STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

April 13, 2017

BOARD OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII
HONOLULU, HAWAII

REGARDING:

Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) HA-3782 for the Kekaha

Kai State Facility Improvement Project

APPLICANT:

DLNR - Division of State Parks

AGENT:

DLNR - Engineering Division

LOCATION:

North Kona District, Island of Hawaii

TMKs:

(3) 7-2-005:002, 003 & 007; 7-3-043:001; 7-2-004:003, 009, 017 & 019

AREA OF PARCELS:

1642 acres

AREA OF USE:

20+ acres

SUBZONE:

Resource

DESCRIPTION OF AREA:

The Kekaha Kai State Park encompasses 1,642 coastal acres in Kona (Exhibit 1), and was designed to be a low-key park to preserve the natural landscape of the Kona shoreline. The park is divided into two main sections, 1) the Mahai'ula section (southern end of park) and, 2) Manini'ōwali section (northern end of park), each with specific proposed uses and facility improvements (Exhibit 2). The park is bounded by the ocean on the west, by Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway (State Highway 19) on the east, by Kona International Airport lands on the south, and by residential development in the north. In addition, the privately owned ahupua'a of Makalawena separates the two Stateowned park areas (Exhibit 3).

For planning and permitting purposes the park was further divided into three (3) sections along ahupua'a boundaries: the **Mahai'ula section** (which also includes lands in Kaulana Ahupua'a); the **Awake'e section**; and the **Manini'ōwali section** (which also includes lands in Kūki'o Ahupua'a). It should be noted that no facilities located in the **Awake'e section** are included in this current proposed project and therefore will not be discussed. Different levels of use were proposed for each of these sections, the idea was to allow for slightly different park experiences; it should be noted

that each section has a mauka-makai access/trail and is crossed by the lateral coastal trail system known as the Ala Kahakai.

The **Mahai'ula section** is located at the southern end of the park, adjacent to the Keahole Airport and is closest to the urban communities of North Kona. This portion of the park includes the largest bay, as well as the largest sandy area of the park. There are currently ten (10) picnic tables, four (4) barbeque pits, separate men's and women's vault toilets, and parking for approximately 100 vehicles (**Exhibit 4, 4a**).

The Manini'ōwali section was recently provided established access in 2004, by the construction of a paved access road in this area – the access road construction led to this area becoming the most visited section of the park. This section includes Kua Bay which is accessed by visitors, residents, and hotel guests staying nearby the park. This section of the park was designed for more moderate levels of use due to the lower carrying capacity of the resources. The beach and bay are smaller than Mahai'ula, however there are restrooms with running water, beach access via a concrete ramp, picnic tables, an outdoor shower as well as a 35-space parking area for vehicles – it should be noted that parking often overflows to the access road shoulder in this area (Exhibit 5, 5a).

Floral and Faunal Resources

Although currently undeveloped, Kekaha has a history of centuries of direct human use, and it has also been affected over the last hundred years by non-native and common invasive animals and plants.

An approved 2003 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involved studies of flora and fauna for the entire park area. The applicant has stated that vegetation observed in the park during the 2003 EIS was considered sparse, as large portions of the park are open lava fields (Exhibit 6). Denser and taller stands of trees and coconut palms are generally found near the shoreline and near ponds. where trees can obtain water from groundwater sources. Other areas are barren or sparsely vegetated with grasses, bushes or short trees. A botanical survey conducted in 1995 identified six vegetation community types in the Mahai'ula section: 1) Coastal, 2) Pond, 3) Fountain grass grassland, 4) Kiawe forest, 5) Sparse 'a'a, and 6) Roadside. The most common species in these communities are the non-natives fountain grass (Cenchrus setaceus) and kiawe (Prosopis pallida). Coastal areas are dominated by other non-natives such as tree heliotrope (Tournefortia argentea) and ironwood (Casuarina equisetifolia), but there are also many natives including hinahina (Heliotropium anomalum var. argenteum), naupaka (Scaevola sericea), pohuehue (Ipomoea pes-caprae), Pa'u O Hi'iaka (Jacquemontia ovalifolia ssp. sandwicensis) 'aki'aki (Sporobolus virginicus), kauna'oa (Cuscuta sandwichiana), and alena (Boerhavia repens). On many beaches, former residents planted trees that persist, including milo (Thespesia populnea), coconut (Cocos nucifera), false kamani (Terminalia catappa) and kou (Cordia subcordata).

Typical mammals at the park include small Indian mongoose (Herpestes a. auropunctatus), wild goats (Capra h. hircus), mice (Mus spp.), rats (Rattus spp.), domestic dogs, (Canis f. familiaris), feral cats (Felis catus), and perhaps donkeys (Equus a. asinus). None of these non-native mammals have conservation value and are considered deleterious to native flora and fauna. All reptiles and amphibians in Hawai'i are non-native; several species of geckos, anoles and skinks are likely present at the park, although staff believes these are common across the entire State.

With the important exception of resident shorebirds, the avifauna is dominated by non-native species such as Common Myna (Acroditheres tristis) and Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura). A avi-faunal survey conducted in 1995 (cited in the 2003 EIS) noted that three (3) endangered waterfowl species have been reported in the region: the Hawaiian duck or koloa (Anas wyvilliana), Hawaiian stilt or ae'o (Himantopus mexicanus knudseni), and Hawaiian coot or 'alae ke'oke'o (Fulica americana alai). The survey concluded that these birds are occasionally to frequently found at 'Opae'ula Pond. Other native birds including the night heron or auku'u (Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli); the Hawaiian owl or pueo (Asio flammeus sandwichensis); the Pacific Golden Plover or kolea (Pluvialis fulva), considered an indigenous "winter" species; the Wandering Tattler or ulili (Heteroscelus incanus); and the Ruddy Turnstone or akekeke (Arenaria interpres), another indigenous "winter" species, are frequently seen throughout the park. Beachgoers and park employees have observed the Hawaiian hoary bat (Lasiurus cinereus semotus); this endangered species is commonly observed in many parts of the Island of Hawai'i.

Also, observed during the floral and faunal surveys was the Blackburn's sphinx moth (Manduca blackburnii) that is present in most areas of Kona. Critical habitat for this species is present inland, approximately five miles from the park. The adult moth, which is less susceptible to disturbance than juvenile forms, feeds on nectar from native plants including beach morning glory (Ipomoea pes-caprae), ilie'e (Plumbago zeylanica), and maiapilo (Capparis sandwichiana). Moths may be present as eggs, pupae or larvae on annual or semi-perennial plants at some sites. This close relative of the tomato hornworm of North America was formerly common on all Hawaiian Islands. Its populations were drastically reduced because of the decline of its principal natural host plant, the native tree 'aiea (Nothocestrum spp.). Blackburn's sphinx moth has since been found to occasionally utilize non-native host plants, especially Nicotiana glauca (tree tobacco), but also N. tabacum (commercial tobacco), Solanum melongena (eggplant), Lycopersicon esculentum (tomato), and possibly Datura stramonium (Jimson weed). These members of the Solanaceae family are found widely distributed throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The report indicates that no individuals of any known host plants or other members of the Solanaceae family were observed within the area of potential effect for any of the proposed park improvements.

Although not listed as threatened or endangered currently, several rare native species of the yellow-faced bee are likely present at the park, including *Hylaeus anthracinus* and *H. flavipes*; these bees favor native and non-native plants.

Water Resources

The project site is on the shoreline of the North Kona District. There are no freshwater bodies at the project site, although anchialine ponds are present in certain areas of the coastline, including 'Opae'ula Pond near Makalawena and nearby ponds within Kekaha Kai State Park. A three-mile long fishpond named Pa'aiea existed near and south of Ka'elehuluhulu until it was covered by the a lava flow in 1801.

North Kona coastal waters have well documented marine biota, including extensive coral-based ecosystems. The nearshore water off Kekaha Kai State Park is used by boaters, swimmers, divers, and fishers, and maintenance of water quality is essential for preservation of natural ecosystems. Kona's oceanic waters also support several endangered and threatened mammal and reptile species. The endangered humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) winters in Hawaiian waters from

December to April. Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) are also often seen in the waters off Kekaha Kai State Park and on the sandy shoreline.

Existing Cultural, Architectural, and Archeological Resources

Kekaha Kai State Park comprises parts of six traditional ahupua'a in North Kona; Kaulana, Mahai'ula. Makalawena, Awake'e, Manini'ōwali, and Kūki'o. Because of the harsh, dry volcanic landscape on the Kona Coast, the ahupua'a concept resulted in small, dispersed, coastal settlements located near fresh water and a canoe landing at the shoreline. Due to this climate regime ocean resources and fertile upland areas appear to be more established than the coastal plain; this is evident by the dry, scrublands covered in extensive recent lava flows and deposits.

Extending from Keahole all the way north to Ka'elehuluhulu (the location where park improvements at Mahai'ula are proposed) was a three-mile long fishpond named Pa'aiea; this fishpond was covered by the 1801 lava flow. While this area is now barren lava flows, reconnaissance reports and State park observations indicate there are lava tubes and shelters located along the coastline. Verbal communication by long term residents of this area discussed the possibility of larger fishing ko'a features along the coast at Ka'elehuluhulu and Kawili that most likely were destroyed sometime in the past 100 years.

While the density of archeological and cultural features diminishes in the mauka lands, there are also agricultural mounds, shelters, and burials near the historic mauka-makai trails that run through the area. North of Kua Bay, on the old lava flow and the edge of Kakapa Bay, are other very significant structures, including burial platforms, a heiau-like structure, koʻa, and papamū. The historic trail continues on to Kikaua Point and Kūkiʻo Bay (Uluweuweu Bay) which along with the offshore rocks and the smaller cinder cone mauka of Kua Bay, have important associations with the "storied places" surrounding Maniniʻōwali.

Public access to various areas in the park is provided by two paved roads from the highway to parking lots near the coast that are open most days during daylight hours; by an unpaved roadway accessing the undeveloped Awake'e section of the park that is not maintained or managed for access; a coastal trail running the entire length of the park, and various mauka-makai trails.

