

RP 0005



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Office of the Director

October 25, 1978

RP: 0005

Environmental Quality Commission
550 Halekauwila Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Sir:

Review of
Conservation District Use Application
Exempt Action
Ninole Sand Beach

The Environmental Center review of this CDUA permit has been prepared with the assistance of Alison Kay, General Science; Andrew Berger, Zoology; Fris Campell, Geology and Geophysics; Charlie Lamoureux, Botany; Jacquelin Miller and Barbara Vogt of the Environmental Center.

Without exception, each of our reviewers has expressed the opinion that the exempt action determination is inappropriate for this project. The rationale for the "exempt" determination i.e. "since the applicant is requesting the use of conservation lands to improve the existing conditions of the area" has no basis in HRS 343 or the EIS regulations. Furthermore, we call attention to Section 1:33b of the EIS regulations which states: "All such exemptions under these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of planned successive actions of the same type, in the same place, over time, is significant, or when an action that is normally insignificant in its impact of the environment may be significant in a particularly sensitive environment."

Actions exempt under the DLNR's exemption list do not include the construction of sand beaches. The shoreline area is, in fact, an especially sensitive area in which the exemptions are inappropriate as indicated in Section 1:33b of the regulations.

The proposed project should be subject at least to an expanded environmental assessment in order to determine if a negative declaration or EIS is appropriate. We suggest that a discussion of the following be included in the assessment or EIS:

1. A larger scale map of the project area.
2. A discussion of the shoreline environment at the project site, i.e., wave action if any, frequency of storm surf and tsunamis, probable rate and direction of sand transport from the proposed beach, fauna, and flora.
3. Source of new sand and estimated life of new beach.

4. Area to be filled with soil and rocks, and the existing substrate over which the fill will be placed.
5. Access to beach.
6. Effect of the proposed white sand on nearby black sand beaches.
7. Effect of the project on the fresh water springs and effect of the springs on the beach.
8. Environmental effects of increased use of the spring cove.

Yours truly,

Doak C. Cox
Director

DCC:lmk

cc. W.Y. Thompson
Alison Kay
Andrew Berger
Fris Campbell
Jacquelin Miller
Barbara Vogt
Charlie Lamoureux