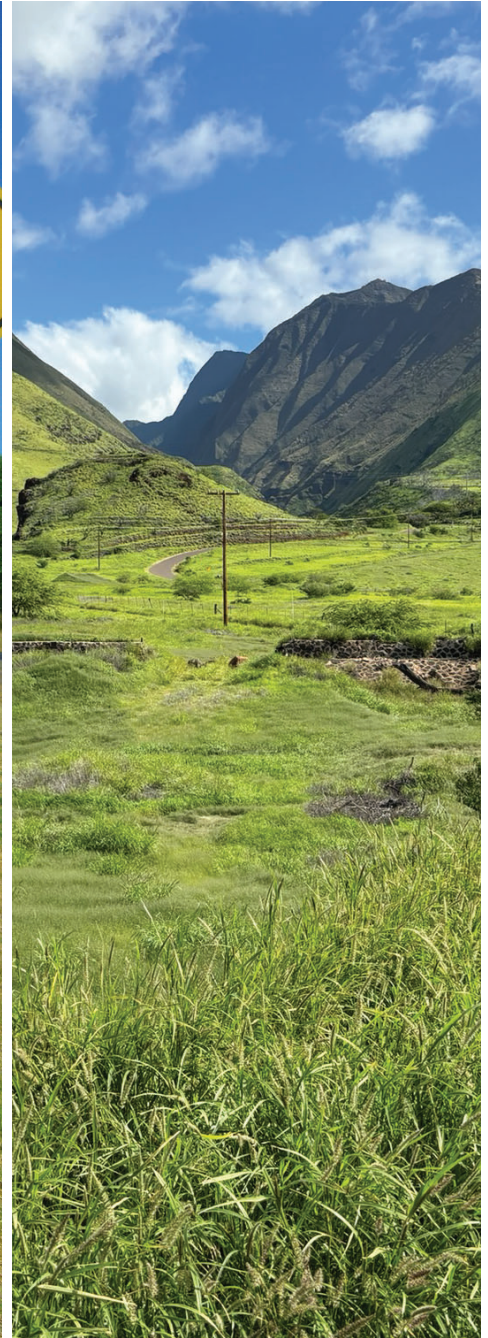


Honoapiʻilani Highway Improvements Project West Maui: Ukumehame to Launiupoko

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c) and 49 U.S.C. 303
Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)



US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT)

December 2024

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Submitted by:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
and
Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT)

In cooperation with:

National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Hawaii Department of Lands and Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Division
Maui County Department of Planning and Permitting
Maui Planning Department of Parks and Recreation

APPROVALS



Richelle Takara, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

12/20/24

Date



Ed Sniffen, Director
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12/19/24

Date

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To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, the FHWA has nonetheless elected to follow the version of those regulations in effect when the NEPA analysis for this project began, in addition to the FHWA’s procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 23 CFR part 771, to meet the agency’s obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Pursuant to 23 CFR 771.109(a)(1), the provisions of 23 CFR part 771 and the CEQ regulations apply to actions where the Administration exercises sufficient control to condition the permit, project, or other approvals. Additionally, as provided at 23 CFR 771.101, the regulations at 23 CFR part 771 also set forth procedures to comply with 23 U.S.C. 109(h), 128, 138, 139, 325, 326, and 327; 49 U.S.C. 303; 49 U.S.C. 24201; and 5323(q); Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 405, section 1301 as applicable; and Public Law 114-94, 129 Stat. 1312, section 1304.



This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation has been prepared for the Honoapi'ilani Highway Improvements Project in West Maui, Hawai'i. The Project's primary purpose is to provide a reliable transportation facility in West Maui and improve Honoapi'ilani Highway's resilience by reducing its vulnerability to coastal hazards. The alternatives evaluated in this Draft EIS include the No Build Alternative and four Build Alternatives within two distinct segments in Olowalu and Ukumehame. The potential adverse effects of these alternatives on the natural and human environment have been assessed. Based on the results of the impact assessment, the Draft EIS has identified the Preferred Alternative as a combination of Build Alternative 2 in Olowalu and Build Alternative 1 in Ukumehame.

Comments on this Draft EIS are due by February 24, 2025, and can be sent by regular mail to Ken Tatsuguchi at the above address, via email at honoapiilanieis@online.wspis.com and through the project's website at <https://www.honoapiilanihwyimprovements.com/>.

At the conclusion of the environmental process, the FHWA will issue a single Final EIS and Record of Decision document pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2), unless the FHWA determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of the combined document.

UPC: 111427

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FOREWORD

The Honoapi'ilani Highway Improvements Project (the Project) Draft EIS was started well before the devastating 2023 wildfire that destroyed Lāhainā and resulted in significant human loss and suffering as well as difficult economic impacts.

While the fire did not physically damage the existing highway in the project area—or where the proposed new highway alignments could be located within Olowalu and Ukumehame—HDOT and the FHWA understand that all of Maui, and West Maui in particular, continues to struggle in the aftermath of the disaster and that the focus is to regroup, provide residents with housing, and rebuild homes, businesses, and communities.

With this understanding, HDOT believes that continuing to plan the Project is part of the State of Hawai'i's commitment to the larger Lāhainā rebuilding effort and a helpful step forward. A sustainable and resilient transportation system designed in anticipation of climate change and sea level rise would benefit the whole community—this is now more urgent than ever. Because Honoapi'ilani Highway is a vulnerable link in the transportation system that connects West Maui to resources and 'ohana on other parts of the island, the Project supports long-term Lāhainā rebuilding efforts.

At the time of the wildfire, the Draft EIS technical evaluations were largely complete and being reviewed and refined. The goal was to publish this Draft EIS toward the end of 2023. After the wildfire, HDOT and the FHWA reviewed each technical evaluation to acknowledge and identify whether changes in the analyses would be appropriate based on the wildfire's effects.

While there was extensive public participation before the wildfire, HDOT and the FHWA understand that the community's focus has been on rebuilding efforts. To accommodate these shifting priorities, more time was added to the final review and publication schedule for this Draft EIS.

As we persevere in the wake of this terrible wildfire disaster and continue to plan for our future generations, we are reminded of the 'ōlelo no'eau (proverb) of our forebearers:

He 'a'ali'i kū makani mai au; 'a'ohe makani nāna e kula'ī.
I am a wind-resistant 'a'ali'i shrub; no gale can knock me over.



Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms	XV
Hawaiian Terms	XX
S. Summary	S-1
WHAT IS AN EIS?.....	S-1
What is the process in creating an EIS?.....	S-1
What are the key milestones for an EIS?	S-2
What are the key dates for this Draft EIS?.....	S-2
WHO IS LEADING THE EIS?	S-2
WHAT OTHER AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS EIS?.....	S-2
WHERE IS THE PROJECT AREA?	S-4
WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?	S-7
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROJECT?.....	S-7
WHAT OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES WERE EVALUATED?.....	S-8
WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT AND IS THERE A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE?	S-13
How are alternatives are evaluated?.....	S-13
What is the design-build construction process?.....	S-13
WHAT ARE THE PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES FOR THE PROJECT?.....	S-20
WHEN WILL THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE BE CONSTRUCTED?	S-20
HOW HAS THE PUBLIC BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?	S-20
WILL THERE BE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?.....	S-21
WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THIS DRAFT EIS?.....	S-21
1. Introduction, Purpose and Need	1-1
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1.1 HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TERMINOLOGY.....	1-2
1.2 PROJECT AREA LOCATION AND CONTEXT.....	1-4
1.2.1 PROJECT AREA LOCATION	1-4
1.2.2 PROJECT CONTEXT.....	1-4
1.3 PROJECT PURPOSE.....	1-7
1.4 PROJECT NEED.....	1-10
1.5 SECONDARY OBJECTIVES.....	1-11
1.5.1 Provide Regional Transportation System Linkages that Support Safe Movement of People and Goods.....	1-11
1.5.2 Consistency with Regional Land Use and Transportation Plans.....	1-12
1.6 ANTICIPATED PERMITS AND APPROVALS.....	1-12
1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FRAMEWORK, PROCESS, AND PROJECT SCHEDULE	1-13
1.7.1 Environmental Impact Statement Framework	1-13
1.7.2 Environmental Impact Statement Process.....	1-15
1.7.3 Environmental Impact Statement Schedule	1-17
1.8 PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION	1-17
2. Alternatives.....	2-1
2.1 INTRODUCTION	2-1
2.2 NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE	2-1
2.3 BUILD ALTERNATIVES	2-2
2.3.1 Design Assumptions Common to All Build Alternatives.....	2-4
2.3.2 Olowalu Build Alternatives.....	2-13
2.3.3 Ukumehame Build Alternatives.....	2-24
2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD.....	2-32



2.5	CONSTRUCTION	2-35
2.5.1	Construction Staging	2-35
2.5.2	Construction Means and Methods.....	2-36
2.5.3	Preliminary Cost Assessment.....	2-36
2.6	CONFORMITY WITH HAWAI'I STATE AND MAUI COUNTY PLANS.....	2-37
2.6.1	Transportation Plans.....	2-37
2.6.2	Land Use and Development Plans.....	2-37
3.	Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.....	3-1
3.1	Land Use And Zoning.....	3.1-1
3.1.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.1-1
3.1.2	Methodology.....	3.1-1
3.1.3	Affected Environment	3.1-1
3.1.4	Environmental Consequences	3.1-14
3.1.5	Construction Effects	3.1-22
3.1.6	Indirect Effects	3.1-22
3.1.7	Mitigation.....	3.1-22
3.1.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.1-24
3.2	AGRICULTURE AND FARMING	3.2-1
3.2.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.2-1
3.2.1	Methodology.....	3.2-1
3.2.2	Affected Environment	3.2-1
3.2.3	Environmental Consequences	3.2-2
3.2.4	Construction Effects	3.2-6
3.2.5	Indirect Effects	3.2-6
3.2.6	Mitigation.....	3.2-6
3.2.7	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.2-7
3.3	COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES	3.3-1
3.3.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.3-1
3.3.2	Methodology.....	3.3-1
3.3.3	Affected Environment	3.3-1
3.3.4	Environmental Consequences	3.3-2
3.3.5	Construction Effects	3.3-2
3.3.6	Indirect Effects	3.3-2
3.3.7	Mitigation.....	3.3-3
3.3.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.3-3
3.4	LAND ACQUISITION, DISPLACEMENT, AND RELOCATION	3.4-1
3.4.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.4-1
3.4.2	Methodology.....	3.4-4
3.4.3	Affected Environment	3.4-5
3.4.4	Environmental Consequences	3.4-5
3.4.5	Construction Effects	3.4-31
3.4.6	Indirect Effects	3.4-31
3.4.7	Mitigation.....	3.4-36
3.4.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.4-36
3.5	PARKLANDS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES/BEACH ACCESS.....	3.5-1
3.5.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.5-1
3.5.2	Methodology.....	3.5-1
3.5.3	Affected Environment	3.5-1
3.5.4	Environmental Consequences	3.5-6
3.5.5	Construction Effects	3.5-9
3.5.6	Indirect Effects	3.5-9
3.5.7	Mitigation.....	3.5-9
3.5.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.5-9
3.6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES	3.6-1
3.6.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.6-1
3.6.2	Methodology.....	3.6-5



3.6.3	Affected Environment	3.6-8
3.6.4	Environmental Consequences	3.6-18
3.6.5	Construction Effects	3.6-20
3.6.6	Indirect Effects	3.6-21
3.6.7	Mitigation.....	3.6-21
3.6.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.6-22
3.7	CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	3.7-1
3.7.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.7-1
3.7.2	Methodology.....	3.7-3
3.7.3	Cultural, Historical, and Natural Resources in the Affected Environment.....	3.7-3
3.7.4	Interviews and Consultation.....	3.7-9
3.7.5	Effects On Cultural, Historic, and Natural Resources	3.7-10
3.7.6	Mitigation.....	3.7-13
3.8	VISUAL AND SCENIC CHARACTER	3.8-1
3.8.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.8-1
3.8.2	Methodology.....	3.8-1
3.8.3	Affected Environment	3.8-3
3.8.4	Environmental Consequences	3.8-22
3.8.5	Construction Effects	3.8-40
3.8.6	Indirect Effects	3.8-40
3.8.7	Mitigation.....	3.8-40
3.8.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.8-43
3.9	WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS	3.9-1
3.9.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.9-1
3.9.2	Methodology.....	3.9-9
3.9.3	Affected Environment	3.9-10
3.9.4	Environmental Consequences	3.9-21
3.9.5	Agency Consultation	3.9-23
3.9.6	Construction Effects	3.9-23
3.9.7	Indirect Effects.....	3.9-24
3.9.8	Mitigation.....	3.9-24
3.9.9	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.9-26
3.10	FLORA AND FAUNA, ENDANGERED SPECIES	3.10-1
3.10.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.10-1
3.10.2	Methodology.....	3.10-4
3.10.3	Affected Environment	3.10-6
3.10.4	Threatened or Endangered Species and Significant Ecological Communities.....	3.10-13
3.10.5	Agency Consultation	3.10-17
3.10.6	Environmental Consequences	3.10-20
3.10.7	Construction Effects	3.10-26
3.10.8	Indirect Effects	3.10-26
3.10.9	Avoidance and Minimization Measures.....	3.10-26
3.10.10	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.10-37
3.11	GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND NATURAL HAZARDS.....	3.11-1
3.11.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.11-1
3.11.2	Methodology.....	3.11-3
3.11.3	Affected Environment	3.11-3
3.11.4	Environmental Consequences	3.11-26
3.11.5	Construction Effects	3.11-28
3.11.6	Indirect Effects	3.11-28
3.11.7	Mitigation.....	3.11-28
3.11.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.11-29
3.12	COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT, HAWAI'I SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.....	3.12-1
3.12.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.12-1
3.12.2	Methodology.....	3.12-4
3.12.3	Environmental Consequences	3.12-4
3.12.4	Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Review.....	3.12-8