PROPOSED LAND USES:

Kekaha Kai State Park has an annual visitation of 235,700, with 73,400 visiting the Mahai'ula Section and 162,300 visiting Manini'ōwali. It is estimated that 57% of these park visitors are from out-of-State and the other 43% are Hawai'i residents. There is a need for additional improvements at Kekaha Kai State Park to safely, equitably and efficiently accommodate the existing level of use at these parks, in keeping with the lowkey character of the park.

Due to the need for park improvements, the DLNR Division of State Parks (SP) is proposing several improvements to the existing facilities located in the Kekaha Kai State Park (KKSP). The proposed activities and land uses are listed below:

Manini'ōwali Section (Exhibit 7, 7a):

<u>Existing comfort station</u> — work includes the removal of existing plumbing fixtures and drinking fountains from outside shower area; patching and painting repair work; the construction of a "rest stop area" with an 8-foot by 2-foot concrete bench, and the placement of new steel tube gates at restroom entrances (**Exhibit 8**).

Two (2) freestanding outdoor showers – work includes the placement of a 22-foot by 24-foot concrete slab, new water piping, two (2) 7-foot high pipe columns with grab bars, and the installation of 4 shower heads (Exhibit 9).

Two (2) secured accessible picnic tables – work includes the placement of an 8-foot by 5-foot wood (or plastic) picnic table on a new 16-foot by 11-foot concrete slab.

Concrete walkway and steps — Work in this area includes the removal of a concrete reinforced masonry (CRM) "ramp", the construction of a new 22-foot by 12-foot concrete walkway, the construction of a new 14-foot by 12-foot concrete step structure with landings and handrails. A proposed CRM retaining wall is also planned although it may not be needed at this time (Exhibit 10).

Access road repairs – Work includes the installation of three (3) 20-foot by 3-foot "speed humps" and "speed hump" signs; two (2) signs will be placed for each "speed hump" for a total of six (6) signs (Exhibit 11).

Mahai'ula Section (Exhibit 12, 12a):

Access road repairs and fencing – The work will include the placement of "pavement overlay" to the existing access road, the placement of "speed humps" and associated signage, pavement patching, pavement removal, and/or the placement of new gravel as necessary to provide safe access (Exhibit 13).

<u>Parking area improvements</u> – Work in this area includes the clearing and compaction of two (2) existing areas on the side of the existing access road for improved parking: 1) 217-foot by 76-foot semi-circular area, and 2) 224-foot by 23-foot rectangular area, additional work includes the removal of dilapidated bollards and the installation of new bollards and signs – this work will accommodate 49 parked vehicles.

New storage and water tank building — Work includes the construction of an approximately 60-foot by 20-foot building that will connect to the existing "vaulted" toilet structures, the placement of new Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) retaining walls, the construction of a new 2,000-gallon water storage tank to provide water for cleaning and maintenance. Additional work includes repairs to the existing "vaulted" toilet structures, roofing and vent replacement, and the placement of a new 6-foot high chain link fence and gate (with barbed wire for security) (Exhibit 14, 14a, 14b).

Walkway handrail repair – Work includes "spot" repairs of four (4) broken and/or missing segments and the repainting of all the railings (**Exhibit 15**).

Existing "BBQ" pit repairs – work may include the placement of new grills, patching work of the grill footers, and the replacement of the existing rock façade.

New picnic table and "BBQ" pit — Work includes the placement of a 8-foot by 5-foot wood (or plastic) picnic table on a 16-foot by 11-foot concrete slab, the construction of a 8-foot by 6-foot CMU "BBQ" pit connected to the picnic table slab, and the construction of a 3-foot wide concrete pathway for accessibility purposes (Exhibit 16).

New "BBQ" pit — The work includes the construction of an 8-foot by 6-foot CMU "BBQ" pit to be connected to an existing picnic table concrete slab, the demolition of the existing hibachi stand, and the removal and relocation of an existing palm tree.

The applicant has stated that these improvements should provide increased recreational opportunities, support the development of cultural and educational programs, and preserve and enhance valuable natural and cultural resources. Additionally, staff believes these infrastructure and facility improvements are relatively minor as most work will be conducted at existing structures and is dispersed throughout the park.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) referred the application to the following state agencies for review and comment: DLNR – Hawaii District Land Office (HDLO), State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE), the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), and the Na Ala Hele program. Additional State Agencies include the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC), the State Department of Health (DOH), and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). The application was also provided to the County of Hawaii – Planning Department and County of Hawaii - Department of Water supply, as well as the Kailua-Kona Public Library and Kekaha Community Association for additional public review and comment.

Comments received from the following agencies have been summarized by staff as follows:

DLNR - Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)

DOFAW has reviewed the project description and we offer the flowing comments pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 195D (HRS 195D):

Water birds such as the Hawaii duck, Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian coot, and Hawaiian moorhen are likely to be attracted to the habitat at Ka'elehuluhulu pond. DOFAW is concerned about attracting vulnerable birds to areas that may host non-native predators such as cats, rodents, and mongoose. These predators are likely to increase as additional park users generate more trash. We recommend taking action to minimize predator presence; remove cats, place bait stations for rodents and mongoose, and provide covered trash receptacles. If water bird nest should be observed on the project site, notification to DOFAW is requested. DOFAW recommends educating employees/contractors on the identification and possible presence of water birds.

DOFAW would like to ensure that effective avoidance measures are in place to prevent adverse impacts to native seabirds. DOFAW understands that additional camping facilities are part of the

proposed action in order to accommodate an increased number of park users. DOFAW strongly recommends the use of "seabird friendly lighting", and restrictions on nighttime construction lighting during the seabird nesting season (March – mid-December).

The Hawaiian hoary bat also has the potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. DOFAW recommends that no barbed wire be used in perimeter fencing around the water storage tank to avoid snagging bats that may fly through the project area. Hawaiian hoary bats roost in both exotic and native trees. If any trees are planned for removal during the bat breeding season there is a risk of injury or mortality to juvenile bats.

Coastal plants such as naupaka and pa'u o Hi'iaka are present in the project area and are host to the endangered yellow-faced bees. These listed bees have been noted at other shoreline areas north and south of the project areas. DOFAW recommends that surveys be completed by a DOFAW approved entomologist before work occurs in the vicinity. Yellow-faced bee surveys should occur between the months of April – November.

Staff Note: The "Yellow Faced Bee" is currently considered to be a "Species of Concern" or a "Special Status Species" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife. However, it has not been officially listed due to the limited number of studies conducted to determine its conservation status. OCCL Staff recommends that DOFAW and State Parks cooperate to determine if a study is feasible at this time, and how that could be accomplished at this site.

Applicant Response: Thank you for your comments indicating the potential affect the construction and improvements may have on native water birds and seabirds in the Kekaha Kai State Park. The Division of State Parks has been maintaining the park to minimize the presence of non-native predators, so native water birds that may frequent the park would not be harmed. Your Division will be notified if water bird nests are observed on the project site. The contractor shall be educated on the identification and potential presence of water birds.

The native seabirds will not be affected, as construction activities will be conducted only during day light hours, and no permanent lighting will be installed at the park. Also, the park closes during the nighttime hours, no overnight camping is permitted.

DLNR - Hawaii District Land Office (HDLO)

The agency has no comments on the proposed project

Applicant Response: We acknowledge that your office has no comments on the proposed project

<u>DLNR - State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)</u>

The CDUA indicates that the locations and design of the improvements were guided to avoid the numerous archeological sites present in the park. No archeological sites occur within the current project area; the closest are a mile or more away from the proposed work. SHPD records indicate that our office commented on prior requests for determination for several projects within the Park and the County of Hawaii Special Management Area Use Permit Application (SMA 15-000062).

Mahai'ula Section: Archeological sites are near, but not within the proposed improvements project area. In a letter dated August 2, 2013 the SHPD reviewed the parking and roadway improvements for the Mahai'ula Access Road project, indicated that archeological sites within the vicinity of the project area were assigned temporary site numbers, and requested that State Parks archeologists submit appropriate documentation to include the sites in the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) database. SHPD determination was no historic properties will be affected for the proposed project.

Manini'ōwali Section: The SHPD has reviewed several projects within this portion of the Park. In a letter dated August 2, 2013, the SHPD concurred with a determination of no historic properties will be affected for the proposed parking and roadway improvements project based on a reconnaissance survey which identified no historic properties in the project area. Further, the SHPD indicated that archeological monitoring was needed only if heavy machinery would operate or excavate in the beach sands present in the project area, and that our office looked forward to receiving a revised request for project effect determination. The SHPD in reviewing a revised submittal, indicated adequacy of the mitigation revisions, and made a determination of no historic properties will be affected for the proposed project.

Based on the application and previous findings and determinations, the SHPD's determination is no historic properties affected for the proposed project with implementation of the following mitigation measures:

- 1. All archeological sites and features within or near construction activities will be flagged, and all site buffers will consist of orange flagging at the limits of construction activities;
- 2. All heavy machinery will be confined to previously disturbed areas; and
- 3. A State Parks Archeologist will have oversight during improvement work at Manini'ōwali.

SHPD requests notification of initiation of the project, and the opportunity to conduct a site visit during project work. In addition, SHPD requests that archeological sites within the vicinity of the project are be identified with temporary site numbers to be included in the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) and, if this has been done, to receive documentation verifying this.

<u>Please attach to the permit</u>: "In the unlikely event that subsurface historic resources including human skeletal remains, structural remains, cultural deposits, artifacts, sand deposits, or sink holes are identified during the demolition and/or construction work, cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find, protect the find from additional disturbance, and contact the State Historic Preservation Division at (808) 933-7651"

Applicant Response: Thank you for your comments stating the State Historic Preservation Division's (SHPD) determination of **no historic properties affected**. The three (3) mitigation measures, outlined in the Special Management Area Use Permit (SMA 15-000062) will be implemented during the project construction activities. We will inform the SHPD when construction activities will start. Also, all archeological sites within the vicinity of the project area, identified with temporary number, will be included in the State Inventory of Historic Places.

