Individuals (L-Z)
Dear Board of Water Supply,

I would like to see the Haiku Stairs leased to an organization that would set up safe trips up, bring in visitors by minivan, guide them up and back. The organization should also maintain insurance that would cover the Board of Water Supply (or any state agency to which the land was transferred). The stairs are an amazing attraction and I think this solution would deal with issues around traffic, parking, safety and liability.

Best regards,
Robert La Mont
2825 S. King Street, Apt. 1501
Honolulu HI 96826

---

May 8, 2019

Mr. Robert La Mont
Via Email: rclamont@hotmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[Heʻeia, Koʻolaupeko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Mr. La Mont,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Haʻikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Haʻikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: B. La <eastofjava@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 8:40 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Re: Haiku Stairs

I am responding to a letter sent to you by my wife Wendy.

I recently had to get a permit to walk off the beach onto the beach for the purpose of access to repair elements of my shoreline structure. I was required to submit Liability Insurance naming the State as an additional insured. This can be done thru Homeowners insurance, and in many cases an automatic feature of the policy. The purpose of the insurance was to indemnify the State against any action that might be brought upon them by me, and/or my workers. Further, the State now requires permits to access Haleakala.

I am of the opinion that Certificates of Insurance be attached to the request or permit application for the issuance of permits to, not only, the "Stairway" but Haleakala well.

Thank you,
Bruce Lagareta
May 8, 2019

Mr. Bruce Lagareta
Via Email: eastofiays@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’i’Kū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Lagareta,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’Kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’i’Kū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’i’Kū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’i’Kū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’i’Kū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha’i’Kū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to

ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha’ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Your suggestions would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions to require a certificate of insurance attached to a permit to indemnify the State would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
aloha,

I would like to lend my support for keeping the Haiku stairs. I think that if we could limit access via a reservation system and charge visitors and Kamaaina a reasonable fee to hike up, it may be possible to relieve the impact on neighbors and save an amazing experience. Perhaps we could charge local folks less than visitors but either way the money collected could be used to pay for maintenance and security. An independent organization could oversee this system. Thank you, Wendy Lagareta

Sent from my iPad

May 8, 2019

Ms. Wendy Lagareta
Via Email: eastofjava@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Lagareta,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.ens.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

From: Netter <netter000@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 1:52 PM
To: haikustairseis@hawaii.gov; haikustairseis@hawaii.gov; BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs
Attachments: 2017 05-07 Haiku Stairs testimony.pdf

Aloha, mahalo for this opportunity to submit my testimony regarding the Haiku Stairs. Please find it attached. Thank you.

Annette Lancaster
Haiku Valley resident

cc: BWS
DPP
May 7, 2017

Page 2

scaling the spine of the summit trail with white knuckles and attaining the goal we had set out to accomplish. It was climbing atop the radar building’s roof and up into the tangled network of dish supports. It was standing with our arms outstretched above our heads, jumping up and down, and screaming at the top of our lungs “WE MADE IT!” It was settling down for smashed peanut butter sandwiches - they never tasted so good - and shivering in the chilly pinnacle winds. It was pinpointing the location of our house, and studying the lay of the land so as to keep an aerial picture in our heads after the descent. It was not wanting to leave so soon after lunch, but agreeing that it was a long way down, and we’d better get started. It was getting shaky legs as we made our way down, down, down - always looking back towards the summit to assure ourselves we had actually made it. It was reaching the foot of the stairs and letting go of the railings - until next time - and silently saying “we’ll be back”. It was smiling to ourselves that this valuable outdoor asset was in our very back yard, and knowing we could climb it anytime we wanted. It was aching legs and heavy arms, as we climbed into our beds that night, safe and warm. It was going over in our heads all we had been through that day and all the excitement which would feed our dreams that night. It was loving it a little more every time we reached the top.

The stairs are unique in all the world. If you’ve ever climbed a mountain, you know the feeling — the emotional, physical and spiritual exertion of it. Then to reach the top over and over again only for it to feel different each time because you’re at a different point in your life. That’s the best way I can explain it. That’s why this place is so much inside me.

The station ran for 55 years and served her country well. For our family, who grew up with her in our backyard, she became a part of our young lives and shaped us more than she’ll know. For the myriad of others who have hiked the Stairway to Heaven for over half a century, they undoubtedly have their own fabulous memories—some say a life changing experience.

It is my greatest wish that these positive memories will encourage the preservation and re-opening of this unique and historical treasure. With highest hopes that others may experience this fantastic place and make their own memories to cherish while remembering a once-secretly built Nvy facility, turned Coast Guard Omega station, with all the good and purpose it served during its life.

Gone means forever.

Aloha Pumehana,
Annette Lancaster
Haiku Valley resident

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May 7, 2017

Page 2

Re: Haiku Stairs

Aloha,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide you with the options I choose with regard to the Haiku Stairs. I favor the cogway options, however, also support the legal access alternative.

The following is my testimony of what the Haiku Stairs mean to me. They and the whole valley are inside me, they are a part of me and always will be. I am who I am for growing up in such an incredible place. This story reflects a young girl’s perspective of the first time I climbed the Haiku Stairs in 70’s. I searched my memory and the words came so easily, even though it was a long time ago. Following is my essay ...

Growing up in Haiku Valley was something very special. My childhood memories of roaming the valley are among the happiest in my life. I recall those carefree days when I was a kid who hadn’t yet realized that the escapades in my young life would shape the person I was to become. It was seeing the first light of sunrise on those ridges, bringing with it the promise of new discoveries, exploring all day, and hoping the roof of our tree fort would hold out the pouring showers. It was climbing mango trees and running free through the tall pasture grass. It was finally becoming old enough to climb the Haiku Stairs, after years of hearing my older brothers’ stories of their day on the mountain. It was calling the weather service the night before a planned hike and praying for a clear summit the next morning — it seemed the most important thing in the world. It was rising before dawn and setting up for the day’s adventure with a syrup bottle for a can tin and peanut butter sandwiches that would be smashed beyond recognition by the time we reached the top. It was that kid-like excitement we felt when starting out up the road, the beginning of a long journey; crossing our necks and eyeing the summit with great anticipation. It was the renewal we felt breathing in the dawn air; giving us strength for the exertion that lay ahead. It was touching the railings — so cool with morning dew — and beginning the ascent. It was that scary first cliff, then moving onward up to the first, then second break in the stairs; eyes wide with wonder at just how insignificant we felt clinging to this great mountain. It was mentally putting those obstacles behind us, and knowing that the top was closer than ever but seemingly harder to reach. It was coming to eye level with the antenna wires strung across the valley, and recognizing that the buildings in the valley were getting ever smaller. It was feeling our muscles burn, and everywhere, the scent of earth and life. It was reaching the first concrete antenna anchor and climbing to the top of it, as though reaching the top of the mountain wasn’t high enough. It was climbing the short staircase to the cable car house, and smelling the diesel that still lingered on the old engine. It was peering down the sheer cliffs with Lihikai Highway to the left and the cradle of Haiku Valley to the right. It was looking over the top of the range to the south and seeing Aloha Stadium, then gazing northward in awe of Kaneohe Bay and Mokapu Peninsula. It was pushing on to the “radar station” atop Pu’u Keha a Kaho‘e, and feeling for the first time what it was like to walk in the clouds. It was...
Ms. Annette Lancaster  
Via Email: netter000@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 3

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha‘ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

I thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,
From: craig250 <craig250@hawaii.rr.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:41 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku stairs

Keep the stairs!

Craig Lancaster
Commercial & Industrial Lightning
craig250@hawaii.rr.com
808-741-3541
May 8, 2019

Mr. Craig Lancaster
Via Email: craig250@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘ieia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Lancaster,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Mr. Craig Lancaster
Via Email: craig250@hawaii.rr.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
    DPP
I support providing legal access to and from the stairs and improving it for public use or transferring it to another government agency. I understand legal access issues have been problematic but I feel that the City and County has ignored the larger community of O‘ahu and the open trails on public land initiative in favor of wealthy landowners who cannot be bothered to help share our public resources by working with the City and County and State to provide access.

Adam Lauer
Waiaka Rd
Honolulu, HI

May 8, 2019

Mr. Adam Lauer
Via Email: public.aki.13@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Lauer,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Jack Lauffer <alohajack@juno.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:40 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stair EIS
Subject: Comments sought on fate of Haiku Stairway to Heaven - DEADLINE TUESDAY, MAY 23
Attachments: KNB resolution 5.17.17.docx

Dear Board of Water Supply,

This communication is to fully support keeping the Haiku Stairs as a priceless cultural treasure for us and our children. We must come together to make one of the options work to keep the stairs.

Aloha,
Jack Lauffer
626 Papalani Street
Kailua, HI 96734
SUPPORTING REOPENING THE HA'IKU STAIRS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER A CONTROLLED AND MANAGED ACCESS PLAN

WHEREAS, removing the Ha'ikū Stairs will destroy a historic structure, eligible for listing in the National Registry of Historic Places because of their integral role in the defense of the Pacific during WWII; and

WHEREAS, the Ha'ikū Stairs represent one of the safest hiking trails in Hawaii, there having been no documented serious injuries or deaths resulting from accidents on the Stairs; and

WHEREAS, almost all reported rescues attributed to the Ha'ikū Stairs are linked to hikers coming up from the Moanalua side or trying to get to the Stairs by trespassing on adjoining land in adverse hiking conditions; and

WHEREAS, a business plan drawn up by the Friends of Ha'ikū Stairs (FHS) has demonstrated that funds raised from fees to access the Stairs would cover expenses such as security, maintenance, insurance, and staffing; and

WHEREAS, reopening the Stairs under managed access would provide unique educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with the Hawaiian and Koolaupoko civic clubs can expand educational and cultural opportunities to resident keiki; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with the University of Hawaii and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum and their botanists provide a unique opportunity for researchers to document and study native and invasive plant species and their effects; and

WHEREAS, continued trespassing and disrespect for the property privacy expectations of private residents of the Haiku neighborhood are not acceptable and must cease sooner rather than later; and

WHEREAS, removing the Ha'ikū Stairs would destroy the priceless opportunities for hikers to experience the multiple microclimates they pass through as they climb to the summit; and

WHEREAS, at least two plausible access points are available that would entirely avoid the neighborhood at the base of the Stairs; and

WHEREAS, profits from managed access could be used to restore the land surrounding the Omega Station and support development of a Cultural Park in Ha'ikū Valley; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board supports the option contained in the Environmental Impact Statement Preliminary Notice (EISPN) contracted by the Board of Water Supply to reopen the stairs under a controlled and managed access plan that respects the privacy rights of private residents of the Haiku neighborhood; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Friends of Haiku Stairs submit a formal business plan for inclusion into the EIS process and the Board of Water Supply review that plan in a manner that supports a preservation option and now,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Board of Water Supply, the Mayor of the city and county of Honolulu and all elected officials of the Koolaupoko moku.
Mr. Jack Lauffer  
Via Email: alohajack@juno.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Haʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Haʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Haʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Haʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: [http://oepc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx](http://oepc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx). Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GES 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  
cc: BWS  
DPP
From: Randy Lavota <lavotar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:01 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep them open.

Charge a small fee and allow access!
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItem
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Melissa Lawrence <mlawrence808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:41 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Aloha,

I would like to submit my input regarding the Haiku stairs project. I have lived in Hawaii since 1969. I am a local practicing physician as well as an avid hiker. I believe it would be a shame to remove the stairs. It is a vigorous climb that displays some of the best views in the world. It is comparable to places like Yosemite National park, Machu Picchu in Peru, Mt Fuji in Japan, Milford Track in New Zealand. Just to name a few. It also has great historical significance. I believe it is in need of improvements to keep people safe and that hikers should not have to trespass to access the stairs. It should be available for both locals and visitors to enjoy. I would very much like to keep the Haiku Stairs and enjoy this amazing hike with my children and my grandchildren.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Melissa Lawrence
1432 Kehaulani Dr, Kailua HI
(808)351-0165

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Ms. Lawrence,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’s mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs has become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for its place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landlord, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’s main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

**Archaeology and Historic Resources**

Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawaii State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.
Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oEQC.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allıt ems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Tom Lawrence <tommyysurfs@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 3:13 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Of the 4 options on the table, I would like to see either option 2 or 3 implemented. This is one of the best hikes on Oahu and a historical treasure. I recently hiked Malaekahana ridge and waterfalls and the Mormon church allows access by permit which also protects them from litigation, through an entity called Hawaiireserves.com. There is a lot of room for parking on the Board of Water Supply bush land away from the neighborhood. Thank you for your attention.
Sincerely, Tom Lawrence
111
808 224-6122
tommyysurfs@gmail.com
May 8, 2019

Mr. Tom Lawrence
Via Email: tommytsurfs@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Hāʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(Heʻeia, Kōʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi)

Dear Mr. Lawrence,

Thank you for your email dated April 28, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Hāʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Hāʻikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Hāʻikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Hāʻikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Hāʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Hāʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Hāʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Hāʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’s main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Hāʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Hāʻikū Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Hāʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Hāʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Hāʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Hāʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Hāʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Hāʻikū Stairs to the public.

Recreation - Coast Guard Model

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Hāʻikū Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Hāʻikū Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Hāʻikū Stairs to the public in 1987 due to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station for parking because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Hāʻikū Stairs from “old” Hāʻikū Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. Conversations with DHHL are ongoing.

The option to park on BWS land in the valley is likely not feasible due to the terrain on parcel 4-6-015:011. The parcel is located south of the H-3 freeway on land that is not currently accessible by car, is landlocked by other landowners, and at the base of the Koʻolau mountain where slopes begin to increase. The BWS parcel is often too steep to consider creating a parking lot, and access through adjacent properties would need to be granted by the landowners.

The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes and has identified potential parking areas for each that are strategically located away from dense residential areas. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on parking options associated with each access route.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layout15/start.asp#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Hāʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tom Lawrence
Via Email: tommytsurfs@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 3
From: LC <moreofless1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 9:11 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Fw: The Haiku Stairs

There is no doubt in my mind The Haiku Stairs could be economically viable as a tourist attraction. A price could be determined which would allow the stairs to be maintained. I have no doubt enough people would pay the fee to enjoy that hike and the view from the top. It would be sad to lose that asset.

I live on the east coast of the United States. We have been seriously talking about going to Hawaii with the Haiku Stairs being a significant attraction determining our vacation destination.

If the current government entity / owner does not want to run it as a tourist attraction, perhaps the best answer would be to put it up for sale with the stipulation it be maintained as a tourist attraction. I have no doubt you would have bidders on that property.
May 8, 2019

Via Email: moreofless1@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘i‘iku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘eia, Kōʻolauāpoko, Oʻahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear LC,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘iku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Placch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘i‘iku Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘i‘iku Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘i‘iku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘i‘iku Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘i‘iku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘i‘iku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘i‘iku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘i‘iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘i‘iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘i‘iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘i‘iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP
From: Alfredo Lee <woodson55@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:49 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku Stairs

Aloha,

The BWS should consider hiring a contractor to manage the stairs and its surroundings including the neighborhood. The contractor will collect reasonable fees for people to access the stairs. Fees collected will be used to maintain the stairs and to hire security guards to patrol the neighborhood. If needed shuttle buses can be used to take hikers to and from the entrance.

