortality of wedge-tailed shearwater fledglings nesting in the heights above the Marsh. This existing light pollution will be compounded by more lights in and around the new buildings and parking lots as well as the inevitable street lights that will need to be installed along the Quarry Road for safety with all the increased use.*
Response: Impacts to migratory seabirds are addressed by design requirements for outdoor lighting (e.g. shielding). Discussion of impacts to seabirds at each site proposed for facilities is not necessary. As discussed in Section 3.3.2, the primary impact to endangered seabirds is from outdoor building and site lighting that may disorient these species. Consequently, appropriate design requirements would be implemented equally for all facilities having outdoor lighting to mitigate impacts on seabirds. Any light pollution occurring from LeJardin Academy, Kalāheo High School, Adventist Health Castle, and other existing residences in the area that may affect seabirds are not the responsibility of this project, and DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction over those facilities or other privately-owned properties. New

buildings that have outdoor night lighting would be required to have bulbs that are shielded to the extent possible and use the lowest wattage bulbs feasible. Accessory recreational structures (e.g. pavilions) would not have any outdoor night lighting. Parking areas would probably not require night lighting, but would use shielded lighting if needed. Street lights along Kapa'a Quarry Road are not required nor planned as part of this project.

c. *The DEIS does not include comprehensive management actions that will keep endangered water birds safe from people, feral cats and dogs, rats and mongooses that will become more of a problem once the marshes are made more accessible via trails and boardwalks across streams and wetlands that now are a deterrent. The DEIS says that a protective fence may be installed around wetland areas to deter larger predators such as dogs and feral pigs, but there is no mention of the specific wetland areas that will be fenced. Identification of the sensitive areas to be fenced and type of fencing to be used should be in the DEIS and available for review.*

Response: Management actions and other measures to address predators on waterbirds are discussed in Sections 2.2.5 and 3.3.2. Prior responses addressed human activities. Predators such as rats, mongooses, and pigs are already present within Kawainui, and this situation would not change with the project. DOFAW would develop a management plan for Kawainui in coordination with the FWS and COE as part of requirements associated with the restoration ponds. A predator control program is already being implemented, as discussed in Section 2.2.1. Dogs would not be allowed within the wildlife sanctuary, and should not create an issue with waterbirds. Boardwalks have been eliminated from the project. Streams and the wetland do not serve as a deterrent for predators, and this situation would not change with the project.

Specific locations for fencing around the wetland perimeter would be determined by DOFAW as part of their management of Kawainui. Currently, only the restoration ponds serve as nesting habitat, and the results of wetland restoration efforts would determine whether other areas may require such fencing. DOFAW has the experience and expertise to determine these areas, as staff works at Kawainui and other wetlands on O'ahu on a daily basis. The overall impacts on the environment from such fencing is minimal, and is already exempt because it is part of DOFAW's existing management activities permitted. Information on such fencing was provided in Section 2.2.1 and Exhibit 2.15.

13.a. *The DEIS needs to explain how the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' waterbird ponds, which were mitigation for the construction of the flood-control dyke pursuant to the U.S. no-net-loss-of-wetlands policy, will be modified so that they function and fulfill the purpose for which they were constructed as per the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's recommendations. The DEIS provides little information about how its preferred alternative will accomplish the restoration and management of the degraded wetlands and upland watershed, which should be the Master Plan's priority.*

Response: The project does not propose any changes or modifications to the completed restoration ponds. DOFAW is managing these ponds as part of their regular operational activities, and the ponds serve their intended function as habitat for waterbirds. Section 2.2.1 of the DEIS provides adequate information on planned wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities for which environmental impacts can be identified and addressed. It

should be noted that the 80 acres of both wetland and upland areas associated with Kahanaiki have already been reviewed and approved (Sections 2.1.1 and 2.3.1).

b. *The upland areas need to be re-established as native forest to curtail the sediment and debris that have flooded down into the Kawainui waterbird ponds during recent storm events. Managing the upland watershed is critical for achieving and maintaining the hydrological functions needed for flood control and to reverse the ongoing degradation of the wetlands. Yet the DEIS contains almost no specific substantive recommendations that address any of these components.*

Response: We acknowledge your concern with the upland watershed area outside of the project site. However, DOFAW and DSP cannot control the activities or pollution levels that occur in the larger watershed because those mauka areas (e.g. Maunawili subdivision) are outside of the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area, are not under DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction, and consist of privately-owned property. Improvements within "upland watershed" areas outside of the project site are not proposed and are not the purpose for this project. It is not appropriate to provide recommendations for those properties and landowners. As a result, DOFAW does not plan to re-establish those upland areas as native forests or curtail activities conducted by residents or other landowners on their privately-owned properties to address stormwater runoff and sediment transport into streams.

c. *The DEIS also needs to prioritize whole-scale removal of invasive vegetation to increase the amount of water bird habitat and food availability. The final EIS should include an analysis of flood capacity, and how and when the vegetative mat in the center of Kawainui Marsh will be removed to aid in flood water capacity and better protect Kailua's Coconut Grove community.*

Response: One of the objectives for the project is to enhance waterbird habitat. It does not require "whole-scale" removal of invasive vegetation to provide such habitat. DOFAW has the experience and expertise to manage such habitat, and the proposed restoration and reforestation plans are reasonable to accomplish the project objectives for Kawainui. Section 3.2.4 of the DEIS addresses flood conditions and how the project would support marsh flood control functions. The COE is responsible for flood management and any design changes to the levee or Kawainui Canal to protect lower lying areas, which includes analysis of Kawainui's flood storage. The 1994 master plan also included engineering studies evaluating Kawainui's hydrology and flooding. Response No. 6.c. addressed why the center and northern section of the Kawainui wetland would be retained to support flood protection, except for selected removal of large trees or other vegetation.

14.a. *It is common knowledge that water resources into Kawainui Marsh are dwindling for many reasons, including diversions of stream and spring water mauka (upland) of Kawainui for urban development, a golf course, etc. About 1.4 million gallons a day is being channeled out of the Kawainui watershed to neighboring Waimanalo for farming. The State Department of Agriculture recently repaired the Maunawili Ditch that conveys water from Maunawili Valley to Waimanalo thus eliminating approximately 1 million gallons of water per day that used to flow and seep into the ground and eventually into Kawainui Marsh. Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams are the main sources of water into Kawainui Marsh and their banks are*

overgrown and choked with invasive species. So much so that what use to be a rushing flow of water into Kawainui Marsh is now an insufficient flow.
Response: We acknowledge your concerns with water diversions and other uses of stream water from upland areas outside of our project site for which DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction. However, the purpose for the project is not to change existing approved stream diversions and water uses that fall under the State Commission of Water Resource Management. Although Maunawili and Kahanaiki streams are being encroached by vegetation, there is a sufficient flow of water from these streams entering Kawainui's wetland. Prior water diversions or sheet flow of storm water runoff from upland areas have not significantly impacted the Kawainui wetland or its function. An important factor with this wetland is to serve as flood control, thus, this project does not need to regulate or control the flow of surface water runoff from mauka areas into the wetland.

b. *The DEIS needs to include a program of research that will provide data important for understanding and managing the biota and other natural resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua wetlands and watershed.*
Response: A program of data collection to understand the biota and resources of Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands and larger watershed is not necessary to address project impacts. The DEIS includes sufficient information to identify and address project effects. In addition, such research programs reflect some of the benefits envisioned by the project, which would support educational programs that may be conducted by schools and universities.

c. *A comprehensive limnological study of the entire Marsh needs to be done before the DEIS is finalized. Limnology analyzes the biological, chemical, physical, geological and other attributes of running and standing waters, both fresh and saline, natural or man-made and includes the study of ponds, springs, streams and wetlands. Limnology is closely related to studies of the aquatic ecology and hydrobiology of fresh and brackish ecosystems and their aquatic organisms, with particular regard to their hydrological environment. This study and this DEIS should outline how the original water sources will be restored to achieve maximum endangered waterbird nesting success and prevent stagnant anoxic habitats prone to outbreaks of botulism fatal to endangered waterbirds. Instead this DEIS states that nesting pond habitat will not be constructed to avoid attracting waterbirds in a wetland of international importance!*
Response: A limnological study of Kawainui and Hāmākua is not necessary for the FEIS. The DEIS includes sufficient information from technical studies and other assessments conducted for the project area to address impacts on biological and natural resources, and the human environment, which allows for objective evaluation of project effects. Under the "rule of reason," the DEIS and FEIS does not need be exhaustive to the point of discussing all possible details bearing on the project. The DEIS is adequate, and the FEIS will incorporate pertinent revisions, that allows it to be considered prepared in good faith. It sets forth sufficient information to enable decision-makers to consider the environmental factors involved to make a reasoned decision. Wetland restoration improvements would have a significant beneficial effect on the Kawainui wetland and ecology by removing invasive vegetation that benefits the natural and aquatic resources along with the hydrologic environment based upon the information discussed in the DEIS. Other project improvements (e.g. education center, cultural centers, pedestrian trails) would not have a significant adverse

impact on these resources. Management practices are identified to address public access, and to further minimize impacts.

The purpose for the project is not to restore "original water sources" and thus project improvements are not proposed to achieve this goal. Water sources for the Kawainui wetland are from streams and other surface runoff from upland urbanized developments and mauka areas. It is not reasonable to restore those sources. Project improvements would support enhancing waterbird habitat in accordance with DOFAW's objectives, and include management measures to address botulism as discussed in Section 2.2. The DEIS does not state that waterbird habitat will not be constructed, as Section 2.2.1 discusses such improvements.

15.a. *This Master Plan Project allows substantial degradation of environmental quality to continue, which will also substantially affect human health. Kapa'a Stream, which flows from Kapa'a Valley into Kawainui Marsh, is referred to as an intermittent stream. Kapa'a Stream is bordered by auto repair shops and other industrial uses and a rock quarry for which TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) standards have been calculated because so many contaminates get into the stream. Waters from Kapa'a Stream flow into Kawainui Marsh, particularly during heavy rains, so the DEIS should include a detailed plan for cleaning up the water flowing from Kapa'a Stream into Kawainui Marsh.*
Response: The project would not allow substantial degradation of environmental quality to continue, and several sections of the DEIS discuss proposed improvements and the effects from such actions. Areas outside (mauka) of Kawainui that control discharges of storm water runoff into Kapa'a Stream are City and privately-owned. The purpose for this project is not to clean up runoff entering Kapa'a Stream from such upland areas. The City and privately-owned property associated with light industrial area are responsible for addressing discharges from their properties into Kapa'a Stream, and they are subject to City and State requirements.

b. *One action item should be the requirement that the ditches on either side of Kapa'a Quarry Road below the industrial park should be cleared of invasive vegetation so they can function as designed to filter water from the abandoned dump under the industrial park and Kapa'a Stream before it enters the Class 1 waters of Kawainui Marsh. Kapa'a Stream is supposed to be a Class 2 inland stream under State Department of Health Water Quality Standards, whose objective as applied to Kapa'a Stream is "to protect its uses for recreational purposes, support and propagation of fish and other aquatic life..." Yet Kapa'a Stream is on the State Department of Health List of Impaired Waters prepared under the Clean Water Act §303(d) because of elevated concentrations of turbidity, total suspended solids, nutrients, and metals in the stream.*
Response: We appreciate your concern for clearing the drainage ditches along Kapa'a Quarry Road by the City's model airplane park. However, the City is responsible for the maintenance of those ditches because it is within their property. Kapa'a Stream is classified as a Class 2 inland stream, and the State DOH's applicable TMDL report discusses measures for upland landowners to address discharges.

c. *The DEIS indicates that DLNR is planning to facilitate more public and private visitation to Kawainui Marsh by creating trails around the 6-mile perimeter of the Marsh. While on some*

of these trails it is likely that people will come into contact with contaminated water originating in Kapa'a Industrial Park, which the City and County of Honolulu has allowed to expand to the borders of Kawainui Marsh. Yet, Kapa'a Stream is barely mentioned in the DEIS, let alone any discussion of the probability of human contact with contaminated water or any plan for cleaning up the waters moving both on the surface and underground from Kapa'a Stream and Valley into Kawainui Marsh to ensure better and safer water quality. The DEIS needs to inform the public about the impact of the Kapa'a industrial development and activities on the wetlands and include a plan to mitigate the polluted waters originating from the upstream industrial park and old Kailua landfill that will convert the contaminated waters to Class 1 waters before they enter Kawainui Marsh.

Response: The pedestrian trail in the DEIS only extended from Nā Pōhaku to connect to the model airplane park. With the removal of additional trail sections, there are no pedestrian trails occurring in the vicinity of Kapa'a Stream. Kapa'a Stream is discussed in Section 3.4.3 of the DEIS, and the public would not be coming into contact with water discharged from that stream into Kawainui. Sampling of toxic materials within Kawainui's waters did not identify major issues, as most materials were not present in detectable amounts.

The DEIS includes information identifying industrial uses that may contribute pollutants to Kapa'a Stream in Section 3.4.5. However, the City and private property owners are responsible for addressing storm water runoff from their properties, and developing appropriate measures to reduce contaminants. Kawainui's wetlands naturally function as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. This wetland serves as a treatment system intercepting surface runoff and removing or retaining inorganic nutrients, processing organic wastes, and reducing suspended sediments before they reach open water. Therefore a plan is not needed to mitigate waters discharged from this industrial area into Kawainui's wetland because the wetland already performs its function.

16.a. *Concern for public safety and security for visitors that will be using the planned trails and boardwalks in the Kawanui-Hamakua wetland complex does not seem to be of paramount concern in the DEIS. This is unfortunate because people use public trails with the expectation that they are safe and that security measures are in place. Yet there is no detailed plan for providing for the safety and security of the thousands of visitors that the preferred alternative allows.*

Response: Public safety is important to this project, as upland areas are made available for public access in a phased and managed manner. Such management efforts include: adding DOCARE officers; opening areas for public access only when DOFAW and DSP are able to manage them (phased implementation); increasing stewardship partnerships that expands monitoring of activities; and allowing the education center to serve an important management function as the primary point of entrance and orientation for visitors to that area. Furthermore, additional sections of the pedestrian trail have been eliminated to address community concerns. The only remaining sections of the trail would be along upland areas from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku and from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's management station. Persons along trails would need to exercise common sense and typical precautions when visiting, which is not different from persons visiting other trails or State parks.

b. *Safety and security are also a big concern of the Kailua residents who live along the boundary of Kawainui Marsh. It is logical to expect that the number of homeless people will increase once trails are built that make it easier for people to gain access to residences along the edge the Marsh.*

Response: The only residents living along Kawainui are those along the levee to DOFAW's management station. Privacy and safety concerns for residents were considered in the planning and environmental review process, particularly with regard to the pedestrian trail along this section, as discussed in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS. DOFAW is planning to install perimeter fencing along the State property line as part of management activities for Kawainui, which would border adjacent residence properties. The trail would also be located 250 to 300 feet away from residences of the Kūkanono subdivision and utilize the physical presence of the hillside to create a natural buffer. Railings would keep users along the path, as shown on Exhibit 2.22 of the DEIS.

DOFAW effectively removes homeless encampments within Kawainui, and appreciates support from the community in notifying DOFAW of such camps and issues. Project improvements include efforts to create partnerships with non-profit organizations to increase stewardship opportunities of areas and help monitor activities occurring. With daily activities occurring, project improvements would not support establishment of homeless camps. Reduced secluded areas make it less likely that homeless camps can be established because of increased visibility and public awareness.

c. *DLNR should not allow the Kawainui-Hamakua wetlands to be open and available to 10,000 visitors per month without ensuring that safety and security measures are in place and with a continuing budget to pay for them. While the DEIS seems to promise that there will be dedicated security personnel to enforce rules and regulations of the complex, there are no specific details such as hours of operation or how many people will patrol the miles of trails and boardwalks. To ensure the safety and security of the thousands of visitors this Plan proposes to invite into these already degraded wetlands, as well as the residents living along the borders of Kawainui Marsh, and the endangered and migratory bird species that need to be protected from the consequences of the increased human usage of these wetlands, sufficient adequate safety and security measures and their cost must be described in detail in the final EIS.*

Response: It should be clarified that 1,800 persons a month already safely use the levee for recreational activities, and 1,200 persons were projected to utilize the Kalāheo site for park use. However, by restricting canoe launch activities to schools, the projected level of activity would decrease considerably. Therefore, only about 6,000 new persons a month are projected with the project. By implementing reduced improvements at Pōhakea in the interim (parking, restroom, and pavilion) instead of an educational center, the level of visitors would be considerably less with a focus on schools and stewardship groups. As discussed under Section 2.2.5, several management activities are proposed to address increased public access at Kawainui to safeguard activities occurring.

As discussed in Section 2.2, areas available to the public would only be open during normal business or daylight hours. DOCARE officers would patrol the project area during operating hours and coordinate with DOFAW and DSP on operations and activities. Boardwalks have been removed from the project. It should be clarified that visitors would not be allowed to

enter the Kawainui wetland, and such passive outdoor recreational activities would occur in upland areas. The DEIS included sufficient information on costs and management activities, and addressed impacts on the environment and waterbirds from improved public access. The FEIS also includes more information addressing various areas and expanding discussions to better clarify and explains impact assessment results.

17.a. *While some recreational activity should be allowed in state wildlife sanctuaries when it does not negatively impact the nesting behavior of the endangered waterbirds, we believe that such activity should be limited to low impact recreational activities such as bird watching, photography, citizen science data collection, citizen habitat restoration and archaeological exploration.*

Responses: Passive outdoor recreational activity includes those low-impact activities you identified, such as bird watching and stewardship, which includes being able to walk within designated upland areas. The results of the DEIS show that such passive outdoor recreational activities would not have an adverse effect on endangered waterbirds, and several measures are proposed to minimize or mitigate effects.

b. *We recommend that a human carrying capacity study be conducted for Kawainui Marsh and included in the final EIS. The study should evaluate the carrying capacity of each individual site proposed for human development and the Marsh as a whole to help ensure that this degraded yet fragile wetland is not overrun, overused and degraded further until it can no longer function as a marsh and wetland.*

Response: Your request for a carrying capacity study would primarily be associated with concerns related to visitor levels. The application of the carrying capacity concept is flawed because it is derived from biological models of the capability of resources to sustain a given number of animals over a period of time in a particular place. This does not translate readily into the management of human recreational experiences. The carrying capacity concept is problematic because it improperly implies that there is an absolute threshold, for example, of visitor numbers, below which there is no or minimal impact. Furthermore, National Park Service research papers, several other publications, and a Waikiki recreational carrying capacity study have collectively determined that "carrying capacity" doesn't apply well to recreational settings.

The issue is really addressing how many visitors or what level of use is too much, and trying to determine the "magic number" of visitors. Focus is typically on the "environmental carrying capacity" of an area, such as Kawainui, to accommodate visitors. However, environmental carrying capacity is difficult to measure because it is influenced by a variety of factors, such as weather, site characteristics and durability, type of use, time and duration of use, and species composition. Because public values are diverse and recreational experiences are multi-dimensional, the number of visitors acceptably accommodated are dependent on other factors such as the behavior of visitors, their age, the applicability of support improvements, quality of education material and guidance provided to visitors, etc. Thus, capacity in relation to one variable is only practically meaningful when related to other linked variables. Furthermore, management decisions can change (increase/decrease) recreation capacity through factors such as personnel, budget, regulations, fee systems, reservation and permit systems, educational programs, etc.

Studies show that the more appropriate term is "visitor capacity" for recreational planning and management, which is evaluating the social capacity level of use beyond which social experiences, such as crowding and user conflicts, are unacceptable. Professional judgments should be used to predict what use level will be consistent with a given management prescription, and monitoring and adaptive management increases certainty by tracking changes and making adjustments accordingly. Improving public access at Kawainui will inevitably result in some change. It is important to recognize when change becomes unacceptable. Change must also be balanced against the positive benefit of expanding educational and recreational opportunities in a managed setting.

As we stated previously, visitors would not enter Kawainui's large wetland area and would not impact that wetland resource or adversely impact endangered waterbirds. Projected visitors discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS are at levels not expected to cause intolerable visitor experiences (e.g. overcrowding) or significant degradation of upland areas based upon the DEIS results. Elimination of some sections of the pedestrian trail provides the means to reduce impacts. Acceptable visitor levels would be much higher than that projected in the DEIS (about 200 per day). A Waikiki carrying capacity study in 2008 surveyed the area between Sans Souci/Kaimana Beach and Diamond Head/Kuilei Cliffs beaches. The study determined that the "minimum point" where one's toleration toward crowding changes (from acceptable to unacceptable) is between 200 to 330 persons at one time for an area of only about 20 acres. Being a minimum point, a higher number of persons per area (crowding) could thus be tolerated. Given that the upland area from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku encompasses about 66 acres, it is possible that several hundred visitors (over 600 persons) could occupy that area at one time before one's experience changes due to crowding (visitor "capacity" being approached). With visitors to Kawainui expected to stay for one to two hours during a day visit, the number of total visitors a day could potentially increase by multiple times before approaching some type of crowding level. Therefore, the project area would be able to accommodate considerably more than the 200 persons a day projected, which is well below such levels that could potentially be perceived as starting to become too crowded.

The Waikiki study also evaluated four management strategies consisting of: 1) improving education and awareness; 2) restricting the number of people allowed; 3) improving maintenance; and 4) providing more facilities and services. Based upon the public input received by users, improving education and awareness was the most strongly supported management action. Respondents were most strongly opposed to restricting the number of people allowed in the area. Therefore, these results further show that education and improving public awareness are better management practices, compared to restricting the number of visitors.

Other references support informed judgement as being preferred by park and wilderness managers to manage sites. Managers would make value-based judgements about the level of impacts and related visitor use levels and experience that are acceptable. Therefore, the more feasible and practicable approach being proposed under this project is to allow DOFAW and DSP to make informed judgement and to develop monitoring, planning, and management protocols based on levels of impact or changes that consider both the receiving environment

and the visitor experience. The level of acceptable change from these factors can be more appropriately evaluated. Management options and monitoring would be more practicable and feasibly implemented to evaluate whether the amount of change occurring can be tolerated, changes to visitor experiences and satisfaction, and when steps should be taken to prevent further undesirable changes. The management options discussed in the Draft EIS support these efforts. DOFAW's expertise managing wildlife sanctuaries and waterbird habitat can work in partnership with DSP to manage visitors and evaluate their experience (e.g. crowdedness) and impacts to wildlife.

c. *There is great community concern about allowing commercial uses in Kawainui and Hamakua mashes and we recommend that commercial tourist traffic should not exceed 100 visitors per day for the entire Kawainui Marsh as well as Hamakua Marsh when the endangered waterbirds are NOT nesting, including permitted groups. To accommodate those who are not able to actually visit the Marsh, the final EIS should recommend that DOFAW create an educational "take the place to the people" interactive website such as the one that NOAA ONMS has established for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.*

As discussed in prior responses, certain "commercial" uses are allowed, such as non-profit organizations collecting entrance fees, charging for classes or programs, etc. that would support their operations and maintenance of facilities. However, understanding your opposition to visitors to Kailua as a whole, private for-profit commercial tours bringing tourists would be restricted at Kawainui and Hāmākua. The guideline to limit the number of commercial visitors to 100 per day for Kawainui and Hāmākua is discussed in the DEIS and FEIS. Projected levels of visitors, programs, and other activities would not have an adverse effect on the environment. The project supports Ramsar objectives, agency missions, provides managed public access and outdoor recreation, and supports cultural practices. Therefore, the interests of the entire State of Hawai'i needs to be considered because Kawainui is a state resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy.

The suggestion for creating an interactive website for persons who are not able to visit Kawainui is appreciated. However, such an interactive website would not replace allowing visitors, programs, and other activities at Kawainui and Hāmākua. Such a website effort is not part of this project, but DOFAW and DSP can consider working with non-profit organizations to develop a website in the future as part of educational programs. This would increase public awareness of Kawainui.

18. *The DEIS alternatives analysis clearly favors increased human use of these already degraded wetlands, rejecting the Resource Management Activities alternative because it doesn't support "improvements to public access or efforts supporting cultural practices." The preferred alternative does not:*

Response: Improvements are designed to address the purpose and objectives for the project discussed in Section 2.1 of the DEIS. Consequently, project improvements are included to increase public access and passive outdoor recreational activity along with supporting educational programs and cultural practices. These activities are not occurring within the wetland, but are sited within upland areas.

a. *Provide for a detailed and comprehensive wetlands ecosystem restoration plan and detailed habitat management plans to protect four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and several migratory waterbird species;*
Response: Section 2.2.1 discussed the proposed wetland restoration and upland reforestation activities. A habitat management plan is not needed to support the project's objective to enhance waterbird habitat as proposed plans include sufficient information to address impacts and meet DOFAW's needs. DOFAW has expertise and experience managing such habitat, and the proposed restoration and reforestation plans are reasonable to accomplish the project objectives. DOFAW is already developing a management plan for Kawainui in coordination with the FWS and COE as part of requirements associated with construction of the restoration ponds. Components developed under the management plan will provide a framework applicable to the management and monitoring of both the restoration ponds and other wetland restoration efforts initiated at Kawainui.

b. *Limit human use of these wetlands, such as closing Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh to all visitors during the endangered Hawaiian wetland birds and migratory wetland birds nesting seasons;*
Response: Public access does not include allowing visitors to enter the wetland, and management activities along with other improvements (e.g. fencing, vegetative buffers along wetland boundary, etc.) would minimize disturbance of waterbirds. Restricting access to certain areas during certain time periods are other options already proposed. However, restricting all visitor access is not warranted.

c. *Prohibit leasing or granting month-to-month permits to build on state land makai of the Quarry Road, Kalanianaole Highway between the Quarry Road and Castle Hospital and Kailua Road between the Highway and Hamakua Drive.*
Response: Prohibiting leases or permits to allow improvements in the areas noted are not justified and do not support the project purpose. As discussed in the DEIS, such improvements would not have an adverse effect on the environment, are reasonable, and sufficient management practices and other measures proposed would minimize effects.

d. *Prohibit commercial activity on state land in and around the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex;*
Response: Certain "commercial" uses by non-profit organizations are allowed that would support their operations and maintenance of facilities (e.g. collecting entrance fees). To address your concern, private for-profit commercial tours would be restricted at Kawainui and Hāmākua.

e. *Require all toilets within 2000 feet of Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh and on adjacent state land uphill from the wetlands to be connected to the nearest City and County of Honolulu waste water treatment facility;*
Response: It is impracticable to suggest requiring all toilets arbitrarily within 2,000 feet of Kawainui and Hāmākua to be connected to the City sewer system. DSP and DOFAW have no jurisdiction over areas outside of the project site, which involve property owned by others (City and private).

f. *Provide for the restoration of natural water flow through these wetlands and prioritize the removal of the central peat mat in Kawainui Marsh to prevent future flooding of the downstream Coconut Grove residential area in Kailua.*

Response: As discussed on prior responses to your comments, it is inappropriate and impractical for DSP or DOFAW to restore the natural water flow from upland areas outside of the project site where government has no authorization or jurisdiction, and such activities are not the purpose for this project. Retaining vegetation and the peat mat within the central to northern half of the Kawainui wetland is needed for flood protection, and restoration improvements proposed within the southern half would satisfy DOFAW's objectives.

g. *Relocate the Kapa'a Industrial Park out of the Kawainui-Hamakua complex watershed and provide for the cleanup of the contaminated soil in Kapa'a Valley.*
Response: It is unrealistic to suggest relocating the privately-owned Kapa'a Industrial Park out of the watershed because that is not the purpose for the project; DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction for this action; and the land is privately-owned. Such concerns should be addressed to the owner of that property.

h. *In sum, this DEIS conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies, goals and guidelines and does not satisfy the purpose of the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act. The 2000 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society hope and expect that a much improved DEIS for these sensitive wetlands will be forthcoming before any EIS is finalized and approved.*
Response: The project does not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies as discussed in Chapter 6 of the DEIS. The various sections of that chapter discuss project consistency and relation to pertinent policies and objectives. This EIS satisfies the requirements of Hawai'i's environmental regulations as discussed in this response letter. We appreciate your comments sent as President of the Hawai'i Audubon Society, however, it is not appropriate to imply that all members of the organization support your position and all comments provided.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area
   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

to expand existing structures or to provide additional amenities. Requests to diversify and increase ~~the~~ programmatic offerings may occur, such as cultural or environmental programs with Hawaii schools, or offering opportunities to non-residents such as volunteer/service tourism for students from other parts of the U.S. Expansion of proposed facilities beyond the scope proposed by this project would require separate environmental review to determine the merit and effect of the expansion. Necessary land use entitlements would also be need to be obtained.

Similarly, cultural center facilities would be limited to those proposed by the project and are expected to accommodate higher participation levels. Activity levels projected for the cultural centers are reasonable. The actual increase in participants is not expected to be significantly greater than levels projected. Facilities would be developed in phases, subject to the finances of stewarding organizations. As a result, it is reasonable to expect that the increase in program participants would occur gradually over time. Therefore, it is unlikely that facility expansion beyond the scope proposed by this project would be needed with minimal secondary impacts on the environment anticipated.

Demand for and participation in programs held at proposed facilities beyond levels projected would be a beneficial secondary effect. This secondary effect would result in more students and residents learning and benefitting from the programs. Increased participation is not expected to cause significant adverse secondary impacts to the environment, infrastructure, or public facilities. Additional details supporting this determination are discussed in Section 7.2.

Expansion of Commercial Activities. Opening of new scenic and recreational areas ~~will inevitably~~ could attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities—such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, unless allowed by permit, individuals may seek "creative ways" to bypass restrictions. The project should not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment from secondary effects related to unauthorized commercial activities at Kawainui. Sufficient management practices are proposed to address the unauthorized commercial activities discussed. These management practices include phasing the expansion of public access to the project area, restricting areas available for public access, and enforcing prohibitions on unauthorized commercial activities. In particular, enforcement activities would be conducted by DOCARE with additional officers needed. DOFAW and DSP would not expand access to the project area if staffing capacity to conduct enforcement is unavailable. These management practices would alleviate concerns voiced by some community members regarding the expansion of commercial activities in the project area. ~~Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also requires financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists.~~

~~A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent project area parks generate revenue, these earnings should remain in the park system rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state's general fund. Funds raised by community partners should be used to support their project area programs.~~

Other Development Pressures. Development pressure on adjacent project area land is a potential secondary impact. The periphery of Kawainui Marsh is already occupied by many existing institutional and residential uses. Numerous commercial establishments also line Hāmākua Drive adjacent to Hāmākua Marsh. There have been previous proposals to expand urban uses around the marsh. Some proposals encountered public opposition and were halted. Others, such as the relatively recent Kawainui Vista subdivision adjacent to St. John Lutheran Church, were completed. Beneficial impacts to the project area from the project may result in adjacent lands becoming coveted for urban development. Proposed development adjacent to the project area would require an extensive land use approval process at both the State and County levels, and is likely to encounter strong community and governmental opposition. Project improvements would not affect the core factors (e.g. neighborhood beach town character, access to popular beaches) contributing to the desirability of living in Kailua. Therefore, the project would to support secondary effects related to the expansion of residential or commercial developments in the area. The decision of Kailua landowners to pursue development expansion would be based on other relevant economic driven factors. ~~Project initiatives are clearly defined and are limited in scope. They are intended to further environmental, recreational and cultural objectives. That said, there are existing social, economic, and market conditions at work that can contribute to pressures to expand project initiatives beyond those currently proposed.~~

~~7~~8 RATIONALE FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE PROJECT NOTWITHSTANDING UNAVOIDABLE EFFECTS

The project would not cause short- or long-term adverse effects that cannot be avoided or minimized. Section 7.5 discusses mitigation measures and best management practices that would be implemented to minimize anticipated adverse impacts. Despite anticipated adverse impacts requiring mitigation, the primary reasons for proceeding with the project includes the need to restore project area wetland and upland regions; improve habitat for endangered waterbird recovery; integrate a stronger native Hawaiian presence at Kawainui Marsh; integrate cultural practices, educational programing, and resource stewardship in the project area; create opportunities for public enjoyment of project area natural and cultural resources; enact initiatives that facilitating improved land management and public access responsibilities for DOFAW and DSP.

~~1.8~~9 UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The only potential unresolved issue identified at this time concerns general opposition to visitors to Kailua as a whole by some organizations and members of the community, and any project

2.2.1.4 Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

The construction of maintenance roads is proposed in upland areas to support DOFAW's management and maintenance operations within Kawainui-Hāmākua. Existing maintenance roads presently consist of dirt trails located within some upland areas of the Kahanaiki area, at Mokulana, and at DOFAW's management and research station. Existing access roads being used would be improved to better support maintenance vehicles, transport of equipment, and reduce erosion. Additional access roads along the southern and eastern ends of Kawainui would also be created to support maintenance of the restoration ponds and connect DOFAW's management and research station with Mokulana, and eventually with the Kahanaiki area.

Maintenance roads would generally be located well inland, however, vegetation buffers would be provided between certain sections of the road and the wetland, as appropriate. The roads would generally be about 10 feet wide, and could be constructed of compacted gravel, soil or reinforced grass. Only DOFAW vehicles or other authorized users would be allowed to use these roads.

A bridge ~~Bridges~~ would need to be constructed over Maunawili Stream ~~and Kahanaiki Stream~~ along the southern section of Kawainui ~~generally along Kalaniana'ole Highway~~ to connect access roads serving DOFAW's management station and the Mokulana peninsula to support management activities~~through these areas~~. The specific design of ~~these~~ this bridge~~s~~ would be developed during the design phase ~~of these improvements~~ when implemented. However, this bridge~~s~~ ~~are~~ is proposed to span over ~~these streams~~ Maunawili Stream to not impact ~~their~~ its bed or banks. A bridge across Kahanaiki Stream is no longer required because the pedestrian trail connecting the Kahanaiki upland area with Mokulana has been eliminated.

The new DOFAW maintenance road bridge spanning over Maunawili Stream could be a single span bridge superstructure consisting of pre-cast, prestressed solid planks, and a composite concrete topping. The bridge could have a span about 25 to 30 feet in length and 12 to 16 feet wide within the bridge railings. It would accommodate one travel lane to support DOFAW maintenance vehicles and equipment transport.

Some segments of maintenance roads could also serve as pedestrian trails during specified periods as determined by DOFAW. At Pu'uoehu hillside, a maintenance trail is planned about midway up the hillside along with along the top of the ridgeline to support future reforestation and management efforts.

A predator control program currently in operation would continue and be expanded throughout the project areas as larger areas are restored. Effective predator control would become more important as improved waterbird habitat is created and nesting activity increases. Traps would continue to be the primary predator control method utilized to control mongoose and feral cats. Traps would generally be established around the perimeter of the upper reaches of the wetland and extend into the upland areas.

Ronald Sato

From: kailua5@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2018 11:31 PM
To: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov; Ronald Sato; david.g.smith@hawaii.gov
Subject: Final: Testimony/ Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I apologize. I am re-sending this because of an edit I missed regarding the format of the poem I submitted.

Mahalo.

Beth Anderson

-----Original Message-----
From: kailua5 <kailua5@aol.com>
To: marigold.s.zoll <marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov>; rsato <rsato@hhf.com>; david.g.smith <david.g.smith@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Mon, Jan 8, 2018 11:22 pm
Subject: Testimony/ Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan

Governor, State of Hawai'i
The Honorable David Y. Ige

Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
Department of Land and Natural Resources

HHF Planners
Ronald Sato, AICP

David G. Smith, Administrator
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Regarding Comments Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project—Draft EIS:

I have reviewed the just released Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated November 28, 2017 for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan project and resoundingly approve of the master plan project in its entirety. This excellent environmental resource management plan that includes environmental and cultural education opportunities, support for native Hawaiian cultural practices, restoration of the Hamakua and Kawainui wetlands and lowland forests, and outdoor recreational opportunities is forty years in the making, years, overdue, and should be implemented immediately. The delay has resulted in the degradation of the Kawainui wetlands to swamp-like conditions and severely compromised educational opportunities there. DLNR and Kailua native Hawaiian organizations have worked relentlessly for decades to restore Kawainui with little support. It is time for the state to recognize the importance of Kawainui culturally and ecologically and provide the necessary funding for implementation of this critically needed plan. Environmentalists, scientists, cultural practitioners, educators and conservationists support this plan.

I hope that the misinformation and inaccurate statements by members of the Kailua Neighborhood Board and the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Board do not deter others from supporting the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan. These distortions have circulated in the Kailua community and caused widespread misunderstanding, tainted opinions, and influenced community members to reject this plan. Upon reading much of the testimony submitted it was clear to me that many who submitted testimony had little knowledge of the area, what activities currently take place there, and how denigrated the wetland is. Many seem to parrot opinions and negative statements about the plan by Representative Cynthia Thielen and members of the Kailua Neighborhood Board.

Kailua constituents were led to believe that this plan was “a development plan” instead of an environmental management plan. Kailua Neighborhood Board President Chuck Prentiss stated the plan would “pollute the marsh,” which is a fabricated concept. Representative Cynthia Thielen stated many times to the press and at Kailua community meetings that the plan “would bring tourists and tour busses,” an idea with no factual basis. Representative Thielen never pointed out the positive attributes and benefits of this plan for the community, such as educational opportunities, recreational opportunities, and support for Native Hawaiian culture and education. This negligence promulgated ignorance about the significance of this area to Kailua Native Hawaiians who steward the area, practice their culture and educate thousands of kids each year about the environment and native Hawaiian culture there.

People really seem to have no idea what cultural/environmental groups and DLNR are trying to accomplish and have accomplished at Kawainui. Much of the testimony demonstrated little knowledge or understanding of the master plan and what it encompasses and offers in terms of ecological, biological, cultural, historical, and environmental restoration and educational opportunities.

I hope the elements removed from the plan because of funding limitations, such as culturally significant trails encircling and connecting the four corners of the Kawainui wetland will be funded one day soon. These are features of major cultural importance and should not be ignored and forgotten. Please approve the present Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan without hesitation because it is of utmost importance to restore these wetlands, and support education and Hawaiian culture at Kawainui. It would be a travesty on many levels not to put this plan into action.

In conclusion, the poem below speaks of the Native Hawaiians of Kailua who are dedicated to honoring their ancestors at Kawainui by stewarding, restoring, and protecting it and emphasizes why the DLNR plan to restore Kawainui is of such great importance to them and must be implemented.

Sincerely,

Beth Anderson

We Are Kawainui
By Beth Anderson

Kawainui, the piko of your ahupuaʻa. Embyronic, life giving, hot magma entombed fathoms below her waters. You, born of this place, ask permission, emanate respect, and exude honor. Hauwahine joyfully listens to your chant.
Enter descendant. Haʻahaʻa.

The kalo grows tall, the ʻuki grass kisses your feet, ʻAlae ʻUla, Ae’o, Koloa, and Alae keʻokeʻo call to you. Walk in the footsteps of your ancestors to the four corners—Waiʻauia, Kālaheo, Kapaʻa, Kahanaiki. A thousand five hundred years. You are still here where the two wai join. Kanaka Maoli. Remain.
Hoʻomau.

Hōkūleʻa, guided your returns to Ulupō, Holomakani, Pahukini, Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine to recite moʻolelo, oli, mele, dance, and imu here. Pound poi and kapa, slap the ipu here. Honor your ancestors here. Iwi kūpuna burial belongs here.
Pamoa will flourish, kūpuna will enlighten here. Listen keiki. Imi Naʻauao.

Wahi pana, loʻi, fishpond and forest desecrated by invasives, aliens, non-natives. Fishpond, ʻama ʻama, oʻopu wai, āholehole bled by sugar cane, smothered by rice and cattle. Culture, voice, and soul buried in cement and oppression. Original environmentalists here.
Rise up. Sustain. Mālama Hoʻokuleana.

Two separate worlds, native and non-native. Who gave you authority? Asking permission, having to negotiate, compromise. Fenced off, made invisible in your eyes. Hauwahine recognizes who is healing here. Put down your weapons. Stop inflicting pain. It was stolen.
It once was ours. ʻIke Pono

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Beth Anderson

Via Email: kailua5@aol.com

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received January 8, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your letter's comments.

1. *I have reviewed the just released Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated November 28, 2017 for the Kawainui- Hamakua Master Plan project and resoundingly approve of the master plan project in its entirety. This excellent environmental resource management plan that includes environmental and cultural education opportunities, support for native Hawaiian cultural practices, restoration of the Hamakua and Kawainui wetlands and lowland forests, and outdoor recreational opportunities is forty years in the making, years, overdue, and should be implemented immediately. The delay has resulted in the degradation of the Kawainui wetlands to swamp-like conditions and severely compromised educational opportunities there.*
   Response: Thank you for your support for the proposed project concepts. We acknowledge that the proposed environmental management efforts, opportunities for native Hawaiian cultural practices, enhancement of educational opportunities, and increased public access for passive recreational opportunities are long overdue for Kawainui. Delays experienced by DLNR to implement improvements have allowed further degradation of the Kawainui wetlands. However, since the State acquired the remaining areas of Kawainui, not previously owned, DOFAW continues to implement restoration and management improvements in partnership with DSP and non-profit organizations for educational and cultural programs.

2. *DLNR and Kailua native Hawaiian organizations have worked relentlessly for decades to restore Kawainui with little support. It is time for the state to recognize the importance of Kawainui culturally and ecologically and provide the necessary funding for implementation of this critically needed plan. Environmentalists, scientists, cultural practitioners, educators and conservationists support this plan.*
   Response: DOFAW and DSP appreciate the efforts native Hawaiian organizations have contributed to restoring portions of Kawainui and participating in stewardship efforts. Increased funding by the Legislature is needed to continue and expand its programs, and DLNR will continue to lobby for funding support. We appreciate the support by the wide variety of organizations and individuals from various professions for this project.

3. *I hope that the misinformation and inaccurate statements by members of the Kailua Neighborhood Board and the Lani- Kailua Outdoor Circle Board do not deter others from supporting the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan. These distortions have circulated in the Kailua community and caused widespread misunderstanding, tainted opinions, and influenced community members to reject this plan. Upon reading much of the testimony submitted it was clear to me that many who submitted testimony had little knowledge of the area, what activities currently take place there, and how denigrated the wetland is. Many seem to parrot opinions and negative statements about the plan by Representative Cynthia Thielen and members of the Kailua Neighborhood Board.*
   Response: It is unfortunate that much of the public access and visitor-related concerns with the project may be attributable to misinformation distributed throughout the community, which leads to misunderstanding of what is actually planned at Kawainui-Hāmākua. However, there has also been strong support for the project from several community organizations and individuals, such as yourself. The recent public informational meeting held in January attempted to clarify facts about the project. Several comment letters received throughout this process reflect a poor understanding of existing conditions, the purpose of the project, and specific project elements being proposed. We hope people take the time to read the documents so that they can make up their own independent decisions, and not parrot opinions from others.

4. *Kailua constituents were led to believe that this plan was "a development plan" instead of an environmental management plan. Kailua Neighborhood Board President Chuck Prentiss stated the plan would "pollute the marsh," which is a fabricated concept. Representative Cynthia Thielen stated many times to the press and at Kailua community meetings that the plan "would bring tourists and tour busses," an idea with no factual basis. Representative Thielen never pointed out the positive attributes and benefits of this plan for the community, such as educational opportunities, recreational opportunities, and support for Native Hawaiian culture and education. This negligence promulgated ignorance about the significance of this area to Kailua Native Hawaiians who steward the area, practice their culture and educate thousands of kids each year about the environment and native Hawaiian culture there.*
   Response: Several comments received from individuals have reiterated positions and comments expressed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board and elected officials. Concerns with pollution from project improvements have been addressed in respective sections of the DEIS, and impacts associated with visitors remains an important issue for portions of the

community. It is unfortunate that the hardworking efforts conducted by native Hawaiian organizations providing students and the public with many educational and cultural benefits are largely ignored by other organizations and individuals. The DEIS discusses how the project provides community benefits, such as educational programming and recreational opportunities, along with opportunities for cultural practices, an important consideration for native Hawaiians.

5. *People really seem to have no idea what cultural/environmental groups and DLNR are trying to accomplish and have accomplished at Kawainui. Much of the testimony demonstrated little knowledge or understanding of the master plan and what it encompasses and offers in terms of ecological, biological, cultural, historical, and environmental restoration and educational opportunities.*
   Response: Many comment letters do reflect a misunderstanding of the project purpose and proposed level of improvements. The DEIS demonstrates the ecological, biological, cultural, and educational opportunities that would be created by planned improvements.

6. *I hope the elements removed from the plan because of funding limitations, such as culturally significant trails encircling and connecting the four corners of the Kawainui wetland will be funded one day soon. These are features of major cultural importance and should not be ignored and forgotten. Please approve the present Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan without hesitation because it is of utmost importance to restore these wetlands, and support education and Hawaiian culture at Kawainui. It would be a travesty on many levels not to put this plan into action.*
   Response: Elements of the project plans removed since the draft master plan was published were based upon funding considerations and likely phasing of improvements over time, given agency priorities. Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, other improvements have also been eliminated from this project. Such improvements removed include additional portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. These revisions are discussed in the FEIS. A section from the FEIS that summarizes these changes is attached. Wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and other DOFAW management support improvements are still included in the project because of their importance and general support by the broader community. DOFAW and DSP intend to proceed with land use approvals after completing the environmental review process.

7. *In conclusion, the poem below speaks of the Native Hawaiians of Kailua who are dedicated to honoring their ancestors at Kawainui by stewarding, restoring, and protecting it and emphasizes why the DLNR plan to restore Kawainui is of such great importance to them and must be implemented.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing the poem with us. The project supports those important elements of Kawainui.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area
   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

Ronald Sato

From: Trisha Axelrode <axelrodes@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 8:15 PM
To: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov; Ronald Sato
Subject: Kawainui Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to appeal to the Kawainui Master Plan; to express the value of Kumu Mapuana de Silva and Kihei de Silva, who have been serving our lahui for over forty years. It has been their kuleana to share and teach the knowledge of our indigenous Hawaiian culture. Aunty Mapuana and her HMI family would be grateful to have access to bathrooms, running water, storage facilities and working areas to excersise their kuleana to the O'ahu community.

I have had the privillege of studying under Kumu Mapuana for four years. It is only now that I have learned what the Hawaiian culture means. The lineage of Kumu's have been passed down hulas for generations. There hulas have cultural, economic and political overtones. To make sense of the words and the reason the hula is performed a certain way has a unique and real meaning.

Like the Native American culture these dances have been passed down and are still performed till this day.

It is in these very turbulant times that we all take pride in knowing our culture will be protected and served by qualified individuals.

A great statesman once said; "Knowledge is power, information is liberating. Educationis the premise of progress, in every society in every family."

"E ola Hawai'i a mau loa."

Mahalo nui loa,
Trisha Perreira Axelrode

--

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Trisha Axelrode

Via Email: axelrodes@aol.com

Dear Ms. Axelrode:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your letter's comments.

1. *I am writing to appeal to the Kawainui Master Plan; to express the value of Kumu Mapuana de Silva and Kihei de Silva, who have been serving our lahui for over forty years. It has been their kuleana to share and teach the knowledge of our indigenous Hawaiian culture. Aunty Mapuana and her HMI family would be grateful to have access to bathrooms, running water, storage facilities and working areas to exercise their kuleana to the O'ahu community.*
   Response: We acknowledge your appreciation for the efforts Kumu Mapuana de Silva and Kihei de Silva have contributed in sharing their knowledge of Hawaiian culture. We agree that having access to bathrooms, water, storage facilities, and working areas would support their continued efforts for the community. The project includes such improvements at Ulupō Heiau and other areas of Kawainui, and provides opportunities for the development of cultural centers by non-profit organizations.

2. *I have had the privillege of studying under Kumu Mapuana for four years. It is only now that I have learned what the Hawaiian culture means. The lineage of Kumu's have been passed down hulas for generations. There hulas have cultural, economic and political overtones. To make sense of the words and the reason the hula is performed a certain way has a unique and real meaning. Like the Native American culture these dances have been passed down and are still performed till this day. It is in these very turbulant times that we all take pride in knowing our culture will be protected and served by qualified individuals. A great statesman once said; "Knowledge is power, information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society in every family." "E ola Hawai'i a mau loa."*

Response: We acknowledge your studies under Kumu Mapuana and increased appreciation for Hawaiian culture. This includes the cultural, economic, and political lessons that hula has passed down for generations. The project includes cultural centers that would support the continued teaching of hula and other cultural practices. Opportunities for other cultural practices and activities to occur at Kawainui resulting from this project would further support native Hawaiian culture and those teaching such practices. We concur that education, knowledge, and information are important for our society, and project improvements would support this.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: mary babcock <marybandito@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 8:58 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Subject: re kawainui marsh

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am a resident of Kailua. I think it is imperative to oppose the kawainui marsh plan based on a number of concerns including:
1) the tripling of monthly visitors accelerates natural resource degradation and impacts endangered species.
2) the development greatly negatively impacts residents' quality of life
3) The Alternative Community Plan (endorsed by a number of groups including the Kailua Neighborhood board, the Audubon Society and others) was not even mentioned as an option

Oahu has plenty of sites and areas for tourists. Kawaiui Marsh is one of the last untouched areas and deserves to be preserved!

Mary Babcock
Kailua

--
This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by **MailScanner**, and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Mary Babcock

Via Email: marybandito@yahoo.com

Dear Ms. Babcock:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your letter's comments.

1. *I am a resident of Kailua. I think it is imperative to oppose the kawainui marsh plan based on a number of concerns including:*

   Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project.

   a. *1) The tripling of monthly visitors accelerates natural resource degradation and impacts endangered species.*

      Response: Visitors to the project area include those associated with: 1) educational and cultural programs; 2) passive outdoor recreational activity (consisting primarily of residents); and 3) off-island visitors as discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS. The projected level of public visitation and activities is not considered excessive. For example, the projected 6,000 visitors a month to the education center translates into only about 200 visitors a day, or about 30 to 35 visitors an hour (6 hour period), which is reasonable and manageable. Impacts on natural resources would not be significant, as discussed in several sections from Chapter 3 of the DEIS, and if necessary, measures to minimize or mitigative effects were discussed.

      As discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS, necessary steps can be taken to ensure visitors to Kawainui do not impact endangered waterbirds, which includes restricting public access to areas during certain times of the year (e.g. nesting season). Project related facilities are sited within upland areas sufficient distances away from the wetland and nesting areas that presently only consist of the restoration ponds. Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS discussed the effects of the project on endangered waterbirds, and

various measures were identified to implement during short-term construction activities along with long-term measures that would minimize effects.

b. *2) The development greatly negatively impacts residents' quality of life*

Response: The project would not significantly impact the quality of life for residents of Kailua as discussed in Section 4.2 of the DEIS. Proposed improvements would have minimal effect on Kailua's demographic characteristics or other socio-economic factors, such as business conditions. Increased visitor activities in Kailua over the past decade has been a source of community concerns. However, visitor activities are primarily centered around the world renowned beaches that support a diversity of ocean recreational activities in Kailua. The DEIS discusses several approaches to manage visitors under Section 2.2.5 as well.

c. *The Alternative Community Plan (endorsed by a number of groups including the Kailua Neighborhood board, the Audubon Society and others) was not even mentioned as an option*

Response: The alternative community plan endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board was addressed in Section 2.3 of the DEIS. Reasons for elimination of this alternative were discussed in the same section. That alternative plan supports restoration, preservation and maintenance of Kawainui that are already proposed under the project. However, there were significant differences regarding interpretive facilities and support features recommended, along with not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the purpose and need for the proposed project are improving puhlic access and outdoor recreation, which were not met by this alternative. There was also insufficient accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access.

2. *Oahu has plenty of sites and areas for tourists. Kawaiui Marsh is one of the last untouched areas and deserves to be preserved!*

Response: O'ahu does have many existing sites for tourists, and we understand the concerns you have with the level of visitors to Kailua, and your opposition to changes that may attract more visitors to Kailua. The DEIS addresses these visitor-related concerns, and presents various management approaches to mitigate them.

We would like to clarify that the ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat needing protection, but of a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Kawainui Vista Home Owners Association
Leona Bangerter
619 Hanale Place
Kailua HI. 96734

January 23, 2018

HHF Planners
Attn: Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Comments on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

Aloha:

It has come to my attention that the Kawanui Vista Subdivision has been noticeably excluded in the planning process for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project.

As a homeowner in the subdivision since 2003, I have the following comments, questions, and requests:

- Regarding the pathways, I am concerned for the needs of privacy and safety of all the residents bordering the marsh. In particular, there are five Kawainui Vista homes that border the marsh. Pedestrian Trail, 2-71, referring to Kukanono Subdivision, states:

"The trail would be routed along the base of the adjacent hillside approximately 250 to 300 feet away from the residences of the Kukanono subdivision, and buffered by vegetation associated with the hillside.

Can there be similar consideration for location of the boardwalk fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision to be from 250 to 300 feet away from the residences and for buffering with vegetation—even perimeter boundary fencing? Such fencing would prevent people from straying off designated paths. Of course this implies that adequate funding be included in the budget for walkway maintenance and security. The negative consequences of people and pets going off designated trails into the protected areas are they may cause environmental and ecological damage.

Careful consideration on locating the boardwalk in front the Kawainui Vista subdivision would avoid having the State in the precarious and undesirable position of taking property from residents or encroaching on their landscaping and yards.

Restrictions are needed for pathway usage, e.g., pathway and boardwalk are open only from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to alleviate traffic congestion and allow residents privacy, peace and quiet.

- I am concerned that the pedestrian boardwalk will give undesirable people another means of access to the Kawainui Vista subdivision homes.

- Possible increase in traffic and visitors driving into Hanale Place thinking they can access the marsh pathways. We do have people who now drive onto our street (Hanale Place), thinking they can get to the Ulopo Heeiau State Historical Park.

I request:

- Clarification on the distance of the proposed boardwalk from the five Kawainui Vista homes adjacent to the marsh.
- How the plan will incorporate solutions to ensure privacy and security for the homes (as you are doing for the Kukanono subdivision).
- Also, please notify me when an on-site meeting at Kawainui Vista with HHF and DLNR can be held so I can attend for further discussion.

Mahalo,

Leona Bangerter

Leona Bangerter
Kawainui Vista Subdivision Homeowner

cc: State of Hawaii, Division of Land and Natural Resources
Attn: Marigold S. Zoll
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Leona Bangerter
619 Hanale Place
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Bangerter:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 23, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your letter's comments.

1. *It has come to my attention that the Kawanui Vista Subdivision has been noticeably excluded in the planning process for the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project.*

   Response: The Kawainui Vista Subdivision has not been excluded from the planning process on this project that has been ongoing since late 2010. There has been considerable effort to notify the Kailua community about this project, and comments regarding Kawainui Vista have been received. Outreach activities included five public informational meetings (which had legal notices published), several smaller community and stakeholder meetings, creation of a project website, use of social media, and much coverage over the years by the news media. Chapter 8 of the DEIS included information on these consultation efforts, and this response letter reflects your participation in the process.

2. *As a homeowner in the subdivision since 2003, I have the following comments, questions, and requests:*
   a. *Regarding the pathways, I am concerned for the needs of privacy and safety of all the residents bordering the marsh. In particular, there are five Kawainui Vista homes that border the marsh. Pedestrian Trail, 2-71, referring to Kukanono Subdivision, states: "The trail would be routed along the base of the adjacent hillside approximately 250 to 300 feet away from the residences of the Kukanono subdivision, and buffered by vegetation associated with the hillside.*

      Response: Privacy and safety concerns for residents were considered in the planning and environmental review process, particularly with regard to the pedestrian trail along the Wai'auia to Kūkanono subdivision area as referenced in your letter. Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several

improvements proposed in the DEIS have been eliminated from this project. Eliminated improvements include a section of the pedestrian trail fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision. These revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A section from the FEIS that summarizes these changes is attached.

b. *Can there be similar consideration for location of the boardwalk fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision to be from 250 to 300 feet away from the residences and for buffering with vegetation-even perimeter boundary fencing? Such fencing would prevent people from straying off designated paths. Of course this implies that adequate funding be included in the budget for walkway maintenance and security. The negative consequences of people and pets going off designated trails into the protected areas are they may cause environmental and ecological damage.*

As previously responded, the section of the trail fronting this subdivision has been eliminated from the project. DOFAW is planning to install perimeter fencing along the State property line as part of management activities for Kawainui, which would border adjacent residence properties. The trail being located 250 to 300 feet away from residences of the Kūkanono subdivision is due to the physical presence of the hillside that separates homes from the wetland creating a natural buffer.

The boardwalk associated with the pedestrian trail had about a 100-foot buffer from residences of the Kawainui Vista subdivision under Figure 2.12 of the DEIS. If this section of the trail wasn't now eliminated, consideration could have been given to routing the boardwalk further away from Kawainui Vista homes to increase the buffer. However, a 250 to 300 foot buffer would not be practicable because the boardwalk would need to extend well into the wetland.

Railings to keep users within the path are shown on Exhibit 2.22 of the DEIS, and the wetland serving as a buffer and deterrent from the boardwalk would have been measures that would have addressed your security concerns. Adequate funding would be required to implement improvements. Various measures were discussed in the DEIS to address security and management of activities (e.g. Section 2.2.5).

c. *Careful consideration on locating the boardwalk in front the Kawainui Vista subdivision would avoid having the State in the precarious and undesirable position of taking property from residents or encroaching on their landscaping and yards.*

Response: All improvements would occur within State-owned property, and would not encroach onto privately-owned land.

3. *Restrictions are needed for pathway usage, e.g., pathway and boardwalk are open only from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to alleviate traffic congestion and allow residents privacy, peace and quiet.*

Response: Restrictions on the time period the trail is available for access can be implemented, if necessary. However, the trail section fronting the Kawainui Vista area is no longer proposed. The projected number of users along that section of trail was low (about 17 persons a day), and would likely consist primarily of residents. Thus, area residents should not have been significantly impacted (e.g. noise), and it is unlikely there would be traffic congestion occurring from use of the trail in this area.

a. *I am concerned that the pedestrian boardwalk will give undesirable people another means of access to the Kawainui Vista subdivision homes.*

Response: Elimination of this section of the pedestrian trail fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision alleviates your concern with "undesirable people." Management and security concerns were addressed under Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS.

b. *Possible increase in traffic and visitors driving into Hanale Place thinking they can access the marsh pathways. We do have people who now drive onto our street (Hanale Place), thinking they can get to the Ulupo Heeiau State Historical Park*

Response: With project revisions, there should not be a significant impact from visitors driving onto the City-owned Hanale Place. There was no access onto this section of the pedestrian trail through the Kawainui Vista area as discussed in the DEIS.

4. *I request:*
   - *Clarification on the distance of the proposed boardwalk from the five Kawainui Vista homes adjacent to the marsh.*
   - *How the plan will incorporate solutions to ensure privacy and security for the homes (as you are doing for the Kukanono subdivision).*
   - *Also, please notify me when an on-site meeting at Kawainui Vista with HHF and DLNR can be held so I can attend for further discussion.*

Response: The boardwalk was proposed to be located about 100 feet away from the property lines of residences. Elimination of this section of the pedestrian trail fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision addresses your concern with privacy and security, and our prior responses address these issues. No on-site meetings specifically with Kawainui Vista residents are planned, especially with elimination of the trail section fronting this subdivision. However, DOFAW and DSP are available to discuss any questions or concerns with this project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area

   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

Ronald Sato

From: Jennifer Barra <jenniferkbarra@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 10:01 PM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua DEIS Comments

2/6/18 - Comments on Kawainui-Hamakua DEIS

Page 1-28

- Commercial tour groups are not permitted at this park site unless they have a permit from the DSP. The YMCA manages their parking lots and coordinates with the DSP to address unauthorized commercial tours. Commercial tour buses at times illegally park along Kailua Road to allow visitors to enter the park site using the driveway leading to the rear parking. A "No Parking" sign has been posted at this location along Kailua Road, and DSP continues to work with the YMCA to address visitation by commercial tours.

This illegal commercial activity has been going on for years. Buses stopped on Kailua Road are a safety hazard. If DLNR has not been able to stop this illegal activity (along with the Department of Transportation), how do they expect to curb "new" commercial activity? With a lack of DOCARE officers currently, and a decline in funding from the State, what is DLNR's plan for enforcement?

Page 2-11

- Kawainui Gateway Park - The City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) proposed the Kawainui Gateway Park project in 2002 across from Kalāheo High School which corresponds to the Kalāheo Section of the Kawainui SPR. Both CDUP (OA-3126) and SMA (Resolution 02-339) approvals to construct the park project were obtained by the City DDC.

Planned and approved over 16 years ago as a City project, this type of recreational use should be a City function not a State function.

Page 2-81

- Kapa'a Cultural Center. This complex at Kapa'a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public. A range of 300 to 400 persons are projected to utilize this center each month. Periodic events (three events a year) may have limited public attendance, or be private (invitation only). About 200 to 500 persons may attend these periodic functions.

Up to 500 people at "invitation only" events on public land. This is privatization of public lands.

Page 2-81

- Permits authorizing commercial activities in the project area, such as commercial tours, will not be issued by DOFAW or DSP as part of this project. As a result, visitor activity projections do not assume an increase in visitors from authorized commercial activities.

This is in direct conflict with Page 7-4 of the DEIS which states:

- Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. …. In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists. A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored.

Will permits authorizing commercial activities be allowed or not? Please clarify.

Page 2-85

- Kapa‘a-Kalāheo-Levee Subarea. Current recreational visitor activity on the levee is about 1,800 persons a month. It is assumed the same level of activity currently observed would continue in the future. No project improvements would change the continued use of the levee for walking, jogging and bicycling.

This is in direct conflict with Page 5-69 of the DEIS which states:

- However, bicycling is planned to be restricted due to potential conflicts and injuries with persons walking on the levee, and increased deterioration of the levee structure.

The levee is used heavily by kids who are unable to ride their bikes in surrounding neighborhoods due to there being NO SIDEWALKS and CARS SPEEDING on KAHA and KIHAPAI STREETS! Please continue to allow bikes on the levee!

Page 2-85

- DOFAW would continue to enforce rules prohibiting pets on the levee.

DOFAW has NEVER enforced rules prohibiting pets on the levee. The lack of enforcement over the years has led to the levee being a popular place to walk dogs. Dogs should be allowed on leash!

Page 2-86

- The park would be only be open during daylight hours, thus, canoe launch and practices would not occur in the early morning because the park will be closed.

The park being "closed" will not stop people from utilizing the park for launching and landing in the early morning hours. How will DLNR ensure that people are not utilizing this park when it's closed?

Page 2-97

E. Kawainui State Park Reserve; Kalāheo Section		**$2,380,000**
1. Upland Site Clearing/Grading, Parking	$630,000	
2. Hale Wa‘a, Restrooms, Interpretive Center	$1,750,000	

Kawainui Neighborhood Park is used extensively by the surrounding community. Yet, there is no restroom. Instead of building a new restroom at Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo Section, a restroom should be built at Kawainui Neighborhood Park. I understand the jurisdictional issues but seriously (it's all our tax money anyway), let's take care of facilities we already have before building new ones!

Page 4-103

- Construction of the pedestrian bridge over the canal would likely generate some noise based upon its design.

Why is this included under the "no action" alternative? Does the "no action" alternative assume that the Kawainui Gateway Park, which was approved in 2002 as a CITY park will be built by DLNR?

Page 4-105

- Paddling activities along the canal could also be audible, but should not significantly impact activities occurring in homes along the canal, which also generate their own form of noise (e.g. human voices, dog barking, televisions, etc.).

When the proposed park area was cleared and used by paddlers in 2014/2016, noise was an issue. So please note in the FEIS that "Paddling activities along the canal ARE audible". Noise made by residents within their own homes has nothing to do with noise being generated by a proposed new use within this DEIS.

Page 5-69

- The levee is a flood control structure, but also used for walking, jogging and bicycling by about several visitors on a monthly basis.

Please correct "by about several visitors".

Page 7-4

- Expansion of Commercial Activities. Opening of new scenic and recreational areas will inevitably attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities—such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour.
- Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, individuals may seek "creative ways" to bypass restrictions.

How will DLNR address these "inevitable" commercial activities? Again, with a lack of DOCARE officers currently, and a decline in funding from the State, what is DLNR's plan for enforcement?

General Comment

The mangrove removal on the Kaneohe side of the levee was awesome! It has enhanced wildlife habitat, views and airflow for area residents. Please continue the removal for the entire length of the levee before undertaking any new projects. Please take care of what we have before building new facilities! Again, even though there are jurisdictional issues with the City, it's all part of Kawainui. Wildlife does not care about the jurisdictional boundaries and clearing the mangroves will help ensure mangroves do not continue to overtake the marsh, including DLNR's portion.

--
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Jennifer Barra

Via Email: jenniferkbarra@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Barra:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to page-referenced comments in your letter.

1. *Page 1-28. Commercial tour groups are not permitted at this park site unless they have a permit from the DSP. ... A "No Parking" sign has been posted at this location along Kailua Road, and DSP continues to work with the YMCA to address visitation by commercial tours.*

   This illegal commercial activity has been going on for years. Buses stopped on Kailua Road are a safety hazard. If DLNR has not been able to stop this illegal activity (along with the Department of Transportation), how do they expect to curb "new" commercial activity? With a lack of DOCARE officers currently, and a decline in funding from the State, what is DLNR's plan for enforcement?

   Response: Ulupō Heiau is a unique situation because visitors use the privately-owned YMCA property to access State property. The Division of State Parks (DSP) continues to coordinate with the YMCA to address unauthorized commercial tours. Tour bus parking along Kailua Road has been reduced, and a "No Parking" sign allows parked vehicles to be cited. Such parking could be a safety hazard, and DSP is working with the City, State Department of Transportation, YMCA, and site curators to further restrict and discourage unauthorized parking.

   No new privately-owned for-profit commercial activity is being proposed as part of project improvements. As discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS, several management practices are proposed to address public access, which includes unauthorized activities: 1) phased approach to open areas to the public; 2) restrict access; 3) designate trails that buffer and protect resources; and 4) increase stewardship partnerships. DSP needs funding support for

both physical improvements and additional operational staff to effectively manage increased public access. Additional DOCARE officers would need to be funded to support security and enforcement of areas opened for public access, and the DEIS discusses increasing offices (Section 2.2.5). Without such support, implementation of certain improvements would be deferred.

2. *Page 2-11. Kawainui Gateway Park - The City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) proposed the Kawainui Gateway Park project ... Both CDUP (OA-3126) and SMA (Resolution 02-339) approvals to construct the park project were obtained by the City DDC.*

   Planned and approved over 16 years ago as a City project, this type of recreational use should be a City function not a State function.

   Response: The City no longer is planning to implement the Gateway Park improvements. Recreational improvements already approved for the Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR), Kalāheo Section (Gateway Park), support the State DSP's agency mission, and are similar in nature to improvements provided at several State parks statewide. It is thus appropriate and State DSP function in implementing such improvements.

3. *Page 2-81. Kapa'a Cultural Center. This complex at Kapa'a would be constructed and operated by a non-profit organization and would not be open to the general public. ... About 200 to 500 persons may attend these periodic functions.*

   Up to 500 people at "invitation only" events on public land. This is privatization of public lands.

   Response: The non-profit organization having periodic larger events that are by invitation only does not constitute privatization of public lands, and the State is still the owner of such properties. The State, through the Board of Land and Natural Resources, is authorized to dispose of public land by lease, license, permit, and in fee simple. Therefore, the State is allowed to lease property statewide for a variety of uses to private entities and non-profit organizations, some of which are not open to the general public (e.g. agricultural farms). Within Kawainui, private ranching operations were allowed to use State property for many years.

4. *Page 2-81. Permits authorizing commercial activities in the project area, such as commercial tours, will not be issued by DOFAW or DSP as part of this project. As a result, visitor activity projections do not assume an increase in visitors from authorized commercial activities.*

   This is in direct conflict with Page 7-4 of the DEIS which states: Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area..... In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists. A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored.

   Will permits authorizing commercial activities be allowed or not? Please clarify.

Response: A distinction should be clarified between privately-operated, for-profit, commercial tours (e.g. Roberts Hawai'i Tours) versus activities conducted by non-profit organizations. As discussed in Section 1.5.2 of the DEIS, DOFAW is currently allowed to permit up to 100 "commercial" visitors a day within the wildlife sanctuary, such as for-profit commercial tours. DOFAW does not intend to permit privately-operated commercial tours within the wildlife sanctuary. However, activities at the cultural centers may require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) that would also be considered a type of "commercial" activity. DOFAW can permit up to 100 persons a day for this type of non-profit organization activity associated with programs under the cultural centers.

Similarly, DSP does not intend to issue permits for privately-operated commercial tours to Kawainui. However, operation of an educational center by DSP or a non-profit organization would require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue would be a type of commercial activity, but it would support operation of the center. Any excess revenues could be used to further fund Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities. Section 7.2 (Secondary Impacts), page 7-4, discussing impacts from potential expansion of commercial activities will be clarified to be more consistent with Section 2.2.5 and the response provided. Revised text from this section is attached to this letter.

5. *Page 2-85. Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee Subarea. Current recreational visitor activity on the levee is about 1,800 persons a month. It is assumed the same level of activity currently observed would continue in the future. No project improvements would change the continued use of the levee for walking, jogging and bicycling.*

   This is in direct conflict with Page 5-69 of the DEIS which states: However, bicycling is planned to be restricted due to potential conflicts and injuries with persons walking on the levee, and increased deterioration of the levee structure.

   The levee is used heavily by kids who are unable to ride their bikes in surrounding neighborhoods due to there being NO SIDEWALKS and CARS SPEEDING on KAHA and KIHAPAI STREETS! Please continue to allow bikes on the levee!

   Response: DOFAW has determined that they would continue to allow bicycle use on the levee at this time, and continue to monitor activities occurring. Page 2-85 and 5-69 from the DEIS will be revised and clarified to be consistent with DOFAW's decision continuing to allow bicycle use on the levee. Revised text is attached to this letter. DOFAW and DSP are not responsible for the availability of sidewalks or vehicle travel speeds along Kaha and Kihapai Streets. Those concerns are under the jurisdiction of the City and should be more appropriately addressed by them.

6. *Page 2-85. DOFAW would continue to enforce rules prohibiting pets on the levee.*

   DOFAW has NEVER enforced rules prohibiting pets on the levee. The lack of enforcement over the years has led to the levee being a popular place to walk dogs. Dogs should be allowed on leash!

   Response: DOFAW has not been assertive in enforcing the prohibition of pets on the levee in the past, but intends to more actively enforce this rule prohibiting dogs on the levee.

7. *Page 2-86. The park would be only be open during daylight hours, thus, canoe launch and practices would not occur in the early morning because the park will be closed.*

   The park being "closed" will not stop people from utilizing the park for launching and landing in the early morning hours. How will DLNR ensure that people are not utilizing this park when it's closed?

   Response: DSP has eliminated the hale wa'a previously proposed at this Kalāheo park site under this project. Therefore, the project proposes no new improvements to this site from that already entitled and allowed (Gateway Park development concept). DSP plans to only allow schools to launch canoes from this site for practices, subject to a permit from DSP. School practices would occur after school in the afternoon, and the park would be gated and closed during non-business park hours preventing unauthorized access for canoe launch or other park use. As with other State park sites, reports of violations would be followed up with the appropriate authorities and actions.

8. *Page 2-97*

E. Kawainui State Park Reserve; Kalāheo Section		*$2,380,000*
1. Upland Site Clearing/Grading, Parking	*$630,000*	
2. Hale Wa'a, Restrooms, Interpretive Center	*$1,750,000*	

   Kawainui Neighborhood Park is used extensively by the surrounding community. Yet, there is no restroom. Instead of building a new restroom at Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo Section, a restroom should be built at Kawainui Neighborhood Park. I understand the jurisdictional issues but seriously (it's all our tax money anyway), let's take care of facilities we already have before building new ones!

   Response: Unfortunately, any improvements at Kawainui Neighborhood Park, such as a restroom, would need to be funded and implemented by the City for their park site. The State DSP is responsible to fund and implement improvements for their jurisdictional State property. Tax revenue accrued by the State and City to fund operations and improvements come from different sources and are managed separately.

9. *Page 4-103. Construction of the pedestrian bridge over the canal would likely generate some noise based upon its design.*

   Why is this included under the "no action" alternative? Does the "no action" alternative assume that the Kawainui Gateway Park, which was approved in 2002 as a CITY park will be built by DLNR?

   Response: The pedestrian bridge construction statement (actually on page 4-104) is included under the No Action Alternative because those improvements at the Kalāheo park site are already allowed from prior entitlements. With elimination of the hale wa'a, no project-related improvements are planned for this site. State DSP would be responsible to develop this site, and can implement these 2002 previously approved improvements now (No Action Alternative).

10. *Page 4-105. Paddling activities along the canal could also be audible, but should not significantly impact activities occurring in homes along the canal, which also generate their own form of noise (e.g. human voices, dog barking, televisions, etc.).*

When the proposed park area was cleared and used by paddlers in 2014/2016, noise was an issue. So please note in the FEIS that "Paddling activities along the canal ARE audible". Noise made by residents within their own homes has nothing to do with noise being generated by a proposed new use within this DEIS.

Response: DOFAW or DSP are not aware of noise being a significant issue from prior canoe paddling activities. Early morning activities would be more audible due to the lack of other noise generating activities. However, the Kalāheo park site would only be open during normal park hours, and permits would only be issued for schools wanting to launch from that site. Page 4-105 acknowledges that noise from paddling activities are audible. Noise from existing urban activities (e.g. sound systems, television) do contribute to the overall ambient background noise. The DEIS section (Section 4.4.2) refers to noise effects from activities under the No Action Alternative, and the project does not include any new improvements to this site as discussed in response No. 7. DSP's intentions to restrict access to canoe paddling only for schools significantly reduces activities and associated noise along the canal.

11. *Page 5-69. The levee is a flood control structure, but also used for walking, jogging and bicycling by about several visitors on a monthly basis.*

Please correct "by about several visitors".

Response: Thank you for the correction to eliminate the word "about". The revised sentence is provided below:

> The levee is a flood control structure, but also used by visitors on a monthly basis for walking, jogging and some bicyclists ~~bicycling by about several visitors on a monthly basis~~.

12. *Page 7-4. Expansion of Commercial Activities. Opening of new scenic and recreational areas will inevitably attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities— such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, individuals may seek "creative ways" to bypass restrictions.*

How will DLNR address these "inevitable" commercial activities? Again, with a lack of DOCARE officers currently, and a decline in funding from the State, what is DLNR's plan for enforcement?

Response: Section 2.2.5 discusses management approaches to address increased public access resulting from the project, and our response No. 1 addressed DOCARE. DSP does not plan to implement improvements (e.g. improvements at Pōhakea, pedestrian trails) until they are able to adequately manage areas, which includes obtaining increased staffing and DOCARE officers. Thus, managing potential unauthorized privately-operated commercial tour activities would be addressed by increased funding for staff position and DOCARE officers, along with increased stewardship partnerships established with non-profit organizations.

13. *General Comment*

The mangrove removal on the Kaneohe side of the levee was awesome! It has enhanced wildlife habitat, views and airflow for area residents. Please continue the removal for the entire length of the levee before undertaking any new projects. Please take care of what we have before building new facilities! Again, even though there are jurisdictional issues with the City, it's all part of Kawainui. Wildlife does not care about the jurisdictional boundaries and clearing the mangroves will help ensure mangroves do not continue to overtake the marsh, including DLNR's portion.

Response: Thank you for your support of the mangrove removal effort along the levee that was a City-initiated effort. The City is responsible for maintaining areas on the makai side of the levee. Any future mangrove removal on the makai side of the levee would be the responsibility of the City. Government jurisdictional boundaries are also important to understand because they dictate responsibilities along with regulatory requirements. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua, such as wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements to address expansive invasive vegetation. Other improvements are proposed that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

~~This~~ Nevertheless, increased program demand beyond that projected may lead to a desire to expand existing structures (e.g., education center) or to provide additional amenities (e.g., parking and program areas, pavilions, restrooms, expanded recreation, etc.). It is possible that there will be requests to diversify and increase the programmatic offerings, such as cultural or environmental programs with Hawai'i-based schools, or to offer opportunities to non-residents, for example volunteer/service ~~tourism~~ for students from other parts of the U.S. or the world. However, the expansion of the educational center, accessory facilities, or cultural facilities beyond that proposed under this project would require separate environmental review at that time to determine project merits and effects. In addition, necessary land use entitlements would be required.

The success of cultural centers could also generate higher participation in programs and cultural practices than that projected to occur. This would be a beneficial secondary effect because it means more children and residents would be able to learn and benefit from such educational and cultural programs run by non-profit organizations. Increased participation would not cause significant or adverse secondary impacts to the environment, infrastructure, or public facilities.

The cultural centers at Kapa'a, Wai'auia, and kauhale at Pōhakea would be limited to the facilities proposed under this project, and should be able to accommodate higher participation levels. Projected activities at these cultural centers are reasonable, and are not anticipated to be significantly greater (e.g. double projected levels). In addition, it is reasonable to expect that participation in programs would likely occur gradually over time as facilities are developed in phases, dependent upon the non-profit organization's financial ability to build. Therefore, it is unlikely that expanded facilities beyond that proposed under this project would be required, and there should be minimal secondary impacts on the environment.

Expansion of Commercial Activities. The opening of new scenic and recreational areas ~~will inevitably~~ could attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities-for example, as part of bicycle or Segway tours, for fitness or yoga classes, or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on such commercial activity on State lands unless allowed by permit, entrepreneurial individuals ~~will likely~~ could seek "creative ways" to get around these restrictions.

Addressing such unauthorized commercial activities would be part of DOFAW and DSP efforts to manage public access within the Kawainui area. Hāmākua would not be open to the general public. Section 2.2.5.3 addressed proposed management practices that would apply to restricting unauthorized commercial activities. The potential for unauthorized commercial activities could only occur in areas open to the general public, such as at the education center and the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku upland area. Such commercial activities would not occur at the cultural centers because these centers would be managed and operated by non-profit organizations. These organizations would be accountable to DOFAW and DSP, and restricted by the terms of their agreements (e.g. lease).

Proposed management practices include a phased approach to open areas to the public so that activities can be adequately assessed and evaluated. Enforcement would require additional permanent DOCARE officers to address unauthorized commercial activities. Therefore, it would be difficult to open areas to the public without adequate staffing. DOFAW and DSP can also restrict areas available to the public. Revisions to the project reduce the extent of improvements and limit public access areas (e.g. pedestrian trails) to reduce opportunities for unauthorized commercial activities.

Therefore, the project should not result in a significant or adverse effect on the environment due to secondary effects associated with unauthorized commercial activities. There are sufficient management practices proposed to address unauthorized activities. This would address fears that commercial tour buses would visit Kawainui on a daily basis.

~~The initiation or expansion of commercial activities could also come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require an ongoing revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also require financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenues for parks nationwide, states are exploring new methods of finance, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or park programs and events. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists. A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent that the parks of the project area generate revenues, those revenues should remain in the park system rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state's general fund. Funds raised by schools or non-profit partners should be used to support its Kawainui Hāmākua programs.~~

Other Development Pressures. Another potential secondary impact is development pressures on lands adjacent to the project area. The periphery of Kawainui Marsh is already occupied by a number of existing institutional (Castle Medical Center, Windward YMCA, churches) and residential (Kukānono, Kawainui Vista) uses. There are also numerous commercial establishments lining Hāmākua Drive adjacent to Hāmākua Marsh. Over the past 30 years, there have been various proposals to expand urban uses around the marsh. Some proposals encountered public opposition and were halted. Others, such as the relatively recent Kawainui Vista subdivision adjacent to St. John Lutheran Church, were completed.

With the project's enhancement of wetland and neglected upland areas, the provision of new trails and areas supporting passive outdoor recreation ~~parks~~, and increased human presence in the project area, adjacent lands may be coveted for urban development. Any proposed development adjacent to the project area would require an extensive land use approval process at both the State and County levels, and is likely to encounter strong opposition from local residents and government agencies.

Passive Outdoor Recreational Activity

Additional visitors would utilize improvements provided at Kawainui for passive outdoor recreational activity in the form of walking, jogging, and wildlife viewing. Existing areas already supporting such recreational activity include: 1) the levee; 2) Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine; 3) Ulupō Heiau SHP; and 4) the already permitted Gateway Park concept at the Kalāheo site. The proposed project would improve outdoor recreation activity at the following locations: 1) upland area from Kahanaiki to Pōhakea and Nā Pōhaku; 2) foot trail connecting Wai'auia to the levee; and 3) foot trail between Ulupō Heiau and DOFAW's management station. ~~Areas supporting these activities include: 1) the levee; 2) pedestrian trail connecting the levee to Ulupō Heiau SHP, Mokulana, and Kahanaiki; and 3) public use at the Kalāheo Section, particularly for canoe practices.~~ The majority of visitors using the Pōhakea to Kahanaiki upland area would result from the education center. ~~these~~ Other new improved areas for passive outdoor recreational activity are expected to be mainly used by residents, primarily from Kailua and Windward O'ahu. Access to these areas and pedestrian trails would be available during daylight hours. A discussion of visitor activity within subareas is provided below.

Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku Subarea. Persons using the upland area between Kahanaiki and Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine for wildlife viewing and passive outdoor recreation would be associated with visitors to the education center. The trails would be for pedestrian use only (walking and jogging). Dogs will be prohibited, and visitors are expected to primarily consist of non-residents. Access to this upland area would be from: 1) the education center at Pōhakea; and 2) the Kahanaiki parking lot near Kalaniana'ole Highway intersection with Kapa'a Quarry Road.

Wai'auia-Ulupō-DOFAW Station~~Mokulana~~ Subarea. About ~~500~~ 200 visitors a month are projected to utilize the pedestrian trail created ~~from the levee (at Wai'auia), to~~ between Ulupō Heiau SHP, and DOFAW's management station ~~Mokulana peninsula area~~. The majority of visitors using this trail are expected to be residents, mostly from Kailua and Windward O'ahu. The trail would be for pedestrian use only (walking and jogging) and dogs will be prohibited. Visitors are expected to access this section of the trail from the following areas: 1) ~~Kahanaiki parking lot near Kalaniana'ole Highway intersection with Kapa'a Quarry Road; 2) Mokulana Peninsula parking lot, when available (e.g. on weekends); 3)~~ public parking area by DOFAW management station; and 2) ~~4)~~ Ulupō Heiau SHP~~; and 5) Wai'auia parking area~~. The trail segment from Wai'auia to the levee would be used by persons walking on the levee since this provides another access point.

Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee Subarea. Current recreational visitor activity on the levee is about 1,800 persons a month. It is assumed the same level of activity currently observed would continue in the future. No project improvements would change the continued use of the levee for walking, jogging and bicycling. However, bicycling on the levee may be restricted in the future. DOFAW would continue to enforce rules prohibiting pets on the levee. With some parking stalls (6) being made available at Wai'auia along with a pedestrian trail connection to the levee, some visitors may choose to access the levee from the Kailua Road end instead of from Kalāheo. It is assumed

These facilities and trails with accessory structures would therefore have a beneficial effect on recreational facilities and activities by providing new areas that can be used for passive outdoor recreational activities, increasing public access, and creating viewing opportunities for Kawainui's resources and wildlife.

The Proposed Action does not include new residential or visitor units that would increase Kailua's residential population and subsequent demand on existing public parks. The caretaker's cottage at the Kapa'a Cultural Center is intended for managing that site and thus would have negligible, if any, impact on existing parks. Project improvements would increase the number of residents and visitors to the project area utilizing recreational opportunities created. Chapter 2 discussed the projected number of visitors as a result of the various improvements. The majority of visitors stopping at Kawainui would already be traveling to Kailua as their main destination for other more popular attractions, such as beaches and shopping. However, the project would provide another recreational-related attraction for visitors and residents that improve recreational experiences and opportunities. A discussion of facility improvements and effects by subareas is provided.

Subarea B: Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a. Facilities supporting recreational activities in this subarea include: 1) parking, observation areas, and a restroom at Kahanaiki; and 2) education center at Pōhakea. At Kahanaiki, a parking area near the intersection of Kalaniana'ole Highway with Kapa'a Quarry Road would support visitors wanting to access and utilize pedestrian trails for walking and viewing wildlife. The primary mode of transportation for visitors would be vehicles, however, bicycle parking can also be accommodated in parking lot design. Observation decks and a restroom structure would support and have a beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring in this area along with participants in educational programs.

The education center at Pōhakea would serve as a focal point for public access, educational programs, and access to pedestrian trails within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku area. This center would have a viewing deck, other accessory improvements, and parking for visitors all of which provide a beneficial effect supporting recreational activities and educational programs. The facility would also function as a management center for public access and activities conducted in this area. Even with interim facilities, in place of the education center, consisting of parking, a restroom, and pavilion, these improvements would support recreational activities and programs. With a more program focused emphasis under this interim phase, these facilities would not function as a management center for public access.

Subarea C: Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee. With elimination of the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site, there are no project improvements proposed within this subarea that would affect recreational facilities and activities. ~~The only project-related change in this subarea is adding a hale wa'a and not constructing a pedestrian bridge over Kawainui Canal at the Kalāheo park site compared to the No Action Alternative. The amount of visitors using this park site should remain about the same as that projected under the No Action Alternative (1,100 persons per month) with the majority (75%) participating in canoe related activities. Adding a hale wa'a to this site under the project~~

~~would have a beneficial effect by making it easier for schools and canoe clubs to utilize this site. DSP envisions that a school or non-profit organization would manage and maintain this hale wa'a, increasing stewardship and management of this park site which are beneficial effects for this recreational site. Elimination of the pedestrian bridge under this project would reduce another access point for visitors wanting to access the levee for walking. However, this would reduce possible increased congestion and demand for parking stalls at this park site since visitors walking on the levee would continue to access it from Kawainui Community Park.~~

The levee is a flood control structure, but also used by visitors on a monthly basis for walking, jogging and some bicyclists ~~bicycling by about several visitors on a monthly basis~~. No project improvements are proposed for the levee, and DOFAW intends to continue allowing people to walk, ride bicycles, and jog on the levee. ~~However, bicycling is planned to be restricted due to potential conflicts and injuries with persons walking on the levee, and increased deterioration of the levee structure.~~ Dogs would not be allowed on the levee because of the potential threat it poses to waterbirds and birds in the sanctuary along with sanitary issues associated with removal of feces. Signage would be added near the levee access points to inform the public of allowed and prohibited uses. These changes would improve management and use of the levee, and increase safety for the public.

Subarea D: Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana. There are no major facilities planned within this subarea that supports recreational activities. However, there are minor accessory structures and other improvements planned within this subarea to support pedestrian trails and public access.

Wai'auia Cultural Center. The cultural center developed at Wai'auia would have a parking area that includes some stalls being made available for public use during certain times. This parking area provides visitors with another access point to pedestrian trails and the levee for passive outdoor recreation. An observation deck along the pedestrian trail to the levee provides a viewing opportunity for visitors. These minor improvements would have a beneficial impact by supporting passive outdoor recreational activities and public access planned under the project.

Ulupō Heiau SHP. At Ulupō Heiau, project improvements only include the green house and hale. The green house is intended to support cultural landscape improvements being implemented by non-profit organizations, and would not be available to the public. However, the hale could be incorporated as an interpretive feature within the Ulupō Heiau site for visitors creating a small, but beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring here.

DOFAW Management Station. Below (mauka of) DOFAW's management station, a parking area and minor accessory structures (pavilion, and observation deck) are planned to support public access and use of pedestrian trails through this area. The pavilions would have a small beneficial effect on recreational activities occurring here by providing shade and shelter for visitors, and the parking area creates another convenient access point for visitors.

“A Sense of Place, A Living Legacy” The Hamakua-Kawainui Master Plan 1/24/18

Aloha to all,

I am writing this letter in support of the Hamakua-Kawainui Master Plan because I see it as a unique opportunity for the State of Hawai’i to serve its people for many decades to come.

I can recall passing through the area many times as child in the 1960s. I would eventually learn that it had been a place of significance in Hawai’i’s history. From ruins of an ancient Hawaiian Halau Wa’a canoe storage structure near the site of the old Kailua Drive-in Theater, to its use as one of Hawai’i’s largest fishponds in ancient times and as a seat of power for Hawaiian rulers, Hamakua and Kawainui are steeped in history and legend. There is even a heiau site, Ulupo, which is said to have been built by the Menehune, the legendary little people of Hawai’i. Learning these things helped to shape my adulthood in positive fashion, and greatly changed the way I see the Hamakua-Kawainui, Kailua Town and Hawai’i’s ancient history in general. State plans to restore and embrace some of the area’s rich historical past in its modern planning are key.

Watching the activities centered around the Ulupo Heiau with the assistance of the non-profit group “Hika’alani” we see many things in play. The work donated by many diverse community groups, from school-aged children to adults, is very important. As they help to restore lo’i kalo, clear invasive plants and replant indigenous plants, and assist in the preservation of the heiau and other archeological sites, it builds a commonality amongst them and ties them to the place. It teaches the ongoing legacy of the area, stewardship of the land and an appreciation of the past. Regardless of what they do in the future, they are joined together by the ‘aina they have worked on. For the school students, it is a source of inspiration and a place of adventure. Who knows how many future botanists, archeologists, historians and anthropologists are being seeded in the ‘aina there? That work is a shining example of “learning in place” where many lessons are taught as a cultural anchor for the area is maintained, and a sense of place is affirmed and upheld.

