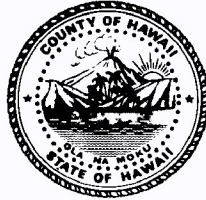


C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*

William V. Brillhante, Jr.  
*Managing Director*

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## County of Hawai'i

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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*Director*

Michelle S. Ahn  
*Deputy Director*

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May 28, 2025

Mr. Bryan Keli'i Esmeralda, AICP  
Manager, Land Planning  
Lili'uokalani Trust  
1100 Alakea Street, Suite 1100  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
VIA EMAIL



Dear Bryan Esmeralda:

**SUBJECT: 2024 Annual Progress Report**  
**State Land Use Boundary Amendment (LUC 786)**  
**LUC Docket No. A89-646**  
**Applicant: Lili'uokalani Trust**  
**Tax Map Key: (3) 7-4-020:009, 010, 022 & 028, North Kona, Hawai'i**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your annual progress report dated August 22, 2024, as required under Condition No. 22 of LUC Docket No. A89-646. We will forward a copy of the report to the State Land Use Commission for their reference. Thank you for complying with the annual report requirement.

We look forward to the submittal of your next annual progress report on or before August 28, 2025.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Moses (Moke) Ramos-Kia Tupua at (808) 961-8169.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
Jeffrey W. Darrow (May 28, 2025 10:05 HST)

JEFFREY W. DARROW  
Planning Director

MRKT:mads

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Mr. Bryan Keli'i Esmeralda, AICP  
Manager, Land Planning  
Lili'uokalani Trust  
May 28, 2025  
Page 2

cc w/APR: Land Use Commission

**Oda, Michelle**

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**From:** Bryan Esmeralda <besmeralda@onipaa.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2024 9:01 AM  
**To:** Planning Internet Mail  
**Subject:** LUC Docket A89-646 2024 Annual Progress Report  
**Attachments:** 2024 FINAL Annual Report\_LUC Docket A89-646\_PD.pdf

Aloha –

In compliance with Condition 22 of State Land Use Commission Docket A89-646, we are submitting the attached annual progress report for the Planning Department's files.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Mahalo,  
Bryan



**Bryan Keli'i Esmeralda, AICP**

Manager, Land Planning

**Lili'uokalani Trust | Kīpuka Lili'uonamoku**

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, HI 96813

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August 22, 2024

*Via email to: [planning@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:planning@hawaiicounty.gov)*

Mr. Zendo Kern, Director  
Planning Department  
County of Hawai'i  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

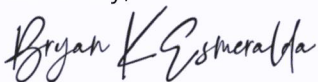
**Subject: 2024 Annual Progress Report  
Land Use Commission Docket No. A89-646  
Keahuolū Ahupua'a, North Kona, Island of Hawai'i**

Aloha Mr. Kern,

Please find enclosed an annual progress report in compliance with Condition 22 of Land Use Commission Docket No. A89-646. This report addresses the status of the development and compliance with the conditions of approval for the current year.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (808) 203-6150.

Sincerely,



Bryan K. Esmeralda, AICP  
Manager, Land Planning

Enclosure



# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STATE LAND USE COMMISSION

**Land Use Commission Docket No. A89-646**  
**Decision and Order Dated August 28, 1991**  
**Keahuolū Ahupuaʻa, North Kona, Island of Hawaiʻi**

**August 22, 2024**

## **Introduction**

This report is being submitted by Liliʻuokalani Trust (LT, Petitioner) in compliance with Condition 22 of State Land Use Commission (LUC) Docket No. A89-646 and related Decision and Order dated August 28, 1991. This report addresses the current status of the development of the petition area and compliance with the conditions of approval for the current year.

## **Status of Conditions**

**Condition 1.** *Petitioner shall generate one (1) non-tourism related job, or the equivalent thereof, for each hotel unit Petitioner is allowed to build. As used herein, “non-tourism related” means not related to hotels or residential condominiums intended for use as transient accommodations, or recreational, entertainment or other facilities and services used primarily by tourists. The equivalent value of one (1) non-tourism related job will be determined by the Office of State Planning.*

At the present time, the development of the property does not include any hotel uses. However, consistent with Findings of Fact (FOF) item 31.g., and FOF item 46, LT is currently attempting to engage a hotel developer for the property. If development of the proposed hotel is successful, LT will demonstrate compliance with this condition in future annual reports following the completion of the hotel.