DLNR - Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

Thank you for providing DAR the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. Should there be any changes to the project plans, DAR requests the opportunity to review and comment on those changes. DAR has NO COMMENTS at this time.

Applicant Response: Thank you for your response indicating that your Division has no comments. We appreciate your review of the subject CDUA.

State Department of Health (DOH)

No comments were received from agency

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

No comments were received from agency

County of Hawaii - Planning Department

On February 18, 2016, the Leeward Planning Commission voted to approve SMA Use Permit (SMA 15-000062) and a Shoreline Setback Variance (SSV 15-000010) to allow facility improvements at the Kekaha Kai State Park, that will include minor repair and safety improvement to park access roadways and parking, a stairway to replace a dilapidated ramp, new storage and water tank building, new accessible picnic tables and BBQ pits, and other miscellaneous features and improvements. These approvals were subject to several conditions and have been enclosed for your information. We have no further comments at this time.

Applicant Response: We will comply with these conditions outlined in the Special Management Area Use Permit (SMA 15-000062) and the Shoreline Setback Variance (SSV 15-000010) which were approved on February 18, 2016 by the Leeward Planning Commission to allow facility improvements at the Kekaha Kai State Park.

County of Hawaii - Department of Water Supply

Please be informed that there are no existing Department of Water Supply facilities within the project area. The nearest adequate point of connection is from an existing 12-inch waterline within Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway, approximately 3.5 miles from the subject parcels.

Applicant Response: Thank you for your comment which indicated that there are no existing Department of Water Supply facilities within the project area. The improvements for this project will not involve construction potable water infrastructure. We do not plan on connecting to the existing 12-inch waterline within the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway.

Public Library and Community Association

No comments were received from the public

ANALYSIS:

Following review and acceptance for processing, the Applicant's Agent was notified, by letter dated October 31, 2016 that:

- A. The proposal to conduct improvements to the existing Kekaha Kai State Park located in North Kona, Island of Hawaii is an identified land use within the Conservation District Resource Subzone pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), §13-5-22, P-6, PUBLIC PURPOSE USES (D-1), Not for profit land uses undertaken in support of a public service by an agency of the county, state, or federal government, or by an independent non-governmental entity, except that an independent non-governmental regulated public utility may be considered to be engaged in a public purpose use. Examples of public purpose uses may include but are not limited to public roads, marinas, harbors, airports, trails, water systems and other utilities, energy generation from renewable resources, communication systems, flood or erosion control projects, recreational facilities, community centers, and other public purpose uses, intended to benefit the public in accordance with public policy and the purpose of the conservation district. Please note that the final decision to approve or deny this proposal rests with the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR);
- B. Pursuant to HAR §13-5-40, Hearings, a public hearing is not required;
- C. A Final Environmental Assessment with a *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FEA-FONSI) was published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) publication, The Environmental Notice (EN) on October 8, 2016, and
- D. On February 18, 2016, the Leeward Planning Commission voted to approve SMA Use Permit (SMA 15-000062) and a Shoreline Setback Variance (SSV 15-000010) to allow facility improvements at the Kekaha Kai State Park

The OCCL published notification of this Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) in the *December 8, 2016* issue of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) publication the Environmental Notice.

§13-5-30 CRITERIA:

The following discussion evaluates the merits of the proposed land use by applying the criteria established in HAR §13-5-30.

The proposed use is consistent with the purpose of the Conservation District.

The objective of the Conservation District is to conserve, protect, and preserve the important natural resources of the state through appropriate management and use to promote their long-term sustainability and the public health, safety and welfare.

The applicant has stated that the proposed improvements to the Kekaha kai State Park, which is considered a valued recreational public facility in this area, would be consistent with the objective and purpose of the Conservation District. Staff believes that the proposed project, which aims to increase security, accessibility, and safety at a public State Park, constitutes appropriate management and use of the resources in this area. Additionally, the main objective of the proposed improvements is to increase public health, safety and welfare for visitors at the Park.

2) The proposed land use is consistent with the objectives of the Subzone of the land on which the use will occur.

The objective of the *General* Subzone is to designate open space where specific conservation uses may not be defined, but where urban use would be premature. The objective of the *Resource* Subzone is to develop, with proper management, areas to ensure sustained use of the natural resources of those areas.

Staff has determined that this project appears to follow the objectives of the various subzones. Staff believes the proposed work would allow for the continuation of an existing State Park, which intrinsically helps to preserve and promote the natural resources of this area. Additionally, improvements to the site, including better access and improved facilities, could help to minimize impacts associated with overuse.

The proposed land use complies with the provisions and guidelines contained in Chapter 205A, HRS entitled "Coastal Zone Management", where applicable.

The applicant (Division of State Parks) has stated that "the proposed use would be consistent with Chapter 205A because it would not affect public access to recreational areas, historic resources, scenic and open space resources, coastal ecosystems, economic uses, or increase coastal hazards".

OCCL Staff has evaluated the statements and information provided in the CDUA and FEA to further address consistency with Chapter 205A.

Recreational Resources:

Applicant Statement: "The improved facilities will not restrict, and in fact will enhance, all recreational uses. No impacts to trails or access will occur".

OCCL staff believes that the proposed improvement would improve recreational resources at the existing State Park by improving access, and accessibility for the public. Additional improvements such as new BBQ pits and picnic tables would only improve enjoyment at the State Park.

Historical Resources:

Applicant Statement: "No historic sites are present and there are no known cultural resources or practices"

While OCCL Staff agrees that based on the SHPD determination, no historic sites are present, although cultural resources and/or practices do exist in the form of potential gathering, fishing, and other personal cultural practices that may be conducted in this area. OCCL Staff believes those potential cultural resources and /or practices would not be impacted, and access to the site would be improved which should not influence potential cultural practices.

Scenic and Open Space Resources:

As the current use of the site is a State Park, and the proposed uses would aim to improve access and safety at the park, visitors should not be affected by any viewplane impacts.

OCCL Staff also believes that the minor improvements to the existing facilities should not alter the open space character of the Park as no large-scale development (i.e., new buildings) is being proposed.

Coastal Ecosystems/Marine Resources:

Applicant Statement: "The proposed improvements are not likely to result in any substantial adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and shoreline resources".

Even though a Shoreline Setback Variance was provided by the *County of Hawaii* for development within the Shoreline Setback, the proposed improvements in this area are typically repair and maintenance of existing structures. The proposed work aims to improve accessibility and safety for visitors, and OCCL staff believes will not constitute an increase in development in the shoreline setback area. Additionally, mitigation protocols regarding construction activities have been designed to minimize impacts to this coastal Park.

4) The proposed land use will not cause substantial adverse impact to existing natural resources within the surrounding area, community or region.

The applicant stated in the application that the proposed project is not likely to cause any adverse impacts to natural resource due to the "minor" nature of the proposed project and its context within an existing, developed recreational State Park. Additionally, the applicant has stated that the construction activities that cause erosion and/or sedimentation will be prevented by an extensive set of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were identified in the Environmental Assessment report. Staff believes that the proposed work will be an improvement, not only in safety, access and improved use, but will permit more public enjoyment of the park by both visitors and residents.

5) The proposed land use, including buildings, structures and facilities, shall be compatible with the locality and surrounding areas, appropriate to the physical conditions and capabilities of the specific parcel or parcels.

Based on a review of the proposed projects work details, OCCL staff believes the proposed land uses are compatible with the physical conditions and capability of the State Park since the current infrastructure will remain essentially the same in terms of number, location, and intended function – the only minor additions will be a small storage building and small water tank to improve Park functions. The accessibility improvements would improve the capability of the State park by providing safe, secure, and adequate amenities to serve the Park visitors. Staff believes that these improvements to improve a well-established State park are appropriate to the site and natural condition of the area.

6) The existing physical and environmental aspects of the land, such as natural beauty and open space characteristics, will be preserved or improved upon, whichever is applicable.

Since most improvements are minor upgrades and improvements to existing park facilities, staff believes the adverse impacts to physical and environmental resources, including open space and natural beauty will be limited. It was stated by the applicant that the visual and environmental character of the site will not change in any way, but the recreational facility

will be improved upon for the Park attendees. Staff believes the proposed improvements would aim to preserve the natural beauty of the site by providing clear access, appropriate space for recreational uses, and updated facilities which will all be under strong management by the Division of State Parks.

7) Subdivision of land will not be utilized to increase the intensity of land uses in the Conservation District.

The proposed project does not involve the subdivision of Conservation District lands.

8) The proposed land use will not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.

The applicant has stated that the proposed improvement to the physical structures and the recreational amenities will make them safer and more sanitary, as well as accessible. Additionally, the applicant has stated that the proposed repairs and improvements to the access road will improve safety, security, and accessibility.

OCCL staff agrees with this determination as the proposed projects main objective is to improve the existing facilities, access, and recreational use at a well-developed State Park. The proposed improvements to picnic areas, BBQ pits, walkways, and parking all aim to improve Park visitor's experiences and therefore should not be detrimental to the public health. Safety would also be improved via new access paths, tables, rest areas, and roadways.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL IMPACT REVIEW:

Please Provide the identify and scope of cultural, historical, and natural resources in which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the area:

Since establishment of the Park, the archaeological resources have come under the protection of the DLNR - Division of State Parks, which includes archaeologists who inventory sites and design measures for their protection and interpretation in coordination with the DLNR - State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). The nature, density and location of park improvements appear to have been designed to ensure that significant historic sites can be protected from adverse effects.