I offer my testimony on behalf of the state’s Hamakua-Kawainui plan and hope that the area’s history will be continue to an integral part the project going forward. From halau wa’a for canoe paddlers to the expanded rehabilitation of lo’i kalo and fishponds, these are things which serve the areas’ past and its future, while encouraging community engagement and stewardship. I applaud the efforts of both the planners and community partners for the good work they have done. In the fruits of your efforts, we see the re-emergence of a sense of place and a living legacy for the entire community of Hamakua-Kawainui and its neighbors. Mahalo nui!

With much Aloha,

Timothy Keala Bowden Puowaina, Oahu, Hawai’i 1/19/18

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Timothy Keala Bowden
Puowaina, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Via Email: timikkicreative@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Bowden:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received January 19, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your comments.

1. *I am writing this letter in support of the Hamakua-Kawainui Master Plan because I see it as a unique opportunity for the State of Hawai'i to serve its people for many decades to come. I can recall passing through the area many times as child in the 1960s. I would eventually learn that it had been a place of significance in Hawai'i's history. From ruins of an ancient Hawaiian Halau Wa'a canoe storage structure near the site of the old Kailua Drive-in Theater, to its use as one of Hawai'i's largest fishponds in ancient times and as a seat of power for Hawaiian rulers, Hamakua and Kawainui are steeped in history and legend. There is even a heiau site, Ulupo, which is said to have been built by the Menehune, the legendary little people of Hawai'i. Learning these things helped to shape my adulthood in positive fashion, and greatly changed the way I see the Hamakua-Kawainui, Kailua Town and Hawai'i's ancient history in general. State plans to restore and embrace some of the area's rich historical past in its modern planning are key.*
   Response: Thank you for your support of the project. We concur that proposed improvements would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State of Hawai'i. We also concur that Kawainui has a significant place in Hawai'i's history and culture, and we appreciate you sharing your past experiences. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements proposed are an important and key component of the project.

2. *Watching the activities centered around the Ulupo Heiau with the assistance of the non-profit group "Hika'alani" we see many things in play. The work donated by many diverse community groups, from school-aged children to adults, is very important. As they help to restore lo'i kalo, clear invasive plants and replant indigenous plants, and assist in the preservation of the heiau and other archeological sites, it builds a commonality amongst them and ties them to the place. It teaches the ongoing legacy of the area, stewardship of the land and an appreciation of the past. Regardless of what they do in the future, they are joined together by the 'aina they have worked on. For the school students, it is a source of inspiration and a place of adventure. Who knows how many future botanists, archeologists, historians and anthropologists are being seeded in the 'aina there? That work is a shining example of "learning in place" where many lessons are taught as a cultural anchor for the area is maintained, and a sense of place is affirmed and upheld.*
   Response: We agree that the efforts of community organizations, such as Hika'alani, have contributed to the restoration of Ulupō Heiau and increased cultural and educational programs. We concur that the experiences students obtain from such programs are valuable to help guide and supplement their greater understanding of culture and the environment, which may lead them toward careers that can further improve our environment and culture. Proposed project improvements are intended to further support educational opportunities for both students and adults through place-based learning activities and other programs.

3. *I offer my testimony on behalf of the state's Hamakua-Kawainui plan and hope that the area's history will be continue to an integral part the project going forward. From halau wa'a for canoe paddlers to the expanded rehabilitation of lo'i kalo and fishponds, these are things which serve the areas' past and its future, while encouraging community engagement and stewardship. I applaud the efforts of both the planners and community partners for the good work they have done. In the fruits of your efforts, we see the re-emergence of a sense of place and a living legacy for the entire community of Hamakua-Kawainui and its neighbors. Mahalo nui!*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your experiences and knowledge of Kawainui, and for supporting the project. Kawainui's history is intended to be an integral project component supporting cultural practices, educational programs, and other opportunities. The planned cultural centers would provide opportunities to expand such experiences by non-profit organizations.

   Unfortunately, due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, some improvements proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have been eliminated from this project. Such improvements include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The decision on these revisions also considered funding and likely phasing of improvements over time, given agency priorities. These revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A section from the FEIS that summarizes these changes is attached. Thank you for your compliments regarding the planners and community organizations involved in this project. The project would provide a significant community benefit and re-emergence of a sense of place for Kawainui-Hāmākua.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area

   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

Ronald Sato

From: Cathy Chang <mktcb2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: oppose Kawainui Marsh plan DEIS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mr. Sato,
It has come to my attention that the current plan for the marsh does not take into consideration the plan that was endorsed by Kailua Neighborhood Board, the LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, Keep It Kailua and three other groups.
I honestly think the marsh should be left alone. It's a natural resource that should be protected. It's not a tourist attraction. If something does have to be done, it should be in keeping with the limits set by these environmental groups.
And with a 67 million dollar pricetag, it only makes to to leave it alone. Too many businesses profit from Kailua tourists who care nothing about the place, just the profit.
thank you,
Cat Chang
Coconut Grove, Kailua

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Cathy Chang

Via Email: mktcb2@yahoo.com

Dear Ms. Chang:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *It has come to my attention that the current plan for the marsh does not take into consideration the plan that was endorsed by Kailua Neighborhood Board, the LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, Keep It Kailua and three other groups.*
   Response: The DEIS did consider the alternative plan, referred to as "The Community Plan", proposed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board. We received background information associated with the plan's development from the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB). The KNB stated that the former Chair of the KNB worked on developing the plan. We do note that the former President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club worked with the former KNB Chair to develop the plan. However, that plan was, and is, not supported by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. Native Hawaiians have also stated that the alternative plan did not represent their position on this project. The KNB also commented that The Community Plan was only presented to certain community organizations identified that have been opposed to the proposed project, and was not widely circulated in its development.

   This alternative plan was discussed in Section 2.3 of the DEIS, and it supports restoration, preservation and maintenance of Kawainui. However, there were significant differences regarding interpretive facilities and support features recommended, along with not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the purpose and need for the project are improving public access and outdoor recreation, which were not met by this alternative. There was also insufficient accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access.

2. *I honestly think the marsh should be left alone. It's a natural resource that should be protected. It's not a tourist attraction.*
   Response: It should be clarified that the present ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat, but is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation overtaking the wetland. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DLNR, Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife and State Parks, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. We acknowledge your general opposition to visitors to Kailua, and subsequent desire for Kawainui to not be a "tourist attraction." However, as discussed in response No. 1, key elements of the project's purpose is to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, support allowing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to it significant cultural history, and support educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities.

3. *If something does have to be done, it should be in keeping with the limits set by these environmental groups. And with a 67 million dollar pricetag, it only makes to to leave it alone. Too many businesses profit from Kailua tourists who care nothing about the place, just the profit.*
   Response: It should be noted that Ramsar supports sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices within designated wetlands of international importance. The project includes improvements supporting these aspects recognized by Ramsar. In keeping with the Ramsar's "wise use" philosophy, project improvements also support ongoing and new stewardship activities and opportunities, and provides opportunities for the public to experience and learn about the wetland areas utilizing pedestrian trails and observation areas. Input from environmental groups along with other community organizations and the public have been received and considered throughout the planning process. Proposed improvements are intended to meet agency missions and the purpose and need for this project as discussed in the DEIS. This is a state resource that needs to be evaluated in the best interest of the general public.

   Funding for improvements would occur over time as improvements are phased separately. However, as discussed in the DEIS, leaving Kawainui alone in its current state would only contribute to further degradation of this resource. We acknowledge your general opposition to visitors to Kailua and businesses related to the visitor industry, and your disapproval of changes that may attract more visitors to Kailua. However, your opinion characterizing businesses may not be reasonable or appropriate.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of DOFAW at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

To: HHF Planners, 733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590, Honolulu, Hawa'I 96813

From: Tomoko Coles, 520 John Carlyle St., Unit 117, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Date: 1/22/2018

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing you in regarding to the subject above. I'm a hula student of Halau Mohala 'Ilima in Kailua, HI since 2014. Even though I live in Alexandria, Virginia, I make an annual trip to 'Oahu and learn Hula and Hawaiian culture and language. My Kumu Hula, Mapuana De Silva and her husband, Uncle Kihei make a few trips to mainland to conduct Hula/Cultural workshop for us. And I've been loving to participate in that.

I'd like to express sincere support for the project to keep this plan so that we can have the opportunity to have permanent places in Kailua to learn and practice our indigenous Hawaii and culture, and the place quipped to fulfill our basic needs (access to bathrooms, running water, storage facilities, classrooms, and work areas).

Thank you so much for your time in reading my letter and I'll look forward the great news to keep our Halau and Hawaiian cultures.

Sincerely,



Tomoko Coles

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Tomoko Coles
520 John Carlyle Street, Unit 117
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Ms. Coles:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I'm writing you in regarding to the subject above. I'm a hula student of Halau Mahala 'Ilima in Kailua, HI since 2014. Even though I live in Alexandria, Virginia, I make an annual trip to 'Oahu and learn Hula and Hawaiian culture and language. My Kumu Hula, Mapuana De Silva and her husband, Uncle Kihei make a few trips to mainland to conduct Hula/Cultural workshop for us. And I've been loving to participate in that.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your experiences learning hula and native Hawaiian culture and language with Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima.

2. *I'd like to express sincere support for the project to keep this plan so that we can have the opportunity to have permanent places in Kailua to learn and practice our indigenous Hawaii and culture, and the place quipped to fulfill our basic needs (access to bathrooms, running water, storage facilities, classrooms, and work areas).*
   Response: We appreciate your support of the project, and believe that proposed improvements would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State of Hawai'i. Improvements support enhanced education about native Hawaiian culture in addition to providing opportunities for non-profit organizations to conduct cultural practices at Kawainui. Planned improvements would provide necessary amenities such as water, bathrooms, storage facilities, and areas for educational and stewardship opportunities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: hhlynncook@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:36 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 5, 2018
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com
cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Aloha Mr. Sato,
By way of introduction, I am a 30-year member of Halau Mohala I'lima and a professional journalist, writing for local and national publications.
For those of us who live in city settings the meetings and work days at Ulupo are like a trip to the old Hawaii my grandmother taught me about. My hula sisters and I say, over and over, how we wish the "critics" of cultural practices and the draft master plan would roll up their sleeves and join us, rather than grumbling about what they think might happen. It would be good if they understood that the place speaks when you listen.
Mapu and Kihei de Silva listen. Hopefully the nay-sayers will listen to them and understand that they support and give a long-term endorsement of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan in the current DIES iteration.
The Master Plan provides an opportunity for permanent presence and real, up-to-our-knees stewardship. It will be a place for the youth to touch, feel, care for and appreciate the riches that are only a short drive away from their home, their school and the view of towering concrete monoliths that have sadly become their norm.
Kihei and Mapu say it best, "It causes us great pain, therefore, when we have to defend our efforts against the mostly spurious accusations of people we have never seen at Ulupo, people who do not know how its mud feels between their fingers and toes, people who do not turn their hands down in any other manner than to type unfounded nonsense into their favorite social media pages."
To quote the letter they shared with us: we agree that: We appreciate that the current Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017) carefully and thoroughly addresses the "development" issues (tourism, buildings, parking lots, privatization, commercialization, traffic, homeless, pollution, management, and enforcement) that continue to concern so many members of our quick-to-react, slow-to-listen community. We especially appreciate the DEIS inclusion of our Article XII rights under the State Constitution, as well as its support of native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources as stipulated in the DSP and DOFAW core-value statements.
This, then, is a letter that reaffirms our ongoing, long-term endorsement of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan and its current DEIS iteration. We endorse it with hope, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to making it work. We want to be more than visitors in the heart of our own homeland.

I believe that Kihei and Mapuana are the leaders to follow, keeping us all well-prepared for a challenge and forward-looking to see the great rewards for our next generations .
With respect and Aloha,
Lynn Cook
hhlynncook@aol.com

cc - Mapuana de Silva
Club President
kumumapuana@gmail.com
Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
P.O. Box 1123
Kailua, HI 96734

LYNN COOK
Honolulu, Hawaii
E-Mail: HHLynnCook@aol.com
Mobile: (808) 782-3535

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Lynn Cook

Via Email: hhlynncook@aol.com

Dear Ms. Cook:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses organized by numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *By way of introduction, I am a 30-year member of Halau Mohala I'lima and a professional journalist, writing for local and national publications. For those of us who live in city settings the meetings and work days at Ulupo are like a trip to the old Hawaii my grandmother taught me about. My hula sisters and I say, over and over, how we wish the "critics" of cultural practices and the draft master plan would roll up their sleeves and join us, rather than grumbling about what they think might happen. It would be good if they understood that the place speaks when you listen.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your professional background and experiences at Ulupō Heiau.

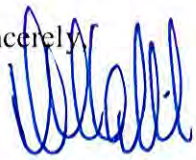
2. *Mapu and Kihei de Silva listen. Hopefully the nay-sayers will listen to them and understand that they support and give a long-term endorsement of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan in the current DIES iteration. The Master Plan provides an opportunity for permanent presence and real, up-to-our-knees stewardship. It will be a place for the youth to touch, feel, care for and appreciate the riches that are only a short drive away from their home, their school and the view of towering concrete monoliths that have sadly become their norm.*
   Response: We appreciate the support and input both Mapuana and Kihei de Silva have provided on the project throughout the planning process. Proposed improvements would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State of Hawai'i, and increase stewardship opportunities with non-profit organizations. Improvements support enhanced educational and cultural opportunities for both students and adults.

3. *Kihei and Mapu say it best, "It causes us great pain, therefore, when we have to defend our efforts against the mostly spurious accusations of people we have never seen at Ulupo, people who do not know how its mud feels between their fingers and toes, people who do not turn their hands down in any other manner than to type unfounded nonsense into their favorite social media pages." To quote the letter they shared with us: we agree that: We appreciate that the current Kawainui- Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017) carefully and thoroughly addresses the "development" issues (tourism, buildings, parking lots, privatization, commercialization, traffic, homeless, pollution, management, and enforcement) that continue to concern so many members of our quick-to-react, slow-to-listen community.*
   Response: We appreciate the efforts expended to inform members of your organization of the project, its purpose, and its benefits to the community. We agree that people would have a better understanding of Kawainui, its resources, and the opportunities to learn by experiencing the area in person while participating in such programs and activities. The project would create opportunities to establish cultural centers at Kawainui by non-profit organizations so that cultural practices, education, and stewardship opportunities can occur. We believe the DEIS also provides sufficient information on the project and adequately addresses the many issues and concerns raised.

4. *We especially appreciate the DEIS inclusion of our Article XII rights under the State Constitution, as well as its support of native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources as stipulated in the DSP and DOFAW core-value statements. This, then, is a letter that reaffirms our ongoing, long-term endorsement of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan and its current DEIS iteration. We endorse it with hope, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to making it work. We want to be more than visitors in the heart of our own homeland. I believe that Kihei and Mapuana are the leaders to follow, keeping us all well-prepared for a challenge and forward-looking to see the great rewards for our next generations.*
   Response: We acknowledge your recognition that the DEIS addresses native Hawaiian rights under Article XII of the State Constitution. Proposed improvements support native Hawaiian cultural practices and resources, and provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish cultural centers so that cultural practices and increased stewardship activities can occur at Kawainui. Supporting cultural practices are part of both the DOFAW and DSP agency mission. We acknowledge your support and long-term endorsement of the proposed project. The State is committed to moving forward with improvements that are needed and provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: marie@tikimaster.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 6:33 AM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: NO DEVELOPMENT AT KAWAINUI MARSH

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I respectfully write to you both pleading for a NO VOTE for any development to Kawainui Marsh! As a resident of the windward side we have enough visitors coming and invading our streets and town on a daily basis. Our roads cannot handle more traffic and our marsh land needs to stay as is for the wildlife and plant life. It's OK NOT TO DEVELOP every little piece of paradise. Let's enjoy it for it's natural beauty!

Aloha,
Marie Coudrier

--
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Marie Coudrier

Via Email: marie@tikimaster.com

Dear Ms. Coudrier:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided the following responses your comments.

1. *I respectfully write to you both pleading for a NO VOTE for any development to Kawainui Marsh! As a resident of the windward side we have enough visitors coming and invading our streets and town on a daily basis.*

   Response: We acknowledge your concerns and opposition to improvements proposed at Kawainui. We also note your opposition to visitors to Kailua and disapproval to changes that may attract more visitors to Kailua. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DLNR, Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife and State Parks, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. We acknowledge your general opposition to visitors to Kailua. However, key elements of the project's purpose is to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, support allowing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to it significant cultural history, and support educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities. The DEIS discusses project effects from visitors and measures proposed to manage increased public access, such as in Sections 2.2.5 and 4.2.

2. *Our roads cannot handle more traffic and our marsh land needs to stay as is for the wildlife and plant life. It's OK NOT TO DEVELOP every little piece of paradise. Let's enjoy it for it's natural beauty!*

   A traffic impact study included in the DEIS (Section 5.6) determined the project should not have a significant impact on existing transportation facilities. It should be clarified that the ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat, but is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DLNR, Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife and State Parks, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

January 22, 2018

HHF Planners

c/o Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate

733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590

Honolulu, Hawai'I 96813

Dear HHF Planners:

I am a seed.

Let me explain. Years ago, I met Kumu Mapuana de Silva at a hula workshop on the mainland. I'd heard about her for many years through my hula teacher in Washington, DC. I knew Kumu offered a long-distance learning program in Kailua. Five years ago, I asked to participate.

I'd been dancing hula in the DC area for nearly 20 years. I thought I had a grasp on hula and the Hawaiian culture. As it turns out, I knew nothing.

Kumu, Uncle Kihei, Halau Mohala 'Ilima, and their families have taught me everything I know today about Hawaii, its language, people, and spirit. Their work is so important.

There is still so much to learn.

The Kawainui Master Plan and recent EIS are critical components to continuing the education of Hawaii and its indigenous culture. I support the master plan. We need dedicated facilities to continue the work of malama honua.

Years ago, Kumu referred to us (her haumana) as "seeds." She said that with her teaching us what she knows, she hoped to spread a little more about Hawaii throughout the world – planting in us knowledge, sending us back into our regular lives, and hoping that some of Hawaii would take root.

I am a grateful seed. When I dance today, I feel the mud from Ulupo between my toes. I chant to honor our Kupuna. I see the hala trees and mountains, and I feel the ocean and its wind. I'm just a keiki student, but I'm committed to this journey.

Sending aloha from chilly DC,

Christine Cube

cc: Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager, State of Hawai'I, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Christine Cube
6711 West Wakefield Drive, B1
Alexandria, VA 22307

Dear Ms. Cube:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I am a seed. Let me explain. Years ago, I met Kumu Mapuana de Silva at a hula workshop on the mainland. I'd heard about her for many years through my hula teacher in Washington, DC. I knew Kumu offered a long-distance learning program in Kailua. Five years ago, I asked to participate. I'd been dancing hula in the DC area for nearly 20 years. I thought I had a grasp on hula and the Hawaiian culture. As it turns out, I knew nothing. Kumu, Uncle Kihei, Halau Mohala 'Ilima, and their families have taught me everything I know today about Hawaii, its language, people, and spirit. Their work is so important. There is still so much to learn.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your background and experiences with Kumu Mapuana de Silva, Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima, and your participation in hula and learning about Hawaiian culture.

2. *The Kawainui Master Plan and recent EIS are critical components to continuing the education of Hawaii and its indigenous culture. I support the master plan. We need dedicated facilities to continue the work of malama honua.*
   Response: We acknowledge your support for the project. The DEIS addresses several improvements intended to support native Hawaiian cultural practices and education. Proposed facilities are intended to support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices. Cultural centers proposed at Kawainui would further support cultural practices, education, and stewardship opportunities by non-profit organizations.

3. *Years ago, Kumu referred to us (her haumana) as "seeds." She said that with her teaching us what she knows, she hoped to spread a little more about Hawaii throughout the world - planting in us knowledge, sending us back into our regular lives, and hoping that some of Hawaii would take root. I am a grateful seed. When I dance today, I feel the mud from Ulupo between my toes. I chant to honor our Kupuna. I see the hala trees and mountains, and I feel the ocean and its wind. I'm just a keiki student, but I'm committed to this journey.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your experiences on Hawaiian culture, how it influences your life, and the benefits you have received.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Mapuana de Silva <kumumapuana@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 4:10 PM
To: Ronald Sato; Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan DEIS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com
cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Dear Mr. Sato,

I have lived in Ka‘ōhao since I was two, have no memory living anywhere else, and consider myself born and raised here in Ka‘ōhao. I am the middle generation of 5 (I clearly remember my grandmother living with us and my granddaughter now lives here with her parents as well) who have lived here and have cared for our community for almost 70 years.

For the last 42 years I have taught traditional hula and oli, Hawaiian values, Hawaiian culture, and everything remotely related to all of these things through my life long work. I have been caring for Ulupō, Kawainui, Ka‘ōhao, Kailua, and everyone and everything in our ahupua‘a my entire life. I have seen so many of my extended family (mostly kanaka ‘ōiwi, native indigenous Hawaiians) move away, but I am committed to stay. Why? Because if some of us don't stay and take care of the land, resources, and things of our ancestors who will?

We do not bother those who oppose the plan. We do not tell them what they should and should not do, even though we were here long before they arrived and settled. We do not stop them from settling here and changing our way of life to be influenced by their desires. We have not tried to kick them out or tried to stop them from turning our kanaka ‘ōiwi community to the current southern California influenced Kailua.

All we want is for them to allow us to do the same, allow us to continue what our ancestors generations and tens of decades ago did. We are a living culture, but we need a place to live and to

thrive. We refuse to be choked out. We will not leave. We will find ways to continue caring for the land and the people we love. All we would like is for the master plan to help us do that.

We are not the only ones committed to this way of life, we have hundreds of families with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are already working the land and caring for our community. And we are just the beginning of the many generations to follow our lead. We are here to stay.

E ʻonipaʻa kākou!

Mapuana de Silva
Kumu Hula, Halau Mohala 'Ilima
1110 'A'alapapa Drive
Kailua, HI 96734-3271
ph: 808-261-0689
fax: 808-261-7330
kumumapuana@gmail.com
www.halaumohalailima.com

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Mapuana de Silva
110 'A'alapapa Drive
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. de Silva:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I have lived in Ka'ōhao since I was two, have no memory living anywhere else, and consider myself born and raised here in Ka'ōhao. I am the middle generation of 5 (I clearly remember my grandmother living with us and my granddaughter now lives here with her parents as well) who have lived here and have cared for our community for almost 70 years. For the last 42 years I have taught traditional hula and oli, Hawaiian values, Hawaiian culture, and everything remotely related to all of these things through my life long work. I have been caring for Ulupō, Kawainui, Ka'ōhao, Kailua, and everyone and everything in our ahupua'a my entire life. I have seen so many of my extended family (mostly kanaka 'ōiwi, native indigenous Hawaiians) move away, but I am committed to stay. Why? Because if some of us don't stay and take care of the land, resources, and things of our ancestors who will?*

   Response: Thank you for sharing your background and experiences growing up in Kailua. We acknowledge your tremendous efforts over several decades to teach and enhance native Hawaiian cultural values, culture, and practices in Hawai'i. Your efforts to restore and improve Kawainui and Ulupō Heiau are appreciated, and demonstrate your deep commitment to the land and its resources.

   The State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP are also committed to continue restoration efforts at Kawainui-Hāmākua, and to support cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship opportunities by non-profit organizations under this project. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, and federal requirements under

the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

2. *We do not bother those who oppose the plan. We do not tell them what they should and should not do, even though we were here long before they arrived and settled. We do not stop them from settling here and changing our way of life to be influenced by their desires. We have not tried to kick them out or tried to stop them from turning our kanaka ʻōiwi community to the current southern California influenced Kailua.*

   Response: We acknowledge that there are organizations and individuals opposed to and concerned with proposed plans. The DEIS adequately addresses the issues identified, which mainly concern public access and visitors. The DEIS also permits measures to manage activities and mitigate potential effects.

3. *All we want is for them to allow us to do the same, allow us to continue what our ancestors generations and tens of decades ago did. We are a living culture, but we need a place to live and to thrive. We refuse to be choked out. We will not leave. We will find ways to continue caring for the land and the people we love. All we would like is for the master plan to help us do that. We are not the only ones committed to this way of life, we have hundreds of families with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are already working the land and caring for our community. And we are just the beginning of the many generations to follow our lead. We are here to stay.*

   Response: The project includes several improvements and opportunities to support native Hawaiian cultural practices at Kawainui. Proposed facilities are intended to support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices. The State is committed to moving forward with improvements that are needed and that would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Nola Faria <nolaf@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 10:56 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96813

Aloha Mr. Sato,

Me ke Aloha, I am writing in support of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017). I have been a resident of Kailua for the past 42 years, previous to that I grew up in Kaneohe near Kokokahi YMCA. As such I am quite familiar with Kawainui and Hamakua what it looked like when I was a child and visited the area to what it now is. I am so proud of the progress that has been made to clean and restore the area. There is still much work needed to assure that this beautiful area is restored to its natural and thriving resource that it once was. As well as protected so that my children, my grandchildren and generations to come can enjoy it.

As a practitioner of hula and member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club I have had the privilege to work along side other families at Ulupo and Hamakua on several occasions to weed, clean opala, and plant. On other occasions I've had opportunities to dance hula and sing songs about the area, and learn ancient stories about the same. I've come back to see taro that I planted now growing. My grandchildren are now visiting Ulupo and doing the same and more. My dad used to tell me about how beautiful Kawainui and the surrounding areas were when he was a child though all I saw was weeds and trash, growing up. While he is now gone I am starting to see what he must have seen too. As a native Hawaiian I am grateful that my children will have an opportunity to learn about this place where they were born and now live. As citizens of this community it is also their kuleana (responsibility) to help care for and protect the land and waters within Kawainui-Hamakua so that others may enjoy this valuable resource. It takes a community.

As a resident of Kailua who sees an increase in tourists to our area I understand when other residents voice concerns about commercialization and mistakenly think that the master plan is about turning Kawainui - Hamakua into a tourist attraction. On the contrary the plan is in fact about stewardship, ensuring access to cultural practices and protecting it from commercialization. In order to appreciate this kuleana we need to educate and involve the community so that the progress to restore Kawainui and Hamakua will continue. I hope more community members and their families come down to Ulupo and see firsthand what I have seen, talk with those Kupuna, adults and Keiko who are working to restore and protect the aina, maybe even help "and put their feet in the mud" with us- I know they will understand what this master plan is all about.
Mahalo for your time,

Respectfully,

Nola Healani (Bruhn) Faria
1250 Kupau Street
Kailua, Hawaii. 96734

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Nola Healani Faria
1250 Kupau Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Faria:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *Me ke Aloha, I am writing in support of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017). I have been a resident of Kailua for the past 42 years, previous to that I grew up in Kaneohe near Kokokahi YMCA. As such I am quite familiar with Kawainui and Hamakua what it looked like when I was a child and visited the area to what it now is. I am so proud of the progress that has been made to clean and restore the area. There is still much work needed to assure that this beautiful area is restored to its natural and thriving resource that it once was. As well as protected so that my children, my grandchildren and generations to come can enjoy it.*

   Response: Thank you for your support of this project, and for sharing your background growing up in Kailua and your experiences with Kawainui and Hāmākua. The State DLNR appreciates the efforts non-profit organizations have made to support restoration of Kawainui and Hāmākua. However, as you indicated, there is still much work to do, and the State DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) plans continued and expanded restoration efforts under this project. The project supports protecting the resource and proposes necessary amenities (e.g. bathrooms, observation areas) to serve those who visit the resource as part of educational and cultural programs and activities.

2. *As a practitioner of hula and member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club I have had the privilege to work along side other families at Ulupo and Hamakua on several occasions to weed, clean opala, and plant. On other occasions I've had opportunities to dance hula and sing songs about the area, and learn ancient stories about the same. I've come back to see*

taro that I planted now growing. My grandchildren are now visiting Ulupo and doing the same and more. My dad used to tell me about how beautiful Kawainui and the surrounding areas were when he was a child though all I saw was weeds and trash, growing up. While he is now gone I am starting to see what he must have seen too. As a native Hawaiian I am grateful that my children will have an opportunity to learn about this place where they were born and now live. As citizens of this community it is also their kuleana (responsibility) to help care for and protect the land and waters within Kawainui-Hamakua so that others may enjoy this valuable resource. It takes a community.

Response: We acknowledge and appreciate your efforts to maintain and restore Ulupō Heiau and Hāmākua Marsh, and your participation in cultural practices and activities. We also appreciate you sharing these experiences with your grandchildren because education is an important element of the State DLNR's agency mission. Project improvements support increasing educational programs. The project also includes opportunities for increased stewardship and participation by the public and non-profit organizations to support restoration and maintenance efforts. We concur that the support and participation of the community are important to achieve project goals and objectives.

3. *As a resident of Kailua who sees an increase in tourists to our area I understand when other residents voice concerns about commercialization and mistakenly think that the master plan is about turning Kawainui - Hamakua into a tourist attraction. On the contrary the plan is in fact about stewardship, ensuring access to cultural practices and protecting it from commercialization. In order to appreciate this kuleana we need to educate and involve the community so that the progress to restore Kawainui and Hamakua will continue. I hope more community members and their families come down to Ulupo and see firsthand what I have seen, talk with those Kupuna, adults and Keiki who are working to restore and protect the aina, maybe even help "and put their feet in the mud" with us- I know they will understand what this master plan is all about.*

Response: We understand the concerns expressed by some members of the community regarding increased tourists and commercialization. The DEIS addressed this issue and identified measures to minimize the impact of these activities (e.g. Sections 2.2.5 and 4.2). The project supports increased stewardship of this resource, and includes several improvements and opportunities to further native Hawaiian cultural practices at Kawainui (e.g. cultural centers). Proposed facilities would also enhance continued and expanded restoration efforts and educational programs. We concur that further education about this resource is needed so the public can better understand its value and its history and culture. This will lead to increased community participation in restoration and maintenance activities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Aloha Mr. Ronald A. Sato and Ms. Marigold Zoll, 5 February 2018

I would like to congratulate you and your colleagues for your work on the DEIS for the Kawainui – Hamakua Master Plan project. It's clear that a lot of time and effort went into preparing this document. I would like to offer a few comments on it for you to address:

1. A lot of discussion in the DEIS centers on the tourism increases this project would bring to Kailua as a whole. I live in the Kukanono subdivision, where a trail is proposed between Ulupo heiau and the DOFAW offices. This plan brings tourism to a place it's never been before, downslope from our neighborhood. While your standard reply from letters in the appendix cites distance from our homes to the trail and various park rules being mitigating factors, not everyone follows rules. What's 'plan B' in cases where rules aren't followed – like noise complaints, houseless folks camping, or folks committing property crimes using the proposed trail for unnoticed access to our neighborhood's properties? Since it's not absolutely required either legally or by convention, it would be better just not to build this trail in the first place.
2. While I heartily agree that enhancing Kawainui for endangered wildlife is a splendid goal, it's never been my observation that development of wild places is beneficial in the long run. More and more here in Hawaii, there's less and less. I've hiked quite a bit and have seen with my own eyes things degrade and disappear over time. Folks before me who hiked a lot told the same story, how they saw things disappear too. Keeping development to an absolute minimum is best for wildlife. The DEIS should keep current areas with few visitors as the buffers they are, with no trails that bring people and disturb birds.
3. Removing the peat mat sounds like a great idea, but it's an awfully big mat! Please address how the beach/nearshore/reef areas will be affected by the silt that'll be released and evade catchment during removal of the mat. What's the expected lifetime of the silt-catching devices cited by the DEIS, their efficiency, and their expected replacement plan? Also, with removal of the peat mat, will the current fresh water level in the marsh lower, so seawater can intrude over time? If so, please address the additional seawater intrusion from this effect that's expected from global warming.
4. I also applaud the plan to replace invasive plants with natives. The five or so extra staff the DEIS proposes for this however, is woefully inadequate to maintain a large area replanted with natives. Planting natives is easy compared to keeping invasive weeds at bay! There should be more staff proposed than the five or so in the DEIS. Also, how do you realistically expect to create mudflats with all the invasive plants? It's impossible without a lot of effort. If you think weeding on dryland is hard, try weeding wetland! Creating mudflat habitat needs far more personnel to maintain and perhaps more thought than the DEIS currently gives it.

5. The DEIS cites this project as benefiting the state by the tax revenues generated from excise, payroll, and other taxes. Since the project construction and maintenance depends wholly on state funds however, that arithmetic means this project can't actually provide cumulative positive cashflow for the state coffers as the DEIS implies.
6. Finally, because of recent advances in pollen identification, I would like to suggest there be more extensive soil coring for pollen studies that document floristic changes with time over the whole project area.

Mahalo for your time, this opportunity to comment, and for your kind consideration of the matters mentioned above. I look forward to hearing from you. Please keep me informed.

Me ke aloha,

R. Fenstemacher

R. Fenstemacher PhD

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. R. Fenstemacher, Ph.D.
1386 Manu Mele Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Fenstemacher:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your numbered comments.

1. *A lot of discussion in the DEIS centers on the tourism increases this project would bring to Kailua as a whole. I live in the Kukanono subdivision, where a trail is proposed between Ulupo heiau and the DOFAW offices. This plan brings tourism to a place it's never been before, downslope from our neighborhood. While your standard reply from letters in the appendix cites distance from our homes to the trail and various park rules being mitigating factors, not everyone follows rules. What's 'plan B' in cases where rules aren't followed - like noise complaints, houseless folks camping, or folks committing property crimes using the proposed trail for unnoticed access to our neighborhood's properties? Since it's not absolutely required either legally or by convention, it would be better just not to build this trail in the first place.*

   Response: Tourism, from the perspective of increased visitors to Kailua, has been a major concern for many in the community. We acknowledge your concerns to trail improvements proposed at Kawainui that would support use by both residents and visitors. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. It also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DLNR, Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife and State Parks, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Key elements of the project's purpose is thus to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, along with supporting a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to its significant cultural history, and educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities. The DEIS discusses project

effects from visitors and measures proposed to manage increased public access, such as in Sections 2.2.5 and 4.2.

The pedestrian trail presented in Section 2.2.3 would be open only during daylight hours, but is expected to be used primarily by residents due to limited access points. The trails along the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku section would be more accessible and visible for the public. The pedestrian trail and access below the Kūkanono subdivision is not a new concept, as it has been proposed by several prior plans. In 1972, a Conservation District Use Permit (OA-318) already permits a roadway and recreational facilities to be located below this subdivision (Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS). Since then, other plans developed in the 1980s, the 1994 master plan, and a 2003 pathway plan all proposed a pedestrian trail below the subdivision. The current project continues this trail concept from those prior plans.

Privacy and safety concerns for residents were considered in the planning and environmental review process, particularly with regard to the pedestrian trail along the Kūkanono subdivision area. Railings proposed along the trail as shown on Exhibit 2.22 of the DEIS, along with fencing, are intended to keep users on the path. Perimeter fencing is also planned along the State's property line, which would border adjacent residential properties, such as those at Kūkanono. The physical presence of the densely vegetated hillside separating homes from the wetland also creates a natural buffer.

Adequate funding would be required to implement improvements. Various measures were discussed in the DEIS (Section 2.2.5) to address security and management of activities because avoiding negative effects from project improvements is a priority. The State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) plans to construct this section of the pedestrian trail when they are able to manage it. This condition requires funding for additional DSP personnel to support management of programs and activities, along with additional State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers. Additional staffing would support managing potential issues, such as noise and the homeless. Fencing would make it difficult for unauthorized access up the hillside. DSP can also close the trail, if warranted, and look into other measures that could be implemented.

It should be clarified that improved public access and supporting outdoor recreation are legally required for this area below the Kūkanono subdivision under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act discussed in Section 1.5.3 of the DEIS. These improvements also support Ramsar objectives and agency missions.

2. *While I heartily agree that enhancing Kawainui for endangered wildlife is a splendid goal, it's never been my observation that development of wild places is beneficial in the long run. More and more here in Hawaii, there's less and less. I've hiked quite a bit and have seen with my own eyes things degrade and disappear over time. Folks before me who hiked a lot told the same story, how they saw things disappear too. Keeping development to an absolute minimum is best for wildlife. The DEIS should keep current areas with few visitors as the buffers they are, with no trails that bring people and disturb birds.*

   Response: Wetland restoration and upland reforestation are major components of this project, and would enhance habitat for endangered waterbirds. However, the project would not "develop" Kawainui in the manner being interpreted. Section 2.2 discusses how improvements are sited within upland areas, and structures such as the education center are

located within previously disturbed sites (e.g. former ranch). The DEIS sections discuss that proposed improvements would not have an adverse effect on wildlife, and various measures were identified to minimize and mitigate effects, as applicable. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems. Thus, such deleterious wildlife would not be significantly impacted by improved access of upland areas for educational programs, passive outdoor recreation, cultural practices, etc. We are not sure what keeping development to an "absolute minimum" entails, but we believe proposed improvements are reasonable given the type of wildlife present.

We understand the concerns you have with visitors to Kailua, and your concern about changes that may attract more visitors. However, the ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat. Rather, it is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. Thus, this resource has been deteriorating for some time. The project supports restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua and providing other needed improvements to achieve project objectives. We don't believe this resource would "disappear" due to reasonable public access and visitors projected as discussed in the DEIS.

In comparison, construction of the Kūkanono subdivision above Kawainui would be considered a far more intrusive development on the environment, and would likely receive considerable community opposition if it were proposed today for development. However, the results of the DEIS show that such large scale urban residential development along Kawainui has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality. Proposed improvements are far less intrusive, planned to be more environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices. Visitors using the pedestrian trail below the Kūkanono subdivision would not disturb or adversely impact birds or existing alien wildlife. The project supports ongoing and new stewardship activities, and provides opportunities for the public to experience and learn about wetland areas and wildlife through pedestrian trails and observation areas.

3. *Removing the peat mat sounds like a great idea, but it's an awfully big mat! Please address how the beach/nearshore/reef areas will be affected by the silt that'll be released and evade catchment during removal of the mat.*

Response: Removing invasive vegetation, including peat mat, within the wetland is a large effort that is planned to be done in smaller areas, by phases over time. Vegetation is planned to be cut and removed down to a few inches below the surface, if necessary, as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Therefore, an excessive amount of silt is not expected to be discharged from such activities, and best management practices (BMP) would be implemented to minimize waterborne sediment and other debris as discussed in Section 2.2.1. In addition, the large peat mat zone and remediation zone covering about 50% of Kawainui's wetland (northern half), would remain and mitigate waterborne sediment before discharging into Kawainui Canal as discussed in the DEIS. Therefore, these restoration activities should not have an adverse effect on the beach or nearshore reef areas.

a. *What's the expected lifetime of the silt-catching devices cited by the DEIS, their efficiency, and their expected replacement plan?*

Response: Silt catching devices used as part of BMPs during restoration activities are only for temporary use throughout the activity, and would be removed when such work is completed or replacement material is necessary. Silt fences for temporary sediment control typically lasts between 5 to 8 months that would be sufficient for restoration activities conducted in smaller areas (e.g. 5 acres or less) in phases over time. BMP measures also include an inspection and maintenance schedule that would determine if such controls need fixing or replacement. Such measures are efficient, meet design requirements, and are products commonly used with other construction activities.

b. *Also, with removal of the peat mat, will the current fresh water level in the marsh lower, so seawater can intrude over time? If so, please address the additional seawater intrusion from this effect that's expected from global warming.*

Response: Section 3.4.3 of the DEIS discusses how Kawainui Canal is tidally influenced below (makai) Kawainui's wetland, but is effectively blocked from intruding into the wetland by a weir of vegetation. Water in the wetland normally remains higher than high tide levels in the canal, maintaining a head against saltwater intrusion from the ocean. Removal of invasive wetland vegetation in the south section of Kawainui's large wetland would not lower water levels changing this condition. Wetland vegetation within the northern half of Kawainui would remain. Section 3.2.5 of the DEIS addresses potential effects from sea level rise, which would only affect Kawainui Stream along the makai side of the levee and near the Kawainui Canal connection with the Kawainui wetland. Wetland restoration activities would not change potential water levels in the canal or along the levee (Kawainui Stream) resulting from climate change.

4. *I also applaud the plan to replace invasive plants with natives. The five or so extra staff the DEIS proposes for this however, is woefully inadequate to maintain a large area replanted with natives. Planting natives is easy compared to keeping invasive weeds at bay! There should be more staff proposed than the five or so in the DEIS. Also, how do you realistically expect to create mudflats with all the invasive plants? It's impossible without a lot of effort. If you think weeding on dryland is hard, try weeding wetland! Creating mudflat habitat needs far more personnel to maintain and perhaps more thought than the DEIS currently gives it.*

Response: Section 2.2.1 of the DEIS explains that at least five full-time staff would be required allowing DOFAW to maintain about four acres a month. However, DOFAW's research and management station is programmed to accommodate up to 12 additional personnel, and the positions and assignments of other staff would be determined over time be need and priorities under their adaptive management approach. The State DLNR would like to add more staff, however, the agency is subject to available funding for staff positions appropriated from the Legislature amid a range of statewide priorities. Thus, DOFAW would continue to prioritize and phase implementation of restoration and maintenance of areas subject to available funding.

Seasonal mudflats would be created as part of wetland restoration efforts removing invasive vegetation as discussed in Section 2.2.1 of the DEIS. Wetland restoration plans would require a significant effort and funding as indicated in Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS. DOFAW currently uses a Marsh Master for maintenance activities which could be used to support restoration

activities as well. DOFAW has already completed smaller test areas utilizing this method, and staff have extensive experience and expertise managing wetlands islandwide and within the State. Such practices are already being implemented at Kawainui, and adaptive management and monitoring would be employed as discussed in the DEIS.

5. *The DEIS cites this project as benefiting the state by the tax revenues generated from excise, payroll, and other taxes. Since the project construction and maintenance depends wholly on state funds however, that arithmetic means this project can't actually provide cumulative positive cash flow for the state coffers as the DEIS implies.*

   Response: State funding for restoration and other improvements would support creating construction related jobs and wage income for those employed, which also generates some indirect benefits from wages spent on goods and services. Construction of cultural centers and other minor improvements funded by non-profit organizations would similarly generate some short-term economic and fiscal benefits to the State. However, the project is not intended to generate cumulative positive cash flow to the State. Wetland restoration and habitat enhancement are State-sponsored activities providing a public benefit (e.g. educational programs, cultural practices, wildlife) that private for-profit businesses don't. The DEIS notes that short-term tax revenue from construction activities would only have a minor beneficial effect on the State's fiscal condition.

6. *Finally, because of recent advances in pollen identification, I would like to suggest there be more extensive soil coring for pollen studies that document floristic changes with time over the whole project area.*

   Response: Future soil coring to support pollen identification could be considered in the future as part of research, educational programs, or grants received and conducted by schools, universities, or non-profit organizations in coordination with DOFAW. Such activities are examples of the types of educational programs that could occur at Kawainui.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

CAROLYNN
FERREIRA

1215 MANU ALOHA ST.
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734
808-387-4901
COOKIESGRACE@HAWAIIANTEL.NET

1/21/19

To whom this may concern,

I am a resident of the Kukanono subdivision since 1980. I, along with my Husband attended the informational meeting at Le Jardin Academy last Thursday evening. After coming home and thinking about what was shared, I feel that I would like to contribute my thoughts for your consideration.

Firstly, I live on Manu Aloha Street just a few doors away from the YMCA, Daybreak Church and Ulupo Heeiau. I appreciate the effort put forward by the YMCA and the Church in closing the access gate each night to keep unwanted visitors out. However, there are still "GHOST TOURS" accessing the Heeiau at night by parking their tour vans on the highway and walking their guests down the hill to Ulupo. In the meeting, it was mentioned that parking would be provided for 2 sites along Kapaa Quarry Rd. and 1 site across the street from Windward boats as there are already 8 stalls provided at Ulupo. When asked about overcrowding and tour bus parking, we were told that the parking would be limited to the number of stalls provided. I'm sorry, but this will not be the case. Take a look at the Makapuu Light house trail for instance. A large very nice parking lot was built, people park, when it's full they park all along the highway as they did prior to the parking lot was built. This will undoubtedly be the case at Kawainui. Speeding, traffic and on street parking is already an issue in our neighborhood. I am currently asking my neighbors to help in a request for traffic calming humps on our street due to speeding traffic.

I whole heartedly support the restoration of Kawainui, but wholeheartedly oppose building visitor centers, trails and viewing stations on the Kailua Rd. side of Kawainui.

The more you build, more will come. Kailua is already being overrun by tourist who by no fault of their own, jay walk, wait on their rented bikes in the street for traffic lights to turn in their favor. There are tourist women waiting at bus stops in Kailua at night in the dark. I find this totally irresponsible on the part of these tour companies that bring them to Kailua. It was mentioned that tour groups would only be allowed by permit, they will find a way around it as money is the driving force for them and there will not be enough funding to police this situation.

Although it is not in the plan, this facility will be exploited by tour companies. There is no way to police these areas at all times. It was said that gates will be closed at night. That will not deter illegal activity at night just as a gate doesn't close Ulupo to tour groups at night.

Our little town of Kailua is already growing too fast, please consider the longtime residents and how this project will impact us.

Warm regards,
CAROLYNN FERREIRA

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Carolynn Ferreira
1215 Manu Aloha Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Ferreira:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 21, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I am a resident of the Kukanono subdivision since 1980. I, along with my Husband attended the informational meeting at Le Jardin Academy last Thursday evening. After coming home and thinking about what was shared, I feel that I would like to contribute my thoughts for your consideration.*

   Response: Thank you for taking the time to attend the public informational meeting and sharing your comments.

2. *Firstly, I live on Manu Aloha Street just a few doors away from the YMCA, Daybreak Church and Ulupo Heeiau. I appreciate the effort put forward by the YMCA and the Church in closing the access gate each night to keep unwanted visitors out. However, there are still "GHOST TOURS" accessing the Heeiau at night by parking their tour vans on the highway and walking their guests down the hill to Ulupo.*

   Response: Ulupō Heiau is a unique situation because visitors to the heiau use the privately-owned YMCA property as access. The State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) continues to coordinate with the YMCA to address visitor access to Ulupō Heiau. The YMCA has taken measures to restrict access afterhours. DSP will address tour operators conducting "ghost tours" afterhours and parking along Kailua Road.

3. *In the meeting, it was mentioned that parking would be provided for 2 sites along Kapaa Quarry Rd. and 1 site across the street from Windward boats as there are already 8 stalls provided at Ulupo. When asked about overcrowding and tour bus parking, we were told that the parking would be limited to the number of stalls provided. I'm sorry, but this will not be the case. Take a look at the Makapuu Light house trail for instance. A large very nice parking*

lot was built, people park, when it's full they park all along the highway as they did prior to the parking lot was built. This will undoubtedly be the case at Kawainui.

Response: In general, monitoring and management measures proposed and discussed in the DEIS (Section 2.2.5) would address concerns with overcrowding and unauthorized use (commercial tours) of planned parking lots. The parking lot at the Wai'auia site would have a few stalls available for public use, intended for persons wanting to access the levee. Additional stalls would be for a non-profit organization operating a planned cultural center. Tour bus parking would not be allowed at this small parking lot, and its design concept physically prevents such buses from using it.

The primary parking lot planned along Kapa'a Quarry Road is to serve Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine and the education center at Pōhakea. It would be managed and monitored by the non-profit organization operating the center. The DEIS discusses several management practices proposed to address public access, which includes unauthorized activities: 1) phased approach to open areas to the public; 2) restricting access; and 3) increasing stewardship partnerships to help monitor areas. Additional State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers would need to be funded to support security and enforcement of areas opened for public access. DSP would also need funding support for additional operational staff to effectively manage increased public access. Without such support, implementation of certain improvements would be deferred.

The parking lot across from Le Jardin School managed by DOFAW would serve visitors to Kawainui accessing pedestrian and foot trails, and would function as a staging area for educational programs and management activities. The parking lot would be gated and open only during daylight hours as stated in the DEIS. Management practices previously discussed would similarly apply to DOFAW's management and enforcement of regulations at this parking lot.

The number of visitors projected for Kawainui would be considerably less than those visiting the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail because Kawainui provides a different experience as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Visitation to Kawainui can be characterized as being nature-based outdoor recreational activity for viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. In comparison, the Makapu'u trail is part of the larger Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline that offers outstanding views of O'ahu's southeastern coastline, ocean and neighbor island views, whale watching, sun-rise viewing, and access to ocean recreational sites (e.g. blowhole, tide pools) along the trail. This trail is identified as the second most popular of all the O'ahu hiking trails, next to the Diamond Head State Monument hike. Data on visitor participation shows that beach and shopping related activities are very high compared to wildlife and nature-based activities. In comparison, Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine is currently open to the public providing views of Kawainui and wildlife, but it has comparatively low visitation (250 persons a month).

DSP wanted to provide more on-site parking at the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail when improvements were initially proposed, but reduced the number of stalls based upon community input, resulting in the current condition you describe. It is unlikely a similar parking condition would occur along Kapa'a Quarry Road for Kawainui based upon the projected level of activity, type of resource attractions available, and visitor characteristics.

Nevertheless, the management measures discussed in the DEIS would allow for necessary monitoring and enforcement to address concerns.

4. *Speeding, traffic and on street parking is already an issue in our neighborhood. I am currently asking my neighbors to help in a request for traffic calming humps on our street due to speeding traffic.*

   Response: Speeding, traffic, and off-site parking issues within Kūkanono are primarily associated with visitation to the YMCA and church. YMCA activities tend to draw many members on a daily basis. The number of visitors to Ulupō Heiau are relatively low at about 450 persons a month (15 persons/day), which includes visitors participating in educational and cultural programs. The project proposes adding a nursery and a thatch hālau to support cultural programs and interpretive gatherings at Ulupō Heiau. These improvements are not expected to significantly change the level of visitation, but would support ongoing cultural landscape restoration activities. Therefore, concerns with traffic, speeding, and parking likely need to be more appropriately addressed with the YMCA and church.

5. *I whole heartedly support the restoration of Kawainui, but wholeheartedly oppose building visitor centers, trails and viewing stations on the Kailua Rd. side of Kawainui. The more you build, more will come. Kailua is already being overrun by tourist who by no fault of their own, jay walk, wait on their rented bikes in the street for traffic lights to turn in their favor. There are tourist women waiting at bus stops in Kailua at night in the dark. I find this totally irresponsible on the part of these tour companies that bring them to Kailua. It was mentioned that tour groups would only be allowed by permit, they will find a way around it as money is the driving force for them and there will not be enough funding to police this situation.*

   Response: The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua (wetland restoration and upland reforestation). It also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DOFAW and DSP, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Key elements of the project's purpose is thus to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, along with supporting a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to its significant cultural history, and educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities. The DEIS discusses project effects from visitors and measures proposed to manage increased public access, such as in Sections 2.2.5 and 4.2. Visitor centers are not proposed along the Kailua Road side of Kawainui.

   We understand your opposition to and concerns with visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns with changes that may attract more visitors. Your observations of visitor behavior in Kailua are noted, along with your perception regarding a tour company's contributions to such behavior. Commercial activities, such as paid visitor tours, are not permitted within Kawainui unless issued a permit by DSP or DOFAW. Such permits are not planned to be issued by DSP and DOFAW. However, tours occurring as part of authorized community service, educational and cultural programs, typically led by a non-profit organization in coordination with the state, would be permitted. Your concerns about tourism are noted. However, your characterization of all businesses serving the tourist industry may not be appropriate.

6. *Although it is not in the plan, this facility will be exploited by tour companies. There is no way to police these areas at all times. It was said that gates will be closed at night. That will not deter illegal activity at night just as a gate doesn't close Ulupo to tour groups at night. Our little town of Kailua is already growing too fast, please consider the longtime residents and how this project will impact us.*

   Response: DOFAW and DSP proposed measures in the DEIS to address tour companies unauthorized activities as part of increased management of the area (discussed previously in this letter). Ulupō Heiau is an issue that DSP continues to work on in coordination with the YMCA due to access through private property. Proposed improvements are intended to meet agency missions and the purpose and need for this project as discussed in the DEIS and prior responses. Project improvements also support ongoing and new stewardship activities and opportunities, and provide opportunities for the public to experience and learn about wetland areas by using pedestrian trails and observation areas. This is a State resource which needs to be evaluated in the best interest of the general public.

   Proposed improvements would be phased over time, are modest in scale given the extent of the area, are less intrusive than other developments, are planned to be environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices. Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements proposed in the DEIS have now been eliminated from this project. Such improvements include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. These revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A section from the FEIS that summarizes these changes is attached.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area
   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

To: Ronald Saito, HHF Planners

Marigold Zoll, DLNR

RE: Comments on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

From: Philip and Mollie Foti, 1343 Mokulua Drive, Kailua, HI 96734

We have followed this proposal since its inception, having attended many of the initial meetings at Le Jardin Academy.

Of this 3 part proposal, only part one has real merit. Yes, restore the wetlands, remove invasive vegetation, restore the waterflow and reforest the uplands. All are good and needed improvements.

Kailua has three great natural resources: the Koolaus as our mauka backdrop, beautiful Kailua Beach on the Makai edge and in between, the wide open expanse of Kawainui Marsh. If we allow a large human footprint such as suggested in parts two and three of this plan, it will change the marsh, compromise its integrity as a wetland.

Putting in parking lots all around the perimeter, constructing cement and glass buildings, board walks, pavilions, restrooms, interpretive signage—all add up to the marsh becoming a tourist attraction with a concomitant large human presence but a diminished wetland. We will be guilty of loving the marsh to death.

If you build all this and turn it into an attraction for tourists, it won't be long before some non-profit group will want to construct a zip line so visitors can view the marsh from the air. What a great idea! And right along with that will come other non-profits who will want to run guided kayak tours. Who really cares about the marsh? Let's make money.

And then there are the homeless. They already inhabit the marsh and we are sure they will welcome having restrooms and pavilions to inhabit and care for as they have cared for Kakaako Waterfront Park. There will be no stopping them.

Leave the marsh alone. Restore it and stop right there.

Thank you for your attention.

Mollie and Philip Foti

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

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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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Philip and Ms. Mollie Foti
1343 Mokulua Drive
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. and Ms. Foti:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter emailed on January 18, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *We have followed this proposal since its inception, having attended many of the initial meetings at Le Jardin Academy. Of this 3 part proposal, only part one has real merit. Yes, restore the wetlands, remove invasive vegetation, restore the waterflow and reforest the uplands. All are good and needed improvements.*

   Response: Thank you for taking the time to attend public informational meetings held on this project. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation are major components of this project, and many improvements proposed support this effort.

2. *Kailua has three great natural resources: the Koolaus as our mauka backdrop, beautiful Kailua Beach on the Makai edge and in between, the wide open expanse of Kawainui Marsh. If we allow a large human footprint such as suggested in parts two and three of this plan, it will change the marsh, compromise its integrity as a wetland.*

   Response: Kailua's resources were considered in the project and are addressed in respective sections of the DEIS. Proposed improvements will not create a large "human footprint" that would compromise the integrity of the wetland based upon the DEIS results. Section 2.2 discusses how improvements are sited within upland areas, and structures are located within previously disturbed sites (e.g. former ranch). Structures associated with the built environment total a little over one acre in size (about 48,300 sf) and would be dispersed in designated areas across about 70 acres of upland area.

   In comparison, the Kūkanono subdivision development adjacent to Kawainui's wetland has over 130 residential structures and about 460,000 square feet of building footprint, not to mention associated roads and driveways. The Kūkanono subdivision above Kawainui would

be considered far more intrusive on the environment and appropriately characterize as a "large" development. However, the DEIS shows that such large scale urban residential development along Kawainui has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality. Proposed improvements are far less intrusive, would be phased over time, planned to be more environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

The project includes such improvements to support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DOFAW and DSP, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Key elements of the project's purpose is thus to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, along with supporting a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to its significant cultural history, and educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities.

As discussed in Section 3.4.5, the wetlands are naturally functioning as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Information on wetlands discussed in Section 3.4.4 includes the history, former uses that contributed to present conditions, and current conditions from which project impacts have been addressed. Other sections (e.g. Section 2.1) provide additional details on wetland conditions, concluding that restoration improvements are needed. Overall, the project would have a positive beneficial effect on wetlands. Restoration activities would remove and control invasive vegetation and improve water flow.

The DEIS addresses the type of impacts the project would have on wetlands, and Section 3.4.4 specifically discusses wetlands and provides background information and existing conditions of Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands. The effect of proposed buildings parking lots, restrooms and other improvements within Kawainui have been addressed in the DEIS, and specific sections of the document cover various natural resources, human environment, and infrastructure and public facilities. The DEIS shows that these improvements would not have a significant adverse effect on wetlands. Proposed improvements would not create a human footprint large enough to compromise the integrity of the wetland.

3. *Putting in parking lots all around the perimeter, constructing cement and glass buildings, board walks, pavilions, restrooms, interpretive signage—all add up to the marsh becoming a tourist attraction with a concomitant large human presence but a diminished wetland. We will be guilty of loving the marsh to death.*

Response: There are only three new parking lots proposed that would be accessible to the general public. A parking lot at the Wai'auia site would have a few stalls available for public use intended for persons using the levee. The primary parking lot planned along Kapa'a Quarry Road is to serve Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine and the education center at Pōhakea. It would be managed and monitored by the non-profit organization operating the center. The third parking lot across from Le Jardin school managed by DOFAW, would serve visitors to Kawainui accessing pedestrian trails and foot trails, and function as a staging area for educational programs and management activities. Other proposed improvements are intended to support increased public access (education center, pavilion), provide basic necessities (e.g. bathrooms), support cultural practices (cultural centers), and support DOFAW management (research station improvements). These improvements are located

within upland areas outside of the wetland, and would not diminish or adversely impact the wetland.

We understand your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns about changes that may attract more visitors. However, Kawainui would not become a major tourist attraction to the extent you envision. As discussed in the DEIS, visitation to Kawainui can be characterized as being nature-based outdoor recreational activity for viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. Data on visitor participation shows that beach and shopping related activities are very high compared to wildlife and nature-based activities. In comparison, Ulupō Heiau and Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine are currently open to the public, but have relatively low visitation (250 to 450 persons a month). The projected human presence associated with the project would be reasonable and would not result in the death of the wetland.

4. *If you build all this and turn it into an attraction for tourists, it won't be long before some non-profit group will want to construct a zip line so visitors can view the marsh from the air. What a great idea! And right along with that will come other non-profits who will want to run guided kayak tours. Who really cares about the marsh? Let's make money.*

   Response: We do not concur with your perception of non-profit organizations that have or would be involved at Kawainui. Such non-profit organizations have contributed to the restoration of both wetland and upland areas, increased stewardship of this resource, and increased educational, community service, and cultural programs for the public. Such benefits and cooperation with the State DLNR would continue and be expanded with future non-profit organizations' involvement. The type of activities and visitation that would occur, which includes both residents and non-residents, were discussed in our prior responses. Such commercial activities suggested (kayak tours, zip line) are not permitted, and would not be allowed within the wetland under DOFAW's management. Your skepticism about tourism is noted. However, your comments characterizing the motives and objectives of non-profit organizations may not be appropriate.

5. *And then there are the homeless. They already inhabit the marsh and we are sure they will welcome having restrooms and pavilions to inhabit and care for as they have cared for Kakaako Waterfront Park. There will be no stopping them. Leave the marsh alone. Restore it and stop right there.*

   Response: DOFAW effectively removes homeless encampments within Kawainui, and appreciates support from the community to identify and notify them about such camps. Project improvements include efforts to create partnerships with non-profit organizations to increase stewardship opportunities of areas and help monitor activities. Parking areas, restrooms, and structures would not support establishment of homeless camps. The City's model airplane park (with a restroom) is a good example of this situation. Reducing secluded areas makes it less likely that homeless camps can be established because of increased visibility and public awareness.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Date: January 29 2018
To: HHF Planners, DLNR, and DOFAW
From: John Foti
Re: Comments to Kawainui-Hamakua master plan and EIS

Dear Sirs:
These is a lot to like about the Kawainui Marsh master plan. It appears that there is pretty much universal support for restoration and cultural practice.

However there are also a lot of questions that have not been adequately answered and there is widespread, legitimate concern that the plan has many features that are sure to be exploited in ways that are not good for the community or the marsh itself.
Here are some:

1. What is the criteria for the non-profits vying for permits for the various development sites? There should be no approval of this plan without clear criteria approved by the community.
2. At the public hearing on January 18, 2018, HHF stated that there would be no commercial activity allowed. What assurances/guarantees do we have that the criteria will never allow commercial activities on their sites? Who will be held accountable and how?
3. Who will monitor the non-profit operators to ensure that they are abiding by the terms of their permit, lease, license or other agreement? DOCARE? Will there be additional funding for this oversight?
4. What will be the penalty for abuse/breach of the agreements and what assurances/guarantees do we have that there will be swift and effective enforcement? And how will this enforcement be funded?
5. What assurances/guarantees do we have that tour buses and tour groups will never be allowed to use the marsh or its facilities?
6. How will the recreational and “sustainable tourism” uses be limited? HH&F planners and the EIS state that use can be controlled through the Education/visitors center, ignoring or downplaying the fact that the master plan clearly provides many un-monitored alternative access points to the trail system and recreation areas. The reality is there is no way of controlling/limiting use if there are multiple, unmonitored access points, as proposed. The EIS states that a lack of ability to control access will lead to marsh degradation and defeat the purpose of restoration. Yet the EIS dismisses Alternatives that eliminate the Education Center because they are counting on the Education Center as the means to control access to the marsh. The fact that there is no effective mechanism for controlling access renders one of the primary arguments for building the Education Center irrelevant and makes a strong case to eliminate the proposed trail system altogether. (Note: the EIS states that about 250 people per day are expected to visit Kawainui. The EIS authors are missing some important visitor

projection comparables and have ignored growth altogether. Example, it is a documented fact that the Kaiwa Ridge trail behind Lanikai receives approx. 900 visitors per day! How is it that Kawainui will only get 250/day and what it is the projected growth?).

7. How will the proposed Education Center's non-profit operator afford to build, maintain, staff and manage the facility? What incentive is there for a non-profit to do this, and, without a steady source of revenue, how can a non-profit sustain this? The 1994 plan states that the Hawaii Audubon Society, as one of the proposed non-profit operators 'desired to partner with...private sector funding to develop the center and educational and cultural programs...that would include classes, public lectures ***and tour orientation***.' Obviously there has been some evolution since 1994 but the Audubon's stated development and operations plan illustrates and answers the above questions: It implies the need for the facility to be self sustaining and it cannot sustain the operation without commercial activity (i.e tourism). Without it it will fall into a state of disrepair, and cannot be managed properly long term, with all that implies.
8. The same questions (and perhaps answers) as #7 above could be applied to the proposed Cultural Centers.
9. Why are there so many different cultural centers planned? How can there possibly be enough money to sustain so many and such large facilities without commercial activity (which we are told is prohibited) to survive and flourish?
10. Section 2.1.2 and the Alternatives section of the EIS state the goals of the Master Plan to include the NEED to increase public access/outdoor recreational use as DOFAW and DPS agency missions and "regulatory requirements". The EIS summarily dismisses all the Alternatives to the Master Plan for various reasons, including this need for increased public access. What regulation makes increased public access a requirement? Is it solely to comply with LCWF funding for the 173 acre acquisition? It is my understanding and it is virtually stated in Section 2.1.2.3 that the State is already in compliance given the existing Na Pohaku and Ulupo access points so there is no need to increase access from a regulatory standpoint. Who determined increased public access to be a DOFAW and DPS goal and why? Is this need for public access an arbitrary goal set by DOFAW and DPS? Clearly it is not a popular goal for the Kailua community.
11. How will the increased traffic be managed (especially adjacent to the residential areas impacted by the improvements[Ulupo])? Leaving it to the non-profits is asking for little or no management. This question was not unsatisfactorily answered at the public hearing or in EIS. IF you can figure out a way to limit the number of visitors to the 250/day, as outlined in the EIS, then maybe this is not such a big issue. If not, it will be a huge issue
12. Homeless: Leaving it to the non-profits is asking for no management. This question was not unsatisfactorily answered at the public hearing or EIS.

This plan is setting the stage for Kawainui to become, in large part, a visitor attraction. The community does not want Kawainui to become a visitor attraction and I don't think it is DOFAW's intent to do so either. However, by failing to adequately address so many potential problem areas, and include ironclad safeguards, only some of which are outlined here, the pressures of

exploitation will win out. We've seen it time and again. Kailua is already over run with visitors. All of Oahu and Hawaii as a whole is being overwhelmed by visitors. If this is not done right, Kawainui will be over run too.

If this plan is approved and implemented as outlined, it must include iron clad guarantees and safeguards that there will be limits on the number of visitors (250/day?) AND guarantees and safeguards that there will be NO commercial activity allowed, EVER. There needs to be laws with real enforcement mechanisms, not wishy washy resolutions or toothless promises.

Excuse us for not believing DOCARE, DLNR or any other government agency will actually enforce the law, as we know DOCARE, and the DLNR's resources are already stretched thin. If enforcement of TVR and B&B's are any indication (and they are!), we have NO CONFIDENCE that there will be any enforcement.

Accordingly, it would be completely irresponsible and negligent to over rule the greater community sentiment and approve this plan in its present form given it's glaring flaws and deficiencies.

Why can we not just approve one of the many Alternative options that allows the restoration work and one or two <u>private</u> cultural areas and do away with all the public access? Lets restore Kawainui and keep it wild!

Mahalo!

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. John Foti
1343 Mokulua Drive
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Foti:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter emailed on February 1, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project.

General Comment: These is a lot to like about the Kawainui Marsh master plan. It appears that there is pretty much universal support for restoration and cultural practice. However there are also a lot of questions that have not been adequately answered and there is widespread, legitimate concern that the plan has many features that are sure to be exploited in ways that are not good for the community or the marsh itself. Here are some:

Response: Wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and opportunities for cultural practices are major components of this project that have received overall support from the community. We recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua and associated commercial activities, and concerns with changes that may attract more visitors. There are community concerns with portions of the project, primarily related to increased public access, commercial visitors, and State management of the resource. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your numbered comments.

1. *What is the criteria for the non-profits vying for permits for the various development sites? There should be no approval of this plan without clear criteria approved by the community.*

   Response: Selection of non-profit organizations for proposed cultural centers and the operation and possible construction of the education center would be conducted using a State procurement process, such as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), Request for Proposals (RFP), etc. that would result in selection by the State and initiation of leases or other appropriate dispositions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The criteria for RFQs or RFPs would be developed by DOFAW or DSP when ready to implement such improvements. Approval of selection criteria by the community is not required nor appropriate with the State's procurement process in place.

2. *At the public hearing on January 18, 2018, HHF stated that there would be no commercial activity allowed. What assurances/guarantees do we have that the criteria will never allow commercial activities on their sites? Who will be held accountable and how?*

   Response: To clarify, the January 18, 2018 meeting was not a public hearing. It was a public informational meeting to inform the public about the project and clarify information. A distinction should be clarified between privately-operated, for-profit, commercial tours (e.g. Roberts Hawai'i Tours) versus activities conducted by non-profit organizations. As discussed in Section 1.5.2 of the DEIS, DOFAW is currently allowed to permit up to 100 "commercial" visitors a day within the wildlife sanctuary, such as for-profit commercial tours. DOFAW does not intend to permit privately-operated commercial tours within the wildlife sanctuary. However, activities at the cultural centers may require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) that would also be considered a type of "commercial" activity. DOFAW can permit up to 100 persons a day for this type of non-profit organization activity associated with programs under the cultural centers.

   Similarly, DSP does not intend to issue permits for privately-operated commercial tours to Kawainui. However, operation of an educational center by DSP or a non-profit organization would require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue would also be a type of commercial activity, but is a reasonable condition to support the non-profit's operation of the center. Any excess revenues could be used to further fund Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities.

   Lease agreements developed by the State DLNR would include necessary restrictions prohibiting unauthorized commercial activities. The non-profit organization lessee would be accountable for their use of the site and activities, and DOFAW and DSP would be responsible for managing these non-profit organizations. Typical lease conditions would ensure organizations are accountable, and include providing annual reports and allowing site inspections by the State.

3. *Who will monitor the non-profit operators to ensure that they are abiding by the terms of their permit, lease, license or other agreement? DOCARE? Will there be additional funding for this oversight?*

   Response: We recognize your skepticism about the State's ability to manage and monitor activities by non-profit organizations at Kawainui. We do not agree with your perception about non-profit organizations that have or would be involved at Kawainui. Non-profit organizations at Kawainui have been exceptional partners contributing to the restoration of wetland and upland areas, increased stewardship of this resource, and increased educational, community service, and cultural programs for the public. Such benefits and cooperation with the State would continue and would be expanded with future non-profit organizations' involvement on this project.

   The State DSP or DOFAW would monitor non-profit organizations, which includes periodic site inspections and other coordination efforts (e.g. stewardship of areas, educational and cultural programs) to ensure compliance with permits or other agreements. The State DLNR, DOCARE would not be required to assist in monitoring and managing permit requirements because they are involved in enforcement of regulations more pertinent to health and safety

issues. As discussed in Chapter 2.2.5 of the DEIS, DSP would require additional staffing with funding support to manage activities from the education center and increased public access. Additional DOFAW staff for management of cultural centers within their jurisdictional areas are not required at this time.

4. *What will be the penalty for abuse/breach of the agreements and what assurances/guarantees do we have that there will be swift and effective enforcement? And how will this enforcement be funded?*

Response: Penalties for breach of conditions could include termination of leases, permits or agreements. Such penalties are included in lease or permit conditions. DOFAW and DSP would work with non-profit organizations to bring issues or activities into compliance within a reasonable time period, as they would treat any other lessee in the State. However, enforcement and penalties would follow if continued non-compliance occurs by non-profit organizations. No additional funding would be required for such enforcement actions.

5. *What assurances/guarantees do we have that tour buses and tour groups will never be allowed to use the marsh or its facilities?*

Response: The State cannot guarantee that unauthorized privately-operated commercial tour buses or tour groups would not visit Kawainui or facilities since the State cannot physically control actions taken by others, just as criminal activities cannot be totally prevented. However, there are regulations in place to allow management and enforcement, if needed, for unauthorized activities or actions. Other management activities are discussed in Chapter 2.2.5 of the DEIS to address unauthorized activities. Monitoring of activities in the area is important. Increasing stewardship opportunities for non-profit organizations supports monitoring such efforts, as discussed in Section 2.2.5. Increasing partnerships with non-profit organizations serves as an "extension" of DOFAW and DSP staff by keeping "eyes on" the area. Input received by DOFAW and DSP from these organizations also helps to evaluate activities, potential impacts, and subsequent management decisions for the area.

6a. *How will the recreational and "sustainable tourism" uses be limited?*

Response: We understand your general opposition to visitors to Kailua, desire to restrict public access to this resource, and corresponding concerns about changes that may attract more visitors. We do not expect Kawainui would become a major sustainable tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. The project includes such improvements to support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DOFAW and DSP, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Key elements of the project's purpose is thus to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, along with supporting a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to its significant cultural history, and educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities. The projected level of visitors discussed in Section 2.2 are reasonable and manageable. Therefore, the objective is not to limit visitors, which includes residents as well as non-residents, to a specific "number" that you may prefer. This is a State resource that needs to be evaluated in the best interest of the broader general public. As discussed in the DEIS, DOFAW and DSP management would include monitoring activity levels, opening areas to public access when they are able to manage them, and making changes to access and activities, if appropriate.

6b. *HH&F planners and the EIS state that use can be controlled through the Education/visitors center, ignoring or downplaying the fact that the master plan clearly provides many un-monitored alternative access points to the trail system and recreation areas. The reality is there is no way of controlling/limiting use if there are multiple, unmonitored access points, as proposed.*

Response: A non-profit organization operating the proposed education center would support management of the area from Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine because the center would serve as the main entry for visitors. The only other area now proposed for passive outdoor recreation (trails) is from Ulupō Heiau to DOFAW's research and management station. Improvements to other areas of Kawainui are intended to direct and manage access points to trails. Again, the purpose is to manage activities allowing for reasonable use rather than limiting visitors to a specified number.

Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements proposed in the DEIS have been removed from project plans. These improvements include sections of the pedestrian trail (Mokulana and Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau) and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. In addition, only schools will be permitted to launch canoes from the Kalāheo site. These revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A section from the FEIS that summarizes these changes is attached.

6c. *The EIS states that a lack of ability to control access will lead to marsh degradation and defeat the purpose of restoration. Yet the EIS dismisses Alternatives that eliminate the Education Center because they are counting on the Education Center as the means to control access to the marsh. The fact that there is no effective mechanism for controlling access renders one of the primary arguments for building the Education Center irrelevant and makes a strong case to eliminate the proposed trail system altogether.*

Response: The inability to control access would not automatically adversely impact the wetland or defeat the purpose for wetland restoration. Impacts on upland areas, where visitors would be allowed, would be dependent upon the level and type of activities occurring. The projected activity levels are reasonable, management activities are proposed, and are not expected to result in adverse effects on restoration efforts based upon the DEIS results. The education center would support managing public access within the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku section, where the main visitor experience is planned. If an education center is not immediately implemented, some public access would still be provided via interim improvements to accommodate needed on-site parking and basic amenities (e.g. restrooms). Thus, not having a "gate" to control every access point into Kawainui does not invalidate the need to provide reasonable public access. As previously discussed, the intent is to manage activity levels by measures discussed in the DEIS as opposed to "controlling" and restricting all access points. Further, the public is entitled to reasonable public access and outdoor recreational opportunities as mandated by federal regulations and agency missions, and would support beneficial educational programs and cultural activities.

6d. *(Note: the EIS states that about 250 people per day are expected to visit Kawainui. The EIS authors are missing some important visitor projection comparables and have ignored growth altogether. Example, it is a documented fact that the Kaiwa Ridge trail behind Lanikai*

receives approx. 900 visitors per day! How is it that Kawainui will only get 250/day and what it is the projected growth?).

Response: The projected visitor levels are reasonable and have considered several factors as discussed in the DEIS. Visitation to Kawainui can be characterized as being nature-based outdoor recreational activity for leisurely walking, viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. In comparison, the Kaiwa Ridge (PillBox) trail is a hiking trail offering visitors a different experience. Visitors hike that trail to enjoy the expansive picturesque view of the coastline and of Lanikai, Kailua, and the Mokulua Islands. Similarly, the Makapu'u trail is part of the larger Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline that offers outstanding views of O'ahu's southeastern coastline, ocean and neighbor island views, whale watching, sun-rise viewing, and access to ocean recreational sites (e.g. blowhole, tide pools) along the trail. This trail is identified as the second most popular of all the O'ahu hiking trails, next to the Diamond Head State Monument hike.

In contrast, the Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge is a national wildlife (wetland) refuge similar to Kawainui and has a large modern visitor center. It receives about 100 visitors a day. Ulupō Heiau and Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine are already open to the public with foot trails and offer views of Kawainui's wetland and birds, but have relatively low visitation numbers (10 to 15 persons a day). Therefore, the 250 visitors a day projected for Kawainui is reasonable and reflects a build-out level within the 20-year study period since visitation would start low and gradually increase over time as improvements are phased in.

7. *How will the proposed Education Center's non-profit operator afford to build, maintain, staff and manage the facility? What incentive is there for a non-profit to do this, and, without a steady source of revenue, how can a non-profit sustain this? The 1994 plan states that the Hawaii Audubon Society, as one of the proposed non-profit operators 'desired to partner with...private sector funding to develop the center and educational and cultural programs...that would include classes, public lectures and tour orientation.' Obviously there has been some evolution since 1994 but the Audubon's stated development and operations plan illustrates and answers the above questions: It implies the need for the facility to be self sustaining and it cannot sustain the operation without commercial activity (i.e tourism). Without it it will fall into a state of disrepair, and cannot be managed properly long term, with all that implies.*

Response: The non-profit organization that would be selected to operate and maintain the education center would need to demonstrate financial capability in order to be selected to operate the center. This is similar to the Hawai'i Nature Center operating at Makiki. DSP may decide to construct the education center if non-profit organizations are not able to fund construction. Any incentive for a non-profit organization to pursue operating the education center would be based upon their own organization mission, structure, etc. As discussed under response No. 2, it is reasonable that a non-profit organization would likely require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to help sustain the center's operation and maintenance.

The Hawai'i Audubon Society's stated objectives for operating a visitor center at Kawainui in 1994 have likely changed. A non-profit organization hoping to operate the center today would have their own plans and operational program. A non-profit organization could also

obtain privately or publically funded grants to support their efforts. However, tour orientations operated by a non-profit organization managing the education center would be appropriate, and could support their operations. Tours within this framework would be beneficial, supporting management of visitor activities, increasing educational programs, and reducing potential impacts.

Your opposition to visitors and concerns with commercial activity related to tourism are noted. However, the State is trying to manage and address community concerns with privately-owned companies conducting unauthorized commercial tours and profiting from bringing visitors to Kawainui. Visitors driving to the site to view and learn about Kawainui supports public access and outdoor recreation. Visitors participating in tours conducted by a non-profit organization operating the visitor center supports the desired managed public access. As already discussed, such revenue generated would support the non-profit's operations and maintenance of the center, and any excess revenues could be used to fund further Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities.

8. *The same questions (and perhaps answers) as #7 above could be applied to the proposed Cultural Centers.*

   Response: The proposed cultural centers would also be constructed and operated by non-profit organizations to conduct cultural practices, educational programs, and support stewardship of their areas as discussed in the DEIS. As responded to your comment No. 2, activities at cultural centers may require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes). However, these centers would not be subject to issues you cite associated with commercial tourism and privately-operated commercial activities that attract visitors.

9. *Why are there so many different cultural centers planned? How can there possibly be enough money to sustain so many and such large facilities without commercial activity (which we are told is prohibited) to survive and flourish?*

   Response: Areas designated for cultural centers were based upon community input, particularly from native Hawaiian organizations which expressed a desire to establish such a presence. Each cultural center has a different focus as discussed in the DEIS. The kauhale proposed at Pōhakea would be tied to the education center allowing for cultural programs and activities to expand experiences and education for visitors to the center. The hale wa'a planned at the Kalāheo site has been removed, which eliminates cultural programs related to the sport of canoeing initially proposed. Restrictions allowing only school use of this site for canoe launching would further reduce activities.

   Non-profit organizations that build and operate these cultural centers would be responsible for the financial feasibility of their activities. Such organizations could utilize grants or other funding mechanisms, and responses Nos. 2 and 8 already addressed their ability to charge fees to support their operations.

10. *Section 2.1.2 and the Alternatives section of the EIS state the goals of the Master Plan to include the NEED to increase public access/outdoor recreational use as DOFAW and DPS agency missions and "regulatory requirements". The EIS summarily dismisses all the Alternatives to the Master Plan for various reasons, including this need for increased public access. What regulation makes increased public access a requirement? Is it solely to comply*

with LCWF funding for the 173 acre acquisition? It is my understanding and it is virtually stated in Section 2.1.2.3 that the State is already in compliance given the existing Na Pohaku and Ulupo access points so there is no need to increase access from a regulatory standpoint. Who determined increased public access to be a DOFAW and DPS goal and why? Is this need for public access an arbitrary goal set by DOFAW and DPS? Clearly it is not a popular goal for the Kailua community.

Response: Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act is the federal requirement for increasing public access and outdoor recreation within large areas of Kawainui, and is discussed in Section 6.2.1. To clarify, Section 2.1.2.3 of the DEIS does state that public access and limited passive outdoor recreation are currently provided at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine and at Ulupō Heiau. However, what is currently provided does not sufficiently meet these federal requirements. Therefore, DSP has determined through consultation with the federal regulatory agency that increasing managed public access and providing outdoor recreational activities within Kawainui is needed to more fully comply with these requirements. This requirement for improved public access is not an arbitrary goal set by DSP, regardless if not popular with some segments of Kailua's community. The State needs to consider the broader public interest because Kawainui is a State resource for the benefit of all. Providing public access and outdoor recreation are part of State DOFAW and DSP agency mission objectives. Agency actions and programs must support their missions. For example, DOFAW has the Nā Ala Hele program that supports and manages trails and recreational activities.

Alternative plans such as "The Community Plan" supported by the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) and an alternative plan proposed by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle were considered and addressed in Section 2.3. Certain recommendations from those plans were generally consistent with the proposed project, specifically related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preservation of historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, other suggestions do not practicably support important components of the purpose and need for the project, the State's mission, the need to provide reasonable public access for all, nor do they support Ramsar objectives. There were significant differences related to interpretive facilities, support features, and not supporting establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui that allows for cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship. There is basically no accommodation made for reasonable public access under those alternative plans. Unfortunately, it is clear the main objective of these alternative plans are to prohibit or restrict public access and visitors to Kawainui. Furthermore, the results of the DEIS show that the proposed project would not have significant adverse impacts on the environment, and several management measures were identified to address concerns with public access and visitors along with other best management practices to minimize impacts.

11. *How will the increased traffic be managed (especially adjacent to the residential areas impacted by the improvements[Ulupo])? Leaving it to the non-profits is asking for little or no management. This question was not unsatisfactorily answered at the public hearing or in EIS. IF you can figure out a way to limit the number of visitors to the 250/day, as outlined in the EIS, then maybe this is not such a big issue. If not, it will be a huge issue*

Response: The DEIS addresses traffic impacts in Section 5.6. Most traffic generated by project improvements would occur outside of the weekday commuter peak hour. Only a

nursery and hālau to support ongoing cultural programs and interpretive gatherings at Ulupō Heiau are proposed under this project. These improvements would not change the level of visitation and traffic, but would support ongoing cultural landscape restoration activities.

As already discussed under response No. 2, there was only a public informational meeting, and this response should address your question. We do not agree with your perception of non-profit organization's management abilities. Non-profit organizations involved at Kawainui have made significant contributions and have been excellent partners with the State. The DEIS adequately discusses the experiences of DOFAW and DSP with such organizations. The projected level of visitors to that site is reasonable and manageable, and the DEIS results show there would not be a significant or adverse effect on the environment from proposed improvements and activities. There is no reasonable justification to limit or restrict the number of visitors to 250 a day at Ulupō Heiau. If more students from schools want to visit the site (visitors) and participate in educational or cultural programs, that would be a beneficial effect. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented to evaluate conditions.

12. *Homeless: Leaving it to the non-profits is asking for no management. This question was not unsatisfactorily answered at the public hearing or EIS.*

Response: We do not agree with your perception of non-profit organization's management abilities. The DEIS adequately addresses homeless concerns. DOFAW effectively removes homeless encampments within Kawainui, and appreciates support from the community to identify and notify them about such camps and issues. Project improvements include efforts to create partnerships with non-profit organizations to increase stewardship opportunities of areas and help monitor activities. With daily activities occurring, parking areas, restrooms, and structures would not support establishment of homeless camps. The City's model airplane park (with restroom) is a good example of this philosophy. Reducing secluded areas makes it less likely that homeless camps can be established because of increased visibility and public awareness.

13. *This plan is setting the stage for Kawainui to become, in large part, a visitor attraction. The community does not want Kawainui to become a visitor attraction and I don't think it is DOFAW's intent to do so either. However, by failing to adequately address so many potential problem areas, and include ironclad safeguards, only some of which are outlined here, the pressures of exploitation will win out. We've seen it time and again. Kailua is already over run with visitors. All of Oahu and Hawaii as a whole is being overwhelmed by visitors. If this is not done right, Kawainui will be over run too.*

Response: Your concerns and opposition toward visitors is acknowledged. However, it is unlikely Kawainui would become the type of visitor "attraction" you envision. As discussed in the DEIS, several measures are proposed to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. However, Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. The State needs to consider the broader public interest.

We disagree that the DEIS fails to adequately address problem areas and concerns. As discussed, mitigative measures and proposed management actions would be sufficient to monitor and manage public access and activities. We do not agree with your skepticism

regarding the capabilities of non-profit organizations, especially because the State has enjoyed significant success working with these organizations currently at Kawainui. Tourism is an important contributor to the island's economy and the welfare of many residents. However, the State understands your concerns with visitors and believes the project would provide a managed solution that would be phased in over time. Section 4.2 addresses community concerns with tourism and identifies various factors that contribute to Kailua's popularity, many of which are not present at Kawainui (e.g. renowned beaches, shopping centers).

14. *If this plan is approved and implemented as outlined, it must include iron clad guarantees and safeguards that there will be limits on the number of visitors (250/day?) AND guarantees and safeguards that there will be NO commercial activity allowed, EVER. There needs to be laws with real enforcement mechanisms, not wishy washy resolutions or toothless promises.*

    Response: As already discussed, guarantees limiting visitors to a specific number is not necessary or warranted. The project projects a reasonable number of visitors, and actions would be taken to address public access and activities if necessary. The project includes practical and feasible solutions to address your concerns, and enforcement would be taken if warranted.

15. *Excuse us for not believing DOCARE, DLNR or any other government agency will actually enforce the law, as we know DOCARE, and the DLNR's resources are already stretched thin. If enforcement of TVR and B&B's are any indication (and they are!), we have NO CONFIDENCE that there will be any enforcement.*

    Response: DOFAW and DSP plan to manage this resource and initiate enforcement if warranted. Public access and visitors are important concerns for the Kailua community. As discussed, areas would be open to public access when DOFAW and DSP are able to manage them, which includes receiving funding for additional staff. It should be clarified that regulation and enforcement of bed and breakfasts and transient vacation rentals are a City function and issue, and not the State DLNR.

16. *Accordingly, it would be completely irresponsible and negligent to over rule the greater community sentiment and approve this plan in its present form given it's glaring flaws and deficiencies.*

    Response: We disagree that the greater community shares your perspectives, as there are many organizations and community members that support the project and plans. The State needs to consider the broader public interest because this is a State resource for the benefit of all. We also disagree with your opinion on the plan having glaring flaws and deficiencies. The DEIS includes significant project detail and addresses identified concerns.

17. *Why can we not just approve one of the many Alternative options that allows the restoration work and one or two private cultural areas and do away with all the public access? Lets restore Kawainui and keep it wild!*

    The other alternatives considered were eliminated for various reasons, and are discussed in the DEIS in Section 2.3 and in response No. 10. The proposed cultural centers are reasonable and have considerable community support. The hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site has been removed. Canoe launching will be restricted to only schools. Restoration efforts would

continue at Kawainui and Hāmākua. However, keeping the resource "wild" does not entail prohibiting the public from its enjoyment.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area
   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

Ronald Sato

From: timothy ghormley <sendme73@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 9:25 AM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Stop Kailua development

Planners,

As a property owner in Kailua, specifically an owner of a property that borders the Kaiwainui marsh, I am staunchly opposed to any development of our wetlands. The fragile ecosystem of that marsh has been pushed to the brink of destruction, and to develop it further would not only finish that destruction, but would communicate to all of Hawaii that the state's natural environment is meaningless. In addition to the environmental devastation, the impact on the human residents would be severe. Traffic in and around this once pleasant town has already become troublesome. With the increase in visitors it will be unbearable. The second and third order impacts also include increased stress to beach and reef systems, the mokes, and roads. While there may be increased revenue, the cost to maintain roads, sidewalks, landfills, utilities, and other public space, and to attempt to mitigate the environmental impact, will heavily tax residents. The revenue may not even cover these costs. Furthermore the revenue will in no way benefit the residents of Kailua. Please reconsider this decision.

Sent from my iPhone

This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content using Worry-Free Mail Security and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Timothy Ghormley

Via Email: sendme73@icloud.com

Dear Mr. Ghormley:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email on February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *As a property owner in Kailua, specifically an owner of a property that borders the Kaiwainui marsh, I am staunchly opposed to any development of our wetlands. The fragile ecosystem of that marsh has been pushed to the brink of destruction, and to develop it further would not only finish that destruction, but would communicate to all of Hawaii that the state's natural environment is meaningless.*

   Response: We acknowledge your opposition to this project. It should be clarified that no development would occur within the wetlands. Only wetland restoration activities would occur within wetlands, which encompass the vast majority of the project area as discussed in the DEIS.

   It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat; rather, it is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. Kawainui's resources are important, and the project includes improvements which support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Project improvements encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in respective sections of the DEIS. Such improvements would not result in the destruction of the wetland.

The DEIS shows that existing large scale urban residential development bordering Kawainui (e.g. Kūkanono subdivision) has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality. For example, the Kūkanono subdivision development adjacent to Kawainui's wetland has over 130 residential structures and about 460,000 square feet of building footprint, not to mention associated roads and driveways. The Kūkanono subdivision above Kawainui would be considered far more intrusive on the environment and appropriately characterize as a "large" development. However, the DEIS shows that such large scale urban residential development along Kawainui has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality. Proposed improvements are far less intrusive, would be phased over time, planned to be more environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

2. *In addition to the environmental devastation, the impact on the human residents would be severe. Traffic in and around this once pleasant town has already become troublesome. With the increase in visitors it will be unbearable. The second and third order impacts also include increased stress to beach and reef systems, the mokes, and roads.*

   Response: As discussed in various sections of the DEIS, the project would not adversely impact residents nor result in environmental devastation. Section 4.2 discusses the effects on the community and addresses several community issues. The DEIS addresses traffic impacts in Section 5.6. Most traffic generated by project improvements would occur outside of the weekday commuter peak hour. Much of the traffic in Kailua has been generated by residential development over the decades and commercial improvements. The projected visitor levels to Kawainui (about 250 visitor a day) are reasonable, would not be unbearable, and should not adversely impact the environment as discussed in various sections of the DEIS. Chapter 3 includes several sections that address the project's effect on surface waters, water quality, and aquatic biota.