**Condition 2.** *Petitioner shall design and construct all structures and buildings in compliance with County, State, and Federal codes and standards.*

The Kmart, Macy's (formerly Liberty House), Makalapua Stadium Cinemas, and Kona Judiciary Complex (Keahuolū Courthouse) projects within Phase I of the Petition Area have complied with this condition at the time of their completion in 1994, 1997, 2000, and 2019 respectively. LT and/or developers of property

within the Petition Area will continue to comply with this condition in future developments.

**Condition 3.** *There shall be no occupancy of any structures within a 1,300 foot buffer zone surrounding the Kealakehe Landfill until a permanent solution to smoke, fumes and other health hazards from the Landfill is in place.*

It is LT's understanding that the County of Hawai'i (County) has implemented a permanent solution to the smoke, fumes, and other health hazards which emanate from the Kealakehe Landfill site by covering the site with an impermeable seal. In addition, the landfill facility was permanently closed in 1993. It is noted that LT intends on requesting a modification to the subject Decision and Order to reflect an update to the conceptual master plan for the Petition Area, which may include changes to the 1,300-foot buffer zone adjacent to the landfill.

**Condition 4.** *The Landowner shall participate in an air quality monitoring program as specified by the State Department of Health.*

The State Department of Health (DOH) did not specify or require participation in an air quality monitoring program for the previously constructed projects within the Petition Area. LT and/or developers of property within the Petition Area will participate in an air quality program for all future developments if specified by the DOH.

**Condition 5.** *The Landowner shall implement effective soil erosion and dust control measures during all phases of the development.*

Soil erosion and pest control measures were implemented for the Kmart, Macy's, Makalapua Stadium Cinemas, and Keahuolū Courthouse projects. LT and/or developers of property within the Petition Area will continue to comply with this condition in future developments as required by applicable laws and regulations.

**Condition 6.** *Petitioner shall provide or cause to provide the necessary water source, storage, and transmission facilities to service the Project. Petitioner shall coordinate and explore joint development with the County of Hawaii, Department of*

*Water Supply, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, adjoining landowners, and/or other State or County agencies regarding measures designed to obtain the required water for the Project.*

The Keahuolū well, reservoir, and transmission system to service the 49.9-acre first increment of Phase I of the Petition Area has been constructed, completed, and dedicated to the County. The County accepted the system on August 27, 1996. Additionally, the Keahuolū Lands Water Resource Development Agreement was signed by LT and the County Department of Water Supply (DWS) on February 23, 2010, which describes LT's participation in the development of the Palani transmission line and storage facilities on LT land adjacent to the Queen Lili'uokalani Village. Furthermore, LT participated in the construction of a water transmission line within the Ane Keohokālole Highway.

LT continues to work with the DWS on the planning and development of a new regional water system that will service both the County's and LT's water needs. LT has engaged consultants to plan the source development and transmission system to provide water in a timely manner and continues to coordinate with the DWS on the system design, requirements, and future water agreement.

**Condition 7.** *The Landowner shall connect the wastewater system for the proposed development of the Property to the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant. Construction of structures within the Property shall not commence until the Landowner has obtained assurances from the County of Hawaii that capacity at this plant has been reserved or will be available at the time occupancy occurs of structures within the Property; provided that, if the capacity at the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant is not sufficient for the proposed development of the Property, the Landowner may utilize other alternatives acceptable to the State Department of Health and County of Hawaii.*

LT has obtained the necessary approvals for connecting the existing structures within Phase I of the Petition Area to the County wastewater system. LT and/or developers of property within the Petition Area will continue to comply with this condition in future developments.

**Condition 8.** *Petitioner shall fund and construct highway improvements, including but not limited to the dedication of rights-of-way, necessitated by the*



*proposed phased development and in designs and schedules accepted by and coordinated with the State Department of Transportation and the County of Hawaii.*

The necessary highway improvements for the Makalapua Shopping Center (accepted by and coordinated with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and the County) were completed as part of the earlier Kmart and Macy's projects. LT conveyed the necessary right-of-way to the State to widen Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway in satisfaction of the condition. The transaction was memorialized in a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) entered between the State DOT and LT dated September 12, 2003, as amended. The PSA transaction transferred nine (9) parcels of LT's lands to the State DOT and two (2) highway boundaries in favor of the State DOT for highway improvements. As part of the PSA transaction, the State Director of Transportation, Rodney Haraga sent a letter to Robert Ozaki, Trust Administrator, dated September 17, 2003, stating that the State DOT released LT from further obligations related to highway improvements under Condition 8.