We need to have a win-win solution for this valuable, historic property. I hiked the stairs 30 years ago and would like my children and grandchildren to experience it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Al Lee

May 8, 2019

Mr. Al Lee
Via Email: woodson55@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash, and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Rae Leong <leong009@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:58 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is Mary Alice Lee and I am a resident. I’m opposed to the Stairway to Heaven being reopened because:

-There’s total disrespect especially by the military (they are confrontational and have an attitude of entitlement even though they know that what they’re doing is illegal and they have no business in our neighborhoods cause they don’t live here)

- Lack of privacy (coming onto our properties to use our water without permission)

- Coming all hours of the night and day (disrupting the entire neighborhood because of the dogs aggressive barking)

- Leaving their trash in our yards

- Because of the illegal trespassing, some of our vehicles have also been tampered with

Board of Water Supply NEEDS TO REMOVE THE STAIRS, case closed, end of story. For Friends of Haiku, put your money where your mouth is. Tell me where you live so I can invade your neighborhood, your privacy, your property and give you a taste of what we’ve been dealing with for years. Maybe then you’ll understand what we go through. Easy for talk shit when you’re not being imposed upon or inconvenienced, so give me your address so we can share the wealth…especially Dr. Ansdell, who keeps shooting off his mouth!! Tell me where you live??!!

I may be reached at: marlee329@yahoo.com

REMOVE THE STAIRS...REMOVE THE STAIRS...REMOVE THE STAIRS...REMOVE THE STAIRS...REMOVE THE STAIRS...REMOVE THE STAIRS!!
Ms. Mary Alice Lee  
Via Email: leong6009@hawaii.rr.com

May 8, 2019

Ms. Mary Alice Lee
Via Email: leong6009@hawaii.rr.com

May 8, 2019

Page 2 of 2

stationed at the base of Haʻikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
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Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

May 8, 2019

Dear Ms. Lee,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Haʻikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Haʻikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Haʻikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Haʻikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Haʻikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Haʻikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Haʻikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard
I live on Puuoni Place, several houses away from a roadway which is an access point to the Stairway. I support the option of removing the stairway permanently for the following reasons:

1) The stairway represents a risk to the City/State/BOW/landowners that is not justified and cannot be mitigated. I see no economically viable reason why the stakeholders should expose themselves to any further liability;

2) Access to the stairway is illegal and removing it permanently will eliminate the risk that the City/State/BOW/landowners would be sued should someone be hurt/killed accessing it;

3) Hikers invariably get hurt/stranded on the Stairway, causing the government to expend resources to locate/rescue injured hikers;

4) There are many more pressing needs to expend our limited government resources on than manning the stairs, sending our first responders to locate/ remove lost and injured hikers, keeping the stairway maintained in a safe condition, etc.

5) Hikers trying to access the stairs create a hardship on the neighborhood for these reasons:
   a. Parking on our already crowded streets
   b. Illegal entry onto residents property by hikers trying to sneak into the stairs
   c. Early morning noise (usually 2 – 3 am) of hikers and dogs that bark when hikers try to sneak into the stairs
   d. Trash and garbage left by hikers
   e. Inconvenience of constantly having Fire Rescue called to our street to try to locate lost/injured hikers
   f. Noise/Inconvenience of rescue helicopters flying over our homes trying to locate/ remove lost hikers

Because people post pictures of the Stairway on the internet, thousands of people from all over the world come here and want to try it out for themselves.
Many don’t even know that it is illegal and are surprised/disappointed to find that out.

For all the reasons above, I support the permanent removal of the stairway.

Merleen Lee
stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha‘ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha‘ikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Safety - Emergency Response

Public safety on Ha‘ikū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha‘ikū Stairs range from “perfectly safe,” to “dangerous and deadly,” the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents. When accidents occur, first responders to Ha‘ikū Stairs are often exposed to safety risks due to access constraints. The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in Section 4.10.

Traffic - Street Capacity, Circulation and Parking

We understand that parking and circulation has been challenging in residential neighborhoods in Ha‘ikū Valley. Street capacity, traffic circulation, and pedestrian safety were taken into consideration during the development of alternatives. For conceptual legal access scenarios, parking areas were designated away from dense residential areas wherever possible and shuttling of hikers from off-site areas is presented as an option to curtail the number of vehicles in residential neighborhoods.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oepc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#. The Environmental Notice/Forms/Allit ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,
Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Leek,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://beq2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ersm.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
From: Bob Lehardy <bob.lehardy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:57 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Don’t close the stairs

I think the Haiku stairs are a unique and historic site, and as such, any option other than dismantling them should take priority. I think some sort of public/private partnership would be ideal, with limits on daily use, some sort of fee system, and a way to allow for access without trespass or causing problems in the local neighborhood. It seems that Friends of Haiku Stairs has some good ideas already.

Please don’t tear down this great feature.

Bob Lehardy
Kapaa, HI
Mr. Bob Lehardy  
Via Email: bob.lehardy@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeq2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

cc: BWS  DPP

Mr. Bob Lehardy  
Via Email: bob.lehardy@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019
Hello,

I am writing to you today about the Haiku Stairs decision. It seems to me that the best scenario would be to keep the stairs in place and charge admission. That has to be better than the cost of tearing them down, right? Plus, the history of the stairs deserves to be preserved. It would be a terrible loss.

Thank you for your time,
Jeanette Lenz

-----

May 8, 2019

Ms. Jeanette Lenz
Via Email: jeannetlenz@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[Heʻeia, Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Ms. Lenz,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State
agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jr. Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Future of the Haiku Stairs

From: Jaron Leon <jaronleon@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 5:02 AM

To the city of Kaneohe, the Board of Water Supply, and the state of Hawaii:

After an unequivocal lack of efficiency on decision concerning the future of the Haiku Stairs, I, and undoubtedly many others within the communities concerned and outside thereof, are immeasurably jubilant to have the decision placed in our hands. The ancient debate about these incredible stairs dates itself to a regression of several years, and never before has the Board nor the City shown this magnitude of interest in the opinions of the people. For that, I thank you.

Regarding the stairs; in every debate we have seen form a few issues and concerns show themselves repeatedly: namely the concerns of the residents of these communities, and justly so. These worries are comprised of uneases about trespassing, safety on the stairs, and perturbation over the effect of the stairs on the surrounding environment. In this letter, is my greatest hope to quell these arguments, and to propose new propositions for an orderly, tranquil, and civil opening of the Haiku Stairs to the public.

If the stairs were opened, hikers will, without fail, have necessity to pass through the adjacent neighborhoods in order to reach the stairs. With this notion, worries have sprung up among local residents regarding trespassing. For this, multiple solutions are ready themselves to us:

Permits to hike the stairs could be sold in limited quantities. To curb the great influx of hikers the village and other communities will see, a system could be put into place so that hikers are less likely to park or cross through residents’ properties in the pursuit of reaching the Stairs.

The construction of a parking lot. One of the prime sources of consideration for these residents is hikers parking on their properties. With the construction of a parking lot, which can also be a paid commodity, this fear is calmed.
Signs directing hikers to the location of the Stairs. Admittedly, the directions found online on the location of the stairs have been lacking, leading to confused hikers venturing to places they should not, nor ever wanted to have been. Signs directing these hikers to the proper location would reduce the number of trespassing incidents.

The secondary fear concerns that of the safety of the hikers. This fear is less fortified than others, because with repairs the Stairs could be one of the safest hikes on Oahu, or even Hawaii. Rails on the sides of the stairs guard any would-be accidents from occuring. This hike is arguably just as safe, or safer than a contemporary hike such as Manoa Falls or Diamond Head. For this issue, I will not propose extensive resolutions as there are no extensive problems to be solved here.

The tertiary, and the last of the main concerns addressed in this letter, is the preservance of the environment, and the effects that the hikers have had on it hitherto.

Within the hiking communities of Oahu, there is a strong disliking and belligerence against those who litter or pollute hikes in any multitude of ways. Polluting the area around the Stairs would be met with a hefty fine, a law the majority of hikers would be happy to enforce.

The effects that the myriad hikers on the Stairs have had on the environment are minimal, hikers are truly as concerned about the protection of the environment and the watershed as the City is.

With these proposals above, and the solutions to these grievous problems, it is not only my, but the hopes of thousands of hikers and non-hikers, that you will heed the cry that has been muffled for too long. We cry: "Keep the Ha'ikū Stairs".

Mr. Jaron Leon
Via Email: jaronleon@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawaii]

Dear Mr. Leon,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha'ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha'ikū Stairs, posted "no trespassing" signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha'ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha'ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha'ikū Stairs to the public.
Safety - Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha'ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha'ikū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha'ikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Managed access of the hike could occur if the land is transferred to a public agency or responsible entity. Should Ha'ikū Stairs open under a managed access scenario, the structure would be thoroughly evaluated and all structural improvements would be completed and inspected prior to the public opening of Ha'ikū Stairs.

Biological Resources

A Flora and Fauna Survey was conducted for the Draft EIS by Hui Kū Maoli Ola (Appendix E). Please refer to Section 4.3 of the Draft EIS for discussion of native species, endangered species, and critical habitat in relation to Ha'ikū Stairs and the potential access routes. Ha'ikū Valley has been heavily infiltrated by non-native and invasive species. The Flora and Fauna Study identified an influx of invasive species along the Ha'ikū Stairs corridor, similar in composition to non-natives found throughout the Ha'ikū Valley. The study also identified an endangered species, Plantago princeps, on the Moanalua Saddle stairs. Methods for removal of non-native species and native plant restoration along with appropriate mitigation measures for the protection of endangered species were identified in the study.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oecg2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllitems.aspx

Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Raphael Leonard <raphæleleonard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:24 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs support

Aloha,

I am writing in support of either keeping Haiku stairs open, or providing access to the lookout in another legal, safe form. I support a trail that is respectful of community privacy, environmental regard, but also ensures legal access to residents and tourists.

This is a major natural treasure and to prohibit access to it would be truly tragic.

Mahalo for the careful way this is being considered.

Raphael Leonard
808-398-4877

Resident of Kailua
--
Raphael Leonard
808-398-4877
Mr. Raphael Leonard  
Via Email: raphaelleonard@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019

Dear Mr. Leonard,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’ primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  
cc: BWS  
DPP

Mr. Raphael Leonard  
Via Email: raphaelleonard@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019

Page 2 of 2
I am opposed to the Ha’ikū Stairs (HS) staying open OR doing nothing as options. I have lived in my home for 29 years and it’s located by the Puoni St. gate that Board of Water Supply (BWS) has their access gate. Our quality of life was changed when Jeremy Harris & Steve Holmes had their stupid idea to fix the Stairs and open it to the public. Did they have a master plan? Of course not! in my opinion they’re mentality was don’t ask the residents for permission but ask for forgiveness. As residents WE carry the burden of the negative impact 24/7 of these trespassing hikers (TH)!  
1) TH take up the limited parking in our neighborhood.  
2) TH block our mail boxes which prohibited our mail delivery.  
3) TH use our water hose to rinse off mud.  
4) TH leave their rubbish in our yard and neighborhood.  
5) TH access the HS 24/7 without any regard to the noise & commotion they are causing which triggers the neighborhood dogs to bark all hours of the night and waking up the neighborhood.  
6) WE have had thefts In our neighborhood. When the dogs bark we no longer assume it’s a TH and are on higher alert. Without the TH these incidents of dogs barking would not be as frequent as they are now.  
7) TH come into our neighborhood daily doing what the military calls "recon" to check out how & where they can access during the night when the residents are sleeping. When approached by the residents they have an attitude of entitlement and total disregard and disrespect.  
8) TH lie when asked who and why are they in the neighborhood.  
9) TH are primarily military and tourists from the 49 states & foreigners.  
10) TH from the military dismiss the residents until they are threatened to be turned in to their commanding officer based on the military decals on their car. Then and only then do they leave.  
11) TH know that the hike is illegal but they disregard the NO TRESPASSING signs.  
12) TH have broken fences to climb and get in and out. They don’t care that the homeowners have to pay to repair it.  
13) TH trample on our plants that we pay for and take the time to care for.  
14) FOH is advocating to keep the HS open but the 1 major factor that they cannot answer is how will they get the hikers from the street to the base of the Stairs? The area surrounding the base of HS is land locked. The agencies that own the land are not amenable to granting access through their land due to liability. As I had said to John Goody of FOH that drones can’t do that so essentially the hikers will be trespassing.  
15) Based on feedback from Dept. of Transportation (DOT) the federal government does not allow traversing under federal highways and freeways. So how will FOH get around this obstacle?  
16) Resident statistics have shown that less than 50% of TH are issued citations. Why? Because BWS continues to use Security guards rather than HPD who can enforce the law. BWS said it is cost prohibitive. And as I have said on numerous occasions if a politician, judge, or any one with clout or money was being affected this matter would have been resolved 10 years ago.  
17) I am at the point that a class action lawsuit may escalate this resolution. Do we need To go there?
Ms. Rae Leong
Via Email: rieong04@yahoo.com
May 8, 2019

You mentioned FHS several times. BWS is not affiliated with FHS, but has had correspondence with them and is aware of their position. The following describes how a private entity such as FHS could acquire Ha‘ikū Stairs. Under the Conveyance Alternative, it is possible that the private interest could purchase the property from BWS. The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha‘ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

Hawaii State Department of Transportation (DOT)

BWS has access easements under H-3 Freeway and across the H-3 service road right-of-way granted to provide access to the BWS parcel which includes the stairs. The easements were granted when the State subdivided the BWS parcel into two parcels to establish the H-3 Freeway right-of-way. However, the easements do not extend to any public right-of-way and therefore, the parcel is still land locked and adjacent landowners would still have to agree to allow access. If permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

BWS Special Duty Police Officer

In August 2017 BWS hired a special duty HPD officer in August 2017 to patrol Ha‘ikū Valley part-time. The special duty officer was tasked to monitor the adjacent residential neighborhood, deter hikers, and increase security around the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs. From August 2017 to September 2018, BWS records indicate the special duty officer issued a total of 5,532 citations and warnings, with an average of 3 citations and 422 warnings per month. For more information refer to Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS.

Costs

The Ha‘ikū Stairs are located on BWS property that is currently not developed for water resources and not required for future water source development. As discussed in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS, security for Ha‘ikū Stairs costs BWS approximately $250,000 a year in rate-payer funds. In 2016, a dangerous swing was illegally installed beside Ha‘ikū Stairs near the top of the stairs.
Ms. Rae Leong  
Via Email: rieong04@yahoo.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 3 of 3

climb, and was frequently used by trespassing hikers. Removal of the swing cost of $23,000 to 
BWS rate payers. BWS also relocated the Puoni Place gate to their water tank for $14,000 due 
to complaints from neighbors regarding trespassing hikers at the old gate.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The 
Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ _layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allit 
ems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP  

From: Edwin Lesperance <spirit@hawaii.rr.com>

Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 3:41 PM

To: HaikuStairsEIS@Honolulu.gov

Cc: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; nr_reference@nps.gov

Subject: Haiku Stairs EIS

The Haiku Stairs are a national treasure.

They have existed since World War II, and were part of our war effort to defeat the Japanese 
Government in the Pacific.

Tearing them down would be the equivalent of demolishing our monuments in Washington D.C.