3. *While there may be increased revenue, the cost to maintain roads, sidewalks, landfills, utilities, and other public space, and to attempt to mitigate the environmental impact, will heavily tax residents. The revenue may not even cover these costs. Furthermore the revenue will in no way benefit the residents of Kailua. Please reconsider this decision.*

   Response: Project improvements would have negligible, if any, effect on resident taxes as discussed in Section 4.2 of the DEIS. City revenue is predominantly obtained through property tax and other fees that would not be changed from the project. State revenue is mainly obtained through general excise taxes, along with fees, etc. for which the project would have minimal effect. Thus, maintenance costs for City infrastructure (roadways, sidewalks), utilities, etc. along with State facilities would not be overly burdened by the project resulting in the need to heavily burden residents with more taxes.

   Revenue generated by non-profit organizations from the project would be used to support operations and maintenance of their facilities. The proposed cultural centers would be constructed and funded by selected non-profit organizations. Revenue generated by non-profit organizations would support educational and cultural programs and activities that would benefit the greater public. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public, and the State needs to consider the broader public interest when managing this resource.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Taylor Gray <taylorwg@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 6:35 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony concerning Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Sato and Ms. Zoll,

I am writing to oppose the current development plan for Kawainui Marsh. I was born and raised in Kailua and I am deeply saddened by the recent exploitation Kailua and its residents are forced to endure. Kailua is no longer a town for its residents. The town has been undergoing a transformation to accommodate tourists instead of the residents it calls home. The family owned businesses are being removed so that stores like Target and Harley Davidson can peddle their products to the tourists that flock to Kailua in record numbers. We should be focusing on finding a balance between tourism and the residents that share their town with them. By developing the marsh, Kailua would become more overrun and lose one of its most wonderful trademarks. Leave nature alone. There are enough tourist attractions in Kailua without having this damaging attraction inside the marsh.

Thank you,
Taylor Gray, Esq.
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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ROBERT K. MASUDA
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M. KALEO MANUEL
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Taylor Gray

Via Email: taylorwg@hawaii.edu

Dear Mr. Gray:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email on February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I am writing to oppose the current development plan for Kawainui Marsh. I was born and raised in Kailua and I am deeply saddened by the recent exploitation Kailua and its residents are forced to endure. Kailua is no longer a town for its residents.*
   Response: We note your opposition to this project. However, we do not agree with your characterization of Kailua being exploited, and its residents having to endure the proposed project as being an appropriate characterization given the results of the DEIS. Changes to Kailua's demographics and character over the decades are attributable to many factors, such as residential development, migration of new residents, and commercial improvements. Communities are interconnected, many services and resources serve the broader public interest, and businesses are dependent upon the general public.

2. *The town has been undergoing a transformation to accommodate tourists instead of the residents it calls home. The family owned businesses are being removed so that stores like Target and Harley Davidson can peddle their products to the tourists that flock to Kailua in record numbers. We should be focusing on finding a balance between tourism and the residents that share their town with them.*
   Response: Changes to Kailua's businesses and the growth of tourism are discussed in Section 4.2 of the DEIS. While several businesses support visitors, they also support and depend upon residents from Kailua and the rest of the island. Thus, characterizing the town's change to only serve tourists instead of residents would not be accurate. Stores in Kailua had difficulty staying in business before. The Target store is visited by tourists, but the vast

majority of shoppers are residents, and the Don Quijote store, previously at the site, was not a small family business. Finding a balance between tourism and residents is important. The proposed project is sensitive to this notion, by sizing in improvements appropriately proposed and suggesting reasonable management practices.

3. *By developing the marsh, Kailua would become more overrun and lose one of its most wonderful trademarks. Leave nature alone. There are enough tourist attractions in Kailua without having this damaging attraction inside the marsh.*
Response: It should be clarified that no development would occur within the wetlands. Only wetland restoration activities would occur within wetlands, which encompass the vast majority of the project area as discussed in the DEIS. It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat; rather it is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. Kawainui's resources are important, and the project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

   We recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to changes that may attract more visitors. However, it is unlikely that Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access. Kawainui is a state resource that should be shared with the public, and the State needs to consider the broader public interest when undertaking projects of this nature.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Les Haldane <leshaldane@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 6:57 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Project Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Sato,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the subject draft EIS.

As a resident of Kailua, I am generally in favor of measured, sustainable restoration and development of the proposed master project plan.

In particular, as an avid outdoors person I support the additional recreational opportunity that might draw people away from their smart phones and television sets. It provides exposure to exercise, fresh air, and the natural beauty of Hawaii's flora and fauna. I have enjoyed the opportunity to experience several such natural sites around the world, including some beautiful marshes.

I use my bicycle as a primary mode of transportation. While I am disappointed that the plan does not allow for bicycle use along the trails, I only hope that provision is made for for safe bicycle access to the trail heads, as well as secure parking while the users walk the trails.

Recreational opportunities aside, it is imperative that the marsh and the upstream areas be restored to their natural function as a collection area and filter for drainage on this area of Oahu. The marsh is choked with vegetation which impedes wildlife habitation and natural drainage. Runoff from the upstream areas needs to be controlled to allow the marsh to do its job. If nothing else is done, this should be the priority and maybe this part of the project should be split from the rest.

Most of the opposition to the plan that I hear about is centered around tourists, traffic and security issues. While all of these concerns need to be addressed, it would be helpful to know how much of the 986 acre project area will be directly impacted by new development. Is it 10 acres or 100 acres? How much each would devoted to restoration, maintenance, recreation, education and cultural?

Another helpful bit of information would be a high level milestone schedule showing activities for the various phases of the project such as permitting, restoration, requests for proposals and construction. This ambitious plan is very broad and has many moving parts. People need to have an understanding of the process and timing.

Regards,
Les Haldane

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Les Haldane

Via Email: leshaldane@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Haldane:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email on February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *As a resident of Kailua, I am generally in favor of measured, sustainable restoration and development of the proposed master project plan. In particular, as an avid outdoors person I support the additional recreational opportunity that might draw people away from their smart phones and television sets. It provides exposure to exercise, fresh air, and the natural beauty of Hawaii's flora and fauna. I have enjoyed the opportunity to experience several such natural sites around the world, including some beautiful marshes.*
   Response: We acknowledge your general support for the project, and agree with the importance of wetland and upland restoration efforts. Thank you for your support of passive outdoor recreational opportunities proposed by the project, and agree such activities provide healthy alternatives for individuals. Enjoying the natural beauty of the wetland, flora, and fauna are also important benefits.

2. *I use my bicycle as a primary mode of transportation. While I am disappointed that the plan does not allow for bicycle use along the trails, I only hope that provision is made for for safe bicycle access to the trail heads, as well as secure parking while the users walk the trails.*
   Response: Unfortunately, pedestrian trails and foot trails would be designed to accommodate pedestrian use due to different design standards and level of improvements needed to ensure safety and separation for multiple users. The levee will continue to accommodate bicyclists. Provisions can be made to provide secure bicycle parking (e.g. bike racks) at parking lots. Such improvements would be developed during the design phase of improvements implemented. The parking lot at the education center is one site in particular where this

improvement would be developed during the improvement's design phase. Another site would be the recreational area near DOFAW's research and management station.

3. *Recreational opportunities aside, it is imperative that the marsh and the upstream areas be restored to their natural function as a collection area and filter for drainage on this area of Oahu. The marsh is choked with vegetation which impedes wildlife habitation and natural drainage. Runoff from the upstream areas needs to be controlled to allow the marsh to do its job. If nothing else is done, this should be the priority and maybe this part of the project should be split from the rest.*
Response: Wetland restoration would occur at Kawainui and continue at Hāmākua as discussed in the DEIS. Drainage improvements are planned within upland areas of the Kawainui-Hāmākua project site. Such improvements include drainage culvert repairs, adding causeways, and other improvements to mitigate existing runoff entering wetlands from upland areas. Unfortunately, improvements to upstream areas outside of the project site is not proposed. Such areas are privately-owned, and the State has no authority or jurisdiction to propose improvements on other private property.

   We agree that the Kawainui wetland needs restoration to remove invasive vegetation. Proposed improvements would address this need. Fortunately, the results of a water quality study included in the DEIS shows that the wetland has been functioning to filter pollutants and retain sediment. Project improvements would support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. However, other improvements supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices, public access, and outdoor recreational opportunities are equally important.

4. *Most of the opposition to the plan that I hear about is centered around tourists, traffic and security issues. While all of these concerns need to be addressed, it would be helpful to know how much of the 986 acre project area will be directly impacted by new development. Is it 10 acres or 100 acres? How much each would devoted to restoration, maintenance, recreation, education and cultural?*
Response: The greatest concern with the project does focus around visitors and visitor-related effects. The total floor area proposed for structures would total a little over one acre in size (about 48,000 sf). Improvements would occur within upland areas supporting a combination of outdoor recreation, cultural, education, and other program areas. The areas where activities occur total about 70 acres, with most of the area remaining being open for pedestrian and foot trails. Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine encompasses over 11 acres; DOFAW's research and management station encompasses 14 acres; and Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park is over 9 acres in size.

5. *Another helpful bit of information would be a high level milestone schedule showing activities for the various phases of the project such as permitting, restoration, requests for proposals and construction. This ambitious plan is very broad and has many moving parts. People need to have an understanding of the process and timing.*
Response: Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS includes information about project phasing for the improvements projected to occur over a 20-year timeframe. The selection and timing of improvements would be determined by DOFAW and DSP, subject to a number of factors.

These factors include, but are not limited to, agency priorities given other projects and activities occurring statewide, staff requirements, and the availability of funding provided by the Legislature. Land use approvals are still required (SMA and CDUP) and would be obtained after completion of this environmental review process.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: theoriginalnicolefelipe@gmail.com on behalf of Nicole Harbottle <nicole@islandhale.com>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 8:40 AM
To: Ronald Sato; Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Questions/Comments about Kawainui Marsh

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha, I am told that

['The Plan calls for approximately 34 buildings and 17 parking lots. There is discrepancy about the allowance of tour buses as at the last nuclear meeting DLNR was asked outright if tour buses would be allowed and the response was YES. In a letter I recently received this is what they had to say:

"While buses will be accommodated by prior arrangement for programs, no commercial tour buses or commercial activity is allowed on state land, including lands used by non-profit organizations." ']

WILL THERE BE TOUR BUSES? HOW MANY MORE KAILUA PLACES AND ROADS WILL BE SERVED UP FOR "VISITORS"? WILL THE KAPAA QUARRY ROAD BE A PATH TO THE BUILDINGS AND PARKING LOTS??? I USE THIS ROAD SO OFTEN NOW SINCE OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS OR SO--MORE SO IN THE LAST 10 YEARS--KAILUA HAS BECOME OVERRUN WITH *TOURISTS* (FLOCKING TO OUR PRECIOUS BEACHES THAT BACK IN THE 70S NO ONE COULD FIND) CLOGGING UP OUR STREETS ON THE WAY TO THEIR ILLEGAL VACATION RENTALS. WE CAN'T EVEN GET A SEAT IN OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS FOR BREAKFAST ANYMORE--NOW YOU'RE GIVING ANOTHER REASON TO "SHARE" KAILUA WITH THE WORLD? WHAT ABOUT ALL OF US AND OUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE PRIOR TO "STATEHOOD"??? THUMBS DOWN. ENOUGH ALREADY.

Mahalo!

NICOLE HARBOTTLE
island hale interiors HOME STAGING
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CALL | TEXT 808.372.5353

EMAIL nicole@islandhale.com | WEB www.islandhalehomestaging.com

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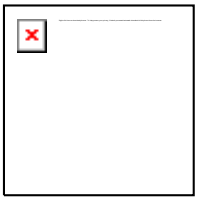
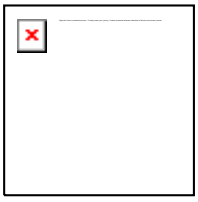

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Nicole Harbottle

Via Email: nicole@islandhale.com

Dear Ms. Harbottle:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email on January 19, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *['The Plan calls for approximately 34 buildings and 17 parking lots. There is discrepancy about the allowance of tour buses as at the last nuclear meeting DLNR was asked outright if tour buses would be allowed and the response was YES. In a letter I recently received this is what they had to say:*
"While buses will be accommodated by prior arrangement for programs, no commercial tour buses or commercial activity is allowed on state land, including lands used by non-profit organizations." ']
Response: The DEIS includes sufficient information on the project and addresses anticipated impacts on the environment associated with the project. Project plans include several buildings and parking lots that were discussed in Section 2.2. However, the numbers you cite in your letter do not put them into proper perspective. Structures proposed within the built environment would total only a little over one acre in floor area (about 48,300 sf), and would be dispersed over about 66 acres of upland areas. In addition, DSP is considering implementing more modest improvements for the education center in the interim consisting of just parking, a restroom, and an open pavilion at Pōhakea. These interim improvements focus more on programs support rather than full build-out of the more permanent education center. These project revisions would also reduce the projected number of visitors. Regarding parking lots, it should be clarified that there are only three new parking lots proposed for public access. Other parking areas proposed are to serve as staging areas supporting educational and cultural programs, DOFAW maintenance activities, and cultural centers.

The number of new structures referenced also needs to be put into proper perspective, otherwise it could be misleading. For example, structures include: traditional native Hawaiian hale (Pōhakea kauhale complex) to support cultural practices and programs; two open pavilions that are common at parks; a restroom and storage facility at Hāmākua for DOFAW management activities; and a greenhouse to support cultural landscape restoration at Ulupō Heiau. More relevant buildings are: 1) DOFAW's management station and the vegetation processing sites to support office, storage, operations, management, and restoration activities; 2) the education center; and 3) structures for the cultural centers.

DOFAW and DSP do not plan to issue permits for privately-operated for-profit commercial activities, such as commercial tours. However, buses transporting visitors or students for permitted or authorized educational or cultural programs would be allowed. Such programs are typically conducted by non-profit organizations in coordination with DSP and DOFAW. We did not receive comments from you on the EIS Preparation Notice, thus, the letter you refer to being received was likely provided by others.

Regarding commercial activities, activities at the proposed cultural centers that may require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) would be considered a "commercial" activity. Based on regulations discussed in Chapter 126 HAR, Rules Regulating Wildlife Sanctuaries, DOFAW would be allowed to permit up to 100 persons a day for this type of commercial activity associated with the cultural center at Kapa'a. Similarly, operation of an educational center by DSP or a non-profit organization would likely require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue would also be a type of commercial activity, but would support the non-profit's operation of the center. Any excess revenues could be used to fund further Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities.

2. *WILL THERE BE TOUR BUSES? HOW MANY MORE KAILUA PLACES AND ROADS WILL BE SERVED UP FOR "VISITORS"?*
Response: Please refer to response No. 1 regarding commercial tour buses. We recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to changes that may attract more visitors. The DEIS discusses projected number of visitors, and various sections address social impacts from activities, impacts on roads, etc. However, City roadways and State highways are available for the public, which includes visitors.

3. *WILL THE KAPAA QUARRY ROAD BE A PATH TO THE BUILDINGS AND PARKING LOTS??? I USE THIS ROAD SO OFTEN NOW SINCE OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS OR SO-- MORE SO IN THE LAST 10 YEARS--KAILUA HAS BECOME OVERRUN WITH TOURISTS (FLOCKING TO OUR PRECIOUS BEACHES THAT BACK IN THE 70S NO ONE COULD FIND) CLOGGING UP OUR STREETS ON THE WAY TO THEIR ILLEGAL VACATION RENTALS. WE CAN'T EVEN GET A SEAT IN OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS FOR BREAKFAST ANYMORE--NOW YOU'RE GIVING ANOTHER REASON TO "SHARE" KAILUA WITH THE WORLD? WHAT ABOUT ALL OF US AND OUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE PRIOR TO "STATEHOOD"??? THUMBS DOWN. ENOUGH ALREADY.*

Response: Kapa'a Quarry Road would provide vehicular access for project improvements and uses planned along that upland corridor of Kawainui, such as the education center and cultural center planned at Kapa'a. The DEIS discusses the growth in visitors due to the now popular beaches, ocean recreational activities, and shopping attractions in Kailua. Illegal vacation rentals are a City issue that they have been working to address islandwide, and the project does not include vacation rentals.

As discussed in Section 4.2 of the DEIS, changes to Kailua's demographics and character over the decades are attributable to many factors, such as residential development, migration of new residents living in Kailua, and commercial improvements. The popularity of certain businesses and restaurants is noted. However, such businesses and community resources are not just for residents in the immediate community. Communities are interconnected; many services and resources serve the broader public interest, and businesses are dependent upon the general public.

We recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to changes that may attract more visitors. However, it is unlikely that Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. However, Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public, and the State needs to consider the broader public interest, when planning for a resource such as Kawainui.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

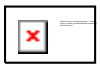
cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Linda Henning <lmooneyhenning@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 8:07 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I was appalled at the outrageous plans to degrade the marsh. There has been no community communication re: this or anything in the paper. It appears we have been totally ignored and blindsided as a community. It is one of our remaining unspoiled natural habitat's in Kailua. Our beaches are being overrun with tourists and eroding as I sit here. They are covered with trash washed up from who knows where. We can't get through the town because of bikes & oversized buses and now this. I have walking the dyke on a weekly basis for yrs. It is a contemplative space and surrounded by beauty of the Koolau's and wildlife and you want to take it from us. For shame!!!!! Linda Henning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AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Linda Henning

Via Email: lmooneyhenning@hawaiiantel.net

Dear Ms. Henning:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email on February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I was appalled at the outrageous plans to degrade the marsh. There has been no community communication re: this or anything in the paper. It appears we have been totally ignored and blindsided as a community.*
   Response: We do not agree that proposed project plans are outrageous. Improvements would not have an adverse impact on the Kawainui wetland or resources as discussed in the DEIS. Project plans are reasonable and include improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Project improvements encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in Chapter 2 and impact sections of the DEIS.

   The planning process for this project has been ongoing since late 2010. There has been considerable effort made to notify the Kailua community about this project. Substantial input and comments from the community has been received. Outreach activities included five public informational meetings (which were advertised by legal notices), several smaller community and stakeholder meetings, Kailua Neighborhood Board presentations, a website for the project, dissemination by social media, and coverage by the news media. The DEIS included information on these consultation efforts. It is not accurate to say the community has been blindsided by this project.

2. *It is one of our remaining unspoiled natural habitat's in Kailua. Our beaches are being overrun with tourists and eroding as I sit here. They are covered with trash washed up from who knows where. We can't get through the town because of bikes & oversized buses and now this.*
   Response: It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat, rather, it is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS.

   We acknowledge your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to changes that may attract more visitors. The DEIS discusses projected number of visitors, addresses social impacts from activities, impacts on roads, etc. Project improvements proposed are not sited along the shoreline, and would not contribute to erosion of beaches and accumulation of trash on them. It is unlikely that Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. We disagree that bicycles and buses in Kailua town prevent vehicles from traveling along public roadways.

   Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. Kawainui is a state resource that should be shared with the public, and the State needs to consider the broader public interest when planning for its future use and management.

3. *I have walking the dyke on a weekly basis for yrs. It is a contemplative space and surrounded by beauty of the Koolau's and wildlife and you want to take it from us. For shame!!!!!*
   Response: The project would not take away the levee, nor your ability to walk on it.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: K Hochart <kirstin00@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:02 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan DEIS Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS.

As a Kailua resident and environmental scientist, I support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project in its entirety.

The project's proposed improvements significantly benefit environmental, cultural, educational and recreational resources, including the following:

- Supports environmental preservation and restoration of Kawainui-Hamakua, including the crucial need for wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, erosion control, stormwater runoff improvements and upland reforestation.
- Supports Ramsar objectives and State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP missions.
- Supports historical and cultural resource management activities, which recognize the native Hawaiian culture presence at Kawainui-Hamakua and provides access to conduct traditional cultural practices, educational programs and stewardship of significant cultural sites.
- Supports public access for outdoor educational and recreational opportunities, including "outdoor classroom" and stewardship opportunities.
- Supports natural resource management opportunities, including service learning projects and stewardship.

The Master Plan supports the preservation and restoration of Kawainui-Hamakua and as part of the long-term planning process the Master Plan incorporates all of the input gathered at the community planning meetings.

At the Community Meeting held on January 18, 2018, the misrepresentations and false rumors regarding the Master Plan were accurately addressed. The community has been misinformed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board and social media, regarding the Master Plan.

At the entrance to Kailua Town, the proposed Wai'auia Cultural Center would be a significant improvement to the existing conditions and surrounding area, which is currently bordered by the City's sewage pump station.

The proposed improvements at Ulupo Heiau are crucial to the preservation of the historic site and cultural resources.

The proposed Kapa'a Cultural Center and Education Center are located across the street from the Kapa'a Quarry Industrial Complex and the City's Kapa'a Refuse Transfer Station("the dump"). The proposed location would be an ideal site for a "nature center" to provide environmental education and a model for sustainability for the community. Currently, the surrounding area is being abused by the community as an illegal dumping site and there is no public concern for the environment or Kawainui-Hamakua. The community is in dire need of an environmental and cultural education/nature center.

The proposed pervious parking areas and storm water runoff improvements by the Master Plan would significantly improve existing storm water runoff conditions and the degraded infrastructure. For over twenty years, Kapa'a Quarry Road has been neglected by State Representatives.

The Master Plan supports the Hawaii State Department of Education & Board of Education Strategic Plan, 2016 and educational programs.

Thank you,
Kirstin Hochart

--
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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Kirsin Hochart

Via Email: kirstin00@aol.com

Dear Ms. Hochart:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email on February 7, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your letter's comments.

1. *Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS. As a Kailua resident and environmental scientist, I support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project in its entirety. The project's proposed improvements significantly benefit environmental, cultural, educational and recreational resources, including the following:*
    - *Supports environmental preservation and restoration of Kawainui-Hamakua, including the crucial need for wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, erosion control, stormwater runoff improvements and upland reforestation.*
    - *Supports Ramsar objectives and State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP missions.*
    - *Supports historical and cultural resource management activities, which recognize the native Hawaiian culture presence at Kawainui-Hamakua and provides access to conduct traditional cultural practices, educational programs and stewardship of significant cultural sites.*
    - *Supports public access for outdoor educational and recreational opportunities, including "outdoor classroom" and stewardship opportunities.*
    - *Supports natural resource management opportunities, including service learning projects and stewardship.*

    Response: DOFAW and DSP concur that proposed improvements would significantly benefit environmental, cultural, educational, and passive outdoor recreational activities and resources. We agree the project supports the five areas identified in your bulleted comments.

2. *The Master Plan supports the preservation and restoration of Kawainui-Hamakua and as part of the long-term planning process the Master Plan incorporates all of the input gathered at the community planning meetings.*
   Response: Project improvements are intended to support the restoration and preservation of resources within Kawainui-Hāmākua, and we appreciate the input received from the community throughout the planning process. The many community meetings held on the project provided a range of forums and opportunities to receive public comments that were evaluated. Chapter 8 of the DEIS addressed these meetings and input received.

3. *At the Community Meeting held on January 18, 2018, the misrepresentations and false rumors regarding the Master Plan were accurately addressed. The community has been misinformed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board and social media, regarding the Master Plan.*
   Response: We hope that the January 2018 informational meeting helped to clarify accurate information regarding the project.

4. *At the entrance to Kailua Town, the proposed Wai'auia Cultural Center would be a significant improvement to the existing conditions and surrounding area, which is currently bordered by the City's sewage pump station.*
   The proposed improvements at Ulupo Heiau are crucial to the preservation of the historic site and cultural resources.
   The proposed Kapa'a Cultural Center and Education Center are located across the street from the Kapa'a Quarry Industrial Complex and the City's Kapa'a Refuse Transfer Station ("the dump"). The proposed location would be an ideal site for a "nature center" to provide environmental education and a model for sustainability for the community. Currently, the surrounding area is being abused by the community as an illegal dumping site and there is no public concern for the environment or Kawainui-Hamakua. The community is in dire need of an environmental and cultural education/nature center.
   Response: Thank you for supporting improvements proposed at Wai'auia. The proposed cultural center would support establishment of a permanent native Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui and stewardship of that area.

   Proposed improvements would also support current cultural landscape restoration efforts and educational and cultural programs offered by non-profit organizations. We concur that such improvements would support preservation of the Ulupō Heiau historic site.

   We agree the proposed cultural center for the Kapa'a site would support establishment of a permanent native Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui and needed stewardship. We concur that the cultural center's location is appropriate since it is currently undeveloped and was formerly used as a City baseyard. It is also well-suited to create more stewardship and positive activities along that section of Kapa'a Quarry Road, complementing the City's model airplane park.

Due to community concerns with increased public access and visitors, DSP may construct more modest improvements in the interim consisting of on-site parking, restrooms, and open shelter (e.g. pavilion) instead of the education center. Such improvements would support educational and cultural programs.

5. *The proposed pervious parking areas and storm water runoff improvements by the Master Plan would significantly improve existing storm water runoff conditions and the degraded infrastructure. For over twenty years, Kapa'a Quarry Road has been neglected by State Representatives. The Master Plan supports the Hawaii State Department of Education & Board of Education Strategic Plan, 2016 and educational programs.*
   Response: Pervious parking areas would support sustainable improvements that minimize effects on the environment. Storm water improvements are an important part of planned resource management improvements and would support wetland restoration efforts.

   We concur that project plans would support the State Department of Education's strategic plan and future educational programs for students. Supporting opportunities for increased educational programs at Kawainui and Hāmākua are important objectives of this project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Doug Kagawa <dhkagawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 8:09 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Comments for DEIS for Kawainui Marsh Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HHF Planners,

I'm informing you that I oppose the Kawainui Marsh development plan. The environmental stresses to the marsh's endangered species and habitat need to be limited. Improving access for humans to Kawainui will increase the opportunity for invasive species to enter area. The ease of being able to travel to and from all corners of the Earth forces us to be more responsible for the protection our endangered species. If we want to protect them, we need to be aware of the increased chances of exposure to avian viruses or other invasive microbes that will possibly extinguish the species we are trying to save. I understand that we want to share our unique resources with more people, and I believe we could use newer technology to share the marsh without adding more human contact to area. How about a daily live broadcast of Kawainui to hotel ballrooms using camera equipped drones? Less traffic, less fuel used, less impact on Earth, more STEM type employment. Please reconsider the current environmentally intrusive plans for the marsh.

Thanks,
Doug Kagawa

--
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M. KALEO MANUEL
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Doug Kagawa

Via Email: dhkagawa@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Kagawa:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email of February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I'm informing you that I oppose the Kawainui Marsh development plan. The environmental stresses to the marsh's endangered species and habitat need to be limited.*
   Response: We acknowledge your opposition to this project. Project improvements include wetland restoration efforts that would enhance waterbird habitat as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Upland reforestation would improve stormwater runoff and address invasive plant species. As discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS, other improvements supporting public access and cultural practices encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact endangered waterbirds, their habitat, and the environment as discussed in respective sections of the DEIS.

2. *Improving access for humans to Kawainui will increase the opportunity for invasive species to enter area. The ease of being able to travel to and from all corners of the Earth forces us to be more responsible for the protection our endangered species. If we want to protect them, we need to be aware of the increased chances of exposure to avian viruses or other invasive microbes that will possibly extinguish the species we are trying to save.*
   Response: As discussed in the DEIS, improvements supporting increased public access are reasonable and support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Public access improvements are also needed to support and expand educational and cultural programs that are generally supported by the broader community.

Public access would not increase opportunities for invasive species to enter the project site. It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is currently not a pristine resource or habitat; rather it is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. The area is already overgrown with extensive invasive vegetation, resulting in proposed restoration and reforestation efforts. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems as discussed in Chapter 3 of the DEIS. Visitors to Kawainui as part of educational or cultural programs, or for outdoor recreation and viewing, would not increase invasive species within this site. Visitors participating in educational and cultural programs actually support and participate in restoration efforts and activities (e.g. Ulupō Heiau). Such activities are not expected to increase avian viruses or other invasive microbes that would extinguish endangered waterbird species. Avian viruses are typically spread by other infected birds or by other alien species, such as wild pigs that are already present at Kawainui.

3. *I understand that we want to share our unique resources with more people, and I believe we could use newer technology to share the marsh without adding more human contact to area. How about a daily live broadcast of Kawainui to hotel ballrooms using camera equipped drones? Less traffic, less fuel used, less impact on Earth, more STEM type employment. Please reconsider the current environmentally intrusive plans for the marsh.*
Response: New technology could be used to support restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices occurring, but would not replace the need for public access, outdoor recreation, and human presence at Kawainui. Native Hawaiian history and culture at Kawainui are important, and supporting a permanent Hawaiian presence at Kawainui via cultural centers is being provided. Partnerships with non-profit organizations have been beneficial, and increase needed stewardship of this resource. Broadcast of the area using camera or drones does not provide these benefits nor support public access and other project objectives.

Your comments generally reflect opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to changes that may attract more visitors. However, project plans are reasonable and include improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Project improvements encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in the DEIS. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public, and the State needs to consider the broader public interest when planning for its future management.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

January 2018

To HHF Planners,

For the past twenty years I have traveled once a week over the Ko'olau Mountains to Kailua to dance hula with Halau Mohala 'Ilima, under the direction of Mapuana de Silva. But my kumu has not just taught me how to koholo; she has and continues to teach me how to be a Hawaiian in these modern times. Every mele and hula is a lesson about our islands, often times the place of Kailua. We learn about the land and how important it is to us. So it is this land that I write about today and ask that it be allowed to flourish under practitioners such as Mapuana and Kihei. Although the de Silvas do not need any one place to teach and practice the indigenous Hawaiian culture, so much more could be happening if a more permanent place could be created.

I am a teacher of 7th graders at Punahou School. Three times a year we spend a day of service in the out of doors. We have been to Kualoa, He'eia, and Waiahole. Last month we visited Ulupo. What a day we had! Ninety students filled the area hearing stories of the past and learning ways to make a better future. So many of the children live in the Kailua/Kaneohe area and had never experienced this place. We got wonderfully muddy, but the Y was our only place to use the bathroom and clean up a bit. A more permanent learning place with appropriate facilities would be so perfect for this magical spot.

I support this plan for Kailua. It so desperately needs to reconnect to its Hawaiian roots.

Aloha piha,

Demetra Noble Kaulukukui

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Demetra Noble Kaulukukui
2625 Doris Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Dear Ms. Kaulukukui:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *For the past twenty years I have traveled once a week over the Ko'olau Mountains to Kailua to dance hula with Halau Mahala 'Ilima, under the direction of Mapuana de Silva. But my kumu has not just taught me how to koholo; she has and continues to teach me how to be a Hawaiian in these modern times. Every mele and hula is a lesson about our islands, often times the place of Kailua. We learn about the land and how important it is to us. So it is this land that I write about today and ask that it be allowed to flourish under practitioners such as Mapuana and Kihei. Although the de Silvas do not need any one place to teach and practice the indigenous Hawaiian culture, so much more could be happening if a more permanent place could be created.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your background and experiences with Halau Mohala 'Ilima, the importance of Hawaiian culture, and the need to establish a permanent Hawaiian presence at Kawainui.

2. *I am a teacher of 7th graders at Punahou School. Three times a year we spend a day of service in the out of doors. We have been to Kualoa, He'eia, and Waiahole. Last month we visited Ulupo. What a day we had! Ninety students filled the area hearing stories of the past and learning ways to make a better future. So many of the children live in the Kailua/Kaneohe area and had never experienced this place. We got wonderfully muddy, but the Y was our only place to use the bathroom and clean up a bit. A more permanent learning place with appropriate facilities would be so perfect for this magical spot.*

   I support this plan for Kailua. It so desperately needs to reconnect to its Hawaiian roots.

Response: Thank you for sharing your students' experience at Ulupō Heiau. Such cultural and educational programs are an important component of the project's objectives. The project supports protecting this resource and proposes necessary amenities (e.g. observation areas) so that the public can enjoy this resource along with participating in educational and cultural programs.

A hālau and nursery are proposed for Ulupō Heiau to support educational and cultural programs being conducted by non-profit organizations. The State DLNR, Division of State Parks is coordinating with the Windward YMCA to acquire some of their property so that other improvements, such as restrooms, can be planned in the future. We agree that appropriate facilities would support such beneficial activities at this site along with other areas of Kawainui.

We acknowledge your support for this project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Lucinda Keller <kellerkailua@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha,
I am writing to state my objection to anything but minimal development of Kawainui Marsh. As a waterfowl preserve and sanctuary, the Marsh's function will not be aided by any building, especially parking lots. The endangered birds need a protected habitat. The wetland is an essential element of a healthy environment. The marsh is a beloved part of Windward life.

Mahalo for your attention.

Lucinda B. Keller
1422 Mapuana Place
Kailua, HI 96734
808 392-3802

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Lucinda Keller

Via Email: kellerkailua@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Keller:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email of February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided the following responses to your comments.

I am writing to state my objection to anything but minimal development of Kawainui Marsh. As a waterfowl preserve and sanctuary, the Marsh's function will not be aided by any building, especially parking lots. The endangered birds need a protected habitat. The wetland is an essential element of a healthy environment. The marsh is a beloved part of Windward life.
Response: We acknowledge your objection to anything "but minimal development" of Kawainui associated with this project.

As discussed in the DEIS, improvements proposed are intended to support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Public access improvements are also needed to support and expand educational and cultural programs that are generally supported by the broader community. There is no "development" within the wetlands of Kawainui as project improvements and footprints are located on upland areas.

Project improvements include buildings with relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in pertinent sections of the DEIS. Only a few parking lots are intended for general public use and access, while other parking lots are designated for permitted programs, such as cultural centers managed by non-profit organizations, and DOFAW operations. Parking lots would be designed to have permeable surfaces and have minimal impact on wetland function.

Although such improvements may not meet what you consider "minimal" development, they are reasonable and appropriate for the area and meet project objectives.

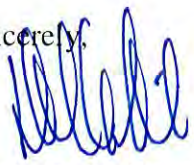
It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat, but of a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. The area is already overgrown with extensive invasive vegetation, which has resulted in proposed restoration and reforestation efforts. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems. Endangered waterbirds would have a restored habitat within the wetland, which will not be the location of any development projects.

Visitors participating in educational and cultural programs supported and participated in restoration efforts and activities (e.g. Ulupō Heiau). Native Hawaiian history and culture at Kawainui are important, and supporting a permanent Hawaiian presence at Kawainui via cultural centers is being provided. Such partnerships with non-profit organizations have been beneficial, and increase needed stewardship of this resource.

The State agrees the wetland is an important element of Kawainui, and is a valuable component of Windward O'ahu. The proposed project supports and improves this resource. Furthermore, Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. As a result, the broader public interest must be considered when designing the protocols that manage its physical condition.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Terrago, Rubyrosa T <rubyrosa.t.terrago@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 8:00 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Subject: FW: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project EIS Preparation Noice Kailua Oahu Hawaii
Attachments: Mr. Kelso.PDF

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Ron,

Fyi

Thanks,
Ruby

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Ruby Terrago
Secretary
DLNR/Division of Forestry and Wildlife-Admin 1151Punchbowl Street, Rm. 325 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: Rubyrosa.t.terrago@hawaii.gov
Office:(808)587-4182
Cell: (808)445-2933

-----Original Message-----
From: DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 12:40 PM
To: Smith, David G <david.g.smith@hawaii.gov>; Terrago, Rubyrosa T <rubyrosa.t.terrago@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Jeffers-Fabro, Ati R <ati.r.jeffers-fabro@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project EIS Preparation Noice Kailua Oahu Hawaii

Forwarding as addressed.

Dw/Comms

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Kelso [mailto:mikekelso@me.com]
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 7:01 AM
To: DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR <dlnr@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project EIS Preparation Noice Kailua Oahu Hawaii

Please direct this email to:

David Smith, Adminstrator, DOFAW and
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Ati Jeffers-Fabro,

Thank you for your response to my comments. I have these follow up concerns with the EIS. A PDF file of your letter of Nov 24, 2016 is attached.

The issues and concerns for habitat restoration seem appropriate to me and something I support. Access to the area if handled in a ecologically sustainable, non-commercial manner also seems appropriate. Non-profit stewardship with oversight might work but I am still concerned about too many bus loads of tourists descending on the marsh and becoming overwhelming with no way to reverse it or apply appropriate controls.

How can the level of human activities at the marsh be balanced, and kept at sustainable levels? I don't really see an answer to this being put forward in the EIS. How are State Agencies to fulfill their oversight role? How will the agencies be coordinated? Will they pass the buck and deflect criticism by saying it's not their kuleana?

The airplane park is a good example of this. The EIS is saying it is out of it's "out of our hands" because it's a City facility. OK. But I thought an EIS was a comprehensive process intended to tackle all related issues and impacts. How about this one? Why hasn't the process engaged the City and airplane/drone users as stakeholders and brought them into the process? And relocated it!! How am I as a individual citizen expected to bring this change about? It so clearly violates the intent of the marsh uses. Drones and bird habitats don't mix.

Is the Drone Park an indication of how the State Agencies will deal with the various stakeholder organizations in the future ? Will they say its out of our hands? Will they turn a blind eye to excesses or inappropriate activities for political expediency or out of narrow bureaucratic boundary setting? If so, then the EIS will have failed an important part of its mission, and the marsh will suffer for it.

Sincerely,
Mike Kelso
25 South Kalaheo Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

--
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Mr. Mike Kelso

Via Email: mikekelso@me.com

Dear Mr. Kelso:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email of December 8, 2017 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *Thank you for your response to my comments. I have these follow up concerns with the EIS. A PDF file of your letter of Nov 24, 2016 is attached.*
The issues and concerns for habitat restoration seem appropriate to me and something I support.
Response: We note the November 24, 2017 letter you attached to your email was a pdf file copy of our response letter to you regarding your comments on the EIS Preparation Notice. That response letter was included in Appendix A of the DEIS. We acknowledge your support for wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements proposed by this project that would also support enbancing waterbird habitat.
   a. *Access to the area if handled in a ecologically sustainable, non-commercial manner also seems appropriate.*
   Response: We believe proposed improvements discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS would provide managed public access within designated upland areas that support wildlife viewing, educational programs, passive outdoor recreation, and cultural practices. As discussed in Section 2.2.5, several management practices are proposed to address public access, which includes: 1) phased approach to open areas to the public; 2) restrict access; 3) designate trails that buffer and protect resources; and 4) increase stewardship partnerships. No privately-owned for-profit commercial activity is being proposed as part of project improvements or planned to be permitted by DOFAW and DSP.

b. *Non-profit stewardship with oversight might work but I am still concerned about too many bus loads of tourists descending on the marsh and becoming overwhelming with no way to reverse it or apply appropriate controls.*
Response: Project improvements support creating partnerships with non-profit organizations and increasing stewardship of areas that support monitoring activities. DOFAW and DSP appreciate the stewardship and restoration efforts already being conducted by several native Hawaiian organizations, such as at Ulupō Heiau, and believe such partnerships are beneficial both to the environment and community.

We understand your concerns with visitors to Kailua, however, we do not expect Kawainui would become a major sustainable tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. The project includes such improvements to support Ramsar objectives, missions of the State DOFAW and DSP, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Key elements of the project's purpose is thus to improve access and passive outdoor recreational opportunities for all, along with supporting a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui due to its significant cultural history, and educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities. The projected level of visitors discussed in Section 2.2 are reasonable and manageable, and the DEIS identifies several measures proposed to effectively manage access.

2. *How can the level of human activities at the marsh be balanced, and kept at sustainable levels? I don't really see an answer to this being put forward in the EIS.*
Response: The projected number of visitors discussed in Section 2.2 reflect a reasonable estimate of persons that could be appropriately managed and accommodated at Kawainui. The monthly projected increase in visitors averages about 200 persons a day, which is moderate and manageable. The type of visitors to Kawainui are likely to be persons having interest in and respect for the environment. Visitation can be characterized as being nature-based outdoor recreational activity for viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. This visitor level would not have an adverse effect on the environment based upon the DEIS results. As previously discussed, Section 2.2.5 identifies several management practices that are proposed to manage public access.

3. *How are State Agencies to fulfill their oversight role? How will the agencies be coordinated? Will they pass the buck and deflect criticism by saying it's not their kuleana?*
Response: As previously discussed, Section 2.2.5 identifies several management practices that are proposed to manage public access. This section addresses DOFAW and DSP's oversight role along with increasing State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers to support enforcement of regulations. Effective management is a priority for both DOFAW and DSP that must to be in alignment with agency missions that require increased public access, support for native Hawaiian cultural practices and educational programs, and need to consider the broader statewide public interest in this resource. As discussed in that section, effective management entails cooperation and coordination among DOFAW, DSP, DOCARE and non-profit organizations operating at Kawainui to ensure appropriate supervision and monitoring of activities, and enforcement

action, as warranted. The State would not "pass the buck" as you infer in managing Kawainui.

4. *The airplane park is a good example of this. The EIS is saying it is out of it's "out of our hands" because it's a City facility. OK. But I thought an EIS was a comprehensive process intended to tackle all related issues and impacts.*
Response: The DEIS does not state the City's Model Airplane Park is "out of our hands." The airplane park is City property and managed and maintained by the City. That park is not part of the Kawainui-Hāmākua project site, and the project does not propose any improvements to that City park. This park does not have issues with visitors or bus loads of tourist being dropped off to view residents flying model airplanes. The EIS process addresses project generated impacts to the environment, and the project's effects on the park are discussed in pertinent sections, such as Section 5.7.

5. *How about this one? Why hasn't the process engaged the City and airplane/drone users as stakeholders and brought them into the process? And relocated it!! How am I as a individual citizen expected to bring this change about? It so clearly violates the intent of the marsh uses. Drones and bird habitats don't mix.*
Response: As previously discussed, the City's Model Airplane Park is not part of the project site and no project improvements are planned at that site. The City has been engaged in the environmental review process, and their departments have not expressed significant issues with the project affecting their park. There has been significant efforts made to notify the public about this project. As discussed in Chapter 8, outreach activities included five public informational meetings (which had legal notices published), several smaller community and stakeholder meetings, a public project website, a social media presence, and coverage over the years by traditional news media.

   The project would not prevent users of this park from continuing to operate model airplanes, drones, etc. If you have concerns with the airplane park, their activities and want it relocated, we suggest it would be more appropriate for you to contact the City directly to discuss this. We don't believe the airplane park violates the intent of wetland (marsh) uses since park activities occur within upland areas and not within the wetland. We have not had issues with waterbirds being adversely impacted by activities occurring at this City park. In addition, the majority of waterbird activity occurs on the southern end of Kawainui where the restoration ponds are present and not within this northern section.

6. *Is the Drone Park an indication of how the State Agencies will deal with the various stakeholder organizations in the future ? Will they say its out of our hands? Will they turn a blind eye to excesses or inappropriate activities for political expediency or out of narrow bureaucratic boundary setting? If so, then the EIS will have failed an important part of its mission, and the marsh will suffer for it.*
Response: We don't believe there is an issue with how users of the City's model airplane park were dealt with. As already discussed, the project does not include improvements to that park and would not have a negative impact on activities occurring there. Chapter 8 discussed the consultation process occurring as part of this environmental review. The State

DLNR has no jurisdiction over the users of the City-owned park because such activities fall under their management. We disagree with your perception of our agency having a "blind eye" associated with management of activities with Kawainui and project improvements. Regulatory jurisdiction and responsibilities between the State and City need to be respected. As already discussed, Section 2.2.5 identifies several management practices that are proposed to manage public access. We disagree with your opinion on the EIS failing its mission based upon the information provided in the DEIS. As previously discussed, effective management is a priority for both DOFAW and DSP that is aligned with agency missions that require increased public access, and support for native Hawaiian cultural practices and educational programs. Kawainui is state resource that needs to be considered within the broader statewide public interest.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Charles Koehl <charles@etherscapes.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2018 4:32 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am opposed to this plan.

My concerns with this DEIS:

- A tripling in monthly visitors to Kailua from 2960 to 9950.
- Accelerates the trend of natural resourcedeg ra da t ion
- Negatively impacts endangered species control efforts
- Affects residents quality of life
- Inadequate management of wetland areas and flood control in residential areas.
- Ignores the alternative Community Plan that was endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board, Hawaiian Civic Club, Lani Kailua, Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep it Kailua, and Hawaii 's Thousand Friends.
- Cost estimate $67,000,000. How will this be funded?

--
Charles Koehl

No trees were killed in the sending of this message. However a large number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.

--
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Charles Koehl

Via Email: charles@etherscapes.com

Dear Mr. Koehl:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received February 4, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project.

We acknowledge your opposition to the project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to bulleted comments in your letter.

1. *I am opposed to this plan. My concerns with this DEIS:*
   - *A tripling in monthly visitors to Kailua from 2960 to 9950.*

   Response: The projected number of visitors reflect a reasonable estimate that could be appropriately managed and accommodated at Kawainui. This level of visitors would not have an adverse effect on the environment as discussed in the DEIS. However, due to community concerns regarding visitors to Kawainui, several improvements proposed in the DEIS have now been eliminated from this project. These include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. The State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) may also proceed with a reduced level of improvements at Pōhakea in the interim consisting of on-site parking, a restroom, and an open pavilion to support programs prior to construction of the education center. Such revisions would reduce the projected number of visitors, and these revisions are discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Revised text is attached to this letter.

2. *Accelerates the trend of natural resource degradation*

   Response: The project would not accelerate the degradation of natural resources at Kawainui-Hāmākua. The ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat, but of a degraded resource in need of wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. The project includes wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements to address this current condition. The DEIS discusses project

effects on natural resources and shows that improvements would not adversely impact such resources.

3. *Negatively impacts endangered species control efforts*
Response: The area is overgrown with extensive invasive vegetation resulting in the need for proposed restoration and reforestation efforts along with creating opportunities for stewardship partnerships with non-profit organizations supporting these efforts. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems. As a result, there are no "endangered species control efforts" that would be negatively impacted. Current and proposed efforts are intended to restore this area to provide improved habitat for endangered waterbird species. As discussed in the DEIS, improvements proposed are intended to support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Public access improvements are also needed to support and expand educational and cultural programs that are generally supported by the broader community.

4. *Affects residents quality of life*
Response: The project would not adversely impact the quality of life for residents, and Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses social factors and demographics, visitor activities in Kailua, along with community issues, such as tourist commercial activities and vacation rentals. We acknowledge your general opposition to visitors and increased public access. However, the visitor industry is important to Kailua's economy, and Etherscapes appears to be affiliated with website design and applications associated with vacation rental marketing. A better balanced visitor industry is desirable. However, the project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities that would highlight the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

5. *Inadequate management of wetland areas and flood control in residential areas.*
Response: The project does not result in inadequate management of wetland areas. As previously discussed, and included in several sections of the DEIS, project improvements support wetland restoration. New facilities for DOFAW's research and management station support management and maintenance operations. Kawainui and Hāmākua's wetlands are properly managed, and many improvements have been made since the State acquired ownership for a large part of Kawainui from the City in 2008.

The Kawainui wetland and the levee serve as flood control for lower lying residential and commercial areas. Proposed wetland restoration efforts would improve wetland function for flood control. Management of the levee is a multi-agency partnership with DOFAW, the City, and the U.S. Department of Army. These agencies have established a cooperative management program for flood control and maintenance of vegetation. The project would not negatively impact flood control.

6. *Ignores the alternative Community Plan that was endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board, Hawaiian Civic Club, Lani Kailua, Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society, Keep it Kailua, and Hawaii 's Thousand Friends.*
   Response: The DEIS did consider the alternative project plan proposed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board and other organizations (e.g. Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle). Section 2.3.4 of the DEIS discusses why the plan was eliminated from consideration.

7. *Cost estimate $67,000,000. How will this be funded?*
   Response: Funding for most improvements would rely on appropriations by the State Legislature. Development of cultural centers would be subject to funding by the selected non-profit organizations. Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS provides more information on this subject. Improvements would be phased over time, subject to appropriations from the Legislature.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Projected Level of Visitor Activity

Proposed improvements would address regulatory requirements for increased public access and outdoor recreational activities. As a result, the level of visitations and activity to occur at Kawainui is projected to increase with the project. Projected visitor activity is summarized on Table 2.6. These activities are related to nature-based outdoor recreational activity (viewing wildlife, scenic resources) and passive outdoor recreation (walking and jogging). This table has been revised to reflect the elimination of certain segments of the pedestrian trail (Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau, Mokulana) that would subsequently reduce the projected number of persons using the shortened trail. At Kawainui SHP, Kalāheo, no project proposed improvements would occur at this park site with elimination of the hale wa'a. Visitors to that park site would also be reduced with canoe launch restricted to only schools, and these activities are not part of the project.

Table 2.6 Summary of Projected Visitor Activity

Description of Activity and Area	Projected Monthly Activity (Persons)		
	Current Activity	Projected Activity With Project	Increase in Activity
A. Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a Subarea			
1. Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, Education Center and Kauhale Complex at Pōhakea, Kahanaiki Area	250	6,000*	5,750
B. Wai'auia-Ulupō-Mokulana Subarea			
1. Ulupō Heiau SHP	450	450	0
2. ~~Wai'auia-~~Ulupō Heiau SHP-~~Mokulana~~ DOFAW Management and Research Station (Walking/Jogging)	0	~~500~~ 200	~~500~~ 200
C. Kapa'a-Kalāheo-Levee Subarea			
1. Kawainui SHP, Kalāheo (Park and School Canoe Practices ~~Related~~)	0 600[1]	~~1,200*~~ 600	~~1,200~~ 0
2. Levee (Walking/Jogging)	1,800	1,800	0
Total Passive Recreational Activities	3,100	9,050	5,950
* Note: Number includes visitors already traveling to Kailua for other reasons (e.g. beach)			
[1] Involves non-project related activities permitted			
~~**Total Nature-Based and Passive Recreational Activities**~~	~~2,500~~	~~9,950~~	~~7,450~~
~~* Note: Number includes visitors already traveling to Kailua for other reasons (e.g. beach)~~			

Based upon the revised table, about 3,100 persons a month are projected to continue visiting Kawainui even without the project. This includes the 1,800 persons presently using the levee, and about 600 new visitors using the Kalāheo park site for passive recreation and canoe practices by schools permitted. The project would generate an increase of less than 6,000 visitors (5,950) a month due to improvements primarily associated with the education center. With interim improvements (parking lot, restroom facility, and open pavilion) constructed at Pōhakea instead of the education center, the projected number of visitors would be significantly less because attendance would be based on proposed programs. It is estimated that only about 1,500 persons a

month would visit Pōhakea to view Kawainui and utilize foot trails within the Nā Pōhaku to Kahanaiki upland area similar to the level of activity along the levee. However, the levee provides a more walking and bike friendly path that is more visible to the public.

Permits authorizing commercial activities in the project area, such as commercial tours, ~~will~~ are not planned to be issued by DOFAW or DSP as part of this project. DOFAW is currently allowed to permit up to 100 commercial visitors a day within the wildlife sanctuary. DOFAW does not intend to issue permits for privately operated commercial tours within the wildlife sanctuary. However, activities at the proposed cultural centers that may require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) would be considered a "commercial" activity. Only the cultural center at Kapa'a site is located within the wildlife sanctuary boundary. DOFAW would be allowed to permit up to 100 persons a day for this type of commercial activity associated with that cultural center.

Similarly, DSP does not intend to issue permits for private commercial tours within Kawainui. However, operation of an educational center by DSP or a non-profit organization would require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain the center's operation and maintenance. Such revenue generated would be a type of commercial activity, but it would support operation of the center by DSP or a non-profit organization, and any excess revenues could be used to fund further Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities. As a result, visitor activity projections do not assume an increase in visitors from ~~authorized~~ private commercial tour activities. General park visitors paying entrance fees or purchases at concessionaires are already accounted for in projected visitor activity.

Overall, the largest increase would be associated with visitors to the education center at Pōhakea as part of visitor orientation, nature-based activities tied to Nā Pōhaku, culture-based programs at the kauhale complex, and nature walks along pedestrian trails in the Kahanaiki area. ~~Visitors (residents and students) to the Kalāheo Section as part of canoe-related activities would have the next-largest increase.~~ There would be some additional visitors using trails ~~at Kahanaiki to~~ between Ulupō Heiau SHP and DOFAW's management station for walking. No major changes to visitor activity at Ulupō Heiau SHP are projected with continued viewing of historic sites and service learning projects for educational and cultural groups. Project improvements (hale and greenhouse) at Ulupō Heiau would support activities already occurring and not significantly alter current visitation levels.

Visitor Activity at Kahanaiki-Nā Pōhaku-Kapa'a Subarea

Improved public access between Kahanaiki and Nā Pōhaku, including a new educational center, would increase the number of visitors to the area. Approximately 6,000 visitors a month (200 visitors a day) are projected to visit the education center for visitor orientation, cultural programs, and nature-based outdoor recreational activity (walking, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing). It is estimated that about 20% of the visitors to the education center would be traveling there as the primary reason for their visitation. The remaining 80% of the visitors

January 20, 2018

To whom it may concern

Kawainuii Marsh was designated a Ramsar Convention wetland site in February 2005. With this distinction comes a responsibility and duty to preserve and protect this largest wetland in the Hawaiian Islands. Not only is it an important habitat for waterfowl, it is a critical area for flood control for the surrounding neighborhoods and for maintaining the water quality in the adjacent canals that connect with the ocean. We vehemently oppose the development of one of the last remaining natural habitats on the windward side of Oahu. The projected increase in visitors from 2,500 to 13,640 each month is potentially catastrophic. The surrounding area does not currently have the infrastructure to support these numbers and to develop the required roads, parking lots, restrooms, etc. would be detrimental to the marsh. The greed of various interests to capitalize on developing another tourist outlet in close proximity to the already overburdened town of Kailua is unacceptable. The projected cost of $67,000,000 is prohibitive as well. To date, the current stewards of the marsh have not even been able to rid the marsh of invasive plant species that are choking the water ways, and we have little confidence that the area will be managed and maintained as required with a huge influx of visitors. Please abandon these plans and divert the funds to other measures that continue to require attention, perhaps upgrading the dilapidated facilities at our beaches.

Respectfully,

Anna and Michael Lescak

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Michael and Anna Lescak
144 Hauoli Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lescak:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 20, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to the comments in your letter.

1. *Kawainuii Marsh was designated a Ramsar Convention wetland site in February 2005. With this distinction comes a responsibility and duty to preserve and protect this largest wetland in the Hawaiian Islands. Not only is it an important habitat for waterfowl, it is a critical area for flood control for the surrounding neighborhoods and for maintaining the water quality in the adjacent canals that connect with the ocean. We vehemently oppose the development of one of the last remaining natural habitats on the windward side of Oahu.*
   Response: The proposed project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities given the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians. The State DLNR understands the importance of Kawainui and Ramsar objectives, and has been conducting restoration and management activities, and supporting existing public access for Kawainui since the State acquired ownership for a large section of Kawainui from the City in 2008.

   It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is currently not that of a pristine resource or habitat that should be "preserved," but is a degraded resource in need of wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. The area is overgrown with extensive invasive vegetation which has led to proposed restoration and reforestation efforts. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems. Endangered waterbirds would enjoy

restored habitat within the wetland that would be free from development and adverse effects, as discussed in the DEIS.

The Kawainui wetland and the levee serve as flood control for lower lying residential and commercial areas. Proposed wetland restoration efforts would improve wetland function for flood control. As discussed in the DEIS, the project would not negatively impact this flood control function, and would not adversely impact water quality. Proposed improvements would be phased over time, are modest in scale given the physical extent of the area, are planned to be environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices. The results of the DEIS show that prior large scale urban residential development along Kawainui has not adversely impacted this resource, especially with regard to runoff and water quality. The proposed project would have an overall beneficial effect on this environment.

We acknowledge your opposition to this project. There is no development proposed within Kawainui wetland and building footprints are located on upland areas. Buildings and other structures encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in the DEIS.

2. *The projected increase in visitors from 2,500 to 13,640 each month is potentially catastrophic. The surrounding area does not currently have the infrastructure to support these numbers and to develop the required roads, parking lots, restrooms, etc. would be detrimental to the marsh. The greed of various interests to capitalize on developing another tourist outlet in close proximity to the already overburdened town of Kailua is unacceptable. The projected cost of $67,000,000 is prohibitive as well.*
Response: The projected number of visitors reflects a reasonable estimate of the number of persons that could be appropriately managed and accommodated at Kawainui. This visitor level would not be "catastrophic" or have an adverse effect on the environment as discussed in the DEIS. Currently about 3,000 people visit Kawainui-Hāmākua a month as part of educational and cultural programs, to walk the levee, or general visitation by the public. Of the projected 13,640 visitors a month you note from Table 2.7 of the DEIS, 3,790 visitors would be part of educational and cultural programs (e.g. students) and 3,400 would be visitors conducting passive outdoor recreation, primarily by residents (e.g. levee).

As discussed in various sections of the DEIS, the infrastructure would be adequate to support project improvements. Only a few parking lots are intended for general public use and access, while other parking lots are designated for permitted programs, cultural centers operated by non-profit organizations, and DOFAW operations. Parking lots would be designed with permeable surfaces and have minimal impact on wetland function. Restrooms would provide a needed function for visitors, especially students and others participating in educational or cultural programs. These improvements would not be detrimental to Kawainui as discussed in sections of the DEIS.

Your concerns and opposition toward visitors are acknowledged. However, it is unlikely Kawainui would become the type of visitor attraction you envision. As discussed in the

DEIS, several measures are proposed to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. Kawainui is a state resource that should be shared with the general public. The State needs to consider the broader public interest when planning for its future.

Funding for most improvements would be reliant on appropriations by the State Legislature. Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS provides more information on funding. Improvements would be phased, subject to appropriations from the Legislature.

3. *To date, the current stewards of the marsh have not even been able to rid the marsh of invasive plant species that are choking the water ways, and we have little confidence that the area will be managed and maintained as required with a huge influx of visitors. Please abandon these plans and divert the funds to other measures that continue to require attention, perhaps upgrading the dilapidated facilities at our beaches.*
Response: The Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands have been properly managed, and many improvements have been made since the State took over ownership for a large portion of Kawainui from the City in 2008. Hāmākua Marsh is a good example of DOFAW's restoration improvements and ongoing management and maintenance expertise of this resource. Project improvements discussed in the DEIS support wetland restoration, and new facilities for DOFAW's research and management station proposed to support management and maintenance operations.

   We recognize your skepticism and negativity toward the State's ability to manage and activities at Kawainui, but we believe visitors would be properly managed incorporating the many practices discussed in the DEIS. As previously discussed, it is unlikely that Kawainui would experience the extent of visitors you envision based upon the projections and information in the DEIS.

   The State DLNR is committed to moving forward with needed improvements that would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State, support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, native Hawaiian cultural practices, and stewardship partnerships with non-profit organizations that would benefit Kawainui.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 5, 2018

HFF Planners
733 Bishop Street Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96718

Attn: Ronald Sato

Dear Mr. Sato:

It has come to my attention that the development of the Kawainui Marsh Development Plan EIS is moving forward without any consideration of the alternative community plan that was endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board, The Hawaiian Civic Club, LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society and Hawaii's Thousand Friends group, among others.

As a Kailua resident for over 30 years, I find the development of this area as a tourist destination is totally inappropriate. Development will negatively impact some endangered birds and will add nothing to the quality of life for Kailua residents.

We need adequate management of wetland areas. This pending development does not address this or any other issues that are important to Kailua.

I urge you to consider the overwhelming majority of Kailua groups and residents that oppose this project.

Sincerely

Laurel Leslie

Laurel Leslie
223 AIKAPA ST.
KAILUA, HI 96734

CC: OAHU FORESTRY & WILDLIFE MANAGER
WINDWARD COALITION

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Laurel Leslie
223 Aikapa Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Leslie:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to the comments in your letter.

1. *It has come to my attention that the development of the Kawainui Marsh Development Plan EIS is moving forward without any consideration of the alternative community plan that was endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board, The Hawaiian Civic Club, LaniKailua Outdoor Circle, the Audubon Society and Hawaii's Thousand Friends group, among others.*
   Response: We do not know who provided the information you refer to, but the DEIS includes information addressing your comment regarding the alternative plan promoted by the Kailua Neighborhood Board. The DEIS did consider that alternative plan, and Section 2.3.4 of the document discusses why it was eliminated from consideration.

2. *As a Kailua resident for over 30 years, I find the development of this area as a tourist destination is totally inappropriate. Development will negatively impact some endangered birds and will add nothing to the quality of life for Kailua residents.*
   Response: Your concerns and opposition toward visitors are acknowledged, however, it is unlikely Kawainui would become the type of tourist destination you envision. The project is appropriate for the area and includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities that enhance the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Project improvements include buildings encompassing small sites and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in the DEIS. The DEIS also identifies several measures to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. Endangered waterbirds would enjoy restored habitat within the wetland, and the project would not include development in the wetland or cause adverse effects on waterbirds as discussed in pertinent sections of the DEIS.

The project would not adversely impact the quality of life for residents, and Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses social factors and demographics, visitor activities in Kailua, and community issues, such as tourist commercial activities and vacation rentals. The majority of the factors contributing to current opinions regarding visitors and the character of Kailua are not related to improvements proposed by the project. The project would add benefits to the quality of life for residents in the form of passive outdoor recreation opportunities, increased public access and enjoyment of this resource, and the availability of educational and cultural programs.

3. *We need adequate management of wetland areas. This pending development does not address this or any other issues that are important to Kailua. I urge you to consider the overwhelming majority of Kailua groups and residents that oppose this project.*
Response: Proper management of wetland areas is important, and the Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands have been properly managed. There have been many improvements implemented since the State took over ownership for a large portion of Kawainui from the City in 2008. Hāmākua Marsh is another good example of DOFAW's restoration improvements and ongoing management and maintenance expertise.

Chapter 2 of the DEIS discusses the various restoration efforts proposed and management of wetland areas. Improvements include new facilities for DOFAW's research and management station to support management and maintenance operations. Various sections of the DEIS address project effects on the environment, natural resources, infrastructure, and public facilities. As previously discussed, Section 4.2 also addresses social and community issues.

We acknowledge your opposition to this project. We do not agree with your opinion that there is an "overwhelming majority" of groups and residents opposed to the project. There are many community organizations and residents in the region that support this project. For example, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, comprised of 58 clubs and thousands of members statewide, unanimously support this project. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. The State needs to consider the broader public interest when planning for a resource that has such interest.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Charlene Luning <charluning@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan letter of support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Ronald A. Sato, AICP
Senior Associate, HHF Planners
Via Email: rsato@hhf.com

C: Ms. Marigold Zoll
Oʻahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager, State of Hawaiʻi
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Via Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Support of Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan

This letter restates my support of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan.

I have read the Project Update and Summary of Draft Master Plan Comments and appreciate the thoroughness and responsiveness entailed in attending to each comment.

I work with Hikaʻalani, the nonprofit organization that currently holds the volunteer agreement with the Division of State Parks for Ulupō Heiau. While I was somewhat disappointed that the simple facilities and improvements previously proposed at Ulupō have been removed from the plan, I understand the action in light of unresolved property and access questions, and I wholeheartedly support the restoration of stewardship for Kawainui-Hāmākua wherever possible.

My family has made its home in Kailua since 1945. I was born, raised, and lived most of my life here. As a Kailua native, Kawainui has been a grounding aspect of my identity. My concept of Kawainui has evolved from the neglected 'swamp' and junk yard of the 1950s and '60s, to the healthier, yet still not-for-people "marsh" in the '70s and '80s, to my current understanding of the history of Kawainui as a fishpond and abundant source of food for the Koʻolau population, and a place that needs our continued attention.

By my reading of the plan, the centers for stewardship at the edges of Kawainui make up less than 10% of its entire acreage, and simply overlay areas of original Hawaiian settlements. I find the proposed uses for each area are fitting for community programs and cultural practice.

The plan reflects my hope for a thriving Kawainui. I understand opponents are motivated by a fear of what 'bad things' might happen; I prefer to believe that thoughtful and culturally sensitive

planning of initiatives will ensure a revitalized relationship between the people of Kailua and the land at Kawainui and Hāmākua.

I am not worried that once-restored these places would fall to neglect or abuse. I think of my Hawaiian children and grandchildren when I say we have current and future generations who will take on the kuleana of aloha ʻāina.

My recommendation is continued collaboration with the ʻāina restoration and cultural education community groups of Kailua that understand the value of the natural and cultural resources at Kawainui and Hāmākua.

Me ka haʻahaʻa,

Kaʻolu Luning

Charlene Kaʻolu (Borges) Luning
1015 Aoloa Pl #241
Kailua HI 96734

--
Char Ka'olu Luning

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Charlene Ka'olu Luning
1015 Aoloa Place, #241
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Luning:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *This letter restates my support of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan. I have read the Project Update and Summary of Draft Master Plan Comments and appreciate the thoroughness and responsiveness entailed in attending to each comment.*
   Response: Thank you for your support of the project.

2. *I work with Hika'alani, the nonprofit organization that currently holds the volunteer agreement with the Division of State Parks for Ulupō Heiau. While I was somewhat disappointed that the simple facilities and improvements previously proposed at Ulupō have been removed from the plan, I understand the action in light of unresolved property and access questions, and I wholeheartedly support the restoration of stewardship for Kawainui-Hāmākua wherever possible.*
   My family has made its home in Kailua since 1945. I was born, raised, and lived most of my life here. As a Kailua native, Kawainui has been a grounding aspect of my identity. My concept of Kawainui has evolved from the neglected 'swamp' and junk yard of the 1950s and '60s, to the healthier, yet still not-for-people "marsh" in the '70s and '80s, to my current understanding of the history of Kawainui as a fishpond and abundant source of food for the Ko'olau population, and a place that needs our continued attention.
   Response: The State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP acknowledge the efforts of Hika'alani at Ulupō Heiau in partnership with both 'Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. Although prior plans to improve access from Kailua Road to the YMCA parking lot (serving Ulupō Heiau) are no longer included, DSP will continue to coordinate with the YMCA to address the access road separately from this project. A hālau, pedestrian trail, and

nursery are still proposed for Ulupō Heiau to support cultural landscape restoration, management, and educational and cultural programs.

We acknowledge your support for proposed restoration improvements and plans to provide non-profit organizations with opportunities to establish a permanent native Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui that would support stewardship partnerships. Thank you for sharing background information about you, your family, and your experiences with Kawainui over the decades. We concur that Kawainui is an important resource that needs continued attention, management, and maintenance.

3. *By my reading of the plan, the centers for stewardship at the edges of Kawainui make up less than 10% of its entire acreage, and simply overlay areas of original Hawaiian settlements. I find the proposed uses for each area are fitting for community programs and cultural practice.*
Response: Areas designated for facilities supporting establishment of cultural centers and an educational center, or other facilities (e.g. on-site parking, a restroom, and open pavilion), would be situated within previously disturbed upland areas. The total floor area of all facilities (building structures) would be about one acre in size. These improvements would be sited within upland areas and support a combination of outdoor recreation, cultural, education, and other program areas. You are correct that these areas total only about 7% (about 66 acres) of the entire project area, most of which being open areas for pedestrian and foot trails. Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine encompasses over 11 acres, DOFAW's research and management station encompasses 14 acres, and Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park is over 9 acres in size. We concur that these areas proposed for programs and activities are appropriate.

4. *The plan reflects my hope for a thriving Kawainui. I understand opponents are motivated by a fear of what 'bad things' might happen; I prefer to believe that thoughtful and culturally sensitive planning of initiatives will ensure a revitalized relationship between the people of Kailua and the land at Kawainui and Hāmākua.*
I am not worried that once-restored these places would fall to neglect or abuse. I think of my Hawaiian children and grandchildren when I say we have current and future generations who will take on the kuleana of aloha 'āina.
My recommendation is continued collaboration with the 'āina restoration and cultural education community groups of Kailua that understand the value of the natural and cultural resources at Kawainui and Hāmākua.
Response: We acknowledge that project plans reflect your vision to create a thriving Kawainui, and you believe the project would provide long-term benefits to all residents of the State. Those opposed to the project do have concerns associated with the number of visitors and management of activities. DOFAW and DSP agree that thoughtful planning efforts, combined with cultural sensitivity, would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices that benefit all. Partnerships and stewardship opportunities with non-profit organizations, such as Hika'alani, created by the project would further support project objectives.

It is unlikely that Kawainui and Hāmākua would fall into neglect or abuse as the growing partnerships with non-profit organizations, schools, etc. supported by this project would benefit the long-term management of the resource. We acknowledge the dedication of your family to support such efforts. This project would support the continued collaboration with organizations and the public to restore the resource and further educational and cultural programs. DOFAW and DSP appreciate support from these organizations.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Mary A Mack <mamack527@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 9:25 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Mr. Sato, Ms. Zoll

The Kawainui Master Plan Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement as written is an environmental travesty for the Kawainui Marsh and I adamantly oppose it.

Mary Ann Mack
44-309 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Sent from my iPad

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Mary Mack
44-309 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744

Dear Ms. Mack:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project.

The Kawainui Master Plan Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement as written is an environmental travesty for the Kawainui Marsh and I adamantly oppose it.
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to this project. Your characterization of the project as an environmental travesty is not consistent with the results of the DEIS. The proposed project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities given the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie
579 Kāneʻapu Place ♦ Kailua, Hawaiʻi 96734
(808) 780-8236 ♦ melodykmackenzie@gmail.com

February 4, 2018

Ronald Sato
AICP, Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813
Email: rsato@hhf.com

RE: *Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project*

Aloha:

I write this letter to offer comments on the *Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project*. I am a Kailua resident and my family has called Kailua home for at least six generations. I am a kumu hula graduate of Māpuana de Silva of Hālau Mōhala ʻIlima and continue to participate as a haumana and teacher within the Hālau. I am also one of the members of the Kailua ʻōiwi community who has been actively engaged in issues of repatriation and protection of our iwi kūpuna. Finally, in my professional life, I am a professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law where I specialize in Native Hawaiian law.

It is as a cultural practitioner and one who was born, raised, and lives in Kailua–and whose ancestors were also born raised, lived, and died in Kailua–that I write this letter. I have reviewed the *Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project* and believe that it provides a complete and thorough review of the impacts of the Master Plan Project for the Kawainui-Hāmākua area. It also carefully considers alternatives, including the "no action" alternative, and evaluates each. And, it notes the changes to the Master Plan Project that addressed earlier community concerns about the project. Thus, on the whole, I believe the *Draft EIS* has done a good job in assessing not only the environmental but other potential impacts on the Kawainui-Hāmākua area and the ahupuaʻa of Kailua more generally.

I would like to reiterate some of the comments that I submitted on the initial Draft Master Plan for Kawainui-Hāmākua, because I believe that they are still relevant at this stage of the process. I am astonished that there is still so much misinformation about the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project in the Kailua community. I want to highlight a section of the Master Plan that I found particularly enlightening. After discussing the concern expressed by cultural practitioners that an earlier plan put Hawaiian culture on display "rather than provide places for the Hawaiian community members themselves to teach, learn, share, and practice culture," the plan states that some areas have been identified and conceptualized by the Hawaiian community for *living culture*: a center for Hawaiian studies at Waiʻauia; a place for agricultural practices and education at Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park; an education center and a separate cultural center near Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine in the Pōhakea area; and a hale waʻa for canoe/voyaging activities at the Kalāheo Section of the Kawainui State Park Reserve.

In my mind, here is the fundamental positive difference between the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and plans that have come before – the emphasis here is on *living culture*. This is also the fundamental difference between areas where Hawaiian culture can actually be practiced and lived and places where Hawaiian culture is either used as a commodity or viewed as a faded and ancient relic of the past. Hawaiians *continue* to have a vibrant culture that makes us a unique, distinctive people in our homeland.

I do not see how the activities that would take place at the identified areas, activities to support a living Hawaiian culture, activities that would teach and impart traditional knowledge and ways to the next generation, activities that would re-ground all of us – Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian alike – in practices unique to the natural resources of this place, could be detrimental to Kawainui itself. On a practical level, these activities are limited to a relatively small area and there are many protections built into the plan (including modest building sizes, requirements of LEED certification, limited parking, locked areas at night) to ensure that these activities do not negatively impact Kawainui or surrounding communities. Most importantly, these activities will enhance and emphasize the strong connection between protection and preservation of our natural resources and a living Hawaiian culture.

One concern that many in Kailua have raised relates to increased traffic, but a careful review of the *Draft EIS* addresses this concern and points out that during the weekday afternoon peak hour, "[o]verall, only about 40 additional trips would be generated by the Proposed Action." (p. 5-51) Moreover, the *Draft EIS* specifically reviews the major traffic intersections that would be affected and determines that "the project is anticipated to only have a minor impact on the study intersections with little change to delays for various movements" and concludes that "no improvements to study intersections should be required as part of mitigative measures." (p. 5-53)

I also wish to note that the *Draft EIS* states that in order to manage and maintain restored areas of Kawainui, full-time dedicated staff will be needed. (p. 2-40) The *Draft EIS* identifies necessary staff as a wildlife biologist, an equipment operator, two forestry and wildlife workers, and an outreach coordinator. I believe that these positions should be considered the absolute minimum number of staff necessary to help manage and maintain Kawainui and related areas; indeed the *Draft EIS* notes that "[t]his level of staffing only allows DOFAW to maintain about four (4) acres a month of wetland and upland areas." Thus, I would like to advocate for additional staff in order to insure that restoration of this world-recognized wetland and valuable cultural resource continues.

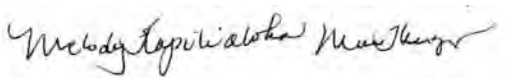
Finally, some have also suggested that it is inappropriate to give opportunities for non-profit organizations to steward and build facilities in designated areas through an RFP process – ironically, it is precisely non-profits who have worked so hard to insure both cultural and natural resource preservation at Kawainui. We can point to ʻAhahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi's work at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine. Another example is the current work of another non-profit, Hikaʻalani, at Ulupō Heiau, which builds upon the prior work of the ʻAhahui and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. Both are shining examples of how Native Hawaiian non-profits fulfill their kuleana.

There is also the example of Ke Kahua o Kūali‘i, which currently has a five-year agreement to utilize part of the Pōhakea area to create a Hawaiian place of culture and a healthy landscape for the perpetuation of cultural practices. Moreover, DLNR must follow stringent rules in the RFP process and there is no guarantee that any of the current non-profits working in these areas will ultimately be chosen to steward these same areas.

The Master Plan has had the input and participation of many people and is, in large measure, very well-conceived and a much needed positive step forward. The *Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project* is a complete and thorough review of the project and, I believe, fairly raises and addresses many of the issues that have concerned Kailua residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these brief comments.

Mālama pono,



Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie

Cc: Ms. Marigold Zoll
O‘ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96809
email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie
579 Kāne'apu Place
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. MacKenzie:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 4, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I write this letter to offer comments on the Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project. I am a Kailua resident and my family has called Kailua home for at least six generations. I am a kumu hula graduate of Māpuana de Silva of Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima and continue to participate as a haumana and teacher within the Hālau. I am also one of the members of the Kailua 'ōiwi community who has been actively engaged in issues of repatriation and protection of our iwi kūpuna. Finally, in my professional life, I am a professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law where I specialize in Native Hawaiian law.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your background information and your involvement with native Hawaiian organizations.

2. *It is as a cultural practitioner and one who was born, raised, and lives in Kailua–and whose ancestors were also born raised, lived, and died in Kailua–that I write this letter. I have reviewed the Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project and believe that it provides a complete and thorough review of the impacts of the Master Plan Project for the Kawainui-Hāmākua area. It also carefully considers alternatives, including the "no action" alternative, and evaluates each. And, it notes the changes to the Master Plan Project that addressed earlier community concerns about the project. Thus, on the whole, I believe the Draft EIS has done a good job in assessing not only the environmental but other potential impacts on the Kawainui-Hāmākua area and the ahupua'a of Kailua more generally.*
   Response: Thank you for reviewing the DEIS and commenting that it provides a complete and thorough review of the impacts associated with the project. The DEIS includes

significant information on the project, addresses alternatives considered, identifies modifications to the project due to community concerns, discusses probable impacts, and identifies mitigative measures, if necessary.

3. *I would like to reiterate some of the comments that I submitted on the initial Draft Master Plan for Kawainui-Hāmākua, because I believe that they are still relevant at this stage of the process. I am astonished that there is still so much misinformation about the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project in the Kailua community.*
   Response: It is unfortunate that misinformation using social media has led to confusion about the proposed project at Kawainui-Hāmākua. A public informational meeting held in January 2018 attempted to clarify potential misinformation that had been circulating.

4. *I want to highlight a section of the Master Plan that I found particularly enlightening. After discussing the concern expressed by cultural practitioners that an earlier plan put Hawaiian culture on display "rather than provide places for the Hawaiian community members themselves to teach, learn, share, and practice culture," the plan states that some areas have been identified and conceptualized by the Hawaiian community for living culture: a center for Hawaiian studies at Wai'auia; a place for agricultural practices and education at Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park; an education center and a separate cultural center near Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine in the Pōhakea area; and a hale wa'a for canoe/voyaging activities at the Kalāheo Section of the Kawainui State Park Reserve.*
   In my mind, here is the fundamental positive difference between the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and plans that have come before – the emphasis here is on living culture. This is also the fundamental difference between areas where Hawaiian culture can actually be practiced and lived and places where Hawaiian culture is either used as a commodity or viewed as a faded and ancient relic of the past. Hawaiians continue to have a vibrant culture that makes us a unique, distinctive people in our homeland.
   Response: Considerable community input received throughout the process was important in developing proposed project improvements. Some of the shortcomings associated with the 1994 master plan related to native Hawaiian cultural practices were addressed under this effort, which included establishing a living culture at Kawainui. As identified in your letter, the project provides non-profit organizations with opportunities to establish a permanent native Hawaiian cultural presence at Kawainui that would support stewardship partnerships, cultural practices, and educational programs for residents.
   The emphasis on living culture is important. Establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices that benefit everyone. Partnerships with non-profit organizations have been beneficial in restoring this resource, and additional stewardship opportunities created by the project would further support these efforts and project objectives.

5. *I do not see how the activities that would take place at the identified areas, activities to support a living Hawaiian culture, activities that would teach and impart traditional knowledge and ways to the next generation, activities that would re-ground all of us – Hawaiian and non- Hawaiian alike – in practices unique to the natural resources of this place, could be detrimental to Kawainui itself. On a practical level, these activities are limited to a relatively small area and there are many protections built into the plan (including*

modest building sizes, requirements of LEED certification, limited parking, locked areas at night) to ensure that these activities do not negatively impact Kawainui or surrounding communities. Most importantly, these activities will enhance and emphasize the strong connection between protection and preservation of our natural resources and a living Hawaiian culture.
Response: We concur that project improvements would not result in an adverse effect on the environment, and the analysis of the DEIS support this conclusion. The project is appropriate for the area and includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Project improvements include buildings encompassing small sites and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, to avoid adverse impacts. The DEIS also discusses several design measures and other methods to address management of activities and access. The project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. We concur that activities resulting from the project would enhance the connection between protection and preservation of natural resources and Hawaiian culture.

6. *One concern that many in Kailua have raised relates to increased traffic, but a careful review of the Draft EIS addresses this concern and points out that during the weekday afternoon peak hour, "[o]verall, only about 40 additional trips would be generated by the Proposed Action." (p. 5-51) Moreover, the Draft EIS specifically reviews the major traffic intersections that would be affected and determines that "the project is anticipated to only have a minor impact on the study intersections with little change to delays for various movements" and concludes that "no improvements to study intersections should be required as part of mitigative measures." (p. 5-53)*
Response: Section 5.6 of the DEIS does address concerns with traffic impacts resulting from the project, which show the project would not have a significant impact as indicated in your comments. No improvements should be required for study intersections, and this adequately addresses those community concerns.

7. *I also wish to note that the Draft EIS states that in order to manage and maintain restored areas of Kawainui, full-time dedicated staff will be needed. (p. 2-40) The Draft EIS identifies necessary staff as a wildlife biologist, an equipment operator, two forestry and wildlife workers, and an outreach coordinator. I believe that these positions should be considered the absolute minimum number of staff necessary to help manage and maintain Kawainui and related areas; indeed the Draft EIS notes that "[t]his level of staffing only allows DOFAW to maintain about four (4) acres a month of wetland and upland areas." Thus, I would like to advocate for additional staff in order to insure that restoration of this world-recognized wetland and valuable cultural resource continues.*
Response: You are correct that DOFAW would need a minimum of five additional staff to support management and maintenance of restored areas of Kawainui as discussed in Section 2.2.1 of the DEIS. We acknowledge your support advocating for additional staff to support restoration, management, and maintenance of this resource. DOFAW will continue to seek support for funding more positions from the Legislature. The long-term management of the project area would also require adaptive management and monitoring of vegetation growth,

water flow into the wetlands, and waterbird nesting and activities. Therefore, DOFAW will retain flexibility for decision-making and staffing levels knowing that uncertainties exist and management actions could change resulting in modifications to the methods implemented for wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts.

8. *Finally, some have also suggested that it is inappropriate to give opportunities for non- profit organizations to steward and build facilities in designated areas through an RFP process – ironically, it is precisely non-profits who have worked so hard to insure both cultural and natural resource preservation at Kawainui. We can point to 'Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi's work at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine. Another example is the current work of another non-profit, Hika'alani, at Ulupō Heiau, which builds upon the prior work of the 'Ahahui and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. Both are shining examples of how Native Hawaiian non-profits fulfill their kuleana.*
There is also the example of Ke Kahua o Kūali'i, which currently has a five-year agreement to utilize part of the Pōhakea area to create a Hawaiian place of culture and a healthy landscape for the perpetuation of cultural practices. Moreover, DLNR must follow stringent rules in the RFP process and there is no guarantee that any of the current non-profits working in these areas will ultimately be chosen to steward these same areas.
Response: We agree with your comments regarding the work and commitments of non-profit organizations, and believe providing opportunities to establish a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui is appropriate. Non-profit organizations involved at Kawainui, such as those organizations you have identified and described, have contributed to restoration, stewardship, and educational and cultural programs. These organizations have been excellent partners with the State. The State DLNR would follow procurement regulations that may utilize a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select future non-profit organizations for areas, such as the cultural centers.

9. *The Master Plan has had the input and participation of many people and is, in large measure, very well-conceived and a much needed positive step forward. The Draft EIS for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project is a complete and thorough review of the project and, I believe, fairly raises and addresses many of the issues that have concerned Kailua residents.*
Response: We concur that the planning and environmental review process included considerable community input to identify project needs, project improvements, and concerns that should be addressed. The project is a much needed step and would benefit the entire public. Thank you for your assessment that the DEIS provided a complete and thorough review of the project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
State of Hawaii, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Aloha,

I have received and reviewed the "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement", November 2017 and am providing the following list of questions and comments.

1. **The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle "Alternative"**
Your comment,
"The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Plan (2016): "does not provide many suggestions that actually support providing reasonable and practicable opportunities for non-profit organizations to truly establish a permanent presence in this area to conduct cultural practices and educational programs"
is inaccurate.
Our Alternative supports the stated objectives of the Project plan:
"to sustain, protect, and enhance the natural and cultural resources associated with this area, improve public access and outdoor recreational opportunities that align with sustainability objectives, support cultural practices, and increase stewardship opportunities." p. 2-1.

Why was this Alternative omitted from Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4, p. 2-108, "Other Alternatives Considered"? I ask that it be included in the EIS and that it be objectively and substantively analyzed.

2. **Misinterpretation**
Over the course of public hearings related to the Master Plan, I have expressed concerns regarding the impact visitors (local and non-local) would have on Kawainui-Hamakua if "unregulated" public access and recreation were allowed in the wildlife sanctuaries.
Why was this position misinterpreted as being an objection to visitors to Kailua? (p. 949)
I request that you remove this misinformation from the EIS.

3. **Exclusive Use**
According to the DEIS, the state can issue leases or permits providing "more exclusive use" of facilities in Kawainui-Hamakua by any group, including non-profit organizations.
a. How would such groups be selected?
b. What would be the duration of the typical lease?
c. What would be the terms of the proposed lease agreements?
d. If a lease is issued to a non-profit that pays for the planning and construction of facilities in Kawainui, would it have a legal right to the building(s) if/when the lease expires?

e. Does the building of a facility on state property by a non-profit organization confer any exclusivity in terms of the use of the facility?
f. If State land is leased to a non-profit with an agreement that allows the designation of a portion of the wetland for restoring taro lo'i, will water testing of the site be required?
g. Would an archaeological review of the wetland site proposed for taro lo'i be done prior to restoring the site for this use?
h. Under what circumstances would the State exclude the public from using facilities at this Ramsar site?

4. **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance**
a. Is Kawainui-Hamakua presently in good standing with Ramsar?
b. Under what circumstances would Ramsar require the development of buildings in an endangered waterbird habitat?
c. Why is the State proposing year-round recreational activities in the wildlife sanctuary?
d. Given the number and size of the proposed buildings, parking lots etc, how does the State justify its position that the proposed project is a "sustainable development"?
e. How does the State reconcile the number of modern buildings and scale of infrastructure, given the small size of the Kawainui-Hamakua Ramsar site compared with other Ramsar sites in the U.S.? Kawainui is 1.7 sq. mi. whereas Horicon is 49.85 sq. mi.

5. **Kawainui-Hamakua: Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places**
a. What are the boundaries of the Kawainui-Hamakua historic district?
b. How many buildings, parking lots and septic systems would be built within the historic district?
c. How many miles of public trails and footpaths would the plan add to the historic district?

5. **Land Water Conservation Funds**
a. Is the State presently in compliance with LWCF's mandate for public access and recreation?
b. If not, in what area(s) is it in violation?
c. Are public access, recreation and educational opportunities now available at any LWCF sites in Kawainui?
d. If so, what are the sites and the nature of the activities provided there.
e. Does the LWCF mandate the building of facilities to support public access and recreation?
f. Are there any LWCF sites presently managed as wildlife sanctuaries?
g. Does the LWCF allow regulation of public access and recreation in wildlife sanctuaries and/or endangered waterbird habitat?

6. **Septic Systems and Leach Fields**
a. How many septic systems and leach fields are proposed for Kawainui-Hamakua?
b. What sizes are the septic systems and leach fields being proposed?
c. What commitment of resources will be made to maintaining the septic systems and leach fields?
d. Will the State be responsible for paying for this maintenance?

7. **Sewer Line**
a. Is there an agreement or understanding between the City and the State that a new sewer line will be built along Kapa'a Quarry Road?

b. Who owns the various segments of Kapa'a Quarry Road?
c. Will the State have to pay for any segment of the installation of the sewer line? What would be the estimated cost?
d. What permits would be necessary?
e. What would be the estimated time it would take to construct it?
f. Will dredging and earth removal be done along the mauka border of Kawainui and Kapa'a Quarry Road?
g. What environmental impact would dredging and filling along Kapa'a Quarry Road have on the project area?

8. **Lawn and Open Space Maintenance**
a. How many acres will be devoted to lawns and/or open spaces within the project area?
b. Will fertilizers be used as part of the maintenance regimen for lawns and open spaces?
c. How much fertilizer would be applied and how often?

9. **Traffic**
a. Was the traffic analysis for the expansion of Kapa'a Industrial Park included in the traffic impact analysis for the proposed project?
b. What was the level of service at final buildout of the Kapa'a Industrial Park?
c. What would be the estimated wait time at the traffic lights at the entry to Kailua Town at the bridge, and the entry and exit to Kapa'a Quarry Road, at peak traffic times, when both projects are completed?
d. What is the present wait time at these traffic lights for ambulances and firetrucks?

10. **Educational Facilities**
a. How many public and private educational facilities are within 2 miles of the boundary of the project area?
b. Do students using the Kawainui-Hamakua area for field work, research and stewardship have access to labs and classrooms in the area?
c. Is the State exploring public/private partnerships for use of existing school facilities to support education field trips, research and stewardship in Kawainui-Hamakua?
d. Would the State support alternative locations for an Educational/Visitor Center as proposed in the "Interpreting Kawainui-Hamakua Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update" 2012 Report?
e. Has the State evaluated the use of phone apps to educate the public on Kawainui-Hanakua? Would the State recommend this as a mitigating measure to offset the impact of a physical facility on site?

11. **Human Environmental factors in the Vicinity of the Project**
a. Has the existing human environment in Kailua communities experiencing high visitor use, been considered in the evaluation of foreseeable impacts from visitors to the marsh?
b. Have traffic, noise and erosion at the Kaiwa Ridge (Pillbox) Trail and the Maunawili Fall's Trail, and impacts from commercial kayak tours on Moku Nui islet in the Mokulua State Seabird Sanctuary, been used to assess foreseeable impacts to the launch area, trails and sanctuaries in Kawainui-Hamakua?
c. Has the DEIS taken into consideration the history of parking at the Makapu'u Point Lighthouse Trial?

d. Was parking along the road eliminated by the building of a parking lot at the Makapu'u site? Do cars park on the roadway when the parking lot is full?
e. Has the DEIS evaluated the impact of foreseeable street parking along Kapa'a Quarry Road when the proposed parking lots are full?
f. Why is analysis of "pollution from the watershed area" beyond the scope of the project, as well as mitigation of non-point source pollution from the watershed?
g. Does the DEIS evaluate the impact of sediment buildup from construction as part of a cumulative event tied to other sources of sedimentation occurring in the larger project area?
h. Can understanding the history of water diversion within the Kailua watershed help in the evaluation of impacts from the proposed actions e.g. would providing information on sources of problems in the wetland such as water diversions within the watershed or sheet flow of storm water over Kapa'a Quarry Road, be useful in the planning of mitigation measures for the implementation phase of the project?

