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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
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April 5, 2023

Steven Pause, Director  
County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7  
Hilo, HI 96720  
public\_works@hawaiiicounty.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Project No. 2023PR00329  
Doc. No. 2304NM02  
Archaeology

Dear Steven Pause:

**SUBJECT: Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation Review –  
County of Maui Department of Public Works  
Short Term Safety Improvements for Waipi'o Valley Road  
Waipi'oAhupua'a, Hāmākua District, Island of Maui  
TMK: (3) 4-8-004:003, 006, 999 and (3) 4-9-001:002, 003, and 999**

This letter provides the State Historic Preservation Division's (SHPD's) review of the subject County of Hawai'i, Department of Public Works, Engineering Division proposed project titled *Short Term Safety Improvements for Waipi'o Valley Road (WVR)* that was received by our office on March 8, 2023. The submittal includes an agency cover letter with an attached field inspection report from Scientific Consultant Services, Inc. (SCS), the improvement plans, two mayor emergency declarations, and photographs of the project area. SHPD requested additional information on March 31, 2023, which was received on April 3, 2023. The project area comprises an approximately 750-foot-long by 50-foot-wide section of the upper slope of Waipi'o Valley Road. The property is owned by the State of Hawaii.

The County proposes roadway safety improvements along the upper section of the WVR. The project consists of removing overhanging vegetation, loose soil, and rock upslope of the roadway. The removed material will be loaded onto trucks and potentially hauled to a laydown/staging area at the top of the WVR for stockpiling prior to disposal or hauled directly to a disposal facility. The laydown/staging area will be on County land near the top of the WVR.

A review of SHPD records indicates that the current project area has not been subject to an archaeological inventory survey and no historic properties have been previously identified in the project area. SCS conducted an archaeological field inspection (Escott, February 2023) of the project area on January 10, 13, and 17, 2023. The survey included the entire project area. SHPD archaeologist Nicole Mello also conducted a site visit of the project area on January 18, 2023. The WVR is over fifty years old and, thus, meets the definition of a historic property as defined in HRS §6E-2. However, the road will not be impacted during the proposed project.

The County has requested the SHPD's concurrence with a determination of "No historic properties affected." Based on the information provided, **SHPD concurs** with the County's project effect determination of "No historic properties affected" for the current project. Pursuant to HAR §13-275-7(e), when the SHPD agrees that the action will not affect any significant historic properties, this is the SHPD's written concurrence and historic preservation review ends. The HRS 6E historic preservation review process is ended. The permit issuance process may proceed.

Although the field inspection does not fulfill the requirements of an archaeological inventory survey as specified in HAR §13-276-5, it serves to facilitate project planning and supports the historic preservation review process. **Please**

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**send** one hard copy of the document, clearly labeled FINAL, along with a text-searchable PDF copy of the document and a copy of this letter to the SHPD Kapolei office, Attn. SHPD Library and one hard copy of the document, clearly marked FINAL, and a copy of this acceptance letter to the Hilo SHPD office, Attn. Sean Nāleimaile. Additionally, please upload a text-searchable PDF copy of the report to HICRIS Project 2023PR00329 using the Project Supplement option, and send a PDF copy of the report to [lehua.k.soares@hawaii.gov](mailto:lehua.k.soares@hawaii.gov)

The SHPD hereby notifies the County that the HRS 6E historic preservation review process is ended, and the project initiation process may proceed.

Attach to the permit: 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.

Please contact Nicole A. Mello, Hawai'i Island Archaeologist IV, at [Nicole.Mello@hawaii.gov](mailto:Nicole.Mello@hawaii.gov) for any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Aloha,

*Alan Downer*

Alan S. Downer, PhD  
Administrator, State Historic Preservation Division  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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