**Condition 9.** *Petitioner shall work with the appropriate departments of the State and County on the designs and construction of all roadway improvements within the Property. Petitioner shall work with the appropriate departments of the State and County on regional traffic improvements necessitated by the proposed phases of the development. Petitioner's participation shall not at any time exceed its pro rata share of roadway improvements made necessary by the increased traffic resulting from each phase of the development. In the event that the County of Hawaii adopts an impact fee for transportation improvements, the foregoing funding requirements may be modified or deleted to the extent that the cost of any specific traffic improvement is also included in the County of Hawaii's impact fee computation.*

All the previously required roadway improvements within Phase I of the Petition Area were completed earlier as a part of the Kmart and Macy's projects in 1994 and 1997, respectively. The State DOT acquired the necessary lands from LT to widen the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway right-of-way. This acquisition satisfied the pro rata share of State roadway improvements necessary for traffic resulting from the total development of Phase I of the Petition Area (315 acres) and the State DOT released LT from further obligations related to highway improvements as discussed in the response to Condition 8, above. Furthermore, as part of the roadway improvements for the Kona Commons Shopping Center

development makai of Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway, LT received approvals from the appropriate departments and widened Makala Boulevard immediately mauka and makai of Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway to a width of 100 feet. LT dedicated the makai roadway improvements of Makala Boulevard to the County via Resolution No. 234-13, dated December 18, 2013.

LT has and will continue to work with the County and State in the development and implementation of regional and local roadway improvements that could be directly or indirectly affected by development within the Petition Area as well as the other properties owned by LT.

**Condition 10.** *Petitioner shall undertake periodic monitoring of the traffic conditions within and adjacent to the Property throughout the Project's development period to the satisfaction of and with the approval of the State Department of Transportation and the County of Hawaii.*

LT will continue to monitor traffic conditions within the Petition Area and adjacent areas throughout future development activities to the satisfaction of and with the approval of the State DOT and County. As future development occurs in the Petition Area and in conformance with conditions that may be attached to relevant County zoning approvals, the Petitioner will prepare additional traffic monitoring studies as may be requested and submit the reports to the State DOT and County.

In response to comments received from the County of Hawai'i Planning Department on the 2023 annual progress report, LT noted that it has not commissioned traffic studies following the construction of existing developments in the area including the Makalapua Stadium Cinemas, located at the Makalapua Shopping Center within the Petition Area, or HPM Building Supply, located at the corner of Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and Makala Boulevard, outside of the Petition Area.

LT has recently initiated the entitlements process for the Makalapua Project District (MPD), an approximately 70-acre mixed-use development to be located directly makai of the Kona Commons shopping center. As part of this process, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared, which will be informed by various technical studies, including a Traffic Impact Analysis Report (TIAR). As



part of the analysis, the TIAR will assess current traffic observations and turning movements at a number of intersections near the project area, including the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and Makala Boulevard intersection and the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and Palani Road intersection. Both of these major intersections are in the vicinity of the Makalapua Stadium Cinemas and HPM. As such, the traffic counts included in the TIAR will include traffic generated by these two developments as "existing traffic" and will factor into the current capacity of these intersections, which will be discussed in the TIAR. As the Planning Department will be the Approving Agency for the EA, it will be able to access and review the TIAR.

**Condition 11.** *Petitioner shall appoint a transportation manager whose function is the formulation, use, and continuation of alternative transportation opportunities that would optimize the use of existing and proposed transportation systems. In the alternative, Petitioner may participate in a regional program for transportation management with other developers and/or landowners. This program shall address the formulation, use, and continuation of alternative transportation opportunities that would optimize the use of existing and proposed transportation systems.*

LT has indicated to the State DOT its willingness to participate in a regional program for transportation in West Hawai'i. The County's Kona Community Development Plan (KCDP) includes a regional transit-oriented development plan; however, there is no formal regional program for transportation management.