12. **Kayaks**
a. How many kayaks would be stored in the Hale Wa'a at the Kapa'a and Kalaheo site? (Figure 2.11, p. 2-63)
b. Who would be allowed to store and use kayaks at the site?
c. Would kayaks be allowed to use existing open water areas in Kawainui and Hamakua or water areas that are later opened up as a result of the removal of vegetation in the wetland?
d. Are there regulations for kayak use within the wetland? For example, how close to the wetland habitat would kayaks be allowed to go?
e. Will kayaks be allowed to land on stable parts of the vegetative mat within the Kawainui wetland?
f. Does the DEIS address the impact kayak users could have on endangered waterbirds in Kawainui-Hamakua?
g. If in the "foreseeable future" there was a "great demand" for kayak use of the wetland by non-commercial and/or commercial groups (as was the case at the Mokulua Islets) could a commercial ban be lifted as allowed by law?
h. Has the proposed canoe storage and launching facilities at the Kapa'a and Kalaheo site already been approved?

13. Information deficiencies
The public cannot realistically be expected to evaluate a Draft EIS in which the following vague assurances are offered as a substitute for information:

a. **"**Traffic impacts on the Kukanono neighborhood from project improvements will be addressed in the EIS." p. 8-16
b. "Concerns about **c**anoe and vehicular traffic will be addressed in the EIS." p. 8-17
c. "*The EIS* will address City-owned property associated with Kapa'a Quarry Road, and pertinent information incorporated in the final master plan." p. 8-17
d. "The *EIS* will address potential visual impacts of proposed actions. p. 8-18
e. A traffic a*ssessment* will be conducted during the EIS process to identify potential traffic impacts resulting from the plan proposal. The traffic study will also include recommendations to mitigate any impacts." p. 8-20
f. "The EIS will evaluate the possibility of integration of proposed project pedestrian trails with the Ko'olau Greenbelt and Heritage Trails System." p. 8-20

g. The EIS will address safety and security issues in the project area and identify measures or guidelines to enforce existing State regulations. p. 8-21
h. "The actual number of structures built depends on funding availability and may be less than shown on the plan." p. 8-21
i. "…the EIS process will estimate visitors to Kawainui and assess the impacts." p. 8-22
j. "A reinterment site is planned as part of master plan concepts at Wai'auia… Site-specific archaeological surveys will be conducted as appropriate and prior to construction of buildings and structures." p. 8-23
k. "Final fence locations and design type will be determined by DOFAW." p. 8-23

14. **Endangered Waterbird Habitat**
a. What areas within the proposed project are essential habitat for endangered waterbirds?
b. How is the size and quality of habitat necessary for the survival of endangered waterbirds determined?
c. Has a study of the location and condition of habitat supporting endangered waterbirds and migratory fowl in the project area been done?
d. Does the EIS support its conclusions of little or no-impact with scientific data?

15. **Streams Entering Kawainui**
a. Of the three streams entering Kawainui: Maunawili, Kahanaiki and Kapa'a Streams, has any study been done to delineate their riparian areas?
b. Has the impact of sedimentation from proposed bridge development in/or upslope of the wetland been evaluated?
c. Are there threatened or endangered species known to inhabit the riparian zones of these streams?
d. What measures are being proposed in the DEIS to protect at-risk species?
e. What erosion controls would be implemented in the riparian zones during the construction of the bridges proposed in the project?
f. Does the DEIS identify and evaluate marine stressors originating in the Kailua watershed and wetland e.g. salinity variations and/or sedimentation that may contribute to coral decline and death?

14. **Size of Riparian and Upland Areas**
a. What percentage of the project area is outside the wetland boundary?
b. What percentage of the non-wetland area will be environmentally altered by the construction of buildings, parking lots, restrooms, boardwalks, observation decks, information kiosks, lawns and open space areas, septic system leach fields, fencing, bridges, maintenance roads, foot-trails, paths and a canoe launch?

With Aloha,
Pauline Mac Neil
February 6, 2018

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
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AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Pauline Mac Neil

Via Email: dearpauline@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Mac Neil:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter emailed on February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your numbered comments.

1. *The Lani--Kailua Outdoor Circle "Alternative"*
Your comment, "The Lani--Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Kawainui--Hamakua Marsh Master Plan (2016): "does not provide many suggestions that actually support providing reasonable and practicable opportunities for non--profit organizations to truly establish a permanent presence in this area to conduct cultural practices and educational programs" is inaccurate.
Our Alternative supports the stated objectives of the Project plan: "to sustain, protect, and enhance the natural and cultural resources associated with this area, improve public access and outdoor recreational opportunities that align with sustainability objectives, support cultural practices, and increase stewardship opportunities." p. 2-1.
Why was this Alternative omitted from Chapter 2, Section 2.3.4, p. 2-108, "Other Alternatives Considered"? I ask that it be included in the EIS and that it be objectively and substantively analyzed.
Response: The comment you refer to is from an EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) response letter to the Lani-Kailua Branch of the Outdoor Circle (LKOC) regarding their proposed alternative to the project. We disagree with your assertion. The LKOC alternative does not support the project need and objectives, particularly in regard to the establishment of a permanent cultural presense at Kawainui.

The reference to the objective statement in your response (page 2-1 of the DEIS) is from a general statement of project objectives related to DOFAW and DSP agency missions. Section 2.1 of the DEIS discusses project need and objectives in greater detail, and explains that establishing a permanent cultural presence is needed. The LKOC alternative eliminates the cultural center at Kapa'a, suggests only a pavilion at Wai'auia, and eliminates the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Those suggestions do not support providing reasonable and practicable opportunities for establishing a cultural center allowing for a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui.

We acknowledge LKOC's opposition to visitors to Kailua and any improvements that may support visitors. However, an important purpose for the project is to increase public access and provide for managed passive outdoor recreation for the general public, which includes residents. A common theme in LKOC's alternative plan is to restrict visitors and minimize areas available for public access. However, some components of LKOC's alternative plan are consistent with the proposed project. Furthermore, due to community concerns about increasing public access and visitors, several improvements proposed in the DEIS have been eliminated from this project. Improvements eliminated include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Therefore, portions of the current project plans are consistent with LKOC's suggested alternative. Nevertheless, the interests of the entire State of Hawai'i need to be considered because Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the general public to enjoy.

The LKOC alternative plan was included in the organization's EISPN comment letter, and was addressed in the response letter and included in Appendix A. Section 2.3 of the Final EIS (FEIS) will incorporate that discussion. Revised text is attached to this letter.

2. *Misinterpretation*
Over the course of public hearings related to the Master Plan, I have expressed concerns regarding the impact visitors (local and non-local) would have on Kawainui-Hamakua if "unregulated" public access and recreation were allowed in the wildlife sanctuaries. Why was this position misinterpreted as being an objection to visitors to Kailua? (p. 949) I request that you remove this misinformation from the EIS.
Response: This comment is in reference to page 949 (actually 948) that corresponds to pages associated with the pdf file for the DEIS, and not the actual page number of the DEIS that begins with a Chapter number, dash, and page number (e.g. 2-78). This referenced page is from an EISPN response letter to Ms. Betsy Connors of the LKOC. To clarify, we do not view the response as misinformation. The response states the "concerns with the level of visitors to Kailua, and the opposition to changes that may attract more visitors to Kailua." It does not state you object to visitors to Kailua as a whole. Based upon your comments, we can now clarify your position that you are not opposed to visitors to Kailua, or increased visitors. Your concern is with visitors associated with *unregulated* public access and outdoor recreation. Both DOFAW and DSP do not want unregulated access at Kawainui. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses several actions proposed to manage such access.

3. *Exclusive Use. According to the DEIS, the state can issue leases or permits providing "more exclusive use" of facilities in Kawainui---Hamakua by any group, including non--profit organizations.*
   Response: The State can issue leases or permits for more exclusive use of State-owned property to non-profit organizations, individuals, and private companies, and already does so statewide for a variety of uses such as businesses, utilities, and agricultural use. Exclusive ranch use at Kawainui has occurred for many years.
   a. *How would such groups be selected?*
      Response: Selection of non-profit organizations would be conducted with a State procurement process, such as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or a Request for Proposals (RFP), which would result in selection by the State and initiation of leases or other appropriate dispositions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS.
   b. *What would be the duration of the typical lease?*
      Response: The duration of a typical lease depends upon the situation of the lessee and proposed use, and can vary from a few years to many years.
   c. *What would be the terms of the proposed lease agreements?*
      Response: The terms of any lease would be determined between the State and lessee.
   d. *If a lease is issued to a non-profit that pays for the planning and construction of facilities in Kawainui, would it have a legal right to the building(s) if/when the lease expires?*
      Response: Upon termination of a lease, the lessee may need to return the site close to its original condition or the State would take over ownership of any remaining structures. Those details would be determined between the State and lessee.
   e. *Does the building of a facility on state property by a non-profit organization confer any exclusivity in terms of the use of the facility?*
      Response: The lessee would be responsible for the operation and activities occurring along with the maintenance of any structures constructed. Non-profit organizations would have control and management of activities. DOFAW and DSP would be available to assist the non-profit organizations with educational, cultural or stewardship activities at these sites. These programs would be available for student and public participation.
   f. *If State land is leased to a non-profit with an agreement that allows the designation of a portion of the wetland for restoring taro lo'i, will water testing of the site be required?*
      Response: Water quality testing would not be required for wetland restoration that includes creating taro lo'i along the wetland edge. Data presented in the DEIS indicates that water quality is not a significant health issue that would adversely affect potential lo'i activities. However, future water quality testing could be included as part of the educational programs of any non-profit organizations selected for Kawainui, providing increased knowledge about this resource that would benefit the State and public.
   g. *Would an archaeological review of the wetland site proposed for taro lo'i be done prior to restoring the site for this use?*
      Response: Archaeological review has been completed for the project area. However, further archaeological study for particular sites proposed for creating taro lo'i could be conducted at the appropriate time when such activities and areas are determined. Archaeological work could also be conducted as part of educational programs that support project objectives.

h. *Under what circumstances would the State exclude the public from using facilities at this Ramsar site?*
Response: Chapter 1.5 of the DEIS discusses public access restrictions within the state wildlife sanctuary. Public access within wildlife sanctuaries is restricted to marked trails and roads, and no motorized public vehicles and pets are allowed. The previous response to No. 3.e. addresses public access at proposed cultural centers. Project improvements are intended to increase public access within Kawainui through the education center, pedestrian trails, and programs conducted by the State or at the cultural centers. Thus, observation areas, restrooms, parking area, and trails are intended to support public use and access at Kawainui.

4. *Ramsar Wetland of International Importance*
   a. *Is Kawainui-Hamakua presently in good standing with Ramsar?*
   Response: Kawainui-Hāmākua is in good standing with Ramsar.
   b. *Under what circumstances would Ramsar require the development of buildings in an endangered waterbird habitat?*
   Response: Your question on Ramsar should be more appropriately directed to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat that carries out the day-to-day coordination of activities. It is possible Ramsar would not "require" development of buildings within wetlands that support waterbird habitat. However, there are existing Ramsar sites that do have visitor centers constructed within wetlands, such as the Lake Hornborga site. For this project, there are no buildings proposed within the wetland that serves as waterbird habitat.
   c. *Why is the State proposing year-round recreational activities in the wildlife sanctuary?*
   Response: The wildlife sanctuary does not include all of Kawainui, and consists predominantly of wetland areas where no recreational activity is proposed. Other areas are under DSP jurisdiction, along with areas subject to the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act requirements. Outdoor recreational activities are only proposed within upland areas, and Section 2.1.2 of the DEIS discusses the project purpose and need.
   d. *Given the number and size of the proposed buildings, parking lots etc, how does the State justify its position that the proposed project is a "sustainable development"?*
   Response: Buildings and other structures encompass small sites and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment. The floor area of buildings total a little over one acre in size, and are appropriately sited to serve intended purposes and activities. Parking areas would be designed using pervious material, low-impact design (LID) elements (bioswales, bioretention areas, and rain catchment systems), and would be incorporated with site development. Buildings are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements, and incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines.
   e. *How does the State reconcile the number of modern buildings and scale of infrastructure, given the small size of the Kawainui-Hamakua Ramsar site compared with other Ramsar sites in the U.S.? Kawainui is 1.7 sq. mi. whereas Horicon is 49.85 sq. mi.*

Response: The size and the number of buildings and level of infrastructure improvements of other Ramsar sites is irrelevant to this project. Proposed improvements and structures are appropriately sized in terms of scale given the purpose for the project and the type of activities planned. Infrastructure improvements are modest and the majority of the upland area used for activities would be for pedestrian and foot trails.

5. *National Register of Historic Places*
   a. *What are the boundaries of the Kawainui-Hamakua historic district?*
   Response: To clarify, there is no Kawainui-Hāmākua historic district. Table 4.1 and Figure 4.2 of the DEIS identify existing historic properties within the project area.
   b. *How many buildings, parking lots and septic systems would be built within the historic district?*
   Response: The Kawainui Marsh Archaeological-Cultural Historical Complex (Site - 2029) is shown on Figure 4.2, and generally includes the wetland areas of Kahanaiki and existing restoration ponds. Since there is no historic district, no buildings, parking lots, or septic systems would be constructed within such a district. Section 4.1 of the DEIS discusses project effects on historic properties. Site improvements and structures can be appropriately sited to avoid impacting historic properties, and proposed mitigative measures for each subarea were presented in Section 4.1.
   c. *How many miles of public trails and footpaths would the plan add to the historic district?*
   Response: There is no historic district, and Section 4.1 discusses project effect on historic sites. Site -2029 does not include upland areas where pedestrian and foot trails would be routed. Such trails can be designed to avoid impacting historic properties.

5. *Land and Water Conservation Funds* (Note: Comment likely incorrectly renumbered as No. 5 again)
   a. *Is the State presently in compliance with LWCF's mandate for public access and recreation?*
   Response: The present level of public access and outdoor recreation provided at Kawainui does not adequately comply with LWCF requirements based upon consultations with the National Park Service.
   b. *If not, in what area(s) is it in violation?*
   Response: DSP must provide more public access and outdoor recreation opportunities within the areas purchased by the State using these federal funds. Figure 6.1 of the DEIS shows the areas acquired.
   c. *Are public access, recreation and educational opportunities now available at any LWCF sites in Kawainui?*
   Response: Public access, outdoor recreation, and educational programs are currently only provided at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine and at Ulupō Heiau.
   d. *If so, what are the sites and the nature of the activities provided there.*
   Response: Sections 1.4 and 2.2 of the DEIS discuss these sites and the activities occurring there.

e. *Does the LWCF mandate the building of facilities to support public access and recreation?*
Response: LWCF does not mandate but supports the building of facilities to support public access and outdoor recreation.

f. *Are there any LWCF sites presently managed as wildlife sanctuaries?*
Response: Section 1.5.3 of the DEIS discusses LWCF areas within the wildlife sanctuary, which are associated with the Kahanaiki area.

g. *Does the LWCF allow regulation of public access and recreation in wildlife sanctuaries and/or endangered waterbird habitat?*
Response: LWCF requirements apply to the property purchased or developed using those funds, and such requirements would apply regardless of other State designations given to the property, such as being a wildlife sanctuary or supporting waterbird habitat.

6. *Septic Systems and Leach Fields*

a. *How many septic systems and leach fields are proposed for Kawainui-Hamakua?*
Response: Section 5.2.2 of the DEIS identifies sites and uses that may require septic systems. Six sites were identified that would have a septic system with a leach field, but two sites may connect to the municipal sewer system.

b. *What sizes are the septic systems and leach fields being proposed?*
Response: The size of septic systems and leach fields would be determined during the design of construction plans for specific facilities. However, Table 5.3 identifies the projected size of septic tanks.

c. *What commitment of resources will be made to maintaining the septic systems and leach fields?*
Response: The commitment of resources to maintain septic systems consists of funding for activities (e.g. sludge pumping). Non-profit organizations would be responsible for the costs and staffing needed to operate and maintain septic systems for the cultural centers. DSP would be responsible for costs needed to maintain the system for the education center, or restroom building that may be provided in the interim period before education center construction. DOFAW would be responsible for maintaining the systems for their areas at Hāmākua, Kahanaiki, and at their management and research station.

d. *Will the State be responsible for paying for this maintenance?*
Response: Please refer to response 6.c.

7. *Sewer Line*

a. *Is there an agreement or understanding between the City and the State that a new sewer line will be built along Kapa'a Quarry Road?*
Response: We are not aware of any agreement between the City and the State to construct a new sewer line along Kapa'a Quarry Road.

b. *Who owns the various segments of Kapa'a Quarry Road?*
Response: Section 1.3.2 of the DEIS discusses the multiple ownership of property along Kapa'a Quarry Road.

c. *Will the State have to pay for any segment of the installation of the sewer line? What would be the estimated cost?*
Response: There is no new sewer line planned along Kapa'a Quarry Road that the State would fund. Consequently, there is no estimated cost for such a project.

d. *What permits would be necessary?*
Response: Any permits necessary for constructing a new municipal sewer line should be referred to the City, as DOFAW and DSP are not involved in any such improvement.

e. *What would be the estimated time it would take to construct it?*
Response: Please refer to the City to determine an estimated time to construct a new municipal sewer line because DOFAW and DSP are not involved in any such improvement.

f. *Will dredging and earth removal be done along the mauka border of Kawainui and Kapa'a Quarry Road?*
Response: No dredging work is proposed along the Kawainui project site mauka property line along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Some project improvements in the project upland area along Kapa'a Quarry Road may require some grading activities. However, work along this property line would not be extensive, and Chapter 2 of the DEIS discusses improvements along this roadway corridor. Any material resulting from excavation activities would likely be used as fill within the project site to achieve a balanced cut/fill condition.

g. *What environmental impact would dredging and filling along Kapa'a Quarry Road have on the project area?*
Response: No dredging activities are planned to occur along Kapa'a Quarry Road. Section 3.1 of the DEIS discusses the impacts related to excavation and fill activities. In general, such activities would be minimal and would not result in a significant environmental impact. Agency review of design plans, ministerial permits, and BMP measures would further minimize effects.

8. *Lawn and Open Space Maintenance*

a. *How many acres will be devoted to lawns and/or open spaces within the project area?*
Response: Table 2.1 of the DEIS provides a breakdown of acreage per program area and resource management area. Kawainui's upland reforestation and open space area involves about 88.5 acres. Some areas may have some open space "lawns," such as the kauhale complex at Pōhakea and the cultural center at Kapa'a. Including other program areas, up to 100 acres of open space could be grassed. However, creating large grassed, manicured landscaped lawns, similar to a City park, is not planned as most open space areas would consist of existing or native vegetation.

b. *Will fertilizers be used as part of the maintenance regimen for lawns and open spaces?*
Response: Fertilizers are not planned for the vast majority of upland open space areas. Vegetation naturally grows well in this region without the need for fertilizer, and the intent for open space is to allow the natural landscape to establish the character of the area. Small program areas, such as the cultural centers or education center could use some fertilizer for landscape, but vegetation naturally grows well in the area.

c. *How much fertilizer would be applied and how often?*
Response: Any fertilizer used by non-profit organizations would likely be minimal because vegetation grows well in this region, and such practices would follow

manufacturer guidelines. As discussed in Section 3.4.5 of the DEIS, the Kawainui wetland serves as a natural treatment system that intercepts surface runoff and removes or retains inorganic nutrients, processes organic wastes, and reduces suspended sediments. This wetland receives discharges from Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams that serve the much larger Maunawili watershed area that has considerable agricultural and urban (residences) uses. Therefore, periodic use of fertilizer from smaller project program areas would have minimal impact on the environment and Kawainui's water quality.

9. *Traffic*
   a. *Was the traffic analysis for the expansion of Kapa'a Industrial Park included in the traffic impact analysis for the proposed project?*
   Response: The Kawainui project traffic study included an assumed growth percentage, which would account for additional traffic from the industrial park expansion. This growth was determined to be reasonable because the phasing and timing of the industrial park expansion was not known. Infrastructure development, site improvements, and market conditions would determine the industrial park expansion phasing and timing. The industrial park's traffic study indicated no mitigative measures would be needed until the expansion was about 47% built out. The owner is responsible to prepare an updated traffic impact study prior to implementation of Phase D of that expansion, which includes the largest area of the expansion. Furthermore, the owner is responsible to construct all necessary street improvements.
   b. *What was the level of service at final buildout of the Kapa'a Industrial Park?*
   Response: Please refer to the industrial park's Final EIS for information regarding that development.
   c. *What would be the estimated wait time at the traffic lights at the entry to Kailua Town at the bridge, and the entry and exit to Kapa'a Quarry Road, at peak traffic times, when both projects are completed?*
   Response: Section 5.6 of the DEIS discusses project impact at study intersections. Overall, the project would have minimal impact on traffic conditions, and project generated trips would occur after the weekday morning peak commuter period. Table 5.9 shows the projected delays at the intersection of Kailua Road with Hāmākua Drive/Kainehe Street. The overall intersection delay would be 57.6 seconds. At the two main intersections with Kapa'a Quarry Road, the overall intersections delay would be less than 20 seconds.
   d. *What is the present wait time at these traffic lights for ambulances and firetrucks?*
   Response: Emergency vehicles have minimal delay crossing these intersections because vehicles would move out of the way to allow them to pass through.

10. *Educational Facilities*
   a. *How many public and private educational facilities are within 2 miles of the boundary of the project area?*
   Response: Figure 5.8 of the DEIS identifies major educational facilities within a reasonable vicinity of the project area to assess project impacts.

b. *Do students using the Kawainui-Hamakua area for field work, research and stewardship have access to labs and classrooms in the area?*
Response: There are no labs or classrooms present within the project area for students to use. The schools that students come from should have classrooms, but availability of labs is dependent upon each school's facilities.

c. *Is the State exploring public/private partnerships for use of existing school facilities to support education field trips, research and stewardship in Kawainui-Hamakua?*
Response: DOFAW and DSP support opportunities for educational programs with schools, universities, and organizations at Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project is intended to provide further support for such activities. This includes research opportunities and participation in stewardship and restoration activities, such as those occurring at Ulupō Heiau and Hāmākua. Your suggested use of school facilities to support educational "field trips" appears to be in conflict. Each school can conduct their own research programs using their school facilities. However, the project area provides opportunities for field trips to support its use as an "outdoor classroom" for students to learn and experience this resource in a "hands on" manner.

d. *Would the State support alternative locations for an Educational/Visitor Center as proposed in the "Interpreting Kawainui-Hamakua Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update" 2012 Report?*
Response: Section 2.3.4 of the DEIS discusses alternative sites for the education center suggested in a 2012 report by Ho'olaulima, and explains why the sites were eliminated. Generally, they were in poor condition and physically separated by Kapa'a Quarry Road, or required displacing businesses along Hāmākua Drive.

e. *Has the State evaluated the use of phone apps to educate the public on Kawainui-Hanakua? Would the State recommend this as a mitigating measure to offset the impact of a physical facility on site?*
Response: New technology, such as phone apps, could be used to support educational programs, but would not replace the need for public access, outdoor recreation, a permanent presence for cultural practices, and human presence at Kawainui. Phone apps are better viewed as something to supplement educational programs versus replacing support facilities and public access for students and the public to experience the resource first hand. Recommending a phone app to replace other educational tools is not necessary as a mitigative measure because the DEIS shows that an education center, or something more modest (e.g. parking, restrooms), would not adversely impact the environment.

11. *Human Environmental Factors*

a. *Has the existing human environment in Kailua communities experiencing high visitor use, been considered in the evaluation of foreseeable impacts from visitors to the marsh?*
Response: Chapter 4 of the DEIS discusses project effects on various areas of the human environment that are pertinent to the project, and includes discussion of community concerns with visitors to Kailua. The majority of the factors contributing to visitor antipathy are not related to improvements proposed by the project, because other factors contribute to Kailua's popularity as a beach town with visitors (renowned beaches, ocean recreational activities, and diversity of shopping (e.g. farmer's market,

boutiques, etc.)). Many visitors to Kailua are residents of O'ahu from elsewhere, particularly on weekends. It is unlikely Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back since initial plans were proposed. However, Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the general public, and the State needs to consider the broader public interest.

b. *Have traffic, noise and erosion at the Kaiwa Ridge (Pillbox) Trail and the Maunawili Fall's Trail, and impacts from commercial kayak tours on Moku Nui islet in the Mokulua State Seabird Sanctuary, been used to assess foreseeable impacts to the launch area, trails and sanctuaries in Kawainui-Hamakua?*
Response: The Kawainui and Hāmākua wildlife sanctuaries would not be negatively impacted from traffic, noise, and erosion that may occur from activities at the Kaiwa Ridge (Pillbox) and Maunawili Falls trails. Activities at those trails are located a considerable distance from the project site, and any noise, traffic and erosion concerns would be more site specific for those areas and visitors. The Pillbox hike is located in Lanikai, and the Maunawili Falls trail is within the Maunawili subdivision separated by the subdivision, agricultural uses, and Kalaniana'ole Highway. The effects related to traffic and erosion from those trails would be localized and specific to those sites, and would not impact the wildlife sanctuary. Noise from hiking activities at those trails would not be audible at the sanctuary. The project pedestrian trails would likewise not be negatively affected and do not connect to those other trails.
Commercial kayak tours on Moku Nui islet would not impact the Kawainui or Hāmākua wildlife sanctuaries or pedestrian trails. Such tours occur in the ocean well away from the project site. Kayak tours are not permitted within Kawainui, and access from the Kawainui Canal is predominantly blocked by existing wetland vegetation. At the Kalāheo park site, no project improvements are planned with elimination of the hale wa'a. DSP intends to allow only schools to launch canoes from this site into the canal. Therefore, the already permitted launch site at Kalāheo would not be impacted by tours to the Moku Nui islet.

c. *Has the DEIS taken into consideration the history of parking at the Makapu'u Point Lighthouse Trial?*
Response: The history of parking at the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail is not pertinent to impacts from this project, and conditions there are separate and distinct to that site and area of the island. Visitors to Kawainui would not reach the number visiting the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail because Kawainui provides a significantly different experience, as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Visitation to Kawainui can be characterized as being nature-based outdoor recreational activity for viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. In comparison, the Makapu'u trail is part of the larger Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline that offers outstanding views of O'ahu's southeastern coastline, ocean and neighbor island views, whale watching, sun-rise viewing, and access to ocean recreational sites (e.g. blowhole, tide pools) along the trail. In comparison, Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine is currently open to the public providing views of Kawainui and wildlife, but has comparatively low visitation (250 persons a month). DSP wanted to provide more on-site parking at the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail when improvements were initially

proposed, but reduced the number of stalls based upon community input, resulting in the current conditions. It is unlikely a similar parking condition would occur at Kawainui based upon the projected level of activity.

d. *Was parking along the road eliminated by the building of a parking lot at the Makapu'u site? Do cars park on the roadway when the parking lot is full?*
Response: Reasons for parking restrictions along the road at the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail site and whether cars park along the roadway is not pertinent to this project.

e. *Has the DEIS evaluated the impact of foreseeable street parking along Kapa'a Quarry Road when the proposed parking lots are full?*
Response: There are currently no restrictions preventing vehicle parking along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and people already park on the street at Nā Pōhaku. There is no negative impact to vehicles legally parking along this road. However, the only limitation for parking would be having available shoulder space for vehicles. The FEIS will include this information. Revised text is attached to this letter. Your concerns about street parking along this road would primarily apply to the education center site and parking lot at Kahanaiki that would be available for the general public. As part of the design phase for these two sites, site design work can include accommodating a few street parking stalls, and restricting street parking for other areas.

f. *Why is analysis of "pollution from the watershed area" beyond the scope of the project, as well as mitigation of non-point source pollution from the watershed?*
Response: As discussed in the DEIS, DOFAW and DSP cannot control what pollution occurs in the larger watershed because those mauka areas are outside of the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area, are not under DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction, and consist of privately-owned property. DOFAW and DSP cannot mitigate such non-point source pollution because they have no authority over activities occurring within those private properties. Furthermore, the purpose and need for this project is not to improve the watershed area outside of the project site limits. However, DOFAW can manage the wetlands within the Kawainui and Hāmākua project area to support and improve their function and value within the watershed. The DEIS includes sufficient information on the watershed area to address project-related impacts.

g. *Does the DEIS evaluate the impact of sediment buildup from construction as part of a cumulative event tied to other sources of sedimentation occurring in the larger project area?*
Response: Construction of project improvements would not result in sediment buildup. Section 3.1 of the DEIS addresses BMPs and other permit requirements that would be required to address topography, soils, and mitigation of stormwater runoff during short-term construction activities. Areas planned for such improvements are small, would not require significant excavation or fill activities, and would not generate a significant impact. Project improvements would be implemented in phases and would not result in a significant cumulative impact in terms of sediment buildup. Facilities are spread over a large area and BMPs would be implemented to mitigate sediment discharge during construction. Phasing improvements reduces impacts compared to work occurring during a single timeframe. The Kawainui wetland would not be negatively impacted as it has shown it can function adequately as a large detention basin and flood protection. Any sediment discharges occurring from activities at residences or other properties outside of the project area are not controlled or regulated by DOFAW and DSP. Those

property owners would be responsible for managing their activities and any sediment discharges, and it is not feasible or practicable to determine those impacts. However, discussion of Kawainui's condition in the DEIS adequately reflects the cumulative effect of all discharges from these upland areas.

h. *Can understanding the history of water diversion within the Kailua watershed help in the evaluation of impacts from the proposed actions e.g. would providing information on sources of problems in the wetland such as water diversions within the watershed or sheet flow of storm water over Kapa'a Quarry Road, be useful in the planning of mitigation measures for the implementation phase of the project?*
Response: Project improvements would not change or have any effect on prior or future water diversion activities within the watershed outside of the project area. DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction or control over what occurs outside of the State-owned project area. The purpose and need for this project is not to improve or change water diversions outside of the project site. Prior water diversions or sheet flow of storm water runoff from upland areas have not significantly impacted the Kawainui wetland or its function. Information on such activities are not pertinent to address impacts from project improvements, as the DEIS has already addressed project-related impacts and identified mitigative measures, if necessary.

12. *Kayaks*
    a. *How many kayaks would be stored in the Hale Wa'a at the Kapa'a and Kalaheo site? (Figure 2.11, p. 2-63)*
    Response: No kayaks would be stored at the Kalāheo site, and the hale wa'a previously planned has been eliminated. No kayaks would be stored at the cultural center planned at Kapa'a.
    b. *Who would be allowed to store and use kayaks at the site?*
    Response: As discussed in response 12.a., no kayaks would be stored at either of the two sites mentioned. The use of the Kalāheo site for launching canoes into Kawainui Canal is already permitted by prior entitlements, and the proposed project does not involve any new improvements or changes to this site from that already permitted. However, DSP plans to only allow schools to launch canoes for practice from this site by permit.
    c. *Would kayaks be allowed to use existing open water areas in Kawainui and Hamakua or water areas that are later opened up as a result of the removal of vegetation in the wetland?*
    Response: Kayaks are not planned to be allowed within open waters of either Kawainui or Hāmākua.
    d. *Are there regulations for kayak use within the wetland? For example, how close to the wetland habitat would kayaks be allowed to go?*
    Response: There are no specific regulations for kayak use within Kawainui and Hāmākua. However, there are wildlife sanctuary regulations specifying permitted activities and uses. Kayaks are not planned to be allowed within the wetlands of either Kawainui or Hāmākua.
    e. *Will kayaks be allowed to land on stable parts of the vegetative mat within the Kawainui wetland?*
    Response: Please refer to response 12.d.

f. *Does the DEIS address the impact kayak users could have on endangered waterbirds in Kawainui-Hamakua?*
Response: Kayak users are not planned to be allowed within Kawainui-Hāmākua as part of recreational activities, and would therefore not impact endangered waterbirds.

g. *If in the "foreseeable future" there was a "great demand" for kayak use of the wetland by non-commercial and/or commercial groups (as was the case at the Mokulua Islets) could a commercial ban be lifted as allowed by law?*
Response: Any changes to permitted activities within the wildlife sanctuary would require amending the Hawai'i Administrative Rules. DOFAW does not plan to allow kayak use within Kawainui for recreational activities.

h. *Has the proposed canoe storage and launching facilities at the Kapa'a and Kalaheo site already been approved?*
Response: There is no canoe storage and launch facility at the cultural center proposed for Kapa'a. Please refer to response 12.b. regarding the Kalāheo site. Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS also discusses existing land use entitlements.

13. *Information Deficiencies.*
The public cannot realistically be expected to evaluate a Draft EIS in which the following vague assurances are offered as a substitute for information:
Response: The DEIS does provide sufficient information for the public to reasonably review and evaluate project impacts. Your references to pages from the DEIS are taken from Table 8.1 ("Summary of Comments on Draft Master Plan Report (May, 2014)"). As stated in Section 8.1.3 of the DEIS, a summary of public comments received on the draft master plan was prepared and made available to the public in August 2016. Table 8.1 of the DEIS is a copy of that summary matrix of those comments with responses that were made available to public. This summary was completed before the DEIS was completed and published. Various sections of the DEIS thus address your concerns as discussed below.

a. *"Traffic impacts on the Kukanono neighborhood from project improvements will be addressed in the EIS." p. 8-16*
Response: Section 5.6.2 addresses traffic impacts from the project on the Kūkanono neighborhood.

b. *"Concerns about canoe and vehicular traffic will be addressed in the EIS." p. 8-17*
Response: Section 5.6.2 addresses traffic impacts and other sections address impacts from canoe launching from the Kalāheo site. However, the use of this site for launching canoes into Kawainui Canal is already permitted by prior entitlements, and the project does not involve any new improvements or changes to this site from that already permitted. However, DSP plans to only allow schools to launch canoes for practice from this site by permit.

c. *"The EIS will address City-owned property associated with Kapa'a Quarry Road, and permanent information incorporated in the final master plan." p. 8-17*
Response: Section 1.3.2 addresses City-owned property associated with Kapa'a Quarry Road. The final master plan would include pertinent information when prepared.

d. *"The EIS will address potential visual imp acts of proposed actions. p. 8-18*
Response: Section 4.6 addresses visual impacts from the project.

e. *A traffic assessment will be conducted during the EIS process to identify potential traffic impacts resulting from the plan proposal. The traffic study will also include recommendations to mitigate any impacts." p. 8-20*
Response: Section 5.6.2 addresses traffic impacts. The traffic assessment report was included in DEIS Appendix H.

f. *"The EIS will evaluate the possibility of integration of proposed project pedestrian trails with the Ko'olau Greenbelt and Heritage Trails System." p. 8-20*
Response: Section 6.3.7 addresses State greenways and trails.

g. *The EIS will address safety and security issues in the project area and identify measures or guidelines to enforce existing State regulations. p. 8-21*
Response: Chapter 2 discusses project plans addressing safety and security (e.g. fencing). Sections 4.2 and 5.10 address project effects on safety and security issues.

h. *"The actual number of structures built depends on funding availability and may be less than shown on the plan." p. 8-21*
Response: Chapter 2 discusses proposed improvements, phasing, and funding considerations.

i. *"...the EIS process will estimate visitors to Kawainui and assess the impacts." p. 8-22*
Response: Section 2.2.5 discusses projected visitors, and several sections of the DEIS address impacts from visitors.

j. *"A reinterment site is planned as part of master plan concepts at Wai'auia... Site-specific archaeological surveys will be conducted as appropriate and prior to construction of buildings and structures." p. 8-23*
Response: Section 4.1 discusses historic sites and includes information from an archaeological study conducted for this project (Appendix F of the DEIS). Section 1.5.4 discusses the already approved reinterment site at Wai'auia.

k. *"Final fence locations and design type will be determined by DOFAW." p. 8-23*
Response: Chapter 2 discusses fence improvements planned as part of this project, and Section 2.2.1 includes more information on fencing planned.

14. *Endangered Waterbird Habitat*

a. *What areas within the proposed project are essential habitat for endangered waterbirds?*
Response: There are no essential habitat areas designed within the Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands. DOFAW manages the Hāmākua wetland and the restoration ponds at Kawainui as important habitat for endangered waterbirds. Currently, these are the only two areas considered important nesting habitat areas. Other areas of the Kawainui wetland are not known to serve as important nesting habitat at this time because of the overgrowth of vegetation within the wetland and along the wetland fringes that do not provide suitable habitat.

b. *How is the size and quality of habitat necessary for the survival of endangered waterbirds determined?*
Response: There is no predetermined size or quality of habitat necessary for the survival of endangered waterbirds. Endangered waterbirds are already present within the Kawainui engineered restoration ponds, open water areas, and wetland areas overgrown with extensive invasive vegetation that provide different habitat for

waterbirds. There are also several other areas on O'ahu that provide habitat for endangered waterbirds. The project is intended to support restoring the wetland area to provide improved habitat for waterbirds. Section 2.2 of the DEIS discusses natural resource management activities planned.

c. *Has a study of the location and condition of habitat supporting endangered waterbirds and migratory fowl in the project area been done?*
Response: A study of a location or condition of habitat for Kawainui-Hāmākua is not necessary. DOFAW staff are experienced in managing habitat, working with endangered waterbirds, and conduct such activities on a daily basis. Predator control and vegetation maintenance are the key needs for maintaining and increasing waterbird habitat. Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 discuss botanical resources and mammalian species present within the project area based upon technical studies conducted and included in the DEIS appendices (Appendix sections B and C).

d. *Does the EIS support its conclusions of little or no-impact with scientific data?*
Response: A botanical study and avian and mammalian study have been conducted by experts in their fields to support the results of assessments documented in the DEIS. These technical studies are included in the DEIS appendices (Appendix sections B and C).

15. *Streams Entering Kawainui*

a. *Of the three streams entering Kawainui: Maunawili, Kahanaiki and Kapa'a Streams, has any study been done to delineate their riparian areas?*
Response: An aquatic biological survey (Appendix D) included information addressing the riparian areas of Maunawili, Kahanaiki, and Kapa'a Streams. A water quality study was also conducted that addressed the water cycle of these streams along with their water quality characteristics. The DEIS also includes information from other resources that documents the existing condition of these streams. A delineation of the boundary is not necessary because such a boundary would change over time with vegetation growth and climate conditions (e.g. rainy or dry periods). Furthermore, these streams enter the wetland through improved bridges or culverts under highways or roadways, establishing their banks before eventually dissipating within the extensive vegetation within the wetland. Project improvements are intended to restore the Kawainui wetland to support increasing open water areas from these streams.

b. *Has the impact of sedimentation from proposed bridge development in/or upslope of the wetland been evaluated?*
Response: Construction of two bridges crossing Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams supporting maintenance and access would not have a significant impact on sedimentation within the wetland. As discussed in Section 3.4.3 of the DEIS, such bridges would be designed and constructed to span over these streams, which minimizes effects on stream banks. Construction BMPs would be included as part of design plans that would further minimize and mitigate sedimentation effects on the wetland. The bridge crossing Kahanaiki Stream associated with that section of the maintenance road and trail has also been eliminated, further minimizing any impacts from bridge construction.

c. *Are there threatened or endangered species known to inhabit the riparian zones of these streams?*
Response: No endangered species are known to inhabit the riparian zones of these streams where they enter Kawainui. As previously discussed, these streams enter Kawainui via improved culverts or under bridges that do not support habitat for waterbirds. Within the wetland area, endangered waterbirds may utilize such areas. However, only wetland restoration efforts would occur within the wetland, and the DEIS discusses measures and practices that would be implemented to minimize potential effects.

d. *What measures are being proposed in the DEIS to protect at-risk species?*
Response: Section 2.2.1 discusses BMPs that would be implemented to minimize impacts on waterbirds during restoration activities.

e. *What erosion controls would be implemented in the riparian zones during the construction of the bridges proposed in the project?*
Response: Currently, only a bridge for DOFAW maintenance access across Maunawili Stream is proposed, since the access/trail section across Kahanaiki has been eliminated. Section 3.1 of the DEIS addresses BMPs and other permit requirements that would apply to bridge construction to address topography, soils, and mitigation of stormwater runoff during short-term construction activities. Because this bridge would span over Maunawili Stream, there should not be a significant impact on riparian areas of this stream.

f. *Does the DEIS identify and evaluate marine stressors originating in the Kailua watershed and wetland e.g. salinity variations and/or sedimentation that may contribute to coral decline and death?*
Response: The DEIS included an aquatic biological survey (Appendix C) that included information addressing aquatic resources associated with the project area. A water quality study was also conducted that addressed the water cycle of these stream along with their water quality characteristics (Appendix E). These studies, and other references incorporated in the DEIS, characterize these water resources and address potential marine stressors, such as salinity, sediments, nutrients, etc. Data collected from these studies provide indicators of pollutants entering Kawainui and Hāmākua from upland areas associated with their watersheds. There are no known issues of coral decline and death occurring from discharges of water from Kawainui or Hāmākua.

14. *Size of Riparian and Upland Areas. (Likely incorrectly renumbered as No. 14 again)*

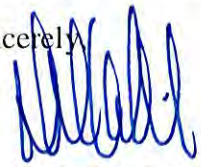
a. *What percentage of the project area is outside the wetland boundary?*
Response: Table 2.1 of the DEIS shows the acreage of areas by category. Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands account for about 764, acres or about 78% of the project area.

b. *What percentage of the non-wetland area will be environmentally altered by the construction of buildings, parking lots, restrooms, boardwalks, observation decks, information kiosks, lawns and open space areas, septic system leach fields, fencing, bridges, maintenance roads, foot-trails, paths and a canoe launch?*
Response: With revisions to the project reducing the level of improvements, the total floor area for structures (buildings, pavilions, etc.) would total a little more than one acre. The hale wa'a structure, boardwalks, and a bridge have been eliminated from the project. The canoe launch is already permitted and is not part of proposed project

improvements. Fencing is already permitted as part of DOFAW management activities for State property. Most sections of maintenance roads and foot trails would utilize existing paths. About 15 acres may require site improvements for construction of facilities, parking, etc. which is about 7% of non-wetland area.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

off from Kawainui by Kapa'a Quarry Road, and would not support pedestrian paths nor provide a suitable experience for visitors. It would not support management and monitoring of visitor activities within the Kawainui area, particularly along the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku corridor.

Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Plan

The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC) proposed an Alternative Plan (Alternative Plan) to the project as described in their October 24, 2016 comment letter on the EISPN. A response letter was provided to the LKOC addressing this alternative plan. These letters were included in Appendix A of the DEIS. Some of the themes proposed by this Alternative Plan are consistent with major components of the proposed project, such as wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and enhancing habitat for endangered waterbirds. However, other suggestions do not practicably support important components of the purpose and need for the proposed project, the State's missions, and the need to provide reasonable public access for all. Nor do they support Ramsar objectives. Consequently, these other components of the Alternative Plan were considered, but eliminated from further consideration.

It should be noted that Ramsar supports sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices within designated international wetlands of importance. Ramsar views sustainable tourism as maintaining a high level of visitor satisfaction, ensuring a meaningful experience, and raising awareness about sustainability issues.

Several elements of the LKOC Alternative Plan do not support project objectives. Instead the plan proposes restricted, limited, and superficial access for the public. The justification for smaller scale improvements is to avoid negative impacts on the Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands, watershed, waterbird habitat, and archaeological sites. However, the analysis in the DEIS shows proposed improvements would not have an adverse effect on these areas. The proposed project does not provide privately-owned, for-profit commercial operations or activities for visitors. Commercial tour buses are not accommodated by the proposed project.

Although the Alternative Plan supports preservation of historic and cultural resources, it does not provide many suggestions which support reasonable and practicable opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence to conduct cultural practices, educational programs, and participate in stewardship of the area. The Alternative Plan suggests that "modern buildings," trails, pavilions, and other structure additions are not needed to meet project objectives. However, "modern" buildings are not viewed as being detrimental to the environment. Such buildings would include tool sheds, plant nurseries, restrooms, and parking shelters to support restoration work, public access, educational programs, and cultural practices. The more important consideration of proposed structures relates to their purpose and the type of activities they support. The suggested form of public access in the Alternative Plan also does not support LWCF requirements for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities for all.

The details by areas suggested in the Alternative Plan are addressed below. Several of the suggested details are already proposed by this project.

1. Kawainui-Hāmākua. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements are included in the proposed project. Commercial for-profit activities for visitors are not included as part of project improvements.
2. Kahanaiki. Educational programs, cultural practices, community service learning projects are supported by proposed improvements. However, allowing only a once a year opportunity for the general public to visit this area under staff-led tours does not support reasonable public access, LWCF requirements, and project need and objectives. A parking lot at the south end of the Kahanaiki area is needed to provide reasonable access for the public, and would support educational programs. The proposed bridge crossing over Kahanaiki Stream has been eliminated along the section of pedestrian trail connecting Kahanaiki with Mokulana.
3. Nā Pōhaku (Pōhakea). Suggestions for this site do not support reasonable public access because the kauhale complex would not adequately serve the purpose of the education center for visitors. The Draft EIS discusses the purpose for this education center. Overall, the size and footprint of this education center would not have a significant impact on the environment. However, based upon comments received during the DEIS comment period, DSP may instead implement a facility on a smaller or interim scale that includes parking, restrooms, and a pavilion, as discussed in Section 2.2. The project's proposed parking lot is sufficient to accommodate projected visitor levels, whereas a 15-stall parking lot would not be adequate, and provides only minimal and superficial support for public access.
4. Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine. The only improvements proposed at this site by the proposed project would connect foot trails from Pōhakea to this site. Existing structures are not planned to be replaced with a new covered pavilion because these structures were built by a non-profit organization for educational and cultural programs conducted under a curatorship agreement. Public access at this site is already allowed, and DOFAW would address wetland access restrictions as part of their ongoing management activities. There are no 10 to 12 foot wide pedestrian trails proposed at Nā Pōhaku, since existing foot trails would continue to be used. There is not enough space at the present trail head entrance to Nā Pōhaku to accommodate a 10 car parking lot. The parking lot proposed at Pōhakea is intended to satisfy this need, and would provide a safer area with vehicles located further away from the roadside. Restrooms proposed at Pōhakea would provide better facilities to serve the public instead of portable toilets.
5. Hawaiian Cultural Center. This site is proposed to allow construction of a cultural center by a non-profit organization to support cultural practices, stewardship opportunities, and educational programs. Based upon prior studies of Kawainui, there are no known hazardous waste issues associated with this site. The non-profit organization developing this site can conduct soil tests, if necessary. Reforestation of this area with native vegetation is included.

6. Vegetation Processing Site. Facilities proposed for this site are needed to adequately support vegetation processing activities and operations.
7. Kapa'a Stream, Ditches, Culverts. The drainage ditches along Kapa'a Quarry Road near the City Model Airplane Park are owned by the City. Therefore, any maintenance or vegetation clearing for them would need to be performed by the City. Pedestrian trails or boardwalks from Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, toward the Model Airplane Park, and toward Kalāheo have been eliminated from the proposed project. Improvements from the bend in Kapa'a Quarry Road to Mōkapu Boulevard consist of wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements that would not contribute to increased long-term traffic along this roadway.
8. Kawainui State Park Reserve (SPR). Improvements shown for the Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo Section (park site) are already permitted and entitled. The hale wa'a initially proposed has been eliminated from the proposed project. Therefore, the project does not propose any new improvements to this site.
9. Levee. DOFAW is planning to restrict dogs from the levee, and will be taking steps to enforce this prohibition in the near future.
10. Wai'auia and Center for Hawaiian Studies. Wai'auia needs wetland restoration and does not provide important habitat for endangered waterbirds. Only a pedestrian trail and observation area are proposed here to provide a connection with the levee. The site for the cultural center is culturally important, which supports locating the center there and management and maintenance of a proposed reinterment site. There are no known historic sites present within this upland area. A suggested alternative of a hale or pavilion located here instead would be inappropriate and does not support cultural practices and other activities. Such a structure provides superficial support for temporary access and does not adequately support the project need. The cultural center would not have significant impacts to view planes of Kawainui. Landscaping would provide further visual buffering.
11. Ulupō Heiau and State Historical Park. The pedestrian and foot trail linking the levee with Ulupō Heiau is no longer included with this project to address public access concerns. The other program-related elements, buffers, and restriction of commercial activity proposed by the Alternative Plan are generally included by the proposed project or are presently occurring (e.g. educational programs). The project does not include using the gated driveway from Kailua Road to the Windward YMCA's rear parking lot to serve Ulupō Heiau. The final design of the foot trail along the Kūkanono subdivision hillside would be routed to avoid impacting existing historic sites in this area that predominantly consist of terraced walls.
12. DOFAW Management Station. The replacement of DOFAW's temporary structures with permanent modern buildings and program-related elements supported by the Alternative Plan are already proposed under this project. Educational and research programs, etc. are presently occurring within this area in coordination with DOFAW. Commercial activities are not proposed at the passive outdoor recreational area west of DOFAW's management station. A restroom facility suggested can be considered

for this area, both on an interim and permanent basis using an individual treatment system.

13. Mokulana Peninsula. Both driveway accesses to this peninsula are planned to be gated and available only for management activities, and educational and cultural programs, etc. coordinated with DOFAW. The other components suggested for this site are already incorporated in project plans. Dogs would not be allowed within these areas. This area would not be open at night. A bridge crossing over Maunawili Streams would not be constructed within the wetland, and is intended to support DOFAW management access within areas.
14. Hāmākua Marsh. Educational programs, cultural programs, and community service learning projects are already permitted and occurring within Hāmākua. The proposed project does not change this condition. Improvements proposed at the gated entrance are needed to support maintenance activities, serve as a staging area, and accommodate programs occurring.
15. Pu'uoehu Hillside. Proposed trails on Pu'uoehu would not be open to the general public because they are intended to support DOFAW management and reforestation activities. However, DOFAW may permit occasional community service learning projects or day events for the public to visit this area, learn of the resource and activities, etc.

Table 1.2
TMK Identification of Parcels and Jurisdiction

TMK Parcel	Description of Parcel	Acreage	Jurisdiction
4-2-003: 017	Pu'uoehu Hillside	67.18	DOFAW
4-2-003: 030	Hāmākua Marsh State Wildlife Sanctuary	22.72	DOFAW
4-2-013: 005	Kawainui - Kahanaiki	97.22	DOFAW
4-2-013: 010	Pōhakea-Nā Pōhaku Section	47.76	DSP
4-2-013: 022	Kawainui - Marsh Central	89.00	DOFAW
4-2-013: 038	Kawainui - Kūkanono - Ulupō Heiau SHP*	19.51	DSP
4-2-016: 002	Kawainui - Wai'auia	9.10	DOFAW
4-2-016: 015	Kawainui - Marsh Central	604.16	DOFAW
4-2-017: 020	Kawainui SPR, Kapa'a Section	18.32	DSP
4-2-103: 018	Ulupō Heiau SHP*	2.50	DSP
4-2-103: 035	Ulupō Heiau SHP*	6.65	DSP
4-4-034: 025	Kawainui SPR, Kalāheo Section	1.90	DSP
	Total Acreage	**986.02**	

*Ulupō Heiau SHP totals over 28 acres.

1.3.2 Kapa'a Quarry Road

Kapa'a Quarry Road is a two laned (one lane in each direction) roadway generally running in a northern direction along Kawainui from its intersection with Kalaniana'ole Highway toward Mōkapu Saddle Road. At the entrance to Le Jardin Academy, Kapa'a Quarry Road is improved with a separate left-turn storage lane, a right-turn storage lane, and a northbound merge lane (Exhibit 1.2). The posted speed limit along this road is 25 mph. About 1.5 miles north, Kapa'a Quarry Place connects to this road providing access into the Kapa'a Light Industrial Park. Kapa'a Quarry Road later turns toward an eastern direction before connecting to its signalized intersection with Mōkapu Boulevard on the north end of Kawainui.

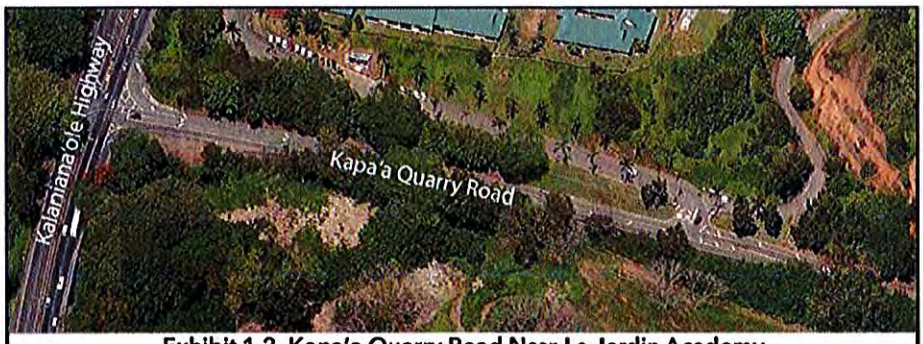


Exhibit 1.2 Kapa'a Quarry Road Near Le Jardin Academy

Kapa'a Quarry Road consists of an access (road) and utility (water) easement about 80 feet wide that runs through portions of privately-owned, State, and City properties. This easement is to the City which is responsible for its maintenance, and has occasionally trimmed trees to remove branches hanging over the roadway, filled potholes, and restriped roadway markings. This road was recently (2017) resurfaced and restriped by the City. There are currently no restrictions

preventing vehicle parking along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and people already park on this street near Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine. The only limitation to on-street parking would be having available shoulder space for vehicles to park on. A summary of the property ownership of this road by sections is provided.

1. Kalaniana'ole Highway to Na Pōhaku.
   a. TMK No.: 4-2-014: 002.
   b. Ownership: Privately-owned (Kapa'a II LLC).
   c. Description: Roadway proceeds north from intersection with Kalaniana'ole Highway, past Le Jardin Academy, and up to Na Pōhaku o Hauwahine (Nā Pōhaku).
2. Na Pōhaku Area.
   a. TMK No.: 4-2-013: 010.
   b. Ownership: State of Hawai'i (DSP Jurisdiction).
   c. Description: Roadway proceeds north generally from Na Pōhaku for about 300 feet within this property.
3. Na Pōhaku to Model Airplane Park.
   a. TMK No.: 4-2-016: 012.
   b. Ownership: City and County of Honolulu.
   c. Description: Roadway proceeds north from just past Na Pōhaku, past the City's Kapa'a Transfer Station, and up to the Model Airplane Park.
4. Model Airplane Park to East Bend.
   a. TMK No.: 4-2-015: 006.
   b. Ownership: Privately-owned (Kapa'a I LLC).
   c. Description: Roadway proceeds north past the City's Model Airplane Park for about 800 feet until it turns to an eastbound direction (Exhibit 1.3).



Exhibit 1.3 Kapa'a Quarry Road Past Model Airplane Park

Ronald Sato

From: Zoll, Marigold S <marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 6:44 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Subject: FW: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS 2017
Attachments: Interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua Recommend...ns for the Kawainui Master Plan Update.pdf; Kawainui Marsh Restoration- Priorities, Protocols, Participation, and Plan (2013 Draft).pdf; The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Plan October 24, 2016.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Marigold Zoll
Oahu Branch Forestry and Wildlife Manager
2135 Makiki Heights Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822
Office (808) 973-9787
Mobile (808) 286-6378

From: DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:45 PM
To: Case, Suzanne D <suzanne.case@hawaii.gov>; Levins, Sara D <Sara.D.Levins@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Smith, David G <david.g.smith@hawaii.gov>; Cogswell, James M <james.m.cogswell@hawaii.gov>; Terrago, Rubyrosa T <rubyrosa.t.terrago@hawaii.gov>; Zoll, Marigold S <marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov>; Jeffers-Fabro, Ati R <ati.r.jeffers-fabro@hawaii.gov>; Misaki, Jason C <jason.c.misaki@hawaii.gov>; Gallaher, Kirsten S <kirsten.s.gallaher@hawaii.gov>; DaMate, Leimana K <leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS 2017

Public comment

From: pauline mac neil [mailto:dearpauline@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 12:27 PM
To: DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR <dlnr@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS 2017

Dear Chairperson Case,

How do you lose a wetland? One building at a time. Add parking lots, restrooms, boardwalks, observation decks, information kiosks, lawns and open spaces, septic systems leach fields, fencing, bridges, 6+ miles of interior roads, foot-trails, paths, a canoe and kayak launch, and storage buildings for such vessels. Eventually you have a recreational facility, increasingly unable to support endangered aquatic species and aquatic life generally. Hawai'i's largest remaining wetland, Kawainui, could be lost on your watch.

DOFAW claims that no commercial permits will be allowed in the Kawainui-Hamakua wildlife sanctuaries, but the law now allows 100 per day and more "if there is great demand". Demand is

assured, based on the popularity of trails in the Kailua area and the pressure that recently resulted in the issuance of commercial permits for kayaks to land on the Mokulua State Seabird Sanctuary. The consequences of your decisions today will be felt in the not so distant future.

The Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS would allow private, non-profit organizations to pay for the planning and building of two cultural centers in the marsh. DOFAW/DSP are telling the community that they need facilities "to support a permanent cultural presence" there. Details of the proposed lease agreements have not been disclosed. There has been no discussion of exclusivity or the potential occupation of these sites beyond the terms of the lease.

Community sentiment is divided between (a) those who will benefit from physical developments including modern facilities, a canoe/kayak launch, bicyclists waiting for legal access, and educators and cultural practitioners who find open air structures insufficient; and (b) those who support traditional structures (hale) and uses (e.g., taro and fishponds), protection of invaluable but still unstudied archeological sites, fewer parking lots, and better maintenance and management of existing trails.

Alternatives to the existing plan have been proposed by community groups, but have not been seriously considered by the consultants. I ask that you re-consider these alternatives in light of the foreseeable harm a project of this magnitude will have on the future health and fecundity of the wetland. Please find attached the following community supported Alternatives:

1. "Interpreting Kawainui-Hamakua Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update" (July 2012)
2. "Kawainui Marsh Restoration: Priorities Protocols, Participation, and Plan" (2013)
3. "The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Plan" (October 24, 2016)

Mahalo for the work you do on our behalf. May you continue to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Kawainui-Hamakua's fragile natural and historic resources in public trust for current and future generations.

Pauline Mac Neil
112 Haokea Drive
Kailua, Hi 96734
2/6/18

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content using **Worry-Free Mail Security**, and is believed to be clean. Click here to report this message as spam.

July 2012

Interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update

With assistance from

Interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua

Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update

The following report from Ho'olaulima Iā Kawainui provides recommendations for interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua marsh complex based on public input. The goal of the report is to have the recommendations incorporated into the Master Plan Update for Kawainui- Hāmākua. The report documents the public outreach process, recommendations, summary of public comments, resources for research and development, survey results, and a full record of the public comments.

Ho'olaulima Iā Kawainui (Ho'olaulima) is a network of conservation, native Hawaiian, educational, and community organizations who came together in 2004 to assist with planning the future of the Kawainui- Hāmākua Marsh complex. The organizations comprising Ho'olaulima are working with the State and the community for the restoration, interpretation, and stewardship of the marsh complex and the many significant natural and cultural resources that comprise this complex.

To address the interpretive opportunities of Kawainui and Hāmākua as part of the larger planning effort, Ho'olualima completed research including inventorying the resources, developing the interpretive themes, and considering interpretive devices and programs that best share these themes and resources. In 2010, Ho'olaulima decided that it was time to outreach to the public to assist with the development of the interpretive plan. With public input, the goal was to identify preferred interpretive opportunities and integrate the interpretive program into the Master Plan update for Kawainui- Hāmākua.



Why Interpretation? Ho'olaulima believes that interpretation can be used to heighten awareness and understanding, and develop better stewardship of the Kawainui-Hāmākua area. Through the interpretive planning process, Ho'olaulima was able to hear the public's thoughts and ideas on the opportunities for interpreting Kawainui- Hāmākua. It was also an opportunity to update the community on the planning and

projects in Kawainui- Hāmākua and provide information on the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the marsh complex.

Community Outreach was thoughtfully planned based on the different communities in Kailua. Outreach was initiated by developing a flyer and large information panels that allowed Ho'olaulima to advertise, inform, and outreach to the public at local events. Ho'olaulima developed goals and objectives for the outreach and structured to community meetings to reach those goals. The goals of the outreach were stated up front at the beginning of every meeting[1]:

We are coming to the community to:

- Introduce you to Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex;
- Learn what these wetlands mean to you; and
- Learn which interpretive messages, techniques and facilities, if any, you think should be located at, in or near the marsh.

There were six (6) community meetings that were held in different communities on different days of the week throughout the fall months of 2011. All of the meetings were structured the same way and provided an opportunity for comments and discussion. Comments were recorded and notes from the meeting were sent out to the participants and posted on a public webpage. Ho'olaulima provided a public forum to post comment via the webpage, email, and phone. A survey was also included at the meetings and available electronically through email and web posting. The survey results are included as Appendix F. In addition to the public outreach, Ho'olaulima worked with St. Anthony Catholic School 8th grade science class to develop recommendations for environmental education in Kawainui. Ho'olaulima organizations hosted a field trip to introduce them to the marsh and the students presented their ideas at the final community meeting. Additional outreach to students and youth were included as opportunities arose in the community.[2]

Following the 6 community meetings, a summary report of all the meetings was provided[3]. Two additional community meetings occurred to report back what we heard from the community, to be sure that it was correctly documented, and offered another opportunity for feedback, ideas, and discussion. Ho'olaulima took all of the feedback and comments and developed recommendations through a facilitated planning process.

Recommendations – The Results

The following recommendations honor the public outreach process and reflect the views we heard throughout the community meetings. Ho'olaulima developed the community outreach strategy to reach out to the many communities around the marsh. The recommendations reflect the public sentiment and the goals and objectives of the member organizations that comprise Ho'olaulima. This document includes a summary of the

[1] For the community meeting agenda, see Appendix C
[2] Including the development of a mural of Hāmākua Marsh with Blanche Pope Elementary, Hawaii Environmental Education Alliance events, and school events focused on sustainability. An additional set of surveys have been developed to reach high school and university students. A copy of those surveys are included as Appendix D
[3] The summary report is included as Appendix A.

public comments that addresses the values and major issues from the public[4] as well as a full report that contains every comment that we heard. The recommendations are organized to address overall recommendations and those specific to access, an education center, and recommendations to specific sites around the marsh.

Overall Recommendation: Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh: Carrying Capacity Plan

Throughout the community meetings, we consistently heard: there needs to be an understanding of the amount of stress a given site can take before it is subject to impacts to the resources. This includes impacts to the cultural and historic resources and the ability to practice living culture, impacts to wildlife and ecosystem services, and the function of the marsh. Ho'olaulima strongly recommends that every site include the development of a carrying capacity plan that can address these concerns. This would help facilitate the development of management actions that could avoid impacts, trigger appropriate management actions if resources experience impacts, improve the experience for people within the marsh, and encourage an understanding and stewardship of the resources.

For the purposes of our recommendation, ***Carrying Capacity*** **refers to the number of individuals who can be supported in a given area within natural resource limits, and without degrading the natural, social, cultural and economic environment for present and future generations.** Thus it is important to know what you want to protect, define what will trigger a reduction of use, and define what action will be taken if the trigger is reached. There are a number of models and approaches to conducting the research and developing a plan. Existing planning frameworks that address both ecological and social impacts and involve public participation throughout the process is included as Appendix G.

ACCESS

How will people get to the marsh? How will people access different locations within the marsh? The concept of public access led to heated discussions throughout the public outreach process. While we are addressing interpretation of the marsh, we are addressing access first as it sets the stage for how people will experience and learn about the marsh. It helps to determine access points, likely numbers of people, and accommodates stewardship activities as well as educational visits. Determining the carrying capacity at each site and developing a plan first will also help to address access needs and potential options. The following were the main recommendations that resulted from the process.

Everyone agreed:

- General Access to Kawainui would be via bus stops and/or by bike or foot with trail connections.
- Trail system on Pu'u 'O Ehu Ridge.
- A trail connecting the levee/dike to Ulupō (access by foot).
- Trail connecting the levee/dike to the ITT site.
- Interpretive signs and viewing platforms for views (where appropriate) would be incorporated into the trail design.

[4] A full report that includes all of the comments is included as Appendix B

- QR codes[5] are encouraged as a way to provide additional information on resources, without having to rely on large signs or structures. QR codes can link smart phones to websites and have the ability to provide additional reading materials, audio tours, and even video.

Most agreed:

- A bike path/walking path would continue from the levee/dike trail and extend past Kawainui (Kaha) Park with a bridge over the canal.

  The exact location of the trail was not determined. Recommend further study to determine feasibility and use by Kalaheo High School students. The idea of an interpretive facility or education center in this area did have some support. Connections that provide a safe access for students to the school and the marsh, the possibility of partnerships for environmental education, research, and stewardship were all cited as benefits for connecting the areas.

Items that require additional research:

- Small Parking areas at select sites

  Most people expressed a reluctance to have vehicular access/parking areas. Ho'olaulima recognizes the need to provide access to the public and would caution the planners to take careful consideration of the location, cumulative impacts, and neighborhood impacts when assessing possible locations. Parking areas must be designed for the site and contain green best management practices to avoid impacts to the resources. Ho'olaulima recognizes that small parking areas may be appropriate in some locations (e.g. Wai'auia (ITT) site) as long as options and a thorough impact analysis is included.

- Provide storage location for stewardship groups at the DOFAW Base Yard

  Further research should be conducted to assess appropriate use of buildings and facilities in the base yard so that they are in compliance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) regulations. Many felt that storage at the base yard for the community stewardship groups would be appropriate and assist stewardship activities.

- Trail from the DOFAW Base Yard, under Kalanianaole Highway, to old Kailua be a component of the interpretation of Kawainui (excellent opportunity for interpretation of historic resources along trail)

  This recommendation developed as a result of discussing possible trail opportunities in and around the marsh. Throughout the public meetings, there was a lot of discussion and support of protecting the entire Ahupua'a as well as the need to consider the health of the marsh from a more comprehensive approach. As this trail may be outside of the Kawainui- Hāmākua *study area, we wanted to note the importance of Maunawili and the history that may not have the same boundaries as our present time. Ho'olaulima members encourage the development of partnerships and recognition of future opportunities to connect trails beyond the limits of the study area. For example, the trail could potentially connect to the existing Mount Olomana trail.*

- Shuttle would be accommodated for drop offs at the Hāmākua/Wetland Center, ITT site, Ulupō, Nā Pōhaku, and Kawainui (Kaha) Park.

  The shuttle idea was supported as a way to address access without having the vehicle issues with parking and impacts associated with vehicles. The main concern with this approach is the need for a sustainable

[5] For an explanation of QR codes, see Appendix E

business model that could support the costs of such a system. It is seen as something that could work in the future, if there are funds and a well thought out plan to make it sustainable. Ideally the shuttle could depart from the education center and serve the needs of students, visitors, general public, etc. It may be more appropriate to have this be something that is researched for best practices, can involve the local business community, and determine if there are sustainable models that could positively impact the resource (marsh), the local businesses, and the community.

There was a strong desire to have docent-led tours and a way to funnel money back into restoring and managing Kawainui and Hāmākua. *The shuttle system could be phased in once a sustainable business model and local buy in has been established. Ho'olaulima recommends that shuttle tours remain a component of World Wetland Day. This will allow the program to continue and improve. World Wetland day should be noted as an important celebration of the marsh (generally around February 4th, every year).*

Kawainui-Hāmākua Education Center

The word: Visitor's Center, prompted numerous discussions and in general, a negative feeling. Suggestions from the community helped to change the name to better reflect the purpose of the center. Changing the name and purpose to an "Education" Center was generally accepted as a way to facilitate the interpretation of the marsh without having a physical footprint within the marsh. Locations were discussed and the majority felt that utilizing an existing building outside of the marsh footprint would be ideal. Top locations for the education center were in existing buildings near Hāmākua marsh, adjacent to Kalaheo High School, or in Kailua town (see map 1 and map 2 for recommended locations). Ho'olaulima recommends that a naming committee be established to develop an appropriate name for the education center. Ho'olaulima suggests that the center have some way to celebrate the life and work of Susan Miller and her dedication to protecting the marsh. The following are more detailed recommendations for the Education Center:

Everyone agreed to the following as a part of the Center:

- Post DOFAW and State Park rules for the sites in Kawainui and Hāmākua.
- Include information on DOFAW's management of the wetlands and rules to clarify and inform the public.
- Encourage best practices for adjacent businesses in and around the center and/or Hāmākua-Kawainui. These examples include suggestions from the community based on what is occurring near Hāmākua Marsh. Examples include replacing existing trash bins with ones that have lids, encouraging the public not to feed the birds, and empowering business owners and employees to learn about Kawainui-Hāmākua and partner with the education center.
- Add interpretive signs and information on Hāmākua and Kawainui.
- Provide interpretation and education at the education center for schools and the general public.
- Encourage schools to visit the education center.
- Encourage visitors to start their visit to Kawainui- Hāmākua at the education center.

Finding the right location: Ho'olaulima recommends that the process of finding an appropriate location include outreach to the local businesses, the Kailua Chamber of Commerce, and the Kailua Urban Design Task Force. There may be opportunities to bring local businesses into the mix, partner to help create a sustainable business

model, and create an approach that makes sense locally. We consistently heard recommendations to use the education center as a way to generate funds that would go back to the restoration and management of the marsh. This includes government and the stewardship groups who have formal agreements for restoration, stewardship, and education.

Wai`auia - ITT Site

This site is one of the more disturbed areas with a bus stop. The group felt it was an appropriate location to orient people to the marsh, provide a trail to access the levee, Ulupō, and Hāmākua marsh.

Everyone agreed to the following:

- Interpretive signs including an orientation sign to the locations at Kawainui and Hāmākua.
- Interpretive signs with QR codes[6] .
- Trail from ITT site to the levee.
- A trail from the levee to Ulupō (pedestrian access).

Kahanaiki Area

This area received a great deal of attention, mostly stemming from the more detailed plans that were presented in the first draft of the Environmental Assessment for DOFAW's restoration plan and the need to understand the rules and regulations for a property that was purchased using LWCF funds. There are concerns that this area is more sensitive than other areas and that it would be difficult to enforce rules. Thus, limited access was preferred, without a parking area for people. Due to the sensitivity and unknowns for the restoration projects (both Kahanaiki and the US Army Corps Ponds) the group strongly agreed that the carrying capacity plan should include the needs of nesting and breeding birds as well as the concept of water quality. There was a great deal of discussion of the importance of the entire watershed and ahupua'a. The connection between Maunawili stream to the ecosystem services of the marsh should be carefully considered in planning efforts for this area.

Everyone agreed to the following:

- Recommend research to determine if rules for the breeding and nesting seasons are needed (e.g. close the area).
- Encourage research and student place-based education.
- Post rules at the gate (includes no dogs).
- Community stewardship participation in restoration and education at the site.

Most agreed:

- A trail and overlook from Mokulana area to Kahanaiki.
- A trail that connects to Nā Pōhaku to Kahanaiki.

Ulupō

Many of the concerns about Ulupō stem from the current land ownership. It is seen as a barrier for stewardship and educational efforts. Enforcement, access, and conflicts with large tour operators have been cited as something that needs to be placed under control so that bad behaviors can cease, and good behaviors and practices be encouraged.

[6] See Appendix E for more information on QR codes

Everyone agreed to the following:

- Have State Parks purchase or enter into a formal agreement with the Y to allow enforcement and use of the parking lot area adjacent to Ulupō.
- Repair the path down to Ulupō (the access path that is on Y property from the parking lot to the bottom of the heiau),
- Involve curator groups in training to include ethno botanical restoration, current traditional uses, archaeological information, practices and use that reflect both the past and the current, living culture.
- Ethno botanical restoration work continues, according to the Ulupō plan, and specific work days are established.
- Establish relationships with Kailua schools for annual visits, promote island wide.
- Improve interpretive signs.
- Establish Hawaiian protocol and lessons for school groups.
- Hawaiian practices and teaching continues, work with the Hawaiian community/practitioners to establish basic guidelines and rules for use.
- Wayside trail interpretive signs with QR codes[7] for more information (for the hiking trail from the levee to Ulupō).

Most agreed:

- School visits are included as a part of the visitation, determine if specific days of the week or specific times should be set aside for school visits.
- Commercial operations by permit only. The permit requires all commercial operators attend annual training and all new guides required to get trained (video plus and annual training). By implementing a permit system, there will be flexibility and a greater level of control of numbers, hours, and can address parking issues.
- Encourage docent-led hikes to Ulupō

Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine

Everyone agreed to the following:

- Improved parking along the road shoulder for limited parking for service projects and cultural practitioners.
- Include a safe pull off on Kapa'a Quarry Road for school/education drop off.
- The entrance to Nā Pōhaku would have a sign to inform people of proper protocol (developed with Hawaiian Practitioners) for entering the site[8].

Most agreed, worth exploring further:

- End the permit/limited use at "Cash Ranch" and provide parking and interpretation for Nā Pōhaku. The site should include a curatorship agreement with a community based organization.
- Improved Parking lot/area at Nā Pōhaku.

[7] See Appendix E for more information on QR codes

[8] A QR code could be included to send visitors to a webpage that has the oli for the site (for example)

Map 1 - Hamakua Marsh - Potential Locations to Consider for an Education Center



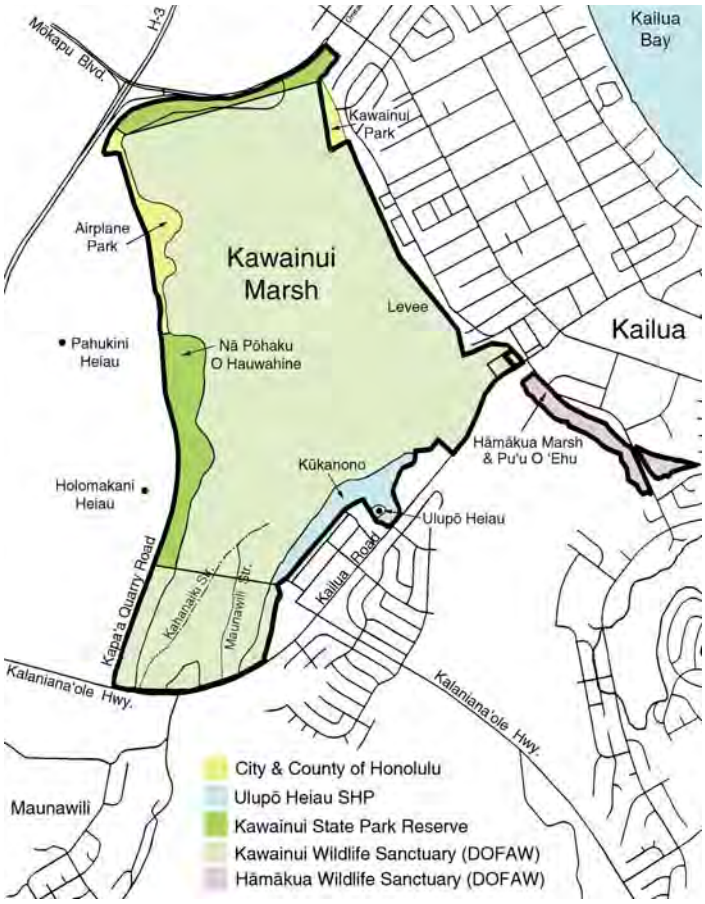
This map represents general areas that would be ideal for an Education Center. Ho`olaulima recommends working with the local business community to determine the best location that would serve the purpose of the center and integrate with the local businesess that reside in this area.

Map 2 - North End of Kawainui - Potential Education Center Location



The location of the center would be subject to apprpriate environmental review to determine feasibility. This location would provide access to Kalaheo High School and views of the marsh.

Map 3 - Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh



APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE HO`OLAULIMA IĀ KAWAINUI PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS FOR THE KAWAINUI-HĀMĀKUA INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Community input from Fall 2011

- Based on community feedback, we organized the comments based on themes.
- The following provides a brief description of each theme and the main messages that we heard.

HO'OLAULIMA IĀ KAWAINUI

Ho'olaulima, a network of organizations working to protect, preserve and enhance Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex, has been working on how best to provide interpretative opportunities about this special wetland.

Include Hawaiian Living Culture

- More Hawaiian involvement and integration of living culture into the plan;
- The need to include active stewardship and practices to educate and perpetuate Hawaiian cultural traditions;
- A place to practice and perpetuate art;
- Allow traditional land use practices









Kaiwainui Marsh, ca. 1900



Kawainui today from Pali Highway

- This presentation describes what we heard from the community
- Ho`olaulima will develop alternatives based on community feedback, report back and provide to DLNR for inclusion in the Master Plan Update

Education



- Allow students to experience and learn from the resources;
- Most people expressed support for education and involvement of stewardship activities with education;
- Different ideas on how to facilitate educational experiences.



Safe access, locations, experiential learning, projects and studies, etc.



Restoration of Resources first

- Concern for native species, water quality, and protection of resources;
- Variations on protection - keeping everyone out (e.g. fencing) or restricting visits for natural resource stewardship or cultural practices only;
- Support and understand ecosystem services (e.g. maintaining water quality);
- Focus on restoring the marsh ecosystem;
- Restore, but do not overuse





Stewardship

- Support current stewardship efforts, keep it local (not commercial);
- Expand stewardship to involve more community and increase awareness;
- Integrate stewardship with visitation;
- Schools and local groups could become more active stewards and the eyes for parts of the marsh



Access

- Control access, types of busses, and use of the resources;
- Require orientation at an offsite location, provide a shuttle system, and offer docent-led tours;
- Tours should include a fee to pay for restoration and education;
- Questions raised on how to allow community/local access verses visitors; and
- A carrying capacity study should be done to determine the limitations at each site.





Financing

- Need guaranteed source of funding for maintenance and security;
- Concern over commercialization of the marsh;
- Funding should assist groups with stewardship activities, restoration, and maintenance needs with the State;
- Charge for docent-led tours and provide funds for restoration and education.





Education/Visitor Center

There were a range of suggestions on whether or not to have a center and what it would be called:

- Most opposed any structure on or near the marsh;
- Suggestions on location included an interest in a center in Kailua town;
- A site at the old ITT site;
- A site at the YMCA;
- Smaller scale orientation structure(s) at sites such as adjacent to Kalaheo HS



Feedback from the Final Community Meetings

- Concern about what happens next, wanting to be fair to the process and have the Master Plan include recommendations.
- Reiteration of no commercialization of the marsh
- Come up with solutions to managing people and access, think beyond just parking lots
- Support Hawaiian living culture
- Keep maintenance and security in mind with recommendations
- Restore it, share it, but don't exploit it

Support Mechanisms

- Loop trails at select sites (natural path);
- Trail to connect sites (perimeter trail);
- No new structures
- Interpretive signs with QRV codes (smart phone apps)
- Building done "right" on stilts or with minor impact could assist people with disabilities, shelter from weather conditions, etc.



Youth Ideas



St. Anthony 8th grade students ideas :

- QRV codes for interpretation, links to website for more information;
- Board walk and gazebo to see the marsh up close;
- Visitor center to learn more and help with funds to support restoration; and
- Trails around the marsh



Docent-led Tours

Ho`olaulima organizations sponsor guided tours and stewardship opportunities throughout the year.

In a recent inquiry about docent-led tours, 28 people completed a survey of their tour experience at WWD 2012. Highlights include:

- 100% of those who responded thought a mini bus (~ 25 people) was appropriate and a good way for visitors to learn and care for Kawainui-Hāmākua.
- Over half said they would visit or volunteer at the marsh again and a third might (maybe); and
- 100% responded that this kind of tour should be available as part of an interpretive program

Kailua Catholic Community of Learners Malama Pono Festival- K-8th grade students

- 90 students completed surveys;
- 99% of these students go outdoors in their free time;
- 48% of the students have visited Kawainui;
- 100% who have not visited Kawainui said they would like to visit; and
- The majority of the students hope to see birds (#1) and other animals, plants (native and Hawaiian food), Hawaiian cultural sites, and water bodies (and mud!).

Opportunities for students to learn and experience the marsh









St. Anthony 8th Grade attended a field trip that introduced them to Kawainui & Hāmākua marsh. Blanche Pope Elementary had a field trip & art project

A Sample of Results

Ideas from Students

- Maybe some objects to help us learn about nature – see if we can think of planting more plants or flowers, trees many different things to make it pretty. (4th grader)
- Nice paths and beautiful birds. (5th grader)
- Having signs that show us where to go like if we were playing a game. (5th grader)
- More paths and signs. (7th grader)
- No plastic, more routes. (6th grader)
- A good environment, grassy areas, native plants. (6th grader)
- I think you would need to be on your best behavior and just respect the nature. (8th grader)
- Food, water, bathroom (3rd grader)

APPENDIX B - FULL REPORT

Hoʻolaulima Iā Kawainui Community Meetings 2011-2012 Public Comments on Interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua

Hoʻolaulima Iā Kawainui Community Meetings 2011-2012 Public Comments on Interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua

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Summary of Public Comments

Throughout the past 2 months, we have heard from many concerned community members through the community meetings, surveys, and via email. This document provides documentation of those comments. Those who provided comments did indicate a relationship with the marsh. In summary, we found a wide range of comments from the public. The following summarizes the major themes:

Hawaiian Living Culture - there were many comments that recommended more Hawaiian involvement and integration of living culture into the plan. Comments suggested the need to include active stewardship and practices to educate and perpetuate Hawaiian cultural traditions. This includes allowing traditional land use practices, the growing of food such as kalo, and highlighting the ahupua'a land and water management systems developed by Hawaiians.

Access- there were many comments on controlling access, busses, and use of the resources. Concerns included the need to protect and restore resources and the desire for residents and visitors to understand the vast resources that the marsh has. Concerns with the natural, water, and cultural resources resulted in numerous suggestions to control visitor access such as required orientations, providing a shuttle system that controls the numbers of visitors, and docent-led tours.

Education- Allowing students to experience and learn from the resources was a common theme. Most people expressed support for education and involvement of stewardship activities with education. There were different ideas on how to facilitate educational experiences.

Stewardship - support for current efforts and ways to support these efforts were discussed. Some felt that involvement in the marsh by visitors or residents needs to include a stewardship component.

Education/visitor center - there were a range of suggestions on whether or not to have a center. Those that thought some sort of education or visitor center would improve education and stewardship had suggestions for different locations to address community needs as well as the preservation of the marsh without structures. The majority of people expressed interest in a center in Kailua town. Others suggested using the old ITT site, and there were a couple of suggestions to look into the YMCA property.

Facilities- There were concerns with the development of facilities in the marsh, but some expressed interest in the development of trails and the possibility of interpretive signs or QRV codes for interpretation.

Financing - There were suggestions for financing and for enforcement. Many expressed concern over commercialization of the marsh and suggested alternatives to avoid this. Others recognized the need for enforcement of rules and funding to assist groups with stewardship activities and the restoration and maintenance needs with the State.

Public Comments

The comments from all the meetings have been combined and lumped together based on themes. The subject areas that received the most comments are first. Electronic comments received are included as Appendix A.

Hawaiian, Living Culture Theme

A Place for Living Culture

- Hawaiian culture and perpetuation of culture is very important, bringing hula, mo'olelos and the ability to live the Hawaiian culture is very important.
- Provide a place for living cultural practices
- Marsh is a living phenomenon, as is the living cultural practices
- Use as a way for practicing living Hawaiian culture
- Want to see this plan for the cultural and environmental center to be in the Master Plan update. It is a parallel effort
- Want Kawainui to be a place to live culture - interpretation by living the culture and sharing with others as a living and teaching place
- Most robust expression of culture- could include all aspects of Hawaiian culture and have it be a hub for people to practice, including voyaging
- An example of an inspirational way to embody culture is from the Festival of Pacific Arts. This is an excellent example of a successful sharing of culture and promotes the perpetuation of the living culture by allowing students and practitioners to live their culture, share their culture, and provide the location to do that. After this experience, we asked ourselves, why do we have to go to another island to do this? Why can't we do it on our own lands. This has led to the development of the dream for a cultural and environmental center (discussed above)
- Gathering place that allows for the sharing of culture
- What does it mean? We need to develop a vision - what do resources mean? Want to see it through a Hawaiian lens - it makes us, we need to interact with the natural environment (as Hawaiians), interpret this to visitors and kama'aina. Allow our living cultural practices to take place.
- There is no culture in the plan. There is a need to bring local Hawaiians and lineal descendants into the discussion. This is a living culture, why interpret a living culture?
- Why can't here be people living their culture?
    - More respect
    - Have in different area
    - Make it a center for Hawaiian culture.
    - Focus on the living culture that is dedicated to Hawaiian culture
- How do we do it?
    - Review suggestions of how to bring in Hawaiian culture into the master plan - this has been done. Make sure this is included. Ask Kihei DeSilva for this plan and suggestions to have this be a more prominent part of the plan
- There is no dedicated place just for Hawaiian culture
    - This could be that place.
    - Be at the forefront and take the opportunity
    - Have people live there? Practice? Or both? Consider options.
- Creating a sense of place - allow the opportunity for Hawaiians to be Hawaiian.
- Involve schools and have a cultural immersion and teaching opportunities. - e.g. Ulupō, loi, a way to keep the culture alive, working on the land.
- Development of a land stewardship program through a Hawaiian lens
    - Provide the community access and use of the resource
    - Allow Hawaiian practices including cultural practitioners' religious and spiritual practices, imu, and burial sites
- Allow people to physically participate in caring and understanding.
- Offer current, living cultural practices for people to engage in and provide the opportunity for local participation and use of the sites.

Involve Hawaiians

- Involve native Hawaiians in decisions
- Listen to the Hawaiians
- Need to hear more Native Hawaiian voices within the context of interpretation
- Reserve and Protect the area until the Hawaiian Community has a plan - with the entire community in agreement
- Group of native Hawaiians are working on a plan for a cultural and environmental center that embodies culture in a living form
- Ask more cultural leaders from the ahupua'a

Hawaiian Agriculture

- Allow for Loi, native agriculture as a food source
- Taro cultivation should be encouraged around the marsh
- Making the Connection
    - Visiting "living communities" could be applied to seeing "caring/stewardship in Kawainui, working in the loi kalo
    - Need to get the community involved

Cultural Center

- Cultural center at Pahukini heiau for cultural practitioners
- Wants to know/learn more about the ancient Hawaiian practice, uses at the marsh and the history
- Full integration of the center with the land- this includes stewardship and restoration of the land. It provides a way to demonstrate the Hawaiian land management techniques by allowing practitioners to live their culture. This would be an integral component and would be experiential for others as well. The concept of lokahi is what this center is based on.

General Comments

- Keep the marsh as natural as possible. Halau structure is ok on perimeter
- Restore Resources
- All interpretive signage should use Hawaiian and English
- Cultural Resource
- Not a tourist attraction
- Increasing use at Ulupō -impacts ongoing curator efforts
- The use of wayside exhibits and kiosks is not what I want to see. An example of how this can go wrong - In Kauai on the north shore there the only hula platform that has survived from ancient times. A group of users cleaned up this area, the trail, and tried to use the trail to keep visitors in specific locations and not impact the area. The opposite occurred and visitors did not understand the significance and many

inappropriate behaviors resulted. So the group now does not clean up the area and tries to keep visitors out.
- Build something with the land and involve groups in the development of this concept
- RAMSAR designation has a cultural component but needs to be interpreted locally.
- This is not the commercialization of culture (no Waikiki!)

Community Group/stewardship focus

Who?

- Involve neighborhood associations
- Non-profit, NOT Commercial
- Uses local community to implement
- Get landlord (for properties adjacent to Hamakua) to include a requirement to contain trash, control and be responsible (re: trash, see previous two comments)
- Community groups should continue to restore, school groups come, no new development
- Communities need to develop a sense of value for the marsh and waterways.
- Private land owners and the dump lands need to keep the water flowing off of their sites clean - need to be sure there are not new sources of pollution getting into the marsh.

Why?

- Education makes a deeper connection
  - The more the community respects and cares for a site in Kawainui, the more the visitors will "sense" this value
- More education for residents needed
- The way to take care is to understand and protect/steward
- Need to protect, restore, and educate first, not attract more tourists.
- Balance needed - not overly developed but with some opportunities for interpretation. Don't want to see it off-limits to people.
  - Experience it, but not overused
  - Recreation and preservation
  - Restoration and remove alien species
  - Offer a better setting through stewardship

How, Ideas

- We need to take responsibility of the resources as a community
  - Teach our community and collectively understand resources
  - Inventory
  - Provide through a Hawaiian lens
- Figure out a way to better contain rubbish in the trash bins along Hamakua marsh.
- Learn/study the main issues with rubbish, a student project?
- Kaha park (Kawainui Neighborhood Park) could have a volunteer work party and an "adopt a marsh" program.
- Service projects, outdoor education/school visits need facilities
- No visitors unless it is for natural stewardship or cultural practices
- The target audience should be the local residents first. Don't cater to the tourists, but allow for them to still learn
- Use a model of neighborhood watch
  - Train volunteers who will report (but not enforce)
  - Get funds from private land owners to implement
  - Put up monitoring video
  - We (residents) need to take responsibility
- Need to figure out a way for residents to use/visit without having to pay (have visitors pay to support the infrastructure)
- Need to have presence - actively manage the area adjacent to Kapaa Quarry Road and the paths.
- Kailua needs a piko that defines the community, this could be it.
- Make into a cultural place
  - Stewards should treat as a pu'uhonua
- Kailua is a bedroom community, want to keep it that way (not a tourist destination)
- Don't want to make it a tourist destination

Natural/restoration focus

- Keep the marsh as natural as possible.
- Favor only growing native plants
- Keep preservation as a focus
- Restore Resources
- Preserve the ecological integrity of the wetlands
- Clean out the marsh, bring the water back (remove invasive plants)
- Spend on maintaining the quality of the resource
- Fund more open water projects to open up more habitat for water birds.
- We should not promote tourism instead preservation
- Restore, but do not over-use
- Preserve this rare, special resource
- Keep it natural, no need for interpretive devices
- No structures except for flood control and maintenance
- Preserve it as open space
- Have preservation area and keep people out of the marsh
- Nothing is best
- Expand the wilderness area
- Don't turn it into a park - it should be wild
- Concerned with the land around the marsh, the areas that feed the marsh and provide its life.
- Concerned with Makali'i - in 2012 the lease will expire and may not continue. This is a big concern and we may want to enlarge our understanding of Kawainui and include those areas that are essential for the sustainability of the marsh in terms of ecological processes, cultural practices, etc. This location (Makali'i) is where the springs that feed the marsh are located. You need to see and feel this place to truly feel that mana

Suggestions on how

- Don't use herbicides, mechanical removal of weeks
- Can we utilize the marines and equipment to clean out the mat of vegetation in Kawainui?
- Suggestion to get rid of invasive apple snails - Place apple snails, put in a plastic bag and in the freezer then toss out with the trash
- Fencing around Kawainui to protect birds and water quality
- 24/7 Security for Kawainui to protect the marsh, plants, and wildlife
- Structures will be counter productive
- No visitors unless it is for natural stewardship or cultural practices

Interpretation ideas or education

- Educate people about alien pests and domestic animals and pets
- Include a cross section of the marsh from top to bottom to show this vegetation mat.