The stairs have survived for 65 years with a minimum of maintenance and a large margin of 
safety. They are the safest way to acquire the splendid panoramic view of Kaneohe Bay and the 
Windward side of O‘ahu. They promote exercise, education and aloha for the ‘āina. (Love for the 
land)

This treasure should be put on the National Register of Historic places, and should be protected.

There is no compelling reason that the stairs should be removed.

Edwin F. G. Lesperance,  
Retired Cultural Anthropologist  
spirit@hawaii.rr.com
Mr. Edwin Lesperance  
Via Email: spirit@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olau Valley, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Lesperance,

Thank you for your email dated May 8, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’s mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’s main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation Law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha‘ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.
Mr. Edwin Lesperance  
Via Email: spirit@hawaii.rr.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 3 of 3

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70  

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

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From: Curt Leyshon <trisurfer4@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:29 PM  
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS  
Cc: Barb VanDerKamp  
Subject: FW: Comments sought on fate of Haiku Stairway to Heaven - DEADLINE TUESDAY, MAY 23  
Attachments: KNB resolution 5.17.17.docx

Friends of Haiku Stairs,

Thank you for taking this initiative and representing those who support the stairs.

1. I’m assuming it would be my BWS fees or my taxes used to pay for the removal of the stairs. I do not support this.
2. I support a legal and managed access plan that is self sufficient, such as the attached KNB resolution.

---

From: Barbara VanDerKamp [mailto:rainbowbarbi3@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:22 AM  
To: Nadine Souza; Doreen Yasukochi; Beau Barker; Christina Gallagher; Cindy Smith; Jean Gerstenberger; Jean Reihl; Johanna Morgan; Julie Quinn; Kathy Leyshon; Laurie Morgan; Roni Rooks; Roselle Nottage; Cyndia pilkington@hawaiimoves.com; Catherine Geraghty; Cyndia Pilkington; Karen Sholbourne; Lance and Gail Godens; Maegan West; scott.purinton

Subject: FW: Comments sought on fate of Haiku Stairway to Heaven - DEADLINE TUESDAY, MAY 23

If you’ve got a few minutes TODAY....?!!!

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) that puts forward as its proposed action to remove the Stairway to Heaven, along with 3 alternative plans that would allow the trail to remain. Public comments are due this Tuesday.

Area residents have raised several concerns that hikers trespass, trash their community, make a lot of noise at very early hours and have gotten into confrontations. It seems that they want the stairs to be removed. But the nonprofit Friends of Haiku Stairs is urging the board not to remove the trail.

At the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board (KNB) meeting last week, the Friends presented the attached proposal. The meeting ran quite late, so they didn’t get to take a vote on the proposal. However, I think it needs to be seriously considered by the BWS because it is very well thought out and provides a win/win solution for both the neighbors and the hikers. We need to give this a chance. The stairs are a real world class treasure - historic and absolutely gorgeous. I want to be able to share it with my children, grandchildren and friends. Once the stairs come down, they’re gone forever for everyone. See attached KNB resolution.

You can also see more information on the Friends of Haiku Stairs Facebook page or their website https://www.haikustairs.org/
I encourage you to submit supporting comments and the Friend's proposal to haikustairs@ge.co. Remember they need it by tomorrow, May 23.

Thanks so much,
Lani

SUPPORTING REOPENING THE HA'IKU STAIRS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER A CONTROLLED AND MANAGED ACCESS PLAN

WHEREAS, removing the Ha'ikü Stairs will destroy a historic structure, eligible for listing in the National Registry of Historic Places because of their integral role in the defense of the Pacific during WWII; and

WHEREAS, the Ha'ikü Stairs represent one of the safest hiking trails in Hawaii, there having been no documented serious injuries or deaths resulting from accidents on the Stairs; and

WHEREAS, almost all reported rescues attributed to the Ha'ikü Stairs are linked to hikers coming up from the Moanalua side or trying to get to the Stairs by trespassing on adjoining land in adverse hiking conditions; and

WHEREAS, a business plan drawn up by the Friends of Ha'ikü Stairs (FHS) has demonstrated that funds raised from fees to access the Stairs would cover expenses such as security, maintenance, insurance, and staffing; and

WHEREAS, reopening the Stairs under managed access would provide unique educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with the Hawaiian and Koolaupoko civic clubs can expand educational and cultural opportunities to resident keiki; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with the University of Hawaii and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum and their botanists provide a unique opportunity for researchers to document and study native and invasive plant species and their effects; and

WHEREAS, continued trespassing and disrespect for the property privacy expectations of private residents of the Haiku neighborhood are not acceptable and must cease sooner rather than later; and

WHEREAS, removing the Ha'ikü Stairs would destroy the priceless opportunities for hikers to experience the multiple microclimates they pass through as they climb to the summit; and

WHEREAS, at least two plausible access points are available that would entirely avoid the neighborhood at the base of the Stairs; and

WHEREAS, profits from managed access could be used to restore the land surrounding the Omega Station and support development of a Cultural Park in Ha'ikü Valley; now, therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board supports the option contained in the Environmental Impact Statement Preliminary Notice (EISPN) contracted by the Board of Water Supply to reopen the stairs under a controlled and managed access plan that respects the privacy rights of private residents of the Haiku neighborhood; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Friends of Haiku Stairs submit a formal business plan for inclusion into the EIS process and the Board of Water Supply review that plan in a manner that supports a preservation option and now,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Board of Water Supply, the Mayor of the city and county of Honolulu and all elected officials of the Koolaupoko moku.

May 8, 2019

Mr. Curt Leyshon
Via Email: trisurfed4@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6 015-011
[Heʻeia, Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Mr. Leyshon,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha’ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha’ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha’ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha’ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha’ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha’ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha’ikū Stairs is further explored.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the
mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

Kāne’ohe Neighborhood Board Resolution

We are aware that the Kāne’ohe Neighborhood Board (KNB) supported a resolution in June of 2017 that supported the option in the EIS to reopen Ha’ikū Stairs under a controlled and managed access plan. The project team has since met with the KNB, Friends of Ha’ikū Stairs, and Ko’olau Foundation to discuss their positions and proposals. The Ha’ikū Stairs resolution supported by KNB in June 2017 is included in the EIS as Appendix I.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oewc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ _layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

From: Alex Lillig <lxndr.lillig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:58 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Filming inquiry

Hello Jeffrey,

My name is Alex I am a producer with travel channel currently working on a new series called Views From. It’s a documentary style one hour show that tells the story of the best views in the world. Obviously a place like the Haiku stairs seems like a no-brainer. But in my research I’ve discovered some things I was not aware of.

I am wondering if there might be any way we could ever be granted access to any of the stairs at all for this portion of our series and what we would need to do. I understand that you probably get a million requests like this a day- so what’s one more right?

It’s not the type of piece designed to encourage more trespassing but rather a look at some places in the world that are seemingly unattainable and how it got there. This is also a very small team of people- 5 in total. There’s no complicated equipment or anything special we’d need assistance with. We are professionals and leave places better than we found them. We can provide insurance coverage to protect from all liability if it is a concern. Just a few hours is all we’re asking for. Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you!

Alexandra

(585) 704-7378
May 8, 2019

Ms. Alex Lillig
Via Email: lxndr.lillig@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’i’kū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’i’ia, Kō’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Lillig,

Thank you for your email dated May 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Your request for access was referred to BWS for response.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’i’kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP
Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridgeline vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP
Aloha,

I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised local, and professor with the University of Hawaii. This is a personal testimony and does not represent my employers or organizations I represent. I firmly believe that the Haiku stairs should be managed for controlled access. It is an amazing treasure, and furthermore infinitely safer than many of the ridge hikes that hikers will opt for in the stairs absence. The popularity and infamy of the stairs provides an excellent opportunity for revenue generation.

Ideally, the solution I see would involve the department of Hawaiian homelands that controls land adjacent to the stairs. Access should be charged for, with exemptions made for in-state residents ONLY (so out of state guests still pay). Liability should be assumed by the hikers, with any rescue or injuries paid for in full by hikers. Stairs should only be open at reasonable hours to respect the community and only under reasonable weather conditions.

Thank you for appropriately considering public opinion in this matter,

Noa Lincoln

Sent from my iPhone

---

Mr. Noa Kekuewa Lincoln
Via Email: nlincoll@hawaii.edu

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011 (Heʻeia, Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi)

Dear Mr. Lincoln,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering...
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: Carl Linden <clindenhi@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:47 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Usage of Haikustairs

I feel strongly that the Haiku stairs should be repaired, and a resolution consummated for usage parking, so that residents and visitors might enjoy a very unique, beautiful, and healthy venue for exercise. The Koko Crater stairs are extremely crowded, so another option would be wonderful.

Thank you,

Carl Linden

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Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha`ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He`eia, Ko`olaupoko, O`ahu, Hawai`i]

Dear Mr. Linden,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha`ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai`i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha`ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O`ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha`ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha`ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha`ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha`ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha`ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha`ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering...
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

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http://oecr2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Craig Linghor <craig.run26.2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 5:23 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep the stairs open to public

I have hiked trails all over this island. Haiku stairs is by far one of the safest given the sturdy steps and hand rails. More hikers die in falls or by getting lost. I have not heard of anyone dying on Stairway despite the hundreds who hike every week. If Haiku Stairs are removed Hawaii will literally lose one of her greatest treasures forever. You can’t replace this experience anywhere else.

V/R

Craig
Ewa Beach

Sent from my iPhone
May 8, 2019

Mr. Craig Linghor
Via Email: craig.run26.2@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Linghor,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Safety - Emergency Response

Public safety on Ha‘ikū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha‘ikū Stairs range from “perfectly safe,” to “dangerous and deadly,” the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents. When accidents occur, first responders to Ha‘ikū Stairs are often exposed to safety risks due to access constraints. The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in Section 4.10.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP
I do not support closing stairs. I do support a charge for visitors as with hanauma bay

Sent from my iPhone
Ms. Lisa  
Via Email: pupukea97@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit  
ems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

From: Cindy Logan <yrning2fly@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:29 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Access to the Haiku Stairs (stairway to heaven)

To Whom it May Concern,

As a new resident to Hawaii I’ve heard and read plenty about this forbidden trek. And although it is restricted I understand it is a popular and spectacular view. If possible I would support finding a way to keep the stairs available to the public and am not opposed to paying a nominal fee and signing a waiver to enter with the understanding the monies would go toward safety and maintenance. It would be a shame to waste such a resource.

V/R

Cindy Logan

Only the soul that loves is happy.
J. W. Goethe, 1749-1831, German writer, Egmont
Ms. Cindy Logan
Via Email: yrning2fly@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[Heʻeia, Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Ms. Logan,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx?The%20Environmental%20Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
     DPP
Dear Board Members and Consultants,

As a home owner in Haiku Valley (very near the top of Loli'i Road), I am in favor of keeping the stairs open. The stairs offer a unique chance to experience a hands-on feel of a historical WWII icon. I know firsthand that the experience of actually climbing the stairs is exhilarating and completely safe. It offers hikers a one-of-a-kind irreplaceable recreational, educational, historic, and cultural resource to our island.

I, along with my neighbors, urge you to explore the alternatives presented to keep the stairs open. Charge an admission fee to cover the operating, maintenance, management and liability costs. It was mentioned that the stairs could be torn out and never missed. That is completely appalling as I know so many residents and tourists that are so eager to climb the stairs and would pay for the opportunity to do just that.

This could be a source of financial abundance to whomever will be allowed to take it over. You would have hikers in droves (look how many do it now - in spite of the consequences). If it was opened to the public people would be lining up for days. Having the parking controlled in the valley will ease the "burden" on the homeowners as the hikers would no longer be trespassing to get to or from the stairs.

Respectfully,

Leilani Logan
45-492 Ola Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
(808) 772-0679
to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HAR 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including helau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.
From: Belinda Long-Chang <belinz1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 8:15 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Stop access

Please support our family to REMOVE HAIKU STAIRS because the hikers go through our yards to jump the fence at 1am - 5am in the morning and the Haiku Stairs is CLOSED. If the proposal to OPEN it from 6am - 6pm is approved this will not prevent illegal trespassing at 1am - 5am. They will continue to trespass through our yards because they don’t want to pay the fee, or it is booked at 69 a day, or they heard it was OPEN and just want to go on their own. This does not remove liability on the Land owners Board of Water Supply, Kamalama Schools, Kamakau School, Windward Community College, Hawaii State Hospital, Hope Chapel or private homeowners. We are ALL liable should anyone fall or get hurt. It is a LAW SUIT waiting to happen like Sacred Falls. There has been the death of Daylenn Pua who fell off the stairs 2-27-16. A hiker slipped off the swing at top of mountain Guarding the foot of the stairs as reported by KHON on 6-6-2016. There have been jump to death SUICIDES as well. This does not prevent them from going in our yards to get to the stairs. Please copy this entire text To haikustairs@g70.design

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

May 8, 2019

Ms. Belinda Long-Chang
Via Email: belinz1@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6: 015:011
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Long-Chang,

Thank you for your email dated May 21, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha‘ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity of the stairs.
are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the
directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha’ikū Stairs or
conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate
liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha’ikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha’ikū
Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard
stationed at the base of Ha’ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty
police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police
have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at
significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher
priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the
overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public
safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the
Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety - Emergency Response

Public safety on Ha’ikū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha’ikū Stairs range
from “perfectly safe,” to “dangerous and deadly,” the fact remains that remote ridgeline
conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for
accidents. When accidents occur, first responders to Ha’ikū Stairs are often exposed to safety
risks due to access constraints. The Draft EIS addresses existing disturbances and nuisance
behavior from trespassing hikers in Section 4.9 Public Safety. Emergency response statistics from
the Honolulu Fire Department and the Honolulu Police Department are discussed in Section 4.10
Public Services.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The
Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllLit
edt.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
From: Kawika Lopez <kaveex@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:59 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; HaikuStairsEIS@Honolulu.gov
Subject: Haiku Stairs Public Hiking

Aloha,

The Haiku Stairs is a world renown site and it would be a tragedy if it were destroyed. There are so many people in the community that are willing to work toward a solution and make this accessible for all.

Mahalo,

Kawika Lopez
808.232.6969

I am part of an enormous outdoor exploration community which includes photographers, and explorers from all around the world. Hawaii has some of the most impressive views in the pacific. In the outdoor community, the Haiku Stairs are a BUCKET LIST item for nearly everyone I communicate with. I personally know photographers and travelers who have come to Hawaii SPECIFICALLY to hike Haiku Stairs. If the Haiku Stairs were to become a sanctioned hike, it would become a huge draw for travelers choosing their next destination.

I am also part of a creative media team who creates content to help promote the islands. Our team here in Hawaii partners with several companies in the tourism industry to promote Hawaii as a destination. No one in the travel industry is able to show Haiku Stairs as a selling point for traveling to Hawaii, and there is very little information, yet people all over the world are coming to the island hoping to find a private guide that will show them how to hike the stairs.

Since the Haiku Stairs are not a sanctioned hike, of course there is very little information on it. This includes information about safety and regulations which is not available to the public. If the stairs did become accessible to the community, it would most certainly have to be upkeep in a more organized manner and safety regulations would have to be put in place which would be openly shared with the public. Since the stairs are off limits, none of this safety information exists.

An organization called “Friends of Haiku Stairs” has been working to reopen the stairs to the public for some time. Many volunteers spend time up keeping the stairs and cleaning the path for free in order to keep it accessible.
Mr. Kawika Lopez  
Via Email: kaweves@gmail.com

May 8, 2019

Page 2 of 3

2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs is further explored.