3.12.5	Construction Effects	3.12-16
3.12.6	Indirect Effects	3.12-16
3.12.7	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.12-17
3.13	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE	3.13-1
3.13.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.13-1
3.13.2	Methodology.....	3.13-3
3.13.3	Affected Environment	3.13-7
3.13.4	Environmental Consequences	3.13-15
3.13.5	Construction Effects	3.13-21
3.13.6	Indirect Effects	3.13-22
3.13.7	Mitigation.....	3.13-22
3.13.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.13-23
3.14	TRANSPORTATION.....	3.14-1
3.14.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.14-1
3.14.2	Methodology.....	3.14-1
3.14.3	Affected Environment	3.14-4
3.14.4	Environmental Consequences	3.14-19
3.14.5	Construction Effects	3.14-57
3.14.6	Indirect Effects	3.14-57
3.14.7	Anticipated Beneficial Effects	3.14-58
3.14.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.14-58
3.15	AIR QUALITY AND ENERGY	3.15-1
3.15.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.15-1
3.15.2	Methodology.....	3.15-6
3.15.3	Affected Environment	3.15-7
3.15.4	Environmental Consequences	3.15-9
3.15.5	Construction Effects	3.15-14
3.15.6	Indirect Effects	3.15-15
3.15.7	Mitigation.....	3.15-15
3.15.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.15-15
3.16	NOISE.....	3.16-1
3.16.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.16-1
3.16.2	Methodology.....	3.16-2
3.16.3	Affected Environment	3.16-11
3.16.4	Environmental Consequences	3.16-13
3.16.5	Construction Effects	3.16-20
3.16.6	Indirect Effects	3.16-22
3.16.7	Mitigation.....	3.16-22
3.16.8	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.16-23
3.17	INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES.....	3.17-1
3.17.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.17-1
3.17.2	Methodology.....	3.17-1
3.17.3	Affected Environment	3.17-1
3.17.4	Environmental Consequences	3.17-6
3.17.5	Construction Effects	3.17-7
3.17.6	Indirect Effects	3.17-8
3.17.7	Mitigation.....	3.17-8
3.17.8	Build Alternatives Comparison Assessment.....	3.17-8
3.18	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.....	3.18-1
3.18.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.18-1
3.18.2	Methodology.....	3.18-2
3.18.3	Affected Environment	3.18-2
3.18.4	Reverse Directories.....	3.18-7
3.18.5	Environmental Consequences	3.18-8
3.18.6	Construction Effects	3.18-9
3.18.7	Indirect Effects	3.18-10
3.18.8	Mitigation.....	3.18-10



3.18.9	Build Alternatives Comparative Assessment.....	3.18-10
3.19	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS	3.19-1
3.19.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.19-1
3.19.2	Methodology.....	3.19-3
3.19.3	Affected Environment and Demographic Profile.....	3.19-5
3.19.4	Environmental Consequences and Potential Disproportionately High and Adverse Effects	3.19-16
3.20	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS.....	3.20-1
3.20.1	Regulatory Context.....	3.20-1
3.20.2	Independent Projects Occurring Within a Similar Timeframe or Geography.....	3.20-1
3.20.3	Cumulative Effects.....	3.20-4
3.20.4	Cumulative Effects Assessment.....	3.20-4
4.	Section 4(f) Evaluation.....	4-1
4.1	REGULATORY CONTEXT	4-1
4.2	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	4-3
4.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES	4-3
4.3.1	Archaeological Historic Properties	4-3
4.3.2	Architectural Historic Properties	4-4
4.4	PUBLICLY OWNED WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL REFUGES, PARKS, AND RECREATION AREAS	4-8
4.4.1	Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges	4-8
4.4.2	Publicly Owned Parks and Recreational Facilities	4-8
4.5	MULTIPLE-USE PROPERTIES	4-19
4.6	SECTION 4(F) APPLICABILITY AND USE SUMMARY.....	4-21
4.7	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SECTION 4(F) COORDINATION.....	4-27
5.	Preferred Alternative	5-1
5.1	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.....	5-1
5.1.1	Refinements to the Preferred Alternative.....	5-1
5.1.2	Preliminary Cost Estimate for the Preferred Alternative.....	5-10
5.2	EVALUATION SUPPORTING SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	5-10
5.2.1	Olowalu.....	5-10
5.2.2	Ukumehame.....	5-18
5.2.3	Summary Assessment	5-24
5.3	PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS AND MITIGATION FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	5-25
6.	Irreversible/Short-Term Effects	6-1
6.1	INTRODUCTION	6-1
6.2	REGULATORY CONTEXT	6-1
6.3	SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY.....	6-1
6.3.1	Flora and Fauna.....	6-2
6.3.2	Air Quality	6-3
6.3.3	Noise.....	6-3
6.3.4	Traffic.....	6-4
6.3.5	Health, Safety, and Well-Being.....	6-4
6.4	EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROJECT FORECLOSES FUTURE OPTIONS.....	6-5
6.5	POTENTIAL IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES.....	6-5
7.	Unresolved Issues and Unresolvable/Unavoidable Effects	7-1
7.1	UNRESOLVED ISSUES.....	7-1
7.2	UNRESOLVABLE/UNAVOIDABLE EFFECTS	7-2
7.2.1	Land Acquisition.....	7-2
7.2.2	Archaeological and Historic Resources	7-3
7.2.3	Water Resources.....	7-3
7.2.4	Flora and Fauna.....	7-4
8.	Public Involvement and Agency Coordination.....	8-1



8.1	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS AND EFFORTS.....	8-2
8.1.1	Pre-NOI Scoping	8-2
8.1.2	Project Website	8-4
8.1.3	Coordination Plan and Stakeholder Database.....	8-4
8.1.4	Environmental Impact Statement Scoping.....	8-5
8.1.5	Public Comment Period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.....	8-5
8.1.6	Ongoing Outreach and Public Coordination	8-5
8.2	AGENCY PARTICIPATION	8-7
8.2.1	Cooperating Agencies	8-7
8.2.2	Participating Agencies	8-8
8.2.3	Agency Meetings and Coordination	8-9
9.	List of Preparers.....	9-1
9.1	AGENCIES	9-1
9.1.1	State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Transportation, Highways Division	9-1
9.1.2	Federal Highway Administration	9-1
9.2	FIRMS	9-2
9.2.1	WSP USA Inc.....	9-2
9.2.2	ʻĀina Archaeology, Inc.....	9-3
9.2.3	HT HARVEY & Associates.....	9-3
9.2.4	Sea Engineering, Inc.	9-4

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 2: GOVERNMENT PLANS

APPENDIX 3.6: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.7: CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PRACTICES – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.9: WATER RESOURCES, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS - SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.10: FLORA AND FAUNA, ENDANGERED SPECIES - SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

APPENDIX 3.13: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE - SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.14: TRANSPORTATION – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.15: AIR QUALITY AND ENERGY – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.16: NOISE – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 3.18: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 4: SECTION 4(F) – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX 5: EVALUATION OF VIADUCT AND EMBANKMENT FOR UKUMEHAME PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT

APPENDIX 8: SCOPING REPORT



TABLES

TABLE S 1.	Anticipated Permits and Approvals and Cooperating Agencies.....	S-3
TABLE S 2.	Environmental Effects in Olowalu.....	S-16
TABLE S 3.	Environmental Effects in Ukumehame.....	S-17
TABLE S 4.	Evaluation of No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives in Olowalu.....	S-18
TABLE S 5.	Evaluation of No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives in Ukumehame.....	S-19
TABLE S 6.	Preliminary Cost Estimate (Build Alternatives).....	S-20
TABLE S 7.	Preliminary Cost Estimate for the Preferred Alternative.....	S-20
TABLE 1 1.	Potential Permits and Approvals.....	1-13
TABLE 2 1.	Alternatives Considered but Not Carried Forward.....	2-33
TABLE 2 2.	Preliminary Construction Cost Estimate (Build Alternatives).....	2-36
TABLE 2 3.	The Hawaiʻi State Plan.....	2-38
TABLE 2 4.	The Hawaiʻi State Plan (Part III).....	2-44
TABLE 3.1 1.	Summary of Land Uses in Olowalu.....	3.1-5
TABLE 3.1 2.	Summary of Land Uses in Ukumehame.....	3.1-8
TABLE 3.1 3.	Summary of Project Area Mapped Zoning Districts.....	3.1-13
TABLE 3.1 4.	Comparison of No Build Alternative and the Build Alternatives in Olowalu.....	3.1-25
TABLE 3.1 5.	Comparison of the No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives in Ukumehame.....	3.1-26
TABLE 3.2 1.	No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives Comparison.....	3.2-7
TABLE 3.4 1.	Tax Map Keys with Corresponding Co-Terminus Kuleana Parcels.....	3.4-4
TABLE 3.4 2.	Land Acquisition Parcels by Olowalu Build Alternative.....	3.4-6
TABLE 3.4 3.	Land Commission Awards by Olowalu Build Alternative.....	3.4-7
TABLE 3.4 4.	Olowalu Build Alternative 1 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-10
TABLE 3.4 5.	Olowalu Build Alternative 2 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-14
TABLE 3.4 6.	Olowalu Build Alternative 3 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-17
TABLE 3.4 7.	Olowalu Build Alternative 4 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-21
TABLE 3.4 8.	Land Acquisition Parcels by Ukumehame Build Alternative.....	3.4-22
TABLE 3.4 9.	Land Commission Awards by Ukumehame Build Alternative.....	3.4-23
TABLE 3.4 10.	Ukumehame Build Alternative 1 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-27
TABLE 3.4 11.	Ukumehame Build Alternatives 2 and 3 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-30
TABLE 3.4 12.	Ukumehame Build Alternative 4 – Estimated Land Area for Private and Kuleana Parcels with Right-of-Way Acquisition.....	3.4-34
TABLE 3.4 13.	Summary Comparison of Land Acquisition Parcels by Build Alternative in Olowalu.....	3.4-37
TABLE 3.4 14.	Summary Comparison of Land Acquisition Parcels by Build Alternative in Ukumehame.....	3.4-37
TABLE 3.5 1.	Parkland and Recreational Facilities in the Project Area.....	3.5-2
TABLE 3.6 1.	Public Outreach and Section 106 Consultation.....	3.6-7
TABLE 3.6 2.	Previously Surveyed Archaeological Properties within Area of Potential Effects.....	3.6-8
TABLE 3.6 3.	Field Identified Preliminary Eligible Archaeological Resources in Olowalu.....	3.6-9
TABLE 3.6 4.	Field Identified Preliminary Eligible Archaeological Resources in Ukumehame.....	3.6-10
TABLE 3.6 5.	Previously Surveyed Architectural Properties in Olowalu.....	3.6-12
TABLE 3.6 6.	Field Identified Eligible or Contributing Architectural Resources in Olowalu.....	3.6-16
TABLE 3.6 7.	Archaeological Resources with Potential Effects by Build Alternative - Olowalu Segment (including Launiupoko).....	3.6-18
TABLE 3.6 8.	Archaeological Resources with Potential Effects by Build Alternative – Ukumehame Segment.....	3.6-19
TABLE 3.6 9.	Potential Adverse Effects on Architectural Resources by Build Alternative - Olowalu.....	3.6-20
TABLE 3.6 10.	Summary of Potential Adverse Effects on Archaeological Resources.....	3.6-22
TABLE 3.7 1.	Cultural Practices Mentioned by Interview Participants.....	3.7-10



TABLE 3.8 1.	FHWA Visual Impact Assessment Process.....	3.8-3
TABLE 3.8 2.	Environmental Constraints	3.8-4
TABLE 3.8 3.	Visual Distance Zones.....	3.8-5
TABLE 3.8 4.	Affected Environment within the Area of Visual Effect.....	3.8-9
TABLE 3.8 5.	Types of Neighbors.....	3.8-10
TABLE 3.8 6.	Types of Travelers.....	3.8-11
TABLE 3.8 7.	Key Viewpoints by Type and Preference within the Area of Visual Effect	3.8-22
TABLE 3.8 8.	Analysis Phase Elements	3.8-23
TABLE 3.8 9.	Viewer Sensitivity.....	3.8-24
TABLE 3.8 10.	Measures to Minimize Potential Visual Effects	3.8-41
TABLE 3.8 11.	Project Commitments to Minimize Visual Prominence	3.8-41
TABLE 3.8 12.	Project Commitments During Construction	3.8-41
TABLE 3.8 13.	Mitigation Levels for Identified Adverse Effects	3.8-42
TABLE 3.9 1.	Potential Permits and Approvals	3.9-1
TABLE 3.9 2.	Clean Water Act Sections.....	3.9-3
TABLE 3.9 3.	Federal Executive Orders on Water Resources	3.9-5
TABLE 3.9 4.	Hawaiʻi State Water Resources Regulations	3.9-6
TABLE 3.9 5.	Hawaiʻi State Water Agency and County Involvement – Water Quality	3.9-7
TABLE 3.9 6.	Named Surface Waters in Project Area.....	3.9-12
TABLE 3.9 7.	Project Area Flood Zone Designations	3.9-18
TABLE 3.9 8.	Potential Construction Effects on Water Resources	3.9-23
TABLE 3.9 9.	Build Alternatives Comparison - Olowalu	3.9-27
TABLE 3.9 10.	Build Alternatives Comparison - Ukumehame	3.9-27
TABLE 3.10 1.	Flora, Fauna, Endangered Species Regulatory Context.....	3.10-2
TABLE 3.10 2.	Flora and Fauna Sources by Agency	3.10-4
TABLE 3.10 3.	Avian Species Observed in the Project Area	3.10-10
TABLE 3.10 4.	Fish Species of the Ukumehame and Olowalu Streams	3.10-12
TABLE 3.10 5.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species Designations	3.10-14
TABLE 3.10 6.	Listed Flora Species List	3.10-16
TABLE 3.10 7.	Listed Fauna Species List.....	3.10-16
TABLE 3.10 8.	Summary of Potential Effects to Fauna	3.10-22
TABLE 3.10 9.	Potential Terrestrial Fauna Effects.....	3.10-23
TABLE 3.10 10.	Potential Marine Fauna Effects.....	3.10-24
TABLE 3.10 11.	Potential Construction Effects on Flora and Fauna.....	3.10-26
TABLE 3.10 12.	Avoidance and Minimization Measures	3.10-27
TABLE 3.10 13.	General Project Avoidance and Minimization Measures	3.10-30
TABLE 3.10 14.	Fauna Avoidance and Minimization Measures.....	3.10-32
TABLE 3.10 15.	General Invasive Species Best Management Practices.....	3.10-36
TABLE 3.10 16.	USFWS Recommended Standard Best Management Practices for Aquatic Environments.....	3.10-38
TABLE 3.10 17.	NOAA NMFS Conservation Recommendations.....	3.10-39
TABLE 3.10 18.	FHWA-Proposed BMPs to NOAA NMFS.....	3.10-39
TABLE 3.10 19.	Final NOAA NMFS Proposed BMPs.....	3.10-41
TABLE 3.11 1.	Natural Hazard Regulatory Context.....	3.11-2
TABLE 3.11 2.	Soil Associations.....	3.11-4
TABLE 3.11 3.	Priority Risk Index Results for West Maui	3.11-7
TABLE 3.11 4.	Seismic Design Category Hazard Levels	3.11-10
TABLE 3.11 5.	Contributing Factors to Wildfire Intensity and Frequency in Hawaiʻi.....	3.11-16
TABLE 3.11 6.	2023 Fires in and Around Project Area.....	3.11-18
TABLE 3.11 7.	Wildfire Impact Mitigation Measures	3.11-29
TABLE 3.11 8.	Build Alternatives Comparison - Olowalu	3.11-29
TABLE 3.11 9.	Build Alternatives Comparison - Ukumehame	3.11-30
TABLE 3.13 2.	Sea Level Rise Assessment Overview	3.13-7
TABLE 3.13 3.	Build Alternatives Coastal Hazard Exposure Compared to the No Build Alternative - Olowalu	3.13-23
TABLE 3.13 4.	Build Alternatives Coastal Hazard Exposure Compared to the No Build Alternative - Ukumehame	3.13-24



