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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
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WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

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February 20, 2002

Mr. Chris Yuen, Director
Planning Department
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Yuen:

**SUBJECT: Hokuli'a Development—Opening of the Shoreline Park
North and South Kona, Hawaii Island**

On February 19, 2002 we met with representatives of Hokuli'a to discuss several matters related to the ongoing development. One of the issues that was discussed was the requirements for opening the shoreline park. It is our understanding that one of the County permits linked the opening of the park with opening of another aspect of the development. Hokuli'a officials asked us to write you to clarify our position on the park opening.

We view the shoreline park as equivalent to a historic preserve. The entire park, plus the lease of adjacent State coastal lands, is committed to preservation in the historic preservation agreements on this project. There are a large number of significant historic sites in the shoreline park area, including important house sites, religious sites, and burials. The preservation plans for this preserve are to interpret a number of the housing and religious sites, for educational benefits for the local public. Recreational uses are compatible with the historic preservation uses, as long as an acceptable preservation plan is in place, to help ensure protection of the historic sites. We need to re-emphasize this point. The shoreline park/historic preserve must have an acceptable preservation plan in place to ensure site protection, before the park is opened to the public. Hokuli'a understands our concerns and agrees with this position.

Hokuli'a will soon be submitting us the first draft of the detailed preservation plan. We suspect we will have some recommended revisions. Also, the public and local Hawaiian groups need to have an opportunity to review the plan and provide us with comments. Thus, progress is being made and all parties have the proper intent to see that quality plan is in place. But, it is our view that the park should not be opened until there is an approved preservation plan in place.

If you should have any questions about this matter please contact our Hawaii Island archaeologist, Patrick McCoy (692-8029).

Aloha,

DON HIBBARD, Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division

PM: amk

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c. **Bob Stuit, Hokuli'a
Kai Markell and Kamao Mills, Burial Sites Program**