

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:
HAR-EP 1482.20

August 21, 2019

Mr. Hai On
P.O. Box 2791
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
hai@kawaihaereef.org

Dear Mr. Hai On:

Subject: Kawaihae Harbor Expansion, Hawaii Island

Thank you for your letter dated July 22, 2019 regarding development of the Pier 3 Cargo Terminal, Kawaihae Harbor. The Department of Transportation, Harbors Division's (DOT-H) mission is to effectively manage and operate a statewide commercial harbors system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods to, from and between the Hawaiian Islands. In an effort to fulfill its mission, DOT-H develops long-range plans to ensure that its facilities can keep up with increasing demands of the community for food, medicine, clothing and shelter. The *Hawaii Island Harbors 2035 Master Plan* recommends several improvements for Kawaihae Harbor, including the Pier 3 Cargo Terminal that will be developed as the west side of Hawaii Island grows.

Please keep in mind that the undeveloped man-made shoreline inside Kawaihae Harbor is the only place left along the Kohala/Kona coast for DOT-H to add additional berth and cargo yard capacity to its commercial facilities to service the west side of Hawaii Island. It was created from dredge tailings, mostly chunks of coral, that were deposited there in the process of deepening Kawaihae Harbor to allow deep draft vessels to service the community on the west side of the island, and remains mostly undeveloped until additional cargo space is needed. In the meantime, DOT-H allows the public access to this area for limited uses, providing the opportunity is not abused. Once the Pier 3 Cargo Terminal is built, the remainder of the coral flats peninsula will remain accessible to the public via the connecting road from Kawaihae Road that goes around the south side of the peninsula and out to the surf park.

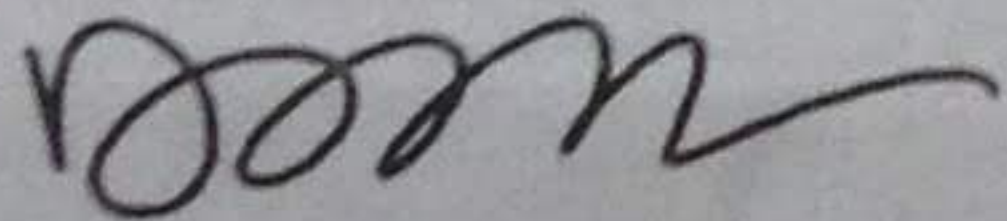
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There are several natural beaches available for recreational use in the area. Spencer Beach County Park, which is adjacent to Kawaihae Harbor, has fine sand, shade trees, a lawn, a waterside pavilion, picnic tables, play courts, comfort stations and a campground. Hapuna Beach State Park, located a bit further south, is considered one of the nicest beaches in the State. It is equipped with overnight cabins, food concessions and other amenities similar to Spencer Beach County Park.

Thank you for adopting Kawaihae Reef as your kuleana. Your kokua is much appreciated. Please feel free to contact Mr. Jeff Hood, Hawaii District Manager at (808) 933-8854 and he would be more than happy to meet with you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



DEREK J. CHOW
Deputy Director
Department of Transportation, Harbors Division