TABLE 3.13 5.	Build Alternatives Max Flood Depth and Max Flood Elevation - Olowalu	3.13-24
TABLE 3.13 6.	Build Alternatives Max Flood Depth and Max Flood Elevation - Ukumehame	3.13-24
TABLE 3.13 7.	Comparison of Build Alternatives based on XBeach Model Results - Olowalu	3.13-25
TABLE 3.13 8.	Comparison of Build Alternatives based on XBeach Model Results - Ukumehame	3.13-25
TABLE 3.14 1.	Unsignalized Intersection Level of Service Definition	3.14-16
TABLE 3.14 2.	Existing Year 2023 Intersection Level of Service	3.14-17
TABLE 3.14 3.	Existing Crash Data First and Second Actions (2020, 2021, 2022).....	3.14-18
TABLE 3.14 4.	Year 2045 No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives AM Peak-Hour LOS Comparison.....	3.14-54
TABLE 3.14 5.	2045 No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives PM Peak-Hour LOS Comparison	3.14-55
TABLE 3.14 6.	Predicted Crash Frequency.....	3.14-56
TABLE 3.15 1.	State and National Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	3.15-2
TABLE 3.15 2.	Maui Ambient Air Monitoring Data	3.15-8
TABLE 3.15 3.	Distance to the Closest Sensitive Receptor.....	3.15-13
TABLE 3.16 1.	Average Human Ability to Perceive Changes in Noise Levels	3.16-4
TABLE 3.16 2.	Noise Abatement Criteria	3.16-5
TABLE 3.16 3.	Noise Measurement Data and Traffic Noise Model Validation	3.16-10
TABLE 3.16 4.	Predicted Existing Worst-Hour Traffic Noise Levels.....	3.16-11
TABLE 3.16 5.	Predicted Existing and Future Build Worst-Hour Traffic Noise Levels.....	3.16-17
TABLE 3.16 6.	Construction Equipment Noise Levels	3.16-21
TABLE 3.18 1.	Potential Sources of Hazardous Substances.....	3.18-3
TABLE 3.18 2.	Listing and Assessment of Aerial Photographs	3.18-7
TABLE 3.18 3.	EDR Identified Hazardous Waste Sites	3.18-8
TABLE 3.19 1.	Population Overview.....	3.19-9
TABLE 3.19 2.	Housing Overview	3.19-9
TABLE 3.19 3.	Labor Force Characteristics	3.19-10
TABLE 3.19 4.	Employment by Sector	3.19-11
TABLE 3.19 5.	Low Income Demographics (2017 to 2021)	3.19-13
TABLE 3.19 6.	Minority Demographics	3.19-15
TABLE 3.19 7.	Environmental Justice Effects	3.19-19
TABLE 3.19 8.	Central Maui Environmental Justice Population Communities Commuting to West Maui	3.19-22
TABLE 3.19 9.	Project Area Business	3.19-23
TABLE 4 1.	Potential Architectural Resources in Olowalu.....	4-6
TABLE 4 2.	Potential Section 4(f) Parks, Recreational, and Refuge Facilities in Olowalu.....	4-11
TABLE 4 3.	Potential Section 4(f) Parks, Recreational, and Refuge Facilities in Ukumehame	4-17
TABLE 4 4.	Potential Multiple-Use Properties in Olowalu and Ukumehame	4-20
TABLE 4 5.	Potential Section 4(f) Resources and Use in Olowalu.....	4-22
TABLE 4 6.	Potential Section 4(f) Resources and Use in Ukumehame.....	4-25
TABLE 5 1.	Preliminary Cost Estimate for the Preferred Alternative	5-10
TABLE 5 2.	Evaluation of No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives in Olowalu	5-12
TABLE 5 3.	Summary of Effects Assessment in Olowalu	5-13
TABLE 5 4.	Evaluation of the No Build Alternative and the Build Alternatives in Ukumehame	5-19
TABLE 5 5.	Summary of Effects Assessment in Ukumehame	5-20
TABLE 5 6.	Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures	5-26
TABLE 8 1.	Early Project Coordination.....	8-3
TABLE 8 2.	Public Outreach Meetings.....	8-6
TABLE 8 3.	Cooperating Federal Agencies.....	8-8
TABLE 8 4.	Cooperating State Agencies.....	8-8
TABLE 8 5.	Cooperating County Agencies	8-8
TABLE 8 6.	Participating Federal Agencies	8-9
TABLE 8 7.	Participating State Agencies.....	8-9
TABLE 8 8.	Participating County Agencies	8-10
TABLE 8 9.	Agency Meetings and Key Coordination.....	8-11