Friends of Ha‘ikū Stairs (FHS)

BWS is aware of FHS’ position in favor of keeping the stairs. BWS has held meetings with FHS, has consulted their members for the Cultural Impact Assessment, and received information from them regarding plans for managed access.

Under the Conveyance Alternative, it is possible that the private interest could purchase the property from BWS. The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha‘ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 8.4 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeeq2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kawika Lopez  
Via Email: kaweves@gmail.com

May 8, 2019

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early
We live in the neighborhood where the trespassers try to climb over the fence despite the "No Trespassing" and "Haiku stairs closed" signs are. As homeowners, it is disturbing how people cannot respect and obey the signagel. The hikers come at all hours of the day and night! There are times especially on the weekends where hikers start trying to climb the fence at 2:30am!!! The dogs start barking and we get up to see what's going on. Only to see them trying to get over the fence put up by the DLNR. AND if it's too difficult for them to climb, they climb over our fence or our neighbor's fence!! We had a wooden fence in front of our chain linked fence and these hikers broke our wooden fence trying to climb over. I yelled at them and they just smiled and jumped over. So we have no desire to fix our wooden fence because people will just climb on and break it.

We used to have a Rottweiler, but because of the hikers coming at all hours, he got agitated over the years. He started to be more aggressive and jump at the fence wanting to attack trespassers. We didn't want him to bite or attack people, so we had to make the decision to put him down. That was a difficult decision as he was our family dog but the risk of him attacking strangers was a risk we couldn't take. It was hard for our family to say goodbye to our family dog.

There were other instances when the hikers came in our yard to use our water to wash off the mud!! They didn't even ask! They felt they were "entitled". They even picked our orchids that were very clearly on our property!!!

I think the only reason people want the stairs open is because it's off limits. People need to learn to respect rules. This is a neighborhood. If it was meant to be a hiking trail or park, they shouldn't have zone this area as residential. BUT it is a residential area.

The friends of Haiku stairs have not once considered the residents of this neighborhood that are directly affected. If they cared about us, they would take the websites down advertising how to get to the stairs through our neighborhood.

Even if there was an alternate entrance, hikers will still try to trespass through our property because they will know it's a safer and quicker way to get to the stairs.

Please take the stairs down. We want our neighborhood back. We want to be able to sleep through the night peacefully. We want to be able to feel like we can fix our fences and not fear someone might break it by stepping on it. Anyone who owns a home just wants it to be their safe haven.

Sent from my iPhone
May 8, 2019

Ms. Lyvonne Loui
Via Email: lyvonne.loui@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikü Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He’i‘ia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. Loui,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikü Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha’ikü Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha’ikü Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha’ikü Stairs from statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikü Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha’ikü Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha’ikü Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha’ikü Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikü Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha’ikü Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha’ikü Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha’ikü Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Existing disturbances and nuisance behavior from trespassing hikers is discussed in Section 4.9 Public Safety. Emergency response statistics from the Honolulu Fire Department and the Honolulu Police Department are discussed in Section 4.10 Public Services. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikü Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

cc: BWS
DPP
May 2 at 12:17pm

As many of you know, on April 23rd the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) announced in an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) that it plans to tear out the Ha‘i‘kū Stairs. This notice (see link) triggers a 30-day comment period, during which time the public can express their opinions on the project. Of particular importance is identifying issues not mentioned in the EISPN that you feel should be discussed in the EIS. BWS is required to address in the EIS all relevant issues brought up during this comment period.

In our review, the FHS Board of Directors has identified the following important issues, which we will be including in our comments:

1. While the EISPN mentions environmental impacts to examined caused by the removal of the Stairs, there is no mention of the incalculable loss of this irreplaceable recreational, educational, historic, and cultural resource – as if they could simply tear it out and no one would miss it. Above all, the City is the public steward of its resources, and it cannot simply walk away from this responsibility because it’s inconvenient for them.

2. The EISPN identifies a “conveyance alternative” to be explored, which entails turning over the Stairs to another government agency or private entity to run. Which is fine, but they overlook the simplest and most straightforward solution: having BWS hire a contractor to run the Stairs. The BWS, through their contractor, could charge an admission fee sufficient to cover all operating, maintenance, and management costs, and the contractor would be responsible for all liability.

3. The EISPN states that they intend to examine only one alternative access route to the Stairs: through Windward Community College and Hawaii State Hospital. At the very least, BWS should examine the original route to the Stairs: straight up Ha‘i‘kū Road, with parking in the old USCG Omega Station parking lot.

4. BWS has repeatedly stated the ~$160,000/year security guard expense as one of their main reasons for removing the Stairs – as if safeguarding the taxpayer’s money is a top priority for them. If that’s the case, why did the City spend approximately $1 million in 2002 to repair the Stairs? Why spend more than $500,000 now on an EIS consultant, just to get legal permission to tear out the Stairs? And worst of all, why spend an estimated $3-5 million to destroy a resource that has brought joy and wonder to more than a million people? Normally governments spend this kind of money to create a world-class attraction.
Conveyance and High Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Wai’oli Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans and potential real estate options, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Wai’oli Stairs are located to another entity is the best course of action. The Conveyance Alternative consists of conveying the parcel to the City of Honolulu, which would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Kalihi Valley Road. The City of Honolulu does not require approval from the public for the conveyance, nor does it contract with the private sector for access to the land. The City of Honolulu would provide the use of the parcel for access to the City’s hiking trails.

Conveyance Statement

The City of Honolulu is interested in acquiring the parcel, which is located on the edge of the City’s property line. The City of Honolulu would offer the property to the public for a nominal fee, and the public would have access to the parcel for recreational use.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The City of Honolulu is interested in purchasing the parcel for a nominal fee, and the public would have access to the parcel for recreational use.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Wai’oli Farms has been an important part of Wai’oli Valley’s history. The farms have played a significant role in the history of the valley, and their physical recreation value is high. The public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of the local culture and garnering international appeal. Without them, the public would lose a recreational resource and face significant economic and environmental costs.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As the regulatory body, BWS has a responsibility to ensure public safety and maintain the conveyance to the City of Honolulu. Although the City Council did not agree, the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s. The City of Honolulu is responsible for maintaining the conveyance route and ensuring public safety. BWS is responsible for providing public access to the conveyance route and ensuring public safety.
Third Party Operator Alternative

The alternative scenario where BWS hires a contractor to run Ha‘ikū Stairs is included in the EIS as the Third-Party Operator Alternative. Under this alternative, BWS would continue to own Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying parcel, but a qualified third-party entity would be granted express permission to operate and manage use of the stairs. This alternative was dismissed because it does not meet the primary objective of eliminating BWS liability. For more information, please see Section 6.1 of the EIS.

Evaluation of Access Routes

The EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Haʻikū Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The research of HSWG was utilized as a basis for inquiry into legal access alternatives at the start of the EIS process. The EIS team carried forward the three routes recommended by the HSWG (Windward Community College / State Hospital, Hope Chapel, Old Haʻikū Road) and added three more routes for consideration. Kūneki Street was added as an alternative to Haʻikū Road to move the initial access route off of private property (“Old” Haʻikū Road) on to a public access road (Kūneki Street). The EIS team put forth six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Haʻikū Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puoni Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Poʻokela Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Haʻikū Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Poʻokela Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Costs

The Haʻikū Stairs are located on BWS property that is currently not developed for water resources and not required for future water source development. As discussed in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS, security for Ha‘ikū Stairs costs BWS approximately $250,000 a year in rate payer funds. In 2016, a dangerous swing was illegally installed beside Ha‘ikū Stairs near the top of the climb, and was frequently used by trespassing hikers. Removal of the swing cost of $23,000 to BWS rate payers. BWS also relocated the Puoni Place gate to their water tank for $14,000 due to complaints from neighbors regarding trespassing hikers at the old gate. In Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS, cost for full removal of Haʻikū Stairs is estimated at approximately $900,000, which is roughly equivalent to the cost of rehabilitation.
I have lived on Kuneki Wy (Haiku) for 30 years.

I remember when it was a coast guard station..

Back then hikers would ask you during the day how to get to the stairs I would tell them i dont know. That would happen at least 5 times a week.

An inconvenience to say the least.

Now the (BWC) pays 175 thousand a year for security for nothing!

Thanks to the advent of social media the problem has gotten progressively worse!!!

They know when the guard is there so now they come at 2 3 4 in the morning before the shift.

This causes frequent (4 to 5 times a week) disturbances during otherwise sleeping hours..

My neighbors and I live next to a culvert which has become one of the preferred means of trespassing during the dead of night!!!

Causing dogs to bark. Slamming car doors. And talking loudly..

In my opinion after all these years and attempts to make this a feasible trail have all failed at the expense of those that live close to the the trespassing points..

When you account for the cost of the security guard, the countless fire helicopter rescues and police calls it makes sense to me the best thing to do is unfortunately take them down..

sincerely
Mr. James Lovell  
Via Email: jklowell222@gmail.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6: 015:011  
(Heʻeia, Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi)

Dear Mr. Lovell,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Haʻikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Haʻikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Haʻikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Haʻikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Haʻikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Haʻikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Haʻikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Haʻikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS addresses existing disturbances and nuisance behavior from trespassing hikers in Section 4.9 Public Safety. Emergency response statistics from the Honolulu Fire Department and the Honolulu Police Department are discussed in Section 4.10 Public Services. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Form/All?info=3.aspx  
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL INC., dba G70

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  

cc: BWS  
PDP
Hello,

My opinion on the matter is to keep repair the stairs and find a way for it to be open to the public. Thank you!

--

Sincerely,

Jenna Loventhal
Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Patrick Lowry <lowryp@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:31 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs (stairway to heaven)

Support keeping Stairway to Heaven under self supporting mechanism, including fee, public private partner ship, or other mechanism.
Thanks

Sent from my iPhone: Pat Lowry
Mr. Patrick Lowry
Via Email: lowryp@mac.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The%20Environmental%20Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick Lowry
Via Email: lowryp@mac.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The%20Environmental%20Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: annie lubin <annie_lubin3232@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 2:04 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Legalize

I am for the legalization of the Haiku stairs!!!
Ms. Annie Lubin
Via Email: annie_lubin3232@hotmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Jess Kēhau Lucas <jessklucas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:05 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Aloha mai,

My name is Kēhau and I am writing in support of keeping Haiku stairs open. Not only does it provide access to some of the most breathtaking views of the Koʻolau range, but also allows for kamaʻāina to be active and enjoy our own backyard. Although the lands are owned by the Board of Water Supply, I think that this is an awesome resource for our community and visitors alike to enjoy the beauty of Hawaii while also being active.

Granted, yes, the stairs can pose several safety concerns, but with enough preparation and education prior to entering the stairs, I think that these concerns could be addressed. Perhaps only allowing so many people per day, or per hour, sign ups prior to, etc. Even the idea of charging an entrance fee to upkeep maintenance of the area doesn’t seem so bad. If people are willing to pay to enter diamond head to park their car, why not here? Please consider keeping access to this beautiful area open for all to enjoy. Mahalo.

Me ka pono,

J. Kēhau Lucas
jessklucas@gmail.com
(808) 482-0824
Ms. J. Kēhau Lucas  
Via Email: jessicucas@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

International appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Managed Access
Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Hello

this is a quick email to express my opinion on the future of the haiku stairs

it would be perfect to figure out a way where hikers can access the stairs legally, even if that means limited passes per day and a small fee (kama'aina rates should also be considered)

there is plenty of land around the base of the stairs to plan some vehicle entry and parking, and access to the stairs without affecting the neighborhood below is wholly possible

thanks for your time and I hope the public is allowed to take in the best view on O'ahu legally sometime in the future!

James Ludewig

---

Mr. James Ludewig

May 8, 2019

111 S. King Street
Suite 170
Honolulu, HI 96813
808.523.5866
www.g7o.desig

Via Email: jamesludewig17@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He'eia, Ko'olau Poko, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Mr. Ludewig,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha'ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS' primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

Options for keeping Ha'ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

Parking in Ha’ikū Valley

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Ha’ikū Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Ha’ikū Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Ha’ikū Stairs to the public in 1987 due to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. RWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha’ikū Stairs from “old” Ha’ikū Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. Conversations with DHHL are ongoing. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on access routes and parking.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: RWS
DPP
Hello BWS,

As a Kaneohe resident I am in support of the Haiku stairs. I have been on the Haiku stairs twice before as a kid in the early eighties. The hike is unlike anything in the world with its beauty and majesty and in my opinion is a very safe hike for those in good physical shape. Access to the Haiku stairs must be kept for future generations to enjoy.

We need to find a way to allow hikers to use the stairs without trespassing. How about using a system like what National Park Service uses for their Haleakalā Sunrise Reservations? Charge a fee for management costs.

Lets work to keep this precious and unique adventure around for others to enjoy.

Mahalo
Jeff Lum

May 8, 2019
Mr. Jeff Lum
Via Email: shakermkr@aol.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6:015-011 [He‘eia, ʻOlaupoko, ʻOahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Mr. Lum,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of ʻOahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Haʻikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Haʻikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Haʻikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering...
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha’ikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha’ikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://seqp2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Natalie Lum <natlum@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 8:28 AM
To: haikustairseis@hbws.org; haikustairseis
Subject: Letter
Attachments: EIS Letter.docx

Your consideration is appreciated.
Kawika McKeague, AICP
City and County of Honolulu, Board of Water Supply

Raymond Young, Planner
City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting

Scot Muraoka, PE
City and County of Honolulu, Board of Water Supply

April 27, 2017

Dear Sirs:

I purchased a property in this neighborhood on Makena Street around 1991. I worked over 60 hours a week and rebuilt this house over a period of 1.5 years. Every day I worked on this house no matter how tired I was. Finally in 1993 it was ready for my family.

Growing up I was not able to experience living in one place longer than 5 years. We always moved and lived with others because I was part of a very young family and resources were tight. In 1989 I started a family of my own, vowing to provide them with a sense of stability that I was not afforded while growing up. In order to provide my children with a place they could call home, my family made many sacrifices.

24 years later... my family and I continue to make sacrifices. Our home and neighborhood which was once quiet and serene has been invaded by strangers. The streets are no longer safe from the amount of traffic that traverses through... there are multiple passenger vans of all sizes, Uber drivers, taxi companies, helicopters, drones, rental cars, etc. that are attracted to this neighborhood because of the Stairway to Heaven. We are assaulted by land, on foot and by air... Signs, plants and fencing are tagged with paint or strips of colored material to flag potential hikers. Pictures of our homes are posted online as places to park, avoid, etc. Cars are parked too close to driveways, corners, stop signs, mailboxes and fire hydrants. Bikes and scooters are chained to City and County sign posts or the anchoring ties. Police are called, but depending on what is happening, this is low priority as a non-emergency call. I never know if I will receive my mail because a strange car is blocking my mailbox. It is difficult to relax and rest in my home.

