



4 November 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary Restoration, Maui, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Major Points of Interest and Facts.

a. Funds for the feasibility phase of the project were provided in May 2003 and detailed investigations are underway. The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in April 2005. The local sponsor is the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

b. The objectives of the Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS) Restoration project are to improve the habitat through providing more water and water circulation throughout the pond. Investigations are being conducted under the Continuing Authorities Program, Section 1135 of WRDA 1986. The Preliminary Restoration Plan was completed and found that Federal interest is warranted to proceed with detailed investigations. The Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is located shoreside of the Kahului commercial/industrial area and near the international airport on the island of Maui.

c. The KPWS historically is a natural pond thought to exist and be used by early Hawaiians. It has served as a waterfowl refuge since the early 1900s. Parts of KPWS were used as a disposal site for dredged material from the construction of the neighboring Kahului Deep Draft Harbor. The KPWS was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1952 and was placed on the National Registry of Historical Natural Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service in 1971. The KPWS is home to two (2) endangered endemic birds, the Hawaiian Stilt (Ae'ō) and the Hawaiian coot, and a number of other migratory species. Most of KPWS is also designated as critical habitat for the endangered Blackburn's sphinx moth. Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, will be conducted during the study.

d. The endangered endemic and migratory bird habitat at KPWS is being reduced and degraded due to poor water circulation and water quality, and inadequate surface and/or ground water recharge. In addition, low water levels, especially during the breeding season for birds, may threaten their foraging abilities and provide increased access to birds and nests from predators and humans. Additionally, World War II vintage military features exist on the project site.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal Congressional interest in this project, at this time.