

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation, Hawai'i County, HI. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Public Assistance Grant Program (PA).

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice for DR-4366-HI was published June 1, 2018. Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. EO 11988 and EO 11990 requires FEMA to consider alternatives and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined the only practicable alternative is to fund the channelization of Pohoiki Bay to allow ocean access from the existing boat ramp. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. There is a potential for the channel to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the VE Flood Zone. The proposed work will take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will affect wetland values but will also increase the useful life of the facility.

Applicant: Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation

Project Title: PW00056; 63713; Navigable Channel – DLNR Pohoiki Boat Ramp

Location of Proposed Work and Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels:

Facility	GPS	FIRM Panels	FIRM Date
Pohoiki Boat Ramp	19.457591, - 154.842494	1551661214F	9/29/2017

Proposed Work and Purpose: As a result of the Hawai'i Kilauea Volcanic Eruption and Earthquakes disaster of 2018, Pohoiki Bay was inundated with volcanic sand, cobble, and boulders, obstructing the existing boat ramp. The proposed project will create a channel through volcanic debris deposited in Pohoiki Bay to reconnect the landlocked boat ramp to the Pacific Ocean. Approximately 42,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed by on-land excavation

and mechanical dragline dredging. A portion of the material will be used in the backshore area to fill ponds created by the accumulation of volcanic debris in the bay. The remaining dredged material will be moved to the main final disposal site which includes the lava land mass that covered the eastern end of the park, and the adjacent area of entirely new accretion land. The purpose of the project is to restore function to the existing boat ramp.

Project Alternatives:

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in a continued disruption of services provided by the boat ramp. If service is not restored, then adverse economic and social impacts may occur and continued negative impacts may be experienced.
- (2) *(Repair in-kind or Repair with Minimization)* Repairs made in-kind would have a greater environmental impact and may result in similar damages from future flood events.
- (3) *(Relocation)* Floodplain avoidance by relocating the boat ramp is not a practicable alternative as it is functionally dependent on its location in the floodplain.

Comments: This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA Public Assistance program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9, 1111 Broadway #1200, Oakland, CA 94607, or by emailing jeffrey.smyly@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "PW00056; 63713; Navigable Channel – DLNR Pohoiki Boat Ramp" at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15th DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING.

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON the 4th DAY OF December 2024

*****END OF NOTICE*****