FIGURES

FIGURE S 1.	Vicinity Map.....	S-5
FIGURE S 2.	Project Area	S-6
FIGURE S 3.	Build Alternatives: Full Project Area	S-9
FIGURE S 4.	Build Alternatives: Olowalu	S-10
FIGURE S 5.	Build Alternatives: Ukumehame	S-11
FIGURE S 6.	Preferred Alternative	S-15
FIGURE 1 1.	Vicinity Map.....	1-5
FIGURE 1 2.	Project Area	1-6
FIGURE 1 3.	Sea Level Rise Exposure Areas	1-9
FIGURE 1 4.	Environmental Impact Statement Process Chart	1-16
FIGURE 2 1.	Build Alternatives	2-3
FIGURE 2 2.	Project End Points (and Adjacent Areas) at Launiupoko and the Pali.....	2-4
FIGURE 2 3.	Typical Right-of-Way Section with Two or Four Lanes and Narrow Right-of-Way Section	2-6
FIGURE 2 4.	Typical Short Span Bridge Elevation and Section.....	2-9
FIGURE 2 5.	Typical Long Span Bridge Elevation and Section	2-10
FIGURE 2 6.	Typical Viaduct Section and Elevation	2-11
FIGURE 2 7.	Olowalu Build Alternatives	2-15
FIGURE 2 8.	Build Alternative 1: Olowalu.....	2-17
FIGURE 2 9.	Additional Traffic Features in Olowalu for Build Alternative 1	2-18
FIGURE 2 10.	Build Alternative 2: Olowalu.....	2-20
FIGURE 2 11.	Build Alternative 3: Olowalu.....	2-21
FIGURE 2 12.	Build Alternative 4: Olowalu.....	2-23
FIGURE 2 13.	Ukumehame Build Alternatives	2-25
FIGURE 2 14.	Build Alternative 1: Ukumehame.....	2-28
FIGURE 2 15.	Build Alternatives 2 and 3: Ukumehame	2-29
FIGURE 2 16.	Build Alternative 4: Ukumehame.....	2-31
FIGURE 3.1 1.	Project Area Hawaiʻi State Land Use Designation	3.1-3
FIGURE 3.1 2.	Project Area Land Uses: Olowalu.....	3.1-4
FIGURE 3.1 3.	Launiupoko and North Olowalu Photos.....	3.1-7
FIGURE 3.1 4.	Central Olowalu Photos.....	3.1-7
FIGURE 3.1 5.	Project Area Land Uses: Ukumehame.....	3.1-9
FIGURE 3.1 6.	Ukumehame Photos.....	3.1-10
FIGURE 3.1 7.	Project Area Maui County Zoning	3.1-11
FIGURE 3.1 8.	Project Area Zoning: Olowalu	3.1-12
FIGURE 3.1 9.	Build Alternatives and Land Uses: Olowalu	3.1-15
FIGURE 3.1 10.	Build Alternatives and Land Uses: Ukumehame	3.1-19
FIGURE 3.2 1.	Project Area Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawaiʻi Classifications: Olowalu	3.2-4
FIGURE 3.2 2.	Project Area Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawaiʻi Classifications: Ukumehame	3.2-5
FIGURE 3.4 1.	Olowalu Build Alternative 1: Affected Tax Map Key.....	3.4-8
FIGURE 3.4 2.	Olowalu Build Alternative 1: Kuleana Parcels Affected.....	3.4-9
FIGURE 3.4 3.	Olowalu Build Alternative 2: Affected Tax Map Key.....	3.4-12
FIGURE 3.4 4.	Olowalu Build Alternative 2: Kuleana Parcels Affected.....	3.4-13
FIGURE 3.4 5.	Olowalu Build Alternative 3: Affected Tax Map Key.....	3.4-15
FIGURE 3.4 6.	Olowalu Build Alternative 3: Kuleana Parcels Affected.....	3.4-16
FIGURE 3.4 7.	Olowalu Build Alternative 4: Affected Tax Map Key.....	3.4-19
FIGURE 3.4 8.	Olowalu Build Alternative 4: Kuleana Parcels Affected.....	3.4-20
FIGURE 3.4 9.	Ukumehame Build Alternative 1: Affected Tax Map Key	3.4-25
FIGURE 3.4 10.	Ukumehame Build Alternative 1: Kuleana Parcels Affected.....	3.4-26
FIGURE 3.4 11.	Ukumehame Build Alternatives 2 and 3: Affected Tax Map	3.4-28
FIGURE 3.4 12.	Ukumehame Build Alternatives 2 and 3: Kuleana Parcels Affected	3.4-29
FIGURE 3.4 13.	Ukumehame Build Alternative 4: Affected Tax Map Key	3.4-32



FIGURE 3.4 14.	Ukumehame Build Alternative 4: Kuleana Parcels Affected.....	3.4-33
FIGURE 3.5 1.	Parkland and Recreational Facilities	3.5-3
FIGURE 3.5 2.	Ukumehame Firing Range Active Use Areas.....	3.5-4
FIGURE 3.5 3.	Ukumehame Firing Range and Beach Park Access	3.5-8
FIGURE 3.6 1.	Area of Potential Effects	3.6-5
FIGURE 3.6 2.	Architectural Properties: Olowalu	3.6-13
FIGURE 3.6 3.	Architectural Properties: Ukumehame	3.6-14
FIGURE 3.6 4.	Contributing Resources to the Olowalu Sugar Plantation Historic District	3.6-17
FIGURE 3.7 1.	Project Area Moku and Ahupuaʻa.....	3.7-4
FIGURE 3.8 1.	Visual Impact Assessment Process Flowchart.....	3.8-2
FIGURE 3.8 2.	Bare-Earth Viewshed Visibility	3.8-6
FIGURE 3.8 3.	Honoapiʻilani Highway Landscape Units and Area of Visual Effect	3.8-7
FIGURE 3.8 4.	Makai Views from Olowalu Petroglyphs	3.8-8
FIGURE 3.8 5.	Area of Visual Effect Key Viewpoints - Olowalu.....	3.8-12
FIGURE 3.8 6.	Area of Visual Effect Key Viewpoints - Ukumehame.....	3.8-13
FIGURE 3.8 7.	Key Viewpoint 1: Honoapiʻilani/Lāhainā Bypass Interchange (looking southeast).....	3.8-14
FIGURE 3.8 8.	Key Viewpoint 2: Awalua Beach (looking southeast)	3.8-14
FIGURE 3.8 9.	Key Viewpoint 3: Awalua Cemetery in Foreground (looking east)	3.8-15
FIGURE 3.8 10.	Key Viewpoint 4: Olowalu Petroglyphs (looking southwest).....	3.8-15
FIGURE 3.8 11.	Key Viewpoint 5: Olowalu General Store (looking northeast)	3.8-16
FIGURE 3.8 12.	Key Viewpoint 6: Olowalu Beach (looking east).....	3.8-16
FIGURE 3.8 13.	Key Viewpoint 7: Luawai Street Residential A (looking southeast)	3.8-17
FIGURE 3.8 14.	Key Viewpoint 7: Luawai Street Residential B (night, looking southeast).....	3.8-17
FIGURE 3.8 15.	Key Viewpoint 8: Olowalu Trail (looking southeast).....	3.8-18
FIGURE 3.8 16.	Key Viewpoint 8: Olowalu Trail (night, looking southeast)	3.8-18
FIGURE 3.8 17.	Key Viewpoint 9: Olowalu Lanakila Hawaiian Church (looking southeast)	3.8-19
FIGURE 3.8 18.	Key Viewpoint 10: Paekiʻi Place (looking west)	3.8-19
FIGURE 3.8 19.	Key Viewpoint 11: Ukumehame Beach Park (looking northwest)	3.8-20
FIGURE 3.8 20.	Key Viewpoint 12: Pāpalaua Wayside Park (looking northwest)	3.8-20
FIGURE 3.8 21.	Key Viewpoint 13: ʻAuʻau Channel Offshore (looking northeast).....	3.8-21
FIGURE 3.8 22.	View from the Navigatorʻs Chair on Kahoʻolawe Island (looking at Maui)	3.8-21
FIGURE 3.8 23.	Key Viewpoint 2 – Awalua Beach: Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 through 4 (looking south)	3.8-30
FIGURE 3.8 24.	Key Viewpoint 4 – Olowalu Petroglyphs: Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 through 4 (looking makai).....	3.8-32
FIGURE 3.8 25.	Key Viewpoint 4 – Olowalu Petroglyphs: Sectional Profile of Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 through 4	3.8-33
FIGURE 3.8 26.	Key Viewpoint 7 – Luawai Street: Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 through 4 (looking south).....	3.8-34
FIGURE 3.8 27.	Key Viewpoint 8 – Multiuse Trail Near Push Piles 3 and 4: Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 through 4 (looking south)	3.8-35
FIGURE 3.8 28.	Key Viewpoint 12 – Pāpalaua Wayside Park: Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 2 and 3 (looking west)	3.8-36
FIGURE 3.8 29.	Key Viewpoint 12 – Pāpalaua Wayside Park: Sectional Profile Relative to Build Alternatives 1 through 4	3.8-37
FIGURE 3.8 30.	Key Viewpoint 13 – ʻAuʻau Channel: Existing Conditions/No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 through 4 (looking east)	3.8-39
FIGURE 3.9 1.	Preliminary Waters of the U.S. Delineation – Ukumehame Area1	3.9-11
FIGURE 3.9 2.	Preliminary Other Waters of the U.S. Delineation – Common Alignment and Ukumehame Area1	3.9-14
FIGURE 3.9 3.	Preliminary Jurisdictional Other Waters of the U.S. Delineation – Olowalu1.....	3.9-15
FIGURE 3.9 4.	Preliminary Non-jurisdictional Other Waters of the U.S. Delineation – Olowalu1	3.9-16
FIGURE 3.9 5.	FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Flood Zones with Base Flood Elevation.....	3.9-20
FIGURE 3.10 1.	Biological Study Area and Data Gathering Points	3.10-5
FIGURE 3.10 2.	Habitat/Vegetation Types – Honoapiʻilani Highway	3.10-7
FIGURE 3.11 1.	Geologic Formations	3.11-5
FIGURE 3.11 2.	Soil Associations.....	3.11-6



