

Public Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment for the
Hawaii Fire Department
Construction of New Fire Station (Makalei Fire Station)
Project # B-3746

FEMA A.R.R.A. Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant EMW-2009-FC-02761R Hawaii County.

Interested parties are hereby notified that Hawaii County has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct the New Fire Station to be located at Makalei, North Kona, Island of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Fire Department has applied for FEMA's Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5). FEMA provides financial assistance under this program for building a new or modifying an existing fire station in order to enhance fire departments response capability and protect the communities they serve from fire and fire-related hazards.

FEMA is considering an application to provide financial assistance in support of the Hawaii Fire Department's (Grantee) proposal to construct an 11,675 square foot, 3-bay fire station to be constructed at Makalei Drive and Mamalahoa Highway, between mile marker 32 and 33, Makalei, North Kona, Island of Hawaii (Tax Map Key (3) 7-2-007: 010 (por.)). The Grantee's proposal would close a service performance gap due to population shifts and current and projected socioeconomic changes and to improve emergency response service delivery, improve fire fighter safety, and reduce potential fire loss.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. This notice also serves as an invitation for public comment on the Proposed Action and its potential impact on the quality of the human environment.

The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm> or viewed at the following location:

West Hawaii Mayor's Office, 75-5722 Hanama Place, Suite 102, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
Fire Administration Office, Hawaii Fire Department, 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2501, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

The comment period will end 15 days from the initial notice publication date August 20, 2010. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in any final documents.

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