Control of Access

Orientation Required

- General orientation of the marsh should occur first in the Kailua Town area. Then go out to different sites around the marsh
- Require visitors to go to visitor center to get educated before going to the marsh
- Orientation required before allowing access
- No visitors unless it is for natural stewardship or cultural practices
- The use of wayside exhibits and kiosks is not what I want to see. An example of how this can go wrong - In Kauai on the north shore there the only hula platform that has survived from ancient times. A group of users cleaned up this area, the trail, and tried to use the trail to keep visitors in specific locations and not impact the area. The opposite occurred and visitors did not understand the significance and many inappropriate behaviors resulted. So the group now does not clean up the area and tries to keep visitors out.
- Orientation required
- Educational orientation needed for visitors (especially with a cultural/Hawaiian focus). This should occur before people visit the site.
  - Find a location for a visitor center
  - Have the visitor/cultural center (one idea) at Kaneohe Ranch building near the ITT site. Have bike paths to the ITT site and small busses to take people to the different spots. Avoid the need for new parking lots.
  - The walkways could be loops at each of the sites for interpretation
  - Need to figure out a way for residents to use/visit without having to pay (have visitors pay to support the infrastructure)
  - NOTE- comment that due to state laws, the private land owner might have to donate or sell the property to the State if there is any fees associated with the service.

Limit/Control numbers

- Limited numbers
- Manage access to special sites with a priority to local communities and students
- Plan for controlled access to the marsh
- Tours - limited, managed - pay for restoration and education
- Allow only mini busses and restrict the number of visitors at sites
- Only controlled/managed public access
- Restricted Access
- Visitor management needed
- Certify tour guides - this should be a requirement
- Limit access and determine what and where people (visitors) should go
- Control needed on bussed visitors

Very Restricted Access

- Protect against development
- Moat around the marsh
- No board walk in the marsh
- No parking lots at Hamakua and Kawainui
- No tour busses at Hamakua and Kawainui
- If it becomes an attraction, it will increase development
- Opposed to interpretation, would rather focus on land around the marsh and stop the use of chemicals
- Not have development on and around the marsh
- Don't want it to be a tourist attraction

How do you determine numbers?

- Assess carrying capacity of specific sites
- Address the carrying capacity of the wetland and design around that, limit the numbers
- Study the capacity of the water in the marsh and ahupua'a to determine any use. Need to have the water to support the ecosystem
- Develop ways to manage the visitors and keep centers and buildings outside of the marsh area. Be creative with getting people to select locations

Visitors center theme

- Don't call it a visitor's center, call it a Central Resource Education Center
- Interpretive area downstream of the marsh
- Find a location for a visitor center
- Include private land owner (John King) in these discussions of presence along Kapaa Quarry Road.
- Vision - Watchmen's cabin idea - a family or elders could live within the marsh and become the guides and access the sites
  - Hawaiian presence,
  - Serve for educational purposes.
- Interpretive center is overkill
- Visitor center to educate

Kailua Town suggestions

- Visitor center in BUILT area, away from the resources - shuttle people if necessary
- Visitor Center in Kailua town - NOT in the marsh area
- Nature Center or visitor center should be in Kailua Town
- Education center in Kailua town has merit

ITT site suggestions

- Using land (ITT) that is not being utilized is less intrusive and there could be some parking
- If there are any structures, the ITT site may work.
- ITT lot - one small Hale or small structure and have a walking path around the marsh
- Have the visitor/cultural center (one idea) at Kaneohe Ranch building near the ITT site. Have bike paths to the ITT site and small busses to take people to the different spots. Avoid the need for new parking lots.
- ITT site - 1.6 acres, could this be a visitor's center site?

YMCA site

- Move the YMCA and have the structure be a cultural center for Ulupō Heiau
- Exchange the YMCA land near Ulupō for another site, this could be an opportunity for a center for the entire marsh
- The idea of exchanging the Y site and cultural site is a big mistake. We need to get the pressure off and get busses etc. out of this neighborhood area. Find another location.

Other site suggestions

- Cultural center at Pahukini heiau for cultural practitioners
- Cleared lot across from Kalaheo High School for education center not in the marsh- could partner with Kalaheo High School

Transportation and Infrastructure Strategies

- Visitors are already here. We already have issues with buses and we need to address the bad behaviors, the lack of understanding of the resources, and manage the sites for future generations.
- Large tours need to be addressed -
  - Existing rules and procedures for tours needs to be understood by operators and the public
  - Look into revising the permit system for tours and address smaller tours and ghost tours
  - Make it clear to everyone that there are existing rules and there are restrictions for tours and visitors.
  - Look at safety and security
- Tour Buses park on Manu Aloha St and in the YMCA/Church Lawn lots throughout the day (not just nighttime ghost tours parking on Kailua Rd). August traffic count on Manu Aloha = 1400 vehicles in 24 hours. High impact of tours on community as well as the resource.

Shuttle system

- A trolley or shuttle system that starts in town and brings people to different spots could work
- Discuss with the City/County/public busses to have better access such as at Kapaa Quarry Road
- Channel traffic and busses to sites to reduce impacts

Parking

- Parking facilities should be pervious and have a green design so that it filters pollutants (no hard surfaces)
- Parking lots - permeable surface
- No parking lots at Hamakua and Kawainui
- No tour busses at Hamakua and Kawainui
- Does not want signs, paring lots, facilities
- NO parking lots to accommodate the busses
- No parking lots at Hamakua and Kawainui
- Concerned with hard surfaces and run off

Public Support Facilities

- No facilities in and around the marsh (e.g. bathrooms)
- Allow composting toilets
- If private facilities are being used (e.g. YMCA), then funds from users (tour groups, etc.) should be provided
- May need to have composting toilet near the main areas - Ulupō, Nā Pohaku, etc. Especially with service projects, working with youth, large groups, etc.
- Service projects, outdoor education/school visits need facilities - composting toilets
- Wash out public bathrooms frequently. There needs to be more. Could there be a way to have an automatic spray to wash out the restrooms without needing staff to clean/maintain?
- Large busses and the numbers of people at a site at one time
- Service projects, outdoor education/school visits need facilities

Trail

- No cement walkways
- No motorized recreational vehicles in the marsh
- Discourage motorized vehicles
- Provide a natural path to allow people to access the various sites on foot
- Walk on the levee
- Have a walking path, signs to identify resources is ok
- Parking off the highways - provide access to paths
- Bike the dike
- The walkways could be loops at each of the sites for interpretation

Education focus

- Community education center
- Do an educational plan
- Getting kids educated is important
- Cooperative program with schools for the education program
- Education makes a deeper connection
- The more the community respects and cares for a site in Kawainui, the more the visitors will "sense" this value
- Have it be an educational tool for students and the community without buildings
- Army Corps of Engineers need to do public education

Water

- Need to resolve water diversion issue between Waimanalo and Kailua before the Master Plan for Kawainui is completed
- What is the impact of water system in the marsh?
- Water is the foundation. If the water doesn't work, the marsh doesn't function
- Need to have studies or information on the water quality of the marsh. What is its status? The data needs to be available
- Study the capacity of the water in the marsh and ahupua'a to determine any use. Need to have the water to support the ecosystem
- Explore opening up the Kawainui canal for water flow.
- Include public education of water diversion
- Siphon water to Kawainui stream
- Need a discussion on how much water there is in the Maunawili watershed.
- The main canal makai side of the levee has a number of issues:
  - Mangrove are 20ft tall and needs to be removed
  - There needs to be a way to flush out this canal
  - The pipe needs to be cleaned out at the end of the levee were the duck ponds are
- Now taking longer to drain after rain events
- Concerned with the Army Corps project and the impacts to water quality
- Maunawili ditch - many questions and a discussion on ditch repair - How much water is being diverted to Waimanalo? Maintain flow to the marsh! What is the current, proposed and recommended flow? .4 mgd, 1.4? 4.4?
  - Request more information from the Board of Water Supply on the "repair"
  - Why was there no EIS? Is one needed? New construction and the in stream flow standard

Funding ideas

- Need guaranteed source of funding for maintenance and security
- How will it be managed? Costs?
- Displays: need to provide funding for on-going maintenance. For example, look at Hanama Bay and the state of the signs there. Funding should consider maintenance needs.
- HTA funding for visitor support
- Charge visitors $100 to visit
- Charge tour companies
- NOTE- comment that due to state laws, the private land owner might have to donate or sell the property to the State if there is any fees associated with the service.
- Some benefit back to the state to manage- include a user impact fee?
- Fees for guided access with culturally trained staff

Interpretation device ideas/Themes

- For the less intrusive, using the QRV codes would be a great way for people to get information, have a guided tour, and have the opportunity to learn about the resources. This could be put up on signs along a pathway and have it at a visitors center as well if that is one of the options.
- Use phone apps for information instead of fixed signage
- Cell phone apps as "guided tour"
- Include brochures, but the best way for most visitors is probably through cell phone apps and social media
- Interpretive techniques/devices- is it really necessary?
- Create a "big picture" at education center
- RAMSAR designation needs to be understood by the Kailua community in order to inspire them.
- Educate people about alien pests and domestic animals and pets
- Allow for a range of experiences
- Docent-led education
- Interpretation and education is important for people to protect and respect the marsh
- Knowledgeable guides like Doc Burrows and Paul Brennan
- Signs and information geared for kids
- Include information on environmental research
- Wayside exhibits would be really nice
- All interpretive signage should use Hawaiian and English
- Signage can be vandalized
- Support passive interpretation signs
- Larger kiosks - might attract problems at night
- Signage - if going to be [put up, it should be for local residents first, and not specifically for the tourists. We should determine what messages should be included.
- Include a cross section of the marsh for the PowerPoint presentation for people to better understand the floating mat of vegetation
- If there were no homes and no farms, what would the water amount into Kawainui be?
- Becoming more important in observing the changes
- See the changes
- Tremendous in the past and can be again
- Sacred and natural place.
- A natural resource for sustainability and being respectful
- Very peaceful
- Spectrum of opportunities from the individual to the group
- Interest in the natural resources includes wetland birds, aquatic life, native plants- all are important to see and to restore.
- Have a 3-D map if a facility is built.
- See the marsh as a way to teach preservation, not development
- Have a 3-D map if a facility is built Include public education of water diversion
- Ramsar to get grants to help preserve it, not turn it into a tourist destination
- Preserve the wetland, but interpretation to allow people to really understand the significance of the resources - keep the marsh quiet and allow the path or access around the marsh.
- Interpretive devices - different ones would work in different locations
- Passive interpretation -- books, pamphlets, ways to learn without causing impact
- A pamphlet or information provided for the tourists to understand Hawaiian culture and sites could be included for all visitors/tour busses
- Produce a book
- It should highlight the individual experience verses group experience
- Stories and comparisons of where we are now with land management provide an opportunity for interpretation. We should learn about how Hawaiians managed the land and what the results were and compare that to how modern day society is managing land and what the results are. This could be done through demonstrations
- Also include why the infrastructure exists as it does today
- Lack of education on 11-mile watershed and mauka impacts on Kawainui and the ocean.
- Lack of education and information on the importance of clean water on Kawainui
- Put signage at the Pali lookout
- Other places - good signage and self-guided

Issues to consider when analyzing options

- Views
- Will it attract homeless?
- Attractive problem - homeless
- Environmental impact of interpretive facilities
- What materials would be used for a boardwalk?
- Need to resolve water diversion issue between Waimanalo and Kailua before the Master Plan for Kawainui is completed
- Rules need enforcement
- Tourist increase/invasion
- Visitor disturbance of nesting birds
- Need to have studies or information on the water quality of the marsh. What is its status? The data needs to be available
- Displays: need to provide funding for on-going maintenance. For example, look at Hanama Bay and the state of the signs there. Funding should consider maintenance needs.
- Dogs chasing birds
- Enforcement issues
- The source of pollution needs to be addressed

Suggestions and issues

- A clear mission statement is needed
- Need a mission statement and objectives
- Make restoration voluntary
- Clean out storm drains
- Pollution from the roads

- DDT killed off all of the fish when it was sprayed after WWII.
- Address the carrying capacity of the wetland and design around that
- Trash in the waterways
- Poor water circulation in Hamakua, Kaelepulu stream/canal
- What is leaching from the Landfill?
- Why have destinations in Kailua?
- Food Security
- Military practices of detonating explosive devices where they find them. That destroys cultural and natural resources and could impact Kawainui
- There is a large educational learning curve. Request that the National Park Service assist by providing lessons learned and assess what could work and provide recommendations for Kawainui.
- There should be an EA/EIS for the whole system
    - Impact of development
    - Hardening of Waimanalo ditch
    - Something that covers all impacts - avoid piecemeal
    - Will/can the DLNR Master plan update address this?

Why is it important to you? Why are you here?

- As a geologist and exposed to similar situations in other locations, would like to bring this perspective to the process
- Involved with descendants, saw the development in Ewa (grew up in Ewa) and has a passion to see it done differently with respect for culture
- Interested in the cultural component, this was missing in the last plan and really want to hear what people have to say
- Concerned with development and want to be aware and allow for culture to be integral in this
- Law-makers point of view - help us find solutions. For example- we hear about impacts due to busses, tours, impact of use on neighborhoods, concerns over bathrooms, night use, etc. Help us come up with solutions!
- Every Sunday a cultural practitioner group, Ke Kahua O Kualii, visits to mālama aina and engage in cultural practices.
- Na Pohaku and Ulupō Heiau with Ahahui for work days (3 people)
- Kahanaiki Stream - as part of the Mauanawili Valley Neighborhood Park
- Mokulana

Appendix A Electronic Comments

Hoʻolaulima Iā Kawainui Community Meeting - Online Comments

The following comments were generated following the community meetings via electronic media. Opportunities for public comment beyond the community meetings include opportunities via email, website/blog, and an on-line survey. The following represent comments from the public:

Comment #1

My suggestions include creating a multipurpose beltway, for general public walking visitors, as well as a bikeway for the general public bike users around the entire marsh/park complex, and to make greater use of incarcerated manpower.

If Kawainui is to be a public park, it needs to meet some pressing community needs, not just the needs of a few conservationists, biologists, practitioners, and historians. Incorporate general public needs for more parks, outdoor recreation, and exercise venues, and you will generate a greater mass appeal and necessary funding support.

A pedestrian walkway. A visitor or park user walkway surrounding the entire marsh/park complex should be designed so as not to interfere with the interior or ecology of the marsh, and to serve pressing multi public needs. Public needs include: more open space, more accessible parks, more outdoor walking paths to free pedestrians and the elderly from auto exhaust and being run over, as well as the need to preserve the cultural and environmental aspects of the marsh. I think it can be achieved with a sidewalk that circumnavigates the entire marsh complex, where users of the park may access and depart the park at any of several given points (e.g, establish parking areas near your interpretive kiosks). The park would be kept clean and secure because it would be highly utilized and generate ongoing community ownership. This may even eliminate the constant dumping along Kuapa road and near the entrance to Na Pohaku O Hauwahine. Over the years, there have been hundreds of tons of trash illegally deposited along this road, including at least one dead body. A properly maintained marsh/park complex would improve lines of sight from all areas, making it easier for the public to spot illegal dumping activity.

A bicycle pathway. Ideally, this beltway would include a lane for bicycle riders and joggers. To exclude these members of the general public would be short sighted in that you turn away thousands of potential supporters. Why do we need a bike path in this park? Because we need one, and there is no easier place to build such a venue. We need a beltway for bikers: To provide a good safe riding venue for our keiki and kama'aina; to offer an additional exercise venue in the community; to help reduce obesity in the community; to enlist the financial support of bicycle and health organizations for maintenance of the marsh/park; and to add a first class multi purpose park to a first class (kailua) town. There are too many traffic accidents involving bicycle riders and we need more safe cycling venues for our Kailua residents. Residents deserve a safe ride, able to observe the wildlife, enjoy a new quiet space in kailua, and breathe fresh air away from auto exhaust fumes.

Help with restoration and maintenance. I also suggest the managers of Kawainui park use more incarcerated personnel to aid in the removal of alien plants species and overall restoration of the marsh. The existing program appears to make only token use of prisoners, and apparently allows no opportunistic value to prisoner participants. We use their labor, then send them back. Nothing more. I believe the use of their efforts should be expanded by making it a part of their rehabilitation. They should be allowed to simultaneously learn environmental stewardship (good knowledge after they get released), while making restitution to the community for their failings. I say offer them the same cultural and environmental classes you are offering the general public, and establish a memorandum of agreement with the prisons in support of the park/marsh clean up and restoration effort. This way, you won't need to depend on grade schoolers and part time volunteers so much. Using volunteers and kids, any semblance of completion of restoration will likely occur way beyond our lifetime to complete. I think use of prisoners can be structured into a win-win relationship.

If Kawainui is to be part of a master parks plan, it needs to include activity based venues for thousands of people who live here, not just a few conservationists with an ongoing need for financial support. A broad user based park will generate broad community support, which will in turn entice financial support to help maintain the park. I see hundreds of walkers, joggers, and bikers, every day throughout kailua town. I understand that there are over sixty thousand residents in kailua and the marine base. Are you addressing their needs, or the needs of one or two small organizations?

I tried to share my thoughts at the last meeting but the breakdown into natural resource groups did not seem conducive to qualitative analysis and input such as I am providing here. I hope you can use my comments and not just bury them. My suggestions are based on parks that I have seen, visited, and used in Japan, Okinawa, New Zealand, Taiwan, Guam, and the US mainland. As an appreciative park user and Kama'aina, I would like to see Kawainui marsh transformed into a world class park for both wildlife and residents of Kailua. It is too important to be just a marsh.

FYI, I am ok with organized park tours for tourists, as long as the park is cleared of trash, cigarette butts, bottles, and dog mess. You know about "dump road". The Oneawa side of the marsh berm, adjacent to Kawainui neighborhood park, is already stagnant, smelly, and overgrown with alien vegetation. These areas are full of man made trash, and gradually layering into a land fill. I think the next generation deserves better, and that we can do better for them. Mahalo.

Leialoha Prentiss
Kailua

Comment #2

Aloha,
I would like to put in my two cents re Kawainui. I was one of the original members of the Kawainui Ad Hoc committee set up by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle many years ago when a proposed subdivision came to our attention and we knew we were going to have more than LKOC could handle. I personally, and I think a good many members, really want the marsh to remain uncluttered by projects such as parking, rest rooms, buildings etc. It badly needs every cent (wherever they may come from) to go to restoration, vegetation removal, whatever it takes to create a working wetland. It has a role in flood prevention as a natural marsh. Once this has happened may be the time to discuss interpretive projects, or maybe a trail around the perimeter, but let's put first things first. We have a long way to go to get the funds for basic restoration. Mahalo,, Mary King 261-2891

Comment #3

Aloha,
I have a few comments re proposed projects for the marsh. I have been a resident of Kailua for 55 years. It is my personal opinion that the marsh should remain an open space without any buildings such as restrooms or interpretive centers, or parking lots. I was involved with preserving the marsh many years ago, when "Save Kawainui" became an ad hoc committee of the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (I have been an active board member for most of 51 years) after a developer's proposal for housing on the edge of the marsh made us realize it was going to take a great deal of time and effort.

First things first: clean out vegetation, restore the marsh to a real wetland, where its role as flood prevention and bird habitat can be carried out. This will take many years to accomplish. Then will be the time to discuss further projects.
Mahalo, Mary King 261-2891

Comment #4

Aloha,
Please include: one option for protection of the marsh is to fence it and keep recreational activites out.
Please include: Hawaiian culture is a living thing and does not require interpretation.

Comment #5

Mahalo for the results of this meeting. It was very informative. Audience participation in small groups gave me insight into the possibilities of what may happen if we don't share our concerns. Hopefully the future of the Marsh will be in the hands of those who truly care for our 'Aina and that they are listening to the needs of the Marsh.
Imua,
Helen Walker

Comment #6

Comment on proposed interpretive devices in Kawainui Marsh

by Neil Frazer, PhD, Kailua, neil@hawaii.edu,

Summary: Access to Kawainui marsh should be restricted to (a) the practice of Hawaiian religion by native Hawaiians; (b) Restoration of traditional loʻi and loko iʻa; and (c) restoration of habitat for wildlife. There is no need to make a gift of Kawainui marsh to the tourist industry, or to foreclose future options by premature conversion to recreational use.

Preamble: I realize there are some who would like Kawainui Marsh to be partly developed into a park. Perhaps they feel that Kailua does not already have enough parks or bikeways, or that it lack recreational opportunities. Their concerns are real and deserve to be taken seriously, but there is considerable evidence to suggest that interpretive devices and other park-like structures will have unintended consequences opposite to those desired.

1. Conversion to park use promotes development: The experience of other communities has shown that when a wild area is developed for recreation the lands on its periphery become irresistibly attractive to developers of residential property who use the new park both as a selling point to potential buyers and as a dispensation from their usual obligation to provide green spaces and recreational areas as part of new developments. Thus, in the long term, development of Kawainui is likely to result in a net decrease of green area within the Kailua Ahupua'a, as well as an increase in population.

2. Conversion to park use promotes visitor traffic: The experience of other communities has also shown that development of a wild area for recreation results in increased visitor traffic. The pressure to service visitors results in newer, larger buildings in the town and wider roads leading into and out of town. This pressure is in addition to the previously mentioned pressure from new residential development around the new park.

3. Conversion to park use reduces flood control and impacts wildlife: Development of a wild area as a park requires structures and paths and parking lots that result in increased run-off into nearby waterways. Run-off is also increased by the inevitable development on the periphery of the park, mentioned above. The important point here is that, in their present undeveloped form, the lands surrounding the marsh hold rainwater, allowing it to slowly percolate into the marsh. If these lands are developed, rainwater will rapidly move from roofs and roads into the marsh, causing stronger floods. The important flood-control function of the marsh is thereby impaired, and floods become more frequent in downstream areas, such as Kailua town, and residential areas such as Coconut Grove. The increased variability of water levels in the marsh also impacts wildlife, as when the nests of waterbirds are washed away by floods, or a dry year results in no open water at all. The sediment load of floods, it should be noted, increases disproportionately with flood size. Thus the higher frequency of floods caused by increased run-off can be expected to carry more mud into Kailua Bay. As a practical matter, the number of days per year during which Kailua Bay turns chocolate brown, and swimming is forbidden, will increase, affecting both tourists and residents alike.

Remember also that run-off from development is often contaminated by xenobiotic chemicals that impact the viability of the marsh. Even relatively innocuous organic fertilizers impact a marsh by affecting the balance of species. For

example, the increasing prevalence of deformed frogs in the Mississippi basin is now thought to be caused by fertilizer used on surrounding farms. The fertilizer promotes algae; the algae promotes the snails that feed on it; the elevated levels of snails promote the prevalence of a parasite with a complex life-cycle that causes deformities in frogs.

4. Conversion to park use impacts wildlife over an area much larger than the obvious footprint of the alterations. Walkways, interpretive sites, restrooms and parking lots require frequent human inspection, for security, and lights that interfere with the circadian rhythms of wildlife. Many species of birds do not habituate to human observers, or habituate only poorly.

5. Conversion to park use preempts Native Hawaiian concerns: The Hawaiian renaissance is only a few decades old, and the mechanisms of local Hawaiian governance have yet to be restored. In other words, it is difficult to determine who truly represents the local Hawaiian community at this point. Self-appointed representatives may not have the backing they present themselves as having. Under these circumstances it behooves us to preserve Kawainui in as undeveloped a state as possible until such time as the Hawaiian community is able to speak as one voice for the type of development - if any - that it would like.

6. Food security: The Kawainui-Kaelepulu complex was once so productive of fish and kalo that it fed many thousands of people. Its possible uses for traditional Hawaiian pond aquaculture and traditional kalo agriculture are not inconsistent with the flood control function of the marsh for Kailua, nor with its function as a filter of fresh waters that enter Kailua Bay. Those who advocate for conversion of Kawainui to park use might do well to remember that Oahu, as someone once colorfully put it, is just one container ship away from starvation, and that restoration of traditional Hawaiian food production systems is a matter of practical importance in a time when global pandemic could result in long quarantines. Moreover, restoration of traditional Hawaiian food production in Kawainui might well provide a more meaningful recreational experience than, for example, a bike path. Volunteering on a lo'i (kalo farm) or a loko i'a (fishpond) may be more attractive to both residents and visitors than riding a bike around the marsh.

7. Increased external control: Development of Kawainui as a park require financial expenditures from local and national governments, and such expenditures are inevitably accompanied by increased control.

8. Good reasons to "go slow": Florida's Everglades provide a cautionary tale. The Army Corps of Engineers spent billions of dollars on "improvements" to the Everglades. The unintended consequences have now resulted in billions more being spent to remove the "improvements." Each generation imagines that its improvements on the wild are a gift to subsequent generations, but subsequent generations nearly always wish their parents had been more cautious.

9. Parks for Kailua: Assuredly, the Kailua experience would be enhanced, for both residents and visitors, by increases in bikeways and green areas. However, I think they should be located within the present urban core of Kailua and its present surrounding suburbs so that people can use them to get to and from, and move around in, Kailua for shopping and recreation.

In conclusion, there are many good reasons to preserve Kawainui marsh in as wild a state as possible pending restoration to its traditional Hawaiian food production uses of lo'i and loko i'a. Those traditional uses preserve the important flood control and water filter functions of the marsh, and they may be more attractive recreationally, to both residents and visitors, than bike paths and other typical attributes of a park. Traditional uses will also improve food security, making Kailua less vulnerable to the wars and pandemics that history has taught us to expect, no matter how hard we may try to avoid them. We owe it to our children to preserve and protect Kawainui-Kaelepulu, as it preserved and protected the ancestors of present day Hawaiians.

Comments from World Wetland Day 2012

The following comments were recorded by attendees at the World Wetland Day festivities on February 4, 2012. The meeting included presentations from multiple groups who are involved in the plans for Kawainui-Hamakua

What do you think is important?

Passive interpretation/education with NO buildings

#1 - Restore the marsh as a natural watershed

A predator fence should be installed around the marsh before public trails are considered.

The state should hire a 'warden' to keep visitors on designated trails to prevent erosion and disturbances to endangered water birds

Parking lots/strips should be outside the conservation boundary and visitor access should be foot traffic only

There should be NO parking inside – NO TOUR BUSES allowed in

Run-off from oil on parking areas will hurt the area

Cell phone CR codes for interpretation

Building done "right" on stilts or with minor impact could assist with people with disabilities, shelter from weather conditions, etc.

People moving done "right"

I agree with above comment of buildings done right. To increase the constituency willing to protect the wetlands, we need to provide enough education and public access to grow this constituency, but of course, any buildings toward this purpose must be "done right."

Faith Baptist Hoʻolaulima Community Meeting – February 29, 2012

The following represents the discussion that took place with Hoʻolaulima iā Kawainui members on February 29, 2012. The electricity was out so the group held the meeting outside. The meeting started with an introduction and background to the process and why we are gathered. A refresher on interpretation was done followed by an explanation of the process and the desired outcomes from these final meetings. The setting facilitated a discussion about many different topics related to interpreting, protecting, restoring, and responsibly using Kawainui-Hamakua. The following attempts to summarize these discussions:

Comments and Discussion

Comment: I felt like the set of 6 community meetings presented ideas and were saying what do you want… a green pagoda or a red pagoda, not do you want one.

Response: We wanted to get a feel for people's ideas without presenting our own. We wanted to go to different neighborhoods to hear different points of views. Some of the meetings people were saying they wanted a structure, or not have one.

Comment and suggestion: A series of propositions would be better – just trying to provide constructive criticism on the past meetings.

Response: These meetings are to set up to discuss the ideas further. 80-90 % of the ideas we are in agreement.

Response: None of the community would have known about Kawainui-Hamakua without these meetings and we needed to say we don't have the ideas and alternatives set. We had our meetings and DOFAW had their meetings. It is collaboration with the community and the Government has their requirements as mandated. All ideas – negative or positive, were to be accepted. This is the first time that the community of Kailua is aware that Kawainui marsh needs something to protect it. We are surrounded by real estate interests and tourism. The state needs revenue but if we can show that this is just as valuable and the value of the resources – if we don't do anything, they will think we don't want it. This is stimulating something; we need to sustain the resources and all that comes with it. We have a chance through this type of forum – we need to do something. We all have a stewardship responsibility. We are trying to solicit all points of view, come up with a rational idea that most people can live with. We won't satisfy everyone, but we need to come up with something that most people can live with. We want to make sure that this time around with the master planning process that we have the community involved. We timed it so that our process and opportunities to make recommendations to the state master plan process. Their process is still on going so that others can still impact that process. If specific organizations or people had other opinions, then they can make those points as well.

Questions- Elected member of the Kailua Neighborhood board and we went through a system like this for a plan for Kailua. And we went through meetings at different places and went through it and then the City to the plan but the problem was – the city went and did things that we would have opposed. They put in what they wanted to do and we (KNB) and keep it Kailua redid our plan and put pressure on the city council to incorporate what we wanted. Without that, many would have opposed. From my standpoint, I was pretty happy with the meeting at Le Jardin for the master plan. He was happy with it, had different groups and then pulled it all together and incorporated it into the webpage. Can't help but be suspicious. I have seen controlling groups co-op citizen's desires – thank you, we will include it in all the appendices and thank you and whatever the controlling groups go ahead and put into place what they want. A concern and people should be on the lookout for that as it is the organization that has the power- more so than the individual. We want the best thing for the marsh and the streams that go through our community.

Response: I think we have all had experience with a public involvement process with the various government processes. With our process, no one's arm was twisted to come and talk about this and no one is trying to change people's opinions. We are all here to do what is best for Kawainui from a stewardship standpoint. Want a participatory democratic process. We wished there were more that came to the meetings, but we are in a position to keep the decision makers honest. What we are doing and why we are doing it. Not wielding any specific power.

Comment: I have been at this for a long time too. It is hard to trust government agencies, but you also have to remember that most decisions are political decisions. On a sustainable communities plan, a council member changed it. So need to be vigilant and have to keep doing it anyway.

Comments from the summary:

Kapaa Quarry road on the corner there was objection as the ground is not stable enough as it is artificial fill.

Kawainui focus – change the name of Kawainui Visitor Center to Kawainui Wetland center – might be good to have it focused so that it gives a real feel of what it is. Hawaiian Community trying to come up with a design that is really minimal footprint that would be in the marsh area (not wetland, upland) but in the process of trying to figure it out.

Worried about the potential for commercialization.

No fund raising or vendership – the group is looking more as a place to practice and education. Don't want to invite in the marsh. Hoike for Ulupo- example is in the parking lot for fundraising. What we are working on is to identify what halaus, practitioners, etc. how it would benefit the community as a whole to take care of what we have left. The Hawaiian people want to continue the culture and have everyone learn – halau school- not everyone is involved and make it fully green. Totally off the grid and self-sustaining. And they have some planners and architects trying to figure out.

Monitor the community Hales on the north shore that are green and made with sticks and rocks and beautiful and that is what we are looking at here. We have people looking at the hale out there to see if that is appropriate for here. There would be a management team to figure out who comes what and how it is used. Etc. It can be controlled.

It would be really good to have models of that from other areas. Good to be able to understand what it is we are proposing. One model is the Amerindian (NPS site) preserve and be able to perpetuate cultural practices. It seems to me that someone could do research and do different models of areas where that has worked well. Cultural practices and how it interacts with visitors and users.

One example is a Wailua Hale with loi trerracing – celebrations as a group and on a private farm land. The other islands, there are models – with hales so do cultural and farming loi gardening. Some areas in the islands that have that, we just need to present it and show so that others can understand.

Examples from the mainland – lessons learned… what not to do, what worked, etc.

I think the most important thing is to focus on management. Was at a meeting with Hanama Bay and Manoa Falls – need to figure out a good way to manage visitors before people get out of control.

A lot of mistakes have been made, so we want to take a very precautionary approach. When I see buildings that are complicated in design and hard to remove, I worry that it will remain in disrepair and will not be removed if it doesn't work. Trails with wood chips give a nicer experience and easily changed. And it needs to be maintained locally.

Hawaiian culture- I am familiar with a lot of first nations in Canada. The trend that I see here is called predatory invasion (anthropology term). What we find is that a lot of the ways that aboriginal peoples did things are very good and not

cultural artifacts. I don't see Hawaiian culture as something for those people. Predatory invasion is that we lost resistance. We could have an earthquake tomorrow that would take out all the shipping harbors, a lot of starvation here if that happened. The Hawaiian culture that knows how to grow kalo, fish, etc. is what we need to preserve the capacity. We don't want to give them a place, we want to become more Hawaiian ourselves. We need to stop looking backwards and start looking forward and all be more Hawaiian. We lack resilience here now.

One of the things that I have observed with the meetings on a cultural center is that they are going through an internal process to allow other Hawaiian families to come to the table and more and more people are starting to come out and talk. They understand the timeline and process but don't want to come out with their plan until they are ready. Want to provide the opportunity for everyone to speak their piece. I think everyone will be pleasantly surprised with the plan. You are very close to that.

Innovation, adaptation, and reclaiming the traditional practices is something we struggle with. The Hawaiian civic club at one point was strictly Hawaiian. Now, they are community clubs and everyone can join.

An example - Dean Wilhelm, has purchased 7 acres down from Trinity and what we have going on in the community – we brought the community together and Dean and Mark and their families presented what they wanted to do- traditional Hawaiian farming with the community. It is a way of addressing what we call community farming. It would be a place where each of the families in the community can have a plot of land and receive advice from Dean and Mark. Presentations at HPU, food security and if we do get cut out. 80% of everything we consume is from the outside. We have two weeks, then there is nothing. This is germinating and in the early stages. It is so hard to bring people together, come up with a plan and then DO it. Some of the students from HPU are out there but what is needed with this group and all the groups is to get the word out and getting people to join in and participate. These are the two big problems. That is just one example.

We all live in the same community and are accountable to each other. By coming together, it is a positive thing

Describe the funnel. What Meredith described is having some effect. What was described is working. We are trying to stay as fair and true to the process as possible.

It is a process and it takes a long time- be patient. Eventually it will get done the way we want to. We have to do the management- talking to those who have the big issues. Manage the visitors before they wreck the resources.

Ulupo – tourist and busses are starting to overrun. They are looking for tips, pleasing the passengers, neighborhoods don't want busses. What are the busses doing to provide back to the resources? Nothing.

Volunteers do all the work. Complaints of people from Lanikai, complaints- no place to park, facilities, etc. the residents – it is a nightmare, manage at the beginning before it gets out of control. We should learn from that experience and manage it before it becomes a huge problem.

My experience with leading some of the school groups to the marsh is that the kids get the message when they think of it in live dynamic terms. Some of the paintings that the kids have done-birds, bees, water that is flowing, we try to emphasize that this is a place of energy- you can't see it anymore. Swamp was given to it by the immigrants. But then they realized they could catch fish. But now in the 21st century people see stagnant and grassland and not flowing. Having been a resident and know the history, the marsh is energy. But the challenge is to try to translate that into modern experience. If the kids can get the idea of the springs in maunawili that continue to flow and give life to the marsh, if they can capture that, there is hope for the rest of the adults. I hope that it will be possible in the future for the marsh to live again. A place of motion and energy – just like it was in its original conception - a place where things were moving. It is struggling to be alive in that same way. For people to experience the marsh today, they have to be able to conceptualize the movement of the water in the aquifer called maunawili. It is now out of site and suffocated under the umbrella of stuff that wants to choke the life out of it. What keeps me moving is the potential and it has the potential.

'Aikahi Elementary Ho'olaulima Community Meeting – March 14, 2012

The following represents the discussion that took place with Ho'olaulima iā Kawainui members on March 14, 2012. The meeting started with an introduction and background to the process and why we are gathered. A refresher on interpretation was done followed by an explanation of the process and the desired outcomes from these final meetings. A presentation on the main themes that we heard at the community meetings was provided[1]. There was a concern for what happens to this information once the meeting is over and how to be sure that the recommendations do reflect the concerns and ideas from the community. There were many questions and concerns about the process and overlap with the other plans that are being developed. We encourage everyone to get involved in the Master Plan update process. We will be submitting recommendations for the Master Plan update and hope that this process will keep the community informed and involved to make sure the plan reflects the community's recommendations. Information on the Master Plan Update for Kawainui-Hamakua is found at http://www.hhf.com/kawainui/community.html and facebook.com/Kawainui.Hamakua.

Ho'olaulima will share the information that we develop for the Master Plan Update once the group has developed recommendations. As part of the information that we provide, we will include documentation of all the comments we received as part of this process. The following comments were recorded from the facilitated discussion on March 14th. The italicized text reflects the response to the questions.

Comments and Discussion

- No structures such as a pagoda or gazebo. Find these structures out of place at Kawainui
- Who does this plan go to? *DLNR- State Parks and Forestry and Wildlife will have input and the ultimate decision goes to the Director (William Aila) and the Board of Land and Natural Resources.*
- Kahanaiki Wildlife Restoration project includes significant public access including a parking lot. None of the ideas that have been presented as alternatives were put into the plan. Don't understand how this is going through without being part of the Master Plan process.
- What is Ho'olaulima process to work out summary of ideas? *Following this meeting, Ho'olaulima will meet to try to develop a preferred alternative. If consensus is not possible, recommendations on areas in agreement will be provided along with the issues of concern. All comments and summary information will also be provided to Herbert, Haster and Fee, the consultants who are working for DLNR/DOFAW on the update of the Master Plan. We need to hold them accountable and stay true to the process and recommendations. There will be additional opportunities to comment and provide feedback on the Master Plan.*
- Don't want things to go backwards- things take a long time to implement; other parks have trails, shelters, rangers, etc.
- Overloading of sites is a big concern. Carrying Capacity study is important to include in determining what is allowed to best protect the resources.
- Enforcement concern - how is it possible with the lack of any enforcement from DLNR?
- Power of Precedence - once something happens once and is allowed; it seems to become the norm and accepted, even if it should not be allowed. Need to be sure that this doesn't happen with Kawainui.
- At the Lanikai meeting, there was a focus on creating mission statement for the project. I didn't hear that in the summary, should it be included? *Ho'olaulima does have a mission statement, but we didn't feel this process needed a mission statement. We did have guiding goals for the outreach process and will be providing recommendations.*
- Concern with what happens from here…where do the comments go? Want to see what goes on behind the scenes. *Ho'olaulima will meet and develop recommendations. The summary and all the comments will go to DLNR (and consultants) for the Master Plan. We do need to continue to work with the master plan update process to be sure that this work and these recommendations do make it into the plan.*
- Would like to see a focus on increasing community participation.
- Need to hold officials accountable, sometimes public/community gets left out in the decision making.
- Conserve the integrity of our community.
- Need to have safety for kids, don't think Kawainui is the place.
- Disagree, believe reaching the kids is part of the solution to taking better care and responsibility for Kawainui.
- Youth need to be reached.
- The investment in the marsh has to happen, if we don't do it now, it will be even harder in the future.
- Would like to clarify - not wanting it to be a park is different than not wanting restoration. Don't want a National Park and have an increase in visitors- let's take a look at the activities such as restoration, ecosystem functions etc.
- Manage visitors, but that doesn't mean you need to build parking lots.
- Must be concerned with the capacity of the sites.
- The more opportunities for access, the more visitors you will get. Need to address control.
- Put the resource first. Determine what the carrying capacity is then management then enforcement
- SUMMARY: Restore it, share it, but don't exploit it.
- Huge appreciation for the marsh in the community- it's the heart of Kailua There is an appreciation from the community
- Kids (young) shouldn't have the same weight in their comments as adults
- Thoughtful groups participate in the restoration, not visitors. Should be a meaningful experience.

[1] These presentations can be found at https://sites.google.com/site/interpretingkawainuihamakua/documents

APPENDIX C
MEETING AGENDA FOR
Hoʻolaulima Iā Kawainui Community Meetings, 2011

Proposed Agenda - Hoʻolaulima Community Meetings -

Welcome*(5 min) and 1st Powerpoint	25 min
Interpretation Powerpoint	10 min
Break into Groups	40 min
Facilitators' summations (15) and group discussion	30 min
thank you	05 min

The group discussion at the end will be facilitated and recorded (facilitator for Saturday is Herb, recorder, Meredith)

Facilitated Break-out Sessions

GOAL

Provide a quick overview of this process and the goals of this session:

- Learn what these wetlands mean to you; and
- Learn which interpretive messages, techniques and facilities, if any, you think should be located at, in or near the marsh

Ice Breaker:

Introductions, describe what Kawainui-Hāmākua means to you?

Note: *some people felt that having people introduce themselves was enough of an ice breaker. This will be up to the facilitator*

What works?

- Describe a (Use 1: Cultural, Natural, Water) site you have enjoyed visiting either in Hawaii or elsewhere.
- What did you really like or dislike about the experience?

Note: *this did really work for some groups as it got people to really think creatively and open up their minds to new ways of thinking. Others felt it was somewhat difficult. This will again be up to the facilitator's discretion, but recommended.*

Resources:

Each break out group will focus on an issue and ask for the group to come up with solutions to this issue.

Cultural Resources and Scenarios at Ulupo - issues, how do we solve them? How do have people learn and understand while still protecting, restoring, and maintaining the resources? How do we allow living cultural practices to occur?

Issues - tours of all sizes, parking, neighborhood impact, impacts to resources, cultural sensitivities, current cultural practices and use by cultural practitioners, limits of use, YMCA, accessibility, interpretation opportunities, interpretive facilities and options, outdoor classroom/learning opportunities for students, etc.

Natural Resources and scenarios at Nā Pōhaku - issues, how do we solve them? How do we have people learn and understand and contribute while still protecting, restoring, and maintaining the resources?

Issues - Endangered species, dogs, people, tours, disturbing native plants, restoration and stewardship projects, parking, bus tours, interpretive devices and opportunities, outdoor classroom/learning opportunities for students, recreation, etc.

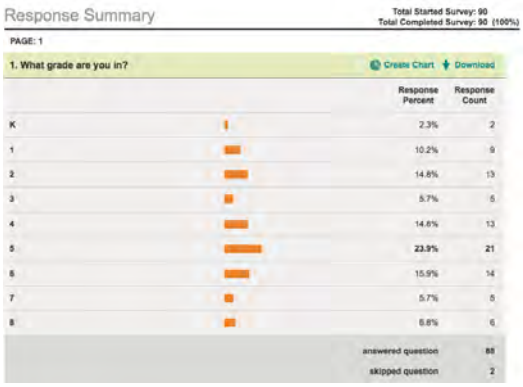
Water Resources and scenarios related to the levee - issues, how do we solve them? How do have people learn and understand while still protecting, restoring, and maintaining the resources? How do we allow living cultural practices to occur?

Issues - recreation, dogs, flood control, water diversion, parking and use, , interpretive devices and opportunities, outdoor classroom/learning opportunities for students, etc.

APPENDIX D
STUDENT SURVEYS – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INPUT AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Kawainui Marsh Youth Survey Results

RTCA distributed the Kawainui Marsh Youth Survey at St. Anthony School's Sustainability Fair on March 7, 2012. The purpose of this survey was to involve the voice of local youth in the planning process for Kawainui Marsh and raise awareness about the marsh. A total of 90 students from grades K-8 completed the survey. The results showed that 99% of these students go outdoors in their free time. Many students reported that they participate in outdoor activities like playing with friends, swimming, biking and running. Although just under half of the students have visited Kawainui Marsh, 100% of the students who have not been to Kawainui Marsh said they would like to visit in the future. The majority of the students hope to see birds at Kawainui Marsh in addition to fish, insects, native plants, ancient Hawaiian structures, water (pond, streams, and mud), Hawaiian food plants, and rocks and mysterious things. Students expressed interest in interacting with the marsh through Science, Math, History, Culture, Science fair projects, Language arts, Visual/Performing Arts, and Service Learning Projects. The following provides more details.



Response Summary

Total Started Survey: 90
Total Completed Survey: 90 (100%)

PAGE: 1

1. What grade are you in?

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
K	2.3%	2
1	10.2%	9
2	14.8%	13
3	5.7%	5
4	14.8%	13
5	23.9%	21
6	15.9%	14
7	5.7%	5
8	6.8%	6
answered question		88
skipped question		2

2. Do you go outdoors in your free time?

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	98.9%	89
No	1.1%	1
answered question		90
skipped question		0

3. If yes, what outdoor activities do you participate in? (Circle all that apply)

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Biking	60.7%	54
Running	51.7%	46
Hiking	33.7%	30
Swimming	64.0%	57
Skateboarding	18.0%	16
Walking pets	39.3%	35
Playing with friends	74.2%	66
Fishing	30.3%	27
Observing nature	31.5%	28
Camping	38.2%	34
Other (please specify) Show Responses		23
answered question		89
skipped question		1

4. Have you been to Kawainui Marsh?

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	48.3%	43
No	51.7%	46
answered question		89
skipped question		1

5. If No, would you like to visit?

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	50
No	0.0%	0
answered question		50
skipped question		40

6. What do you hope to see at Kawainui Marsh? (Circle your favorites)

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Birds	80.7%	71
Fish	71.6%	63
Insects	29.5%	26
Native Plants	58.0%	51
Ancient Hawaiian structures	54.5%	48
Water - ponds, streams, and mud	63.6%	56
Hawaiian food plants	43.2%	38
Rocks and mysterious things	59.1%	52
Other (please specify) Show Responses		6
answered question		88
skipped question		2

7. What do you think you could learn or do while outside in Kawainui Marsh? (Circle all that apply)

Create Chart | Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Science	61.8%	55
Math	16.9%	15
History	56.2%	50
Culture	74.2%	66
Science fair project	43.8%	39
Language arts	13.5%	12
Visual/Performing Arts	20.2%	18
Service Learning Project	37.1%	33
answered question		89
skipped question		1

8. If you could have a school class outside in or around Kawainui marsh, what do you think you would need so that it is fun and safe?

Download

	Response Count
Hide Responses	73

Responses (73) | Text Analysis | My Categories (0)

GOLD FEATURE: Text Analysis allows you to view frequently used words and phrases, categorize responses and turn open-ended text into data you can really use. To use Text Analysis, upgrade to a GOLD or PLATINUM plan.

Learn More | Upgrade »

Showing 73 text responses | No responses selected

I help clean up the marsh, lunch, water.
3/12/2012 12:10 AM View Responses

Clothes to get muddy or wet, towel to clean off and a water bottle.
3/12/2012 12:10 AM View Responses

You would need water, chaperons etc. But water and chaperons are very important to be safe.
3/12/2012 12:05 AM View Responses

A shirt, pants, sunglasses, sunscreen, boots.
3/12/2012 12:07 AM View Responses

Bug spray, food.
3/12/2012 12:07 AM View Responses

Maybe some water and sunscreen.
3/12/2012 12:08 AM View Responses

answered question	73
skipped question	17

Recommendations for further outreach to youth

Ho`olaulima recognizes the importance of Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh as an outdoor classroom to allow students to experience and learn from the natural, cultural and historic resources. As part of their outreach efforts to engage youth, several members of the group worked together to develop an online survey for college and high school students to complete in order to better link their studies and involvement with the needs of the marsh. In addition to distributing this survey, the group recommends partnering with schools surrounding the marsh such as Kalaheo High School or Le Jardin Academy to help facilitate and promote service learning and research projects in the marsh. Below are two surveys that will be distributed to students and youth who have worked with Ahahui.

Kawainui Marsh Survey (High School)

Thank you for joining 'Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi to discuss research, education, and stewardship opportunities at Kawainui Marsh. To help us improve our community outreach efforts, we would like to know more about your interest in this unique natural and cultural resource and understand how you wish to engage in such a place. Please help us get the word out and share this survey with your classmates.

1. **What school do you attend?** _____

2. **What grade are you in?**
   - 9
   - 10
   - 11
   - 12

3. **Where do you live?** _____

4. **What class or club at your school brought you to Kawainui Marsh?**
   _____

5. **How do you travel to Kawainui Marsh?**
   - Walk/jog
   - Bicycle
   - Automobile/motorcycle
   - Other (please specify)

6. **What stewardship opportunities at Kawainui Marsh are you interested in participating in? Check all that apply.**
   - Maintenance of cultural site
   - Wetland restoration
   - Water quality
   - Plants & forest restoration
   - Alien plant removal
   - Bird habitat
   - Other (please specify)

7. **How often have you participated in outdoor learning as part of your in-class academic experience?**
   - Never
   - Once a year
   - 2-3 times a year
   - 4 times a year or more

8. **What kind of improvements to Kawinui Marsh would you support? Check all that apply.**
   - Walking paths
   - Bike paths
   - Parking areas
   - Signs
   - Benches
   - Restrooms
   - Viewing areas
   - Other (please specify)

9. **What do you think you could do or learn while outside in Kawanui Marsh? Check all that apply.**
   - Science
   - Math
   - History
   - Culture
   - Science Fair Project
   - Language Arts
   - Visual/Performing Arts
   - Service Learning Project

10. **What would help you learn more about the natural and cultural resources at Kawainui Marsh? Check all that apply.**
    - Guided tours
    - Reading sings
    - Audio-visual presentations
    - Trail with brochure
    - Visitor center (exhibits)
    - Service Learning Project
    - Other (please specify)

Kawainui Marsh Survey (Higher Education)

Thank you for joining 'Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi to discuss research, education, and stewardship opportunities at Kawainui Marsh. To help us improve our outreach efforts, we would like to know more about your interest in this unique natural and cultural resource and understand how you wish to engage in such a place. Please help us get the word out and share this survey with your classmates.

11. **What school do you attend?** _____

12. **What degree are you currently pursuing?**
    - 2-Year College Degree (Associates)
    - 4-Year College Degree (BA/BS)
    - Master's Degree
    - Doctoral Degree
    - Professional Degree (MD/JD)

13. **What is your field of study?** _____

14. **Where do you live?** _____

15. **What class or club at your school brought you to Kawainui Marsh?**
    _____

16. **How do you travel to Kawainui Marsh?**
    - Walk/jog
    - Bicycle
    - Automobile/motorcycle
    - Other (please specify)

17. **What stewardship opportunities at Kawainui Marsh are you interested in participating in? Check all that apply.**
    - Maintenance of cultural site
    - Wetland restoration
    - Water quality
    - Plants & forest restoration
    - Alien plant removal
    - Bird habitat
    - Other (please specify)

18. **What kind of improvements to Kawinui Marsh would you support? Check all that apply.**
    - Walking paths
    - Bike paths
    - Parking areas
    - Signs
    - Benches
    - Restrooms
    - Viewing areas
    - Other (please specify)

19. **Are you interested in research opportunities at Kawainui Marsh?**
    - Yes
    - No

20. **If yes, what question do you want to investigate and what would you need to accomplish your research goals?**

    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____

APPENDIX E
QUICK RESPONSE (QR) CODES – BASIC INFORMATION FOR INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Quick Response (QR) Codes for Interpretation

QR Codes or Quick Response Codes are two-dimensional bar codes that can connect smart phone users to a number of different resources on the web. Smart phone users simply scan the bar code with their phone by capturing a picture of it. The decoding software on the phone processes the data and directs the user to content that is linked to the code whether it be a website, audio file or video.

QR codes can broaden a visitor's experience of Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh by providing visitors with additional information about the natural, cultural and historical resources in the marsh. Here are some suggestions on how QR Codes can be integrated in Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh:

- Self-guided audio tour (available in different languages) of the marsh where numbers along the walking trail are tour stops
- Listen to audio recording of pule (traditional Hawaiian chant) at the entrance to Na Pohaku or Ulupo Heiau
- Instructional videos about traditional land use practices
- Historical photos of the marsh from different view points
- Interactive map identifying places of interest and directions on how to get there
- Websites with information on:
    - Stewardship activities
    - History of the marsh
    - Current restoration work in the marsh
    - Native plants and animals at the marsh

Additional benefits of QR Codes include:

- Inexpensive tool for communicating messages
- Small and unobtrusive so as not to detract from the natural environment
- Accessible to today's tech-savvy generation
- Trackable, meaning the codes can provide useful data regarding the visitor activity in the marsh

APPENDIX F
SURVEY RESULTS FROM HO`OLAULIMA IĀ KAWAINUI SURVEYS REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF KAWAINUI-HĀMĀKUA

PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR INTERPRETIVE PLANNING
Kawainui and Hāmākua Marsh Complex

Mahalo for joining us to discuss the interpretive opportunities at the Kawainui and Hāmākua Marsh Complex. To help us in our planning, we would like to know more about your visits to this unique natural and cultural resource and understand how you like to learn about such places.

TOTAL SURVEYS: 109 Conducted between Sept. 13 and Nov. 8, 2011

1. Have you gone to Kawainui or Hāmākua within the past year?

   97 Yes (89%) 12 No (11%)

   If yes, how often do you go to Kawainui or Hāmākua on average?

   22 Weekly (22%) 13 Monthly (13%) 29 /4-6 times a year (30%) 34 /1-3 times a year (35%)

   If no, is there a reason you don't go to these sites?

   0 Distance from home 1 Nothing of interest 2 Limited things to do

   Other – please specify: _____

2. What sites at Kawainui or Hāmākua do you go to? Please check all that apply.

   56 Ulupō Heiau (21%) 53 Kawainui Park (20%) 52 Levee (20%)

   34 Nā Pōhaku (13%) 54 Hāmākua Marsh (20%) 8 Airplane Park (3%)

   Other – Please specify: 2 Ke Kahua O Kuali'i; 1 Waiauia; Kapa'a Quarry Road-1

3. Why do you go to Kawainui or Hāmākua? Check all that apply.

   54 Exercise (22%) 31 Bird watching (12%) 16 Participate in a tour (6%)

   69 Scenic views (28%) 46 Visit cultural site (18%) 18 Participate in workday (7%)

   Other: spiritual (2); tranquility (3); artwork (3); be in nature (3); cultural practice (3); soccer (1)

4. How do you normally visit Kawainui or Hāmākua?

   51 By myself (31%) 44 With friends (27%) 6 With a tour (4%)

   39 With family (24%) 14 With school or group (8%) 11 With my dog (6%)

5. How do you travel to Kawainui or Hāmākua?

   40 Walk / jog (27%) 29 Bicycle (20%) 77 Automobile / motorcycle (53%)

   Other – please specify: _____

6. Do you feel like you have a connection with Kawainui- Hāmākua? 92% Yes 8% No

If yes, how would you express this connection?

74 It's part of my community (31%) 69 Significant place in history of Kailua (29%)

4 Descendant of the place (2%) 81 Unique natural resource to be protected (34%)

Other: grew-up/live by marsh (3); cultural values (4); one of few undeveloped areas (1)

7. Do you participate in stewardship activities at Kawainui or Hāmākua? 38% Yes 62% No

If yes, what stewardship activities do you participate in? Check all that apply.

12 Maintenance of cultural site 14 Wetland restoration 4 Water quality studies

18 Plants & forest restoration 16 Alien plant removal 5 Bird habitat

8. When you go to a site like Kawainui or Hāmākua, do you want to learn more about the resources, history, environmental setting, and opportunities? 93% Yes 7% No

If yes, how do you like to learn? Check all that apply to you.

34 Guided tours (15%) 50 Reading signs (22%) 38 Viewing resources (16%)

15 Audio-visual presentations (6%) 46 Trail with brochure (20%) 23 Demonstrations (10%)

23 Visitor center (exhibits) (10%) Other: Self-exploration (1)

9. Do think Kawainui and Hāmākua should support public visitation? Consider level of visitation.

66 Yes (education, passive recreation) (53%) 27 No (restore as wildlife sanctuary only) (22%)

21 Yes (accommodate tours) (17%) 10 No (leave as flood control feature) (8%)

If yes, what kind of improvements would you support? Check all that apply.

62 Walking/biking paths (22.5%) 53 Passive parks (19%) 30 Parking areas (11%)

28 Restrooms (10%) 46 Interpretive signs (17%) 56 Viewing areas (20%)

Other: trashcans (1); walking & hiking paths (2); bikeways (1); cultural/environ. Ctr. (1)

10. What do you think is important for people to learn about Kawainui- Hāmākua when they come? Use numbers to prioritize (#1 being the highest priority).

- ☐ Evolution of the marsh
- ☐ Role of water (quality, water levels, flood control, etc)
- ☐ Plants & animals of the marsh
- ☐ Respect & protection of fragile resources
- ☐ Cultural sites & history
- ☐ How to get involved (stewardship opportunities)
- ☐ Other – Please specify: _____

World Wetland Day Tour - Survey Results

Survey Results from Four Tours - Saturday, February 4, 2012

1. What tour did you attend?
   Tour 1 (9:30) 7 Tour 2 (10:30) 6
   Tour 3 (11:30) 9 Tour 4 (12:30) 6
2. Have you been on a guided tour of Kawainui or Hāmākua marsh before?
   - ☐ 6 Yes, WWD, Ala Wai Watershed/ACOE
   - ☐ 22 No
3. Have you visited the marsh on your own before?
   - ☐ 14 Yes
   - ☐ 14 No
4. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how would you rate your tour guide in terms of knowledge and presentation? 26 gave a 10, 2 gave a 9
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank your tour experience today? 20 gave a 10, 4 gave a 9, 1 gave an 8, 1 gave a 7
6. Was the transportation and number of participants (~25) appropriate for this type of tour?
   - ☐ 28 Yes
   - ☐ No
7. Is there another type of transportation that you think would work better? 11 people wrote in "no". One person wanted to see more walking and one person suggested keeping the vehicle small but high for touring.
8. Would you like to see this kind of guided tour offered on a regular schedule?
   - ☐ 23 Yes (not everyone responded), one person suggested 2-4 times per year
   - ☐ No
9. Do you think this type of tour would be a good way for Kawaiunui-Hāmākua visitors to learn and care for Kawainui-Hāmākua?
   - ☐ 26 Yes
   - ☐ No
10. After taking this tour, do you feel like you may visit again or volunteer to help one of the stewardship groups?
    - ☐ 18 Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ 9 Maybe
11. Would it be helpful to have a summary brochure available to take with you after the tour?
    - ☐ 20 Yes
    - ☐ 2 No
12. What did you enjoy most about your tour today?
    - The information of history and the people.
    - Na Pohaku O Hawahine
    - The guides knowledge of history (2), Paul's stories, Paul's history
    - Doc Chuck Burrows was informative, knows plants, area
    - Visiting an area I never knew existed.
    - I enjoyed the stories of the area, Dr. Charles Burrows - I hope a documentary with his stories will be made.
    - Seeing parts of the marsh that I haven't seen personally.
    - Going places I have not been before.
    - Tour Guide (2)
    - Chuck's expertise, Pauls Talk
    - We enjoyed the entire tour! Mostly the walk at Na Pohaku and would like more time there- what a view!
    - Everything (2), information, the history shared with us.
    - The significance of Kailua.
    - Being able to visit Pahukini Heiau, the area around Kapaa Quarry Road, also learning about the conservation plan and anticipated acitvies around the area.
    - The tour guide was great!
13. How could the tour be improved?
    - Having a separate tour for children with an activity
    - It needs to be on time (3).
    - The guide was excellent but went over time (2).
    - Take longer/charge in order to support reforestation or ask for donations
    - Would like to have more time to walk outside
    - The tour was amazing, rich, great!
14. In your opinion, should this kind of tour be available as part of an interpretive program for the marsh?
    - ☐ 22 Yes
    - ☐ No

If Yes, how do you envision these tours being offered?

- If allowed, commercial tours should have a fee. Mimimum of $25 each. Tours for students or local groups could be free or have a small fee ($1) All fees go to restoration.
- You should charge a fee for commercial tours and limit the size
- At another time, if possible, make WWD longer - allow for more tours. An extensive tour could be offered with a theme.
- Fee's could be charged to pay for the expense.
- Not touristy, but more cultural/conservation type of a tour that is sensitive to the `aina.
- Well, I hope to see more of the next generation get involved. Everytime my boyfriend and I would go on tours we see more older people. We are in our 20's, together we feel that even our generation and younger should learn about the `aina we all live. We hope to see that in the near future.

February 2012

APPENDIX G
RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING A CARRYING CAPACITY PLAN

Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh: Carrying Capacity

Throughout the community meetings, we consistently heard: there needs to be an understanding of the amount of stress a given site can take before it is subject to impacts to the resources. This includes impacts to the cultural and historic resources and the ability to practice living culture, impacts to wildlife and ecosystem services, and the function of the marsh. Ho'olaulima strongly recommends that every site include the development of a carrying capacity plan that can address these concerns. This would help facilitate the development of management actions that could avoid impacts, trigger appropriate management actions if resources experience impacts, improve the experience for people within the marsh, and encourage an understanding and stewardship of the resources.

For the purposes of our recommendation, ***Carrying Capacity*** **refers to the number of individuals who can be supported in a given area within natural resource limits, and without degrading the natural, social, cultural and economic environment for present and future generations.** Thus it is important to know what you want to protect, define what will trigger a reduction of use, and define what action will be taken if the trigger is reached. There are a number of models and approaches to conducting the research and developing a plan. Existing planning frameworks that address both ecological and social impacts and involve public participation throughout the process is included in the appendix.

- "Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) is specifically designed for managing carrying capacity in the national park system. Carrying capacity is managed by formulating desired resources and social conditions by means of a series of indicators and standards of quality. Indicator values are monitored over time to ensure that standards of quality are maintained. If standards of quality are violated, the VERP process requires that management action be taken."
- "Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) System for Wilderness Planning is a framework for establishing acceptable and appropriate resource and social conditions in recreation settings… the amount of change to be allowed is defined explicitly by means of quantitative standards, the appropriate management actions needed to prevent further change are identified, and procedures for monitoring and evaluating management performance are established." Another resource can be found at http://leopold.wilderness.net/confwork/limits.htm , http://www.trailstobuild.com/Articles/BC%20Trail%20Standards/2-5.htm , http://www.americantrails.org/resources/index.html
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks: Visitor Carrying Capacity Guidelines provides data on plant community limitations and optimum carrying capacity for specific recreation activities within a public lands or water areas.

D R A F T

Kawainui Marsh Restoration: Priorities, Protocols, Participation, and Plan

Hawaiian Community Perspective



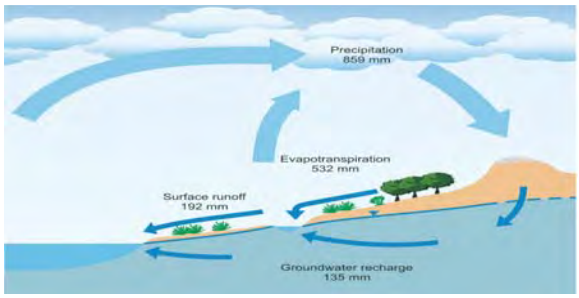
A. Recovering the Past and Designing the Future

Over the last 150 years Kawainui Marsh has been downgraded from a free flowing center of Hawaiian community enrichment and sustainability into an overgrown stagnant watershed drainage feature serving such functions such as waste dump, a graveyard for abandoned automobiles and household appliances, production of mega-generations of mosquitoes, and grazing land.

As the process of restoration takes hold, it is important to reflect on the past as guidance for the future to help the 'soul of Kailua' in healing and recovering to a respectful central position in the life of Kailua. Kawainui represents a signature opportunity to establish correct and integrated, rather than exploitive and divisive, design of the future, focusing on the importance of this watershed to the past and the generations to follow.

The central Hawaiian cultural management of the environment and of human behavior is centered on the flow of water – in this case from the ua (rains) thru the uplands (Ko'olau) to the lowlands (Maunawili, Olomana, Pohakapu, Kuanono, Kapa'a, Kaelepulu, Hamakua, Kawailoa) collecting in the bottomlands (Kawainui) before heading into the ocean (kai, papa, moana) – and the relationship of that flow of water to successful sustainability of life. The comprehensive understanding of that flow becomes the Organizing Principle, the Water of Life - perception, analysis, expression, respect, governance, and action – that must guide the Kawainui effort.

In today's world, the scientific component of Water of Life (Kawaiola) may be thought of as the 'Water Balance'…and from that vision, the emerging practices of environmental science and technology have a point of entry and become important partners in stewardship of this moku.



Water Balance

Adding the science of Water Balance to the Cultural balance assured through Kawaiola thinking gives as a basis for creating enduring, participative, and projective guidance that evolves to most effective governance of Kawainui – through education. 'Kawainui and its Future' can become a central rallying educational theme that cements together the regional schools, at elementary, scholastic, academic, and graduate levels. A sustaining educational overlay is necessary given Kawainui's leadership role as the State's largest wetland and its global significance through recognition as a Ramsar site. Through an educational linkup centered on Kawainui, related restoration programs at Waimanalo, Waikalua Loko, Hakipu'u, He'eia, Kahana, Makua – and many more – can all benefit from information, resource, and practice sharing.

Perhaps most important, the cultural product of a Kawainui-centric educational orientation will be a continuous generation of students, growing and evolving with knowledge and capabilities into citizens and leaders. It is this body of next-generation people that we can expect to best create the future of Kawainui.

B. Starting Out

Planning efforts are underway that are inconsistent with Kawaiola thinking, leading to undesirable potential outcomes, unsustainable and dangerous landscape designs, inappropriate and counterproductive structures – the usual fractioned approach that accompanies agenda-driven rather that Kawaiola-driven thinking. Without having put in place the full Educational component described above, nor affected the Kawaiola manner of thinking, it is possible nevertheless to state key foundational Principles that can be used to guide initial Kawainui recovery efforts.

Overall, we must minimize the footprint of recovery efforts, generate no hardscape or permanent structure or feature. We must start small and let the wisdom of the kupuna guide us thru Discovery and Insight via Education. We must outline and refine a slow-evolution approach to watershed recovery. It took 150 years to punish Kawainui into the state of disrespect she has fallen…it is perfectly OK to take 15 or 20 years to recover her. In that time frame, a Kawainui-centered educational program can produce trained, insightful, Kawaiola thinkers in the community, agency and business, and Government who can lead us to the best future for Kawainui.

C. Points of Agreement

The Hawaiian Community agrees on a slow-start, softscape-only, highly self-generated and self-operated restoration obeying the following fundamental ideas:

1. *Protocol of Water Flow.* First Principle in honoring the protocol of Kawainui Marsh is the understanding of how the water generated, coalesced, and flowed from the atmosphere to the Ko'olaupoko mountain ranges into the lowlands and thence into Kawainui marsh.

2. *Balance.* Restoring the flow of those Sacred Waters is the first step we must take in achieving the balance of Kawainui, based on understanding:
   a. The rain (ua) and its flow path through the Ko'olaus.
   b. The path and enrichment of fresh mineral water (wai) as it passes through uplands, and through cultivated lo'i and canals.
   c. Flotation into Kawainui where fresh and marine meet, blend, and flow to the sea.
   d. How and where fresh and saltwater creatures originate and function.
   e. How and why the Hawaiian habitation kauhale (villages) were distributed around the periphery.
   f. The cycle of sustainability that operated in Kawainui – moon and season, planting and harvesting, land and water stewardship.

3. *Start slow.* Whatever is done to Kawainui must be consistent with Hawaiian practices; must be safe, enforceable and controllable; must be non-conducive to elements of crime; must be sustainable; and must be capable of being funded. None of us, singly, has the imagination, capability, or political budget support or community support sufficient to design a recovery program leading to such an end state.
   The work must start slowly, with no permanent hardscape or buildings, and within the reasonable view plane of the Hawaiian community.

4. *Educational leadership and stewardship.* Beyond the initial startup, any follow-on work will be guided by the cultural principles of ahupua'a stewardship, mauka and makai, as revealed by research associated with a Ko'olaupoko-oriented educational program overlay; and by application of water balance technology, modeling & simulation, consistent with Ramsar status. This effort will consider the watershed as a whole; the effects of past military uses, plantation, pollution, chemical fertilizer, and landfill effects; surface and waterway alteration; and will apply traditional planting, harvesting, and chemical-free pest management practices.

Environmental Perspective

The following are quoted excerpts from: **Kawainui Marsh Wetland Restoration And Habitat Enhancement Project Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA).**

"Kawainui Marsh was recognized as a Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance in 2005 for its historical, biological, and cultural significance. The marsh encompasses about 830 acres of land and is the largest remaining wetland in the State of Hawai'i… The marsh is located in the Kailua district of the island of O'ahu, and generally bordered by major roadways on each side including Kalaniana'ole Highway and Kailua Road, Mōkapu Saddle Road, Kapa'a Quarry Road, and Kīhāpai Street…

Kawainui Marsh has been identified by the FWS as a waterbird recovery area because it provides habitat for four endemic and endangered Hawaiian waterbirds. It also plays a unique role in the Ko'olaupoko region watershed as an important source of flood control and sediment filtration protecting urbanized areas of Kailua and the Kailua Bay ecosystem through ground water recharge and improved water quality…

Kawainui Marsh serves as an important flood control basin protecting the low-lying urbanized areas of Kailua Town and Coconut Grove subdivision that experienced flooding in 1988 when floodwaters breached the levee. The levee was constructed in 1966 along the northernmost edge of the marsh to enhance its flood storage capacity. It was later modified by the COE and City in 1997 raising its height

and constructing a concrete floodwall to address the 100-year flood level estimated for Kawainui Marsh…The marsh generally drains in a south to north direction from Kapa'a Quarry Road and Kalaniana'ole Highway toward the shoreline. Kahanaiki Stream is a perennial stream… This stream is characterized as generally consisting of a shallow (generally less than 1-foot deep) flow of open stream water about four to seven feet wide. A short segment of Maunawili Stream enters the … area connecting to Kahanaiki Stream, and is the main source of surface water flowing into the marsh with Kahanaiki Stream providing most of the remaining flows. Other inflow to the marsh comes from peripheral drainages and smaller, non-perennial streams. Water from the marsh is discharged into the Kawainui Channel (also referred to as Oneawa Channel) which drains into Kailua Bay…

Need for Erosion Control

Surface water runoff in the project area and *mauka* areas enter the marsh primarily from Kahanaiki and Maunawili Streams. Runoff from the highway also sheet flows into drainage culverts eventually discharging into these streams. Drainage culverts along Kapa'a Quarry Road collect runoff from Le Jardin Academy and *mauka* areas before discharging into Kawainui Marsh.

Kawainui Marsh serves as a nutrient and sediment sink protecting the waters of Kailua Bay, by filtering and mitigating the effects of nutrients and chemicals discharged from upland areas. It also serves as an important flood basin slowing down surface runoff and protecting low-lying urbanized areas of Kailua. Sediment and other pollutants entering the marsh from the upper watershed are deposited over the broad marsh basin where it is allowed to settle and reduce discharges into Kailua Bay. Therefore, there is a need to restore the marsh so that agricultural and urban contaminants (e.g. fertilizers, herbicides, pesticide, septic system discharges, etc.) can be better filtered within the marsh.

Storm water runoff from Kapa'a Quarry Road at culvert locations has caused erosion of upland areas of the marsh contributing to increased discharges of sediment and other materials into the marsh. Therefore, improvements to these culverts and upland areas are needed to mitigate erosion and reduce discharge of sediments and other debris into the wetland."

This exemplifies the strong need to include the entire ahupua'a and the upland fast lands of the marsh area in any plan for its future protection.



Specific Recommendations

A. Programs and Operations

- Emphasis on preservation, maintenance, water quality, and security of the wetland in context of the larger watershed (ahupua'a), derived from Kawaiola thinking.
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- Flood control and water pollution abatement.
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- Above to be viewed from the Kawaiola–Whole Watershed Sustainability perspective.

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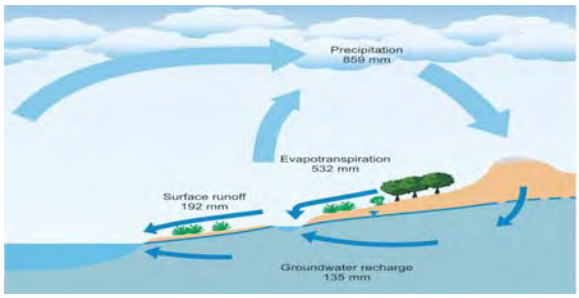

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Pauline Mac Neil
112 Haokea Drive
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Mac Neil:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the email on February 6, 2018 to Chairperson Case providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We are providing this response letter for Chairperson Case, and responses have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *How do you lose a wetland? One building at a time. Add parking lots, restrooms, boardwalks, observation decks, information kiosks, lawns and open spaces, septic systems leachfields, fencing, bridges, 6+ miles of interior roads, foot-trails, paths, a canoe and kayak launch, and storage buildings for such vessels. Eventually you have a recreational facility, increasingly unable to support endangered aquatic species and aquatic life generally. Hawai'i's largest remaining wetland, Kawainui, could be lost on your watch.*
   Response: We acknowledge your comments reflecting concerns with visitors and any improvements that may support public access within the project site. However, we do not believe the Kawainui wetland would be "lost" by such improvements because they would be located within upland areas and would not have a significant adverse effect on the wetland. An important purpose for the project is to increase public access and provide for managed passive outdoor recreation for the public, which includes residents. It will not be a "recreational facility" like a gym or ballfield, but is a public resource providing cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities. As discussed in pertinent sections of the DEIS, the project would not adversely impact aquatic species, or aquatic life in general. The interests of the entire State of Hawai'i need to be considered because Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy.

   As discussed in the DEIS, the project is appropriate for the area and includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The

project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities that would enhance the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

2. *DOFAW claims that no commercial permits will be allowed in the Kawainui-Hamakua wildlife sanctuaries, but the law now allows 100 per day and more "if there is great demand". Demand is assured, based on the popularity of trails in the Kailua area and the pressure that recently resulted in the issuance of commercial permits for kayaks to land on the Mokulua State Seabird Sanctuary. The consequences of your decisions today will be felt in the not so distant future.*
Response: DOFAW does not plan to issue permits for privately-operated, for-profit commercial activities, such as commercial tours. However, activities at a cultural center that may require a fee charged by the non-profit organizations to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) would be allowed if considered a "commercial" activity. The sanctuary rules allow for 100 commercial visitors per day as a guideline at Kawainui and Hāmākua. It should be clarified that under Section 13-126-51, HAR, it states "if there is great demand for commercial permits," the board may determine the method by which permits may be issued.

   We do not believe demand for commercial permits at Kawainui is assured based upon other hiking trails in Kailua and activities at the Mokulua Islets State Wildlife Sanctuary. Projected visitor levels are reasonable and have considered several factors as discussed in the DEIS. Visitation to Kawainui can be characterized as nature-based outdoor recreational activity for viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. In comparison, the Kaiwa Ridge (Pillbox) hiking trail offers visitors a different experience. Visitors hike the trail to the pillbox to enjoy the expansive picturesque view of the coastline, Lanikai, Kailua, and the Mokulua Islands. Similarly, the Makapu'u trail is popular for the outstanding views of O'ahu's southeastern coastline, ocean, neighbor island views, whale watching, sun-rise viewing, and access to ocean recreational sites (e.g. blowhole, tide pools) along the trail. In contrast, the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge is a national wildlife (wetland) refuge similar to Kawainui and has a large visitor center, but only receives about 100 visitors a day. Ulupō Heiau and Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine are already open to the public with foot trails and offer views of the Kawainui wetland and endangered birds, but have relatively low visitation (10 to 15 persons a day).

3. *The Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS would allow private, non-profit organizations to pay for the planning and building of two cultural centers in the marsh. DOFAW/DSP are telling the community that they need facilities "to support a permanent cultural presence" there. Details of the proposed lease agreements have not been disclosed. There has been no discussion of exclusivity or the potential occupation of these sites beyond the terms of the lease.*
Response: It should be clarified that the cultural centers would not be built within the wetland (marsh), but within upland areas that have been previously disturbed from prior use (e.g. City baseyard). The need to support native Hawaiian cultural practices is an important objective of the project and addresses Article XII of the State Constitution. The emphasis on living culture is important, and establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would

support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices. Partnerships with non-profit organizations have contributed to the restoration of this resource. Additional stewardship opportunities created by the project would further support these efforts and project objectives.

The State can issue leases or permits for more exclusive use of State-owned property to non-profit organizations, individuals, and private companies, and already does so statewide for a variety of uses (e.g. businesses, utilities, agricultural use). Exclusive ranch use at Kawainui took place for many years. Details of lease agreements are not available because DLNR has not initiated a procurement process yet to select a non-profit organization. The terms of any lease would be determined between the State and the lessee. Upon termination of a lease, the lessee may need to return the site close to original condition or the State would take over ownership of any remaining structures.

4. *Community sentiment is divided between (a) those who will benefit from physical developments including modern facilities, a canoe/kayak launch, bicyclists waiting for legal access, and educators and cultural practitioners who find open air structures insufficient; and (b) those who support traditional structures (hale) and uses (e.g., taro and fishponds), protection of invaluable but still unstudied archeological sites, fewer parking lots, and better maintenance and management of existing trails.*
Response: We disagree that community sentiment is divided between the two factions described in your letter. A portion of the community is opposed to this project because they do not want anything that may support more visitors to Kailua, and they raise related issues such as commercial tourism, opposition to increased public access and facilities that support passive outdoor recreation, and concern with the State's ability to manage visitors to the site. In contrast, project improvements would support the broader public because Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy. The public would benefit from increased public access in a managed manner to support passive outdoor recreation (walking, viewing), educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities.

   As discussed in the DEIS, buildings constructed as part of the project would be appropriately designed and will need to adhere to design guidelines provided by DLNR. It is possible that design could include a more "modern" approach. In any event, design will be reviewed by DLNR and there will be an emphasis on structures meeting their intended use. Traditional structures (hale) and uses (lo'i) are available if the non-profit organizations desire such design. However, your perception that only open air structures would be appropriate for educational and cultural centers is incorrect and reflects an inappropriate perspective of cultural practices. A canoe launch site at the Kalāheo site is already permitted, and the proposed project does not change that. Bicyclists would not be allowed on the pedestrian trails. There are only a few parking lots that would be available for the general public. The DEIS addresses arcbaeological sites, and management and maintenance of trails.

5. *Alternatives to the existing plan have been proposed by community groups, but have not been seriously considered by the consultants. I ask that you re-consider these alternatives in light of the foreseeable harm a project of this magnitude will have on the future health and*

fecundity of the wetland. Please find attached the following community supported Alternatives:
1. "Interpreting Kawainui-Hamakua Recommendations for the Kawainui Master Plan Update" (July 2012)
2. "Kawainui Marsh Restoration: Priorities Protocols, Participation, and Plan" (2013)
3. "The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Alternative Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Plan" (October 24, 2016)
Mahalo for the work you do on our behalf. May you continue to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Kawainui-Hamakua's fragile natural and historic resources in public trust for current and future generations.
Response: Alternatives to the proposed project have been considered, and Section 2.3 of the DEIS discusses the alternatives and explains why they were eliminated. Section 2.3.4 of the DEIS discusses the alternative sites for the education center suggested in the 2012 report by Ho'olaulima, and explains why they were eliminated. Those sites were in poor condition and physically separated by Kapa'a Quarry Road, or required displacing businesses along Hāmākua Drive.

Section 2.3.4 also discusses the 2013 plan that was proposed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics were generally consistent with the proposed project, which are related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with the interpretive facilities and support features recommended by the plan, in addition to opposing a permanent cultural presense at Kawainui. Key elements of the project's purpose for improving public access and outdoor recreation were not met by this alternative. There was essentially no accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access.

The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC) alternative does not support the project need and objectives, particularly the establishment of a permanent cultural presense at Kawainui. A common theme in LKOC's alternative plan is to restrict visitors and minimize areas available for public aecess. The LKOC alternative eliminates the cultural center at Kapa'a, suggests only a pavilion at Wai'auia, and eliminates the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Those suggestions do not support providing reasonable and practicable opportunities for a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. However, some components of LKOC's alternative plan are consistent with the proposed project. Furthermore, due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors, several improvements proposed in the DEIS to support these activities have been eliminated from this project. Such improvements include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Therefore, portions of the current project plans are consistent with portions of the LKOC's suggested alternative.

We appreciate your comments, and the State has and will continue to restore and manage Kawainui-Hāmākua so that it may be enjoyed by all now and in the future.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Leah Magana <leahmagana@me.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:46 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov; Raoul R LCDR Usn Magana
Subject: Written Comments on Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Leah Magaña
1308 Mokapu Blvd.
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 391-5324
leahmagana@mac.com

HFF Planners
C/O Ronald A. Sato
733 Bishop Street, suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

To HFF Planners,

I am an educator and very supportive of educational programs to teach about Hawaiian Culture, Biology and Environmental Sustainability, all of which you state is the basis of the proposal. However, the plan you've proposed will teach children and adults only about the lack of environmental sustainability in Kailua and on O'ahu at large. I am disappointed that you have proposed such a huge plan surrounding Kawainui-Hamakua marsh with so many structures and parking lots.

I am particularly disturbed by the proposal for development of the "Kawainui State Park Reserve Kalaheo section" across from Kalaheo High School. I live adjacent to this property and see first hand the amount of homeless living in the surrounding area. Several of the nearby homeless suffer from mental illness and have caused us to call 911 numerous times when they have gotten agitated and have become a danger to themselves and others. I'm concerned about the amount of illegal activity a large parking lot and bathrooms would attract as several homeless currently live behind neighbors' homes along the marsh behind Kaha Park. This would have a major impact on the 21 houses Mauka of Oneawa Bridge.

We've also seen an influx of traffic on the canal water way since Lanikai's Canoe Team has moved out of Lanikai (arguably the most exploited area of Kailua) and into the canal. This team has been consistently disrespectful to residents, shouting and calling loudly early in the mornings with coaches walking up and down the embankment through my neighbor's properties. We've had meetings with the leaders of the club but it remains an issue, even just this past weekend. I'm concerned about the impact a 42-space parking lot and canoe launch area would on the over 150 residents living along the canal in regard to canal traffic.

Third, we've rescued native birds, specifically the Night Heron, who have gotten confused with the new LED road lights on Mokapu Blvd and I have concerns about any lights that may be intended for this area. The presence of lights were unclear to me in the drawings at the meeting.

I am incredibly concerned about:

- the proposed (very large) 42-space parking lot and the street traffic it will attract
- the proposed (very large) 42-space parking lot and the illegal activity it will attract
- the proposed bathroom (hopefully not showers) and the homeless it will attract
- the proposed (very large) canoe launch and the tourists (ie. air b-&b activity) it will attract on the canal

I would recommend:

- focusing funding toward education and protection of the marsh in other areas of Kawainui marsh (ie. along Kapaa Quarry road where there will be little/no effect on residents)

We have 21 homes in the immediate area of the Kalaheo section of the plan all who will be directly affected by the building of this site. Additionally we have over 150 homes along the canal Makai of Oneawa bridge who will be affected by the waterway traffic the building of this site will attract.

At a meeting last year with representatives from Lanikai Canoe Club, DLNR, the neighborhood group and Laura Thielen, my neighbors and I were instructed to self-monitor this area of land in regards to illegal use. I'll be honest, this is a tremendous burden to all of us who have families, and young kids, and work very hard to live in what was a quaint sleepy town 15 years ago. While there are some areas of the plan I agree with (the boardwalk and small educational sites along Kapaa Quarry road) until you find significant ways to minimize the effects on tax paying residents living adjacent to these sites I cannot support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master plan.

Mahalo for openly receiving my feedback,

Leah Magana



#therealUP!

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Leah Magana
1308 Mōkapu Boulevard
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Magana:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to the comments in your letter.

1. *I am an educator and very supportive of educational programs to teach about Hawaiian Culture, Biology and Environmental Sustainability, all of which you state is the basis of the proposal. However, the plan you've proposed will teach children and adults only about the lack of environmental sustainability in Kailua and on O'ahu at large. I am disappointed that you have proposed such a huge plan surrounding Kawainui-Hamakua marsh with so many structures and parking lots.*
   Response: Thank you for providing your background information, and for supporting educational programs, which is one component of the overall project. We disagree that the project would teach the public about the lack of environmental sustainability at this project site and abroad. Proposed improvements are appropriate for the area, they would be phased over time, are modest, are planned to be environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

   The project supports Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities that enhance the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians. Project improvements include buildings in relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui vicinity, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in the DEIS. The DEIS also discusses several measures proposed to address management of activities and access. The project has been scaled back since initial plans were proposed. There are only three new parking lots that would added by the project,

which would be open to the general public. Other parking or staging areas are for cultural centers, programs, and DOFAW operations.

2. *I am particularly disturbed by the proposal for development of the "Kawainui State Park Reserve Kalaheo section" across from Kalaheo High School. I live adjacent to this property and see first hand the amount of homeless living in the surrounding area. Several of the nearby homeless suffer from mental illness and have caused us to call 911 numerous times when they have gotten agitated and have become a danger to themselves and others. I'm concerned about the amount of illegal activity a large parking lot and bathrooms would attract as several homeless currently live behind neighbors' homes along the marsh behind Kaha Park. This would have a major impact on the 21 houses Mauka of Oneawa Bridge.*
Response: Due to community concerns with visitors to Kawainui, several improvements initially proposed in the DEIS have been eliminated from this project. Such improvements include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site across from Kalāheo High School. Therefore, this project is not proposing any new improvements to the Kalāheo site from that already approved and permitted. Therefore, this site can be developed under the plans associated with the City's Gateway Park project. Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS identified existing entitlements, which included the Gateway Park. The State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) also intends to only allow schools to launch from this site for practices, subject to a permit from DSP. Canoe clubs would not be allowed to launch from this site.

   The State DLNR effectively removes homeless encampments within Kawainui, and appreciates support from the community to identify them. Project improvements include efforts to create partnerships with non-profit organizations to increase stewardship opportunities and help monitor activities. With daily activities and the presence of parking areas, restrooms, and structures, it will be more difficult to establish homeless camps. The City's model airplane park with a restroom is a good example of this condition. Reduced secluded areas make it less likely that homeless camps can be established within State property because of increased visibility and public awareness.

3. *We've also seen an influx of traffic on the canal water way since Lanikai's Canoe Team has moved out of Lanikai (arguably the most exploited area of Kailua) and into the canal. This team has been consistently disrespectful to residents, shouting and calling loudly early in the mornings with coaches walking up and down the embankment through my neighbor's properties. We've had meetings with the leaders of the club but it remains an issue, even just this past weekend. I'm concerned about the impact a 42-space parking lot and canoe launch area would on the over 150 residents living along the canal in regard to canal traffic.*
Response: It is unfortunate there have been issues between the community and the Lanikai Canoe Club associated with activities within Kawainui Canal. However, that canal is owned by the City and is outside of the project area where the State DLNR has jurisdiction. As previously discussed, DSP does not intend to issue permits to canoe clubs to launch from the Kalāheo site. School practices launching from this site would occur after school in the afternoon, and the park would be gated and closed during non-business regular park hours preventing unauthorized access. As already discussed, no new project improvements are proposed to this Kalāheo site from that already approved and permitted.

4. *Third, we've rescued native birds, specifically the Night Heron, who have gotten confused with the new LED road lights on Mokapu Blvd and I have concerns about any lights that may be intended for this area. The presence of lights were unclear to me in the drawings at the meeting.*
   I am incredibly concerned about:
   Response: The Kalāheo site would be closed during evenings, so there should not be a need for parking lights or other significant outdoor lights that may affect seabirds. We have the following responses to your five bulleted concerns.
   a. *the proposed (very large) 42-space parking lot and the street traffic it will attract*
      Response: Parking spaces would only be provided that are covered by the previously approved Gateway Park plans. Concerns with traffic were addressed during the review process for that proposal.
   b. *the proposed (very large) 42-space parking lot and the illegal activity it will attract*
      Response: Please refer to response 4.a. DSP would manage and take enforcement action, if warranted, for illegal activities.
   c. *the proposed bathroom (hopefully not showers) and the homeless it will attract*
      Response: A bathroom with showers was already approved under the Gateway Park proposal, and concerns with homeless was addressed by the review process for that proposal. DSP would manage and take enforcement action, if warranted, for such activities at this site.
   d. *the proposed (very large) canoe launch and the tourists (ie. air b-&b activity) it will attract on the canal*
      Response: As discussed under responses No. 2 and 3, only schools would be allowed to obtain permits from DSP to launch canoes from this site. Tourists would not be allowed to obtain such permits.
   e. *I would recommend: focusing funding toward education and protection of the marsh in other areas of Kawainui marsh (ie. along Kapaa Quarry road where there will be little/no effect on residents)*
      Response: Funding would be sought over time as part of phased implementation for project improvements associated with wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and facilities to support educational programs and cultural practices as discussed in the DEIS. Several of the improvements are situated along Kapa'a Quarry Road, where there should be minimal effect on residents.