FIGURE 3.11 3.	Civil Defense Siren Locations	3.11-8
FIGURE 3.11 4.	Seismic Design Category Hazard Levels	3.11-9
FIGURE 3.11 5.	Existing Honoapiʻilani Highway Potentially Tsunami-Inundated Bridges.....	3.11-14
FIGURE 3.11 6.	Tsunami Evacuation Zone.....	3.11-15
FIGURE 3.11 7.	June 2023 Olowalu Fire.....	3.11-18
FIGURE 3.11 8.	Maui County Wildfire Ignitions.....	3.11-20
FIGURE 3.11 9.	Estimated Storm Surge Inundation for the Island of Maui	3.11-22
FIGURE 3.11 10.	Bridges in Coastal Erosion Areas on Maui Island.....	3.11-25
FIGURE 3.12 1.	Special Management Area and Shoreline Setback Map	3.12-3
FIGURE 3.12 2.	Alternatives and Special Management Area in Olowalu	3.12-6
FIGURE 3.12 3.	Alternatives and Special Management Area in Ukumehame	3.12-7
FIGURE 3.13 1.	3.2-Foot Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR XA) in Olowalu Scenario	3.13-11
FIGURE 3.13 2.	3.2-Foot Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR XA) in Ukumehame Scenario	3.13-12
FIGURE 3.13 3.	6 Foot Passive Flooding Scenario in Olowalu	3.13-13
FIGURE 3.13 4.	6 Foot Passive Flooding Scenario in Ukumehame.....	3.13-14
FIGURE 3.13 5.	Climate Hazards Cascading Effects	3.13-16
FIGURE 3.13 6.	XBeach-NH Modeled Maximum Flood Extent.....	3.13-18
FIGURE 3.13 7.	XBeach-NH Modeled Maximum Flood Extent - Olowalu.....	3.13-19
FIGURE 3.13 8.	XBeach-NH Modeled Maximum Flood Extent - Ukumehame.....	3.13-21
FIGURE 3.14 1.	Project Area and Existing Traffic Study Area Intersections	3.14-3
FIGURE 3.14 2.	Location of Existing Intersections.....	3.14-6
FIGURE 3.14 3.	Existing Lane Configurations	3.14-7
FIGURE 3.14 4.	Existing Access along Honoapiʻilani Highway	3.14-8
FIGURE 3.14 5.	Existing 2023 Honoapiʻilani Highway Traffic Volumes at Launiupoko in the Vicinity of Milepost 16.5	3.14-12
FIGURE 3.14 6.	Existing 2023 Honoapiʻilani Highway Traffic Volumes at Ukumehame in the Vicinity of Milepost 11.5	3.14-13
FIGURE 3.14 7.	Existing Peak-Hour Traffic Volumes.....	3.14-15
FIGURE 3.14 8.	Build Alternatives	3.14-21
FIGURE 3.14 9.	Build Alternatives – Typical Unsignalized Intersection Configuration	3.14-23
FIGURE 3.14 10.	Build Alternative 1: Access from Launiupoko to Ukumehame	3.14-24
FIGURE 3.14 11.	Build Alternative 2: Access from Launiupoko to Ukumehame	3.14-25
FIGURE 3.14 12.	Build Alternative 3: Access from Launiupoko to Ukumehame	3.14-26
FIGURE 3.14 13.	Build Alternative 4: Access from Launiupoko to Ukumehame	3.14-27
FIGURE 3.14 14.	Olowalu – Build Alternatives 1 through 4: Olowalu Recycling and Refuse Convenience Center Access	3.14-28
FIGURE 3.14 15.	Olowalu –Build Alternative 1: Access between North Road and Luawai Street Intersections	3.14-29
FIGURE 3.14 16.	Olowalu – Build Alternative 2: Access between North Road and Luawai Street Intersections.....	3.14-30
FIGURE 3.14 17.	Olowalu – Build Alternative 3: Access between North Road and Luawai Street Intersections.....	3.14-31
FIGURE 3.14 18.	Olowalu – Build Alternative 4: Access between North Road and Luawai Street Intersections.....	3.14-32
FIGURE 3.14 19.	Ukumehame – Build Alternative 1: Access between Ehehene Street and Pōhaku ‘Aeko Street Intersections.....	3.14-33
FIGURE 3.14 20.	Ukumehame – Build Alternatives 2 and 3: Access between Ehehene Street and Pōhaku ‘Aeko Street Intersections.....	3.14-34
FIGURE 3.14 21.	Ukumehame – Build Alternative 4: Access between Ehehene Street and Pōhaku ‘Aeko Street Intersections.....	3.14-35
FIGURE 3.14 22.	Ukumehame – Build Alternative 1: Ukumehame Firing Range Access	3.14-36
FIGURE 3.14 23.	Ukumehame – Build Alternatives 2 and 3: Ukumehame Firing Range Access.....	3.14-37
FIGURE 3.14 24.	Ukumehame – Build Alternative 4: Ukumehame Firing Range Access	3.14-38
FIGURE 3.14 25.	Future Year 2045 Honoapiʻilani Highway Traffic Volumes at Launiupoko in the Vicinity of Milepost 16.5	3.14-42