LT has employed a Land Planning Manager within its Real Estate Department. As part of the responsibilities of this position, the Land Planning Manager is tasked with reviewing existing land use codes, ordinances, and planning documents and where applicable, recommending the incorporation of policies found in these documents into current planning projects. As part of the MPD planning process, the Land Planning Manager has reviewed the Hawai'i County General Plan, County of Hawai'i Street Design Manual, County of Hawai'i Transit and Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan, and the KCDP. LT's Real Estate Development team and the Land Planning Manager have also been in contact with the County's Department of Public Works regarding street design requirements for current LT development projects as well as the Mass Transit Agency in order to be involved with the County's planning for a Kona Transit



Hub. We also note that the MPD is within a transit-oriented development area as designated by the KCDP and as such, the Land Planning Manager will continue to coordinate with the County and other landowners to discuss regional transportation system considerations.

Furthermore, as other development projects in Kona come to fruition, the Land Planning Manager may meet with the developers and/or landowners to also discuss regional transportation system considerations.

**Condition 12.** *Petitioner shall work with the County to establish a reasonable buffer area along the boundary of the Property to maintain the visual integrity from Queen Kaahumanu Highway.*

A plan for landscaping of a buffer area along the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway boundary of the Petition Area was submitted to the County in October 1993. Plans for new projects along Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway will include consideration of a buffer along the highway.

**Condition 13.** *Petitioner shall preserve those historic sites, as agreed to in writing with the Historic Preservation Division, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, in compliance with Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Petitioner shall submit to the State Historic Preservation Division a detailed historic preservation mitigation plan in two parts, a preservation plan and an archaeological data recovery plan. This mitigation plan must be approved by the State Historic Preservation Division, prior to any field work and prior to any construction in the vicinity of historic sites. Also, the Petitioner must obtain verification by the State Historic Preservation Division that successful execution of the mitigation plan has been completed prior to any construction in the vicinity of the historic sites.*

In a letter dated June 5, 1998, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) approved a proposal on behalf of LT: 1) ensuring that the preservation plan for the preserve would be completed "before the adjacent parcels are developed," and 2) that the detailed "archaeological inventory survey of the preserve area is completed before the preservation plan is developed." LT worked with the County in the development of the Ane Keohokālōle Highway. As part of the project, the County contracted Pacific Legacy, Inc. (PLI) and performed data recovery at selected sites within the highway corridor; completed an

Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) within the 25-acre historic preserve area (HPA); as well as prepared a preservation plan. All this work has been done in conjunction with and accepted by SHPD.

Together with local community organizations and public agencies, LT's Kona-based staff continues to develop and implement short- and long-range plans that coordinate the planning, management, and maintenance of the 25-acre HPA.

In 2009, related to the Ane Keohokālole Highway project, SHPD stated that newly acquired information has indicated that the previous archaeological report did not accurately reflect the nature, distribution, or significance of historic properties. As a result, LT contracted PLI to provide a new AIS for the area. A draft AIS for Urban Phases I and II was submitted to SHPD on December 20, 2015, for its review and approval. An updated AIS was subsequently prepared and submitted to SHPD on August 30, 2021, and resubmitted on March 11, 2022, and was accepted by the SHPD on January 18, 2024. As requested by SHPD, a Interim Protection Plan (IPP) for sites within Urban Phases I and II was also prepared and submitted on June 3, 2022, and is currently under review. A draft AIS for Phase III was also submitted to SHPD on January 13, 2016, and was accepted on September 9, 2019.

**Condition 14.** *Petitioner shall immediately stop work in the impacted area and contact the Historic Preservation Division, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, should any archaeological resources such as artifacts, shell, bones, or charcoal deposits, human burial, or rock or coral alignments, pavings or walls of historic or prehistoric origin be encountered during the development of the Property.*

LT and/or developers of property within the Petition Area will comply with this condition in future developments should archaeological resources be inadvertently encountered.

**Condition 15.** *Petitioner shall formulate a fire contingency plan prior to construction in the project area. The fire contingency plan shall be approved by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife.*

A fire contingency plan was completed and previously approved by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Future developments will comply with this requirement.