5. *We have 21 homes in the immediate area of the Kalaheo section of the plan all who will be directly affected by the building of this site. Additionally we have over 150 homes along the canal Makai of Oneawa bridge who will be affected by the waterway traffic the building of this site will attract.*
   At a meeting last year with representatives from Lanikai Canoe Club, DLNR, the neighborhood group and Laura Thielen, my neighbors and I were instructed to self-monitor this area of land in regards to illegal use. I'll be honest, this is a tremendous burden to all of us who have families, and young kids, and work very hard to live in what was a quaint sleepy town 15 years ago. While there are some areas of the plan I agree with (the boardwalk and small educational sites along Kapaa Quarry road) until you find significant ways to minimize the effects on tax paying residents living adjacent to these sites I cannot support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master plan.

Response: Please see responses to Nos. 2, 3, and 4 responding to your concerns about the development of the Kalāheo site. As already discussed, the project will not include any new improvements to this site aside from those already permitted for it. Further, DSP's intention to restrict canoe launching from this site to just schools would greatly reduce the potential impact and nuisances caused by such activities in the canal.

Self-monitoring of activities at the Kalāheo site for illegal use does place a burden on residents. However, DSP would be responsible for management of this site, and appreciates support from the community to improve stewardship of areas, including notification of any activities of concern.

We acknowledge your opposition to this project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate
rsato@hhf.com

Cc:
Ms. Marigold Zoll
State of Hawaii
Division of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809
marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Aloha mai kāua Mr. Sato,

When I was young, my family would hike the hills and valleys of Maunawili to gather fruit to feed the family. There was an abundance of guava, star fruit, mountain apple and more. We picked what we needed and left the rest for others.

Momona ka ʻāina. Laʼa ka ʻāina
The land is fertile. The land is sacred.

As children, we would hike the hills of Kaʻiwa and Keolu above Kaʻelepulu picking pōpolo berries and wild tomatoes as we went. We left the plants standing so that others could enjoy.

Momona ka ʻāina. Laʼa ka ʻāina
The land is fertile. The land is sacred.

My brother, my cousin and I would leave our Kailua home early in the morning, walk to the beach and spend the day spear fishing through Kailua Bay from the Kalama Beach area to Popoiʻa and beyond. Fish were plentiful and lobsters could be found. We took what our family needed and no more.

Momona ka moana. Laʼa ka moana
The ocean is fertile. The ocean is sacred.

When we wanted to earn money, or Mom needed coconuts to make candy, we hauled our wagons and gunny sacks throughout the many vacant lots around the Coconut Grove area. The local wholesaler paid us 2 cents for each coconut, 5 cents if we husked them. Mom gave us the most welcome reward, the best coconut candy I've ever tasted. No one bothered the trees and they continued to reward us with money and candy.

Momona ka ʻāina. Laʼa ka ʻāina
The land is fertile. The land is sacred.

Momona ka ʻāina.

Centuries before I walked this land and swam in the sea, the first inhabitants cleared the land and planted from Maunawili to Kawainui. With hard work they tamed the streams planted their crops and maintained Kawainui as a loko iʻa.

Today, Kailua has been covered with homes and businesses. The land is not seen as rich. Long before my youth, Hawaii had gone from subsistence living to supermarket living. My experience with the richness of the land was to supplement our diet. I have fond memories of cleaning the fish we caught and the fruit we gathered. I remember raising the chickens that filled our freezer. There were sweet smells that filled the house when jams and jellies were made and bread was baked.

Most young to middle-aged people today do not have those same memories or the same stories of Kailua. They have different memories and different stories.

What first makes the land rich is how the original Hawaiians coaxed the land and the water to provide food: taro, fish, breadfruit, sweet potatoes, bananas and more. The work was hard and messy. They fed a vast population and Kailua was productive.

What also makes the land rich are the stories that can be told about it: stories that include the moʻo Hauwahine, legends that include the visit of Hiʻiakaikapoliopele, the magic of the Mākālei and the visit of Kamehameha the Great.

La'a ka ʻāina

The land is intrinsically sacred. This is a truth held by ancient, indigenous peoples around the world. From the land comes food and water that sustains life.

In our Hawaiian tradition, the land and all things on it contain mana, a spiritual force that can't be explained. It has to be experienced. Humans along with the elements of the land (plants, animals and rocks) possess this mana.

The Hawaiian pantheon holds 400,000 Gods. Every plant and animal is a kino lau, a bodily form, of a God. Therefore, in Hawaiian mythology, everything is divine and the divine is everywhere.

With the realization of this sacredness respect for the Earth is nurtured.

The greatest gift, I believe, that the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan can leave for the people of Kailua is the chance for young and old people of today to see living history on lands that are rich and sacred.

When I was young, Kawainui was the swamp. Ulupō was hidden. Nā Pōhaku was a place to dump garbage. Cattle were raised in the dry Kawainui areas and on the top of Ulupō Heiau. Today, Kawainui is the largest area of undeveloped space that could be opened to the people of Kailua.

Now, through the efforts of The Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, ʻAhahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi and Hikaʻalani, the land around Kawainui is being cleaned and opened to the people of Kailua. We can now begin to see the richness and the sacredness of the area that the original inhabitants experienced. We are building on their mana, respecting their Gods and preparing a future. The sacredness of the land is being uncovered and retold.

Countless volunteers have contributed to this effort. What is most heartening is to see young students listening to the moʻolelo kahiko and then working in the loʻi, getting dirty and learning how much work it took ancient Hawaiians to be able to feed the community. The land is once again producing food with kalo and ʻuala being harvested and the hope of more diversified ethnobotanical gardens being planted.

As more areas are opened and paths connect the different sites, we increase the ability to teach. Kawainui is a classroom waiting to be opened. Students will be able to study endangered, endemic birds, water resource management and cultural preservation.

I have personally witnessed the development of new areas for trails on the mainland where a vocal few have preached doom. Today they are among those who enjoy the beauty that has been revealed. It is a fact: the

overwhelming majority of people who visit nature preserves are people who respect the land. I can honestly say that in the hundreds of miles of trails I have walked or bicycled in Montana, Idaho and Washington, I have never seen trash nor anyone disturbing nature.

To those who fear commercialization, I invite you to look at what is happening now. There are no tour buses at Ulupō, only the buses that bring students to work at Kawainui. At times they number over a hundred. There is no commercialization. There is only service. The future is being built on today's principles.

I wrote a song a few years ago that tells of the history of Kailua. The refrain follows:

ʻŌlelo, ʻōlelo ē nā ʻōpio
E hoʻomau i ka haʻi moʻolelo aʻo Kailua
Nā moʻolelo, o ke ao nei
A me nā moʻolelo o ka wā kahiko

Speak, speak young people
Continue to tell stories of Kailua
Stories of today
And, stories of long ago

Kailua has a story to tell. It is a story of ancient times. It is also a story of life today. My story of growing up in Kailua is different than that of today's youth. We must share all the stories. Culture is not stories of the past. It is stories from the past that have shaped us today. Today's stories will shape the future.

The story of the Master Plan is about living history.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,



Herman Kaʻimiloa Marciel

437B Ulupaina St.
Kailua, HI 96734
kailuahern@gmail.com

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Herman Ka'imiloa Marciel
437B Ulupaina Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Marciel:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i.

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under subheadings to correspond to your comments.

1. *When I was young, my family would hike the hills and valleys of Maunawili to gather fruit to feed the family. There was an abundance of guava, star fruit, mountain apple and more. We picked what we needed and left the rest for others.*
Momona ka 'āina. La'a ka 'āina
The land is fertile. The land is sacred.
As children, we would hike the hills of Ka'iwa and Keolu above Ka'elepulu picking pōpolo berries and wild tomatoes as we went. We left the plants standing so that others could enjoy.
Momona ka 'āina. La'a ka 'āina
The land is fertile. The land is sacred.
My brother, my cousin and I would leave our Kailua home early in the morning, walk to the beach and spend the day spear fishing through Kailua Bay from the Kalama Beach area to Popoi'a and beyond. Fish were plentiful and lobsters could be found. We took what our family needed and no more.
Momona ka moana. La'a ka moana
The ocean is fertile. The ocean is sacred.
When we wanted to earn money, or Mom needed coconuts to make candy, we hauled our wagons and gunny sacks throughout the many vacant lots around the Coconut Grove area. The local wholesaler paid us 2 cents for each coconut, 5 cents if we husked them. Mom gave us the most welcome reward, the best coconut candy I've ever tasted. No one bothered the trees and they continued to reward us with money and candy.
Momona ka 'āina. La'a ka 'āina
The land is fertile. The land is sacred.

Response: Thank you for sharing background on your family and experiences related to Kawainui and the broader Kailua area. Such experiences reflect the importance and value of the ocean and land.

2. *Momona ka 'āina.*
Centuries before I walked this land and swam in the sea, the first inhabitants cleared the land and planted from Maunawili to Kawainui. With hard work they tamed the streams planted their crops and maintained Kawainui as a loko 'ia.
Today, Kailua has been covered with homes and businesses. The land is not seen as rich. Long before my youth, Hawaii had gone from subsistence living to supermarket living. My experience with the richness of the land was to supplement our diet. I have fond memories of cleaning the fish we caught and the fruit we gathered. I remember raising the chickens that filled our freezer. There were sweet smells that filled the house when jams and jellies were made and bread was baked.
Most young to middle-aged people today do not have those same memories or the same stories of Kailua. They have different memories and different stories.
What first makes the land rich is how the original Hawaiians coaxed the land and the water to provide food: taro, fish, breadfruit, sweet potatoes, bananas and more. The work was hard and messy. They fed a vast population and Kailua was productive.
What also makes the land rich are the stories that can be told about it: stories that include the mo'o Hauwahine, legends that include the visit of Hi'iakaikapoliopele, the magic of the Mākālei and the visit of Kamehameha the Great.
Response: Thank you for sharing your impression and memories of changes that have occurred in Kailua over time with urbanization. The stories and mo'olelo of Kawainui are important to the cultural history of this area.

3. *La'a ka 'āina*
The land is intrinsically sacred. This is a truth held by ancient, indigenous peoples around the world. From the land comes food and water that sustains life.
In our Hawaiian tradition, the land and all things on it contain mana, a spiritual force that can't be explained. It has to be experienced. Humans along with the elements of the land (plants, animals and rocks) possess this mana.
The Hawaiian pantheon holds 400,000 Gods. Every plant and animal is a kino lau, a bodily form, of a God. Therefore, in Hawaiian mythology, everything is divine and the divine is everywhere.
With the realization of this sacredness respect for the Earth is nurtured.
Response: We acknowledge the information shared on tbe importance of land and why it should bc respected and cared for. Project plans were developed with this framework and background, and are reasonable to minimize impacts, while including improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

4. *The greatest gift, I believe, that the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan can leave for the people of Kailua is the chance for young and old people of today to see living history on lands that are rich and sacred.*

When I was young, Kawainui was the swamp. Ulupō was hidden. Nā Pōhaku was a place to dump garbage. Cattle were raised in the dry Kawainui areas and on the top of Ulupō Heiau. Today, Kawainui is the largest area of undeveloped space that could be opened to the people of Kailua.

Now, through the efforts of The Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, 'Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi and Hika'alani, the land around Kawainui is being cleaned and opened to the people of Kailua. We can now begin to see the richness and the sacredness of the area that the original inhabitants experienced. We are building on their mana, respecting their Gods and preparing a future. The sacredness of the land is being uncovered and retold.

Countless volunteers have contributed to this effort. What is most heartening is to see young students listening to the mo'olelo kahiko and then working in the lo'i, getting dirty and learning how much work it took ancient Hawaiians to be able to feed the community. The land is once again producing food with kalo and 'uala being harvested and the hope of more diversified ethnobotanical gardens being planted.

As more areas are opened and paths connect the different sites, we increase the ability to teach. Kawainui is a classroom waiting to be opened. Students will be able to study endangered, endemic birds, water resource management and cultural preservation.

Response: DOFAW and DSP agree with the importance of having the public learn about and appreciate the value of the Kawainui-Hāmākua resource. Your childhood experiences with Kawainui are examples of why the project would significantly improve this resource and make it available to the public in a managed manner to enjoy.

DOFAW and DSP concur that non-profit organizations involved at Kawainui have contributed to its restoration, increased cultural and educational programs for students and the public, and have successfully performed as partners with the State, as you describe. Increasing public access, allowing connection of sites in a managed manner, and providing necessary improvements (e.g. on-site parking, restrooms) under the project would increase opportunities for continued and expanded educational programs and cultural activities as you mention. Working in partnership with DOFAW and DSP, these opportunities would have a beneficial effect and support project objectives.

5. *I have personally witnessed the development of new areas for trails on the mainland where a vocal few have preached doom. Today they are among those who enjoy the beauty that has been revealed. It is a fact: the overwhelming majority of people who visit nature preserves are people who respect the land. I can honestly say that in the hundreds of miles of trails I have walked or bicycled in Montana, Idaho and Washington, I have never seen trash nor anyone disturbing nature.*

To those who fear commercialization, I invite you to look at what is happening now. There are no tour buses at Ulupō, only the buses that bring students to work at Kawainui. At times they number over a hundred. There is no commercialization. There is only service. The future is being built on today's principles.

I wrote a song a few years ago that tells of the history of Kailua. The refrain follows:

'Ōlelo, 'ōlelo ē nā 'ōpio	*Speak, speak young people*
E ho'omau I ka ha'i mo'olelo a'o Kailua	*Continue to tell stories of Kailua*
Nā mo'olelo, o ke ao nei	*Stories of today*
A me nā mo'olelo o ka wā kahiko	*And, stories of long ago*

Kailua has a story to tell. It is a story of ancient times. It is also a story of life today. My story of growing up in Kailua is different than that of today's youth. We must share all the stories. Culture is not stories of the past. It is stories from the past that have shaped us today. Today's stories will shape the future.
The story of the Master Plan is about living history
Response: There are members of the community concerned with increasing public access to Kawainui and have a general opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to any changes that may attract more visitors. As you stated, it is likely that the majority of persons wanting to visit nature preserves, such as Kawainui, would be respectful of the land and the resource.

Commercialization is another stated concern regarding the project, and is directly related to opposition to visitors to Kailua and associated commercial tours. However, the project includes management actions to address commercialization issues as discussed in the DEIS, and DSP and DOFAW do not plan to issue permits for privately-operated for-profit commercial tours at Kawainui. DSP continues to coordinate with the Windward YMCA to address unauthorized commercial tours at Ulupō Heiau associated with visitors entering from the YMCA-owned property. Such activities at Ulupō Heiau have decreased based upon increased stewardship of this site by a non-profit organization under a curatorship agreement with DSP.

Thank you for supporting the project and proposed improvements, and sharing a verse from your song. The project would provide significant benefits to the public, and a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui, and increase educational opportunities regarding its history.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Daryl Matthews <daryl.matthews@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Oppose Kawainui marsh plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Comments on draft environmental impact statement:

This DEIS by tripling the number of monthly visitors to Kailua would be seriously harmful to our natural resources. It ignores the alternative community plan that was endorsed by many local associations and by the Kailua neighborhood board.

Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii safe and beautiful.

Aloha,

Daryl Matthews

Written with dictation software, apologies for any typos.

--
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dangerous content by **MailScanner**, and is
believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Daryl Matthews

Via Email: daryl.matthews@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email of February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We are providing this response letter to your comments.

This DEIS by tripling the number of monthly visitors to Kailua would be seriously harmful to our natural resources. It ignores the alternative community plan that was endorsed by many local associations and by the Kailua neighborhood board.
Thank you for helping to keep Hawaii safe and beautiful.
Response: Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses existing and projected levels of visitors associated with this project. Visitors includes those associated with educational and cultural programs, persons using areas for passive outdoor recreation, and both residents and non-residents wanting to view Kawainui. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented to evaluate conditions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The DEIS demonstrates that the projected number of visitors would not have a significant impact on the environment.

As discussed in the DEIS, the project is appropriate for the area and includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities that enhance the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Alternatives to the proposed project have been considered, and Section 2.3 of the DEIS discusses these alternatives and explains why they have been eliminated. Section 2.3.4 discusses the 2013 plan that was supported by the Kailua Neighborhood Board. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics in that

plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, which are related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with their recommended interpretive facilities and support features, along with opposing establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation were not met by this alternative. There was essentially no accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

January 14, 2018

Ronald Sato A/CP

HHF Planners

733 Bishop St Ste 2590

Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Mr. Sato,

This letter expresses my concerns about the Kaiwainui Marsh proposal. While the plan looks great for residents, it will bring an abundance of tourists to the Windward side. We would live in Waikiki if we wanted that.

I have lived here for over 25 years and have watched the inundation of tourist flood our little town. There has been a sizable increase in residents as well. The traffic in Kailua is terrible.

Please assure us this proposal is for the residents and not to bring more tourist to Kailua! We can't enjoy the beach with so many tourists. We are opposed to more tourists! Do not proceed if tourists are going to be coming for the Kaiwainui Marsh.

Thank you,

Cynthia Merrick

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Cynthia Merrick
1355 Akiahala Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Merrick:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter received January 14, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *This letter expresses my concerns about the Kaiwainui Marsh proposal. While the plan looks great for residents, it will bring an abundance of tourists to the Windward side. We would live in Waikiki if we wanted that.*
   Response: We acknowledge your concerns regarding the project and opposition to visitors to Kailua. However, it is unlikely Kawainui would become the type of visitor attraction you envision. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses existing and projected levels of visitors associated with this project. Visitors would include those associated with educational and cultural programs, persons using areas for passive outdoor recreation, and both residents and non-residents wanting to view Kawainui. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented to evaluate conditions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The DEIS demonstrates that the projected number of visitors would not have a significant impact on the environment.

2. *I have lived here for over 25 years and have watched the inundation of tourist flood our little town. There has been a sizable increase in residents as well. The traffic in Kailua is terrible.*
   Response: Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses the demographic character of Kailua and community issues, which includes your concerns about the increased number of residents, visitors, and traffic. However, the project would not significantly impact the quality of life for residents of Kailua as discussed in the DEIS. Improvements would have minimal effects on Kailua's demographic characteristics and other socio-economic factors, such as business conditions. Increased visitor activities in Kailua over the past decade has been the source for community concern, but most visitor activities are centered around the area's world

renowned beaches that support a diversity of ocean recreational activities. The DEIS discusses several approaches proposed to manage visitors.

3. *Please assure us this proposal is for the residents and not to bring more tourist to Kailua! We can't enjoy the beach with so many tourists. We are opposed to more tourists! Do not proceed if tourists are going to be coming for the Kaiwainui Marsh.*
Response: Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. The State needs to consider the broader public interest when considering management options for such an important area. The broader public consists of residents and visitors to Kailua, including residents from other areas of the island and off-island.

   Your opposition to tourists is noted. However, the project supports Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities to enhance the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians. As discussed in the DEIS, several measures are proposed to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back since initial plans were proposed. Proposed improvements are appropriate for the area, they would be phased over time, are modest in scale given the extent of the area, are planned to be environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Judy Mick <ppchawaii@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 11:13 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: MarigoldS.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha- Thank you for taking into consideration the deep feelings we who work in and truly love Kawainui have for her. For the past year I have been honored ,as a non-Hawaiian to join the efforts of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club to tend to Ulu Po Heiau, the loi, and the education of many who want to learn the ancient and important history of this place. Over thirty years ago I worked with the Kawainui Heritage Foundation alongside Muriel Seto, Diane Drigot, and Susan Miller as they started a new movement to preserve and protect the wetland. I was part of the group that provided tours of the marsh to school groups from all over Oahu. The keiki easily seemed to grasp the importance of the area as we hiked across the berm looking for the few endangered water left (now flourishing in the Hamakua part of the marsh due to tireless work of DOFA), and realizing they were standing in what used to be a caldera and then a huge lagoon. The grasses were beginning to choke the water then which now we must only imagine. I support the plan and look forward to our indigenous brothers and sisters bringing back the magic of Kawainui - the "Big Freshwater". I'd like to share a poem by a Kailua 4th grader sent to us following a tour in 1984

The Land of Love

I am happy the way I am. With the birds to keep me company.

The uses of my body was the way of living. I am Hauwahine the goddess of Kawainui Marsh.

Help me please before I die.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Judy Mick, Kailua

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Judy Mick

Via Email: ppchawaii@yahoo.com

Dear Ms. Mick:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *Aloha- Thank you for taking into consideration the deep feelings we who work in and truly love Kawainui have for her. For the past year I have been honored, as a non-Hawaiian to join the efforts of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club to tend to Ulu Po Heiau, the loi, and the education of many who want to learn the ancient and important history of this place.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing background information on your relationship with Kawainui, and your involvement with native Hawaiian organizations. The State DLNR DOFAW and DSP both acknowledge and appreciate the restoration efforts, educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship efforts conducted by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club.

2. *Over thirty years ago I worked with the Kawainui Heritage Foundation alongside Muriel Seto, Diane Drigot, and Susan Miller as they started a new movement to preserve and protect the wetland. I was part of the group that provided tours of the marsh to school groups from all over Oahu. The keiki easily seemed to grasp the importance of the area as we hiked across the berm looking for the few endangered water left (now flourishing in the Hamakua part of the marsh due to tireless work of DOFA), and realizing they were standing in what used to be a caldera and then a huge lagoon. The grasses were beginning to choke the water then which now we must only imagine.*
   Response: Thank you for sharing your experiences working with the Kawainui Heritage Foundation, conducting educational programs and activities, and sharing how students benefitted from such efforts. The proposed project would support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public

access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities to enhance the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians. Educational programs would also benefit from this project, particularly these improvements supporting those programs.

3. *I support the plan and look forward to our indigenous brothers and sisters bringing back the magic of Kawainui - the "Big Freshwater". I'd like to share a poem by a Kailua 4th grader sent to us following a tour in 1984*
   The Land of Love
   I am happy the way I am. With the birds to keep me company.
   The uses of my body was the way of living. I am Hauwahine the goddess of Kawainui Marsh.
   Help me please before I die.
   Response: Thank you for supporting the project, and for sharing the poem written by a 4th grader.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Norikazu Miyata <Noritaman@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:53 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the development of the marshes.
The Marshes should no be a park nor a recreation place.
It should remain to be a home and the sanctuary for wildlife.
Humans not the only one's to live in this world.
We have to respect wildlife, as it is our responsibility to protect them and provide a safe place for them to live.
We need to keep the marshes as it is now - untouched.

Thank you for your consideration.

Norikazu Miyata

--
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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Norikazu Miyata

Via Email: Noritaman@msn.com

Dear Mr. Miyata:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email received January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I strongly oppose the development of the marshes.*
   Response: We acknowledge your opposition to proposed project improvements. However, it should be clarified that development would not occur within the wetland (marsh), but within upland areas that have already been previously disturbed from prior use (e.g. City baseyard, ranching). Chapter 2 of the DEIS describes these improvements and restoration efforts that would involve the wetland.

2. *The Marshes should no be a park nor a recreation place.*
   Response: Recreational activities would not occur within the wetland (marsh), but within previously disturbed upland areas. Areas proposed for passive outdoor recreation have been appropriately sited, and would not have an adverse effect on the environment as discussed in various sections of the DEIS. The project is intended to support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and meet federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

3. *It should remain to be a home and the sanctuary for wildlife.*
   Humans not the only one's to live in this world.
   We have to respect wildlife, as it is our responsibility to protect them and provide a safe place for them to live.
   Response: It should be noted that the existing ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or habitat, but of a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. All terrestrial

mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems. Endangered waterbirds would have a restored habitat within the wetland. Project improvements would support this wildlife sanctuary as discussed in Section 6.3.4 of the DEIS. The project would support both wildlife and human activity in a reasonable manner appropriate for this site. As discussed, development and human activities would occur in previously disturbed upland areas.

4. *We need to keep the marshes as it is now - untouched.*
See the response to comment No. 3, above. In addition, Kawainui is a state resource that should be shared with the public. The State needs to consider the broader public interest when planning for such an important location.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Annette Mueller-Dombois <annmue216@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Master Plan Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha kakou,

I am studying Hula with Kumu Hula Mapuana de Silva for 29 years. My husband and I are members of t he Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and We fully support Mapuana and Kihei de Silva's ideology, future visions, and dedication in regard to the Kawainui Master Plan Project.

My husband and I have been living in Kailua for over 40 years. My husband is a well known Island vegetation ecologist and we would like to see the Kawainui project come to a responsible and satisfying solution for everyone in the community.

With Aloha,

Annette and Diete Mueller-Dombois

Sent from my iPad

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Annette and Mr. Diete Mueller-Dombois

Via Email: annmuc216@yahoo.com

Dear Mr and Mrs. Mueller-Dombois:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses below to your comments.

I am studying Hula with Kumu Hula Mapuana de Silva for 29 years. My husband and I are members of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and We fully support Mapuana and Kihei de Silva's ideology, future visions, and dedication in regard to the Kawainui Master Plan Project.

My husband and I have been living in Kailua for over 40 years. My husband is a well known Island vegetation ecologist and we would like to see the Kawainui project come to a responsible and satisfying solution for everyone in the community.

Response: Thank you for sharing your background information and experiences being members of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and studying under Kumu Hula Mapuana de Silva.

The project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed to address community concerns. Proposed improvements are appropriate for the area, they would be phased over time, are modest in scale given the extent of the area, are planned to be environmentally sustainable, and support increased stewardship and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Comments on Kawainui Master Plan DEIS

Ronald Sato
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 3, 2018

RE: Comments on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS

Dear Mr. Sato,

Mahalo for allowing the public to give input to the Master Plan for the future of the Kawainui-Hamakua area. Our 'ohana has lived in Kane'ohe near the Kawainui Marsh for over 60 years and treasure our life on the windward side of O'ahu.
I have attended past public informational meetings on the project, and participated in a guided tour of the project areas. I am very impressed with the thoroughness and inclusiveness of the planning project and am very much in support of the Master Plan.
The area is of such significant natural, historical, and cultural importance. I agree with the restoration of the wetlands, and the continued stewardship of the land, wildlife, and historical features for all future generations. So much of our islands is disappearing in the name of development - it will be wonderful to have this area reserved for our keiki to understand how to grow kalo, how to preserve a heiau, how a marsh functions as part of the overall environment, what native plants are, and to learn the stories that go with the Kailua area.

In particular, I support the plans for cultural resource management run by non-profits so that we can perpetuate traditional native Hawaiian hula, mele, and other practices. I have been privileged to know Mapuana and Kihei de Silva and the work they have done as lifetime contributors to the Kailua community. As haumana, we have learned not just oli, mele, and hula, but intangibles like respect for the land and environment, the strength of knowing the history of these islands and the contributions of the native people to agriculture, the arts, and sciences, the importance of caring for our elders and their 'iwi, and so much more. These are the things our future generations need so they are rooted and have purpose.

As for the concern about the Kawainui improvements attracting more tourists, I feel that there should not be any for-profit commercial activity allowed in the area. The presence of community-minded resources at Na Pohaku, Ulupo Heiau, and Wai'auia would be insurance to monitor and hopefully prevent intrusion by large numbers of tourists. Not all visitors are "bad", perhaps in small groups they can learn our cultural and environmental values and carry them forward.

Sincerely,

Merle Pak
Kane'ohe resident

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Merle Pak

Via Email: kiyopak@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Pak:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email sent February 3, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *Mahalo for allowing the public to give input to the Master Plan for the future of the Kawainui-Hamakua area. Our 'ohana has lived in Kane'ohe near the Kawainui Marsh for over 60 years and treasure our life on the windward side of O'ahu.*
I have attended past public informational meetings on the project, and participated in a guided tour of the project areas. I am very impressed with the thoroughness and inclusiveness of the planning project and am very much in support of the Master Plan.
Response: Thank you for sharing background information on your family, and for attending public informational meetings on this project and tours of the project area. We acknowledge your support for this project, and your comments on the thoroughness and inclusiveness of the planning process.

2. *The area is of such significant natural, historical, and cultural importance. I agree with the restoration of the wetlands, and the continued stewardship of the land, wildlife, and historical features for all future generations. So much of our islands is disappearing in the name of development - it will be wonderful to have this area reserved for our keiki to understand how to grow kalo, how to preserve a heiau, how a marsh functions as part of the overall environment, what native plants are, and to learn the stories that go with the Kailua area.*
Response: We agree that the project area is of significant natural, historical and cultural importance. Project improvements would support these characteristics by providing opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to

conduct cultural practices and activities. We agree that proposed wetland restoration, along with other improvements, would support stewardship of the land, wildlife, and historical features for future generations. The project would support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Such improvements would support educational and cultural programs that are important elements of the project's objectives.

3. *In particular, I support the plans for cultural resource management run by non-profits so that we can perpetuate traditional native Hawaiian hula, mele, and other practices. I have been privileged to know Mapuana and Kihei de Silva and the work they have done as lifetime contributors to the Kailua community. As haumana, we have learned not just oli, mele, and hula, but intangibles like respect for the land and environment, the strength of knowing the history of these islands and the contributions of the native people to agriculture, the arts, and sciences, the importance of caring for our elders and their 'iwi, and so much more. These are the things our future generations need so they are rooted and have purpose.*
   Response: Thank you for supporting project plans to allow the establishment of cultural centers that would be constructed and operated by non-profit organizations to further cultural practices, stewardship, and educational programs. We appreciate sharing your experiences working with the de Silva's and the knowledge they shared with you about the importance of this area, its history, and the environment. We agree these are important for future generations to know about.

4. *As for the concern about the Kawainui improvements attracting more tourists, I feel that there should not be any for-profit commercial activity allowed in the area. The presence of community-minded resources at Na Pohaku, Ulupo Heiau, and Wai'auia would be insurance to monitor and hopefully prevent intrusion by large numbers of tourists. Not all visitors are "bad", perhaps in small groups they can learn our cultural and environmental values and carry them forward.*
   Response: We share the concerns expressed about visitors to Kawainui. The DEIS discusses several approaches to manage visitors and public access. Privately-owned, for-profit, commercial activities, such as commercial tours, are not planned to be permitted within Kawainui. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented so that the number of visitors does not have a significant impact on the environment. Visitors would include those associated with educational and cultural programs, persons seeking passive outdoor recreation, and both residents and non-residents wanting to view Kawainui. Stewardship opportunities created with the participation of non-profit organizations would support the State's management and monitoring of the resource. We agree that public access should be implemented in a managed manner, and supports educational programs.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: juliet Pearson <julietjohns@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 4:52 PM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: HHF Planners

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha,
I am writing this email in opposition of the Kawainui Marsh Plan. As a born Kailuan, I am resident, horseman, parent of Maunawili, Kailua who enjoys the solitude, peace and preservation in which we are surrounded in the Maunawili/Kawainui adjacent neighborhood. A tripling of monthly visitors would destroy the natural resource degradation (which has been so beautifully preserved at Houwaihine/Kawainui), would be detrimental to endangered species control efforts and would be devastating to the quality of life of the residence and animals.
Please oppose this plan to preserve the beauty of Hawai'i and Kailua.
Mahalo Nui Loa
--
This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by MailScanner, and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Juliet Pearson

Via Email: julietjohns@me.com

Dear Ms. Pearson:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email sent February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses below to your comments.

I am writing this email in opposition of the Kawainui Marsh Plan. As a born Kailuan, I am resident, horseman, parent of Maunawili, Kailua who enjoys the solitude, peace and preservation in which we are surrounded in the Maunawili/Kawainui adjacent neighborhood. A tripling of monthly visitors would destroy the natural resource degradation (which has been so beautifully preserved at Houwaihine/Kawainui), would be detrimental to endangered species control efforts and would be devastating to the quality of life of the residence and animals.
Please oppose this plan to preserve the beauty of Hawai'i and Kailua.
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project. It should be noted that the project site does not include the Maunawili subdivision, and proposed improvements would have minimal effect on that subdivision. It is highly unlikely Kawainui would become the type of visitor attraction you envision. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses existing and projected levels of visitors associated with this project. Visitors would include those attending educational and cultural programs, persons using areas for passive outdoor recreation, and both residents and non-residents wanting to view Kawainui. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented to evaluate conditions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The DEIS demonstrates that the projected number of visitors would not have a significant impact on the environment as discussed in various sections of the document.

We would like to clarify that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat needing protection, but is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation overtaking it. Nā Pōhaku o

Hauwahine is in the process of restoration from the years of upland reforestation efforts undertaken by non-profit organizations. The project includes improvements that support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. The DEIS discusses that proposed improvements would not have an adverse effect on wildlife. Project improvements encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui region, and would not adversely impact endangered waterbirds, their habitat, and the environment as discussed in the DEIS.

Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses the demographic character of Kailua and community issues, which includes concerns about visitors. The project would not significantly impact the quality of life for residents of Kailua as discussed in the DEIS. Improvements would have minimal effect on Kailua's demographic characteristics or other socio-economic factors. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. The State needs to consider the broader public interest when planning for such an important area.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Frances Rainin <frainin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov; Frances Rainin
Subject: COMMENT: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project

January 24, 2018

Dear Mr. Sato,

I am currently off island and was unable to attend the meeting for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project. I'm not sure if any of the discussions were about the Kawainui marsh trail so I wanted to voice my concerns before the deadline passed.

As a disabled person, I am unable to safely use the Kawainui Marsh walking trail intended for public enjoyment and wildlife preservation because it is not wheelchair accessible. Although the path is paved for most of the trail, the beginning of the trail is loosely packed rocks/gravel and not wheelchair accessible. In addition, getting up on the paved path is impossible due to a steep lip from the soil erosion. And, getting off the path has resulted in me falling out of my wheelchair and onto the ground since the drop off is at least a few inches.

Please take these points into consideration and make the Kawainui Marsh Trail wheelchair accessible all the way from the parking lot to the trail end so that everyone is able to enjoy it.

Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Frances Rainin
188 N. Kalaheo Ave
Kailua, HI 96734
(415) 377-0123

cc: Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Frances Rainin
188 North Kalāheo Avenue
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Rainin:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter emailed on January 24, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I am currently off island and was unable to attend the meeting for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project. I'm not sure if any of the discussions were about the Kawainui marsh trail so I wanted to voice my concerns before the deadline passed.*
   Response: We are sorry you could not attend the public informational meeting held in January 2018 for this project, but appreciate your comments. The purpose of the January meeting was to clarify project information to help facilitate public review of the DEIS, and to address misinformation circulated about the project. There were also general discussions about trails.

2. *As a disabled person, I am unable to safely use the Kawainui Marsh walking trail intended for public enjoyment and wildlife preservation because it is not wheelchair accessible. Although the path is paved for most of the trail, the beginning of the trail is loosely packed rocks/gravel and not wheelchair accessible. In addition, getting up on the paved path is impossible due to a steep lip from the soil erosion. And, getting off the path has resulted in me falling out of my wheelchair and onto the ground since the drop off is at least a few inches.*
   Please take these points into consideration and make the Kawainui Marsh Trail wheelchair accessible all the way from the parking lot to the trail end so that everyone is able to enjoy it.

Response: Some sections of the planned pedestrian trail would be wheelchair accessible, such as access between the parking lot and education center and certain trail sections in the vicinity of this center. However, the majority of planned trails would consist of foot trails generally following existing unimproved dirt trails within upland areas.

Unfortunately, several sections of the pedestrian trail would not be practical to provide ADA accessibility due to terrain challenges. Departure from specific accessibility guidelines is permitted where terrain or the prevailing construction practices make ADA compliance unfeasible, or if there is potential harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics. As pedestrian trails are created with phased implementation of the project and public access, design plans could include providing some ADA accessible trail segments. The design of such trail sections would include appropriate path foundation and pavement materials.

Currently, only a few areas are open for public access, such as Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine and Ulupō Heiau. Other areas are still restricted from public access, such as the upland areas of Kahanaiki. We are not sure which trail your refer to having difficulty accessing, but future trails built under this project would consider ADA accessibility where feasible and practicable, as previously discussed. The State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP appreciate your comments and would take into consideration having some sections of the trails wheelchair accessible.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

T A D I A R I C E

322 Aoloa Street Suite 601 Kailua, Hawaii 96735
Phone (808) 262-6533 Email: tadiarice@gmail.com

February 5, 2018

Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate (rsato@hhf.com)
HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Marigold S. Zoll, Branch Manager (Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov)
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
2135 Makiki Hts. Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

Aloha Mr. Sato and Ms. Zoll,

As a supporter of the efforts to protect and honor Ulupō Heiau State Monument as a sacred place, I endorse the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017). I am well aware that 58 Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and their 600-member Association members located in both Hawaii and the continental U.S., have appreciated the inclusion of Article XII rights under the State Constitution. Support extends well beyond the native Hawaiian population, and includes those who appreciate Hawaiian cultural practices, resources, and values.

As a Kailua resident, as a member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, it is imperative that the State of Hawaii, and all residents and visitors, better understand the important needs of the local community, whether kanaka maoli or not:

- Caring for the bones of the ancestors who left a healthy land to their descendants
- Honoring the traditions that keep ancient places of worship, and preserve them
- Appreciating the food grown on this land surrounding Ulupō Heiau
- Conducting ceremonies, dances, chant, and storytelling
- Teaching all of Hawaii's children the quality and value of lessons embedded in ōlelo, Hula, and all the arts, so they don't get lost in the pressure to assimilate to a western way that devalues indigenous culture

The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS provides an opportunity to create unity between and among diverse peoples, and meet all these needs by establishing a permanent presence with demonstrated stewardship. This plan allows those most dedicated, most involved, most knowledgeable, most who look after and deeply love this sacred place that is Ulupō Heiau and the surrounding land and water.

When I go to Ulupō Heiau, either alone to breathe in the wisdom of the ancestors, or at Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club meetings, I am inspired by the purity and dedication of those who work so hard to clear the land, weed, plant, and prune the live-giving thriving lo'i that produces food for our bodies and souls. More than that, it is honoring a sacred place. They are, "O'okahi ka umauma, ho'okahi ke aloha" (all united in harmony and love).

For those of us who appreciate this Club and their supporters, and also love Ulupō for what it stands for, thank you.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Tadia Rice
322 Aoloa Street, #601
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Rice:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *As a supporter of the efforts to protect and honor Ulupō Heiau State Monument as a sacred place, I endorse the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS (December 2017). I am well aware that 58 Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and their 600-member Association members located in both Hawaii and the continental U.S., have appreciated the inclusion of Article XII rights under the State Constitution. Support extends well beyond the native Hawaiian population, and includes those who appreciate Hawaiian cultural practices, resources, and values.*
   Response: Thank you for your support of the project, and Ulupō Heiau State Monument. It is correct that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs unanimously supported this project at their annual convention in 2014.

2. *As a Kailua resident, as a member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, it is imperative that the State of Hawaii, and all residents and visitors, better understand the important needs of the local community, whether kanaka maoli or not:*
   - *Caring for the bones of the ancestors who left a healthy land to their descendants*
   - *Honoring the traditions that keep ancient places of worship, and preserve them*
   - *Appreciating the food grown on this land surrounding Ulupō Heiau*
   - *Conducting ceremonies, dances, chant, and storytelling*
   - *Teaching all of Hawaii's children the quality and value of lessons embedded in ōlelo, Hula, and all the arts, so they don't get lost in the pressure to assimilate to a western way that devalues indigenous culture*

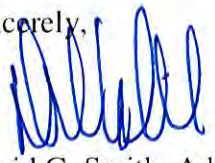
Response: We acknowledge you sharing information identifying the important values the local community, whether kanaka maoli or not, should be aware of. Project improvements would support these values, educational programs, cultural practices, and increase stewardship opportunities for this important resource.

3. *The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS provides an opportunity to create unity between and among diverse peoples, and meet all these needs by establishing a permanent presence with demonstrated stewardship. This plan allows those most dedicated, most involved, most knowledgeable, most who look after and deeply love this sacred place that is Ulupō Heiau and the surrounding land and water.*
Response: We concur that the project, as discussed in the DEIS, would provide an opportunity to create unity between and among diverse peoples, and support establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui that would further stewardship opportunities. The project provides opportunities for dedicated non-profit organizations, especially at Ulupō Heiau.

4. *When I go to Ulupō Heiau, either alone to breathe in the wisdom of the ancestors, or at Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club meetings, I am inspired by the purity and dedication of those who work so hard to clear the land, weed, plant, and prune the live-giving thriving lo'i that produces food for our bodies and souls. More than that, it is honoring a sacred place. They are, "O'okahi ka umauma, ho'okahi ke aloha" (all united in harmony and love).*
For those of us who appreciate this Club and their supporters, and also love Ulupō for what it stands for, thank you
Response: The State DLNR, DOFAW and DSP acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and other non-profit organizations and community members working at Ulupō Heiau. These efforts show the benefits of partnerships to restore and help steward these resources.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Kate Righter <righter.kate@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 4:49 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Support for Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan

Aloha Mr. Sato,

It seems evident that the community supports and understands the need to restore and protect Kawainui. There seems to be many, however, who underestimate how enormous the task is that lies ahead -- it is quite simply a lot of hard work, done by many people, consistently, for a very long time. This is how it has always been and always will be; there are no shortcuts, no quick and easy solutions.

As you well know, for centuries the area was a thriving fishpond, surrounded by the fertile ground planted with food crops to sustain a large population, who in turn provided the labor to keep the water flowing, the crops planted, the weeds pulled, the stones in place. The native birds flocked to this area, and all prospered. As times changed, the ownership of the land changed hands, the caretakers died, moved away, or were forced into doing other work, and without their high level of focused care and attention, invasive species took over, overgrew the open areas, and the native plants and animals fled.

A new generation of caretakers have arrived to care for this land. They have been doing the hard work to restore the lo'i and native plants, to re-open areas of fresh water, and of bringing in groups of people from all over to assist in this work, of telling the stories of this place so they are never forgotten. The birds have also begun to return to these reclaimed areas, wading through the water alongside those planting kalo. And in turn, a sense of connection to the land and to the past has returned to the people working there.

I am not a leader of this work, but I have been a volunteer. And if those who have been putting in the hours and hours of restoration and organizational work say they need restrooms, safe parking, office space, and educational buildings in order to do what they do, I believe them.

And so for many reasons, I support the plan, and look forward to helping raise the walls of buildings that will serve the generations to come. I look forward to volunteering my time to pulling the weeds, planting the crops, and to doing all that must be done on this long path ahead.

Sincerely,
Kate Righter
Kailua resident

--
This message has been scanned for viruses and
dangerous content by **MailScanner**, and is
believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Kate Righter

Via Email: righter.kate@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Righter:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email sent February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *It seems evident that the community supports and understands the need to restore and protect Kawainui. There seems to be many, however, who underestimate how enormous the task is that lies ahead -- it is quite simply a lot of hard work, done by many people, consistently, for a very long time. This is how it has always been and always will be; there are no shortcuts, no quick and easy solutions.*
   Response: We acknowledge your assessment that the community supports and understands the necessity of restoring and protecting Kawainui. We acknowledge that the process of restoring Kawainui will require considerable time and effort. Improvements proposed by the project would support efforts to restore and protect this valuable resource.

2. *As you well know, for centuries the area was a thriving fishpond, surrounded by the fertile ground planted with food crops to sustain a large population, who in turn provided the labor to keep the water flowing, the crops planted, the weeds pulled, the stones in place. The native birds flocked to this area, and all prospered. As times changed, the ownership of the land changed hands, the caretakers died, moved away, or were forced into doing other work, and without their high level of focused care and attention, invasive species took over, overgrew the open areas, and the native plants and animals fled.*
   A new generation of caretakers have arrived to care for this land. They have been doing the hard work to restore the lo'i and native plants, to re-open areas of fresh water, and of bringing in groups of people from all over to assist in this work, of telling the stories of this place so they are never forgotten. The birds have also begun to return to these reclaimed

areas, wading through the water alongside those planting kalo. And in turn, a sense of connection to the land and to the past has returned to the people working there.
Response: Thank you for providing the narrative on the historic changes Kawainui has experienced. We acknowledge the efforts that have occurred at Kawainui by the new generation of caretakers discussed in your comment. These efforts have aided the restoration and protection of the marsh. As discussed previously in our response to your first comment, proposed improvements will support efforts to restore and protect Kawainui.

3. *I am not a leader of this work, but I have been a volunteer. And if those who have been putting in the hours and hours of restoration and organizational work say they need restrooms, safe parking, office space, and educational buildings in order to do what they do, I believe them.*
And so for many reasons, I support the plan, and look forward to helping raise the walls of buildings that will serve the generations to come. I look forward to volunteering my time to pulling the weeds, planting the crops, and to doing all that must be done on this long path ahead.
Response: We acknowledge your belief in the need for improvements to support restoration efforts at Kawainui. The facilities and parking spaces discussed in your comment will be provided and will aid the restoration of the marsh. We acknowledge your support of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan project and your efforts to aid the long-term restoration of Kawainui marsh.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Phaedra Robinson <phaedra_robinson@hokulani.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 8:03 AM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: I oppose Kawainui Marsh plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha,
I am writing to you to plead with you to not support the Kawainui Marsh plan. I am a longtime resident of Kailua and have seen the negative impact of increased tourism and expansion of development on our beautiful town. Our town cannot handle an increase in visitors or any further depletion of our natural resources and it's impact on native and endangered species.
Please consider the alternative Community Plan proposed by the Kailua Neighborhood board instead.
Thank you for reading this and for all you do to support our communities and ecosystem!

Phaedra E. Robinson, Ph.D.
Special Education Teacher, Hokulani School

"The true essence of humankind is kindness. There are other qualities which come from education or knowledge, but it is essential, if one wishes to be a genuine human being and impart satisfying meaning to one's existence, to have a good heart."
~ Dalai Lama

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Phaedra E. Robinson, Ph.D.

Via Email: phaedra_robinson@hokulani.k12.hi.us

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I am writing to you to plead with you to not support the Kawainui Marsh plan. I am a longtime resident of Kailua and have seen the negative impact of increased tourism and expansion of development on our beautiful town. Our town cannot handle an increase in visitors or any further depletion of our natural resources and it's impact on native and endangered species.*
   Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project. We also recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns about changes that may attract more visitors. It is unlikely Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access, and the project has been scaled back since initial plans were proposed. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. The State needs to consider tbe broader public interest when planning for such an important area.

   The project would not adversely impact the quality of life for residents. Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses social factors and demographics, visitor activities in Kailua, along with community issues, such as tourist commercial activities and vacation rentals. Changes to Kailua's demographics and character over the decades are attributable to many factors, such as residential development, migration of new residents, and commercial improvements. The project's effect on these issues are discussed in this section, and the majority of the factors contributing to the current sentiment regarding visitors is not related to improvements proposed by this project. The project would benefit the quality of life for residents in the

form of passive outdoor recreation opportunities, increased public access and enjoyment of the resource, and the opportunity to participate in educational and cultural programs.

It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat, but is a degraded resource in need of wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. Project improvements are intended to restore this area to provide improved habitat for endangered waterbird species, which would not be adversely effected by the project as discussed in the DEIS.

2. *Please consider the alternative Community Plan proposed by the Kailua Neighborhood board instead. Thank you for reading this and for all you do to support our communities and ecosystem!*
   Response: We acknowledge your support for the alternative plan supported by the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB). Alternatives to the proposed project, such as the KNB's plan, have been considered. Section 2.3 of the DEIS discusses the alternatives and explains why they were eliminated. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics from the KNB plan were generally consistent with the proposed project, related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preservation of historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with their recommended interpretive facilities and support features, along with opposition to establishment of a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation are not met by this alternative. There is essentially no accommodation proposed for any reasonable public access.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Cynthia Rubinstein <cynthiabeachfront@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 12:51 PM
To: Ronald Sato; Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Project EIS Comments

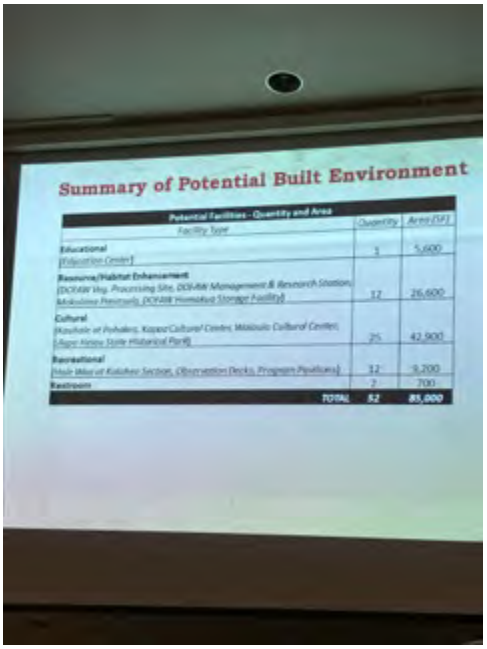
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mr. Sato & Ms Zoll, and DLNR & HHF in general and to the Draft EIS:

This project is quite concerning on so many levels.

The most important aspect, in my opinion, should be the well-being of whatever native bird and plant species exist in the area.
The addition of a place to perpetuate local culture is commendable as well. Both appear to be addressed in the plan,
but many points that have been questioned have been responded to in divergent manners and that is bothersome.

The question of allowance of tourism and commercialization has been responded to basically, as not allowed.
In light of the fact that DLNR has not been able to enforce regulations at their current areas, like the Mokulua Islands,
how can we then assume that this will be any different?
At the meeting held on 1/18/2018, all enforcement seemed to be on the shoulders of the non profit groups that would be involved and that is crazy.
Also the # of buildings that was until Thursday night, from what I could gather, was a whopping 34 buildings, has not jumped to 52!!!



At the very last 'nuclear' meeting about this project I asked out right if tour buses will be allowed. I was told YES by DLNR,
100 people a day. Now we hear that # has escalated to approximately 300 per day allowed in on tour buses.
Then I got a response to my written comments on the EIS from last year, wherein David Smith states this:

"While buses will be accommodated by prior arrangement for programs, no commercial tour buses or commercial activity
is allowed on state land, including lands used by non-profit organizations. We have no evidence to support your "sense"
that "some cultural practitioners pushing this project forward" anticipate potential financial gain or are "extending arms wide open
to the admission of tour buses. Non-profit organizations are not permitted to operate as private for-profit businesses."

Now the project plan has come out, with comments and questions just like mine and again states that 100 people a day (actually
you, Ron Sato, at the meeting of 1/18/2018, stated that approximately 300 people per day will be allowed) on tour
buses, will be allowed. This leads us to the concept of 'special use permits' which may be what he alludes to by his comment of
"While buses will be accommodated by prior arrangement for 'programs""…… A bunch of 'special use permits daily will constitute
the Polynesian Cultural Center vision that is before my eyes. And the DLNR has now contradicted itself.
At that same meeting that you did the presentation for Mr Sato, you kept responding to the index card questions about commercialization
saying that it was not allowed and that you had "covered that".

People speaking in favor of the project at that meeting kept saying “Read the Plan” and now a few of us have, concentrating on the
Draft EIS…which states:

"Expansion of Commercial Activities
Opening of new scenic and recreational areas will inevitably attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities—such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour.
Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, individuals may seek “creative ways” to bypass restrictions. Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also requires financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists. A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent project area parks generate revenue, these earnings should remain in the park system rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state’s general fund. Funds raised by community partners should be used to support their project area programs. "

These comments, Straight From The Draft EIS, fully contradict what you said at the meeting just days ago!!!

My other point of concern is that the othe traditional Hawaiian pa’a, the folks at Ke Kahua, have not been invited to ANY of
the planning meetings that the other contenders, HAVE been a part of. Ke Kahua has O commercial intent, so if commercialism
is not the intent here, Why Have They Been EXCLUDED??? They hold a lease with the State for the land they steward.
The area that you are considering as Pohakea, the Kauhale project is the area they now steward. The Kauhale that exists in that
area was created by their own hands and yet, they have been excluded completely! They are not even mentioned as the ones who
might steward the area they are tending.
In comparison, the other groups that have been working on Na Pohaku have been an integral part of this plan, to such
a degree that their rendition of what the buildings will look like are included in the plan! See Illustration 2.20. Concept Sketches of
Cultural Complex. As well as the fact that HHF is using video interviews with Only These Stakeholders in their promotion of the project:

http://www.hhf.com/kawainui/videos.html

Please understand that I have no aversion to this group. In fact, over the 35 years that I have lived on Oahu I have donated funds to
Halau Mohala Ilima, set up and provided homes for them during Merrie Monarch, actually gifted them my own home and secured about

8 homes nearby so that the halau could all be on one street during that time, have gone to them for names for babies who have been born
to members of the very large Tahitian family I have been a part of for over 30 years in Bora Bora…Pola Pola, the motherland, etc. etc…..
I fully support the perpetuation of Hawaiian Culture and Tradition. My issue is that there are other Kailua halau who should also be included
in this project. Add to that the fact that this non profit participation is to be 'bid out' and I am befuddled as it truly appears that the choice has
already been made.

So, if you could, please both add my comments herein to the EIS and please respond to my confusion as it seems that the group overseeing
this project, has now, publicly and in writing, spoken out of both sides of their mouths. These comments, along with all other comments, should
be a legal part of the EIS, along with the responses to these concerns.

With Respect,
Cynthia Rubinstein

cynthiabeachfront@gmail.com

Cynthia Rubinstein (R)
cynthiabeachfront@gmail.com
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RB-15800
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Cynthia Rubinstein

Via Email: cynthiabeachfront@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Rubinstein:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the email dated January 21, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *This project is quite concerning on so many levels. The most important aspect, in my opinion, should be the well-being of whatever native bird and plant species exist in the area. The addition of a place to perpetuate local culture is commendable as well. Both appear to be addressed in the plan, but many points that have been questioned have been responded to in divergent manners and that is bothersome.*
   Response: We acknowledge your continued concerns and general opposition to this project. In counterpoint, the DEIS discusses several measures proposed to address management of activities and access. The project has been scaled back since initial plans were proposed due to community input. In addition, DSP may implement more modest improvements in the interim period before the education center is constructed that consist of parking, restroom facilities, and some type of open structure (e.g. pavilion) to support programs.

   We concur that the DEIS addresses the importance of implementing wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation overtaking it. Project improvements are also intended to restore this area to provide improved habitat for endangered waterbird species. Such species or vegetation would not be adversely effected by the project as discussed in the DEIS. We acknowledge your support for project plans to provide opportunities to establish a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui that would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, stewardship, and cultural practices that benefit everyone.

Responses to your questions have been handled in a cohesive manner, and this letter clarifies your questions.

2. *The question of allowance of tourism and commercialization has been responded to basically, as not allowed. In light of the fact that DLNR has not been able to enforce regulations at their current areas, like the Mokulua Islands, how can we then assume that this will be any different? At the meeting held on 1/18/2018, all enforcement seemed to be on the shoulders of the non profit groups that would be involved and that is crazy. Also the # of buildings that was until Thursday night, from what I could gather, was a whopping 34 buildings, has not jumped to 52!!!*
Response: We recognize your concerns with tourism and associated commercialization supporting this industry. Chapter 2 of the DEIS addresses this subject along with visitor activity in Section 2.2.5. Given your profession as a realtor whose services offer tourists vacation beach homes and vacation beach rentals, your concerns may be related to more manageable tourism, and the DEIS discusses activities to manage visitors.

To clarify, DOFAW and DSP do not plan to issue permits for privately-operated, for-profit commercial activities, such as visitors with commercial tours. However, there are other permitted activities that are considered "commercial." For example, activities at the proposed cultural center at Kapa'a may require a fee charged by the non-profit organization to support their operations (e.g. educational or cultural classes) that would be considered a type of "commercial" activity under the wildlife sanctuary regulations. DOFAW is allowed to permit such commercial activities, and a guideline of 100 persons a day is identified. Operation of an educational center by DSP, or a non-profit organization, would likely require entrance fees or concessionaire agreements (e.g. gift shops) to sustain operation and maintenance. Such revenue would also be a type of commercial activity, but it would support the non-profit's operation of the center. Any excess revenues could be used to further fund Kawainui restoration or maintenance activities. DSP has no restrictions limiting such commercial activity for visitors to State parks.

We acknowledge your skepticism about the State's ability to manage and monitor activities. However, the State DLNR has made significant improvement to manage and enforce regulations. The commercial permit system implemented for Mokulua Islands has improved management of activities, and coordination with the City has increased enforcement and safety. The DEIS discusses several management practices proposed to address public access, which includes: 1) phased approach opening areas to the public; 2) restricting access where neeessary; and 3) increasing stewardship partnerships to help monitor areas. Additional State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers would need to be funded to support security and enforcement of areas opened for public access. DSP would also need funding support for additional operational staff to effectively manage increased public access. Without such support, implementation of certain improvements would be deferred.

The public meeting on January 18, 2018 did not represent that all enforcement would be on the shoulders of non-profit organizations. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses management of public access and is an important component for this project. If necessary, enforcement

actions would be conducted by DOCARE officers in coordination with DOFAW and DSP. Non-profit organizations operating at Kawainui would help support DSP and DOFAW management with their presence, stewardship activities, and support monitoring activities. Furthermore, there are only certain upland areas (e.g. Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku) that would be open to the public, and subject to your concerns about tourism.

The number of buildings is not as important compared to their purpose and the type of activities they are intended to support. Several structures consist of pavilions to support outdoor recreation and to provide shade for program participants. Others include needed restrooms. Several buildings are for DOFAW's research and management station. Several buildings are associated with cultural centers that would be developed by non-profit organizations to support cultural practices, educational programs, etc. as discussed in the DEIS. The number and size of buildings would ultimately be determined by non-profit organizations, DSP, and DOFAW when design plans are developed for their implementation. Buildings and other structures encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in the DEIS. The total floor area of buildings based upon the level of improvements planned total a little over one acre in size, and are appropriately sited to serve their intended purpose and activities.

3. *At the very last 'nuclear' meeting about this project I asked out right if tour buses will be allowed. I was told YES by DLNR, 100 people a day. Now we hear that # has escalated to approximately 300 per day allowed in on tour buses. Then I got a response to my written comments on the EIS from last year, wherein David Smith states this: "While buses will be accommodated by prior arrangement for programs, no commercial tour buses or commercial activity is allowed on state land, including lands used by non-profit organizations. We have no evidence to support your "sense" that "some cultural practitioners pushing this project forward" anticipate potential financial gain or are "extending arms wide open to the admission of tour buses. Non-profit organizations are not permitted to operate as private for-profit businesses."*
Response: Regarding commercial tour buses, it is correct that DOFAW could allow such commercial visitors under their wildlife sanctuary regulations, which currently indicate 100 persons per day as a guide for permit issuance. DSP could also issue separate commercial permits to allow commercial visitors, which is similar to other State parks. However, as previously discussed, DOFAW and DSP do not plan to issue such commercial permits for privately-operated, for-profit commercial activities (tours) at Kawainui.

It appears there is some confusion regarding the distinction between commercial visitors and general visitors. As shown on Table 2.6 of the DEIS, it is projected that about 9,950 persons a month (about 330 persons per day) could visit Kawainui. Currently about 2,500 persons a month already visit Kawainui. These visitors consist of both residents and non-residents visiting Nā Pōhaku, Ulupō Heiau, walking the levee, using pedestrian trails, and the education center. These are not visitors as part of commercial tour groups. This description is consistent with your excerpt from your EISPN response letter.

4. *Now the project plan has come out, with comments and questions just like mine and again states that 100 people a day (actually you, Ron Sato, at the meeting of 1/18/2018, stated that approximately 300 people per day will be allowed) on tour buses, will be allowed. This leads us to the concept of 'special use permits' which may be what he alludes to by his comment of "While buses will be accommodated by prior arrangement for 'programs'"..... A bunch of 'special use permits daily will constitute the Polynesian Cultural Center vision that is before my eyes. And the DLNR has now contradicted itself. At that same meeting that you did the presentation for Mr Sato, you kept responding to the index card questions about commercialization saying that it was not allowed and that you had "covered that".*
Response: As discussed in response No. 3, the distinction between commercial visitors and visitors in general has been addressed. We don't believe Mr. Sato stated that 300 persons a day would be allowed at Kawainui as part of commercial "tour buses." However, as previously discussed, about 300 visitors a day, not associated with commercial tour buses, could visit Kawainui. Such visitors could consist of residents or non-residents driving to visit Kawainui.

   Special use permits could be issued by DSP for larger groups visiting Kawainui as part of educational or cultural programs (e.g. over 25 persons). Larger school groups would obtain such special use permits and would be transported by bus. Therefore, your excerpt of buses accommodated by prior arrangement for such programs is correct.

   Your characterization of proposed cultural centers and use of special use permits for programs being a "Polynesian Cultural Center vision" reflects a misperception of this concept, and may be construed as inappropriate and insensitive to what native Hawaiian organizations have been promoting. DOFAW and DSP have not contradicted its position on visitors, but hopefully, this information helps clarify the distinction for you. Mr. Sato's responses from index card questions were based upon his interpretation of the questions and these responses should clarify information you heard at that meeting.

5. *People speaking in favor of the project at that meeting kept saying "Read the Plan" and now a few of us have, concentrating on the Draft EIS...which states:*
"Expansion of Commercial Activities
Opening of new scenic and recreational areas will inevitably attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities—such as bicycle or Segway tours or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on commercial activity on State lands, individuals may seek "creative ways" to bypass restrictions. Initiation or expansion of commercial activities could come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require a continuous revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also requires financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenue for parks nationwide, states are exploring new finance methods, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or programs. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists. A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent project area parks generate revenue, these earnings should remain in the park system

rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state's general fund. Funds raised by community partners should be used to support their project area programs. "
These comments, Straight From The Draft EIS, fully contradict what you said at the meeting just days ago!!!
Response: The excerpt on the topic of expansion of commercial activities is from a DEIS section addressing secondary impacts from the project. The discussion of individuals seeking use of the site for unpermitted commercial activities (e.g. Segway tours) is correct as the DEIS acknowledges there are individuals that may seek creative ways around regulations and restrictions. However, DOFAW and DSP management practices discussed for Kawainui would address and eliminate such unpermitted commercial activities. A phased approach to open areas to the public, and obtain additional DOCARE officers were some examples previously discussed.

Discussion of commercial activities, such as user fees, concessionaire agreements, etc. for a non-profit organization operating the education center was discussed in the DEIS and further explained under our response No. 2. Funding from such activities would be needed to support the center's operation, staff, and maintenance activities. However, these activities are different from the concerns and opposition you have with visitors from commercial tour buses because such tour buses would increase the number of visitors. Commercial activities associated with the "operation" of an education center affects those visitors already visiting the center, which includes residents and others driving to the site. This discussion does not state that for-profit commercial tour groups are now planned to be issued permits to bus visitors to Kawainui. This discussion does not contradict the project's position on not planning to issue permits allowing commercial tour groups to bring visitors to Kawainui. However, Section 7.2 on secondary impacts will be revised to better clarify this. Revised text is attached to this letter.

6. *My other point of concern is that the othe traditional Hawaiian pa'a, the folks at Ke Kahua, have not been invited to ANY of the planning meetings that the other contenders, HAVE been a part of. Ke Kahua has O commercial intent, so if commercialism is not the intent here, Why Have They Been EXCLUDED???*
Response: Unfortunately, your perception of Ke Kahua O Kūali'i's participation in public informational meetings or organizations meetings conducted is incorrect. Representatives of that organization attended several community meetings, public informational meetings, and have provided written comments on the project. The organization has been included, has participated in meetings, and has had opportunities to provide input and comments just as many other organizations interested in this project. The DEIS reflects their participation and input as discussed in Chapter 8, several meeting attendance sheets in Appendix A, and comment letters received. Commercialization intent by an organization does not determine whether they are allowed to participate in the process.
   a. *They hold a lease with the State for the land they steward. The area that you are considering as Pohakea, the Kauhale project is the area they now steward. The Kauhale that exists in that area was created by their own hands and yet, they have been excluded completely! They are not even mentioned as the ones who might steward the area they are tending.*

Response: The organization does not hold any lease with the State for land associated with Pōhakea. They do have a 5-year curatorship agreement with DSP that was executed in 2016 for their stewardship activities at Pōhakea as discussed in Chapter 1 of the DEIS. The kauhale concept for that area is what is being proposed by this project. As discussed in Section 2.2.4 of the DEIS, the kauhale cultural site would be an extension of the education center. DSP would issue a Request for Qualifications or Request for Proposals to select a non-profit organization to construct improvements and implement a cultural educational program in conjunction with the education center program. When implemented by DSP, that organization could be the one selected to implement the kauhale complex and programs planned under this project, but it would be an open procurement process.

b. *In comparison, the other groups that have been working on Na Pohaku have been an integral part of this plan, to such a degree that their rendition of what the buildings will look like are included in the plan! See Illustration 2.20. Concept Sketches of Cultural Complex.*

Response: Several native Hawaiian organizations have been involved in this project and have provided beneficial information to discuss the concepts desired for cultural centers at Kawainui. However, your references to particular influences by certain organizations are incorrect. The concept sketches (Exhibit 2.20) provided by several organizations were used to reflect the vision and concepts for the cultural center at Kapa'a. In comparison, input received from Ke Kahua O Kūali'i was used to develop the kauhale complex site plan shown in Figure 2.9 of the DEIS.

c. *As well as the fact that HHF is using video interviews with Only These Stakeholders in their promotion of the project: http://www.hhf.com/kawainui/videos.html*

Response: The videos referenced from HHF's website were developed by the State DLNR and were initially posted on DOFAW's website as part of a Reflections on Kawainui Marsh series. It should be noted the series included interviews with DOFAW staff and schools, and explained programs and activities occurring at Kawainui. At that time, there was a lot of misinformation about the project being disseminated by social media, and DLNR's efforts were initiated to provide accurate information on the area, programs, etc. for the public.

7. *Please understand that I have no aversion to this group. In fact, over the 35 years that I have lived on Oahu I have donated funds to Halau Mohala Ilima, set up and provided homes for them during Merrie Monarch, actually gifted them my own home and secured about 8 homes nearby so that the halau could all be on one street during that time, have gone to them for names for babies who have been born to members of the very large Tahitian family I have been a part of for over 30 years in Bora Bora...Pola Pola, the motherland, etc. etc..... I fully support the perpetuation of Hawaiian Culture and Tradition. My issue is that there are other Kailua halau who should also be included in this project. Add to that the fact that this non profit participation is to be 'bid out' and I am befuddled as it truly appears that the choice has already been made.*

Response: Your information and background on relations with other native Hawaiian organizations is acknowledged. We appreciate your support for project improvements supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices and programs. As discussed in Chapter 8 of the DEIS, there have been several native Hawaiian organizations included and involved in

this project's process, and the comment letters received from many individuals and organizations reflect that the process has been open and inclusive. As already discussed, selection of non-profit organizations would be implemented using the State's open procurement process, and interested organizations may submit qualifications or proposals depending upon the requirements issued.

8. *So, if you could, please both add my comments herein to the EIS and please respond to my confusion as it seems that the group overseeing this project, has now, publicly and in writing, spoken out of both sides of their mouths. These comments, along with all other comments, should be a legal part of the EIS, along with the responses to these concerns.*
Response: Your comments have been included and this letter responds to them. We do not agree with your assessment that conflicting information is being distributed. Your confusion may be due to a misunderstanding about project information, particularly as it relates to visitors.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

~~This~~ Nevertheless, increased program demand beyond that projected may lead to a desire to expand existing structures (e.g., education center) or to provide additional amenities (e.g., parking and program areas, pavilions, restrooms, expanded recreation, etc.). It is possible that there will be requests to diversify and increase the programmatic offerings, such as cultural or environmental programs with Hawai'i-based schools, or to offer opportunities to non-residents, for example volunteer/service ~~tourism~~ for students from other parts of the U.S. or the world. However, the expansion of the educational center, accessory facilities, or cultural facilities beyond that proposed under this project would require separate environmental review at that time to determine project merits and effects. In addition, necessary land use entitlements would be required.

The success of cultural centers could also generate higher participation in programs and cultural practices than that projected to occur. This would be a beneficial secondary effect because it means more children and residents would be able to learn and benefit from such educational and cultural programs run by non-profit organizations. Increased participation would not cause significant or adverse secondary impacts to the environment, infrastructure, or public facilities.

The cultural centers at Kapa'a, Wai'auia, and kauhale at Pōhakea would be limited to the facilities proposed under this project, and should be able to accommodate higher participation levels. Projected activities at these cultural centers are reasonable, and are not anticipated to be significantly greater (e.g. double projected levels). In addition, it is reasonable to expect that participation in programs would likely occur gradually over time as facilities are developed in phases, dependent upon the non-profit organization's financial ability to build. Therefore, it is unlikely that expanded facilities beyond that proposed under this project would be required, and there should be minimal secondary impacts on the environment.

Expansion of Commercial Activities. The opening of new scenic and recreational areas ~~will inevitably~~ could attract attention from individuals and organizations seeking to use the area for private commercial activities-for example, as part of bicycle or Segway tours, for fitness or yoga classes, or as a stop on an eco or cultural tour. Although there is a prohibition on such commercial activity on State lands unless allowed by permit, entrepreneurial individuals ~~will likely~~ could seek "creative ways" to get around these restrictions.

Addressing such unauthorized commercial activities would be part of DOFAW and DSP efforts to manage public access within the Kawainui area. Hāmākua would not be open to the general public. Section 2.2.5.3 addressed proposed management practices that would apply to restricting unauthorized commercial activities. The potential for unauthorized commercial activities could only occur in areas open to the general public, such as at the education center and the Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku upland area. Such commercial activities would not occur at the cultural centers because these centers would be managed and operated by non-profit organizations. These organizations would be accountable to DOFAW and DSP, and restricted by the terms of their agreements (e.g. lease).

Proposed management practices include a phased approach to open areas to the public so that activities can be adequately assessed and evaluated. Enforcement would require additional permanent DOCARE officers to address unauthorized commercial activities. Therefore, it would be difficult to open areas to the public without adequate staffing. DOFAW and DSP can also restrict areas available to the public. Revisions to the project reduce the extent of improvements and limit public access areas (e.g. pedestrian trails) to reduce opportunities for unauthorized commercial activities.

Therefore, the project should not result in a significant or adverse effect on the environment due to secondary effects associated with unauthorized commercial activities. There are sufficient management practices proposed to address unauthorized activities. This would address fears that commercial tour buses would visit Kawainui on a daily basis.

~~The initiation or expansion of commercial activities could also come from DOFAW and/or its authorized lessees. DOFAW will require an ongoing revenue source for adequate long-term maintenance of the project area. Sustainment of educational and cultural programs also require financial resources, and cannot rely on volunteers alone. In the face of declining public revenues for parks nationwide, states are exploring new methods of finance, including the imposition of user fees, privatization of park operations, or concessionaire agreements to operate gift shops, restaurants or park programs and events. The need to generate adequate public revenue for ongoing maintenance activities clearly exists. A variety of financing options, including increased commercial activities, may be explored. To the extent that the parks of the project area generate revenues, those revenues should remain in the park system rather than being returned to a parent agency or to the state's general fund. Funds raised by schools or non-profit partners should be used to support its Kawainui-Hāmākua programs.~~

Other Development Pressures. Another potential secondary impact is development pressures on lands adjacent to the project area. The periphery of Kawainui Marsh is already occupied by a number of existing institutional (Castle Medical Center, Windward YMCA, churches) and residential (Kukānono, Kawainui Vista) uses. There are also numerous commercial establishments lining Hāmākua Drive adjacent to Hāmākua Marsh. Over the past 30 years, there have been various proposals to expand urban uses around the marsh. Some proposals encountered public opposition and were halted. Others, such as the relatively recent Kawainui Vista subdivision adjacent to St. John Lutheran Church, were completed.

With the project's enhancement of wetland and neglected upland areas, the provision of new trails and areas supporting passive outdoor recreation ~~parks~~, and increased human presence in the project area, adjacent lands may be coveted for urban development. Any proposed development adjacent to the project area would require an extensive land use approval process at both the State and County levels, and is likely to encounter strong opposition from local residents and government agencies.

6 February 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com
cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Re: Letter of support for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Aloha kāua e Mr. Sato,

‘O Maya L. Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery ko‘u inoa. He kupa nō au no ke ahupua‘a ‘o Kailua e ulu a‘e nei i Kamakalepo i loko lilo o ke awāwa uluwehi o Maunawili. My name is Maya L. Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery, and I was born and raised in the Ko‘olaupoko district of O‘ahu in the ahupua‘a of Kailua on the ‘ili ‘āina of Kamakalepo in the back of the valley of Maunawili.

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I offer my comments as a practitioner of traditional hula who received my training and continues to practice my culture within the ahupua‘a of Kailua, a Hawaiian language curriculum developer from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa whose research focuses on the importance of place to the education of Hawai‘i’s children, and as a kupa (Native) of Kailua who is calling out to those who will listen, “Mai kuhi hewa … ola mau nā ‘ōiwi o Kailua; make no mistake … the Natives of Kailua are still here.”

I began studying traditional hula in 1989 at the age of nine when my mother signed me up for Hālau Mōhala ‘Ilima based in Ka‘ōhao, Kailua, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu. I learn hula, oli, and mele that honor our gods, our royalty, our sacred places, and our histories. The words I continue to give voice to and the motions I continue to give life to are the same words and motions that my hula ancestors practiced for generations and that I continue to perpetuate into the future. We are taught in our hālau that researching the many-layered meanings of our mele and hula and then presenting them on the land for the purpose of honoring the place and remembering the people and events connected to that place are all part of what is required when you accept the kuleana (responsibility) to practice traditional hula. I take this kuleana very seriously. The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan will allow hula practitioners of Kailua like myself to fulfill this kuleana because it provides for the restoration and revitalization of cultural and natural resources related to our wahi pana (sacred sites) of Kawainui and Hāmākua. This important work will in turn provide better opportunities for us to live our culture in relation to these wahi pana, from Ulupō to Wai‘auia and Mokulana, Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, Kapa‘a to Kalāheo, Hāmākua to Pu‘uoehu.

I am also a tenured faculty member at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The cornerstone of

the philosophy that guides my work as Curriculum Specialist for Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language within Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge is grounded in my belief in the importance of place to the education of our students. The powerful connection Kānaka (Native Hawaiians) have to our ‘āina (land) is beautifully articulated in this ‘ōlelo no‘eau: “Hānau ka ‘āina, hānau ke ali‘i, hānau ke kanaka. Born was the land, born were the chiefs, born were the common people” (Pukui, 1983, p. 56). This wise, poetical saying of our ancestors explains that both Kānaka and our ‘āina are alive and have been born into this world; it expresses that we are intimately tied to each other through our shared genealogy; and it reminds us that because of this familial bond, people and land belong together. I strive to engage students in curricula and pedagogies that honor and nurture this relationship and that are experiential, culturally grounded, based in our Native language, and immersed in our Native places and practices. By returning to the land, reviving our cultural and spiritual practices on the land, and speaking our Native language on the land, we can move towards a future where Kānaka flourish and our Native voices and knowledges matter.

Not only do I believe that this approach is essential for the education of Hawaiian students, but ‘āina-based/conscious education can also benefit all students. By grounding our curriculum and pedagogy in the study of place, we are able to offer our students learning experiences that connect to where they come from, who they are, and how they see the world. Students develop deeper relationships with the places they call home, thus motivating them to become more actively engaged in the protection and stewardship of their own environments and the empowerment of their own communities. I am looking forward to upcoming opportunities that the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan will offer educators like myself to develop curriculum about Kailua for Kailua students who we know will benefit greatly from engaging directly with the places being restored, managed, and cared for as part of the master plan.

The most important outcome that I want all participants in my curricula to understand and truly believe by the end is:

> **Ola ka ‘āina i ke kanaka a ola ke kanaka i ka ‘āina. Pono kekahi i kekahi.**
> The land lives/survives because of the people and the people live/survive because of the land. We need each other.

This same understanding inspired the participation of many Native Hawaiian organizations of Kailua in the development and vetting of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan. We believe that the proposing agency (Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR) and consultants (HHF Planners) heard our voices and have incorporated them into this plan, which reflects this core understanding.

Through the lens of Western conversation, a pristine environment is usually viewed as one that is left alone, sometimes surrounded by a fence, and separated from all human interaction. This

perceptive is completely antithetical to the worldview of Native Hawaiians. We know that we come from the land itself. We believe that the land, the sea, the sky, and all creatures that exist in the universe are all our kūpuna as much as our human grandparents are. The kuleana that comes with this familial connection to our land requires us to develop and sustain meaningful, reciprocal relationships with our places, which means we must be physically present and engaged with our environment—telling and retelling mo'olelo on the exact sites where the events took place; reciting the mo'okū'auhau (genealogies) of Kailua and its people in the presence of the kūpuna of Kailua, both seen and unseen; dancing hula at and about wahi pana of Kailua from Konahuanui to Mokulua; cultivating our land and feeding our people from the land; and educating the next generation of kama'āina of Kailua about their homeland so that the practices of their kūpuna will truly be living and not just words on a sign, placard, or brochure about some past people who no longer exist.

Ultimately, the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan will allow Hawaiians a permanent, visible cultural presence in Kailua. The design of our cultural centers around the perimeter of Kawainui will honor the building practices and aesthetics of our kūpuna so that when people come into Kailua and see our kauhale, they will know right away that we are still here and have always been here. Mai kuhi hewa … ola mau nā 'ōiwi o Kailua; make no mistake … the natives of Kailua are still here.

For all these reasons, I strongly support the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and DEIS. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (mayakawailana@gmail.com) or phone (808-222-6004).

Na'u nō me ka 'oia'i'o,

Maya L. K. Saffery

Na Maya L. Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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LAND
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Na Maya L. Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery

Via Email: mayakawailana@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Saffery:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *'O Maya L. Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery ko'u inoa. He kupa nō au no ke ahupua'a 'o Kailua e ulu a'e nei i Kamakalepo i loko lilo o ke awāwa uluwehi o Maunawili. My name is Maya L. Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery, and I was born and raised in the Ko'olaupoko district of O'ahu in the ahupua'a of Kailua on the 'ili 'āina of Kamakalepo in the back of the valley of Maunawili.*
   I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I offer my comments as a practitioner of traditional hula who received my training and continues to practice my culture within the ahupua'a of Kailua, a Hawaiian language curriculum developer from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa whose research focuses on the importance of place to the education of Hawai'i's children, and as a kupa (Native) of Kailua who is calling out to those who will listen, "Mai kuhi hewa... ola mau nā 'ōiwi o Kailua; make no mistake... the Natives of Kailua are still here."
   Response: Thank you for sharing your background supporting the project. We acknowledge your comments from the perspective of a practitioner of traditional hula and as a Hawaiian language curriculum developer for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

2. *I began studying traditional hula in 1989 at the age of nine when my mother signed me up for Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima based in Ka'ōhao, Kailua, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu. I learn hula, oli, and mele that honor our gods, our royalty, our sacred places, and our histories. The words I continue to give voice to and the motions I continue to give life to are the same words and motions that my hula ancestors practiced for generations and that I continue to perpetuate*

into the future. We are taught in our hālau that researching the many-layered meanings of our mele and hula and then presenting them on the land for the purpose of honoring the place and remembering the people and events connected to that place are all part of what is required when you accept the kuleana (responsibility) to practice traditional hula. I take this kuleana very seriously. The Kawainui- Hāmākua Master Plan will allow hula practitioners of Kailua like myself to fulfill this kuleana because it provides for the restoration and revitalization of cultural and natural resources related to our wahi pana (sacred sites) of Kawainui and Hāmākua. This important work will in turn provide better opportunities for us to live our culture in relation to these wahi pana, from Ulupō to Wai'auia and Mokulana, Kahanaiki to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, Kapa'a to Kalāheo, Hāmākua to Pu'uoehu.

Response: Thank you for sharing your experiences studying tradition hula. The project includes improvements and opportunities to restore and revitalize traditional cultural practices and natural resources at Kawainui and Hāmākua.

3. *I am also a tenured faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The cornerstone of the philosophy that guides my work as Curriculum Specialist for Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language within Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge is grounded in my belief in the importance of place to the education of our students. The powerful connection Kānaka (Native Hawaiians) have to our 'āina (land) is beautifully articulated in this 'ōlelo no'eau: "Hānau ka 'āina, hānau ke ali'i, hānau ke kanaka. Born was the land, born were the chiefs, born were the common people" (Pukui, 1983, p. 56). This wise, poetical saying of our ancestors explains that both Kānaka and our 'āina are alive and have been born into this world; it expresses that we are intimately tied to each other through our shared genealogy; and it reminds us that because of this familial bond, people and land belong together. I strive to engage students in curricula and pedagogies that honor and nurture this relationship and that are experiential, culturally grounded, based in our Native language, and immersed in our Native places and practices. By returning to the land, reviving our cultural and spiritual practices on the land, and speaking our Native language on the land, we can move towards a future where Kānaka flourish and our Native voices and knowledges matter.*

Not only do I believe that this approach is essential for the education of Hawaiian students, but 'āina-based/conscious education can also benefit all students. By grounding our curriculum and pedagogy in the study of place, we are able to offer our students learning experiences that connect to where they come from, who they are, and how they see the world. Students develop deeper relationships with the places they call home, thus motivating them to become more actively engaged in the protection and stewardship of their own environments and the empowerment of their own communities. I am looking forward to upcoming opportunities that the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan will offer educators like myself to develop curriculum about Kailua for Kailua students who we know will benefit greatly from engaging directly with the places being restored, managed, and cared for as part of the master plan.

Response: The State DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and Division of State Parks (DSP) support and believe in the importance of education. The project would support existing and future educational programs with schools, universities, organizations, and the general public. Improvements such as parking lots, restrooms, pedestrian trails, and shelter (e.g. pavilion, hālau) would benefit educational programs and participants. Please feel

free to contact our DOFAW staff regarding partnerships to develop educational programs or curriculum associated with Kawainui.

The project provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to construct cultural centers so that native Hawaiians can establish a permanent presence at Kawainui. The project would provide opportunities for cultural practices, educational programs, and increased stewardship activities at Kawainui, which are part of DOFAW's and DSP's agency mission.

4. *The most important outcome that I want all participants in my curricula to understand and truly believe by the end is:*

   Ola ka 'āina i ke kanaka a ola ke kanaka i ka 'āina. Pono kekahi i kekahi.

   The land lives/survives because of the people and the people live/survive because of the land. We need each other.

   This same understanding inspired the participation of many Native Hawaiian organizations of Kailua in the development and vetting of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan. We believe that the proposing agency (Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR) and consultants (HHF Planners) heard our voices and have incorporated them into this plan, which reflects this core understanding.

   Response: We concur with the importance of the relationship between the land and people, and acknowledge the support of many Native Hawaiian organizations on this project. DOFAW and DSP acknowledge the input provided, and believe the proposed plans support the importance of this relationship.

5. *Through the lens of Western conversation, a pristine environment is usually viewed as one that is left alone, sometimes surrounded by a fence, and separated from all human interaction. This perceptive is completely antithetical to the worldview of Native Hawaiians. We know that we come from the land itself. We believe that the land, the sea, the sky, and all creatures that exist in the universe are all our kupuna as much as our human grandparents are. The kuleana that comes with this familial connection to our land requires us to develop and sustain meaningful, reciprocal relationships with our places, which means we must be physically present and engaged with our environment-telling and retelling mo'olelo on the exact sites where the events took place; reciting the mo'oku'auhau (genealogies) of Kailua and its people in the presence of the kupuna of Kailua, both seen and unseen; dancing hula at and about wahi pana of Kailua from Konahuanui to Mokulua; cultivating our land and feeding our people from the land; and educating the next generation of kama'aina of Kailua about their homeland so that the practices of their kupuna will truly be living and not just words on a sign, placard, or brochure about some past people who no longer exist.*

   Response: Kawainui should not be separated from human interaction as it is a resource of value to the public. Everyone should be provided with the opportunity to experience this resource in a managed manner. The project provides improvements and opportunities for the public and non-profit organizations to participate in cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship of this resource.

6. *Ultimately, the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan will allow Hawaiians a permanent, visible cultural presence in Kailua. The design of our cultural centers around the perimeter of Kawainui will honor the building practices and aesthetics of our kupuna so that when people*

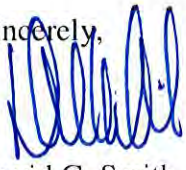
come into Kailua and see our kauhale, they will know right away that we are still here and have always been here. Mai kuhi hewa... ola mauna 'oiwi o Kailua; make no mistake... the natives of Kailua are still here.

For all these reasons, I strongly support the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan and DEIS. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (mayakawailana@gmail.com) or phone (808-222-6004).

Response: Proposed areas for cultural centers would allow Hawaiians to establish a permanent presence and living culture at Kawainui that would benefit the general public. We acknowledge your support of the proposed plans for this project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: kalani schrader <kalanbon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 5:54 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Plan

Dear Mr. Sato and Ms. Zoll

I am writing this letter in opposition to the Kawainui Marsh Plan as proposed. As lifelong resident of Kailua and the Kawainui Marsh area I have many concerns regarding the plan:

1) Acceleration of natural resource degradation
2) The negative impacts on endangered species control efforts
3) Negative impact on residents quality of life which includes overcrowding and the strain on current infrastructure in the area
4) Ignores the alternative Community Plan as presented and endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board, Outdoor Circle, Audobon Society and Hawaii Civic Club.
5) Cost to taxpayers

For these reasons, I am opposed to the plan.

Sincerely,

Kalani Schrader
925 Kaipii Street
Kailua, HI 96734

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by **MailScanner**, and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Kalani Schrader
925 Kaipii Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96744

Dear Mr. Schrader:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the email dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the suhject project. We acknowledge your opposition to the project, and have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your numbered comments.

1. *Acceleration of natural resource degradation*
   Response: It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat, but a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found witbin the project area are alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. Project improvements encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment and natural resources. Restoration efforts and other improvements supporting cultural practices, educational programs, passive outdoor recreation, and stewardship efforts would not accelerate existing degraded conditions. Kawainui's resources are important, and the project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

2. *The negative impacts on endangered species control efforts*
   Response: Improvements are intended to restore the project area to provide improved habitat for endangered waterbird species. Such species would not be adversely effected by the project. There are no endangered species "control efforts" currently occurring at Kawainui, as DOFAW is continuing to implement improvements to increase and improve habitat for

endangered waterbirds. The only control efforts are related to trapping alien mammal predators to protect nesting sites.

3. *Negative impact on residents quality of life which includes overcrowding and the strain on current infrastructure in the area*
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to visitors to Kailua associated with overcrowding concerns. However, it is unlikely Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you envision. Several measures are discussed in the DEIS to address management of activities and access. Furthermore the project has been scaled back considerably since initial plans were proposed. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the general public. The State must consider the broader public interest when planning for such a resource.

   The project would not adversely impact the quality of life for residents. Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses social factors and demographics, visitor activities in Kailua, along with community issues, such as tourist commercial activities and vacation rentals. Changes to Kailua's demographics and character over the decades are attributable to many factors, such as residential development, migration of new residents, and commercial improvements. The project effect on these issues are discussed in Section 4.2. The majority of the factors contributing to this current perception of visitors are not related to improvements proposed by this project. The project would add benefits to the quality of life for residents in the form of passive outdoor recreation opportunities, increased public access and enjoyment of this resource, and the addition of several educational and cultural programs. Chapter 5 of the DEIS addresses infrastructure facilities and demonstrates the project would not have an adverse effect on such facilities.

4. *Ignores the alternative Community Plan as presented and endorsed by the Kailua Neighborhood Board, Outdoor Circle, Audobon Society and Hawaii Civic Club.*
Response: We acknowledge your support for the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) supported alternative plan. Alternatives to the proposed project, such as this alternative plan, have been considered. Section 2.3 of the DEIS discusses the alternatives considered and explains why they were eliminated, including the Community Plan. Recommendations under the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics were generally consistent with the proposed project, related to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preserving historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with the interpretive facilities and support features recommended by the Community Plan along with opposition to a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui. Key elements of the project purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation are not met by this alternative. The Community Plan has no accommodation for reasonable public access.

   We are not clear which "Hawai'i Civic Club" you are referring to that supports the Community Plan. However, it should be noted that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AOHCC) unanimously adopted a Resolution supporting this project at their 2014 annual convention. The AOHCC represents 58 Hawaiian civic clubs nationwide, and thousands of members.

5. *Cost to taxpayers*
   Response: Project improvements would have negligible, if any, effect on resident taxes as discussed in Section 4.2 of the DEIS. Maintenance costs for City infrastructure (roadways, sidewalks), utilities, etc., along with State facilities would not be overly burdened by the project, resulting in the need to assess residents with more taxes. Project improvements would be phased over time and subject to appropriations from the State Legislature, and thus would not contribute to additional negative effects to taxpayers.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ka'imi Ventures
P.O. Box 751
Honolulu, HI 96808
(808) 842-3429

January 25, 2018

HHF Planners
Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Sato:

Re: Kawainui-Hamakua Complex Master Plan dEIS

I have been involved with the protection and restoration of Kawainui since the 70's. This long period of time has given me a good perspective of what is needed to be done to further restore Kawainui and Hamakua and to utilize the areas for their natural, cultural and educational resources. Many of the things I think are needed are addressed in the plan and draft EIS. Of course, funding for the DLNR activities will have to be appropriated by the Legislature. This plan would help get that funding.

The cultural and educational activities that already occur at Kawainui and Hamakua are still not given their due credit by some of the Kailua residents. New residents, of course, don't have the long-term experience of visiting or working there. They hear rumors about development and think condos, hotels, large parking lots and on and on are going to be built. Of course, we know that is not true. Habitats for wildlife will be built, native plants will be planted, environmental,

cultural and historical education efforts will be conducted by the state and the non-profits that will do the work.

I support the plan as presented and realize that it can be modified in the future and that the various elements of the plan may take much longer than most people realize to become a reality. Many people can get involved with the non-profit groups to help plan, design, fund-raise, implement and maintain the facilities that evolve out of the planning/permitting process.

