

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



George Yoshida  
Director

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## County of Hawaii

### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

25 Aupuni Street, Room 210 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8311

August 28, 1998

Mr. Gary Gill, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
235 South Beretania St., Ste. 702  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment  
Hookena Beach Park Improvement Project  
Kauhako, South Kona, Hawaii  
TMK: (3) 8-6-13: 20-25 & 47

Dear Mr. Gill:

This is in response to your comments dated August 20, 1998, regarding the above-described matter. Your comments are addressed as follows:

1. **Shoreline Setback Area:** None of the proposed improvements are proposed within the shoreline setback area. Figure 2 will be amended to indicate the approximate location of the shoreline setback line.
2. **Landscaping:** The removal of the trees will be kept to a minimum. Landscaping for the proposed project is limited to the grass topping for the leach field.
3. **Flora and Fauna:** Although the Hawaiian Hawk (*Buteo solitarius*) and the Hawaiian Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) are known to be present in the general vicinity, the project site has not been identified as a significant resource for either the bat or the hawk. It should be noted that both the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Ecological Service, had no comments to offer regarding this matter. Based on the foregoing, we believe that there are other areas more appropriate for interpretive signage regarding the Hawaiian Hawk and the Hawaiian Hoary Bat.
4. **Photographs:** Unfortunately, we do not have any available photographs of the project site. As such, we will not be including any photographs in the final environmental assessment.

5. **Consultation With Affected Community Groups:** We are not aware of any community group or organization that exists within the project area. There will be at least two other opportunities for public input on the proposed project because the project will require a Conservation District Use Permit as well as a Special Management Area (SMA) Permit. Public notices will be published in the newspapers and surrounding property owners within 300 feet of the project site will receive individual notices of the public hearing scheduled for the SMA Application.
6. **Wastewater:** We share your concern about the possibility of leachate directly discharging into the ocean. As such, we will work with the State Department of Health to ensure that the proposed wastewater system complies with all of the applicable health and safety regulations.

Thank you for your comments to the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed project. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

  
George Yoshida  
Director