There are several archaeological sites located near the areas proposed for improvements, as would be expected in a park that was established partly to preserve and interpret cultural and historical resources found in this area. A State Parks Archaeologist inspected the Mahai'ula area prior to project design, and along with several subsequent inspections, assisted in the planning of the parks improvements this minimizing potential impacts to cultural and historical sites. As determined by the SHPD, no historic properties, including historic structures or archaeological sites, features, were observed in the areas of the proposed improvements, especially where the new storage water tank building is proposed. The area between the existing comfort stations was previously bulldozed as part of the construction of the comfort stations and parking lot, which previously disturbed the surface of the 1801, pāhoehoe lava flow; this area was also filled in and compacted with gravel. All other work areas, apart from the new proposed picnic table, will occur in previously disturbed areas.

Identify the extent to which those resources, including traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights, will be affected or impaired by the proposed action:

The project area has been previously bulldozed, filled in, and leveled during prior park improvements and development since its creation. The location of the proposed improvements appears to correspond to the previously disturbed areas, and therefore, Staff believes that no further impact to the lava within the project area is anticipated.

It was stated by the applicant (State Parks) that impacts to archaeological sites will be avoided to the extent possible; it was previously stated that the applicant intends on following the recommendations for mitigating potential impacts to these resources. It appears that the proposed improvements would not have a direct or cumulative effect on cultural properties or practices, in fact, since access to the site will improve, additional cultural practitioners may be able to access the site and its cultural resources. To determine whether there may be additional concerns, the applicant contacted several cultural experts and/or Native Hawaiian organizations, including *Hui Laulima o Kekaha Kai*, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and the *Kona Hawaiian Civic Club* for their consultation and input.

What feasible action, if any, could be taken by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in regards to your application to reasonably protect Native Hawaiian rights?

All archaeological sites and features within or near construction activities will be flagged, and site buffers consisting of orange fencing will be placed at the limits of construction activities. This "construction buffer" will be put in place by the construction crew under the supervision of the assigned State Parks archaeologist prior to construction activities; the "construction buffer" will remain in place during all phases of construction. The construction buffers will be no more extensive than necessary to protect the features, and will avoid fencing completely around the archaeological features to prevent damaging the natural pāhoehoe lava landscape. In addition, construction in the Manini'ōwali Section will be accompanied by archaeological monitoring by the State Parks Archaeologist. All heavy machinery will be confined to the previously disturbed areas in order to minimize impacts to any potential subsurface deposits potentially located in the beach.

OCCL staff affirms the statements made by the SHPD regarding the proposed projects determination of "no impact to historical resources". OCCL staff agrees that due to the objectives of the proposed project (i.e., public safety and access improvements), the current use of the site, and the decades long development/land altering history - customary and traditional rights conducted in the vicinity of the project site would not be adversely affected by the proposed project.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed land use being applied for under this Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) is for repairs and improvements to an existing, well-established State Park. The park is designed as a multi-use area, which accommodates ocean recreation, picnicking, camping, beach-going, along with history and culture associated with nearby historical and archeological resources.

Project components include the repair and replacement of a number of access-way, including but not limited to paths, ramps, and stairs, as well as improvements to and parking and roads. These

improvements are designed to accommodate the increases in Park visitors, all while providing a safe and secure park facility. Additional appurtenances, such as new BBQ pits, parking areas, and walkways will improve the character of the State Park which staff believes is a positive impact for the community. It should be noted that these improvements are also necessary to provide "visitor equity" in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and were designed to try and accommodate all types of visitors at the Park. Additional work, such as the construction of the water tank, will go towards improved long-term care and management of the State Park.

The OCCL staff has the onerous duty of evaluating the appropriateness of a project based on a complete and comprehensive assessment that has been assembled from acceptance of the application, to the writing of this staff report. This report outlines the effects the proposed land uses represent to natural resources, recreation, and the environment within the project area; based on the information provided staff believes project impacts will not be significant or cumulative. Additionally, this projects public benefit appears to be necessary for fulfilling the State Parks objective which is to govern the use and protection of all lands, and historical and natural resources within the state park system.

In conclusion, staff believes that this project, as proposed, is consistent with Conservation District objectives, and based on the above discussion and information received, Staff recommends as follows:

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the preceding analysis, Staff recommends that the Board of Land and Natural Resources **APPROVE** this application for the *Kekaha Kai State Park Improvement* project located in the North Kona District, Island of Hawai'i, on Tax Map Keys: (3) 7-2-005:002, 003 & 007; 7-3-043:001; 7-2-004:003, 009, 017 & 019, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The permittee shall comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations of the federal, state, and county governments, and applicable parts of this chapter;
- 2. The permittee, its successors and assigns, shall indemnify and hold the State of Hawaii harmless from and against any loss, liability, claim, or demand for property damage, personal injury, and death arising out of any act or omission of the applicant, its successors, assigns, officers, employees, contractors, and agents under this permit or relating to or connected with the granting of this permit;
- 3. In the unlikely event that subsurface historic resources including human skeletal remains, structural remains, cultural deposits, artifacts, sand deposits, or sink holes are identified during the demolition and/or construction work, cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find, protect the find from additional disturbance, and contact the State Historic Preservation Division at (808) 933-7651;
- 4. The permittee shall comply with all applicable department of health administrative rules;
- 5. The permittee shall provide documentation (e.g., book and page or document number) that the permit approval has been placed in recordable form as a part of the deed instrument, prior to submission for approval of subsequent construction plans;

- 6. Before proceeding with any work authorized by the department or the board, the permittee shall submit four copies of the construction plans and specifications to the chairperson or an authorized representative for approval for consistency with the conditions of the permit and the declarations set forth in the permit application. Three of the copies will be returned to the permittee. Plan approval by the chairperson does not constitute approval required from other agencies;
- 7. Unless otherwise authorized, any work or construction to be done on the land shall be initiated within one (1) year of the approval of such use, in accordance with construction plans that have been signed by the chairperson, and shall be completed within three (3) years of the approval of such use. The permittee shall notify the department in writing when construction activity is initiated and when it is completed;
- 8. All representations relative to mitigation set forth in the accepted environmental assessment or impact statement for the proposed use are incorporated as conditions of the permit;
- 9. The permittee understands and agrees that the permit does not convey any vested right(s) or exclusive privilege;
- 10. In issuing the permit, the department and board have relied on the information and data that the permittee has provided in connection with the permit application. If, subsequent to the issuance of the permit such information and data prove to be false, incomplete, or inaccurate, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, and the department may, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings;
- 11. When provided, or required, potable water supply and sanitation facilities shall have the approval of the department of health and the county department of water supply;
- 12. Provisions for access, parking, drainage, fire protection, safety, signs, lighting, and changes on the landscape shall be provided;
- 13. Where any interference, nuisance, or harm may be caused, or hazard established by the use, the permittee shall be required to take measures to minimize or eliminate the interference, nuisance, harm, or hazard;
- 14. Obstruction of public roads, trails, lateral shoreline access, and pathways shall be avoided or minimized. If obstruction is unavoidable, the permittee shall provide alternative roads, trails, lateral beach access, or pathways acceptable to the department;
- 15. Except in case of public highways, access roads shall be limited to a maximum of two lanes;
- 16. During construction, appropriate mitigation measures shall be implemented to minimize impacts to off-site roadways, utilities, and public facilities;
- 17. Cleared areas shall be revegetated, in accordance with landscaping guidelines provided in this chapter, within thirty days unless otherwise provided for in a plan on file with and approved by the department;
- 18. Use of the area shall conform with the program of appropriate soil and water conservation district or plan approved by and on file with the department, where applicable;

- 19. The permittee shall obtain a county building or grading permit or both for the use prior to final construction plan approval by the department;
- 20. For all landscaped areas, landscaping and irrigation shall be contained and maintained within the property, and shall under no circumstances extend seaward of the shoreline as defined in section 205A-1, HRS;
- 21. Artificial light from exterior lighting fixtures, including but not limited to floodlights, uplights, or spotlights used for decorative or aesthetic purposes, shall be prohibited if the light directly illuminates or is directed to project across property boundaries toward the shoreline and ocean waters, except as may be permitted pursuant to section 205A-71, HRS. All exterior lighting shall be shielded to protect the night sky;
- 22. Where applicable, provisions for protection of beaches and the primary coastal dune shall be established by the permittee, to the satisfaction of the department, including but not limited to avoidance, relocation, or other best management practices;
- 23. The permittee acknowledges that the approved work shall not hamper, impede, or otherwise limit the exercise of traditional, customary, or religious practices of native Hawaiians in the immediate area, to the extent the practices are provided for by the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, and by Hawaii statutory and case law; and
- 24. Other terms and conditions as prescribed by the chairperson.
- 25. Failure to comply with any of these conditions shall render a permit void under the chapter, as determined by the chairperson or board.