I notice that the trail on Pu'u o Ehu has been limited to DOFAW maintenance use. I believe that if this trail was constructed, it would replace the pill-box trail in popularity and possibly also reduce the demand for hikers to visit Maunawili Falls. I do recognize that images of tropical waterfalls have long been used to sell visitation to Hawaii and Kailua and the demand for that trail access will continue.

I hope that the DLNR will involve other divisions, like aquatic resources, in the conservation of Kawainui, and help bring back the large fish populations that used to exist in the fishpond.

Mahalo for allowing me to comment on the plan and dEIS.

Rick Kaimi Scudder

Rick Kaimi Scudder,
owner

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Rick Kaimi Scudder
Ka'imi Ventures
P.O. Box 751
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96808

Dear Mr. Scudder:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated January 25, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that are organized under subheadings to correspond to your comments.

1. *I have been involved with the protection and restoration of Kawainui since the 70's. This long period of time has given me a good perspective of what is needed to be done to further restore Kawainui and Hamakua and to utilize the areas for their natural, cultural and educational resources. Many of the things I think are needed are addressed in the plan and draft EIS. Of course funding for the DLNR activities will have to be appropriated by the Legislature. This plan would help get that funding.*
   Response: Thank you for your involvement in activities associated with the protection and restoration of Kawainui since the 1970s. We concur that first-hand experience working at Kawainui over the decades provides you with a good understanding of site conditions, and improvements that can support cultural and educational programs. We acknowledge the project proposed in the DEIS addresses many of the improvements you believe are needed. Funding from the Legislature is important, and this project would support DOFAW and DSP's efforts to pursue continued and increased funding for Kawainui-Hāmākua.

2. *The cultural and educational activities that already occur at Kawainui and Hamakua are still not given their due credit by some of the Kailua residents. New resident, of course, don't have the long-term experience of visiting or working there. They hear rumors about development and think condos, hotels, large parking lots and on and on are going to be built. Of course, we know that is not true. Habitats for wildlife will be built, native plants will be planted, environmental, cultural and historical education efforts will be conducted by the state and non-profits that will do the work.*

Response: DOFAW and DSP agree that the beneficial cultural and educational activities being conducted by non-profit organizations are not given deserved credit. That could be attributed to ignorance about what actually occurs, and a reliance on social media or other sources that do not provide accurate information. Unfortunately there has been a lot of misinformation on this project that has been spread throughout the community, such as the rumors you mention. The DEIS documents what is proposed and the likely impacts associated with the project.

3. *I support the plan as presented and realize that it can be modified in the future and that the various elements of the plan may take much longer than most people realize to become a reality. Many people can get involved with the non-profit groups to help plan, design, fund-raise implement and maintain the facilities that evolve out of the planning/permitting process.*
   Response: Thank you for supporting the project and proposed improvements. There could be modifications to the phasing and extent of improvements actually implemented over time as discussed in the DEIS. As an example, adaptive management would be used by DOFAW as part of restoration and reforestation activities, and by DSP in managing public access. We concur that it would be beneficial if more members of the community were involved with non-profit organizations and participated in clean-up, community service projects, and other educational and cultural programs and activities. That experience would foster a better understand about the conditions at Kawainui and what the project is planning to accomplish.

4. *I notice that the trail on Pu'u o Ehu has been limited to DOFAW maintenance use. I believe that if this trail was constructed, it would replace the pill-box trail in popularity and possibly also reduce the demand for hikers to visit Maunawili Falls. I do recognize that images of tropical waterfalls have long been use to sell visitation to Hawai'i and Kailua and the demand for that trail access will continue.*
   Response: The trail along the Pu'uoehu hillside is proposed only for DOFAW management activities. The potential popularity of this trail is a concern for DOFAW because Hāmākua is intended for waterbird habitat and educational programs. It is unlikely Pu'uoehu hillside would significantly reduce hikers to Maunawili Falls because the waterfalls and associated water-related activities are important features attracting attention to that hike.

5. *I hope that the DLNR will involve other divisions, like aquatic resources, in the conservation of Kawainui, and help bring back the large fish populations that used to exist in the fishpond.*
   Response: DOFAW and DSP plan to include other divisions within the State DLNR to participate in educational and cultural programs and activities, such as the Division of Aquatic Resources. Although project plans do not include restoring Kawainui to a fishpond, wetland restoration would support improving waterbird and aquatic resource habitat.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: DAREL SHEA <dshea40@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 03, 2018 8:00 PM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: KAWAINUI MARSH PLAN

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

IS THERE NO END TO THE RAPE OF THE WINDWARD SIDE OF OAHU ?
THE ALL MIGHTY TOURIST BUCK SCREAMS SCREW THE LOCALS.
STOP EXPLOITING MOTHER NATURE. AUWE !

--
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dangerous content by **MailScanner**, and is
believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. Darel Shea

Via Email: dshea40@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Shea:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the email dated February 3, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have the following responses to your comments.

IS THERE NO END TO THE RAPE OF THE WINDWARD SIDE OF OAHU? THE ALL MIGHTY TOURIST BUCK SCREAMS SCREW THE LOCALS. STOP EXPLOITING MOTHER NATURE. AUWE!

Response: We acknowledge your concerns with activities occurring within the Windward District of O'ahu. However, we do not agree with your opinion regarding project effects. The DEIS discusses project effects on the environment and demonstrates proposed improvements would not have an adverse effect on the environment.

We also do not agree with your opinion regarding the effects visitors and the visitor industry have on local residents. The project would not adversely impact the quality of life for residents. Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses social factors and demographics, visitor activities in Kailua, along with community issues, such as tourist commercial activities and vacation rentals. Changes to Kailua's demographics and character over the decades are attributable to many factors, including residential development, migration of new residents, and commercial improvements. The project effect on these issues are discussed in Section 4.2. The majority of the factors contributing to this current sentiment regarding visitors are not related to improvements proposed by the project.

It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resouree or habitat, but a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. Project improvements encompass relatively small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment and natural resources.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Carol Shibata <shibatac@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 9:48 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Subject: Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan Update
Attachments: marsh development.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

RE: Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan Update

I would like to submit my comments to this proposed plan.

I strongly object to the proposed de additional Kailua tourist attraction. As long-time residents of Kailua, we are over-whelmed by the lack of oversight, and the overwhelming number of tourists that are marketed to, and bused in to visit our very small community.

We ask that you reconsider this project, because it is clear there is an over-use of our communities' limited resources, and a lack of governance in the impact it has on our communities safety and quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Shibata
44-220 Malae Plce
Kaneohe, Hi 96744
808-254-5444

see attached form

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Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex Master Plan Update Project

Public Input Form

August 2013

Thanks for your participation and support of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex Master Plan Update! Knowing your perspective about the project is essential for its success.

On the project website are preliminary plans for the master plan update. The project area is divided into four Sections (1 to 4) for your review. If you would like to provide comments on the plans, please use the input form provided. Please download and use the input form (pdf file) to provide your comments, and either email or mail the form to the following:

Mr. Ronald Sato
Helber Hastert & Fee, Planners, Inc.
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Email: rsato@hhf.com

DEADLINE: Saturday, November 30, 2013

The following is a list of the four sections of the project area, and the area plans within each section:

Section 1	**Hāmākua Marsh & Pu'uoehu**
Section 2	**Kawainui Marsh - South (Kailua Road - Kalani'anaole Highway)** • Plan 1: Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park • Plan 2: Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park • Plan 3: DOFAW Management & Research Station to Mokulana Peninsula
Section 3	**Kawainui Marsh - West (Kapa'a Quarry Road)** • Plan 1: Corner of Kalani'anaole Highway and Kapa'a Quarry Road • Plan 2: State Parks Recreation Area, including Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine • Plan 3: Hawaiian Cultural Complex, Vegetation Processing Area
Section 4	**Kawainui Marsh - North (Kapa'a Quarry Road to Mōkapu Boulevard)**

Thank you for your participation.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Carol Shibata
44-220 Malae Place
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744

Dear Ms. Shibata:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email sent February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. Following are responses to your comments.

I strongly object to the proposed de additional Kailua tourist attraction. As long-time residents of Kailua, we are over- whelmed by the lack of oversight, and the overwhelming number of tourists that are marketed to, and bused in to visit our very small community.
We ask that you reconsider this project, because it is clear there is an over-use of our communities' limited resources, and a lack of governance in the impact it has on our communities safety and quality of life.
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project, and note you attached a handout from a public informational meeting held in August 2013 to your letter. We also acknowledge your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to any changes that may attract more visitors. However, it is unlikely Kawainui would become the type of visitor attraction you envision. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses existing and projected levels of visitors associated with this project. Visitors would include those associated with educational and cultural programs, persons using areas for passive outdoor recreation, and residents and non-residents wanting to view Kawainui. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented to evaluate conditions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The DEIS demonstrates that the number of projected visitors would not have a significant impact on the environment.

As discussed in the DEIS, the project would not have an adverse effect on the environment or affected resources. The ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat which needs protection, but is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. Thus, the project includes improvements which support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua with wetland restoration and

upland reforestation. The project also includes improvements which support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The project would not impact the quality of life for residents of Kailua. Improvements would have minimal effect on Kailua's demographic characteristics or other socio-economic factors. Project improvements would support the broader public interest because Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy. The public would benefit from increased public access in a managed manner to support passive outdoor recreation (walking, viewing), educational programs, cultural practices, and stewardship opportunities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Carol Shibata <shibatac@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 9:52 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Subject: Marsh Development
Attachments: marsh development.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I strongly oppose the development plan. Please see may attached comments,

Sincerely,

Dave Shibata

44-220 Malae Place
Kaneohe, Hi

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Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex Master Plan Update Project

Public Input Form

August 2013

Thanks for your participation and support of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex Master Plan Update! Knowing your perspective about the project is essential for its success.

On the project website are preliminary plans for the master plan update. The project area is divided into four Sections (1 to 4) for your review. If you would like to provide comments on the plans, please use the input form provided. Please download and use the input form (pdf file) to provide your comments, and either email or mail the form to the following:

Mr. Ronald Sato
Helber Hastert & Fee, Planners, Inc.
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Email: rsato@hhf.com

DEADLINE: **Saturday, November 30, 2013**

The following is a list of the four sections of the project area, and the area plans within each section:

Section 1	**Hāmākua Marsh & Pu'uoehu**
Section 2	**Kawainui Marsh - South (Kailua Road - Kalani'anaole Highway)** • Plan 1: Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park • Plan 2: Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park • Plan 3: DOFAW Management & Research Station to Mokulana Peninsula
Section 3	**Kawainui Marsh - West (Kapa'a Quarry Road)** • Plan 1: Corner of Kalani'anaole Highway and Kapa'a Quarry Road • Plan 2: State Parks Recreation Area, including Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine • Plan 3: Hawaiian Cultural Complex, Vegetation Processing Area
Section 4	**Kawainui Marsh - North (Kapa'a Quarry Road to Mōkapu Boulevard)**

Thank you for your participation.

I strongly object to any development of the Marsh other than the removal of invasive trees and plants. The development proposed will disturb the serene nature of the Marsh and create another Kailua tourist attractive. Kailua is already being overwhelmed by tourists. Not only with the serenity of the Marsh be disturbed but the development will likely result in overuse with an ultimately negative impact on the environment.



David Shibata, Esq.
44-220 Malae Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii
(808) 254-5444
dshibata@rmhawaii.com

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. David Shibata, Esq.
44-220 Malae Place
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744

Dear Mr. Shibata:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your comments emailed on February 6, 2018 from Ms. Carol Shibata on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses to your comments below.

I strongly oppose the development plan. Please see may attached comments,
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project, and note you included a handout from a public informational meeting held in August 2013.

I strongly object to any development of the Marsh other than the removal of invasive trees and plants. The development proposed will disturb the serene nature of the Marsh and create another Kailua tourist attractive. Kailua is already being overwhelmed by tourists. Not only with the serenity of the Marsh be disturbed but the development will likely result in overuse with an ultimately negative impact on the environment.
Response: It should be clarified that no development would occur within the wetlands (marsh). Only wetland restoration activities would occur within wetlands, which encompass the vast majority of the project area, as discussed in the DEIS. Facility and other site improvements for cultural centers, pedestrian trails, etc. occur within upland areas away from the wetland. As discussed in the DEIS, these upland areas consist of previously disturbed areas that were used for more intensive urban activities, such as ranching and a City maintenance baseyard.

Improvements within upland areas would not disturb the character or current nature of these locations. It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. The project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

We acknowledge your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns about changes that may attract more visitors. However, it is unlikely Kawainui would become the type of visitor attraction you envision. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS discusses existing and projected levels of visitors associated with this project. Visitors would include those associated with educational and cultural programs, persons using areas for passive outdoor recreation, and residents and non-residents wanting to experience Kawainui. The projected number of visitors is reasonable, and several management practices would be implemented to evaluate conditions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. The DEIS demonstrates that the projected number of visitors would not have a significant impact on the environment.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Rachael Siciliano <r_siciliano@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2018 8:30 PM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll.@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Marsh Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi, I was biking near at Kawainui Marsh and a local resident there shared with me some information about a new plan for the Marsh and asked asked that we send our opinions to these addresses.

As a resident of Kailua and frequent user of the path that currently runs thru the marsh, I would very much like to see no development of the marsh and instead keep it in its current state as both a necessary wetland and a rare area for locals to enjoy the nature. We use this path regularly as do so many others. Communities need green spaces. Please keep it as it is. Please do not develop with homes, offices, or buildings of any kind.

I hope this was the kind of comment that the team was soliciting. Feel free to reach out to me if you have further questions.

Thanks.

Rachael Siciliano
Kailua resident

--
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Rachael Siciliano

Via Email: r_siciliano@yahoo.com

Dear Ms. Siciliano:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the email on February 4, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses to your comments below.

Hi, I was biking near at Kawainui Marsh and a local resident there shared with me some information about a new plan for the Marsh and asked asked that we send our opinions to these addresses.
As a resident of Kailua and frequent user of the path that currently runs thru the marsh, I would very much like to see no development of the marsh and instead keep it in its current state as both a necessary wetland and a rare area for locals to enjoy the nature. We use this path regularly as do so many others. Communities need green spaces. Please keep it as it is. Please do not develop with homes, offices, or buildings of any kind.
I hope this was the kind of comment that the team was soliciting. Feel free to reach out to me if you have further questions.
Response: We do not know the source of your information, but the DEIS includes considerable project information and its effects on the environment.

We are glad you enjoy the path through the marsh referred to, which we assume is the levee that is used for pedestrian use. It should be clarified that no development would occur within the wetlands (marsh). Only wetland restoration activities would occur within wetlands, which encompass the vast majority of the project area as discussed in the DEIS. Facility and other site improvements for cultural centers, pedestrian trails, etc., occur within upland areas away from the wetland. As discussed in the DEIS, these upland areas consist of previously disturbed land that was used for more intensive urban activities, such as ranching and a City maintenance baseyard. Improvements within upland areas would not disturb the environment.

It should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat, but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address the expansive invasive vegetation. The project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Thus, planned pedestrian trails within upland areas are intended to provide passive outdoor recreational opportunities for the public to experience this resource.

The project would continue to provide green spaces for the public to enjoy. Other improvements would allow native Hawaiian organizations to conduct cultural practices, provide educational programs and learning experiences, support passive outdoor recreation, and increase stewardship of areas in partnership with other non-profit organizations. There are no homes or commercial offices associated with this project. Support buildings planned include DOFAW maintenance and operations facilities, cultural centers for native Hawaiian organizations to conduct cultural practices and educational programs, and other accessory structures (e.g. restrooms and open pavilions). These improvements would not have an adverse effect on the environment.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

2/5/18

Division of Forestry and Wildlife
PO Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Comments on the Draft EIS for the Kawainui Hamakua Master Plan Project

This letter will concentrate on the statement of Pg 1 of the Draft EIS where the purposeof the Master Plan is expressed:
" to guide programming and implementation of future improvements needed in the project area."
"…As the designated caretakers for the long-term management of this resource, DOFAW and DSP are tasked with sustaining, protecting, and enhancing the area's natural and cultural resources, …".

Despite the statements in this Draft EIS about the importance of preserving this Kawainui habitat, I see little evidence that that this aspect of the planning is getting serious consideration here. Kawainui has received a large number of environmental insults: a past history of pumping out freshwater for delivery to Waimanalo, construction and operation of a quarry and industrial area upstream from the wetlands along Kapa'a stream, for many years a junk yard for cars on the marsh's eastern shore, a dairy and now horse stables upstream from the wetlands along Kahana Iki stream, the operation of a solid waste transfer station on the wetland shores, a landfill site with unknown contributions to groundwater, an 11 acre bare-earth storage yard now containing cars located below the industrial area along Kapa'a stream, and the establishment of introduced vegetation in the wetlands. It's going to cost a lot to address the impacts of many of these alterations of the watershed area and the wetlands, yet the draft EIS seems to sail blithely over these issues, not even mentioning these alterations to the wetlands watershed and how "restoration" will be accomplished in the face of these alterations.

The existing facilities listed above probably all impact the wetlands through surface runoff or groundwater inputs, yet this has not been considered in the draft. How do these facilities impact the wetland and what plans are there to mitigate any impacts? How will their past and present operation affect restoration? This oversight makes a mockery of the text expounding the preservation of: ".. Hawai'i's largest freshwater wetland, a Ramsar wetland of international importance,…".(Pg. 2-1)

The existing industrial area and the planned public facilities do and will create sewage wastes, yet there is no mention of preventing ground water contamination from onsite sewage disposal from reaching the wetlands. Is there any plan to connect the industrial park and transfer station facilities mauka of Kapa'a Quarry Rd to city sewage lines? Any plan to connect facilities such as DOFAW Kawainui Managmennt and Research facilities (Fig. 1.2) to city sewage lines? Mention is made on page 24 (Other Development Pressures) of other landowners surrounding the wetlands eventually developing their properties. Will these be connected to city sewage lines? Excessive rates of nutrient input to the wetlands maystimulate the growth of aquatic vegetation, make the program of vegetation removal more difficult and diminish the quality of the waters, thus again, hampering restoration.

I think the failure to address these questions in the Draft is a major oversight.

It is possible that the facilities I've listed above have no impact on the wetlands. I looked to see if the preparers of the EIS investigated this possibility. There is data about nutrient concentrations in the wetland and at the stream mouths where they meet the wetland, however, the data are difficult to interpret. There is no information about the number (unless it is just 2 samples per station) or timing of the water samples in the 1989 survey of nutrient concentrations (Table 3.5). While the data in Table 3.6 is based on monthly samples, there is no indication of whether the values in the table are means and no measure of variability. There is no indication for the data in Table 3.7 of the number of samples taken or the time of year they were taken, and in Table 3.8, whether the values shown are averages. The failure to identify the values shown in Tables 3.5 to 3.8 make it difficult to compare concentrations with the standards shown in Table 3.4. Without measures of variability and sample size it is impossible to identify patterns in Table 3.9. Some of the reported nutrient values are high. The issue here is whether something needs to be done about the quality of the waters flowing into the wetlands if the State is to be the protector of the wetlands, and effect their restoration.

On a related matter, has the siting and method for processing vegetation removed from the marsh undergone a review? No indication is given here of how much material is to be removed, how it will be processed (on site?) and whether as the material is processed, it will result in even more nutrient addition to the wetlands. Similarly, how has the landfill been designed to prevent contamination of the ground water moving into the marsh or is contaminated groundwater from the landfill making its way into the marsh?

With regard to the cultural and recreational proposals in the Draft, I have a concern that the State is all too willing to pass off the work of improving features such as Ulupo Heiau to non-governmental groups, in part I suspect, because such a transfer would save the State money. I think it is incumbent on the State to be careful in allotting responsibility for such assets so that the state retains control of what happens at these sites.

With regard to recreational use of the "project area" I think such use has potential and I would like to see that developed. Paths for bikes and pedestrians would be great, assuming they give protection to birds which use the wetlands. That means I think that paths do not necessarily use as much of the southern boundary of the wetlands as proposed in Fig. 2.7 I would also like to see a more thorough analysis of how to tie the park to Kailua town. No attempt has been made in this Draft to address how pedestrians, and bikers can attractively access the park from the town. They will have to cross a very busy intersection at Kailua Road and Hamakua Drive. An attempt to link the town to the "project area" seems very important but is lacking from the Draft.

Finally, I am not optimistic that DLNR/DOFAW can responsibly handle what is being proposed here, especially with the apparent difficulty in getting adequate funding for DLNR Divisions and their apparent inability to be responsive to environmental problems. For example, someone was hired to remove vegetation in the process of expelling homeless from the area near the old water pumping station. The process of clearing the vegetation was brutal and does not constitute a good example of how DLNR would handle future clearing and "revegetation". Secondly, the lighthouse road (Makapu'u Point) is a wonderful asset and is heavily used, but there are no restroom facilities. This is a gross oversight.

Restroom facilities have been installed at Haleakala which are designed for low water and energy use and these could be installed on the lighthouse trail. Its been years since the trial was improved and yet there is still no restroom. This is a bad omen for this Kawainui project. Similarly, the State has for years not seen fit to improve the heavily used Lanikai pillbox trail despite erosion, interference with adjacent property owners and some vandalism. With regard to management of State facilities, I understand that a tour operator has been continuing to use State property in Kaneohe Bay even after being ordered to stop. This has gone on for months. This does not bode well for the State's ability to manage any parties charged with the maintenance of facilities at Kawainui.

So, given the States record in managing these resources, I am not optimistic about the implementation and management of the changes proposed for Kawainui. The State seems all too willing to pass of responsibility for cultural projects to others, willing to avoid the responsibility for insuring the meaningful restoration of the wetlands by burying its head in the sand about surface and groundwater inputs to the wetlands, and incautious about how the watershed of these wetlands are developed.

This is not a vote against restoration and use of the wetland, but for a more reasonable plan.

John Stimson

1113 Hui St.
Kailua 96734

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AUG 0 8 2019

Mr. John Stimson
1113 Hui Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Mr. Stimson:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter emailed on February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your numbered comments.

1. *This letter will concentrate on the statement of Pg 1 of the Draft EIS where the purpose of the Master Plan is expressed:*
" to guide programming and implementation of future improvements needed in the project area." "...As the designated caretakers for the long-term management of this resource, DOFAW and DSP are tasked with sustaining, protecting, and enhancing the area's natural and cultural resources,...".
Despite the statements in this Draft EIS about the importance of preserving this Kawainui habitat, I see little evidence that that this aspect of the planning is getting serious consideration here. Kawainui has received a large number of environmental insults: a past history of pumping out freshwater for delivery to Waimanalo, construction and operation of a quarry and industrial area upstream from the wetlands along Kapa'a stream, for many years a junk yard for cars on the marsh's eastern shore, a dairy and now horse stables upstream from the wetlands along Kahana Iki stream, the operation of a solid waste transfer station on the wetland shores, a landfill site with unknown contributions to groundwater, an 11 acre bare-earth storage yard now containing cars located below the industrial area along Kapa'a stream, and the establishment of introduced vegetation in the wetlands. It's going to cost a lot to address the impacts of many of these alterations of the watershed area and the wetlands, yet the draft EIS seems to sail blithely over these issues, not even mentioning these alterations to the wetlands watershed and how "restoration" will be accomplished in the face of these alterations.

Response: We note that the statements referenced in your letter from "Pg 1 of the Draft EIS" actually refer to the first page of Chapter 2 (page 2-1) which covers a description of the project. Those statements concern the State DLNR DOFAW and DSP agency missions. We disagree with your perception that the project shows little evidence or serious consideration of preserving Kawainui's habitat. It should be clarified that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat requiring protection, but is a degraded resource that needs wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. A primary project objective is restoration, which includes enhancing habitat for waterbirds. Section 2.1.2 of the DEIS discusses the need for improvements and project objectives.

The project includes improvements which support restoring the ecological character of Kawainui and Hāmākua. The project also includes other improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for improving public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The emphasis on living culture is also important to native Hawaiians. Establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices that benefit the general public. Partnerships with non-profit organizations have been beneficial to restore this resource as discussed in Section 1.4 of the DEIS. Additional stewardship opportunities created by the project would further support these efforts and project objectives. Section 2.2.1 of the DEIS discusses several natural resource management activities proposed to restore wetlands, implement upland reforestation, address storm water runoff, and improvements supporting DOFAW's operation and management of activities.

A variety of activities have contributed to the current condition of Kawainui. Several of the examples you mention involve activities beyond the boundaries of this State property and project area (e.g. upstream diversions) or other privately-owned property (quarry and industrial area). Other examples involve activities that occurred while the Kawainui property was owned by the City, such as an abandoned vehicle site and ranching operations. However, all of these activities within the now State-owned Kawainui property have been discontinued. It should be noted that existing residential subdivisions, such as the Kūkanono and Kawainui Vista subdivisions also reflect urban developments along Kawainui that contribute to other mentioned activities. While under the City's ownership, Kawainui was ignored, resulting in its decline over the years. The State DOFAW and DSP are initiating efforts under this project to restore and manage this resource for the public benefit.

We agree that there would be a significant cost to implement wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and other improvements. Section 2.2.8 discusses estimated costs and project phasing. However, we disagree with your opinion that the DEIS "sails blithely" over these issues. As mentioned, most of the examples you note are associated with activities located well outside of the project area, and involve private property and activities that are beyond the scope of DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction and authority. The DEIS discusses existing environmental conditions for various areas that include the effects from such outside activities (e.g. water quality testing reflecting runoff and pollutants from upland areas). The

results from an Environmental Site Assessment study in Section 4.7 addressed the presence of hazardous materials, and found that Kawainui was generally not subject to adverse environmental impact from previously known or potential sources of hazardous materials. Wetland restoration and upland reforestation are discussed in Section 2.2.1 along with other natural resource management activities within the project area. The purpose for the project is not to rectify or change prior uses or current activities of private property outside of this project area and DOFAW and DSP jurisdiction.

2. *The existing facilities listed above probably all impact the wetlands through surface runoff or groundwater inputs, yet this has not been considered in the draft. How do these facilities impact the wetland and what plans are there to mitigate any impacts? How will their past and present operation affect restoration? This oversight makes a mockery of the text expounding the preservation of: "...Hawai'i's largest freshwater wetland, a Ramsar wetland of international importance,...".(Pg. 2-1)*
Response: Impacts to the Kawainui wetland have been considered and addressed under Section 3.4.4 of the DEIS. Section 3.4.5 addresses wetland water quality. All of the uses and activities you identified within upland areas outside of the project site contribute to surface runoff and discharges of pollutants. However, it is not necessary to determine how each individual, privately-owned site contributes to surface runoff and pollutants because those property owners are responsible for their own activities. As discussed in Section 3.4.5, the wetlands naturally function as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Furthermore, discharges from non-point sources sheet flowing into City or State (highway) drainage systems would eventually enter streams or Kawainui. Therefore, water quality samples collected from the Kawainui wetland provide relevant information to describe existing wetland conditions.

   Section 3.4.2 of the DEIS addresses groundwater and explains that groundwater beneath Kawainui consists of a sedimentary caprock aquifer resting on a basalt aquifer. The protection status for the caprock aquifer corresponds to groundwater that is used, but not as an ecological or drinking water source, and is replaceable. The protection status for the basalt aquifer corresponds to groundwater that is currently used, but not as an ecological or drinking water source, is irreplaceable, and has a low vulnerability to contamination. Thus, it is not necessary to determine how other individual, privately-owned upland sites contribute to the overall groundwater. Furthermore, project improvements would not significantly impact or change the protection status for Kawainui's underlying aquifer.

   Section 3.4.4 addresses project effect on the Kawainui wetland, and identified necessary mitigative measures, such as implementing best management practices (BMPs) during construction. Proposed wetland restoration would have a positive beneficial effect on the Kawainui wetland. The project purpose is not to implement mitigative measures for privately-owned property outside of the project site for which DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction. The Kawainui wetland adequately performs its natural function as a trap for particulates, flood control, and sequestering of pollutants. We do not agree with your opinion that the project's impact on wetland water quality was not addressed and believe the project will aid the preservation of this valuable natural resource.

3. *The existing industrial area and the planned public facilities do and will create sewage wastes, yet there is no mention of preventing ground water contamination from onsite sewage disposal from reaching the wetlands. Is there any plan to connect the industrial park and transfer station facilities mauka of Kapa'a Quarry Rd to city sewage lines? Any plan to connect facilities such as DOFAW Kawainui Managmennt and Research facilities (Fig. 1.2) to city sewage lines? Mention is made on page 24 (Other Development Pressures) of other landowners surrounding the wetlands eventually developing their properties. Will these be connected to city sewage lines? Excessive rates of nutrient input to the wetlands may stimulate the growth of aquatic vegetation, make the program of vegetation removal more difficult and diminish the quality of the waters, thus again, hampering restoration.*
Response: The privately-owned Kapa'a light industrial area you refer to is responsible to manage and dispose of any sewage generated from onsite activities. The owner of that property is responsible to prevent ground water contamination from sewage disposal. With regard to project-related improvements, restroom facilities would be appropriately designed to meet applicable State Department of Health rules and regulations, if not connected to a municipal system. Appropriate design of septic tank systems would not have an adverse effect on ground water. Average daily demand would be relatively low as discussed in Section 5.2.2. Use of septic tank systems is well established, would include improved design and materials, and is common within many areas of the island. There would be minimal concerns with impacts to Kawainui wetland from the use of such systems.

   Regarding future connections to the City sewer system for the privately-owned Kapa'a industrial park and the City transfer station facilities, you would need to refer to those specific property owners. DOFAW's research and management station is not planned to connect to the City sewer system at this time. Section 5.2 of the DEIS addresses potential connections to the City sewer system from project related improvements. We are not sure what you refer to on "page 24" (possibly 2-24 of DEIS) regarding development pressures from other landowners surrounding Kawainui. However, other property owners would be responsible to determine their own method for wastewater treatment, including connection to the City system.

   The project would not cause an excessive volume of nutrient input into the Kawainui wetland, stimulating growth of aquatic vegetation. The wetland is already extensively covered with aquatic vegetation, as discussed in Section 3.3.1, and receives far more nutrient input from water discharged from streams feeding Kawainui or from upland areas, than proposed improvements. Project-related nutrient inputs would have minimal influence on wetland vegetation and would not make it more difficult to conduct wetland restoration. Project improvements would not have an adverse effect on water quality, as discussed in Section 3.4.5.

4. *I think the failure to address these questions in the Draft is a major oversight.*
It is possible that the facilities I've listed above have no impact on the wetlands. I looked to see if the preparers of the EIS investigated this possibility. There is data about nutrient concentrations in the wetland and at the stream mouths where they meet the wetland, however, the data are difficult to interpret. There is no information about the number (unless it is just 2 samples per station) or timing of the water samples in the 1989 survey of nutrient

concentrations (Table 3.5). While the data in Table 3.6 is based on monthly samples, there is no indication of whether the values in the table are means and no measure of variability. There is no indication for the data in Table 3.7 of the number of samples taken or the time of year they were taken, and in Table 3.8, whether the values shown are averages. The failure to identify the values shown in Tables 3.5 to 3.8 make it difficult to compare concentrations with the standards shown in Table 3.4. Without measures of variability and sample size it is impossible to identify patterns in Table 3.9. Some of the reported nutrient values are high. The issue here is whether something needs to be done about the quality of the waters flowing into the wetlands if the State is to be the protector of the wetlands, and effect their restoration. Response: We disagree with your opinion that the DEIS failed to address your questions based upon the responses provided and results of technical studies and assessments documented in various sections of the DEIS. Many of the "facilities" you have identified as possibly impacting the Kawainui wetland have no relation to the project because DOFAW and DSP have no jurisdiction over the use of properties outside of the Kawainui project area. However, the water quality samples collected within Kawainui, and other information in the DEIS adequately address the existing condition of this wetland which receives discharges from surrounding lands outside the project area. Furthermore, project plans would have no influence on or authority over those activities and other lands. The DEIS addresses the effects the proposed plans would have on the environment.

The Table 3.5 water quality sample results were collected during two sampling events in March and April, 1989. Different stations were sampled on each event, so there was only one sample per station. Table 3.6 only included available information from another study to provide more data on water quality samples, and there isn't information to add ranges and notes added to distinguish between means (averages) and geometric means. Data from Table 3.7 is from a study conducted for the U.S. Department of Army, Corps of Engineers (COE). You would need to consult with the COE to address your comment. However, available information on Tables 3.5 to 3.7 were incorporated into this section to provide more data on water quality samples. The absence of the additional information requested does not diminish its use. A new Table 3.8A has been added to include ranges and notes to distinguish between means (averages) and geometric means for some data. These revisions are included in the Final EIS document. The revised table is attached to this letter.

The data provided in the tables in the DEIS, including the summary in Table 3.9, provides sufficient information to allow evaluation and assessment of concentrations in relation to State standards. However, information added to Table 3.8A showing ranges and distinguishing between means (averages) and geometric means improves the amount of information provided. Nevertheless, the overall findings of existing conditions and impacts from project improvements do not change based upon this additional information. It should also be noted that as discussed in Section 3.4.5, water quality parameters in wetlands cannot be compared with streams or ocean conditions due to characteristics such as decomposing vegetation, low flow rates, and removal of sediments and pollutants. There are no specific water quality criteria that must be met; just the basic water quality criteria for all waters. The objective of Class 1 water use (including Kawainui) is to allow waters to remain in their natural state with minimum pollution from human caused sources.

Unfortunately, DOFAW and DSP have no control or jurisdiction to change activities and uses occurring on privately-owned property outside and upland of the project area, such as the Maunawili subdivision. Further, the purpose for this project is not to change the quality of water that flows into Kawainui. Rather, this project is focused on restoring the Kawainui wetland by removing extensive invasive vegetation. Section 2.2 discusses restoration plans and the desired objectives of such improvements (e.g. seasonal mud flats, increased open water).

5. *On a related matter, has the siting and method for processing vegetation removed from the marsh undergone a review? No indication is given here of how much material is to be removed, how it will be processed (on site?) and whether as the material is processed, it will result in even more nutrient addition to the wetlands. Similarly, how has the landfill been designed to prevent contamination of the ground water moving into the marsh or is contaminated groundwater from the landfill making its way into the marsh?*
Response: As discussed in Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS, the vegetation processing site has been reviewed and approved as part of land use entitlements obtained in 2001 and 2002. This project does not change the approved use of the site for vegetation processing.

The volume of material to be removed is difficult to predict due to natural growth and expansion of wetland vegetation over time as work is implemented in phases, and the extent of vegetation removal desired would be determined throughout the process as conditions are evaluated. Vegetation mowed would be left within designated project upland areas to decompose, or temporarily stored in established staging areas. Necessary BMPs would be implemented for these staging areas to contain material. The locations of specific areas would be determined by DOFAW in consultation with the contractor implementing these improvements. Adaptive management of this process may involve refining these plans based upon the progress of vegetation removal, material quantities, decomposition time, etc. Vegetation could then be transported to the existing vegetation processing site for further processing. Information on the vegetation processing site was provided in Section 2.2.4. Any nutrient addition from vegetation removal and processing would not have a significant impact on the Kawainui wetland. BMPs would further mitigate potential discharges. Wetland restoration efforts would have a greater beneficial effect on the wetland than nutrient discharges associated with such work.

The City transfer station and landfill are not part of this project. The City is responsible for its own design operations. DOFAW and DSP have no control or jurisdiction over the City landfill operations. We suggest you inquire with the City Department of Environmental Services regarding your questions about their landfill design.

6. *With regard to the cultural and recreational proposals in the Draft, I have a concern that the State is all too willing to pass off the work of improving features such as Ulupo Heiau to non-governmental groups, in part I suspect, because such a transfer would save the State money. I think it is incumbent on the State to be careful in allotting responsibility for such assets so that the state retains control of what happens at these sites.*
Response: Native Hawaiian non-profit organizations involved at Kawainui have contributed to the restoration of both wetland and upland areas, increased stewardship of the resource,

and increased educational, community service, and cultural programs for the public. These organizations have asked to conduct their activities because of their cultural commitment to the land and the resource. Other residents expressing concern for Kawainui can help by participating in community service projects or other educational or clean-up activities. DSP and DOFAW do not "pass off" this work to non-profit organizations to transfer responsibilities or save money, as several activities are being conducted to restore and manage project areas. Volunteer efforts support and enhance State efforts. Such cooperation with the State would continue and be expanded by this project. The State DLNR manages activities by non-profit organizations and retains control over its lands.

7. *With regard to recreational use of the "project area" I think such use has potential and I would like to see that developed. Paths for bikes and pedestrians would be great, assuming they give protection to birds which use the wetlands. That means I think that paths do not necessarily use as much of the southern boundary of the wetlands as proposed in Fig. 2.7 I would also like to see a more thorough analysis of how to tie the park to Kailua town. No attempt has been made in this Draft to address how pedestrians, and bikers can attractively access the park from the town. They will have to cross a very busy intersection at Kailua Road and Hamakua Drive. An attempt to link the town to the "project area" seems very important but is lacking from the Draft.*
Response: We acknowledge your support to provide public access for passive outdoor recreational activities under this project. Paths would be for pedestrian use only, as discussed in Section 2.2 of the DEIS, and would be located within upland areas that have already been previously disturbed by prior activities (e.g. ranching). These paths would not significantly impact waterbirds as discussed in Section 3.3.2.

   As discussed in Section 2.2, the pedestrian path would not connect to other pedestrian paths in Kailua town. Bicycles would not be allowed on these pedestrian and foot trails, thus, there is no need to propose or plan for such connections with Kailua town. The purpose for pedestrian trails within Kawainui is to support nature viewing of the wetland and resource while providing passive outdoor recreation within project upland areas.

8. *Finally, I am not optimistic that DLNR/DOFAW can responsibly handle what is being proposed here, especially with the apparent difficulty in getting adequate funding for DLNR Divisions and their apparent inability to be responsive to environmental problems. For example, someone was hired to remove vegetation in the process of expelling homeless from the area near the old water pumping station. The process of clearing the vegetation was brutal and does not constitute a good example of how DLNR would handle future clearing and "revegetation".*
Response: DOFAW and DSP are able to manage what is proposed by this project. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS addresses public access and management efforts proposed, which includes the need for additional staffing. Improvements are planned to be implemented in a phased approach by incrementally opening up areas for public access. Access would only be allowed if the agencies are able to manage the trails. Funding by the Legislature is important, as improvements would not move forward without funding.

The clearing of vegetation you probably are referring to, was related to the extensive hau bushes in the area below the St. John Lutheran Church. That action was due to community requests to address homeless encampments in the area, necessitating vegetation clearance. We do not believe the clearing process was "brutal," the effort needed to be conducted on short notice. Upland reforestation efforts would not be conducted in that manner, and a reforestation test area already completed at Kahanaiki reflects a programmed effort.

9. *Secondly, the lighthouse road (Makapu'u Point) is a wonderful asset and is heavily used, but there are no restroom facilities. This is a gross oversight. Restroom facilities have been installed at Haleakala which are designed for low water and energy use and these could be installed on the lighthouse trail. Its been years since the trial was improved and yet there is still no restroom. This is a bad omen for this Kawainui project. Similarly, the State has for years not seen fit to improve the heavily used Lanikai pillbox trail despite erosion, interference with adjacent property owners and some vandalism. With regard to management of State facilities, I understand that a tour operator has been continuing to use State property in Kaneohe Bay even after being ordered to stop. This has gone on for months. This does not bode well for the State's ability to manage any parties charged with the maintenance of facilities at Kawainui.*
Response: Restroom facilities at the Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail would be a beneficial improvement for those who use that trail. We concur that restroom facilities can be designed for low water and energy use, such as those at Haleakala. The project proposes restroom facilities to support educational and cultural programs along with public access of upland areas. Section 2.2.4 discusses restroom facilities proposed at Kahanaiki and at the educational center at Pōhakea. Regarding the Pillbox trail, DSP has a separate project underway to evaluate that trail and develop an appropriate plan for improvement and management. We are not aware of your situation involving a tour operator at Kāne'ohe Bay, but DOFAW will have the appropriate State DLNR division looking into the issue.

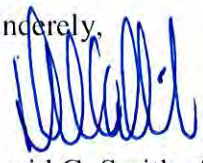
10. *So, given the States record in managing these resources, I am not optimistic about the implementation and management of the changes proposed for Kawainui. The State seems all too willing to pass of responsibility for cultural projects to others, willing to avoid the responsibility for insuring the meaningful restoration of the wetlands by burying its head in the sand about surface and groundwater inputs to the wetlands, and incautious about how the watershed of these wetlands are developed.*
This is not a vote against restoration and use of the wetland, but for a more reasonable plan.
Response: We acknowledge your skepticism about the State's ability to manage and monitor activities. However, the State DLNR has made improvements in managing and enforcing regulations. The DEIS discusses several management practices proposed to address public access, which includes: 1) phased approach to open areas to the public; 2) restricting access where necessary; and 3) increasing stewardship partnerships to help monitor areas. Additional State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers would need to be funded to support security and enforcement of areas opened for public access. DSP would also need funding support for additional operational staff to effectively manage increased public access. Without such support, implementation of certain improvements would be deferred.

It should be clarified that the proposed cultural centers are not being passed off to non-profit organizations to relieve the State of their management responsibilities. Such centers are being proposed due to the considerable input received from the native Hawaiian community to provide such opportunities. Section 2.1 of the DEIS discusses the purpose for the project, one of which is supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices. Section 2.2 discusses these centers in some detail. Supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices is an important project objective and addresses Article XII of the State Constitution. The emphasis on living culture is important, and establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, stewardship of areas, and cultural practices that benefit the general public.

The State is not "burying its head in the sand" with regard to wetland restoration and your other concerns. This response letter notes that most of your concerns are with locations outside of the project area, unrelated to the purpose for this project, and include privately-owned land for which the State DOFAW and DSP has no jurisdiction. Several other sections of the DEIS address wetland restoration and the other concerns you raised. The project's proposed improvements are reasonable, and would provide many benefits to the general public because Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

means exceeded standards for both wet and dry seasons, except Sta. 1 in 2017 during the wet season. Total nitrogen exceeded State standards during both seasons at both stations. Wet season standards were met in all cases for wet season, but not for dry season standards.

Table 3.8
Water Quality Results for Three Sampling Events in Maunawili and Kahanaiki Streams and Kawainui Marsh in 2017 (present study)

	DO sat (%)	pH	Turb. (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	NH_3	NO_3+NO_2	Total N	Total P (µg P/L)
					(µg N/L)			
Sta. 1	73	7.44	5.9	5	42	60	299	35
Sta. 2	79	7.47	9.6	8.3	52	88	304	45
MEAN	**74**	**7.45**	**6.8**	**6**	**44**	**66**	**300**	**38**
Sta. 3	64	7.31	13.2	12	51	98	322	46
Sta. 4	3	7.04	11.9	9	19	30	380	58
Sta. 5	3	7.15	48.0	21	3,274	10	4,574	231
Sta. 6	11	7.04	31.5	42	68	14	953	223
MEAN	**20**	**7.13**	**22.0**	**18**	**121**	**25**	**854**	**108**

Source: AECOS, 2017b

Table 3.8A
Water Quality Results for Two Sampling Events in Maunawili (Station 1) and Kahanaiki (Station 2) Streams within Kawainui Marsh in 2002-2003 and 2017

	pH	Turb. (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	NH_3	NO_3+NO_2	Total N	Total P (µg P/L)
				(µg N/L)			
2002-2003 Dry							
Sta. 1 (n=4) Mean	7.82	6.2	5.9	2	92	275	46
Range	*7.49-8.10*	*4.8-8.3*	*4.7-7.8*	*<1-9*	*77-124*	*238-398*	*39-52*
Sta. 2 (n=5) Mean	7.65	6.5	5.1	2	34	203	59
Range	*7.20-8.30*	*5.3-7.6*	*2.7-7.3*	*<1-11*	*29-41*	*160-320*	*44-72*
2002-2003 Wet							
Sta. 1 (n=6) Mean	7.69	7.7	6.6	4	120	311	49
Range	*7.42-8.10*	*4.7-48*	*3.6-69*	*<1-22*	*82-232*	*232-558*	*24-208*
Sta. 2 (n=7) Mean	7.38	6.6	5.5	7	66	290	48
Range	*7.05-8.00*	*3.7-57*	*3.2-56*	*<1-60*	*24-657*	*182-842*	*20-203*
2017 Wet							
Sta. 1 (n=3) Mean	7.45	5.8	4.8	43	59	315	30
Range	*7.39-7.51*	*5.1-6.6*	*4.3-5.2*	*41-46*	*38-91*	*248-420*	*10-75*
Sta. 2 (n=3) Mean	7.47	10.2	8.1	62	90	314	41
Range	*7.31-7.63*	*7.7-14.2*	*7.6-8.6*	*29-160*	*69-120*	*242-420*	*21-73*

Source: AECOS, 2019

Ronald Sato

From: Paulette Tam <tampaulette@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 12:30 AM
To: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Cc: Ronald Sato
Subject: Testimony: Title of Project: Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project Ko'olaupoko District, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HHF Planners
Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
Email: rsato@hhf.com
(808)-457-3172
and,

Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
(808)973-9787

February 5, 2018 at 12:25 a.m.

Aloha and Peace Be Within You, Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager:

Title of Project: Kawainui-Hamaka Master Plan Project
Location: Ko'olaupoko District, O'ahu, Hawai'i
Tax Map Key No.: (1) 4-2-003; 017 and 030; 4-2-013; 005, 010, 022 and 038; 4-2-016: 002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034: 025
Proposing Agency: Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawai'i
Address: P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809
Contact: Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Phone: (808)9787

My name is Paulette Tam concerned Kaneohe resident. In the Kawainui-Hamakua Complex Master Plan Project Summary of Public Comments on Draft Master Plan (May 2014), August 19, 2016,
Page A-3 Specific Master Plan Areas
Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park
Section Five:
Response: " An earlier plan to improve the access road from Kalia Road to the YMCA parking lot (serving Ulupo Heiau) is no longer included. DSP will continue to coordinate with the YMCA to address use and activities associated with the access road separately from this project."

I oppose Public Funds, such as Hawaii State Legislature and City and County of Honolulu Grant-in-Aid funds for non profit organizations possible purchase of the YMCA's Access Road at 1200 Kalia Road, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 Access Road to YMCA parking lot (serving Ulupo Heiau) and to Kawainui Marsh through Ulupo Heiau at Kailua, Hawaii 96734 in lieu of an Annual Right of Entry Application with DLNR DOFAW, because of possible breach of agreement with DOFAW and failure to complete its management obligations due to bankruptcy.

I support the intent of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project. I wasn't able to download the DEIS because it was too large nor

available to attend the Presentation at Le Jardin to review the DEIS. Therefore, I am unable to comment on the DEIS.

Mahalo and Aloha, Paulette Tam, concerned Kane'ohe resident.

FYI confidential thoughts and information intended only for the recipient and for educational purposes.

--

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 8 2019

Ms. Paulette Tam

Via Email: tampaulette@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Tam:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for the email dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *Aloha and Peace Be Within You, Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager:*
Title of Project: Kawainui-Hamaka Master Plan Project
Location: Ko'olaupoko District, O'ahu, Hawai'i
Tax Map Key No.: (1) 4-2-003; 017 and 030; 4-2-013; 005, 010, 022 and 038; 4-2-016: 002 and 015; 4-2-017: 020; 4-2-103: 018 and 035; and 4-4-034: 025
Proposing Agency: Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Address: P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809
Contact: Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Phone: (808)9787
My name is Paulette Tam concerned Kaneohe resident. In the Kawainui-Hamakua Complex Master Plan Project Summary of Public Comments on Draft Master Plan (May 2014), August 19, 2016, Page A-3 Specific Master Plan Areas Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park Section Five: Response: "An earlier plan to improve the access road from Kalia Road to the YMCA parking lot (serving Ulupo Heiau) is no longer included. DSP will continue to coordinate with the YMCA to address use and activities associated with the access road separately from this project."
I oppose Public Funds, such as Hawaii State Legislature and City and County of Honolulu Grant-in-Aid funds for non profit organizations possible purchase of the YMCA's Access Road at 1200 Kalia Road, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 Access Road to YMCA parking lot (serving

Ulupo Heiau) and to Kawainui Marsh through Ulupo Heiau at Kailua, Hawaii 96734 in lieu of an Annual Right of Entry Application with DLNR DOFAW, because of possible breach of agreement with DOFAW and failure to complete its management obligations due to bankruptcy.
Response: Thank you for your well wishes to our Wildlife Manager, and we note that you list the project and our contact information in your comment.

We also note your reference to a response (Page A-3) regarding the Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park which states that the access road from Kailua Road to the Windward YMCA's rear parking lot is no longer included in the project. We confirm that DSP would continue to coordinate with the Windward YMCA to address use and activities associated with that access road. We acknowledge your opposition to public funds being used for the purchase of that access road from the YMCA by a non-profit organization. There are no non-profit organizations proposing to purchase the privately-owned YMCA access road property under this project. It should be clarified that this Ulupō Heiau area is under DSP's jurisdiction, rather than DOFAW. In addition, the Windward YMCA property is privately-owned and not included as part of this project. We are not aware of any potential bankruptcy issues associated with the Windward YMCA, and any management obligations associated with Ulupō Heiau are under jurisdiction of DSP.

2. *I support the intent of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project. I wasn't able to download the DEIS because it was too large nor available to attend the Presentation at Le Jardin to review the DEIS. Therefore, I am unable to comment on the DEIS.*
Mahalo and Aloha, Paulette Tam, concerned Kane'ohe resident.
Response: We acknowledge your support for the project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

January 18, 2017

HHF Planners
&33 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 86813

Attention: Ronald Sato

As a child, the notion of Aloha ʻĀina was instilled from a very young age. From beach clean ups to turning my hands down towards the earth. Hula was also introdued to me at a young age and hula allowed me to travel to other Pacific Nations to see, first hand, the vital importance of having spaces to cultivate young leaders.

My personal story is an interesting one but not uncommon. After all of those early experiences, my ohana decided to move to the mainland. I grew up and went to college in California and my own identity as a Polynesian started to fade to only a superfiscial layer. It wasnʻt until I moved back to Oʻahu, when I was 25, that the reconnection of land, culture and self begun.

On November 2, 2015 I walked into a office space above Agneʻs Portugese Bake Shop and was greeted by Māpuana de Silva. The office space was the location of Hālau Mōhala ʻIlima. It was in that moment, the hula, found itʻs way back into my life. It was that momet my entire life began to evolve. Within the next year, the hālau moved to its present location- above Kimoʻs Surf Shop. It would be the third move for the hālau in 8 years.

In my short time as a student of Māpuana, those seeds of Aloha ʻĀina that were planted as a keiki have now started to surface once again when I was introduced to Ulupō Heiau and Kaleomanuiwa Wong. In the past year and a half, I have come to Ulupō and Kaiwainui to kōkua and mālama the vision of returning places like this to the people of that community. I, since then, have become a member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club to which I have recived a scholarship for the current school year.

As a member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, supporter of Hikaʻalani and haumāna of Hālau Mōhala ʻIlima, I am an advocate of the Kawainui Master Plan. I ask the structures that are needed by these organizations be in approved so that the cultivation of our own young leaders, here in Hawaiʻi, may flourish for generations to come.

Me ka haʻahaʻa,
Michael Lāola Tamāliʻi

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Mr. Michael Lāola Tamāli'i

Via Email: ckent1414@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Tamāli'i:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated January 18, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *As a child, the notion of Aloha 'Āina was instilled from a very young age. From beach clean ups to turning my hands down towards the earth. Hula was also introdued to me at a young age and hula allowed me to travel to other Pacific Nations to see, first hand, the vital importance of having spaces to cultivate young leaders.*
   My personal story is an interesting one but not uncommon. After all of those early experiences, my ohana decided to move to the mainland. I grew up and went to college in California and my own identity as a Polynesian started to fade to only a superfiscial layer. It wasn't until I moved back to O'ahu, when I was 25, that the reconnection of land, culture and self begun.
   On November 2, 2015 I walked into a office space above Agne's Portugese Bake Shop and was greeted by Māpuana de Silva. The office space was the location of Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima. It was in that moment, the hula, found it's way back into my life. It was that momet my entire life began to evolve. Within the next year, the hālau moved to its present location- above Kimo's Surf Shop. It would be the third move for the hālau in 8 years.
   Response: Thank you for sharing your background and your experiences with Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima, and as a practitioner of hula.

2. *In my short time as a student of Māpuana, those seeds of Aloha 'Āina that were planted as a keiki have now started to surface once again when I was introduced to Ulupō Heiau and Kaleomanuiwa Wong. In the past year and a half, I have come to Ulupō and Kaiwainui to kōkua and mālama the vision of returning places like this to the people of that community. I,*

since then, have become a member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club to which I have recived a scholarship for the current school year.
Response: Thank you for sharing your experiences at Ulupō Heiau and for participating in restoration and other stewardship activities occurring there. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club at Kawainui.

3. *As a member of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, supporter of Hika'alani and haumāna of Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima, I am an advocate of the Kawainui Master Plan. I ask the structures that are needed by these organizations be in approved so that the cultivation of our own young leaders, here in Hawai'i, may flourish for generations to come.*
Response: We acknowledge your support for the project. DOFAW and DSP believe improvements such as parking lots, restrooms, pedestrian trails, and shelter (e.g. pavilion, hālau) would benefit educational programs and cultural practices along with participants in those activities.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Dave & Malia Thurman <davemalia@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 5:12 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Support for Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project

Dear HHF Planners, State of Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife and other interested parties,

My name is Malia and my roots are found in the Kailua, O'ahu area. I am writing to show my support for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project. Kailua is in need of permanent places so that practitioners can practice and teach our indigenous Hawaiian culture. Now, it is more important than ever to have those places dedicated in the right way to teach the keiki about our land and to preserve those things sacred to our culture. The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project will aid in those efforts.

I have worked closely with Uncle Kihei and Aunty Mapuana deSilva for several years in conjunction with Halau Mohala 'Ilima and express my full support and confidence in them. They are a couple united and dedicated to moving the work forward in the pono way. They have a vision for Kailua, Kawainui and Ulupō and I implore you to help them bring that vision to reality. They want what is best for the land and for the people of Kailua.

When I visit Kawainui and Ulupō, I feel the mana there. It is powerful and it deserves a voice. I believe that the people who live there and love the area the most can help bring that mana to its full potential.

I eagerly anticipate the moving forward of this project and the benefits that this will bring our community.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Thurman

--
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believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Ms. Malia Thurman

Via Email: davemalia@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your letter dated January 22, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *My name is Malia and my roots are found in the Kailua, O'ahu area. I am writing to show my support for the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project. Kailua is in need of permanent places so that practitioners can practice and teach our indigenous Hawaiian culture. Now, it is more important than ever to have those places dedicated in the right way to teach the keiki about our land and to preserve those things sacred to our culture. The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project will aid in those efforts.*
   Response: We acknowledge your support for the project. We agree that providing opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui via cultural centers to conduct educational programs and cultural practices, and support stewardship of the area are important to support a living culture. We believe the improvements proposed under this project would support these objectives, educate our children, and benefit everyone in the future.

2. *I have worked closely with Uncle Kihei and Aunty Mapuana deSilva for several years in conjunction with Halau Mohala 'Ilima and express my full support and confidence in them. They are a couple united and dedicated to moving the work forward in the pono way. They have a vision for Kailua, Kawainui and Ulupō and I implore you to help them bring that vision to reality. They want what is best for the land and for the people of Kailua.*
   When I visit Kawainui and Ulupō, I feel the mana there. It is powerful and it deserves a voice. I believe that the people who live there and love the area the most can help bring that mana to its full potential.

I eagerly anticipate the moving forward of this project and the benefits that this will bring our community.
Response: Thank you for sharing your background and experiences with Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima and the De Silva's. We agree that they, along with several other native Hawaiian organizations throughout this planning process, have expressed the vision desired for this area from a cultural perspective. DOFAW and DSP agree that proposed improvements would be beneficial for the general public.

Thank you for sharing your experiences at Ulupō Heiau and Kawainui. We acknowledge the efforts conducted by several organizations to restore areas, implement education programs, and conduct cultural practices.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division and Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Malia Tom <avocadosaredelicious@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 6:30 PM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: No to the Kawainui Marsh plan!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,
I'm writing today to voice my opposition for the proposed Kawainui Marsh plan/cultural center. I am born and raised in Kailua and currently live a block away from the marsh on Kihapai. Please don't move forward with this plan. Kailua has changed from the small sleepy town of my childhood to a busy tourist destination with changes being made without consideration to the residents who live here. If you keep changing our town you'll lose the charm that businesses are trying to capitalize on.
The marsh wall and park are currently utilized by residents, don't take this away from us too. Let's try to preserve the natural beauty that is Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,
Malia
This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content using Worry-Free Mail Security and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Ms. Malia Tom

Via Email: avocadosaredelicious@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Tom:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your comments emailed on February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses below to your comments.

1. *I'm writing today to voice my opposition for the proposed Kawainui Marsh plan/cultural center. I am born and raised in Kailua and currently live a block away from the marsh on Kihapai. Please don't move forward with this plan. Kailua has changed from the small sleepy town of my childhood to a busy tourist destination with changes being made without consideration to the residents who live here. If you keep changing our town you'll lose the charm that businesses are trying to capitalize on.*

Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project. We also recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua, and corresponding concerns to any changes that may attract more visitors. However, it is unlikely that Kawainui would become the type of visitor attraction you envision based upon information in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. Kailua residents have been considered throughout this process, and project plans have been scaled back considerably since initially proposed, as a result of community concerns and comments. Proposed improvements are intended to meet agency missions and the purpose and need for this project as discussed in the DEIS. However, this is a state resource that also needs to be evaluated in the best interest of the general public.

The project is appropriate for the area and includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct educational

programs, cultural practices and activities consistent with the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Changes to Kailua's businesses, the growth of tourism, and community concerns with visitors to Kailua are discussed in Chapter 4 of the DEIS. The majority of the factors contributing to these concerns are not related to improvements proposed by the project. Other factors contribute to Kailua's popularity as a beach town with visitors, such as its renowned beaches, ocean recreational activities, and diversity of shopping (e.g. farmer's market, boutiques, etc.). Visitors to Kailua include residents of O'ahu who want to enjoy the beaches, restaurants, etc., particularly on weekends and holidays.

2. *The marsh wall and park are currently utilized by residents, don't take this away from us too. Let's try to preserve the natural beauty that is Hawaii.*
Response: No project improvements are proposed to the levee or the City Kawainui Neighborhood Park under this project, which are probably the park and marsh wall referred to in your letter. The natural beauty of Kawainui would be retained by this project. However, it should be noted that the ecological character of Kawainui is not a pristine resource or habitat, but a degraded resource requiring wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. The invasive vegetation along the levee would be improved by the project.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 6, 2018

HHF Planners - Ronald A. Saito
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

Division of Forestry & Wildlife - Marigold Zoll, O`ahu Forestry & Wildlife Mgr.
Department of Land & Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

MY COMMENTS, AS A WETLAND MANAGER, ON THE DEIS FOR THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MASTER PLAN PROJECT

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" and I object to that the number and types of buildings in the plan and the number of visitors to the Kawainui Marsh that will come as a result of all of the proposed development in the Kawainui/Hamakua Master Plan Project. There will be negative impact on wetland birds due to the number of people, lighting of the facilities and non-point source pollution generated by the increased use of the upland areas around the marsh and wetlands.

Ulupo Heiau is an archaeological treasure and it should be adequately signed and made accessible, both by car and by foot via trail or boardwalks from the Kailua town area. But why are there 4 or 5 more private cultural areas/buildings planned? There are multiple other areas in Kailua for groups to use, including the Kailua Recreational Center – was that considered in your planning?

I was a member the Kailua Vision Team many years ago when we first allocated money for a plan for the Kawainui Marsh. The concept then was for a low-impact trail around the marsh, and a small park opposite Kalaheo High School.

This has grown into a development-oriented and very expensive master-plan that is not the best use of our very limited natural resources, and our even more limited wetlands. This is not a plan that will restore wetland ecosystems or improve the habitat for Hawaii's endangered waterbirds and other migratory waterbirds. Please change the master plan so that it enhances the wetland rather than degrades it.

Sincerely,

Cindy Turner
Owner/Manager
Kaelepulu Wetland Bird Preserve
1460 Kiukee Place
Kailua, Hawaii
96734

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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AUG 0 9 2019

Ms. Cindy Turner
1460 Kiukee Place
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Turner:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" and I object to that the number and types of buildings in the plan and the number of visitors to the Kawainui Marsh that will come as a result of all of the proposed development in the Kawainui/Hamakua Master Plan Project. There will be negative impact on wetland birds due to the number of people, lighting of the facilities and non-point source pollution generated by the increased use of the upland areas around the marsh and wetlands.*
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the number and type of buildings proposed and the projected number of visitors under this project. However, the number of buildings is not as pertinent compared to their purpose and the type of activities they are intended to support. Some structures consist of pavilions to support outdoor recreation and provide shade for program participants. Other buildings include needed restrooms or area for DOFAW's research and management station. Several buildings are associated with cultural centers to support cultural practices, educational programs, stewardship, etc.

   Buildings and other structures encompass small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment. As discussed in Chapter 2, site improvements would be designed using pervious material, low-impact design (LID) elements (such as bioswales and bioretention areas) and buildings are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements, and incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines. In comparison, the Kaelepulu Wetland preserve has

a large, modern multi-complex residential structure with a concrete paved driveway constructed along the wetland.

The projected number of visitors reflects a reasonable estimate that could be appropriately managed and accommodated at Kawainui. This visitor level would not have an adverse effect on the environment. Visitors would include those associated with educational and cultural programs, persons using areas for passive outdoor recreation, and residents and non-residents wanting to view Kawainui. Several management practices would be implemented providing oversight to evaluate conditions as discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS.

Endangered waterbirds would enjoy restored habitat under proposed improvements. The project would not cause adverse effects to these waterbirds as discussed in Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS. Visitors would not enter the wetland, and Chapter 2 of the DEIS discusses several management activities proposed. The majority of planned structures are intended for day use (e.g. restroom, open pavilion) and would not require night lighting that may affect seabirds. Buildings for the cultural centers at only two locations may including lighting. All outdoor lighting would follow standard best management practices (e.g. shielding). Therefore, the project should not negatively impact seabirds. In comparison, the large residence within the Kaelepulu Wetland Preserve has lighting, along with the many other residences bordering this wetland, generating similar lighting concerns. However, we are not aware that night lighting present around this Kaelepulu preserve, along with the urban activities occurring at these residences, have generated significant impacts on seabirds or waterbirds.

The project would not have a significant impact on the Kawainui wetland or water quality as discussed in Chapter 3 of the DEIS. As previously discussed, improvements would utilize LID design elements to minimize adverse effects. Urban development around Kawainui (e.g. Kūkanono subdivision) has not resulted in significant issues associated with non-point source pollution. Similarly, the residences surrounding the Kaelepulu Wetland Preserve do not appear to have generated non-point source pollution issues for that wetland and waterbirds.

2. *Ulupo Heiau is an archaeological treasure and it should be adequately signed and made accessible, both by car and by foot via trail or boardwalks from the Kailua town area. But why are there 4 or 5 more private cultural areas/buildings planned? There are multiple other areas in Kailua for groups to use, including the Kailua Recreational Center- was that considered in your planning?*
Response: Ulupō Heiau is adequately signed and there is interpretive signage available for visitors. This heiau is already accessible by both foot and car as discussed in Chapter 1 of the DEIS.

As discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS, three areas within previously disturbed upland areas are proposed to allow non-profit organizations to develop cultural centers. Section 2.1 discusses the purpose and objectives for the project, one of which is to support native Hawaiian cultural practices. Section 2.2 describes these planned centers. Supporting native Hawaiian cultural practices is an important project objective and addresses Article XII of the State Constitution. The emphasis on living culture is also important, and establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support continued and expanded restoration

efforts, educational programs, stewardship of areas, and cultural practices that benefit the general public.

The suggestion of using the Kailua Recreational Center, or other areas in Kailua, for native Hawaiian organizations to use for cultural practices does not meet the project purpose and need, is outside of the project area, and involves other privately or City-owned property, for which the State has no jurisdiction. Such suggestions are also likely inappropriate and insensitive to native Hawaiian culture, cultural practitioners, and the basic foundation and values for establishing proposed cultural centers.

3. *I was a member the Kailua Vision Team many years ago when we first allocated money for a plan for the Kawainui Marsh. The concept then was for a low-impact trail around the marsh, and a small park opposite Kalaheo High School.*
Response: A pedestrian trail around Kawainui was developed as a separate City-initiated proposal in 2003 as discussed in Section 2.1.1 of the DEIS. The concept for this trail was incorporated in this current project. A park across from Kalāheo High School was also proposed by the City (Kawainui Gateway Park) as discussed in Chapter 1 and Section 2.1.1 of the DEIS. This park concept has already obtained land use entitlements allowing for its development, and the proposed Kawainui-Hāmākua project has no other improvements associated with that site.

4. *This has grown into a development-oriented and very expensive master-plan that is not the best use of our very limited natural resources, and our even more limited wetlands. This is not a plan that will restore wetland ecosystems or improve the habitat for Hawaii's endangered waterbirds and other migratory waterbirds. Please change the master plan so that it enhances the wetland rather than degrades it.*
Response: The project plans are not a "development-oriented" proposal, as significant components of the project includes wetland restoration, upland reforestation, and other improvements. As previously discussed, the level of structures and improvements proposed are reasonable, involve previously disturbed upland areas, and would not have an adverse environmental effect based upon the DEIS results. The costs for implementing these improvements is planned to occur in phases, based upon funding appropriations by the Legislature as discussed in Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS.

Proposed improvements reflect an appropriate use of Kawainui's upland areas. Improvements support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct educational programs, cultural practices, and activities that are consistent with the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians. Overall, improvements involve a small amount of upland area. Planned wetland restoration improvements are an appropriate use and support waterbirds by creating improved habitat and providing numerous other benefits. The project would enhance wetlands, waterbird habitat, and support educational programs, public access, stewardship of areas, and cultural practices.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division and Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Ronald Sato

From: Albert Ueligitone <storyboardal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 3:14 AM
To: Ronald Sato
Cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: Kawainui Master Plan Project DEIS

Aloha mai kakou,

We are bearing witness to a disappearance.

A vanishing of what was once an undeniable sense of self-knowledge. The unwavering familiarity with a history shared with so many people that have come before, starting to fade in lockstep with a diminishing of our numbers, and the dwindling access to the very land to which our culture is inextricably linked.

The truth is, our collective wisdom was profoundly attuned to the sublime complexity of the interconnectedness between the ‘aina, and its people. It is now tested under a constant deluge of outside influences, attitudes, and ideologies, predicated on the extraction of value, rather than on its protection. Our very survival as a people depends on honoring the ‘aina as a living, breathing entity; not only must it be preserved, but restored to a thriving state of vitality that nourishes not just our bodies, but our very souls.

Many would decry our efforts to care for the land as more unnecessary “development” of an environmental resource that has suffered enough depletion. What continues to elude their understanding is the fact that by restoring Ulupō, we are restoring the very lifeblood of our culture, of our identity. By reclaiming the land, we are not only ensuring its health and vitality will perpetuate, but that we as a people will also continue to thrive.

It is in this spirit that I reaffirm my continued, wholehearted support of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan, in its current DEIS iteration.

The plan allows for kanaka maoli to continue to be true stewards of the ‘aina, in the deepest sense of the word: caretakers who will nourish, nurture, and revitalize Kawainui into a thriving member of the Lāhui itself. A Member who in turn nourishes and cares for us, in the way loved ones have always done for one another. The way ‘ohana have always known to do.

For the land IS a member of our ‘ohana, and our love for it is unfaltering. Allow us the right, to which we are entitled, to care for our Loved One. She who nurtures us all. She who holds the ‘iwi of our ancestors in her warm, protective embrace. She who sustains us, and connects us to those who will come after; for She is the conduit through which our children will know us, those who came before us…and ultimately know themselves.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Albert Ueligitone

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by MailScanner, and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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AUG 0 9 2019

Mr. Albert Ueligitone

Via Email: storyboardal@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Ueligitone:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for emailing your comments dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *We are bearing witness to a disappearance.*
A vanishing of what was once an undeniable sense of self-knowledge. The unwavering familiarity with a history shared with so many people that have come before, starting to fade in lockstep with a diminishing of our numbers, and the dwindling access to the very land to which our culture is inextricably linked.
The truth is, our collective wisdom was profoundly attuned to the sublime complexity of the interconnectedness between the 'aina, and its people. It is now tested under a constant deluge of outside influences, attitudes, and ideologies, predicated on the extraction of value, rather than on its protection. Our very survival as a people depends on honoring the 'aina as a living, breathing entity; not only must it be preserved, but restored to a thriving state of vitality that nourishes not just our bodies, but our very souls.
Response: Thank you for sharing information on the importance and interconnectedness of history and the land with people and native Hawaiian culture. We agree with the importance of honoring the 'aina as a living, breathing entity to be restored and preserved.

2. *Many would decry our efforts to care for the land as more unnecessary "development" of an environmental resource that has suffered enough depletion. What continues to elude their understanding is the fact that by restoring Ulupō, we are restoring the very lifeblood of our culture, of our identity. By reclaiming the land, we are not only ensuring its health and vitality will perpetuate, but that we as a people will also continue to thrive.*
It is in this spirit that I reaffirm my continued, wholehearted support of the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan, in its current DEIS iteration.

Response: We agree that restoration efforts, cultural practices, and educational programs occurring at Ulupō Heiau have been beneficial to the environment and support the project need and objectives. Project improvements proposed at Ulupō Heiau would build on those efforts. Other improvements would similarly provide opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui via cultural centers to conduct educational programs, cultural practices, and support stewardship of the area that are important to support a living culture. We acknowledge and appreciate your support for the project.

3. *The plan allows for kanaka maoli to continue to be true stewards of the 'aina, in the deepest sense of the word: caretakers who will nourish, nurture, and revitalize Kawainui into a thriving member of the Lāhui itself. A Member who in turn nourishes and cares for us, in the way loved ones have always done for one another. The way 'ohana have always known to do.*
For the land IS a member of our 'ohana, and our love for it is unfaltering. Allow us the right, to which we are entitled, to care for our Loved One. She who nurtures us all. She who holds the 'iwi of our ancestors in her warm, protective embrace. She who sustains us, and connects us to those who will come after; for She is the conduit through which our children will know us, those who came before us…and ultimately know themselves.
Response: Project improvements would allow native Hawaiians to support stewardship of Kawainui and its resources. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Division of State Parks acknowledge the efforts of several organizations to restore areas, implement education programs, and conduct cultural practices at Kawainui.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

February 5, 2018

Dear HHF Planners,

This letter is to submit documentation on our family's disagreement and list the major concerns we and our neighbors of Kailua have over your Kawainui-Hamakua master plan project proposal.

Our family supports the restoration of the marsh. We support a small parking lot for the workers off the Kapaa Quarry Road. This would provide a safe area for the workers and citizens to continue to work on taking out invasive species and letting the water flow continue naturally. However, the building of any structures and a boardwalk on the Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, will be destruction of the protected wetlands Hawaiians and Hawaiian citizens have come to love. We do not support the Master Plan as documented. Listed below are the reasons.

We are concerned and alarmed that the EIS study did not address these issues listed in the following paragraphs, especially for the canoe launch at the proposed Gateway Park on Mokapu Blvd. Because our family was in attendance at the Memorial Day clearing of the land and watched in horror with other neighbors, as Mr. Smith of the DLNR introduced an enormous amount of silt into the estuary at the end of the Oneawa Canal. We are very concerned with the cumulative impact all of this dirt, debris and suffocating silt, will have not only on the estuary, but onto the reef in Kailua Bay which receives this water and silt. Who from the state was monitoring this discharge of silt, and dirt along with branches into the estuary on the Oneawa Canal? Habitat protection, enhancement and proper management as to the quality and quantity of marsh waters are crucial to the marsh's survival. You will be directly affecting our property value next to this Gateway Park. In addition to the structures you are planning to build and the huge parking lot, I do not see any studies done on the Oneawa canal and the ecosystem. Kaha Park is right across the canal and is also an estuary. You are not planning for a canoe launch at Kaha Park because of this. Why would you plan a canoe launch in the middle of an estuary? I also do not see this mentioned in the EIS.

We are also very concerned with the homeless population in Kailua. Adding structures for them to live in, and bathe in, so close to citizen's homes is just a plan for disaster. Along with these structures not to have security at night is very dangerous and a burden on our already overburdened police department. If extra police are going to be needed to control this from happening who is going to pay the extra taxes? Are the non-profits going to be directly responsible for any thefts, fires, or any associated crime that will come from the buildings and additional human activity in the marsh?

Not only is traffic horrendous on Mokapu Blvd since the building of the new apartments, the Whole Foods and the Target center, but including this project on a street already clogged with traffic is ludicrous. This plan will directly impact our home value and the surrounding neighborhood. Especially, we are concerned with addition of large 6 man canoes, one man canoes and kayaks in the canal. This gives direct access to the back of all of the residents on the canal. There has been a history on the canal of numerous thefts, not only to the residents of the canal, but to the neighborhood adjoining the canal on Kainui Drive. We ourselves had our lawnmower stolen right out of our own backyard, by a boat on the canal at night. When we found the lawnmower, the police could not recover it due to us not having

a serial number. The canal is not currently monitored by security. Will this be part of the plan to have security patrolling the canal at night? Even if you lock the gate at the park, there will be no one there to monitor activity on the canal or in the park at night. How do you plan to protect our families if our backyards are open to the public with no security?

You will be directly affecting our property value next to this Gateway Park. In addition to the structures you are planning to build and the huge parking lot, I do not see any studies done on the Oneawa canal and the ecosystem. Kaha Park is right across the canal and is also an estuary. You are not planning for a canoe launch there because of this. Why would you plan a canoe launch in the middle of an estuary? I also do not see this mentioned in the EIS.

Already the State Department of Health has indicated that the Total Maximum Daily Load studies (TDML) for water quality in the Kawainui Marsh which are listed as, "water quality limited", far exceeded state stream standards for nutrients, turbidity and bacterial counts. This means that already there is too much of each of these counts for the marsh to be healthy. For example the increased turbidity of the water decreases light penetration and ultimately affects primary productivity, for invertebrates and microbe communities. I also did not read in the EIS plan documentation and resolution of "carcass-maggot cycle" of avian botulism. In addition to the increased turbidity large numbers of dead animals (fish and macro-invertebrates) and decaying organic matter along with the conditions that would promote this, fluctuating water levels, pesticides, chemicals cause foul water quality, but also the decaying organisms are thought to serve as primary substrates for botulinum and toxin production. The toxin is transferred from these decomposing animals to invertebrate food items of waterfowl, zooplankton and maggots and ultimately eaten by birds with creates more substrate for the bacteria to spread. This cycle is well documented and why was it not addressed at all when you are planning on disrupting the wetland by building on it and creating this situation.

We are also concerned about the endemic birds that are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, namely the Hawaiian Coot or alae keokeo, the Hawaiian Moorhen or alae ula, the Hawaiian Stilt or kukuluaeo and the Hawaiian Duck or koloa maoli and the ducks hybrids. This act prevents listed species from being killed or harmed and requires that their habitat essential to their survival is protected. The critical habitat is also protected under this act from becoming degraded. Hawaii elected to participate in these federally initiated programs that protect our Endangered Species. The Waterbird Recovery Act is not mentioned, where as Kawainui and Hamakua are high priority recovery areas that are federally initiated programs. Since humans arrived in Hawaii, 71 bird species have become extinct, with 31 more being federally listed as threatened or endangered. The Hawaiian Coot has a breeding season from December through March. The Hawaiian Moorhen has a breeding season year around but most activity occurs between March and August. The Hawaiian Duck has nesting that occurs year around, with most breeding activity happening between January and May. The Hawaiian Silt has a nesting season between March and August. This leaves only September and October available for any disturbance to their habitat to occur. Could you please provide documentation of the plan to protect these waterbirds during these critical breeding and nesting seasons? How are you going to mitigate any disturbance to their critical protected habitat? Failure for us to provide for these natural requirements results in loss of species and the ecosystem services provided in wetlands.

So, we are especially concerned with the parking lots on the edge of the marsh. According to the Water Quality Improvement Act, and the Clean Water Act (CWA, 1972), there are limits on discharge of oil into water where it could damage human health, marine life, wildlife or property. There are no policies listed in the plan, of the management of these parking lots and the run off from them. According to the Act you need a EPA, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program that will control and monitor the discharge.

All parking lots, hard surface and gravel either prevent chemicals from soaking into the ground or chemicals will soak into the ground and thereby the toxic chemicals like oil, anti-freeze, brake & transmission fluids, grease and heavy metals, run off will flow in unnaturally large amounts rapidly into the surrounding wetland, estuaries and then will flow out onto the Kailua Bay reef. (EPA) How are you going to control or eliminate these pollutants from running into the waterways? How is this going to be monitored?

Please tell us how you are going to control this run off if the parking areas are managed by non-profit organizations? Non-profit organizations who are not listed, nor are directly monitored by any government agency according to the plan.

Who will be monitoring this, how much will this monitoring cost each year and who will be part of this knowledge base? According to the EPA, CWA Section 404, there are regulations on the placement of dredged or fill material into wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers, and estuaries. The goal of this section is to avoid and minimize losses to wetlands and other waters. Section 404 is jointly implemented by EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps issues Section 404 permits. I do not see this permit listed in the plan.

We are concerned that the input of nitrogen and phosphorus into the marsh will damage crucial estuary, marsh area and Kailua Bay reef. Benthic dwellers are critical to the protection of the wetlands. Benthos are organisms that live in the Benthic Zone, which include the small worms and nematodes that the Endangered Marsh birds feed on. This ecosystem is essential to the survival of all wetland dwellers. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, values the protecting of these ecological treasures. Their service Director, Steve Williams states, “The continued loss of wetlands worldwide poses a serious threat to both wildlife and people, and on the ground partnerships are pivotal to efforts at home and abroad to stem this loss.” Partnerships, that is a word that I do not see anywhere in this plan. Partnerships between the citizens of Kailua and Hawaii. At every meeting that I have been to, there has been numerous strong opposition to this plan. With only a few endorsing it. Why are our questions not being fully answered?

In reading the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program by the Department of Planning and Economic Development State of Hawaii, that sites the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and administered by NOAA and the US Department of Commerce in March of 1983. The Kawainui marsh is a SMA, Special Management Area (SMA) that is administered under the Coastal Zone Management Act. All our especially concerned that the erosion control ordinances that protect the marsh and surrounding waterways are not being met by the plan.

These principal elements objectives and policies have not been identified, which include:

Objectives:

- Protect waterbird species and enhance their habitats.
- Protect identified stream, estuarine, and terrestrial wildlife and fish and enhance their habitats.
- Improve and maintain the water quality of the marsh

Policies:

- The natural water levels in the Marsh basin should be maintained in order to protect waterbird habitat and support potential agricultural activity.
- Human access should be regulated in order to minimize disruption of identified habitats.
- Preferential measures should be established to enhance habitat for endangered species, especially the koloa, gallinule and coot.
- Growth of food species preferred by waterbirds should be encouraged

The wetland complex also acts as a flood control reservoir, storing runoff from major storms. In addition, it traps sediment and absorbs nutrients and pollutants, reducing their impact on Kailua Bay and the Kailua Bay reef. How will this be controlled if not monitored by any government body?

We were also concerned and wish to view the annual reports, that includes a report on the status of the review and implementation of the KawaiNui marsh master plan, including an account of the public moneys expended and moneys necessary to complete and implement the master plan, to the legislature from the DNLR that was supposed to be submitted to the legislature, beginning with the regular session of 2009. I could not find any of these papers in our search and along with my neighbors would like to view these documents.

Also we did not see in the EIS if the Kawainui/Hamakua master plan complied with the US Corp of Engineers requirement for 3,000 acre feet of marsh for flood storage, thereby preventing the town of Kailua from being flooded in the case of excessive rain.

Could you please answer these questions and concerns for our families, friends and neighbors? The ecological benefit of the marsh and surrounding area are critical to the continued beauty of Kailua. We do not support the plan in its entirety and are alarmed that the EIS did not address any of the above concerns the citizens of Kailua had to this development. Safety for our children and security for our investments are important. We do not want to see any of this destroyed for the love of money.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

The Wadas Ohana 1316 Mokapu Blvd Kailua, HI 96734

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

The Wadas Ohana
1316 Mōkapu Boulevard
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Wadas Ohana:

Subject: **Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project**
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that are organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *This letter is to submit documentation on our family's disagreement and list the major concerns we and our neighbors of Kailua have over your Kawainui-Hamakua master plan project proposal.*
Our family supports the restoration of the marsh. We support a small parking lot for the workers off the Kapaa Quarry Road. This would provide a safe area for the workers and citizens to continue to work on taking out invasive species and letting the water flow continue naturally. However, the building of any structures and a boardwalk on the Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, will be destruction of the protected wetlands Hawaiians and Hawaiian citizens have come to love. We do not support the Master Plan as documented. Listed below are the reasons.
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project, and your support for proposed wetland restoration and upland forestation improvements. We note your support for a parking lot along Kapa'a Quarry Road for workers associated with restoration activities.

   There are two parking lots planned along Kapa'a Quarry Road that would be available for the public. One parking lot would serve Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine and the education center at Pōhakea. The second parking lot at Kahanaiki would support programs and public access to pedestrian trails within that upland area. These parking lots would support restoration activities and programs, but are also intended to support public access to that upland area and are appropriately sized for these activities.

As discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS, the only structure planned at the Hāmākua wildlife sanctuary area consists of a restroom and storage building intended to support DOFAW's restoration efforts, operations, and educational programs. No boardwalks were planned here. The analysis of the DEIS determined these minor improvements would not have a significant impact on the Hāmākua wetland or result in its "destruction" as suggested.

At Kawainui, project plans include several buildings and other structures that are intended to serve important activities and project objectives discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS. We do not agree that the building "of any structures" will result in the destruction of the Kawainui wetlands. Several structures consist of pavilions to support outdoor recreation and to provide shade for students and program participants. Other structures include needed restrooms, and buildings for DOFAW's research and management station. Several buildings are associated with cultural centers planned to be operated by non-profit organizations to conduct cultural practices, educational programs, and support stewardship of their areas. These structures encompass small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland sites within the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment or natural resources based upon the DEIS results. Project improvements would support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities.

2. *We are concerned and alarmed that the EIS study did not address these issues listed in the following paragraphs, especially for the canoe launch at the proposed Gateway Park on Mokapu Blvd.*

   Response: The DEIS did address the issues you identify. These responses further address your comments. It should be clarified that the improvements discussed located at the Kawainui State Park Reserve, Kalāheo Section (previously known as the Gateway Park site) are already approved and permitted. Perhaps you were not living at your nearby residence at the time, but the entitlements were obtained in 2003 as discussed in Section 1.5.4 of the DEIS. This current project would have added a hale wa'a to this site. However, due to community concerns with visitors to Kawainui, plans for the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site have been eliminated form this project. A section from the Final EIS (FEIS) describing this change is attached. Therefore, the project does not include any changes to this site from those actions permitted by previous land use approvals. The State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) intends to only allow schools to launch from this site for practices. Canoe clubs would not be allowed to launch from this site to further reduce activities at this site.

   a. *Because our family was in attendance at the Memorial Day clearing of the land and watched in horror with other neighbors, as Mr. Smith of the DLNR introduced an enormous amount of silt into the estuary at the end of the Oneawa Canal. We are very concerned with the cumulative impact all of this dirt, debris and suffocating silt, will have not only on the estuary, but onto the reef in Kailua Bay which receives this water and silt. Who from the state was monitoring this discharge of silt, and dirt along with branches into the estuary on the Oneawa Canal?*

      Response: The Memorial Day clearing of invasive vegetation at this Kalāheo site was a community service event that is separate from the proposed project. The State DLNR is also sensitive to minimizing impacts to the Kawainui Canal (Oneawa Canal) estuary and the Kailua Bay reefs. We do not concur that an "enormous amount of silt" was

discharged into the canal from this community service activity. The discharge of some debris and sediment into the canal from this activity is reasonable to expect, but there is no evidence it caused a significant impact to the canal or the bay. Because it was a community service activity, nobody from the State DLNR was required nor assigned to monitor discharges of silt and branches into the canal from that activity. The City has control and management of Kawainui Canal for the purposes of repair and maintenance.

b. *Habitat protection, enhancement and proper management as to the quality and quantity of marsh waters are crucial to the marsh's survival. You will be directly affecting our property value next to this Gateway Park. In addition to the structures you are planning to build and the huge parking lot, I do not see any studies done on the Oneawa canal and the ecosystem.*
Response: We concur that waterbird habitat restoration and protection is important, but these activities do not dictate the survival of the wetland. Proper management of the Kawainui wetland and waters are also important, and DOFAW will continue to implement improvements that support these objectives, such as the wetland restoration and other management activities discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS.

Any improvements to the Kalāheo site already permitted by previous land use approvals should not have a significant effect on your property value. As previously discussed, these plans were approved in 2003. If you recently purchased your property, any questions regarding this site should have been addressed by the realtors involved in the sale or financial institutions as part of that transaction process.

Structures and parking lot improvements constructed at this Kalāheo site would be consistent with previously approved plans for the Gateway Park development. There have been several studies prepared for Kawainui that have included Kawainui Canal, including: (1) City Final EIS (FEIS) for the flood control project (1992); (2) City flood damage mitigation project (1990); (3) The Corps of Engineers (COE) FEIS for levee improvements (1992) that included improvements to the canal; (4) COE ecosystem restoration report (1998), (5) 1994 Kawainui master plan; and (6) resource management plan (1983). Section 3.4.3 addresses the Kawainui canal, and other sections of the DEIS address various elements of the canal. Nevertheless, the Kawainui-Hāmākua project would not cause a significant impact to the canal, and no project-related improvements are proposed to the Kalāheo site aside from those already permitted.

c. *Kaha Park is right across the canal and is also an estuary. You are not planning for a canoe launch at Kaha Park because of this. Why would you plan a canoe launch in the middle of an estuary? I also do not see this mentioned in the EIS.*
Response: Kaha Park is owned by the City, and is not part of the project area as discussed in Section 1.3. The estuary associated with Kaha Park is not related to improvements for this project, and the DEIS would consequently have no consideration of a canoe launch at the City park. As already discussed, the canoe launch at the Kalāheo site was already approved as part of the Gateway Park plans in 2003.

3. *We are also very concerned with the homeless population in Kailua. Adding structures for them to live in, and bathe in, so close to citizen's homes is just a plan for disaster.*
Response: DOFAW and DSP effectively remove homeless encampments within Kawainui, and appreciate support from the community to identify new homeless camps. With daily activities occurring, parking areas, restrooms, and structures would not support establishment of homeless camps. The City's model airplane park with restroom is a good example of this. Reduced secluded areas make it less likely that homeless camps can be established because of increased visibility and public awareness.

   a. *Along with these structures not to have security at night is very dangerous and a burden on our already overburdened police department. If extra police are going to be needed to control this from happening who is going to pay the extra taxes?*
   Response: We do not view park improvements implemented at the Kalāheo site as being different from other City parks in Kailua. As a result, night security would not be required, but DSP would have this site closed and gated during non-business regular park hours. Within State property, the State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers would address security of areas opened for public access. If necessary, enforcement actions would be conducted by DOCARE officers in coordination with DOFAW and DSP. As discussed in Section 2.2.5, DOFAW and DSP would only open areas for public access when they are able to manage them using a phased approach. This includes having necessary DOCARE officer positions funded to support enforcement activities.

   b. *Are the non-profits going to be directly responsible for any thefts, fires, or any associated crime that will come from the buildings and additional human activity in the marsh?*
   Response: Non-profit organizations would be responsible for the cultural centers under their management, similar to responsibilities that would be attributable to other urban developments, such as residences and businesses.

4. *Not only is traffic horrendous on Mokapu Blvd since the building of the new apartments, the Whole Foods and the Target center, but including this project on a street already clogged with traffic is ludicrous.*
Response: The owners, or developer responsible for the new apartments, Whole Foods, and Target would be responsible to address traffic impacts associated with their projects. The traffic study conducted for the proposed project determined that the Kapa'a Quarry Road/ Mōkapu Saddle Road signalized intersection operates well during the weekday afternoon peak hour at Level-of-Service C. With the project, this intersection would continue to operate at this level of service as discussed in Section 5.6. The project does not include any new improvements at the Kalāheo site along Mōkapu Saddle Road.

   a. *This plan will directly impact our home value and the surrounding neighborhood.*
   Response: The project would not significantly affect the value of your home or the surrounding neighborhood based upon your traffic concerns. As discussed in the DEIS, the project would not have a significant impact on traffic. Any concerns about your property due to improvements approved in 2003 for the Kalāheo site should have been

addressed by the realtors involved in the sale of the property or financial institutions as part of that transaction process.

b. *Especially, we are concerned with addition of large 6 man canoes, one man canoes and kayaks in the canal. This gives direct access to the back of all of the residents on the canal. There has been a history on the canal of numerous thefts, not only to the residents of the canal, but to the neighborhood adjoining the canal on Kainui Drive. We ourselves had our lawnmower stolen right out of our own backyard, by a boat on the canal at night. When we found the lawnmower, the police could not recover it due to us not having a serial number.*
Response: The project does not involve the Kalāheo site or the potential for canoes to access the canal from this site based upon already approved plans. However, DSP does plan to limit launching from this site to schools, such as Kalāheo High School. Restricting canoe launches to schools for practice, which would typically occur during the afternoon, should address your concerns about canal access behind residences. School-related practices within the canal should not contribute to thefts. It should be noted that the public can access the canal from the public shoreline. All homeowners along the canal should be taking appropriate measures to secure their home and associated property, which is no different from other homeowners in Kailua.

c. *The canal is not currently monitored by security. Will this be part of the plan to have security patrolling the canal at night? Even if you lock the gate at the park, there will be no one there to monitor activity on the canal or in the park at night. How do you plan to protect our families if our backyards are open to the public with no security?*
Response: The canal is managed by the City, so you would need to approach the appropriate City agency to discuss security issues. The prior Gateway Park plans did not propose security patrolling the canal at night, and DSP does not plan on having such activities. As with other parks, including Kalāheo High School across the street, there would be no security hired to monitor park activities at night. The Kawainui-Hāmākua project will not change the activities that may currently occur on the canal. We acknowledge your concern about security, as every homeowner does for their residence. Customary measures should be taken (e.g. locking doors or installation of security system) to address your security concerns.