Vehicles and people start arriving as early as 0200. Cars doors are slamming, people are talking and the neighborhood dogs are now barking. From 0300-0500 you can hear screaming from the mountain trail. Unfortunately for me, this is the side of the house where my bedroom is. Because this neighborhood is so quiet, the noise they make is loud and travels quite easily through the valley. I can hear them arrive from the back of the house and I can hear them making noise as they hike. This noise continues through to around 0500 when I am finally able to fall asleep due to sheer exhaustion from all the noise. 0830ish it starts all over again (after sunrise) or it is now the noise of helicopters flying overhead which can start as early as 0700. Now the adrenaline rush of avoiding the police, no citations and the accomplishment of finishing the hike fuel the screams, high fives and voices. The hikers are louder now that the sun has risen. It is as if they want to announce it to the world... they did it! The illegal hikers continue to come and go throughout the day, far into the evening. Some are hiking and others are scouting the area for a future hike.

Reminders of the illegal hikers’ presence are seen as the sun comes up and they start to leave. Left behind are bags of trash in the gutter and on the road, bottles, cans, dirty socks, items of clothing and muddy shoes litter the area or are hidden in your bushes. Have you inhaled the essence of fresh rainfall or fragrant flowers? Nope, not here, the wall surrounding your home, a darkened corner is the perfect place to urinate or defecate; after all, there is no comfort station here. Looking out my window or walking my dog, it is not uncommon to see people with their pants undone urinating against the walls and fences.

Wait, there’s more. You’re in your home and you hear your water turn on. Everyone who belongs in there is in the house. You go outside and there are strangers on the side of your house who came up the walkway, past the closed front door (only way to have privacy), past the bedroom window to the bathroom area and are using the water on the side of your property. I have paid for illegal hikers using my resources without my permission. I returned from work and there was water running down the street only to follow it and find, it’s coming from my house! I have since removed the handle from my spigot on the other side of the house and use a key. What an inconvenience to have to find the key, but no more water left running down the street for hours. It is common for strangers to be seen using the hoses and washing up at neighbor’s homes without permission.

These people are bold; they think nothing of trespassing on private property, taking and using what they want. I feel invaded, my privacy, my solitude and the fear of having so many strangers in the area. I don’t feel safe in my neighborhood anymore. My home has been broken into twice, my neighbor’s cars have been broken into, and someone has tried opening the door to the back of my house. I have changed my mailbox to a locked unit. I am in the planning stages of trying to build a wall and gate to the front of my property to prevent these people from entering and setting up an exterior security system (interior security system already added because of the increase in strangers in the neighborhood). What else must I do to feel safe and protect my home?

The Ha’ikū Stairs is a liability. Hikers ignore posted trespassing signs and continue to illegally climb Ha’ikū Stairs and enter the property of the home owners.

What is the State/City & County doing about social media sites with regards to posts/blogs, etc. which individuals make claims and post about illegal activities (ie-illegal hikes, trespassing)?

All Trails, a social networking site promotes hikes and provides a forum for networking with others of the same interest. This site is also used as a communication board/blog where online posts of illegal activities are proudly posted. In addition, solicitation of services with intent to conduct illegal activity is also posted at this site.

At this site, individuals are uploading photos or video, instructions and helpful text of what he/she/they experienced while engaging in illegal activity. Why are there no laws which address the admission of engagement/participation in illegal activities?
Social media has negatively impacted my neighborhood (Haiku Village) through the promotion of illegal activities by blog, posts, etc.

Some kind of action needs to occur. There has been too much inaction. Boards of Water Supply guards are useless in keeping hikers off the stairs. Information about the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has taken years to begin.

The situation is getting uglier and uglier because the lack of a resolution to this problem of illegal hikers. We are constantly being interrupted during sleep, lack of privacy with the increase of traffic and people to the area. An increase of more than 1000 people this past 2016 as compared to the year before have been seen at the main access site (Kuniki and Haiku Access Road). How can there be one managed access site, it is impossible to keep these illegal hikers from destroying the fencing and trampling through.

The tension has started to pit neighbor against neighbor where neighbors are complaining of harassment or telling trespassers to report harassment. A decision and action needs to happen so we can reclaim the normalcy in our lives. No one wants to sell their home to get away from this madness, but long time homeowners and original homeowners are contemplating moving because of the stairway. We are being driven away from our homes.

Regulations regarding posting of illegal activity, solicitation of illegal activity and lack of financial responsibility for rescue need to be addressed. People who do not live in this area have no idea what a circus this has turned out to be. Please bring normalcy back to this neighborhood by supporting the removal of the stairway. This situation just gets worse year after year.

If the hikers want to have access to the trail, let them hike Moanalua route. This would be easier to manage as an access. Take down the stairs on the Windward side. This negatively impacts those who have to deal with this on a daily basis.

Thank you,

Natalie Lum, homeowner
stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha‘ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha‘ikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Social Media

BWS is aware that the influence of social media has caused a significant increase in the number of trespassing hikers in recent years. BWS does monitor multiple social media platforms for posts and photos of illegal hiking activity on the Ha‘ikū Stairs. When this type of online content is observed, BWS has contacted the respective media platform to request removal of the content. Some media platforms have responded by removing such content, although it can be a lengthy process. BWS then follows up periodically to ensure that the content does not get posted again.

The No-Action Alternative

The EIS reaches the same conclusion that doing nothing, or the No-Action Alternative, is not a viable option. Under the No-Action Alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying parcel. They would continue to be liable for Ha‘ikū Stairs, and the associated security expenditures would detract from its core mission of providing safe, reliable drinking water. Current on-going trespassing would continue, the safety of the public would continue to be put in jeopardy, and BWS would continue to devote time and resources to control the attractive nuisance of the closed stairs. For these reasons, the No-Action Alternative is untenable. Please see the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information.

Access from Moanalua

Access from Moanalua Valley has some advantages, in that it is located away from Ha‘ikū Valley residents and neighborhood disturbance would be reduced there. However, the disturbance could be transferred to residential neighborhoods close to Moanalua Valley Neighborhood Park. The last section on the ridgeline before reaching Ha‘ikū Stairs is not an official, managed trail.

Hiking conditions can be difficult and treacherous, with cliff falls of approximately 1,000 feet. Due to public safety concerns over treacherous ridgeline trail conditions, this access route was dismissed and not carried forward for further analysis in the EIS. For more information please refer to Section 6.4.1 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oecz2.honolulu.gov/layout/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: Berkley Lunt <berkly@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 5:14 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Make Heaven Legal

Please make these stairs legal and not force tourists and locals to trespass on others property! They are now a part of Hawaiian history and can’t be taken down! Thanks!

May 8, 2019

Mr. Berkley Lunt
Via Email: berkly@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Lunt,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and
to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’iku Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’iku Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaiian Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai’i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’iku Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’iku Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ Layouts/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/All Items.aspx
Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Kelli Lyman <klyman@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:41 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Comments about the Ha’iku Stairs
Attachments: Haiku Stairs.pdf

Aloha mai,

Attached is my comment regarding the Ha’iku Stairs issue.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelli Lyman
Aloha mai,

My name is Kelli Lyman and I reside on Makena Street in Kāne‘ohe. As a resident of this area, I strongly encourage you to prohibit access to the Ha‘ikū Stairs. The Ha‘ikū Stairs has long been an issue and as we have the opportunity to speak out on this issue, I believe that it is imperative to tear down the stairs as a whole. As a resident of this community, I am the one who is directly impacted by your decision in every way. I feel the effects of people using the stairs through access via my neighborhood, and sometimes even other’s private property. Public access to the stairs even further desecrates an area of Native Hawaiian conservation, as it is located in the near vicinity of Papahana Kualoa, Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau, and Hui Ku Maoli Ola. These organizations strive to preserve Native Hawaiian lands and the culture, which is the opposite of what public access to the stairs does.

The beauty of this neighborhood is one that should be preserved. This neighborhood is one of the few neighborhoods left on O‘ahu with genuine beauty, that provides a place of solace, and feelings of tranquility. Kāne‘ohe has long been my home, and my place of pu‘u honua (refuge). Kāne‘ohe is a breath of fresh air after long days in town— a rare situation in the constant development we are seeing across the island. I am lucky enough to call this beautiful and peaceful neighborhood my home. Allowing public access to the stairs not only creates liability problems, but would contribute to the disturbance of my neighborhood, creates issues with parking on an already narrow street, and will contribute to the deterioration of this beautiful community.

People who decide to illegally use the stairs contribute to the deterioration of the surrounding areas and to our neighborhood. Hikers are too often disrespectful of their surroundings: speaking loudly, unaware that they are parked illegally, and simply, they disrupt our mornings. Our peaceful neighborhood is often awoken early in the morning with hikers speaking loudly, often using vulgar language, about their plans to one another, or they have music blasting out of a speaker. It is a relatively common sight to see the trash hikers leave behind them— dirty, muddy shoes, plastic bags, or food wrappers. The disrespect that the hikers demonstrate in the neighborhood foreshadows how they would treat the surrounding environment accessible through the stairs.

It would be a shame for the neighborhood of Ha‘ikū Village to fall victim to another area that social media hungry people and often disrespectful hikers have ruined. Those who support opening the stairs for public use do not take into consideration how this will affect those who actually reside in this area. We, the residents, are those who are directly affected by constant traffic, and foot traffic of hikers eager to hike the stairs. Our streets would be further crowded with cars recklessly driving up and down our roads, not paying attention to their surroundings.

If the stairs were to remain accessible to the public, residents will continue to be hassled with various people coming in and out of our neighborhood. We will be forced to struggle in finding parking in front of our own homes, and the beauty of our neighborhood will inevitably be lost. In all, we will lose the sense of tranquility we find when we are at our home. I strongly encourage you to prohibit access to the stairs, and tear down (or dismantle) the Ha‘ikū Stairs as a whole.

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,
Kelli Lyman
kmlyman@hawaii.edu
Ms. Kelli Lyman  
Via Email: kmlyman8@hawaii.edu

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]  

Dear Ms. Lyman,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Managed Access

In the event that public access to the stairs is available in the future, it would need to be managed in order to control problems like trespassing and parking. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://beqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP
From: Lyman, Michael D CIV NAVFAC HI, OPHP621 <michael.lyman@navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 9:47 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Cc: reptio@Capitol.hawaii.gov; sentokuda@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Haiku stairs

To Whom it May Concern,

I am strongly opposed to the reopening of the Haiku Stairs. The reopening of the stairs would compound traffic and noise to our neighborhood. We’ve already witnessed large groups of illegitimate hikers in the early morning hours making noise and leaving their trash behind on their way back.

The reopening of the stairs would not serve the public good, and it would continue to diminish the quality of life for us living in Haiku Valley.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Lyman

I am writing to voice my strong opinion against the reopening of the Haiku Stairs. The following describes events that have diminished the tranquility of a once quiet and peaceful neighborhood.

The Kamehameha preschool - I was at first very much against the preschool being built in our neighborhood. My reasoning, as well as many of my neighbors, were as follows.
We understood the Kamehameha Schools plan was to move its portable classrooms from its previous location (above Windward Mall) to the current site; we felt that it would not fit in with the neighborhood. Traffic - the roads leading to the preschool are not designed for the increased traffic.
Speeding - we all know how hectic it can be for parents and to make up time they may unknowingly speed through the residential neighborhoods. Noise - it is a given that young children enjoy their time outdoors and having fun outdoors includes yelling at the top of their lungs, which can resonate for quite a distance.

I will give Kamehameha Schools credit, they did meet several times with residents to alleviate our concerns. I believe that they truly tried to work with us. They built a permanent structure that fits in nicely with the neighborhood. They did try to respond to the speeding issues by reminding parents that they are driving through residential streets (mixed results, you will still see speeding in the morning and afternoon hours by parents).

Papahana Kualoa - this program cultivates Hawaiian values and practices. They have beneficial programs that introduce Hawaiian culture to many individuals.
However, recently I have noticed an increase in tour buses that take people to its site as well as many other cars that drive along the old Navy access road, which is directly behind my home. Oftentimes on Saturdays, there is a constant stream of tour buses passing directly up and down the road behind my home, stirring up dust and infringing on our privacy. I applaud their efforts, however I feel it may be coming too much of a commercial entity.

Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau (charter school) - of all of the recent happenings, the opening of this school bothers me most. There was little, if any, public input regarding this school.
After the opening of this school, the traffic and speeding through the neighborhoods have become even worse in the morning and afternoon hours.

Taken individually all of these programs are very beneficial to the overall public good. However, their combined total has taken a toll on the Haiku Valley neighborhoods. Once quiet mornings and days are now interrupted by the noise and danger of speeding cars.
May 8, 2019

Mr. Michael Lyman
Via Email: michael.lyman@navy.mil

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olauloao, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Lyman,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’s main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Use of “Old” Ha‘ikū Road

ARAHITECURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
Thank you for the information regarding frequent use of "Old" Ha'ikū Road by Papahana Kuaola. Haiku Road is considered as a potential access route for public access under the Conveyance Alternative and the information you provided was taken into account.

The EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Ha'ikū Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The EIS team carried forward six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Ha'ikū Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puoni Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Po'okela Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Ha'ikū Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Po'okela Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Traffic - Street Capacity, Circulation and Parking

We understand that parking and circulation has been challenging in residential neighborhoods in Ha'ikū Valley. Street capacity, traffic circulation, and pedestrian safety were taken into consideration during the development of alternatives. For conceptual legal access scenarios, parking areas were designated away from dense residential areas wherever possible and shuttling of hikers from off-site areas is presented as an option to curtail the number of vehicles in residential neighborhoods.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice_Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
Dear Board of Water Supply Members,

This is a plea that you vote to retain -- not remove -- the Ha'ikü Stairs.

Certainly it is not the Board of Water Supply's kuleana to maintain a special recreation facility. But it is absolutely the board's duty to help protect forest lands under its jurisdiction. As you know, the forest is essential to our drinking water supply.

The Ha'ikü Stairs do exactly that: They help protect the forest ecosystem. Other ridge trails are degraded from overuse, with bare, slippery spots, and detours around those spots. Their margins are usually infested with alien plants from seeds sown by the boots of hikers.

Uniquely, the Ha'ikü Stairs allow enjoyment of native forest -- plants, birds and vistas -- without destroying it. I saw this first-hand as a Hawaiian-fern specialist who helped with the botanical survey.

How to reconcile these competing truths -- that the Water board is not primarily a recreation provider, and that the Ha'ikü Stairs serve the BWS mission by helping to protect the forest?

Hire a contractor to manage the Ha'ikü Stairs, and reap the benefits: fees to cover the costs, plus enrichment for many through educational, recreational and cultural programs. How about a program that explains how essential forest protection is to our drinking water supply?

Worst of all, tearing down the stairs could both open a swath of damage and facilitate illegal access, dooming this native ridge line.

With the money needed to tear down the stairs, the board could buy several years of active management. This would allow time for remaining issues to be resolved.

Please side with the Ha'ikü Stairs and take pride in this resource that fell into your laps.

Mahalo,

Kay Lynch

---

Kay Lynch
Lā'au Hawai'i/The Hawaiian Fern Project
P.O. Box 5364
Kāne'ōhe, HI 96744
808-485-9352
klynch@lava.net
Dear Ms. Lynch,

Thank you for your email dated May 19, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘i‘kū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘i‘kū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘i‘kū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘i‘kū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**BWS Role and Responsibility**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘i‘kū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘i‘kū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘i‘kū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘i‘kū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘i‘kū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘i‘kū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘i‘kū Stairs is further explored.