Respectfully submitted,

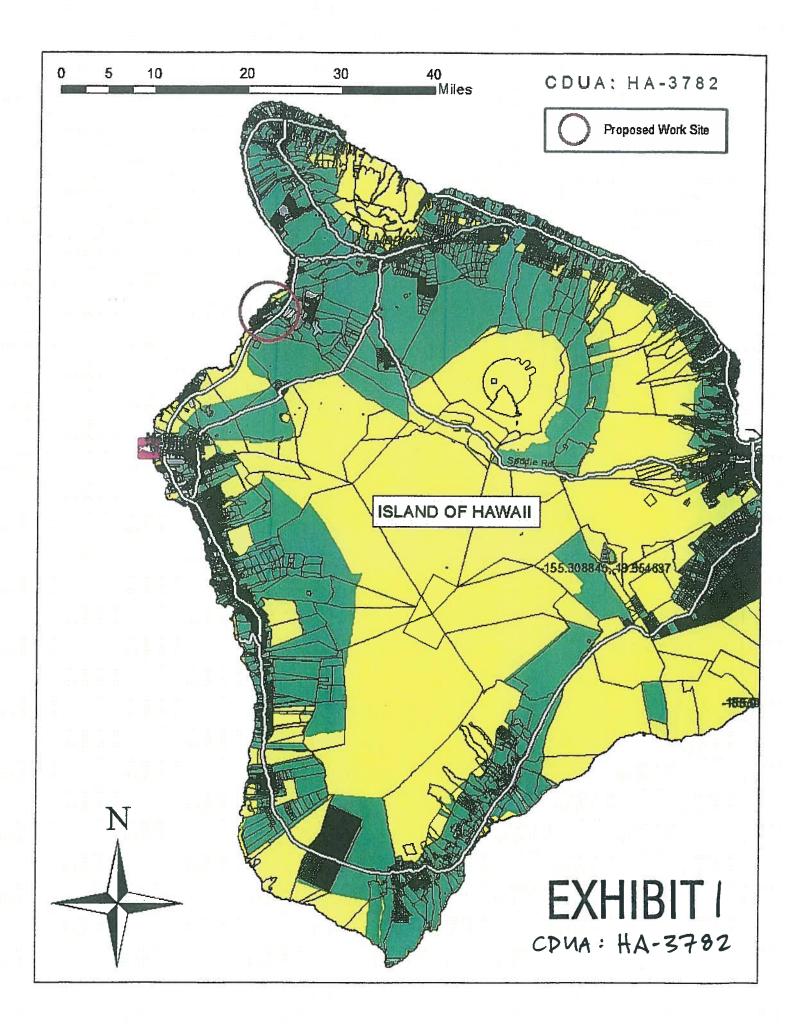
Alex J. Roy, M.Sc., Staff Planner

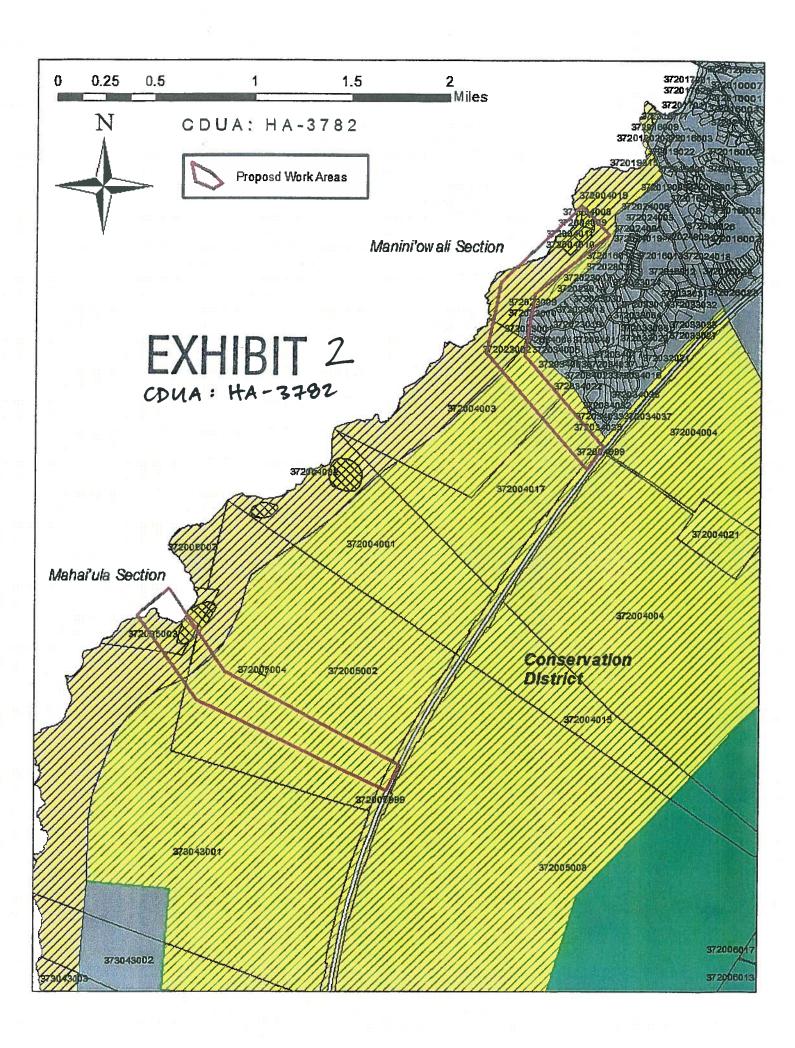
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

Approved for submittal:

Suzamne D. Case, Chairperson

Board of Land and Natural Resources





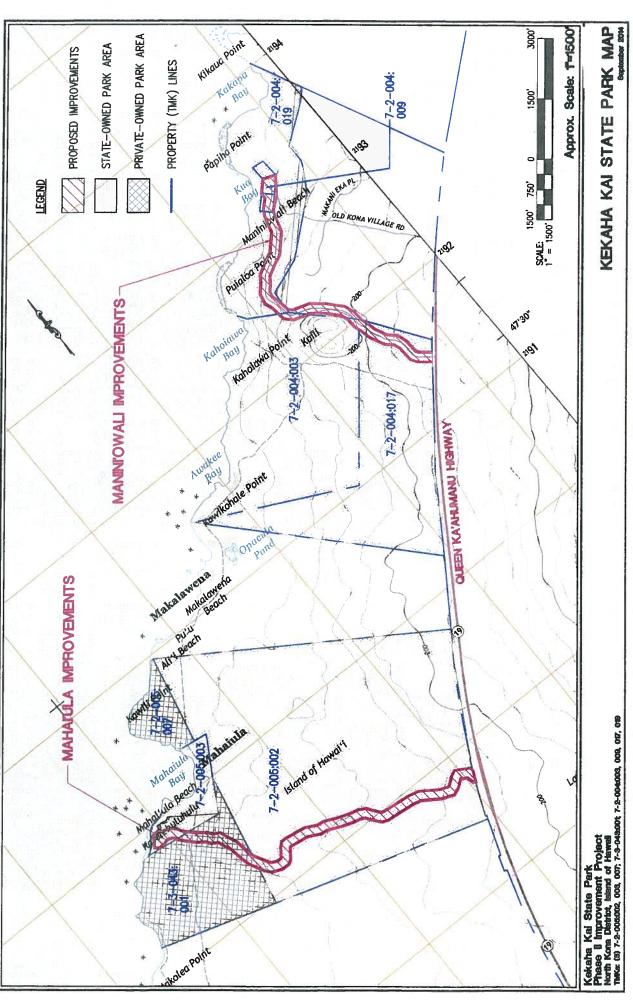


EXHIBIT 3 com: HA-3782



Existing Accessible Picnic Table, Mahai'ula ▲ ▼: Vault Toilets, Mahai'ula



EXHIBIT 4

CDUA: HA-3782

Project Site Photos



Existing BBQ pit, Mahai'ula ▼ 2d Mahai'ula Access Road

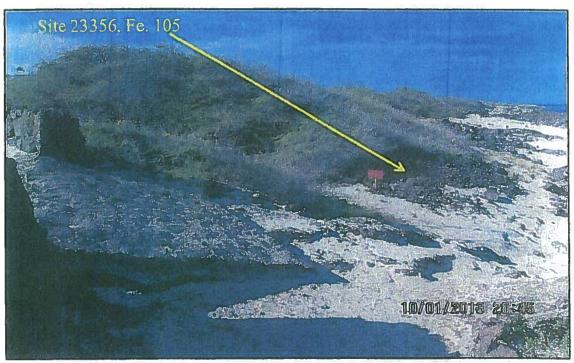




EXHIBIT 4A CDUA: HA-3792



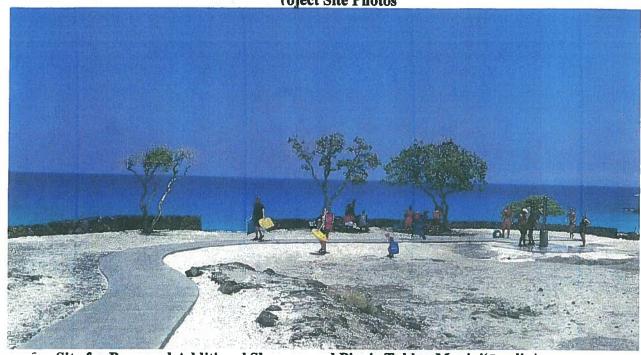
Existing stone/ concrete ramp to be demolished and new stairway to be constructed in its place, view to the E.



1: Existing stone/ concrete ramp to be demolished, and new stairway to be constructed in its place, view to the S. NOTE: SIHP Site 23356, Feature 105 in the background.

EXHIBIT 5 CDUA: HA-3782

roject Site Photos



Site for Proposed Additional Showers and Picnic Tables, Manini'ōwali ▲ ▼ 2g Ramp replacement area, Manini'ōwali