5. *You will be directly affecting our property value next to this Gateway Park. In addition to the structures you are planning to build and the huge parking lot, I do not see any studies done on the Oneawa canal and the ecosystem. Kaha Park is right across the canal and is also an estuary. You are not planning for a canoe launch there because of this. Why would you plan a canoe launch in the middle of an estuary? I also do not see this mentioned in the EIS.*
Response: The Kawainui-Hāmākua project does not include any new improvements beyond those which were already approved for the Kalāheo (Gateway Park) site in 2003. Therefore, the project would not change that site or negatively impact your property value. If you recently purchased your property, any questions regarding this site should have been addressed by the realtors or financial institutions as part of that transaction process.

Your other comments repeat those stated in the third paragraph of your letter. Please refer to the responses under Item No. 2 that address them.

6. *Already the State Department of Health has indicated that the Total Maximum Daily Load studies (TDML) for water quality in the Kawainui Marsh which are listed as, "water quality limited", far exceeded state stream standards for nutrients, turbidity and bacterial counts. This means that already there is too much of each of these counts for the marsh to be healthy.*
Response: Section 3.4.5 of the DEIS provides background on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the 303(d) listing of impaired surface water bodies. It should be clarified that the Water Quality-Limited Segment listing associated with the Kawainui wetland refers to that which is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards under current conditions. This wetland would be subject to comply with TDML when eventually established by the State DOH. The wetland is also listed as a "Category 3" inland water body under the State's TMDL listing indicating there is not enough data to evaluate the resource. The Kawainui wetland is also not listed as a TMDL "priority water body" under the State's 303(d) list of impaired inland waters.
Section 3.4.5 further stipulates that due to the wetland's characteristics, (such as decomposing vegetation, low flow rates, and removal of sediments and pollutants), water quality parameters in wetlands cannot be compared with streams or ocean conditions. For this wetland classification, there are no specific water quality criteria that must be met, just the basic water quality criteria for all waters that is to allow waters to remain in their natural state with minimum pollution from human-caused sources. Therefore, your assertion that there is "too much of each of these counts for the marsh to be healthy" is not correct. The DEIS explains that Kawainui functions as a settling basin for particulates, nutrients, and other pollutants introduced into the wetland through stream discharge, stormwater runoff, and rainfall. No criteria for wetlands exists, primarily because it is not possible to define wetland water quality as either "good" or "degraded."

   a. *For example the increased turbidity of the water decreases light penetration and ultimately affects primary productivity, for invertebrates and microbe communities.*
   Response: It should be noted that open water within Kawainui is mainly associated with streams and other open pond areas, as the majority of the wetland is covered with invasive vegetation (e.g. peat). Thus, light penetration affected by the turbidity of these open water areas has less effect on aquatic resources. As discussed in Section 3.4.6, most of the recorded aquatic resources occurred in the flowing waters of streams and canals leading into or away from the wetland. However, the body of wetland water covered by a layer of peat is biologically dead (except for bacteria) without light penetration and oxygen. Wetland restoration efforts planned under the project are intended to improve this situation.

   b. *I also did not read in the EIS plan documentation and resolution of "carcass-maggot cycle" of avian botulism. In addition to the increased turbidity large numbers of dead animals (fish and macro-invertebrates) and decaying organic matter along with the conditions that would promote this, fluctuating water levels, pesticides, chemicals cause foul water quality, but also the decaying organisms are thought to serve as primary substrates for botulinum and toxin production. The toxin is transferred from*

these decomposing animals to invertebrate food items of waterfowl, zooplankton and maggots and ultimately eaten by birds with creates more substrate for the bacteria to spread. This cycle is well documented and why was it not addressed at all when you are planning on disrupting the wetland by building on it and creating this situation.
Response: Avian botulism has not been an issue for DOFAW at Kawainui as there is already a management plan to address this issue. Furthermore, it is not expected to be an issue associated with the project. As discussed under Section 2.2.1.5 of the DEIS, DOFAW plans to develop a management plan in coordination with the FWS and COE as part of requirements associated with construction of the restoration ponds. Components developed under the management plan would provide a framework applicable to the management and monitoring of both the restoration ponds and other wetland restoration efforts initiated at Kawainui. Part of this plan includes a revision of the current *Management Plan for the Control of Avian Botulism at Kawainui Marsh, Oahu, Hawaii August 1997* to include surveillance for botulism outbreaks, response measures such as removal of carcasses, and post-outbreak population monitoring. Therefore, the botulism issue has been addressed as DOFAW already has a management plan in place. Furthermore, there are no structures or buildings planned within the wetland, and sections of boardwalks initially proposed have been eliminated. The only disruption to the wetland would be due to wetland restoration efforts.

7. *We are also concerned about the endemic birds that are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, namely the Hawaiian Coot or alae keokeo, the Hawaiian Moorhen or alae ula, the Hawaiian Stilt or kukuluaeo and the Hawaiian Duck or koloa maoli and the ducks hybrids. This act prevents listed species from being killed or harmed and requires that their habitat essential to their survival is protected.*
Response: We acknowledge your concerns and comments associated with the characteristics, extinction, and nesting seasons associated with endangered waterbirds. Section 3.3.2 of the DEIS addresses these waterbirds and discusses how the project does not significantly impact endangered waterbirds. The ecological character of Kawainui is not that of a pristine resource or important waterbird habitat but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. Restoration initiatives proposed under this project, would expand habitat for endangered waterbirds. No development of buildings or structures would occur in these waters or cause adverse effects to waterbirds from other elements of the project.

   a. *The critical habitat is also protected under this act from becoming degraded. Hawaii elected to participate in these federally initiated programs that protect our Endangered Species.*
   Response: There is no essential or critical habitat designated within Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands. DOFAW manages Hāmākua wetland and the restoration ponds at Kawainui as habitat for endangered waterbirds. Currently, these are the only two areas considered important nesting habitat areas. Other areas of Kawainui are not known to serve as important nesting habitat because of the overgrowth of vegetation within the wetland and along the wetland fringes that do not provide suitable habitat.

b. *The Waterbird Recovery Act is not mentioned, where as Kawainui and Hamakua are high priority recovery areas that are federally initiated programs. Since humans arrived in Hawaii, 71 bird species have become extinct, with 31 more being federally listed as threatened or endangered.*
Response: We are not aware of any applicable "Waterbird Recovery Act" to this project as you indicated. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service does have a 2011 recovery plan for Hawaiian waterbirds. As discussed in Section 2.1.2, Kawainui is identified in this plan as a "core wetland" consisting of area providing habitat essential for larger populations of Hawaiian waterbirds prescribed for recovery. The recovery plan cites a need to expand open water areas at Kawainui that are used as habitat, which is what is being proposed under this project.

c. *The Hawaiian Coot has a breeding season from December through March. The Hawaiian Moorhen has a breeding season year around but most activity occurs between March and August. The Hawaiian Duck has nesting that occurs year around, with most breeding activity happening between January and May. The Hawaiian Silt has a nesting season between March and August. This leaves only September and October available for any disturbance to their habitat to occur. Could you please provide documentation of the plan to protect these waterbirds during these critical breeding and nesting seasons? How are you going to mitigate any disturbance to their critical protected habitat? Failure for us to provide for these natural requirements results in loss of species and the ecosystem services provided in wetlands.*
Response: Only wetland restoration activities have the potential to disturb waterbirds during the nesting season. Other improvements, such as cultural centers and pedestrian trails, are located within previously disturbed upland areas outside of nesting areas. DOFAW staff are experienced managers of both the Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands for some time now, and they have done an excellent job conducting activities and minimizing impacts on waterbirds. Section 3.3.2 discusses plans to protect these waterbirds during nesting season and minimize impacts from the project. If necessary, DOFAW may also impose additional restrictions on public access within certain upland areas or at specific times of the year, e.g., during bird nesting season. As already discussed, there is no protected critical habitat associated with the project area. The various measures and assessment of impacts discussed in Chapter 2 and other chapters of the DEIS demonstrate these species and their habitat would not be negatively impacted by the project, and wetland restoration would have positive benefit for them.

8. *So, we are especially concerned with the parking lots on the edge of the marsh. According to the Water Quality Improvement Act, and the Clean Water Act (CWA, 1972), there are limits on discharge of oil into water where it could damage human health, marine life, wildlife or property. There are no policies listed in the plan, of the management of these parking lots and the run off from them. According to the Act you need a EPA, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program that will control and monitor the discharge.*
Response: We are not aware of a Congress-enacted Water Quality Improvement Act. That Act did not pass back in 1969, and a 2017 version introduced has not received any action by Congress. Section 6.2.3 of the DEIS discusses the Clean Water Act, and project consistency

with pertinent provisions of that legislation. Chapter 2.2 discusses parking lots proposed for various subareas and design measures planned to address your concerns with runoff. Parking areas would generally have a compacted gravel or other permeable surface to minimize storm water runoff along with other environmentally-friendly design measures (e.g. bioswale). Section 3.4.5 also addresses the impact from parking lots on water quality and the wetland, of which pollutants would be inconsequential. In comparison, existing residences surrounding Kawainui and the canal discharge far greater storm water runoff volumes and typically are not designed with environmentally-friendly measures. A NPDES permit would be obtained for the project (see Section 2.2.9), as improvements are implemented in phases.

9. *All parking lots, hard surface and gravel either prevent chemicals from soaking into the ground or chemicals will soak into the ground and thereby the toxic chemicals like oil, anti-freeze, brake & transmission fluids, grease and heavy metals, run off will flow in unnaturally large amounts rapidly into the surrounding wetland, estuaries and then will flow out onto the Kailua Bay reef. (EPA) How are you going to control or eliminate these pollutants from running into the waterways? How is this going to be monitored?*
Response: Permeable surfaces are intended for parking lots to minimize storm water runoff. Gravel is a type of permeable material. There are many permeable products available, such as Gravelpave2. The impact from storm water runoff from parking lots would not be significant, and identified design measures would further minimize effects. Such measures would help control and mitigate discharges of any pollutants. Parking lots would not require monitoring, but would be managed and maintained by the appropriate non-profit organization (e.g. cultural centers) or State agency. Such discharges would not significantly impact the Kawainui wetland or estuaries, or the needs of Kailua Bay. As discussed in Section 3.4.5, the wetlands naturally function as a trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Existing residences surrounding Kawainui, other developments, and runoff from roadways discharge far greater storm water runoff volumes and pollutants than would be expected as a result of the proposed project.

10. *Please tell us how you are going to control this run off if the parking areas are managed by non-profit organizations? Non-profit organizations who are not listed, nor are directly monitored by any government agency according to the plan.*
Response: Parking lots would be managed and maintained by the appropriate non-profit organization (e.g. cultural centers) or State agency (e.g. DOFAW staging areas). Appropriate measures for site improvements would be required as part of design plans for applicable improvements and reviewed by DOFAW or DSP. Non-profit organizations would be managed by DOFAW or DSP, including periodic site inspections, reporting requirements, etc.

11. *Who will be monitoring this, how much will this monitoring cost each year and who will be part of this knowledge base? According to the EPA, CWA Section 404, there are regulations on the placement of dredged or fill material into wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers, and estuaries. The goal of this section is to avoid and minimize losses to wetlands and other waters. Section 404 is jointly implemented by EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps issues Section 404 permits. I do not see this permit listed in the plan.*

Response: DOFAW and DSP would be responsible for managing activities within project areas, which includes those conducted by non-profit organizations. Regular "monitoring" of parking areas is not required, but periodic site inspections and reporting requirements would support the State's management of activities.

Section 6.2.3 discusses Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act and the project's consistency with pertinent requirements. This includes discussion of a Department of Army Permit and coordination with that agency if any boardwalk improvements result in "fill" activity under their jurisdiction. Such improvements would be developed during project design as construction plans are prepared and submitted to agencies for review and ministerial permits. Section 2.2.9 identified this Department of Army Permit. However, with the elimination of pedestrian trail sections since the DEIS was published, there would be no sections requiring construction of boardwalks. No other project improvements would result in fill material within the wetland.

12. *We are concerned that the input of nitrogen and phosphorus into the marsh will damage crucial estuary, marsh area and Kailua Bay reef. Benthic dwellers are critical to the protection of the wetlands. Benthos are organisms that live in the Benthic Zone, which include the small worms and nematodes that the Endangered Marsh birds feed on. This ecosystem is essential to the survival of all wetland dwellers.*
Response: As discussed in Section 3.4.5, the project would not have a significant impact on Kawainui wetland or the needs of Kailua Bay. Nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants in storm water runoff are typically from fertilizers, pets and residential yard waste. Within residential developments, there are typically less opportunities to detain runoff, allowing soil and plants to filter out such pollutants. However, the wetland currently serves this function as a natural trap for particulates, assimilation and recycling of nutrients, and sequestering of pollutants. Green infrastructure, proposed by this project, can further address runoff filtration by slowing down runoff, spreading it out over the land, and allowing it to percolate slowly into the ground. These techniques help remove pollutants from runoff, and allow wetland plants to filter them.
Benthic invertebrates are important, but are not viewed as "critical to the protection of the wetlands" within Kawainui. This ecosystem is important, and the project includes several improvements that would improve present conditions, such as wetland restoration. Upland improvements would not have an adverse effect on these ecosystems. The ecological character of Kawainui is not pristine, but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts.

    a. *The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, values the protecting of these ecological treasures. Their service Director, Steve Williams states, "The continued loss of wetlands worldwide poses a serious threat to both wildlife and people, and on the ground partnerships are pivotal to efforts at home and abroad to stem this loss."*
    Response: We concur with your comments regarding the Ramsar convention of wetlands. Project improvements are intended to support Ramsar objectives as discussed in Sections 2.1 and 6.1.1 of the DEIS. Preventing wetland loss is important and project

improvements are intended to improve the Hāmākua wetland and restore the Kawainui wetland that is being affected by invasive vegetation.

b. *Partnerships, that is a word that I do not see anywhere in this plan. Partnerships between the citizens of Kailua and Hawaii.*
We disagree with your perception that "partnership" is not a word you see in project plans. Chapter 2 discusses partnerships in several sections and involve potential educational partners (e.g. schools, universities), native Hawaiian non-profit organizations, and other agency partnerships. DOFAW and DSP have been working with the Kailua community to obtain public comments as discussed in Chapter 8 of the DEIS. Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the general public. The State has been considering the broader public interest throughout this process, including residents of Kailua and other locations around O'ahu.

c. *At every meeting that I have been to, there has been numerous strong opposition to this plan. With only a few endorsing it. Why are our questions not being fully answered?*
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to this project and visitors to Kailua based upon your comments. We also acknowledge there is opposition to this project from some community organizations and individuals. This attitudes stem from opposition to visitors, increasing public access, and any improvements that may attract more visitors to Kailua. We do not agree with your opinion that there are "only a few endorsing it," as there are many organizations and individuals supporting this project. For example, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, comprised of 58 clubs and thousands of members in Hawai'i and on the mainland, unanimously supported this project with the adoption of a resolution at their annual convention in 2014 (Section 8.1.2). Other notable organizations supporting this projcet includes the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Executive Committee, the Blue Planet Foundation, and the Conservation Council for Hawai'i.

13. *In reading the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program by the Department of Planning and Economic Development State of Hawaii, that sites the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and administered by NOAA and the US Department of Commerce in March of 1983. The Kawainui marsh is a SMA, Special Management Area (SMA) that is administered under the Coastal Zone Management Act. All our especially concerned that the erosion control ordinances that protect the marsh and surrounding waterways are not being met by the plan. These principal elements objectives and policies have not been identified, which include:*
Objectives:
    - *Protect waterbird species and enhance their habitats.*
    - *Protect identified stream, estuarine, and terrestrial wildlife and fish and enhance their habitats.*
    - *Improve and maintain the water quality of the marsh*

Policies:
    - *The natural water levels in the Marsh basin should be maintained in order to protect waterbird habitat and support potential agricultural activity.*
    - *Human access should be regulated in order to minimize disruption of identified habitats.*

- *Preferential measures should be established to enhance habitat for endangered species, especially the koloa, gallinule and coot.*
- *Growth of food species preferred by waterbirds should be encouraged*

Response: The project area is located within the County Special Management Area (SMA) that implements the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Sections 6.2.7 and 6.3.6 address project consistency with pertinent objectives and policies of these regulations. Erosion control ordinances fall under the jurisdiction of the City and project improvements would include the preparation of construction plans that would be consistent with these rules and reviewed by jurisdictional agencies. Erosion control measures would be regulated by City grubbing and grading permits. Section 2.2 discusses best management practices that would be implemented, and Sections 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 further address short-term impacts associated with construction activities and identifies mitigative measures.

The pertinent CZMA objectives and policies were addressed under Section 6.3.6, and SMA objectives were addressed under Section 6.4.4 of the DEIS. Unfortunately, the objectives and policies you cite are not part of the CZMA or SMA policies and regulations. Nevertheless, the project is consistent with the objectives and policies you cite. Section 2.1.2 of the DEIS discusses the need for the project supporting your objectives that include wetland restoration to enhance waterbird habitat; creation of more open water to facilitate distribution of water throughout the wetland basin; and implementation of upland improvements (e.g. culvert repairs) to address surface water runoff that improve water quality and support aquatic biota.

Water levels within the wetland are based upon discharges from upland streams and areas outside the project site. Therefore, the project cannot control or maintain "natural" water levels. However, restoration improvements would benefit the Kawainui wetland and waterbird habitat. Agricultural activity, such as commercial farming, is not consistent with the objectives for the wetland and wildlife sanctuary. However, allowing taro lo'i in designated areas as part of cultural practices is supported by the project. Human access would be regulated by project plans, and Section 2.2.5 discusses proposed management of public access. Project plans include measures to enhance habitat for waterbirds, which includes foraging and nesting (Section 2.2).

14. *The wetland complex also acts as a flood control reservoir, storing runoff from major storms. In addition, it traps sediment and absorbs nutrients and pollutants, reducing their impact on Kailua Bay and the Kailua Bay reef. How will this be controlled if not monitored by any government body?*

Response: Improving the Kawainui wetland through restoration would also support its function as flood control (Section 2.1.2). This wetland is currently managed by DOFAW, which includes daily operations and maintenance activities within and around the wetland area that address your comments about "controlling" and monitoring this resource.

15. *We were also concerned and wish to view the annual reports, that includes a report on the status of the review and implementation of the KawaiNui marsh master plan, including an account of the public moneys expended and moneys necessary to complete and implement the master plan, to the legislature from the DNLR that was supposed to be submitted to the*

legislature, beginning with the regular session of 2009. I could not find any of these papers in our search and along with my neighbors would like to view these documents.
Response: There are no annual reports prepared on the status of the review and implementation of the master plan. However, the State DLNR and other agencies publish various agency reports that are available on-line. We refer you to the State website (www.hawaii.gov) for reports that may be of interest to you.

There are no reports on public money spent to implement project improvements because the project is still in the environmental review phase. Once environmental review is completed, and necessary land use entitlements are obtained, DLNR can proceed with implementing improvements. However, implementation would be subject to funding by the Legislature. Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS discusses project estimated costs and likely phasing. The State DLNR has published agency financial reports since 2009 that are available on-line at the DLNR website.

16. *Also we did not see in the EIS if the Kawainui/Hamakua master plan complied with the US Corp of Engineers requirement for 3,000 acre feet of marsh for flood storage, thereby preventing the town of Kailua from being flooded in the case of excessive rain.*
Response: We are not aware of any Corps of Engineers (COE) requirements to provide "3,000 acre feet" of wetland for flood storage. The COE has implemented improvements to the levee and Kawainui Canal to prevent lower areas of Kailua from being affected by flood waters. The project would improve the flood protection ability of the wetland with restoration efforts.

17. *Could you please answer these questions and concerns for our families, friends and neighbors? The ecological benefit of the marsh and surrounding area are critical to the continued beauty of Kailua. We do not support the plan in its entirety and are alarmed that the EIS did not address any of the above concerns the citizens of Kailua had to this development. Safety for our children and security for our investments are important. We do not want to see any of this destroyed for the love of money.*
Response: This response letter addresses your questions and concerns. Project improvements are intended to restore the degraded ecological condition of Kawainui.

We acknowledge your opposition to the project and visitors to Kailua. The DEIS does address your concerns and those received by other members of the community. Safety and security are important and the project includes several management actions to address this issue. The Kawainui-Hāmākua resource would not be destroyed "for the love of money" as you suggest stemming from your visitor related concerns. The project includes improvements that support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. The project also provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct cultural practices and activities given the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area

   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

WINDWARD COALITION For Community Concerns

Windward Coalition For Community Concerns

February 6, 2018

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Ms. Marigold Zoll, O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager
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Marigold.S.Zoll@Hawai'i.gov

Re: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Sato and Ms. Zoll:

As you know, the State of Hawai'i ("State"), Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR"), Division of Forestry and Wildlife ("DOFAW"), in partnership with the Division of State Parks ("DSP"), has proposed developing the Kawainui-Hāmākua marsh and surrounding area[1] on the windward side of O'ahu pursuant to a Master Plan Project ("Project") Draft Environmental Statement ("DEIS") dated November 8, 2017. Please accept these written comments to the DEIS prepared by the Windward Coalition ("WC") Executive Board on behalf of the entire WC membership.

The WC strongly opposes the Master Plan in its current form. This plan does not appear to advance the DLNR's stated mission to "enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources." Instead, the project, estimated by the DLNR to increase visitors by 300%, adds five access points along the Kapa'a Quarry Road, as well as additional access points along heavily trafficked Kailua Road. These and other proposed changes will further degrade Hawai'i's largest fresh-water wetland, home to thousands of plant and animal species, including several that are endangered.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, wetlands "are some of the most productive habitats on the planet... they provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit humanity, including water filtration, storm protection, flood control and recreation...Without wetlands, cities have to spend more money to treat water for their citizens, floods are more devastating to nearby communities, storm surges from hurricanes can penetrate farther inland, animals are displaced or die out, and

[1] The area in question encompasses 986 acres of Kawainui wetland and upland, Hāmākua Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pu'uoehu hillside (collectively, the "Project Area").

food supplies are disrupted, along with livelihoods." Rather than taking a protective and preserving approach to the wetlands, the Project emphasizes development and increasing the human footprint on this ecologically sensitive and vulnerable area.

KAWAINUI MARSH SHOULD BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION

The original Master Plan for the Project Area, developed in 1994 in conjunction with Ho'olaulima Ia Kawainui, a network of conservation organizations that included the Hawaii Audubon Society, was undertaken with the goal of *preserving* Kawainui Marsh. The proposed Master Plan no longer includes one of the primary goals of its original: the removal of the peat layer that is choking the marsh, reducing its flood storage capacity and hastening its demise from open wetlands to swamp. This Project will rim Kawainui Marsh with thousands of square feet of maintenance buildings, "comfort stations" i.e. restrooms, other purpose buildings, pavilions, kiosks, viewing decks, storage facilities, parking lots, and roads.

The Resource Management Alternative (pp. 206-207), favored by the Windward Coalition, was rejected by the DLNR as not satisfying the requirements of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund ("LWCF") Act or the core missions of the DOFAW and DSP to support cultural practices and educational programming. However, Section 6(f) of the LWCF Act does not require the State to do anything other than preserve Section 6(f) lands for outdoor recreational use. According to the Congressional Research Service, LCWF "grants are provided for outdoor recreation purposes *only*, rather than for indoor facilities such as community centers." https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33531.pdf (emphasis added). The required Section 6(f) outdoor recreational purpose is already being largely accomplished via the popular running/hiking trail along the top of the flood control levee that traverses the north side of the marsh. Hence, using Section 6(f) as an argument in favor of expanding closed door, man-made facilities around Kawainui Marsh is specious.

The DEIS minimizes the importance of community opposition. See, DEIS §7.6, p. 628. Given the DLNR, DOFAW, and DSP mandate to serve the *residents of this State*, public opposition from the surrounding community would seem to present not merely an unresolved obstacle, but an insurmountable one.

The DEIS stresses that a portion of the Project Area is a Ramsar wetland of "international importance," and argues that "Ramsar supports sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices, and views sustainable tourism as maintaining a high level of visitor satisfaction, ensuring a meaningful experience, and raising awareness about sustainability issues." DEIS §7-13, p. 629. The terms "sustainable tourism," "recreational use" and "cultural practices" appear nowhere in the Ramsar Treaty whose Preamble provides:

> CONSIDERING the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl;
>
> BEING CONVINCED that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable;
>
> DESIRING to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future;

RECOGNIZING that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource;

BEING CONFIDENT that the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with coordinated international action; https.

Indeed, the fact that the area is a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance dictates a more conservative approach to the treatment of the area since the mission of the Ramsar Convention is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world." The emphasis in "sustainable development" is on *sustainable* not *development.*

THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL AGGRAVATE ALREADY WORSENING KAILUA VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

One of the heaviest anticipated uses within the proposed Project Area is the Wai'auia Cultural Center in Subarea D. See, DEIS Table 2.7, p. 188. Subarea D borders Kailua Road over its length from below Kapa'a Quarry Road past Castle Medical Center and on to Hāmākua Drive. Kailua Road along that section is a divided four lane highway separated by an approximately 10-15-foot-wide vegetated median. Accordingly, in-bound traffic from the Pali to Kailua will have to execute a left-hand turn across oncoming traffic to access the Wai'auia Cultural Center and indeed most of Subarea D. Notwithstanding DNLR's claim that traffic will only be minimally impacted, it does not require an engineering study to determine that tour buses executing left hand turns along this section will necessarily obstruct the flow of traffic while waiting for oncoming vehicles to clear since the rear of the bus will project into traffic lanes as the median is not wide enough to accommodate the entire length of a tour bus. The obstruction will be particularly acute during peak traffic. The closer the Cultural Center is to Hāmākua Drive, the more problematic the traffic will be since the Hāmākua Drive/Kailua Road intersection is already heavily congested from all four directions even during non-peak hours.

Adding five access points along the Kapa'a Quarry Road is an invitation to disaster with large industrial sized vehicles and blind curves at many locations.

Subarea B, across from Kalaheo High School, is also heavily trafficked as is Oneawa Road, which is the most direct route connecting the east and west ends of Kawainui Marsh. Adding tour buses to the mix of Oneawa traffic poses an unacceptable hazard to the hundreds of pedestrians along this street, many of whom are destined for the strip's dozen or so bus stops as well as homes, churches and commercial establishments.

INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS WILL ADVERSELY IMPACT THIS "PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JEWEL".

During the first six months of 2017, 10.92 tons of rubbish was gathered, bagged and air lifted from the Kalalau section of the Napali Coast State Wilderness Park on Kauai. http://dlnr.Hawai'i.gov/blog/category/news/forestry-wildlife/trail/page/2/. This is an extreme but compelling example of the deleterious impacts humans can have on Hawai'i's public recreational areas. With respect to the Project, the DEIS projects a 300% increase in visitors to the area, an increase of 7,450 over the current level of 2,500 visitors/month. See, Table 2.6, DEIS p. 184. By far the biggest increase is anticipated to occur at the educational center at Pōhakea along the

Kapa'a Quarry Road. Id. more specifically, visitor activity there is expected to jump from 250 to 6,000/month! Id. The human impacts will undoubtedly increase accordingly. These impacts include not only trash and litter, but the unauthorized feeding of feral cats that prey on waterbirds, human encroachment on endangered waterbirds breeding and nesting habitats, the increased presence of domestic dogs brought in by visitors, unauthorized feeding of waterbirds, human criminal activity and homeless encampments.

A number of State, federal and local government bodies have expressed grave concerns about the increased human footprint resulting from the approval of this DEIS. For example, the US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS"), responding to the DLNR's Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice ("EISPN"), noted the potential negative impact on a number of endangered species including the Hawai'ian Hoary Bat, the Hawai'ian Stilt, Hawai'ian Coot, Hawai'ian Gallinule, and the Hawai'ian Duck, especially during the breeding season. The FWS also announced reservations regarding the potential feeding of endangered waterbirds, the increased number of domestic dogs and the expansion of feral cat colonies caused by visitors feeding these predators. See, DEIS p. 684.

Responding to the EISPN, Hawai'i District 50 (Kailua-Kaneohe) Representative Cynthia Thielen penned a variety of concerns over an increased public presence in the area. DEIS pp. 773-775. Ms. Thielen noted that Kailua already has been

> struggling to manage and plan for the growing influx of visitors which venture into our residential community to tour "the sites." It is no longer true that visitors primarily come to Kailua to visit the beaches as HHF has responded in their comments. Visitors come to visit what is now being marketed as "charming Kailua town", hike our many trails, and are hungry to visit locations "off the beaten path". One only has to look at the issues Maunawili Valley is facing with the degradation of the popular Maunawili Falls Trail to see what the future may hold for Kawainui. Currently DLNR's enforcement capabilities are already stretched beyond the limits and have proven inadequate with respect to increased public presence along Maunawili Falls Trails remove homeless encampments which are established inside the Marsh. How are we going to enforce protections against those venturing into the marshlands as part of a "off the beaten track" recreational tour? Who will fund enforcement, and who will take responsibility for keeping pets/people/ecological tours from disturbing this **precious environmental jewel**?

DEIS p. 774. The DEIS states that DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement ("DOCARE") will handle monitoring and enforcement of the rules and regulations in the Project Area. But Rep. Thielen's letter suggests that DLNR's monitoring and enforcement has been less than adequate, at least insofar as Maunawili Valley is concerned. DEIS p. 775. DLNR press releases appear to support this observation, revealing that DOCARE has also been struggling to keep intruders out of Sacred Falls and restricted areas of Manoa Falls.

Senator Laura Thielen, O'ahu District 25 (Kailua-Waimanalo-Hawai'i Kai) also received a copy of the EISPN and weighed in on the issue noting that public recreational lands all across the State are "severely undermanaged and unmanaged." DEIS p. 758. She also observed that "DLNR would be grossly negligent to fail to address operational and management needs in its Master Plans for new and expanded public recreational areas." Id. Even so, *the DLNR only proposes to add one more DOCARE officer* to monitor the Project Area. DEIS, p. 182.

management and which are related to recreation, education and cultural awareness (e.g. miles of roads, length of fencing, number and size of buildings, building footprint acreage etc.). The basis for the claim appears to be the sheer size of Subarea A, which encompasses Kawainui Marsh, and hence is "associated with" the majority of natural resource management activities. However, with respect to actual physical improvements, these appear to cluster along a relatively short linear distance on the rim of the wetlands. See, DEIS pp. 752-761. Accordingly, their visual impact will be greater than otherwise would be expected.

INSUFFICIENT DESIGN DETAILS. The DEIS states, that "accessory support facilities are proposed at various locations along the pedestrian trails. Facilities would include observation decks, shelters (e.g. open pavilion), restrooms, interpretive devices, and directional signage (Exhibit 2.17) . . .The actual location and design of these facilities would be determined during the design phase as improvements are implemented, and may involve refinements to the site location and design characteristic due to terrain and topography of the area." DEIS § 2-45, p. 135. Doesn't the design and location of these facilities impact the environment, especially in ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands? An Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete without these details.

According to the DEIS: "Visitors may come into contact with endangered waterbirds during the construction and operation of these facilities. Development of these facilities would be coordinated with DOFAW to minimize adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds from facility construction and operation. Mitigative measures such as avoiding construction of facilities during waterbird nesting season would occur to minimize adverse impacts." DEIS §2-60, p. 155. Under Hawai'i Administrative Rules §§ 11-200-16 Environmental Impact Statements Content Requirements, "[t]he environmental impact statement *shall* contain an explanation of the environmental consequences of the proposed action. The contents *shall* fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed action and *shall* discuss all relevant and feasible consequences of the action." The content requirements for a DEIS include not only the significant beneficial and adverse impacts (including cumulative impacts and secondary impacts), but also the "proposed mitigation measures." HAR §11-200-17(a)(2) & (3) (emphasis added). The DEIS fails to meet these requirements by failing to describe the mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds from human contact during the construction and operation of the proposed Project.

For all the foregoing reasons, and others set forth in comments submitted by citizens, legislators, community groups and the neighborhood board, the Windward Coalition has concerns that this plan does not adequately protect the fragile ecosystem of the wetlands.

Mahalo for considering our concerns,

Windward Coalition Executive Board

Eileen Hilton, President

Kim Tomey, Secretary

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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AUG 0 9 2019

Ms. Eileen Hilton, President
Ms. Kim Tomey, Secretary
Windward Coalition Executive Board
P.O. Box 342102
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Hilton and Ms. Tomey:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses below that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *As you know, the State of Hawai'i ("State"), Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR"), Division of Forestry and Wildlife ("DOFAW"), in partnership with the Division of State Parks ("DSP"), has proposed developing the Kawainui-Hamakua marsh and surrounding area[1] on the windward side of O'ahu pursuant to a Master Plan Project ("Project") Draft Environmental Statement ("DEIS") dated November 8, 2017. Please accept these written comments to the DEIS prepared by the Windward Coalition ("WC") Executive Board on behalf of the entire WC membership.*
   The WC strongly opposes the Master Plan in its current form. This plan does not appear to advance the DLNR's stated mission to "enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources." Instead, the project, estimated by the DLNR to increase visitors by 300%, adds five access points along the Kapa'a Quarry Road, as well as additional access points along heavily trafficked Kailua Road. These and other proposed changes will further degrade Hawai'i's largest fresh-water wetland, home to thousands of plant and animal species, including several that are endangered.
   Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project in its current form, and recognize your opposition to visitors to Kailua and any project improvements you perceive that may increase visitors. We disagree with your opinion that project improvements do not advance the State DLNR mission. Your comment regarding the mission statement fails to include, "improve public access and outdoor recreational opportunities that align with sustainability objectives, support cultural practices, and increase stewardship opportunities", which is

stated in the first paragraph of Chapter 2. As discussed in Section 2.1 of the DEIS, several agency mission and project objectives would be achieved by the project.

Project improvements would support all visitors (resident and non-resident) and improve managed public access, which are elements of agency missions. However, it is unlikely that Kawainui would become a major tourist attraction to the extent you may envision. The projected number of visitors reflect a reasonable estimate that could be appropriately managed and accommodated at Kawainui. This visitor level would not have an adverse effect on the environment. Additional responses are provided below to address your visitors-related concerns.

Vehicular driveway access locations along Kapa'a Quarry Road are intended to provide necessary access to upland areas. Five access locations already exist for DOFAW and DSP (Section 1.3.3 of the DEIS). Driveway access to upland areas is not an issue because access is a necessary feature of property management. However, we acknowledge your concerns which are likely attributable to your general opposition to visitors and thus providing public access that may accommodate them. It should be clarified that no new access points are proposed for this project along Kailua Road (Section 1.3.3).

We disagree that project improvements would further degrade the Kawainui wetland. The ecological character of Kawainui is not pristine but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive non-native vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are also alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. The restoration initiatives proposed under this project would ensure endangered waterbirds have improved wetland habitat.

a. *According to the World Wildlife Fund, wetlands "are some of the most productive habitats on the planet... they provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit humanity, including water filtration, storm protection, flood control and recreation...Without wetlands, cities have to spend more money to treat water for their citizens, floods are more devastating to nearby communities, storm surges from hurricanes can penetrate farther inland, animals are displaced or die out, and food supplies are disrupted, along with livelihoods." Rather than taking a protective and preserving approach to the wetlands, the Project emphasizes development and increasing the human footprint on this ecologically sensitive and vulnerable area.*
   Response: It should be clarified that the project does not propose "developing" the Kawainui-Hāmākua marsh (wetland). Wetland restoration would occur with the wetland areas that encompass about 724 acres (73%) of the project area. Other site improvements (e.g. structures, trails) would occur within upland areas that are not ecologically sensitive and have been previously disturbed (e.g. ranching, City baseyard) from prior uses.

   We agree that wetlands can have productive habitats, provide a range of ecosystem benefits, support flood control and recreation, as you cite from the World Wildlife Fund. Project improvements are intended to restore the degraded Kawainui wetland and enhance waterbird habitat. Section 2.1 discusses the need and objectives for this

project that would be met by proposed improvements, which include factors (e.g. flood control, recreation) you identify.

We disagree with your perception that the project emphasizes "development." This resource is degraded and requires restoration and stewardship versus protection and preservation of existing conditions. Buildings and other structures encompass small areas and footprints within previously disturbed upland sites of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment as discussed in the DEIS impact sections. Chapter 2.2 discusses that site improvements (e.g. parking areas) are planned to be designed to use pervious material, and low-impact design (LID) elements (e.g. bioswales, bioretention areas). Buildings are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements, and incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines.

2. *KAWAINUI MARSH SHOULD BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION*
The original Master Plan for the Project Area, developed in 1994 in conjunction with Ho'olaulima Ia Kawainui, a network of conservation organizations that included the Hawaii Audubon Society, was undertaken with the goal of preserving Kawainui Marsh. The proposed Master Plan no longer includes one of the primary goals of its original: the removal of the peat layer that is choking the marsh, reducing its flood storage capacity and hastening its demise from open wetlands to swamp. This Project will rim Kawainui Marsh with thousands of square feet of maintenance buildings, "comfort stations" i.e. restrooms, other purpose buildings, pavilions, kiosks, viewing decks, storage facilities, parking lots, and roads.
Response: The 1994 master plan for Kawainui includes proposals to preserve and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the area. However, the Executive Summary of the 1994 report, clarifies that master plan improvements "consist of developments within the marsh which will help the public to learn about, appreciate, and enjoy the marsh. These improvements will ensure preservation of the marsh through increased public awareness of its resource values. Features of the improvements include a visitor center, cultural parks, ethnobotanical gardens, commercial taro lo'i, waterbird habitat enhancement, passive parks, trails, and overlooks." The proposed project includes similar concepts.

The project includes removal of invasive vegetation and the peat layer that is choking open water areas within the Kawainui wetland as a core function of proposed improvements. Proposed wetland restoration activities include mechanical methods and localized application of approved herbicide to remove vegetation and the peat mat (Section 2.2.1). There is no "original condition" established or associated with Kawainui's marsh, but restoration efforts would improve the wetland's function and enhance its use for waterbird habitat consistent with DOFAW objectives.

The 1994 plan included concepts for a visitor center with restrooms and observation decks, interpretive shelters, several park sites with pavilions and parking lots, and a pedestrian trail (Section 2.1.1). This section also provides a comparative discussion of the 1994 plans with current project plans. Maintenance buildings are proposed for DOFAW's research and management station and vegetation processing site. A difference between the proposed

project and the 1994 plan is that cultural centers are now proposed to support native Hawaiian cultural practices, educational programs, and stewardship of areas due to the cultural significance of Kawainui to the native Hawaiian community. Also, the several park sites proposed in 1994 have been eliminated, and areas such as Mokulana are now planned for program areas instead.

3. *The Resource Management Alternative (pp. 206-207), favored by the Windward Coalition, was rejected by the DLNR as not satisfying the requirements of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund ("LWCF") Act or the core missions of the DOFAW and DSP to support cultural practices and educational programming.*
Response: We acknowledge your organization's support for the Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) alternative plan (Resource Management Alternative), which you refer to as pages 206-207. It should be noted that those page references are associated with the pdf file of the DEIS, and the actual page numbers of the DEIS are 2-108 and 2-109. Recommendations found in the programs and operations, resource management and restoration, and support features topics of the KNB plan are generally consistent with the proposed project with regard to wetland restoration, removal of alien species, preservation to historic sites, and habitat enhancement. However, there were significant differences with their recommended interpretive facilities and support features, along with opposing establishment of a permanent cultural presense at Kawainui. Key elements of the project's purpose and need for improving public access and outdoor recreation are not met by the alternative plan. There is essentially no accommodation for reasonable public access. Inconsistency with Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) objectives was just one of several factors that resulted in the elimination of that alternative.

   a. *However, Section 6(f) of the LWCF Act does not require the State to do anything other than preserve Section 6(f) lands for outdoor recreational use. According to the Congressional Research Service, LCWF "grants are provided for outdoor recreation purposes only, rather than for indoor facilities such as community centers." https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33531.pdf (emphasis added).*
   Response: The Congressional Research Service (CRS) report you reference is a report addressing issues related to the Congressional "funding" under this Act, such as the optimal level of funding for the LWCF and its individual components, and whether to retain discretionary appropriations or provide additional mandatory appropriations. The CRS report states that the LWCF Act of 1965 was enacted to help preserve, develop, and ensure access to outdoor recreation facilities. Your quote from the CRS report is consistent with the project objectives as improvements are intended for outdoor recreation purposes, rather than for indoor facilities. The education center and kauhale complex proposed at Pōhakea, within LWCF lands, support outdoor recreation by serving as a starting point for visitors to Kawainui, and as a base location for managing and accessing pedestrian trails in surrounding areas along Kahanaiki and at Nā Pōhaku. Management of public access is a concern raised by the community, and the education center would support that management. The KNB alternative provides no accommodation for reasonable public access and passive outdoor recreation opportunities. Section 6.2 of the DEIS addresses project consistency with LWCF

requirements. LWCF regulations do require more than just "preserving" lands for outdoor recreational use.

b. *The required Section 6(f) outdoor recreational purpose is already being largely accomplished via the popular running/hiking trail along the top of the flood control levee that traverses the north side of the marsh. Hence, using Section 6(f) as an argument in favor of expanding closed door, man-made facilities around Kawainui Marsh is specious.*
Response: The present level of public access and outdoor recreation provided at Kawainui does not adequately comply with LWCF requirements based upon DSP consultations with the National Park Service. Therefore, DSP needs to provide more public access and outdoor recreation opportunities within the areas purchased by the State using these federal funds. Outdoor recreation is not being met by the flood control levee because that levee is not part of LWCF lands as shown on Figure 6.1 of the DEIS. Therefore, improvements supporting increased public access and outdoor recreation within LWCF lands under Section 6(f) of the Act is not specious.

4. *The DEIS minimizes the importance of community opposition. See, DEIS §7.6, p. 628. Given the DLNR, DOFAW, and DSP mandate to serve the residents of this State, public opposition from the surrounding community would seem to present not merely an unresolved obstacle, but an insurmountable one.*
Response: The DEIS does not minimize the importance of community opposition. Section 4.2.2 discusses community issues, and Appendix A includes comment letters received on the EISPN. Section 7.6 of the DEIS is meant to identify unresolved issues, and recognizes that some of the community, such as your organization, are opposed to improvements supporting public access and visitors to Kailua. However, there are many organizations and residents of the community supporting this project. For example, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs comprised of 58 clubs representing thousands of members from the State of Hawai'i and the mainland unanimously supported this project by adopting a resolution at their annual convention in 2014 (Section 8.1.2). Other notable organizations supporting this project include the Sierra Club of Hawai'i Executive Committee, Blue Planet Foundation, and the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and their membership.

The DEIS process allows for community input to be received that is considered by DOFAW and DSP. DOFAW and DSP have considered comments in the DEIS and have made several changes, reducing the level of improvements initially planned that would have supported public access and visitors to Kawainui. Some improvements proposed to be eliminated from this project include portions of the pedestrian trail and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Attached is a section from the Final EIS (FEIS) that summarizes these changes. Nevertheless, Kawainui is a State resource that should be shared with the public. The State has been considering the broader public interest throughout this process that includes residents of Kailua, residents of O'ahu, and the State.

5. *The DEIS stresses that a portion of the Project Area is a Ramsar wetland of "international importance," and argues that "Ramsar supports sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices, and views sustainable tourism as maintaining a high level of visitor satisfaction, ensuring a meaningful experience, and raising awareness about sustainability issues." DEIS §7-13, p. 629. The terms "sustainable tourism," "recreational use" and "cultural practices" appear nowhere in the Ramsar Treaty whose Preamble provides:*

CONSIDERING the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl;

BEING CONVINCED that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable;

DESIRING to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future;

RECOGNIZING that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource;

BEING CONFIDENT that the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with coordinated international action; https.

Indeed, the fact that the area is a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance dictates a more conservative approach to the treatment of the area since the mission of the Ramsar Convention is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world." The emphasis in "sustainable development" is on sustainable not development

Response: Section 6.1.1 discusses Ramsar, its mission, philosophy, and other actions taken by the international organization as part of "Working Groups" to address the various components supporting its mission. Instead of relying on statements from a Preamble of the treaty, the various written actions and policies implemented by the organization to meet its mission for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and achieving sustainable development should be considered. The actions and guidance issued by Ramsar address the areas of sustainable tourism, recreational use, and cultural practices that are all components of the wise use and sustainable development mission.

For example, in 2008, Ramsar issued an adopted guidance document that supported incorporating cultural values in the wise use of wetlands (Section 6.1.1). Other Ramsar documents and brochures identifying wetlands constitute a resource of economic, scientific, cultural, and recreational value for the community. Section 6.1.1 also discussed the 2012 resolution on tourism that recognized wetlands having opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation necessary for human well-being. Section 1.5.1 of the DEIS also provided background on Ramsar sites across the U.S. that include visitor centers and other amenities supporting passive outdoor recreation. Further, the Ramsar nomination form submitted for Kawainui-Hāmākua in 2005 noted: the cultural significance and value of this site; conservation education programs and activities; recreation values that included creating the Gateway Park and constructing a pedestrian pathway for the public; and tours of the natural and cultural history bringing about 200 visitors at a time.

We disagree with your perception that the Ramsar mission is on "sustainable" and not "development." Their mission is on "sustainable development" as demonstrated by the many supporting Ramsar resolutions, guidance documents, etc. that cover various activities to support wise use of the wetland, from recreational activities, tourism, and cultural practices. Project improvements support this mission and associated components by providing: 1) managed and now more limited public access with some support facilities (e.g. restrooms, pavilion) for passive outdoor recreation; and 2) areas for cultural centers to support cultural practices, educational programs and stewardship opportunities by non-profit organizations.

6. *THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL AGGRAVATE ALREADY WORSENING KAILUA VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.*
One of the heaviest anticipated uses within the proposed Project Area is the Wai'auia Cultural Center in Subarea D. See, DEIS Table 2.7, p. 188. Subarea D borders Kailua Road over its length from below Kapa'a Quarry Road past Castle Medical Center and on to Hamakua Drive.
Response: The project would not significantly aggravate traffic conditions along this roadway. Section 5.6 discusses the traffic impacts resulting from the project. Most programs and activities at Wai'auia would occur after work or during early evenings on weekdays when traffic is not heavy on the Honolulu-bound traffic lanes of Kailua Road. As discussed in that section, about 20 daily vehicle trips (10 entering, 10 exiting) would result at the Wai'auia cultural center site, and not significantly impact traffic along Kailua Road.

   a. *Kailua Road along that section is a divided four lane highway separated by an approximately 10-15-foot- wide vegetated median. Accordingly, in-bound traffic from the Pali to Kailua will have to execute a left-hand turn across oncoming traffic to access the Wai'auia Cultural Center and indeed most of Subarea D.*
   Response: Regarding traffic access to the Wai'auia site along Kailua Road, you are correct that this four-lane divided highway is currently separated by a wide vegetated median. Because of this median divider, there would be no left-turns available from Kailua Road to enter the Wai'auia site, and the project does not propose changing this divided median. Thus, only right-turns into and out of this site would be allowed, minimizing disruptions to the town-bound side of Kailua Road.

   In addition, most of Kailua Road along Subarea D is a divided highway with a median barrier. No Kailua-bound left-turns into existing access driveways from this roadway corridor is permitted, and the project does not propose to create such turning movements. Access along this section of Kailua Road would consequently be restricted to rights-turn into and out from sites. The Mokulana site is proposed for program and DOFAW management activities that would further reduce the low number of vehicles entering these driveways on a daily basis.

   b. *Notwithstanding DNLR's claim that traffic will only be minimally impacted, it does not require an engineering study to determine that tour buses executing left hand turns along this section will necessarily obstruct the flow of traffic while waiting for oncoming vehicles to clear since the rear of the bus will project into traffic lanes as the median is not wide enough to accommodate the entire length of a tour bus. The*

obstruction will be particularly acute during peak traffic. The closer the Cultural Center is to Hamakua Drive, the more problematic the traffic will be since the Hamakua Drive/Kailua Road intersection is already heavily congested from all four directions even during non-peak hours.
Response: There are no "tour buses" proposed to be entering the Wai'auia site as you suggest. Commercial tours for tourist are not proposed at these cultural centers (Section 2.2). Therefore, there would be no issues with tour buses obstructing the flow of traffic along Kailua Road, as you suggest.

7. *Adding five access points along the Kapa'a Quarry Road is an invitation to disaster with large industrial sized vehicles and blind curves at many locations.*
Subarea B, across from Kalaheo High School, is also heavily trafficked as is Oneawa Road, which is the most direct route connecting the east and west ends of Kawainui Marsh. Adding tour buses to the mix of Oneawa traffic poses an unacceptable hazard to the hundreds of pedestrians along this street, many of whom are destined for the strip's dozen or so bus stops as well as homes, churches and commercial establishments.
Response: There are five "existing" access points along Kapa'a Quarry Road for DOFAW and DSP (Section 1.3.3). A new access is proposed for the parking area near Kalaniana'ole Highway, and a second new access would be near the model airplane park to serve the vegetation processing site. Kapa'a Quarry Road is generally straight in alignment and has adequate site distance for these new driveway access locations. There is one section of the road north of Nā Pōhaku that has a curve and slight dip in the road. However, there is no access driveway proposed at that location. Site distance at proposed driveways can also be improved by reducing tall vegetation along the roadway at driveways.

As already explained, there are no commercial tour buses planned under this project. Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS explains that permits authorizing commercial activities (e.g. commercial tours) are not planned to be issued by DOFAW or DSP. Therefore, the project would not contribute to commercial tour buses along Oneawa Street, and would not pose unacceptable hazards to pedestrians along this road. Furthermore, current project improvements do not involve the Kalāheo site because no project-related improvements are proposed. Park improvements at that site are already allowed and entitled from prior approvals.

8. *INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS WILL ADVERSELY IMPACT THIS "PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JEWEL".*
During the first six months of 2017, 10.92 tons of rubbish was gathered, bagged and air lifted from the Kalalau section of the Napali Coast State Wilderness Park on Kauai. http://dlnr.Hawaii.gov/blog/category/news/forestry-wildlife/trail/page/2/. This is an extreme but compelling example of the deleterious impacts humans can have on Hawai'i's public recreational areas.
Response: We disagree that increased public access will adversely impact this environmental "jewel." As already discussed, the ecological character of Kawainui is not pristine, but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive non-native vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are also alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems.

The DSP recognizes the importance of the management of State parks to prevent situations that require a cleanup effort similar to the Kalalau section of the Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park. That example was an extreme case as it was due to the dismantling of large illegal camps (long-term squatters) in the valley. However, since DSP's sustained management and enforcement efforts with the State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), park condition have vastly improved. In addition, DSP staff have indicated that permitted visitors were generally not responsible for the degradation of resources at this park, which were due instead to illegal campers. DOFAW and DSP similarly have identified several measures to manage public access within Kawainui (Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS). Therefore, conditions such as that which occurred at Nāpali are not expected at Kawainui. The Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park is different from Kawainui in that it is the State's largest and most remote park, has campsites, allows hunting, hiking, and commercial boat tours.

a. *With respect to the Project, the DEIS projects a 300% increase in visitors to the area, an increase of 7,450 over the current level of 2,500 visitors/month. See, Table 2.6, DEIS p. 184. By far the biggest increase is anticipated to occur at the educational center at Pohakea along the Kapa'a Quarry Road. Id. more specifically, visitor activity there is expected to jump from 250 to 6,000/month! Id. The human impacts will undoubtedly increase accordingly.*

Response: The projected number of visitors reflect a reasonable estimate of persons that could be appropriately managed and accommodated at Kawainui. This visitor level would not have an adverse effect on the environment based upon the DEIS results. The percentage change noted may seem high, but such numbers can be misleading unless they are put in proper context. The monthly projected increase averages to about 250 persons a day, which is moderate and manageable. The education center is planned to serve as the main focal point for visitors. However, it is misleading to presume environmental impacts would increase correspondingly based upon visitor numbers.

The type of visitors to Kawainui are likely to be persons having interest in and respect for the environment. Visitation can be characterized as being nature-based outdoor recreational activity for viewing and photographing wildlife (birds), natural scenery (wetland) and historic sites. Also, based upon national publications, visitors viewing wildlife and photographing nature-based scenery tend to be people with higher education and incomes based upon national outdoor recreation trends. Participation tends to be higher among people ages 35 to 54, those having some college to post graduate education, as well as those earning more than $50,000 per year. As a result, visitors would tend to be more responsible in their actions. In comparison, issues with trash and unauthorized activities should not be significant or similar to Nāpali that was primarily due to illegal camps occurring there. Proposed management activities would further mitigate such activities.

b. *These impacts include not only trash and litter, but the unauthorized feeding of feral cats that prey on waterbirds, human encroachment on endangered waterbirds breeding and nesting habitats, the increased presence of domestic dogs brought in by visitors,*

unauthorized feeding of waterbirds, human criminal activity and homeless encampments.
Response: Visitor interaction with waterbirds should be minimal because visitor access would be limited to specific areas and along pedestrian trails. Vegetative buffers are also planned along wetland fringes to provide separation from open water areas, mud flats, and wetland vegetation (Section 3.3.2). Therefore, visitors should not have a significant effect on waterbird breeding and nesting habitat, which would also be located further within the wetland. Domestic dogs would not be allowed within the public access areas, and should not be a concern. Furthermore, issues with domestic dogs would be related to actions by residents as opposed to tourists.

Appropriate signage would be placed in areas to notify visitors of the site's importance, the legal status of protected waterbirds, and the restrictions on public usage and behavior, such as prohibiting the feeding of feral cats and other wildlife. The education center is intended to serve an important function to provide visitor education materials and guidance, and support monitoring of activities within upland areas.

The number of visitors within designated upland areas would not dissuade establishment of homeless encampments and criminal activity, as such concerns are more related to opposition to providing public access. DOFAW removes such encampments, and appreciates support from the community to identify them and notify DOFAW of their location. Project improvements also support creating partnerships with non-profit organizations and increasing stewardship of areas that support monitoring activities. The City existing model airplane park is a good example of such cooperation. Reduced secluded areas make it less likely that homeless camps can be established and criminal activities would occur, because of increased visibility and public awareness. Visitors are also likely to be persons having more interest and respect for the environment reducing such concerns.

9. *A number of State, federal and local government bodies have expressed grave concerns about the increased human footprint resulting from the approval of this DEIS. For example, the US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS"), responding to the DLNR's Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice ("EISPN"), noted the potential negative impact on a number of endangered species including the Hawai'ian Hoary Bat, the Hawai'ian Stilt, Hawai'ian Coot, Hawai'ian Gallinule, and the Hawai'ian Duck, especially during the breeding season. The FWS also announced reservations regarding the potential feeding of endangered waterbirds, the increased number of domestic dogs and the expansion of feral cat colonies caused by visitors feeding these predators. See, DEIS p. 684.*
Response: We disagree with your opinion that a number of government agencies have expressed "grave concerns" about the project related to increasing public access based upon the EISPN comments letters included in Appendix A of the DEIS. Letters from several agencies had no comments, and many provided standard comments, or provided reasonable requests for more information to address certain areas as opposed to expressing grave concerns about the project.

The Fish and Wildlife Services' comments were addressed in a response letter included in Appendix A of the DEIS. Comments on the Hawaiian hoary bat included standard measures to not disturb taller trees (15 feet tall) during the bat birthing and rearing season. The DEIS includes those measures as minimization recommendations. Comments on waterbirds were reasonable to ensure management of visitor activities, and our response letter clarified that visitors and vehicles would not be allowed to enter the wetland. The education center would provide beneficial opportunities to educate the public about not feeding wildlife. Domestic dogs are not permitted, and would be undesired activities associated with residents visiting Kawainui as opposed to tourists.

10. *Responding to the EISPN, Hawai'i District 50 (Kailua-Kaneohe) Representative Cynthia Thielen penned a variety of concerns over an increased public presence in the area. DEIS pp. 773-775. Ms. Thielen noted that Kailua already has been*

    struggling to manage and plan for the growing influx of visitors which venture into our residential community to tour "the sites." It is no longer true that visitors primarily come to Kailua to visit the beaches as HHF has responded in their comments. Visitors come to visit what is now being marketed as "charming Kailua town", hike our many trails, and are hungry to visit locations "off the beaten path". One only has to look at the issues Maunawili Valley is facing with the degradation of the popular Maunawili Falls Trail to see what the future may hold for Kawainui. Currently DLNR's enforcement capabilities are already stretched beyond the limits and have proven inadequate with respect to increased public presence along Maunawili Falls Trails remove homeless encampments which are established inside the Marsh. How are we going to enforce protections against those venturing into the marshlands as part of a "off the beaten track" recreational tour? Who will fund enforcement, and who will take responsibility for keeping pets/people/ecological tours from disturbing this precious environmental jewel?

    Response: Our response to Representative Thielen's EISPN comment letter was included in Appendix A of the DEIS. Our response clarified that the ecological character of Kawainui is not pristine or an "environmental jewel," but is a degraded resource that requires restoration. We acknowledged her concerns and opposition to visitors to Kailua, but addressed the Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements to improve public access as reasons for proposed improvements.

11. *DEIS p. 774. The DEIS states that DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement ("DOCARE") will handle monitoring and enforcement of the rules and regulations in the Project Area. But Rep. Thielen's letter suggests that DLNR's monitoring and enforcement has been less than adequate, at least insofar as Maunawili Valley is concerned. DEIS p. 775. DLNR press releases appear to support this observation, revealing that DOCARE has also been struggling to keep intruders out of Sacred Falls and restricted areas of Manoa Falls.*

    Response: The State DLNR DOCARE officers would be responsible for enforcement actions within the project area, if warranted, and would work in partnership with DOFAW and DSP. Representative Thielen's comments (actually on page 770 of the DEIS pdf file) does suggest the need for more DOCARE officers to support enforcement, and was responded to. The DEIS discusses the need for additional officers to support security and enforcement to manage public access (Section 2.2.5). One management option discussed is to not open

additional areas to public access (e.g. trails) if agencies are unable to manage them (which includes having sufficient DOCARE officers). Thus, the project would be implemented in phases subject to funding by the Legislature.

12. *Senator Laura Thielen, O'ahu District 25 (Kailua-Waimanalo-Hawai'i Kai) also received a copy of the EISPN and weighed in on the issue noting that public recreational lands all across the State are "severely undermanaged and unmanaged." DEIS p. 758. She also observed that "DLNR would be grossly negligent to fail to address operational and management needs in its Master Plans for new and expanded public recreational areas." Id. Even so, the DLNR only proposes to add one more DOCARE officer to monitor the Project Area. DEIS, p. 182.*
Response: Senator Thielen's comments on the EISPN were addressed by our response letter (Appendix A of the DEIS), which included her comments regarding the State having unmanaged lands (actually on page 754 of the DEIS pdf file). Management of public access is discussed in Section 2.2.5 of the DEIS, and proposes that two (2) DOCARE officers be permanently assigned to Kawainui (page 2-90 of the DEIS).

13. *management and which are related to recreation, education and cultural awareness (e.g. miles of roads, length of fencing, number and size of buildings, building footprint acreage etc.). The basis for the claim appears to be the sheer size of Subarea A, which encompasses Kawainui Marsh, and hence is "associated with" the majority of natural resource management activities. However, with respect to actual physical improvements, these appear to cluster along a relatively short linear distance on the rim of the wetlands. See, DEIS pp. 752-761. Accordingly, their visual impact will be greater than otherwise would be expected.*
Response: It appears that Page 5 of your response letter was not included in the hardcopy letter we received nor in the pdf file (named "img-206143124.pdf") of the letter included as an attachment to your email of February 6, 2018. Therefore, our responses are to those comments actually received within the deadline.

Your comments regarding management are discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS, which includes descriptions of improvements related to structures, building footprints, fencing, etc. As indicated in Table 2.1 of the DEIS, Subarea A includes wetland areas of Kawainui of about 741 acres, or about 75% of the entire project area. Natural resource management activities are proposed for this wetland area as discussed in Section 2.2.1. Other project improvements supporting cultural practices, outdoor recreation, and public access are located within previously disturbed upland areas around the southern and western (mauka) boundaries of this wetland. We note that your comment referencing pages 752 to 761 of the DEIS refers to a portion of Senator Thielen's EISPN comment letter and a portion of our response letter. Concerns with the project's visual impact were discussed in Section 4.6 of the DEIS. Most structures would not be visible from scenic stationary viewing locations or major roadways due to the presence of tall and thick vegetation bordering the Kawainui property. With the elimination of some improvements due to community concerns about public access, potential visual concerns with structures would be further diminished. This includes elimination of several open pavilions (e.g. Mokulana) and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site as already addressed.

14. *INSUFFICIENT DESIGN DETAILS. The DEIS states, that "accessory support facilities are proposed at various locations along the pedestrian trails. Facilities would include observation decks, shelters (e.g. open pavilion), restrooms, interpretive devices, and directional signage (Exhibit 2.17)...The actual location and design of these facilities would be determined,during the design phase as improvements are implemented, and may involve refinements to the site location and design characteristic due to terrain and topography of the area." DEIS § 2-45, p. 135. Doesn't the design and location of these facilities impact the environment, especially in ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands? An Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete without these details.*

Response: The DEIS is complete even though it does not have specific design details and locations for accessory support facilities proposed for pedestrian trails. Information on such support facilities are adequately described in the DEIS, which includes graphics depicting their conceptual design, for which impacts can be identified and evaluated. Conceptual project plans in Section 2.2 show the general locations for such facilities, and the various sections of the DEIS addresses their impacts. These accessory facilities are located within previously disturbed upland areas and are not within the wetland. They are also already exempt from having to prepare an Environmental Assessment under State regulations because they have been determined to have minimal impact on the environment, such as signage, fencing, and restrooms.

15. *According to the DEIS: "Visitors may come into contact with endangered waterbirds during the construction and operation of these facilities. Development of these facilities would be coordinated with DOFAW to minimize adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds from facility construction and operation. Mitigative measures such as avoiding construction of facilities during waterbird nesting season would occur to minimize adverse impacts." DEIS §2-60, p. 155. Under Hawai'i Administrative Rules §§ 11-200-16 Environmental Impact Statements Content Requirements, "[t]he environmental impact statement shall contain an explanation of the environmental consequences of the proposed action. The contents shall fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed action and shall discuss all relevant and feasible consequences of the action." The content requirements for a DEIS include not only the significant beneficial and adverse impacts (including cumulative impacts and secondary impacts), but also the "proposed mitigation measures." HAR §11-200-17(a)(2) & (3) (emphasis added). The DEIS fails to meet these requirements by failing to describe the mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts to endangered waterbirds from human contact during the construction and operation of the proposed Project.*

Response: The reference to visitors potentially coming into contact with waterbirds is from the description of the cultural center proposed at Kapa'a. People and activities occurring near streams or wetlands may come into contact with waterbirds flying or traveling to adjacent areas, which already include the commercial and industrial businesses along Hāmākua marsh, residences along Kawainui Canal, and other residences within the Kūkanono subdivision. Residences along the shoreline or a bay may also come into contact with endangered seabirds. Section 3.3.2 adequately discusses these effects, including short-term construction activities, and presents mitigative measures that can be implemented. However, the main potential impact to waterbirds would be associated with disturbance of birds during

the nesting season. Nesting activities would not occur within the upland area of the proposed cultural center site.

In compliance with the environmental regulations cited, the DEIS does declare the environmental implications of the proposed action and discusses relevant and feasible consequences. Section 3.3.2 addresses such effects and identifies several measures in sufficient detail. Such measures include: 1) searching nesting habitat by an experienced biologist to determine if nesting is occurring; 2) holding construction in abeyance until it is determined that nests have been abandoned or hatched; 3) preventing visitors to the education center from entering the wetland except at designated areas; 4) providing vegetative buffers along wetland fringes for separation from upland areas; and 5) imposing additional restrictions on public access within certain areas.

16. *For all the foregoing reasons, and others set forth in comments submitted by citizens, legislators, community groups and the neighborhood board, the Windward Coalition has concerns that this plan does not adequately protect the fragile ecosystem of the wetlands.*
Response: We acknowledge your organization's concerns with the project. The project will improve and restore this degraded wetland resource, and provide public benefits that meet Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements on public access. Management practices discussed in the DEIS, further reductions to improvements initially proposed, and the various mitigative measures discussed would support this resource.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area

   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

Ronald Sato

From: Lara Wilcox <larawilcox808@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:09 PM
To: Ronald Sato; marigold.s.zoll@hawaii.gov
Subject: NO DEVELOPMENT of Kawainui Marsh

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To Whom it May Concern,

I am not sure what side of the island you reside on, but I have lived in Kailua for over 26 years. In that time, I have seen Kailua change dramatically. Kawainui Marsh is one of the few places that our community has left. I beg you to please leave the area alone.

I appose ALL or ANY development of Kawainui Marsh.

Mahalo,
Lara Wilcox
808-386-9815
larawilcox808@gmail.com
This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content using Worry-Free Mail Security and is believed to be clean.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Ms. Lara Wilcox

Via Email: larawilcox808@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Wilcox:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email dated February 5, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided the following responses to your comments.

I am not sure what side of the island you reside on, but I have lived in Kailua for over 26 years. In that time, I have seen Kailua change dramatically. Kawainui Marsh is one of the few places that our community has left. I beg you to please leave the area alone.
I appose ALL or ANY development of Kawainui Marsh.
Response: We acknowledge your opposition to the project. Kailua has changed over several decades and Section 4.2 of the DEIS discusses the demographic factors, establishment of several new subdivisions, migration of new residents to Kailua, and the growth of visitors to Kailua, as contributing factors to the changing character of Kailua since the 1970's. These factors have generated several community issues discussed in this section.

It should be clarified that Kawainui is a State resource of international importance for the general public to enjoy. This resource is not being "lost" as public access is presently limited. The ecological character of Kawainui is not pristine, but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation to address expansive invasive vegetation. All terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are harmful to native ecosystems. The years of Kawainui's neglect while owned by the City has resulted in its degradation that is now being managed by the State DLNR.

Proposed improvements reflect an appropriate use of Kawainui's upland areas. Improvements support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Project improvements

would enhance wetlands, waterbird habitat, and support educational programs, public access, stewardship of areas, and cultural practices. The project provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct educational programs, cultural practices and activities given the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Kawainui Vista Association
Theresa Paulette Winn
628 Hanale Place
Kailua HI. 96734

January 22, 2018

HHF Planners
Attn: Ronald A. Sato, AICP, Senior Associate
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Comments on the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project

Aloha:

On behalf of the Kawanui Vista Association we express support of the following statement from David Smith, as stated in his letter, dated November 24, 2017, addressed to Ms. Donna Wong, Chair, Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31:

...a main focus of the project: includes wetland restoration and reforestation improvements that would enhance habitat for endangered waterbirds. The project supports Ramsar objectives, agency missions, provides managed public access and outdoor recreation, and supports cultural practices. The interest of the entire State of Hawaii needs to be considered because Kawainui is a state resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy."

We support, however, we have the following comments, questions, and request:

We feel the 20 year project is ambitious in regards to plans, funding, and management, implementing in phases will allow for practical adjustments. As wonderful as the plans are that were conveyed at the January 18, 2018 meeting, the most important issue remains the impact on the health and aesthetics of the marsh/wetland. The secondary issue is funding, maintenance, and security.

Aesthetically, we question the high number of planned structures (52) as being not only an aesthetic detraction, but increases the need for funding, maintenance, and security. Limiting that number would also help to lessen the discomfort level of many in the community.

Regarding the pathways, we are concerned and request that the needs of privacy and safety of all the residents bordering the marsh need to be reasonably balanced with the needs of the entire State of Hawaii to visit the marsh/wetlands. Kawanui Vista Subdivision has been noticeably excluded in this planning process.

We specifically call to your attention Pedestrian Trail, 2-71, referring to Kukanono Subdivision, which states:

"The trail would be routed along the base of the adjacent hillside approximately 250 to 300 feet away from the residences of the Kukanono subdivision, and buffered by vegetation associated with the hillside.

While Levee to Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park, 2-68, referring to Kawainui Subdivision states:

"Fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision, a boardwalk about 365 feet long would be required for the trail to cross over wetland, while providing a 100-foot buffer from the residences on top the bluff. The specific alignment and requirements for this trail section would be determined during a later design phase when DOFAW is ready for its implementation."

We question:

- Why such a disparity? 250-300 feet to 100 feet buffer away from residences?
- Top of the bluff? The 5 residences at Kawainui Vista that border the marsh start at or near the top of the bluff and are built down the slope, some ending approximately 100 feet from the edge of the marsh. The property lines are basically at the edge of the marsh.

We request:

- Clarification on disparity of distances for placement of pathways for the two subdivisions mentioned above.
- Clarification on proposed measurements of distance of Kawanui Vista residences and property lines from proposed wooden walkway.
- Also, we are requesting an on-site meeting at Kawainui Vista with HHF and DLNR to meet in-person and discuss.

Mahalo,

Theresa Paulette Winn

Kawainui Vista Association
By Theresa Paulette Winn, Vice President

cc: State of Hawaii, Division of Land and Natural Resources
Attn: Marigold S. Zoll
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Ms. Theresa Paulette Winn, Vice President
Kawainui Vista Association
628 Hanale Place
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Dear Ms. Winn:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your letter dated February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *On behalf of the Kawanui Vista Association we express support of the following statement from David Smith, as stated in his letter, dated November 24, 2017, addressed to Ms. Donna Wong, Chair, Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31:*
...a main focus of the project: includes wetland restoration and reforestation improvements that would enhance habitat for endangered waterbirds. The project supports Ramsar objectives, agency missions, provides managed public access and outdoor recreation, and supports cultural practices. The interest of the entire State of Hawaii needs to be considered because Kawainui is a state resource of international importance for the entire public to enjoy."
Response: We acknowledge the association's support for wetland restoration and upland reforestation improvements proposed by this project, and your reeognition that Kawainui is a State resource of international importance to the general public. We note that the November 24, 2017 letter to Ms. Donna Wong you cited referred to her position as Chair of the Planning, Zoning and Environment Committee in response to their comments on the EIS Preparation Notice.

2. *We support, however, we have the following comments, questions, and request:*
We feel the 20 year project is ambitious in regards to plans, funding, and management, implementing in phases will allow for practical adjustments.
Response: Proposed project improvements reflect a reasonable effort to support the project purpose and objectives. Improvements support Ramsar objectives, agency missions, and

federal requirements under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for public access and outdoor recreational opportunities. Improvements would enhance wetlands and waterbird habitat, and support educational programs, public access, stewardship of areas, and cultural practices. The project provides opportunities for non-profit organizations to establish a permanent presence at Kawainui to conduct educational programs and cultural practices consistent with the history and cultural importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

Adequate funding from the State Legislature would be required to implement the project. Improvements will be phased subject to legislative appropriations (Section 2.2.8 of the DEIS). DOFAW and DSP recognize the importance of sound management. Areas will be opened for public access on a phased basis reflecting funding. Using this phased approach allows for practical adjustments to improvements and access. Section 2.2.5 discusses other management actions proposed.

a. *As wonderful as the plans are that were conveyed at the January 18, 2018 meeting, the most important issue remains the impact on the health and aesthetics of the marsh/wetland.*
Response: The project would not have a significant or adverse effect on the Kawainui and Hāmākua wetlands or their aesthetics as discussed in pertinent sections of the DEIS. Wetland restoration efforts would improve the degraded condition of Kawainui. The ecological character of Kawainui is not pristine, but is a degraded resource that requires wetland restoration and upland reforestation efforts to address expansive invasive vegetation. In addition, all terrestrial mammals currently found within the project area are alien species and are deleterious to native ecosystems.

b. *The secondary issue is funding, maintenance, and security.*
Response: Funding is important, and the phased implementation of the project would occur based upon available funding. Various measures were discussed in the DEIS in Section 2.2.5 to address security and management of activities because avoiding negative effects from project improvements is a priority. Having additional State DLNR, Division of State Parks (DSP) personnel being funded to support management of programs and activities along with additional State DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers are identified to address security concerns. Without such funding support, implementation of many improvements would need to be deferred. However, the purpose for this DEIS is to describe the entire project so that impacts can be addressed. The level of facilities proposed is reasonable. Many facilities are accessory for public access (e.g. signage, open pavilion). Their maintenance would be the responsibility of DOFAW and DSP. The proposed cultural centers would be constructed and maintained by non-profit organizations.

c. *Aesthetically, we question the high number of planned structures (52) as being not only an aesthetic detraction, but increases the need for funding, maintenance, and security. Limiting that number would also help to lessen the discomfort level of many in the community.*
Response: The project includes several buildings. However, only looking at a particular number of structures does not put them into proper perspective. Several structures are accessory open pavilions to support outdoor recreation and provide shade

for program participants. Other structures include needed restrooms. Several are for DOFAW research and management station operations. The majority of structures are associated with cultural centers planned to be operated by non-profit organizations to conduct cultural practices, educational programs, and support stewardship of their areas.

As discussed in Section 2.2, proposed buildings and other structures encompass small sites and footprints within previously disturbed upland areas of the larger Kawainui area, and would not adversely impact the environment. Site improvements would be designed using pervious material, low-impact design (LID) elements (bioswales, bioretention areas), and buildings are intended to reflect traditional and sustainable design elements. They will also incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) concepts or other similar sustainable building guidelines.

Due to community concerns with increasing public access and visitors to Kawainui, several improvements proposed in the DEIS have been removed from project plans. Such components include sections of the pedestrian trail (Mokulana and Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau), pavilions, and the hale wa'a at the Kalāheo site. Currently, about 28 "structures" are proposed and they would total less than one acre (43,560 square feet) in total floor area. These structures would not have a significant visual impact (Section 4.6). Attached is a section from the Final EIS (FEIS) that summarizes these changes.

3. *Regarding the pathways, we are concerned and request that the needs of privacy and safety of all the residents bordering the marsh need to be reasonably balanced with the needs of the entire State of Hawaii to visit the marsh/wetlands. Kawanui Vista Subdivision has been noticeably excluded in this planning process.*
We specifically call to your attention Pedestrian Trail, 2-71, referring to Kukanono Subdivision, which states:
"The trail would be routed along the base of the adjacent hillside approximately 250 to 300 feet away from the residences of the Kukanono subdivision, and buffered by vegetation associated with the hillside.
While Levee to Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park, 2-68, referring to Kawainui Subdivision states:
" Fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision, a boardwalk about 365 feet long would be required for the trail to cross over wetland, while providing a 100-foot buffer from the residences on top the bluff The specific alignment and requirements for this trail section would be determined during a later design phase when DOFAW is ready for its implementation."
Response: We acknowledge your concerns about privacy and safety for residents along Kawainui. Proposed pedestrian trail plans reflect a reasonable balance between areas and privacy/safety. It should be noted that the City developed a proposed pathway plan around Kawainui and completed an Environmental Assessment for that plan in 2003. The current project incorporates previous pathway plans and general alignments. Privacy and safety concerns for residents were considered in the planning and environmental review process, particularly with regard to the pedestrian trail along the Wai'auia to Kūkanono subdivision area. Section 2.2 of the DEIS discusses trail improvements and measures to address safety

concerns. However, the section of the pedestrian trail fronting the Kawainui Vista subdivision has been eliminated to address community concerns.

The Kawainui Vista Subdivision has not been noticeably excluded from the project planning process, which has been ongoing since late 2010. There has been significant effort to notify the Kailua community about this project. Comments from Kawainui Vista residents have been received. Outreach activities included five public informational meetings (which had legal notices published), several smaller community and stakeholder meetings, a public project website, a social media presence, and coverage over the years by traditional news media.

4. *We question:*
    - *Why such a disparity? 250-300 feet to 100 feet buffer away from residences?*
    - *Top of the bluff? The 5 residences at Kawainui Vista that border the marsh start at or near the top of the bluff and are built down the slope, some ending approximately 100 feet from the edge of the marsh. The property lines are basically at the edge of the marsh.*

Response: The 250- to 300-foot buffer along the Kūkanono subdivision is a result of the existing steep hillside. Homes situated on the bluff are physically separated from the wetland. The Kawainui Vista Subdivision is situated next to the wetland. Therefore, a 100-foot buffer was proposed to provide a reasonable separation. Providing a 250-to 300-foot buffer would not be practicable because the boardwalk needed along this trail section would need to extend well into the wetland. If this section of the trail had not been eliminated, consideration could have been given to routing the boardwalk further away from homes to increase the buffer.

Instead of a "bluff," the five homes along the wetland could be described as being on an elevated area above the wetland. Those residential structures are close to State property and the wetland. DOFAW is planning to install perimeter fencing along the State property line as part of management activities for Kawainui, which would better delineate the boundaries of properties along the wetland.

5. *We request:*
    - *Clarification on disparity of distances for placement of pathways for the two subdivisions mentioned above.*
    - *Clarification on proposed measurements of distance of Kawanui Vista residences and property lines from proposed wooden walkway.*
    - *Also, we are requesting an on-site meeting at Kawainui Vista with HHF and DLNR to meet in-person and discuss.*

Response: As explained under response No. 4, the disparity in distances for the pedestrian trail between subdivisions is due to the physical nature of the adjoining topography (the presence of the hillside that separates Kūkanono subdivision homes from the wetland). However, the section of the trail along the Kawainui Vista Subdivision has been eliminated from the project.

An on-site meeting with DOFAW is no longer needed due to the elimination of the trail section along the Kawainui Vista Subdivision. However, if the association would like a meeting in the future, you may contact our division as indicated below.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division and Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners

Overview of Master Plan Components

An overview of master plan concepts and proposed improvements is illustrated in Figure 2.4. They include the following main initiatives: 1) natural resource management; 2) cultural resource management; and 3) educational and recreational programs. Conceptual site plans for each subzone area are provided, and include discussion of site specific improvements.

The majority of the improvements are associated with natural resource management activities, such as wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, and upland reforestation. Table 2.1 presents a breakdown of the total acreage proposed for resource management and program activities. As shown in the table, over 93 percent of the project area would be limited to resource management activities. The remaining 7 percent or about 66 acres are proposed for "program activities," intended to support cultural, educational and recreational activities. These include improvements for DOFAW operations (management and research station), an education center for visitors, areas for conducting cultural practices, passive outdoor recreational activities, and support facilities (e.g. parking, rest rooms, shelters).

Project Revisions Since Draft EIS

Community concerns have been expressed associated with visitors to Kawainui resulting from project improvements which increase public access. Although such concerns were addressed in the Draft EIS and mitigative measures identified, DOFAW and DSP have decided to incorporate additional modifications to the project (Proposed Action) after evaluating these concerns. Revisions to proposed improvements have now been incorporated into concept plans to further reduce public access within Kawainui by eliminating some improvements. Reducing some areas proposed for public access and passive outdoor recreation would subsequently reduce the projected number of visitors.

Modifications include eliminating some sections of the pedestrian trail (boardwalks and a bridge), the hale wa'a, and some buildings shown at the cultural centers. Figure 2.4A identifies these revisions and a summary is provided below. More information on these modifications have been incorporated into other pertinent sections of this chapter.

1. Kahanaiki Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail leading to Mokulana peninsula and bridge over Kahanaiki Stream.
2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area
   a. Remove some segments of the pedestrian trail within this upland area. Only foot trails would be supported.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed at the kauhale complex at Pōhakea from about 8,250 sf to 5,300 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.

2. Pōhakea to Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine Area (continued)
   c. DSP plans to first provide an off-street parking lot, restroom facility (350 sf), and open pavilion (350 sf) to support programs either as an interim or permanent basis before proceeding with the education center.
3. Kapa'a Area
   a. Remove pedestrian trail section along Kapa'a Quarry Road from Nā Pōhaku to City Model Airplane Park.
   b. Reduce the total building floor area proposed for the cultural center at Kapa'a from about 9,600 sf to 7,200 sf by reducing the number of proposed structures.
   c. Reduce the number of vehicle driveway access locations serving the cultural center at Kapa'a to two instead of three.
4. Kapa'a to Kalāheo Area

   Changes proposed result in improvements at this site to only those already approved by the City Kawai Nui Gateway Park proposal. The project (Proposed Action) does not include any new improvements to this site. DSP may also not implement construction of the approved pedestrian bridge across Kawainui Canal.
   a. Remove hale wa'a structure and canoe storage at the Kalāheo park site.
   b. Restrict canoe launch activities into Kawainui Canal to only schools by permit.
5. Wai'auia to Ulupō Heiau Area
   - Remove pedestrian trail from the levee to Ulupō Heiau, including the boardwalk.
6. DOFAW Management Station to Mokulana Area
   a. Remove two observation decks within DOFAW's management station area, and the interpretive pavilion at the park site below (southwest) the management station.
   b. Remove pedestrian trail and two viewing pavilions at Mokulana. Mokulana peninsula would only be used for DOFAW management activities and authorized educational and cultural programs.
   c. Remove pedestrian trail from Mokulana connecting to Kahanaiki upland area.

2.2.1 Natural Resources Management Activities

Project improvements are intended to meet the project need for resources restoration and support for DOFAW management, maintenance operations, and research programs. Major initiatives include:

- Wetland Restoration
- Upland Reforestation
- Storm Water Runoff Improvements
- Improvements Supporting DOFAW Operations

February 6, 2018

Ronald A. Sato, AICP
Senior Associate, HHF Planners
Via Email: rsato@hhf.com

C: Ms. Marigold Zoll
O'ahu Forestry and Wildlife Manager, State of Hawai'i
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Via Email: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Aloha mai kāua,

I am writing this letter to voice my support for the The Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project DEIS of December 2017.

I am an employee of the Kailua based Hawaiian non-profit Hika'alani and we serve as the stewards of the Ulupō heiau and surrounding lands. In my role as Pāku'i hou, I am responsible for the coordination, scheduling, planning, and working on the ground with our volunteer groups, community groups, and school groups. Given our good standing and formal agreements with both the DLNR and the YMCA, in 2017 we were able to engage with over 3200 members of our community and assist in the reconnection of people to these sacred ancestral sites of Ulupō, Kūkanono, and Kawainui. The imediate paradigm shift that occurs in our community as they learn the stories of these places and step into the foot holds of our kupuna are unbelievable. Wether the groups are from our Kailua ahupua'a or another, they all arrive with a preconceived notion of what Kailua is, and more often than not it is not positive. However as the leave, they leave with a new understanding of the signifigance and importance of what Kailua was in the past, what it is now, and what it can be once again in the future. None of these ideals include a town overrun with foreign investment, tourism, and the loss of Hawaiian people, language, or culture. What is envisioned and reimagined still exists, if one knows how to view it. We still have the largest agricultural heiau on the island. We still have springs flowing out of the base of Ulupō and into lo'i kalo (taro patches), the waters of the Kawainui fishpond is still there beneath the invasive species, and we still have the people who know how to care for these resources. All it takes are safe sites of connection in and around Kawainui for our community groups and school groups to access, learn, understand, and love, and I believe that the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master plan provides this.

It is well known that the health of people is mirrored in the health of the land and vice-versa. We know this connection is compounded when we analyze Hawaiian people and Hawaiian lands. Kailua lands are suffering, and so are its people. On this same notion however, if we work to clean and restore our lands, we are also restoring the health, identity, and survivance of the people. This point was inextricably seen as we hosted a Kailua school at Ulupō. We were told that this particular batch of students were the "problem" students, and that they lacked empathy. However as they stepped into the lo'i kalo filled with Ulupō heiau spring water and felt the cool mud between their toes as they

pulled weeds in the lo'i, they imediately changed. Students who usually didn't interact with one anothr started to work together. When one fell down the others helped them up. Weeks later their teacher reported back that this positive change in the students that has taken hold at Ulupō was maintained and still existed in the classroom.

As everyone knows, this master plan is not just about Kawainui and Hamakua, but about the ahupua'a as a whole. I am confident that if we want to protect our ahupua'a we have to understand it. In order to understand it, we have to get onto the land, we have to learn the stories, and we have to teach it to our children. We know the heath of Kailua and Kawainui will continue to decline if we do nothing. We have no choice, we have to act to protect it, and I believe the Kawainui-Hāmākua Master plan is working to address this issue.

Ke aloha,

Bert Kaleomanuiwa Wong

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AUG 0 9 2019

Mr. Bert Kaleomanuiwa Wong

Via Email: kaleomanuiwa@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Wong:

Subject: Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai'i

Thank you for your email of February 6, 2018 providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the subject project. We have provided responses that have been organized under numbered headings corresponding to your comments.

1. *I am writing this letter to voice my support for the The Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS of December 2017.*
I am an employee of the Kailua based Hawaiian non-profit Hika'alani and we serve as the stewards of the Ulupo heiau and surrounding lands. In my role as Paku'i hou, I am responsible for the coordination, scheduling, planning, and working on the ground with our volunteer groups, community groups, and school groups. Given our good standing and formal agreements with both the DLNR and the YMCA, in 2017 we were able to engage with over 3200 members of our community and assist in the reconnection of people to these sacred ancestral sites of Ulupo, Kukanono, and Kawainui. The immediate paradigm shift that occurs in our community as they learn the stories of these places and step into the foot holds of our kupuna are unbelievable. Whether the groups are from our Kailua ahupua'a or another, they all arrive with a preconceived notion of what Kailua is, and more often than not it is not positive. However as the leave, they leave with a new understanding of the significance and importance of what Kailua was in the past, what it is now, and what it can be once again in the future. None of these ideals include a town overrun with foreign investment, tourism, and the loss of Hawaiian people, language, or culture. What is envisioned and reimagined still exists, if one knows how to view it. We still have the largest agricultural heiau on the island. We still have springs flowing out of the base of Ulupo and into lo'i kalo (taro patches), the waters of the Kawainui fishpond is still there beneath the invasive species, and we still have the people who know how to care for these resources. All it takes are safe sites of connection in and around Kawainui for our community groups and

school groups to access, learn, understand, and love, and I believe that the Kawainui-Hamakua Master plan provides this.
Response: Thank you for your support of the project. DOFAW and DSP both acknowledge your efforts and activities serving as a steward for Ulupō Heiau. We also acknowledge you sharing your experiences and success coordinating and working with volunteer groups, community groups, and school groups on educational and cultural programs at Ulupō Heiau. Your experiences and seeing the paradigm shift occurring with students and community members after participating in such programs serve as a good case in point and model of what can be accomplished by this project.

The project proposes improvements to support efforts by non-profit organizations to promote and expand education and cultural practice for children and adults. Accessory improvements, such as restrooms, open pavilions, managed pedestrian trails, along with a nursery and hālau planned at Ulupō Heiau would support and enhance such programs. Improvements are intended to provide safe sites to connect Kawainui with improved access and support facilities to enhance such programs. Your efforts support stewardship of Ulupō Heiau which contribute to the continuing restoration of wetland and upland areas (loʻi kalo) and helping DSP monitor activities.

2. *It is well known that the health of people is mirrored in the health of the land and vice-versa. We know this connection is compounded when we analyze Hawaiian people and Hawaiian lands. Kailua lands are suffering, and so are its people. On this same notion however, if we work to clean and restore our lands, we are also restoring the health, identity, and survivance of the people. This point was inextricably seen as we hosted a Kailua school at Ulupo. We were told that this particular batch of students were the "problem" students, and that they lacked empathy. However as they stepped into the lo'i kalo filled with Ulupo heiau spring water and felt the cool mud between their toes as they pulled weeds in the lo'i, they immediately changed. Students who usually didn't interact with one another started to work together. When one fell down the others helped them up. Weeks later their teacher reported back that this positive change in the students that has taken hold at Ulupo was maintained and still existed in the classroom.*
Response: The connection between the health of the land and its people is important. DOFAW and DSP acknowledge your efforts, along with the non-profit organization Hikaʻalani, that support restoration efforts. The native Hawaiian cultural connection with the land is important, and project improvements are intended to support such cultural practices and the emphasis on living culture. Establishing a permanent cultural presence at Kawainui would support continued and expanded restoration efforts, educational programs, and cultural practices that benefit everyone. We are impressed to hear success stories such as that shared with a Kailua school.

3. *As everyone knows, this master plan is not just about Kawainui and Hamakua, but about the ahupua'a as a whole. I am confident that if we want to protect our ahupua'a we have to understand it. In order to understand it, we have to get onto the land, we have to learn the stories, and we have to teach it to our children. We know the health of Kailua and Kawainui will continue to decline if we do nothing. We have no choice, we have to act to protect it, and I believe the Kawainui-Hamakua Master plan is working to address this issue.*

Response: Project improvements would help support and restore this important resource within the watershed and the ahupua'a. We concur that understanding this resource is important. Experiencing such stories and activities enhance learning. This project is working toward restoration of the resource and its protection.

Thank you for your participation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ati Jeffers-Fabro of Division and Forestry and Wildlife at 973-9788.

Sincerely,

David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

cc: Ronald Sato – HHF Planners