



12 January 2005

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Waimea River Flood Control, Kauai, Hawaii

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

a. The Waimea River Flood Control project was last inspected in 21 October 2004. The project's condition rating is currently listed as "unacceptable," and the project was placed in inactive status, mainly due to the lack of maintenance of the project by the local sponsor. Inactive status means that the project is not ineligible for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's (USACE) Federal assistance under Public Law 84-99 (PL 84-99) should the project experience damage due to an adverse flood event.

b. The Waimea River is located on the southwest coast of Kauai. The original levee was constructed in the County of Kauai in 1951. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project was authorized in May 1983 under Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended. The local sponsor is the County of Kauai, Department of Public Works (DPW), which operates and maintains the project.

c. The existing project consists of cement-rubble-masonry floodwalls totaling 3,320 linear feet, levee totaling 1,030 linear feet toward the mouth of the river, rock protection along 4,600 feet of the toe of the levee, road rising of a 500-foot section at the upstream end of the project, and new floodgates. Funded in the fiscal year 1983 Jobs Bill, the project was completed in December 1984 at a cost of \$3,272,000 (Federal: \$3,212,400; non-Federal \$60,000).

d. Since the completion of the Federal project in December 1984, Kauai DPW began monitoring the rate of sediment deposition at the project. Sediment surveys indicate that, during a 10-year period between 1979 and 1989, sediments were being deposited at a rate of 5,000 cubic yards per year. Limited funding by the Kauai DPW has constrained their overall efforts to remove sediments and maintain the project.

e. A site investigation of Waimea and Hanapepe was conducted on 7 January 2005. This investigation was requested by the County of Kauai DPW due to flooding that occurred on 1 January 2005. The flooding in Waimea resulted from the river being high and closing the gates. The landlocked precipitation caused interior flooding. Recommendations for the County of Kauai DPW is that they should complete the maintenance with the PL 84-99 program. USACE recommends that a study be conducted of the Waimea area to determine if a pumping station should be constructed to reduce interior drainage ponding.