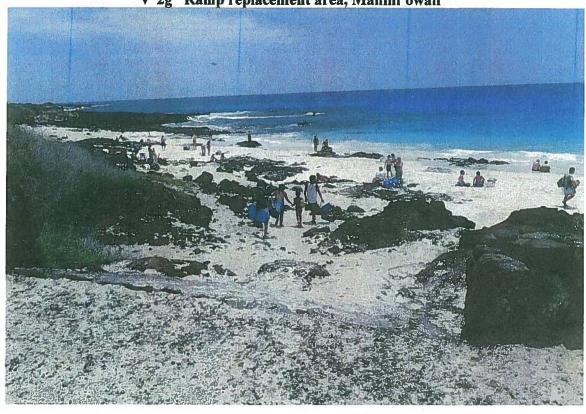
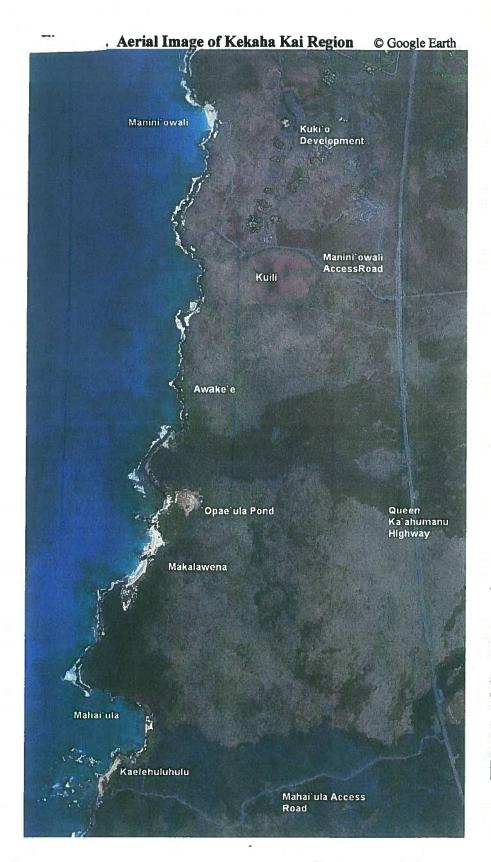
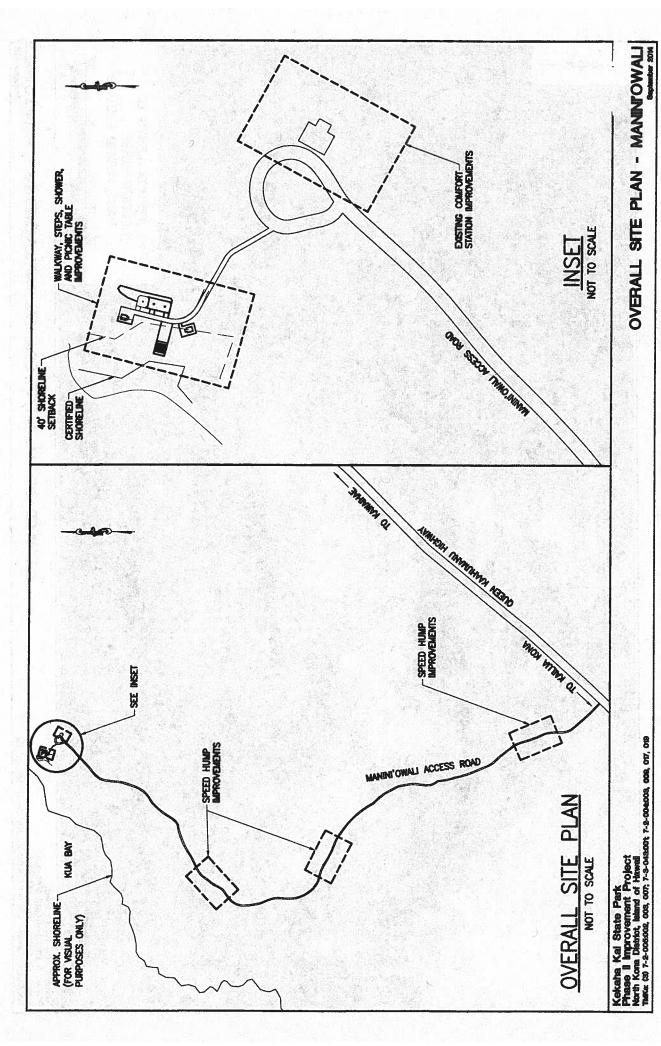


EXHIBIT 5A CDUA: HA-3782

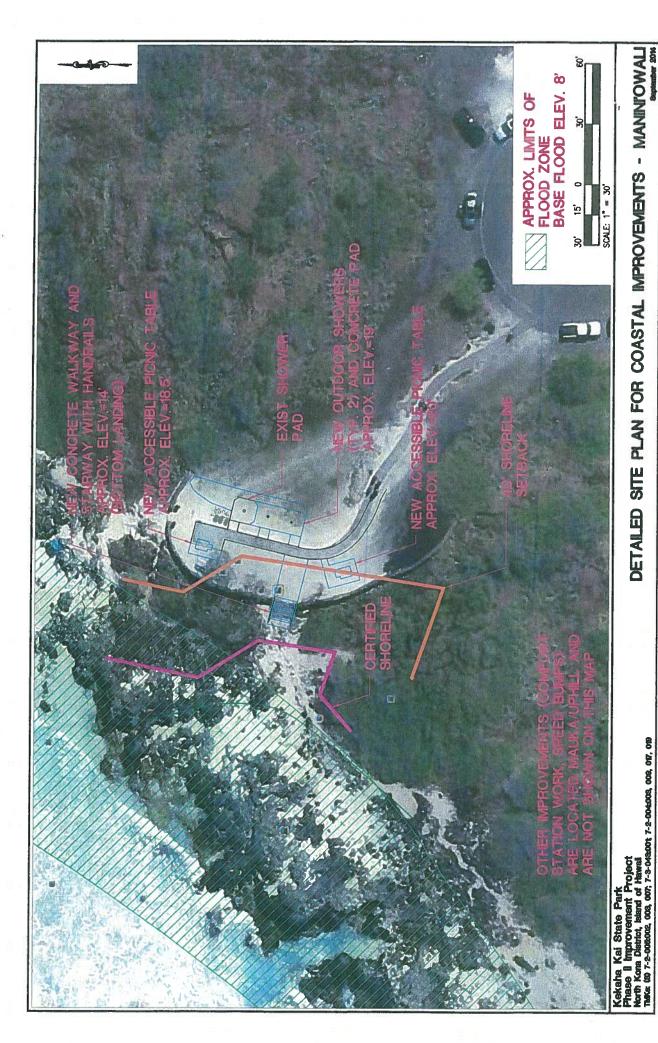


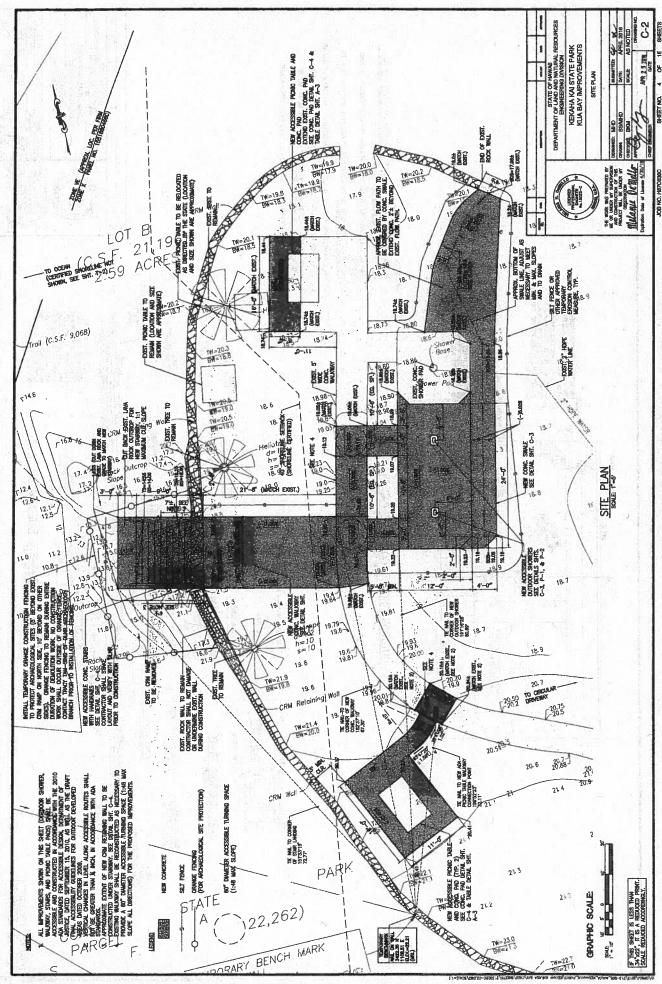
CDuk: HA-3782

K.