**Condition 16.** *Petitioner shall coordinate with the County of Hawaii and the State Department of Health to establish appropriate systems to contain spills and prevent materials such as petroleum products, chemicals, solvents, or other pollutants from leaching into the storm drainage system and adversely affecting the groundwater and coastal waters.*

The Petitioner has coordinated with the County and the DOH to establish appropriate systems to contain spills and prevent materials from leaching into the storm drainage system and adversely affecting the groundwater and coastal waters. Spill prevention measures were developed and will be incorporated into construction plans and specifications in future projects. In addition, drainage improvements for all future projects will be required to conform to the "Storm Drainage Standards", Department of Public Works, County of Hawai'i, dated October 1970, as amended.

**Condition 17.** *Petitioner shall prepare a drainage and erosion control plan and shall fund and construct the necessary drainage improvements and maintain ocean water quality to the satisfaction of the State Department of Health. Petitioner shall, to the extent necessary as determined by the County of Hawaii, coordinate off-site improvements with adjoining landowners and developers, and/or other Federal, State, or City agencies.*

LT and/or developers of property within the Petition Area will comply with this condition by incorporating this requirement into construction plans and specifications for future developments. Any drainage improvements necessitated by future development will be constructed by LT and/or its development partners and coordinated with adjoining landowners and developers as deemed necessary.

**Condition 18.** *Petitioner shall fund and install, to the specifications and satisfaction of the State Office of Civil Defense, the necessary facilities within the Property and a siren paging encoder in the Kona Police Department substation.*



As reported in earlier annual reports, the State Office of Civil Defense deferred to County jurisdiction on this matter, and the County has not required a siren paging encoder.

**Condition 19.** *Petitioner shall develop and maintain on-site facilities to insure that the nearshore, offshore, and deep ocean waters remain in pristine condition. Petitioner shall also participate in a water quality monitoring program in accordance with the methods and procedures approved by the State Department of Health.*

As part of a water quality monitoring program, Dr. Steve Dollar conducted sampling in June 1996, while earthwork for the Macy's, Makala Boulevard, and Luhia Street extension projects were in progress. No changes in water quality attributable to the projects were noticed. A report was submitted to DOH in September 1996 and subsequently approved, with a stipulation that the need for additional monitoring will be determined on a project-by-project basis. LT informed DOH of the grading for the Makalapua Stadium Cinemas project and received DOH's concurrence that no water quality monitoring was necessary, based on the results of the earlier study. LT and/or developers of property within the Petition Area will continue to inform DOH of future development to determine if future water quality monitoring is necessary.

**Condition 20.** *Petitioner shall complete the development on the Property in substantial compliance with the representations made before the Land Use Commission. Failure to so develop may result in the reversion of the Property to its former land use classifications or a change to a more appropriate classification.*

LT is currently reviewing the urbanized lands under this docket in the context of its other land holdings in North Kona and plans to update its conceptual land plan to address changes in market demand and community needs. This process is anticipated to be completed in the next couple of years. If there are any changes needing to be made to the permitted land uses earlier represented in this docket, LT will seek an amendment to the Decision and Order of the LUC.

**Condition 21.** *Petitioner shall give notice to the Land Use Commission of any intent to sell, lease, assign, place in trust, or otherwise voluntarily alter the ownership interest in the Property, provided that individual tenant leases may not be reported.*

LT has conveyed in fee simple approximately ten (10) acres of land to the State for development of the Keahuolū Courthouse within Phase I of the Petition Area and informed the LUC of this disposition of land in compliance with this condition. LT will continue to comply with this condition for any future conveyances of land within the Petition Area.

**Condition 22.** *Petitioner shall provide annual reports to the Commission, the Office of State Planning and the County of Hawaii Planning Department in connection with the status of the subject project and the Petitioner's progress in complying with the conditions imposed.*

LT has and will continue to comply with this condition. The next annual report will be due August 28, 2025.

**Condition 23.** *The Commission may fully or partially release these conditions as to all or any portion of the Property upon timely, and upon the provision of adequate assurance of satisfaction of these conditions by the Petitioner.*

LT believes it is substantially in compliance with all conditions to date.

**Condition 24.** *Petitioner shall record the conditions imposed by the Commission with the Bureau of Conveyances pursuant to title 15, chapter 15, section 92, Hawaii Administrative Rules.*

This condition has been completed.

**Condition 25.** *Petitioner shall submit to the Commission, OSP and the County a metes and bounds map and description of the reclassified portions of the property.*

This condition has been completed.