

Stephen K. Yamashiro
Mayor

Donna Fay K. Kiyosaki
Chief Engineer

Jiro A. Sumada
Deputy Chief Engineer

County of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
25 Aupuni Street, Room 202 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
(808) 961-8321 • Fax (808) 961-8630

April 8, 1997

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MR MICHAEL D WILSON
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU HAWAII 96809

**SUBJECT: MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY BYPASS
NORTH AND SOUTH KONA, HAWAII ISLAND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of Hawaii, through its Department of Public Works (DPW) has been working with Oceanside 1250 on the development of a major new highway linking North and South Kona between Keauhou and Captain Cook. This bypass highway will provide an alternative access between North and South Kona which is currently accessible only through the existing Mamalahoa Highway between the Villages of Honalo and Captain Cook.

More specifically, as a condition of approval of Ordinance Nos. 96-7 and 96-8, Oceanside 1250 is required to construct the bypass highway to mitigate the traffic related impacts of Oceanside's Villages at Hokukano project. Conditions (M) and (L), respectively, of these ordinances require that "roadway improvements and access . . . to the subject project shall meet with the approval of the Department of Public Works." The conditions further require Oceanside to "construct the Mamalahoa Highway Bypass in its entirety between the approximate vicinity of Keauhou and Captain Cook"

In accordance with this condition, the DPW had determined that the preferred alignment of the Mamalahoa Highway Bypass would link Alii Highway in the vicinity of Keauhou, North Kona, with the Mamalahoa Highway-Napoopoo Road intersection at Captain Cook, South Kona. A portion of the route of the preferred alignment extends through a corner of the Kealakekua Bay Historic District which is on both the State and National Register of Historic Places.

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Letter to Mr. Michael D. Wilson, Chairman BLNR
Page 2
April 8, 1997

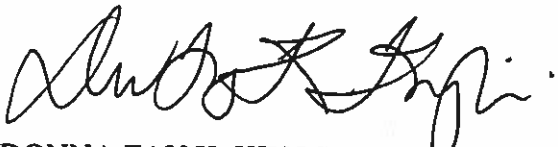
Accordingly, the roadway project must comply with the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, related to Environmental Impact Statements. Under Section 11-200-4(b), Hawaii Administrative Rules, relating to Environmental Impact Statement Rules:

Whenever an applicant proposes an action, the authority requiring statements and for accepting any required statements that have been prepared shall rest with the Agency initially receiving and agreeing to process the request for approval.

As the responsible Agency for determining the final alignment as well as roadway standards and construction specifications pursuant to Ordinances Nos. 96-7 and 96-8, we believe that DPW has the responsibility for the administration of the Environmental Impact Statement process. Additionally, this Department will have the primary participatory role and responsibility for supervising and approving the project as a whole. As the same time, we recognize the Department of Land and Natural Resource's (DLNR) interest in this matter as related to the Historic Preservation Division's oversight responsibility over the Kealahou Bay Historic District.

Accordingly, this letter confirms my conversation of April 8, 1997 with Mr. Gilbert Coloma-Agaran, DLNR Deputy Director, that DLNR concurs that the County of Hawaii's Department of Public Works will serve as the responsible agency for ensuring compliance with the requirements of Chapter 343, HRS. In doing so, please be assured that we will fully involve your staff in the coordination and review of the Environmental Impact Statement, especially as it relates to historic sites.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions or require any further information, please feel free to call me.



DONNA FAY K. KIYOSAKI, P.E.
Chief Engineer.

xc: Don Hibbard, Administrator, DLNR-SHPD
Planning Director
Engineering Division