**Biological Resources**

A Flora and Fauna Survey was conducted for the Draft EIS by Hui Kū Maoli Ola (Appendix E). Please refer to Section 4.3 of the Draft EIS for discussion of native species, endangered species, and critical habitat in relation to Ha‘i‘kū Stairs and the potential access routes. Ha‘i‘kū Valley has been heavily infiltrated by non-native and invasive species, and critical habitat in relation to Ha‘i‘kū Stairs and the potential access routes. Ha‘i‘kū Valley has been heavily infiltrated by non-native and invasive species. The Flora and Fauna Study identified an influx of invasive species along the Ha‘i‘kū Stairs corridor, similar in composition to non-natives found throughout the Ha‘i‘kū Valley. The study also identified an endangered species, *Plaintago princeps*, on the Moanalua Saddle stairs. Methods for removal of non-native species and native plant restoration along with appropriate mitigation measures for the protection of endangered species were identified in the study.

**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘i‘kū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘i‘kū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘i‘kū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘i‘kū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘i‘kū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘i‘kū Stairs to the public.

**Cultural Education**

Ha‘i‘kū Valley is a setting with rich cultural history and biological resources. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a future operator would have the opportunity to implement an educational program with cultural and environmental components. Local non-profit organizations have envisioned such programs for Ha‘i‘kū Valley that create a cultural and environmental preserve, provide education programs, and revitalize the valley as a place of gathering and learning. The framework for a Managed Access Plan is discussed in Chapter 6 the
Draft EIS but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Tim Lynch <tI2002@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 3:42 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

As a resident and avid hiker on O‘ahu, I ask you to legally re-open the Haiku Stairs trail. As you’re aware, hikers illegally access and hike the stairs nearly every day. The BWS or other agency employs private security in a vain attempt to stop the illegal hikers. It clearly does not work.

Completing the Haiku Stairs is one of my bucket list hikes for the island – as it is for hundreds or thousands of us. Thus far I’ve climbed the Moanalua and Tripler ridges to gain legal access to the backside (top) of the stairs. I would very much like to hike the stairs from bottom to top and back down again without running the risk/ire of being ticketed -- and without having to do a 10 mile round trip for what could be so easily and legally possible.

As you are well aware, other than the one washed-out section of stairway, the stairs are in excellent condition due to the somewhat recent renovations that were done to properly maintain the stairs. Let’s put that money, as well as the security money, to proper use by allowing controlled access/hiking of the stairs. If need be, limit the allowable number of hikers per day. Yes, a legal access path will need to be created -- like has been done all over the island for legal beach access. Build an access path, with walls, to placate neighbors and keep hikers from the residents’ property. Provide random police/security patrols along the streets and residential areas in the event that some hikers don’t respect the residents’ private property. Prosecute those people that are doing illegal/inappropriate activities. Make this a legal hike. If any emergency services/rescue is required, charge the person(s) that need service/rescue for the costs. This could easily be done by providing prominent signage at the trailhead indicating that any access/use of the stairs is completely at the personal and financial peril of the hiker(s).

Clearly, the stairs are used nearly every day illegally. The stairs, other than the one section, are in wonderful condition and don’t require extensive investment/renovation (which was accomplished recently). Make this a legal hiking option by creating legal public access while protecting the residents’ property and privacy.

Best regards,
May 8, 2019

Mr. Tim Lynch
Via Email: z2002@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Lynch,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha‘ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as limiting the number of hikers, providing access paths, signage, and additional security measures would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

Restoration Cost

A cost estimate for rehabilitation of Ha‘ikū Stairs was prepared for the Draft EIS by Nakoa Companies, Inc. Rehabilitation is estimated at approximately $900,000, which is roughly equivalent to the cost of full removal. See Appendix A of the Draft EIS for additional details.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,
From: Karin Lynn <dklynn2@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:00 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Cc: Karin Lynn
Subject: SUPPORT FOR PRESERVATION OF HAIKU STAIRS

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of the initiative to transfer, refurbish and re-open the Haiku Stairs as a viable hiking trail (at the expert level). A historic and iconic attraction like this is worthy of preservation and should be under the purview of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (Nā Ala Hele Trail & Access Program). If State funding alone can't support this effort, perhaps a "Friends of" or GoFundMe campaign can provide supplementary monies.

I absolutely understand local residents' concerns about trash, traffic, parking and liability. That's what rules and policies (and laws, when absolutely required) come in. Whoever oversees the trail should ensure that these concerns are addressed.

I missed the opportunity to hike the Stairs in my younger days, and, knowing my limits, I would not attempt them today. But I absolutely understand this trail/hike is a valuable and worthwhile recreational resource that shouldn't be lost to inaction or lack of State support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment!

Karin Lynn
Mo'ili'i

711 S. Hay Street
Suite 170
Kona, IL 96741
808.323.5666
www.g7o.com

May 8, 2019

Ms. Karin Lynn
Via Email: dklynn2@comcast.net

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikü Stairs Study TMK: (1) 4-6 015:011 (He'eia, Kō'ulaupo, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Ms. Lynn,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikü Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha'ikü Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'ikü Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'ikü Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha'ikü Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha'ikü Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha'ikü Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha'ikü Stairs. However, BWS' main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikü Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha'ikü Stairs.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'ikü Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing
hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability
associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the
property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal
access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is
landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the
recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation
review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance
alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed
decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to
remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted
meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that
conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring
Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private
interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal
land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel.
Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access
easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū
Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking,
noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met
with the surrounding land owners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of
creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new
ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.
For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to
Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over
Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to
Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of
Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance.
Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the
mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural
environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State
agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and
implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The
Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllIt
ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP
I climbed the Haiku Stairs once, many years ago, back when I was also running marathons, with a group of runners from Pearl City. It was amazing. I would not do it now, and neither should anyone not in great physical shape.

But it is one of Oahu’s gems, stunning and beautiful, and I would hate to see the stairs torn down. I agree the BWS should not have to maintain it. Couldn’t it be a “park” with a hefty entry fee?

Comparable sites in Hawaii are all federal (Volcanoes NP, Haleakala, Pearl Harbor). Is it not possible for the State of Hawaii to have this one site available to permittees who apply, agree to hold harmless (or pay damages) the State if they do something really stupid, and pay a fee. We could give Hawaii residents one free climbing permit. After that, they would pay the same thing as a tourist. I probably would have been willing to pay $100 to climb the stairs back in the 1980s. Today, $500.

Say, no more than three groups of 5 to 7 people a day, Thursday through Monday. 250 days a year x 20 people x $500 = $2,500,000 a year. Would that pay for it?

Please don’t tear it down.

Mary Macmillan
Millani, Hawaii

--
Mary Macmillan
mwmac@fastmail.com

May 8, 2019

Ms. Mary Macmillan
Via Email: mwmac@fastmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study TMI: (1) 4-6-015-011 [He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Macmillan,

Thank you for your email dated May 19, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a
practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://sos3.doh.hawaii.gov/iq/layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Pam Madden <pammadden13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:44 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Comment for Haiku Stairs

Aloha,

My name is Pam Madden and I am resident of Hawaii Island. I am in favor of keeping the stairs open so people may enjoy the beauty of this spectacular hike. I am also in favor of charging fees for the upkeep/maintenance of the trail/stairs. I would prefer a two tiered payment structure with lower rates for Hawaii residents and a higher fee for visitors. And I also support that the hike should be at the hikers own risk and the State of Hawaii should not have to be liable if someone doesn’t follow the rules and gets injured.

Mahalo,

Pam Madden
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oec2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

cc: BWS
DPP

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
From: Sally Maddock <sallymaddock@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 10:14 PM

To: haikustairseis@hbws.org; haikustairseis@honolulu.gov; BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku Stairs Study EISPN Comments

Attachments: Haiku Stairs EISPN_Commentary_Maddock.pdf

Aloha,

Please find my comments to the Haiku Stairs Study EISPN attached.

Thank you,

Sally Maddock
sallymaddock@gmail.com
913.706.1869

Commentary on Haiku Stairs Study Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN)
May 22, 2017

To whom it may concern,

The Haiku Stairs are a gem of our community that truly has to be experienced to be appreciated. Regrettably, that privilege has not been legally possible for members of our community for the past 3 decades. As a community, we should be exploring all options to preserve and provide access to the stairs for their historical and personal enrichment.

In review of the EISPN, I have the following comments:

1. The proposed EIS should consider that fostering society's appreciation of our watersheds through access to scenic areas is indirectly consistent with BWS’s mission. Safe, dependable and affordable water cannot be provided to our communities unless we provide education and foster opportunities for appreciation and stewardship of our natural areas. The scenic ridgelines of Oahu are the first step in the process of how all our water reaches us, via surface water, or the aquifer.

2. The proposed EIS should take into account the increasing benefits of access to Oahu’s natural and open spaces as our island continues to urbanize. At present, there are only a handful of routes, and few of them legal or safe, that allow hikers access to the Koolau Summit Trail (KST) from the windward side of Oahu between Waikane and Waimanalo. Access to the Haiku Stairs is relatively easy for people of a variety of ages and fitness levels to manage. Due to its nearby continuous handrails, one can argue it is actually safer than the majority of ridge hikes on Oahu.

3. The proposed EIS should take into account the increased risks hikers will take on other routes up the eastern face of the Koolau, as well as the disturbance to those trails by increased foot traffic, if the stairs are removed. Any hiker familiar with alternate routes from the windward side to the KST will tell you that that the Haiku stairs are one of the safest, and the most breathtaking. Dangerous alternate routes include “Makapuu Tom Tom”, “Bear Claw”, and “Waiahole Uka”.

Another route that will potentially be more frequently sought out is the unmaintained and extremely dangerous “Stairway to Hell”. And lastly, there will always be the temptation to climb the previous route of the Haiku Stairs, sans stairs, simply for nostalgia’s sake.

4. The proposed EIS should take into account that a substantial majority of hikers with an interest in the Haiku Stairs are individuals or small groups of friends without formal affiliations to any groups. Because of this, an increased outreach effort should be made to smaller, non-traditional EIS review parties, such as Facebook communities and bloggers. Suggestions include:

- Oahu Hiking Community (Facebook group with 14,000+ members)
- Oahu Hiking Blogs and Website Administrators (e.g. Unreal Hawaii, Exploration Hawaii, etc.)

5. The proposed EIS should take into account that residents of many communities around Oahu face issues regarding access to natural resources. Reducing access
in one location will increase impacts in other locations as our population continues to grow and our collective desire to experience our natural areas increases.

6. The proposed EIS should take into account the historic significance of the stairs and consider including additional groups with potential interest in its historic significance on its list of parties to receive a copy of the EISP, including but not limited to:
   - Pacific Historic Parks
   - National Park Service

7. The proposed EIS should consider an alternate approach of BWS bringing in a 3rd party operator of the stairs for hiking only.

8. The proposed EIS should consider an alternate approach of restoring the concept of the historic cable car to access the platforms with a modern aerial tramway. This could allow safer access for emergency services, and potentially reduce the conflicts of people going up and down the stairs by implementing one-way hiking traffic. It could also provide increased access to the stairs for individuals who will never otherwise be able to experience the majesty of a Koolau summit sunrise. Access could be limited and fees could be leveraged to fund and operate the project, and eventually could generate additional capital to support the BWS mission through infrastructure improvements or funding for other needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sally Maddock

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity."
— John Muir, Our National Parks

Copy to:
haikustairseis@bws.org, haikustairseis@hono.gov, haikustairs@g70.design

May 8, 2019

Ms. Sally Maddock
Via Email: sally.maddock@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study
   TMK: (1) 4-6 015-011
   (Heʻeia, Kōʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi)

Dear Ms. Maddock,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Haʻikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Haʻikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Haʻikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Haʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Haʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Haʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Haʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

Access to Oahu’s Natural Resources and Preservation of Open Space

Based on the objectives outlined in the Draft EIS Chapter 2.3, Project Objectives and Evaluation Criteria, a set of evaluation criteria was developed to evaluate the proposed action and all alternative actions. The criteria are detailed in Chapter 3, Table 3-3, Evaluation Criteria for Proposed Action and Alternatives.
One of the evaluation criteria for the proposed action and alternatives is "Promote Public Recreation," which assigns a higher rating to the alternatives that create a recreation opportunity for the public. Another one of the evaluation criteria for the proposed action and alternatives is "Provide Cultural and/or Environmental Education Opportunity." This criterion assigns a higher rating to the alternative that support a cultural and/or environmental education component where hikers would be able to learn about the culture and environment of Ha'ikū Valley and Hawai'i as part of their Ha'ikū Stairs experience.

For discussion of open space resources, please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.19, Visual Resources and Open Space.

Safety

Public safety on Ha'ikū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha'ikū Stairs range from "perfectly safe," to "dangerous and deadly," the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents. The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in Section 4.10.

Removing Ha'ikū Stairs would eliminate access to the ridgeline from the windward side. However, even with "no trespassing" signage, it would be challenging to fully prohibit access to the mountain. Thrill seekers may attempt to free climb the same route or use alternate access routes from Moanalua Valley to reach the same summit. It is not within the scope of this EIS to evaluate the safety of potential alternative routes for hikers to ascend the Ko'olau range. However, hikers are encouraged to pursue other safer hiking opportunities on O'ahu such as those in the State's public hiking trail system managed by Na Ala Hele. Information and maps are available on their website at: [http://dinr.hawaii.gov/recreation/naah/](http://dinr.hawaii.gov/recreation/naah/)

EIS Process

Through the EIS process, the BWS is addressing the complex issues associated with Ha'ikū Stairs by meeting with stakeholder groups, developing a decision-making framework, considering the environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives, and listening to public input. Although the proposed action is removal of Ha'ikū Stairs, the EIS strives to equally weigh this against preservation alternatives. To that end, BWS has engaged City and State agencies, non-profit organizations, community members and landowners to discuss both removal and preservation options, opening the discussion of potential legal access routes and seeking collaborative solutions. The Draft EIS is released for public review by the State of Hawai'i Office of Environmental Quality Control's in the The Environmental Notice and is available for public comment for 45 days. All members of the public and special interest groups are invited to review and comment on the EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha'ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai'i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha'ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha'ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha'ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha'ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha'ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, "Effect with proposed mitigation commitments." Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Third-Party Operator Alternative

The alternative scenario where BWS hires a contractor to run Ha'ikū Stairs is included in the EIS as the Third-Party Operator Alternative. Under this alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying parcel, but a qualified third-party entity would be granted express permission to operate and manage use of the stairs. This alternative was dismissed because it does not meet the primary objective of eliminating BWS liability. For more information, please see Section 8.1 of the EIS.

Aerial Tramway

Thank you for the interesting suggestion to restore the cable car concept with a modern aerial tramway. The restoration of the cable car is complicated by the presence of the H-3 Freeway due to the safety hazard of a cable over pass. Should Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying parcel be acquired by another government agency or by a private entity, this option could be evaluated at that time. The valley floor is owned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the H-3 Freeway is owned by the State Department of Transportation. Any land use or easements on their properties would require prior approval from the landowners, in addition to State historic preservation review, and other appropriate permits and approvals from the City and State.
Ms. Sally Maddock  
Via Email: sallymaddock@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 4 of 4

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit enms.aspx  
Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., d/b/a G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

From: EK M <eztiga777@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:13 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Save Haiku Stairs

Aloha and to whom this may concern...