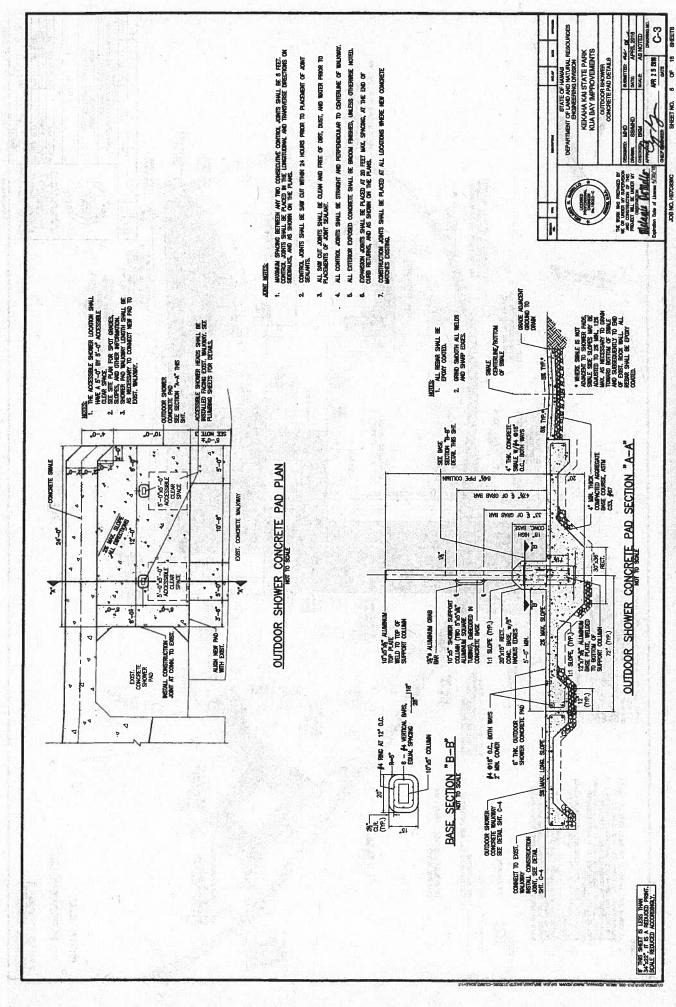


EXHB 7 cpw: 44-3782

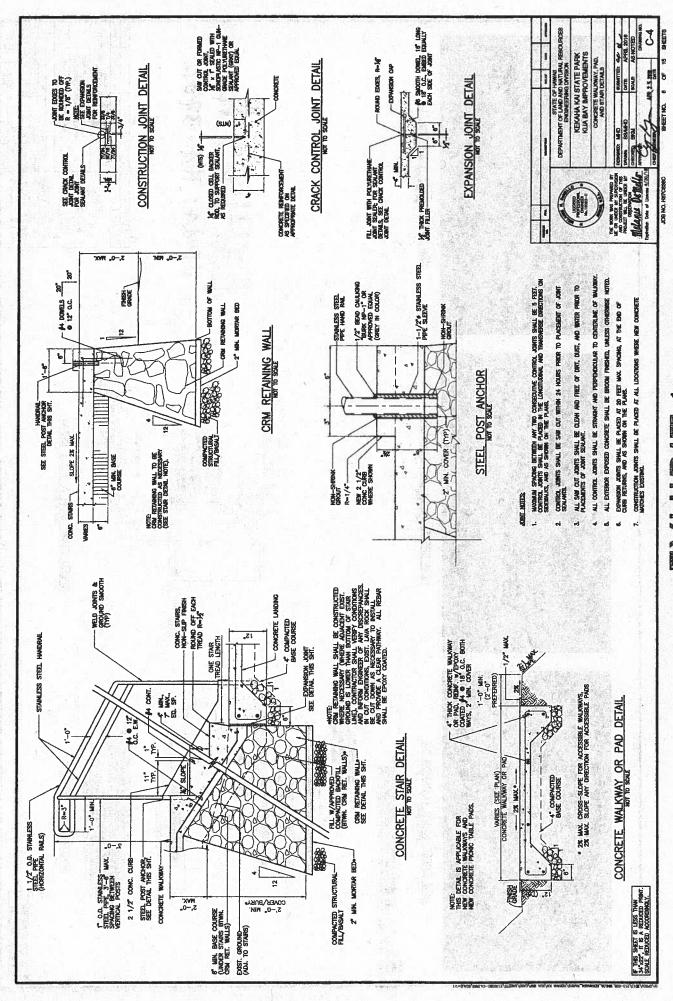




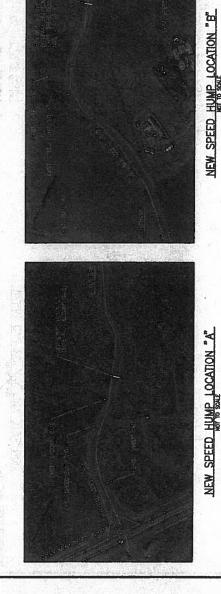
[X-18 8 com: H4-3782



[X B 9 cow: (44,3482



EXT B 10 cour: 44-3792





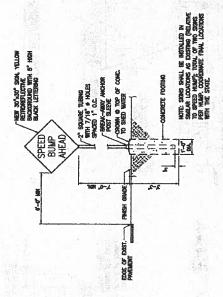
NEW SPEED HUMP LOCATION "C"

RUBBER "SVETY RIDER" SPEED HAMP, CHR TECHNOLOGIES OR APPROVED EQUAL (ONE MODULAR SECTION SHOWN)

NOTE.

WORDS THE FOUNDES SHOWN ARE APPROBABLE. CONTRACTOR TO MARK THE LOCATIONS STORE EXPRESSED TO MAKE THE LOCATIONS TO RESPONDE CHARGINGS TO THE LOCATIONS IN THE PELD AS MEDICIO.

BOLT HOLE (TIP.)



EXIST. A.C. PANEMENT

SECTION "A-A"

C POSTINO PAND REVILLED ACCESS DIFFER WITH OF DESTRUE PARENTS OF WOOLKER RESILLATION.

SPEDI HAMP SHALL SE SCHIEGO TO DISSING PHABLET PER WARKFUTTIEN'S PRESILL OF SPEDI HAMP SHALL SEND ACCESS TOO GLOSTES A RESULT OF SPEDI HAMP SHALL CONDINUE WORK WITH 18 STATE.

SPEED HUMP DETAIL

EMETICED REFLECTIVE YELLOW TAPE

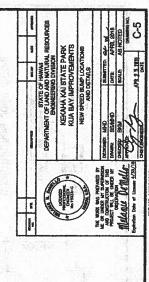
NA N

38.6

BLACK COLOR

SPEED BUMP SIGN & POST DETAIL

CDUA: HA-3392

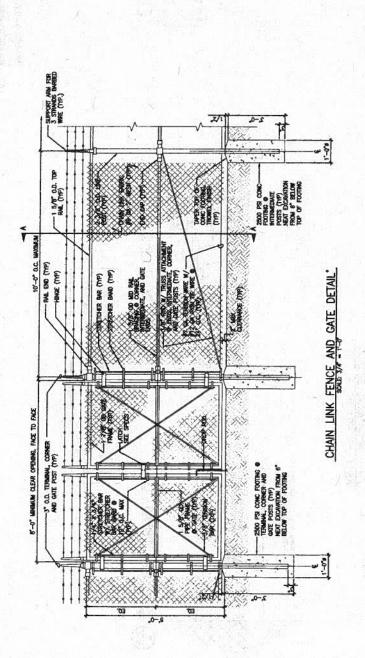


IF THIS SHEET IS LESS THAN 34"X22", IT IS A REDUCED PRINT. SCALE REDUCED ACCORDINGLY.

40' SHORELINE SETBACK SITE PLAN - MAHARULA -CERTIFIED SHORELINE . 34 Terrs: NEW STORAGE AND WATER TANK BUILDING OVERALL REFURBISHING EXISTING BBQ. PITS (TYP. 3) -HANDRAIL REPAIR AND REPAINTING -HANDRAIL REPAINTING NEW BBQ PIT -NEW PICNIC TABLE, WALKWAY, AND BBQ PIT -HANDRAIL REPAINTING INSET NOT TO SCALE WHATHA ACCESS ROAD SPOT REPAIRS ALONG ACCESS ROAD (TYP.) Kekaha Kai State Park Phase II Improvement Project North Kons District, Island of Hawaii TAKe (3) 7-2-005002, 003, 007, 7-3-04500t 7-2-004003, 009, 07, 019 OVERALL SITE PLAN -ADDITIONAL PARKING AREA IMPROVEMENTS SEE INSET NOT TO SCALE

CDUA: HA-3782

JA CDW: HA-3782



BARBED WIRE TYPICAL SECTION A-A

POR LOCATION OF NEW CHAIN LINK FENCE AND GATE, REFER TO ARCH SHEET A-3

GATE SHALL HAVE KNUCKLED SELVACE TOP AND BOTTOM. PROVIDE BANBED WIPE ON TOP OF FENCE AND GATE AS SHOWN.

CATE SHALL BE PROMDED WITH PROVISIONS FOR PADLOCKING.

CHAIN LINK FENCE AND GATES SHALL BE SPOT-WELDED.

ALL HUTS AND BOLTS SHALL BE SPOT-WELDED.

CORNER FITTINGS FOR CATE FRAMES MAY BE USED IN LIEU OF WELDING.

ALL FENCING MATERIAL INCLUDING GATE HARDWARE SHALL BE GALVANIZED STEEL

1. POST AND BRACES SHALL BE SCHEDULE 40 (STANDARD WEIGHT) PIPE, SIZES SPECIFED ARE OUTSIDE DAMETER (O.D.). TOP RAL COUPLINGS SHALL BE LOCATED WITHIN 6" OF LINE POSTS. TOP OF CONCRETE FOOTING SHALL BE CROMNED TO SHED WATER.

8. TOP OF CONCRETE POOTING SIMIL BE CROWNED TO SHED WATER.

4. POSTS, BRACES, AND TOP ANJ.S SWAL BE SCHEDULE 40 (STANDARD WEIGHT) PIPE. SIZES SPECIFED AND OUTSIDE DAMETER.

2. PROVIDE BANBED WIRE SYSTEM FOR MEN AND EDISTING CANN LINK FEMCE BANBED WARE EXTENSION AND SYML SE ORENTED AWAY FROM NEW STORAGE AND WATER TANK BALDING. 3. ALL NEW FENCING COMPONENTS SHALL BE HOT-DIPPED QALYANZED.

HOTES

1. PMIT ALL COMPONENTS OF HER MID ENGINE CHARL

1. PMIT ALL COMPONENTS OF BLACK MICHEREN

EMMER, ATTER WEST-FERRO PORCE.

UNK FENCE

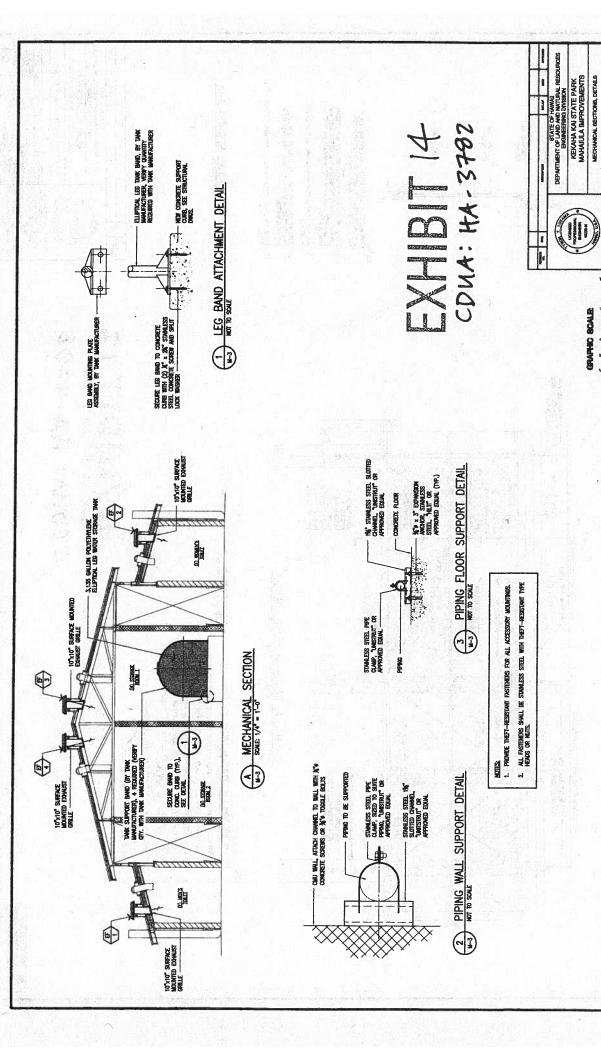
- NEW BURLDING

CONC. FOOTING

APR 2 5 2878 C-4 BTATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND WATURAL, RESICURCES ENGINEERING DIVISION CHAIN LINK FENCE AND GATE DETAIL KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK MAHAIULA IMPROVEMENTS Mulani Ormalia