FIGURE 3.14 26.	Future Year 2045 Honoapiʻilani Highway Traffic Volumes at Ukumehame in the Vicinity of Milepost 11.5	3.14-43
FIGURE 3.14 27.	Future Year 2045 No Build Alternative Intersection Locations	3.14-44
FIGURE 3.14 28.	Future Year 2045 Build Alternative 1 Intersection Locations	3.14-45
FIGURE 3.14 29.	Future Year 2045 Build Alternative 2 Intersection Locations	3.14-46
FIGURE 3.14 30.	Future Year 2045 Build Alternative 3 Intersection Locations	3.14-47
FIGURE 3.14 31.	Future Year 2045 Build Alternative 4 Intersection Locations	3.14-48
FIGURE 3.14 32.	Projected Year 2045 No Build Peak Hour Traffic Volumes.....	3.14-49
FIGURE 3.14 33.	Projected Year 2045 Alternative 1 Peak Hour Traffic Volumes.....	3.14-50
FIGURE 3.14 34.	Projected Year 2045 Alternative 2 Peak Hour Traffic Volumes.....	3.14-51
FIGURE 3.14 35.	Projected Year 2045 Alternative 3 Peak Hour Traffic Volumes.....	3.14-52
FIGURE 3.14 36.	Projected Year 2045 Alternative 4 Peak Hour Traffic Volumes.....	3.14-53
FIGURE 3.15 1.	FHWA-Projected National MSAT Emission Trends for Vehicles Operating on Roadways (2020 to 2060).....	3.15-5
FIGURE 3.15 2.	Comparison of Distance to Residences in Olowalu.....	3.15-11
FIGURE 3.15 3.	Comparison of Distance to Residences in Ukumehame.....	3.15-12
FIGURE 3.16 1.	Typical Noise Levels	3.16-3
FIGURE 3.16 2.	Noise Monitoring Locations	3.16-8
FIGURE 3.16 3.	Modeled 2045 Noise Levels with the Project - Olowalu	3.16-15
FIGURE 3.16 4.	Modeled 2045 Noise Levels with the Project - Ukumehame	3.16-16
FIGURE 3.16 5.	Evaluated Noise Barrier Location, Build Alternative 4	3.16-25
FIGURE 3.17 1.	Infrastructure Systems in Olowalu	3.17-2
FIGURE 3.17 2.	Infrastructure Systems in Ukumehame	3.17-3
FIGURE 3.18 1.	Observed Areas of Potential Contaminated Materials - Olowalu.....	3.18-5
FIGURE 3.18 2.	Observed Areas of Potential Contaminated Materials - Ukumehame.....	3.18-6
FIGURE 3.19 1.	Local and Regional Areas of Effect	3.19-7
FIGURE 3.19 2.	Census Tract 320 Compared to Project Area	3.19-8
FIGURE 3.19 3.	Low-Income Communities.....	3.19-14
FIGURE 3.19 4.	Minority Communities Map.....	3.19-18
FIGURE 4 1.	Potential Section 4(f) Facilities.....	4-13
FIGURE 4 3.	Preferred Alternative Traffic Access to Maui County Beach Parks and Firing Range - Ukumehame	4-16
FIGURE 5 1.	Build Alternatives	5-3
FIGURE 5 2.	Preferred Alternative	5-4
FIGURE 5 3.	Olowalu – Refinement at Northern Connection to Existing Lāhainā Bypass	5-5
FIGURE 5 4.	Ukumehame – Refinement at Northern Connection to Olowalu	5-7
FIGURE 5 5.	Ukumehame – Refinement at Pali Connection through Ukumehame Firing Range	5-9



Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABBREVIATION/ ACRONYM	DEFINITION
AADT	annual average daily traffic
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACB	asphalt concrete base
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
AIS	Archaeological Inventory Survey
ALISH	Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawaiʻi
ANSI	American National Standard Institute
APE	Area of Potential Effects
AVE	Area of Visual Effect
BFE	base flood elevation
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BLNR	Board of Land and Natural Resources
BMP	best management practice
BSM	Blackburn’s sphinx moth
BWS	Board of Water Supply
CAAP	Hawaiʻi Climate Adaption Action Plan
CAFE	Corporate Average Fuel Economy
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGG	Coastal Geology Group
CIA	Cultural Impact Assessment
CRESI	Coastal Road Erosion Susceptibility Index
CRC	Cultural Resource Commission
CSH	Cultural Surveys Hawaiʻi, Inc.
CSS	Context Sensitive Solutions
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAR	Division of Aquatic Resources
DART	Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis
dB	decibel
dba	A-weighted decibels
DBEDT	Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism
DHHL	Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
DLNR	Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOFAW	Division of Forestry and Wildlife



ABBREVIATION/ ACRONYM	DEFINITION
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS, Final EIS)
EISPN	Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
EJ	environmental justice
ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
EO	Executive Order
ERP	Environmental Review Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ETC	Estimated Time of Completion
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
FAST Act	Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act
FEA	Final Environmental Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	geographic information systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAR	Hawaiʻi Administrative Rules
HCCC	Hawaiʻi Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
HDOA	Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture
HDOH	State of Hawaiʻi Department of Health
HDOT	State of Hawaiʻi Department of Transportation
HEPA	Hawaiʻi Environmental Policy Act
HEPA	Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes, Chapter 343
HRHP	Hawaiʻi Register of Historic Places
HRS	Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes
HUI	Hui O Ka Wai Ola
HVO	Hawaiian Volcano Observatory
IBC	International Building Code
IRC	International Residential Code
IJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
IPaC	Information, Planning and Consultation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KVP	key viewpoints



ABBREVIATION/ ACRONYM	DEFINITION
LCA	Land Commission Award
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
L_{eq}	the energy average noise level, in dBA, for a specific period
LOS	Level of Service
LRFI	Literature Review and Field Inspection
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MECO	Maui Electric Company
MEMA	Maui Emergency Management Agency
MHHW	Mean higher high water
MMPO	Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization
mm/year	millimeter per year
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MSAT	mobile source air toxics
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGPC	Notice of General Permit Coverage
NHC	National Hurricane Center
NHO	Native Hawaiian Organization
NHOPI	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
OPSD	Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
OSTP	Office of Science and Technology Policy
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PASH	Public Access Shoreline Highway
PCC	Portland Cement Concrete



ABBREVIATION/ ACRONYM	DEFINITION
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PDO	Property Damage Only
PGA	peak ground acceleration
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
Project	Honoapiʻilani Highway Improvements Project
PS&E	Plans, Specifications, and Estimate
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RCNM	Roadway Construction Noise Model
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFP	Request for Proposal
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act
ROD	Record of Decision
SAAQS	State Ambient Air Quality Standards
<i>Sackett</i>	<i>Sackett v. EPA</i>
SAFE	Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient
SCHPR	Statewide Coastal Highway Program Report
SDC	seismic design category
SHPD	State Historic Preservation Division
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIHP	State Inventory of Historic Places
SLOSH	Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes
SLR-XA	Sea Level Rise Exposure Area
SMA	Special Management Area
SOEST	School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
SOI	Secretary of the Interior
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
Task Force	Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flood Hazard Scenarios and Tools Interagency Task Force
TAZ	traffic analysis zone
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TDSR	Temporary Debris Staging and Reduction
TERC	Transportation Environmental Resource Council
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TMK	Tax Map Key
TNM	Traffic Noise Model



ABBREVIATION/ ACRONYM	DEFINITION
TSM	Transportation System Management
TSMO	Transportation System Management and Operations
TWSC	Two-way STOP-control
µg/m³	micrograms per cubic meter
Uniform Act	Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
Viewer	State of Hawaiʻi Sea Level Rise Viewer
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface



Hawaiian Terms

TERMS	DEFINITION
'ili	a subdivision or a smaller area of land within an ahupua'a
ahupua'a	A traditional land district that typically extends from the top of the mountains to the sea and includes a watershed
hoa 'āina	Hawaiian native land tenants
ka'ao	myths
kahakō	A macron indicating a long vowel sound in Hawaiian language (ā, ē, ī, ō, ū)
kalo	Taro (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>), a native plant critical to agriculture and for which its cultivation is at the core of Native Hawaiian culture and identity.
kuleana claim	Maka'ainana (native Tenant) Mahele land claim. Carved out of claims already made by the government and chiefs
Koe na Kuleana o Kanaka	Reserving the Rights of Native Tenants
konohiki	ahupua'a managers
Māhele/māhele	The Māhele was a historical event in Hawaiian history that began in 1845 with the establishment of a Board of Commissioners to Quiet Land Titles, also known as the Land Commission; māhele means a share, portion, land division
mauka/makai	inland/seaward, which correspond to generally easterly/westerly directions
Mele	songs and chants
moku	traditional district
mo'olelo	stories and history
nēnē	Hawaiian goose
'okina	Symbol representing the glottal stop in Hawaiian language; used only in front of vowels
'Ōlelo Hawai'i Terminology	The Hawaiian language, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, is an important source of knowledge and reference in establishing historical context as well as current definitions of location, setting, and lineage. See mauka/makai
pali	cliff, steep hill, or slope; also refers to a specific place of steep topography south of the project area
wahi pana	storied places