My name is Ernest Kalani Makainai and lived in Kaneohe for 47 years. I had the awesome chance to hike stairway to heaven about 10 years ago and hiked twice within 2 months and just enjoyed the experience. When I took my brother on the second trip, he ended up exhausted a quarter way up and almost quit. I told him to just take your time but get up to the top cause once up there, your whole view (literally) will change. And yes...he loved seeing where he lived from up above. He really thanked me in making him continue.

It would be really CRAZY that a sane person, company, Business, or even a government entity would get rid of something that’s already built for the young to the old to view something so spectacular from the Koolau’s would be a total SHAME TO LOSE!!

If you have or haven’t been up there before...This should be on your bucket list if you have not.

I’m sure there’s a lot of liabilities to be considered and other legal stuff, but PLEASE find any way to SAVE and preserve the Stairways to heaven.

This is a LAND MARK and we will never have a place to be so close to the clouds like this ever that anyone can climb up safely and enjoy our beautiful windward side.

Thank You for your time.

Mahalo Nui Loa Kakou
Aloha

Ernest Kalani Makainai
808-277-7325

Mr. Ernest Kalani Makainai
Via Email: eztiga777@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Makainai,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’iku Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’iku Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’iku Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’iku Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’iku Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’iku Stairs.

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http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitens.aspx
Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Dan Malin <dan.malin@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 7:02 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Please Keep Haiku Stairs Open to the Public

Please Keep Haiku Stairs open to the public. The attraction is great for tourist dollars to the state. It provides amazing exercise opportunity by pushing people to new levels of challenges. Its a part of Hawaii’s history and should be restored for future generations to enjoy. People visit Hawaii for adventure and Haiku stairs is a great adventure.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan Malin
441 Walina Street
Honolulu, HI 96815
Mr. Dan Malin
Via Email: dan.malin@me.com

May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ilō Stairs Study
TMK: (1) A-6-015:011
[He‘iau, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Malin,

Thank you for your email dated May 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ilō Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ilō Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ilō Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ilō Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ilō Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha’ilō Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha’ilō Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

Archeology and Historic Resources

Ha’ilō Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 8E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ilō Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ilō Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ilō Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 8E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heaua and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ilō Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ilō Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layers/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ilō Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jim Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Aloha,
I believe you should find a way to let hikers use the stairs.
• Charge hikers a fee.
• Liability waiver, makes sure the state isn’t going to be held liable for injuries.

Linda Malphurs
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Lorie R <lorie.rosander@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:37 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Weigh in

Require permit, sign a waiver and charge a reasonable fee to maintain and pay for security. People are going to continue to use the stairs unless they are taken down.

Thanks

Lorie Manzano
Alina Haina resident

Sent from my iPhone
May 8, 2019

Ms. Lorie Manzano
Via Email: lorie.rosander@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Manzano,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

Safety - Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

Removing Ha‘ikū Stairs would eliminate access to the ridgeline from the windward side. However, even with "no trespassing" signage, it would be challenging to fully prohibit access to the mountain. Thrill seekers may attempt to free climb the same route or use alternate access routes from Moanalua Valley to reach the same summit. It is not within the scope of this EIS to evaluate the safety of potential alternative routes for hikers to ascend the Ko‘olau range. However, hikers are encouraged to pursue other safer hiking opportunities on Oʻahu such as those in the State’s public hiking trail system managed by Na Ala Hele. Information and maps are available on their website at: http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/nah/

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:

http://oepc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

Ms. Lorie Manzano
Via Email: lorie.rosander@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2
That hike is the most bewitching and tantalizing but still most beautiful and ominous thing I’ve ever set eyes on. The first time I was ever on the island, it was the first thing that completely stole my entire attention as we drove past on the H-3. Ever since then it’s been like a plague to me... a solemn and hallowed piece of history that I can FEEL calling me- begging me- to climb it. Sometimes I stay up late at night researching its history- trying to relive what was once a part of protecting our country and that island. If you tear those stairs down, you take that wonder and awe and HERITAGE away. There HAS to be a way to leave that history undisturbed- let it live on and inspire adventure in others. Let there still be something that still terrifies and inspires an adventurous soul like mine- and I’m sure so many others. That stairway in itself should be the eighth wonder of the world. Just looking at it would make anyone run the gambit of emotions- I feel terror ... but also appreciation for all of those that built it. If it gets torn down, you’ve all made the biggest mistakes of your lives. You will be robbing people of a life-changing experience.

---

Ms. Janelle Mara  
Via Email: janellemara@gmail.com  
Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘i’ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Mara,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘i’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘i’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘i’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘i’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘i’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘i’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘i’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘i’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘i’ikū Stairs.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha‘i’ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha‘i’ikū Stairs, and...
to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’iku Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’iku Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-276-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’iku Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’iku Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

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Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: David Marcial <dmarcial64@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 7:27 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku Stairs

Importance: High

All,

The decision to remove the Haiku Stairs permanently is not the answer. The Haiku stairs is the avenue for revenue for the state of Hawaii and should be managed by someone who “actually” cares. The Haiku Stairs is a tourist attraction and a place of interest where tourists visit, typically for its inherent or exhibited natural or cultural value, historical significance, natural or built beauty, offering leisure, adventure and amusement.

The Haiku Stairs are no different than the Koko Crater Trail other than the location, both providing natural beauty, view of the ocean, beaches and diamond head are some of the examples that make people from all over the world come to see. Haiku Stairs 30 years ago was created to capitalize on legends of landmarks such as a view of Pearl Harbor. The state of Hawaii has an opportunity here to capitalize on funds to pay off the cost of rebuilding the stairs with safety in mind.

The idea of making this a tourist destination comes with liability for the state being sued by an individual. The answer to this? Prior to entering the site a liability form in conjunction with the fee to enter site and climb the Haiku Stairs would have to be signed as a legal document and filed daily by the state.

The coordination of this project needs to handle by someone who really cares about Hawaii making it a successful venture for everyone to see. If given the chance by the state I would honored to lead this project from conception to completion to included all legal elements that would prevent any future legal legalities against the state.

In my humble opinion, if done correctly, visitors by the millions will make Haiku Stairs the most popular site in Hawaii to venture on. The Haiku Stairs has its place in history. Preserve the Haiku Stairs.
May 8, 2019

Mr. David Marcial

Via Email: dmarcial64@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Kōʻolaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Marcial,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the
recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**BWS Role and Responsibility**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Haʻikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Haʻikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Haʻikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Haʻikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Haʻikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs is further explored.

**Conveyance and Legal Access**

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Haʻikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Haʻikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Economic - Operations Model**

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Haʻikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Haʻikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:


Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS, DPP
From: 810
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 1:15 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: FW: Managing Haiku Stairs / The Original Canopy Tours
Attachments: WELCOME TO THE ORIGINAL CANOPY TOUR

-----Original Message-----
From: Fernando Marenco [mailto:carislisle14@icloud.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Communications <comrel@hbws.org>
Cc: Rick Graham <graham.oct@me.com>
Subject: Managing Haiku Stairs / The Original Canopy Tours

Aloha Mr. Ernest Lau,

Yesterday, in a conversation, that I had with Mr Rick Graham, (1-305-794-1580), President of The Original Canopy Tours. I took the liberty of relaying your intent to find a solution to the 4,000-step “Stairway to Heaven”. Case in point, there is no other Global organisation set today to manage safely, such a venue. I therefore invite you to not only go on their Website, but to contact Mr Graham personally. Backed up by Patents and a solid reputation in the Environmental industry, believe me you would be saving yourself in the long run a lot of aggravation.

Again, these pioneers are the only ones, who could assure you the preservation of this World Class Attraction. Well worth considering.

I thank you for your kind attention... Fernando A Marenco
1539 Thurston Ave #C
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-3706
808-542-1052
fernando@hawaii.rr.com
BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha‘ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedures, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the
mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

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eml.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Imarron2 <lmarron2@live.ndm.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:37 AM
To: haikustairsels
Subject: Haiku stairs

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of saving the haiku stairs. While I am not a resident of Hawaii, but instead of Maryland, I have always dreamed of traveling to Hawaii and completing this hike. I love the history of the site and the beautiful views than can be seen. I feel like it's living history, allowing people to walk in the footsteps of the soldiers who built the stairs.

I'd be more than happy to pay a fee to complete the hike and contribute to their restoration; I feel many other hikers would agree to pay a fee as well to experience the stairs. I do hope you will protect the haiku stairs and come up with a solution allowing people to experience this beautiful hike for years to come.

Thank you,
Lindsay Marron

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Ms. Lindsay Marron  
Via Email: lmarron2@live.ndm.edu  

May 8, 2019  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]  

Dear Ms. Marron,  

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.  

Concern for Loss of Resource  

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain-top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.  

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs  

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.  

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.  

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.  

Managed Access  

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.  

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.  

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.  

Sincerely,  

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  

cc: BWS, DPP  

Ms. Lindsay Marron  
Via Email: lmarron2@live.ndm.edu  
May 8, 2019  

Page 2 of 2
To whom it may concern:

I moved to Hawaii two years ago and heard of the Haiku Stairs Hike just after arriving here. Unfortunately I first heard of it when a young hiker went missing. I have wanted to do this hike, but refrained due to its illegal status. I think providing legal access to and from the stairs and improving it for public use would be the best option. So many people love hiking and the views hikes provide here. I strongly urge you to keep the stairway in place and improving it for public use.

Thank you,
Amy Marshall

Sent from my iPhone
Ms. Amy Marshall  
Via Email: aimarshall@dons.usfca.edu 
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2 

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process. 

Sincerely, 

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70 

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP 
Principal 

cc: BWS 
PDP 

From: rich marshall <richmar@yahoo.com> 
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 11:48 AM 
To: HaikuStairsEIS@Honolulu.gov; BWS Haiku Stairs EIS 
Subject: Haiku Stairs 

Dear Friends & Politicians, 

The Haiku Stairs are a world known natural resource paid for in part by my taxes which I’ve patiently waited to hike without neighborhood disturbance for many years. I’d gladly pay for a monitored user fee to experience the Haiku Stairs. The State and City should be putting its efforts into supporting this natural wonder as the major attraction it has become, in spite of efforts to mitigate the stairs use. Such popularity is proof not all tourists or locals want to spend all their time in the concrete wonder created in Waikiki which has been allowed to expand beyond its comfort capacity. Please don’t let this natural wonder and healthy activity be destroyed by Ignorancel All options to maintain the stairs use should be seriously considered. A workable compromise is surely possible with open minds and hearts. 

Mahalo, 
Richard Marshall 
Pearl City, HI
Mr. Richard Marshall  
Via Email: richmar@yahoo.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha’ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (S) 4-6-015:011  
(*He‘eia, Ko‘olaupeko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Thank you for your email dated May 2, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel.

Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain-top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oep2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

[Stamp]

ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

G70 // 111 S. KING STREET, SUITE 170, HONOLULU, HI 96813 // 808.523.5866 // WWW.G70.DESIGN
Dear Ms. Martin,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://beq2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Ms. Leslie Martin  
Via Email: lesiemartin9@aol.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2  

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.  

Sincerely,  

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70  

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  

cc: BWS  
PPIP  

From: Jesse K. L. Masagatani <masagatani1@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 9:57 PM  
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS  
Subject: Support the removal of the Haiku stairs.  

Aloha,  

My name is Jesse K.L. Masagatani and a resident of the Hoku'ulele subdivision which sit at the bottom of the Haiku Stairs access. I strongly support the removal of the Haiku stairs as it's a hardship on my community as well as a liability nightmare for the Board of Water Supply along with the other surrounding land owners. As a resident I witness the daily trespassing by scofflaws who attempt to the hike the stairs every day. Even on the days of inclement weather they continue to trespass disregarding property rights, personal safety or the safety of others, to include those first responders who must risk their lives to save these selfish individuals. Please do the right thing and remove the stairs.  

Mahalo Jesse K.L. Masagatani  

Sent from my iPad
May 8, 2019

Mr. Jesse K. L. Masagatani
Via Email: m.masagatani1@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Masagatani,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://ceoa2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allt

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Mr. Jesse K. L. Masagatani
Via Email: m.masagatani1@gmail.com
May 8, 2019

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP
From: Michael Matthews <mattde55@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:17 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Public Comments on Haiku Stairs...

Aloha and good morning,

My name is Michael, I am a Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Navy and I am not only currently stationed in Hawai‘i, but I fully intend to retire and stay in Hawai‘i with my family. Hawai‘i is my --- our home.

It's because of that reason primarily that I wanted to write about whether or not I feel you should retain the Haiku Stairs. I for one, have never hiked the stairs, but that's not at all because I didn't want to. I do want to, and very much so, but because the stairs are and have been off limits, I wasn't going to hike them. It's that simple for me. My hope is that the stairs remain.

I've seen on the news that some of the issues being considered were cost, and with that I wanted to ask what the cost would be to remove the stairs altogether? Follow-on questions as far as that course of action are, how safe is that going to be? What risks to personnel would exist? Are there any potential risks to the environment, to the mountain ridge?

From an historical perspective, I think it's significant as well, and if that's a consensus thought, why not consider having experts hike the stairs to determine whether or not they are safe as is? If deemed not safe, then have them identify those areas where it's not safe and look at cost estimates at how much it would cost to fix only those areas...especially if the rest of the trail is safe.

My focus on cost is essential here, because I think the overall consensus if everyone was polled would result in a majority wanting the stairs to remain. Why not consider that, and then look at ways for everyone to win?

Proposal for Consideration: Vote to keep the stairs, but run a cost analysis of what it would take to fix the areas that need fixing of the stairs. Determine the overall cost of total removal of the stairs as well...so you have a cost comparison --- solid numbers that you can reveal to the public...fixing the areas that need to be fixed, vs. overall cost of removing them altogether. My guess is it would be cheaper to keep and fix designated areas of the stairs.

- Next, look at investing in a small memorial...placards,...a type of well thought out static display or two at the base of the stairs to tell the story of the Navy's use of the stairs back in the '40s. That would interest people. If the area is ok from a space for infrastructure perspective, why not build a small facility and charge a $1.50 admission to hike the stairs? The thought there is, if we're looking at trying to offset rail costs, this might be one thing that could help. If not, then it's investing in Hawai‘i either way.

If there are hundreds of people being cited annually for hiking the stairs illegally, which means there are likely lots more people hiking the stairs who are not getting caught, why not do what needs to be done to reopen the stairs and make them one more "bucket list" item...an incredible hike with an amazing view, for visitors and locals alike, to add as a to do while they're here. I'd gladly pay $5 to hike the stairs myself.

Lastly, with safety in mind, post caution or warning signs informing people of the risks. Then...it's simply a choice. And on those signs, you can reinforce the messaging of the importance of the hikers to stay on the trail.

I hope this is helpful to your cause.

Very Respectfully,

Michael Matthews
Safety - Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability are also included in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha'ahu'u Stairs such as holes in the dark and rain, and frequent emergency response for liars in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWK's agency does not have the enforcement power to manage repairs, liability, or, removal of Ha'ahu'u Stairs, the proposal does not include any provision for managing the liability and resident resources of the stair. The stair, if left the way it is, would be inspected prior to the public opening of Ha'ahu'u Stairs.

Costs

The draft EIS process, the BWK's addressing the complete issues associated with Ha'ahu'u Stairs, by meeting with stakeholder groups, developing a decision-making framework, considering the environmental consequences of the proposed action, and listening to public feedback, is important to ensure that the proposed action is the best solution for Ha'ahu'u Stairs.