JOS NO. H87CS

13 LA - 3782



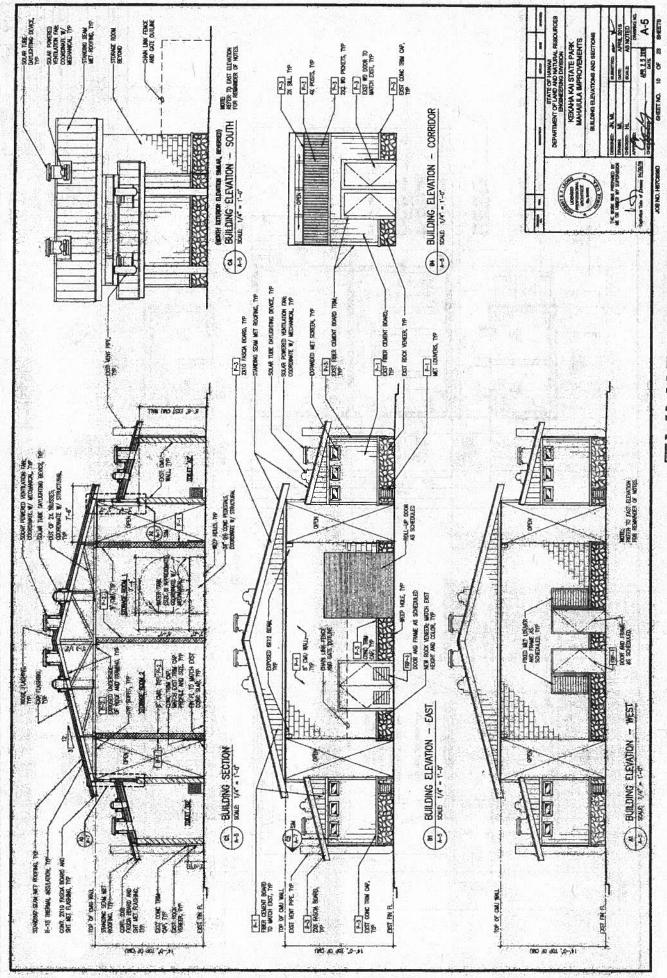
ANTE M-3

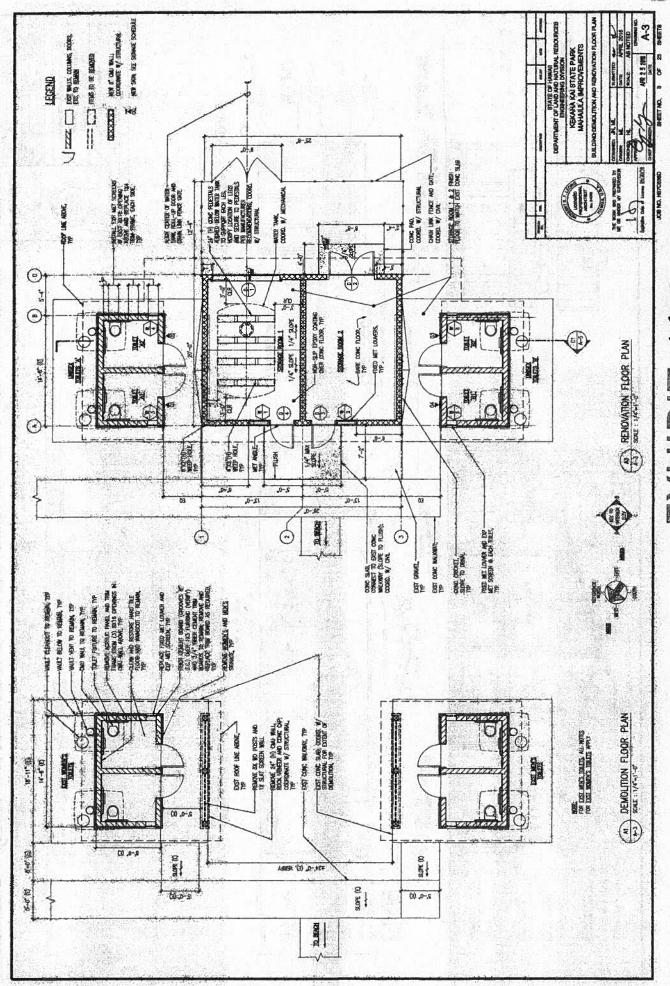
THE TOWN USES PROPAGED IN THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROCESS PROPER IN THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONTRIBUTION O

IF THIS SHEET IS LESS THAN 34"AZZ", IT IS A HEDUCED PRINT. SCALE REDUCED ACCORDINGLY.

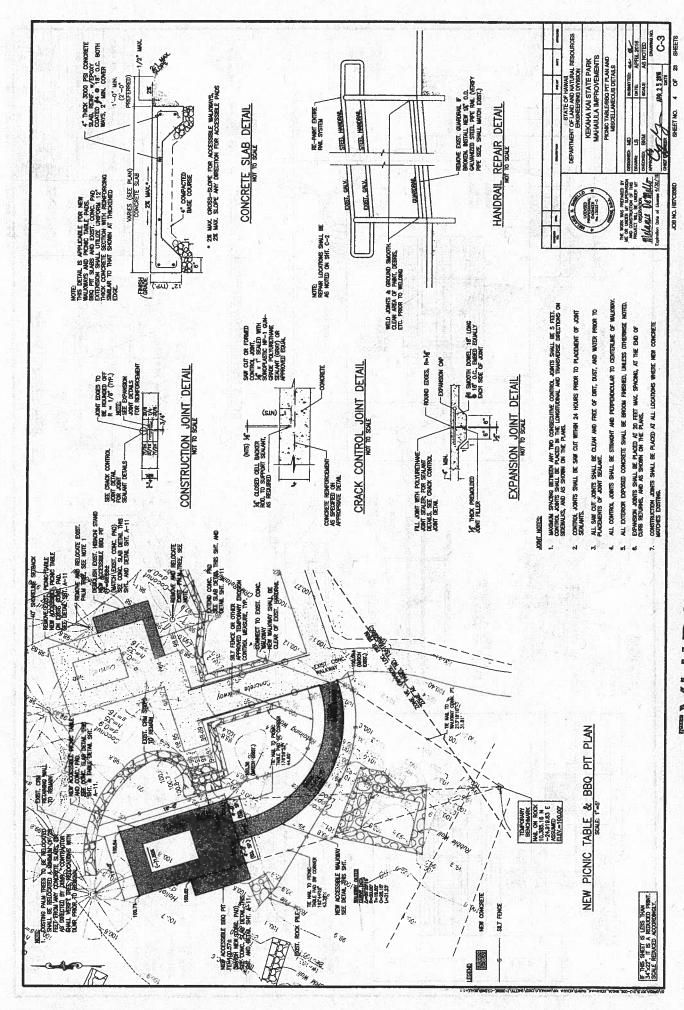
1/2 SWE . 7 . 9

EXT B 144 cDUA: HA. 3782

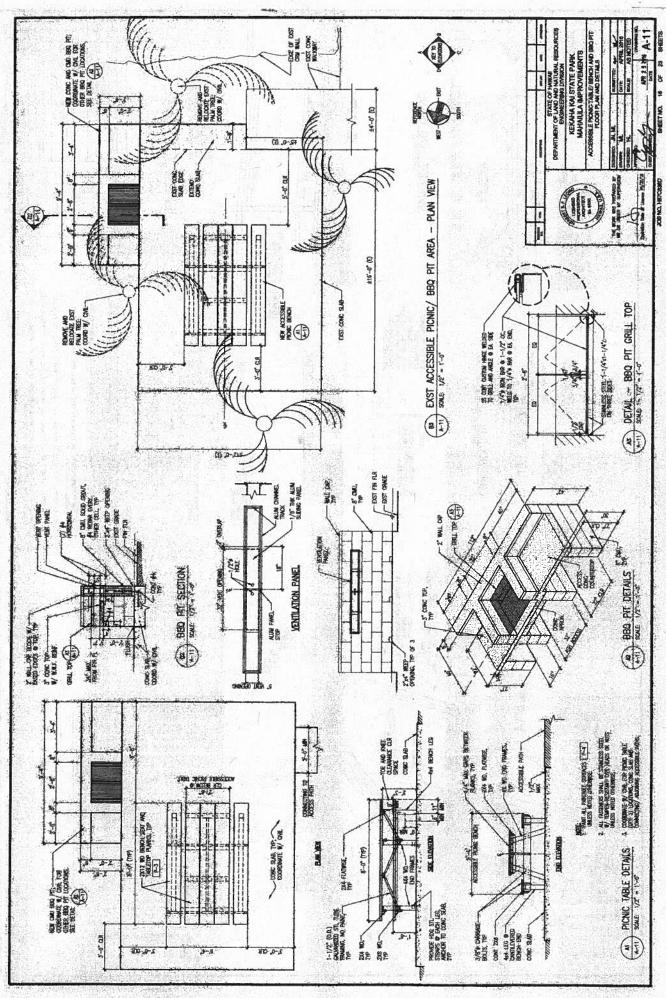




EXH B [48 cour: 14-3782



EXHIBT 15 cour: 144-3782



EXHBT 16 CDUA: 44-3782