



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. BOX 521
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DOFAW:ks

October 15, 1990

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AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
AQUATIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
STATE PARKS
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

In reply, please refer to:
REF: DOFAW

Mr. Duane Kanuha
Planning Director
Hawaii County Planning Department
25 Aupuni St., Rm. 109
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Kanuha

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Na Ala Hele Statewide Trail and Access Program is aware of the public controversy over the vehicular, lateral coastal access road fronting the proposed Kohanaiki Resort. As the State program focusing on Hawaii's trail and access concerns, it has been studying the issue and is taking the following position.

The Na Ala Hele Program opposes motorized vehicular access along that coastal stretch because:

1. Na Ala Hele's priority trail project, the "Ala Kahakai", first planned and proposed by the State in 1973, is intended to be a continuous, pedestrian lateral shoreline trail from the Old Kona Airport in Kailua to Kawaihae. As much as possible the trail is to incorporate existing, historic Hawaiian shoreline trails and maintain a trail experience that is preferably removed from motorized vehicles and conducive to enjoyment and protection of the coast's rich natural and historic resources. This trail concept is consistent with the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park's plan adjacent to Kohanaiki, and other sections of the Ala Kahakai which are currently in place or being restored at Kaupulehu, Kiholo, Waikoloa, Kalahuipuaa, and from Puukohola Heiau, to Spencer Park, and to Mauumae Beach in Kawaihae. Thus, continued use of motorized vehicles in and along the Kohanaiki shoreline would be contrary to the Ala Kahakai's basic objectives.
2. Continued public vehicular use of the coastal road at Kohanaiki, in combination with the future mauka-makai accesses and parking lots required of the resort by Hawaii County, would result in major management responsibilities and concerns which include:
 - a. Potentially unsafe conditions when uncontrolled amounts and types of motorized vehicles share the same route with pedestrians of all ages;

EXHIBIT

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- b. Potential overcrowding and overuse of coastal resources, resulting from increases in the numbers of people accessing the coastline and no controls over commercial enterprises wanting to use the road (e.g. dirt bike rentals, scuba diving, snorkeling and scenic tours, etc.); and
- c. The State does not presently have the regulatory and back-up enforcement capabilities that would be required to manage the resources and the expanded public use of the coast that can be expected if the subject road were to remain open to motor vehicle use by the public.

We note that the current impacts of public access use of the road demonstrate the need for active management, even before the anticipated access "improvements" by the planned resort. Biologically sensitive anchialine ponds along the coastal road were closed at the recommendation of the Department of Health following confirmation of pond contamination by human and animal fecal matter. People are apparently using the ponds as toilets and dumping garbage which is boosting the mongoose population.

Na Ala Hele considers the ancient Hawaiian coastal trail that pre-existed the 4-wheel drive access to be owned by the State and prefers that the traditional Hawaiian coastal trail system be restored in that area to become another increment of the Ala Kahakai demonstration trail.

If you have questions regarding this position statement please call the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Administrator, Mr. Michael Buck, in Honolulu (548-8850) or Ms. Deborah Chang Abreu, Na Ala Hele's Program Coordinator in Kona (325-7381).

Sincerely,



WILLIAM W. PATY

cc: Mr. Michael G. Buck
Mr. Roger Evans
Mr. Fred Fujimoto
Mr. Ralston Nagata
Mr. Kevin Seiter
Mr. Roy A Vitousek III
Mr. Charles Wakida
Mr. Mason Young