The draft EIS is being prepared in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 344, Environmental Impact Statements. The purpose of the draft EIS on the Ha'ahu'u Stairs Study is to disclose

Environmental Impact Statements. The purpose of the draft EIS on the Ha'ahu'u Stairs Study is to disclose
environmental concerns along with economic and technical considerations in order to inform decision makers of significant effects which may result from the implementation of the action.

**Archaeology and Historic Resources**

Ha'ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawaii’s State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii’s Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii’s Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E.2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

**Conveyance and Legal Access**

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Managed Access**

The ideas you have for operation of Ha’ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as use admission costs, static displays, memorial placards, and caution signage would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS

DPP
I will like to see it open. I believe when the person almost fell is because I just rained.

Sent from my iPhone

Mr. Kikue May
Via Email: kikuemay13@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He'eia, Kō'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Ms. May,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Ann McBirnie <amcbirnie@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 3:35 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Save the Stairs!

I am an 81 year old native daughter of Hawaii and sincerely believe destroying the Haiku stairs would be one of the worst public service decisions the Board of Water Supply or anyone else could make. I grew up and still live in Kailua. Over the years I’d heard from adolescents, teens, young and older adults the thrill of their Haiku Stairs excursion. The tortuous climb; but every step worth it for the incredible view at the top. Finally, in the mid 1990’s while in my early 60s, I had the same fantastic opportunity. The view was more than incredible; it was absolutely ethereal. Since retiring, I’ve travelled to every continent, toured the seven man made wonders of the modern world, and, so far, enjoyed almost half of National Geographics 100 World’s Most Beautiful Places. Reaching the top of the Haiku Stairs remains a pinnacle experience against which I measure these other awesome adventures. Anyone who takes on this climb has got to come away with a similar reaction. Don’t deny people this opportunity. There MUST be a way to keep the stairs open.

Aloha,
Ann
May 8, 2019

Ms. Ann McBurnie
Via Email: amcburnie@hawaiiantel.net

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. McBurnie,

Thank you for your email dated May 20, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’ primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP

May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2
Please remove these stairs. While there are those who enjoy the hike, I request that these stairs be removed for the following reasons:

- The neighborhood surrounding this area has had to put up with many, many inconveniences and trespassing on their private property. Do you suppose that if this same situation was occurring in Kahala or Black Point that the residents of those areas would have put up this situation for so long? So the residents of this area in Kanohe should not have to put up with this any longer.
- The stairs themselves are not safe. They were built many years ago and have not been upkeep. As a result, every time hikers do trespass to hike those stairs, they are putting themselves in danger.
- And therefore, they are putting our emergency personnel (fire, rescue, etc.) in danger! It is one thing if these lolos want to go off and put themselves in danger, but it's totally another thing when they put our own firefighters and rescue teams at risk. This is not ponoi! I hope those hikers who are there illegally are made to bear the full cost of rescues, when necessary.
- Social media posting has caused hiking around our islands, as well as other activities, to get totally out of hand. From a Hawaiian cultural perspective, most of these areas are waakua (areas of the gods). These were not areas meant to be trampled or even ventured into without a specific purpose, and recreational hiking was not one of those purposes. Respect for Hawaiian culture has been totally disregarded which again, is not ponoi and in fact, is heawa. The building of the swing at the top of the stairs is just one example of the lack of sensitivity some of these individuals possess.
- The City and County of Honolulu, including the Board of Water Supply, does not have the funds to develop a plan, provide upgrades and maintain this area. Even though private funds may be found, the City and County of Honolulu is still, in the end, responsible. Monies are sorely needed in other areas, which will benefit a much larger segment of the population of the island of O'ahu.

Therefore, I reiterate, remove the stairs. Enough already.

Jean Mahealani McClellan
stationed at the base of Ha‘i’kū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha‘i’kū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha‘i’kū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha‘i’kū Stairs back to its core mission.

Safety - Emergency Response

Public safety on Ha‘i’kū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha‘i’kū Stairs range from “perfectly safe,” to “dangerous and deadly,” the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents. When accidents occur, first responders to Ha‘i’kū Stairs are often exposed to safety risks due to access constraints. The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in Section 4.10.

Cultural Sensitivity

The EIS discusses the native Hawaiian perspective that mountains are sacred and thought to be the realm of the gods (wao akua), and therefore forbidden for humans to enter. Because of this, there is a strong contingent of the community who believe Ha‘i’kū Stairs do not belong on the mountain and that they are an intrusion in sacred space. For additional discussion on this topic, please see Section 4.2.2 of the Draft EIS.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘i’kū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘i’kū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘i’kū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘i’kū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the city Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘i’kū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘i’kū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘i’kū Stairs is further explored.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oetc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘i’kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: Caroline McCormick <cymcormick@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 8:51 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Save the stairs

- Please find a way to allow hikers to use the stairs without trespassing
- Make the people pay like Diamond Head and there is a lot of parking you can make under the overpass and surrounding areas... it will be away from the homes where the homeowners complain cause of people come there at 3am talk and laugh loud, slam their car doors etc... then when they are done, they go into the homeowners yards to use water hoses and trash cans etc... with the money made from paying to get in and Parking... the city/state if it will be owner, can use the funds to extend the stairs to make it wider for two-way traffic, use existing buildings to make a museum at the top, a water/emergency/snack shop below etc...

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May 8, 2019

G70

111 S. King Street
Suite 170
Honolulu, HI 96813
808.523.5866
www.g70design

Ms. Caroline McCormick
Via Email: cymcormick@hotmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6:015-011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. McCormick,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a
Ms. Caroline McCormick  
Via Email: cymccormick@hotmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Haʻikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Haʻikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oEQ2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/1s/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allit erns.aspx  
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

JEFF OVERTON, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

From: Susan Duprey <meleagster@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:48 AM  
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS  
Subject: Please keep the stairs open

Aloha!

I am born and raised on O‘ahu. I remember climbing the stairs when I was a child (before the H3 was built).

Can you please keep the stairs open? The beauty, the history, the heritage... it needs to remain.

My deepest mahalo for all that the BWS does for the community! We appreciate you.

Aloha,

Susan McCreary Duprey
Ms. Susan McCreary Duprey
Via Email: meleagster@gmail.com

May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Dear Ms. McCreary Duprey,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’ primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oec2.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Charge an entrance fee, use the money for the rail expenses.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S8+ Active™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.
Dear Ms. McDermott Valenzuela,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://beq2.doh.hawaii.gov/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Ms. Jean McDermott Valenzuela
Via Email: mcdermottvalenzuela@icloud.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Melanie McDougall <mcdougall808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:05 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs LTD
Subject: Haiku

I think it should be repaired and managed. Even for a fee, serious hikers would love to hike that to see the beauty from "heavens" view.

Sent from my iPhone
Ms. Melanie McDougall  
Via Email: mcdougall808@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. McDougall,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘i‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
To Whom It May Concern:

I was looking for the community survey, but couldn’t find it. Is this where you put your vote about the stairs?

I would like to vote FOR keeping the stairs open, charging everybody a fee, to pay for the maintenance.

Aloha,

Claudia McDowell
Kaneohe resident

Ms. Claudia McDowell
Via Email: alohavera@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6:015:011
[He’eiia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. McDowell,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Brad McEvoy <bradme73@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 1:26 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Happy to pay

Hi,

With reference to the Haiku Stairs: as a tourist that has been to Hawaii many times, I would be more than happy to pay and sign a waiver (that I enter at my own risk) to hike the stairs and would see it as one of the highlights of my next trip. I believe if managed properly e.g. parking lot, regular maintenance, must book in advance etc, this could be one of the great attractions in Hawaii.

I am happy to be contacted if needed on this issue.

Regards Brad McEvoy (Sydney Australia)

Ph +61 414 819 861
Mr. Brad McEvoy  
Via Email: braidme73@yahoo.com.au

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha’i’kū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He’eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. McEvoy,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’i’kū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’i’kū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’i’kū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’i’kū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha’i’kū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha’i’kū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit tems.aspx

Please enter Ha’i’kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Remove all the stairs and shit down the site.
Sent from my IPhone

Ms. Claudette McIntosh
Via Email: mcintosh.claudette@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’i'kū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i)

Dear Ms. McIntosh,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

We understand your support for removal of Ha’i’kū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha’i’kū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’i’kū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha’i’kū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha’i’kū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha’i’kū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’i’kū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha’i’kū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/11/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’i’kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Richard Mcelhanon

willie line stand up.

let’s not ambitiously destroy this world class resource because no one is

the land and natural resources are once

we want to manage its ridiculous. There are other local agencies which are better

for us. To consider letting it down because the Board of Water Supply doesn’t

is the only place in the entire state with the is own Pa’a

are visited by thousands of hikers and climbers every year.

some of the first world war adding a historic aspect to the experience. They

undoubtedly open some fellow or improve upon trails originally built by the

they consist of ladders, embedded steel cables, and other aids which make the

mountain climbers. Called pua ko’olaupali in luna and ko’olaupali in switzeland.

secret that would otherwise be inaccessible to all property acquired and closed

and roads which open access to miles of magnificent country and stunning

American hikers in the hills are familiar with a series of man-made routes

Subject:

8WS Hana Stairs Els

Send:

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 1:49 PM

Save the Rain Stairs

Toll: 808-232-2554

Subject: 8WS Hana Stairs Els

Send: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 1:49 PM

Save the Rain Stairs

Toll: 808-232-2554
Mr. Richard McMahon  
Via Email: richardc27@hawaii.rr.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 3

Dear Mr. McMahon,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘i’kū Stairs and opened them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘i’kū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘i’kū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘i’kū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘i’kū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘i’kū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘i’kū Stairs is further explored.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘i’kū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘i’kū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘i’kū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘i’kū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha‘i’kū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawaii’s State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha‘i’kū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha‘i’kū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘i’kū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii’s Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii’s Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘i’kū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘i’kū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
Please enter Ha‘i’kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Mr. Richard McMahon
Via Email: richard17@hawaii.rr.com
May 8, 2019
Page 3 of 3

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Paige McMullin <leilani128@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:15 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Aloha,

First of all, I want to say thank you for giving the community the opportunity to weigh in on this issue. As someone who avidly hikes, I would love to see a solution that allows hikers to continue to enjoy the stairs. There are many hikes on the island that are kapu, yet hikers continue to find a way to do them. It would be great if there was a way to allow access to the BWS land hikes (or others that are trespassing on government property) via a permit. Having permits for select hikes can be beneficial for a few reasons, people purchasing permits would:

1) Provide money for upkeep of trails
2) Relinquish any liability from the state (people are signing up at their own risk)
3) Give the chance for the state to educate hikers about importance of safety
4) Keep ecotourism strong, which could lead to better conservation efforts

The permits could then prevent all the trespassing issues. If a hiker is caught on the trail without a permit, he or she can then be fined the full amount of a permit cost, instead of having trespassing charges on their record.

The stairway could be one of these permitted hikes, as it already is wildly popular. As of right now, people are starting in the middle of the night to avoid trespassing charges which is part of the dangers associated with this hike. If the stairs had regular maintenance, any safety concerns surrounding them could probably be lifted.

I hope that you take the public’s thoughts into consideration, and I truly hope to see the stairs preserved.

Mahalo nui loa,

Paige McMullin
Ms. Paige McMullin
Via Email: ielani1128@hotmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 3

alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’iku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’iku Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha’iku Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’iku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’iku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’iku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’iku Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as a permit system, liability waiver, and education on conservation and safety would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oec2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

[Signature]
Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
I don’t have time to write a lengthy letter on this topic, but will state my opinion simply. Please keep these stairs accessible. It is an absolutely beautiful hike, and the people deserve to have access to it. So please put measures in place to keep the stairs open! I would be willing to pay. Or simply do nothing. Seems to be going okay as of now anyway. Thank you for reading my opinion.

-Jack

Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Jack Meadows  
Via Email: jackanthonymeadows@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Meadows,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’s mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikü Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would become a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’s main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layoffs/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

Mr. Jack Meadows  
Via Email: jackanthonymeadows@gmail.com

May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2
From: Bill Melohn <bmelohn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 2:37 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs EIS

My wife and I are residents of Honolulu. We believe that the stairs should be handed off to an organization that can assess the commercial value of the property, and potentially reopen the stairs for public use. Having the BWS or city gain something on a fee basis might be appropriate; obviously the stairs will need to be brought up to safety standards and operating them would entail a fee for use.

If no such organization is ready and able to rehabilitate the stairs, we would find their removal acceptable.

Bill & Trudi Melohn

Bill & Trudi Melohn
Via Email: bmelohn@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'iluku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Koloalu, Oahu, Hawaii]

Dear Bill & Trudi,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'iluku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha'iluku Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha'iluku Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha'iluku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha'iluku Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'iluku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'iluku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'iluku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP

From: Alexander Mench <amench@c2c-engineering.com>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:42 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs

I would like to see the stairs reopened for public use. I suggest a paid parking area to offset the cost of trail maintenance and liability concerns.

Alexander Mench
808-726-1545
Dear Mr. Mench,

Thank you for your email dated May 19, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikû Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikû Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikû Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikû Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikû Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikû Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikû Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikû Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikû Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikû Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikû Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikû Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

Mr. Alexander Mench
Via Email: amench@c2c-engineering.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2
Dear BWS,

The "stairs" are an invaluable public asset to the Kaneohe community and should be enjoyed by all. The Friends of Haiku Stairs and other public groups have wonderful and professional proposals to manage the access and maintenance of the "stairs" for the long term future. These groups should be allowed to manage the "stairs" for the public enjoyment.

Eric Merkel, Kahaluu

---

Mr. Eric Merkel
Via Email: eric.merkel@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Merkel,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
Mr. Eric Merkel  
Via Email: eric.merkel@hawaii.rr.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/1/5/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItem

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

From: Kelsey Merry <kelsey.merry@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:44 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep stairs

I am strongly in favor of keeping the stairs and providing legal access. I would be willing to pay a fee for access.

Sent from my iPhone

cc: BWS
    DPP
Mr. Kelsey Merry  
Via Email: kelsey.merry@gmail.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Haʻikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[Heʻeia, Kōʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Mr. Merry,

Thank you for your email dated May 9, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Haʻikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveyancing the parcel on which Haʻikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70  
cc: BWS

May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2
From: Ed Mersino <mersino@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the decision on the future of the Haiku Stairs.

The Board of Water Supply has proposed several possibilities.

Removing the Haiku Stairs in my opinion would destroy an amazing historical, architectural and recreational resource. One that the City and County of Honolulu has spent $800,000 to repair and restore. It make no sense to destroy a valuable resource simply because the organization that controls it wasn’t designed to manage that resource.

Taking no action also makes no sense. It costs the BWS $170,000 per year for security. It prevents the use and upkeep of the resource and allows its deterioration to continue. It means that illegal use will undoubtedly continue and as well as causing frustration and irritation to the surrounding community. Finally it is not the BWS's mandated purpose to manage such a resource.

Transferring it to another government agency, providing legal access and improving it for public use is the only logical route. Although other government organizational administrators probably would not want to take on the task of managing the Haiku Stairs, there are at least two that make the most sense: the City Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. Because the BWS is a semi-autonomous agency of the City and County of Honolulu, I think the City Department of Parks and Recreation is the most logical.

The City DPR manages other natural resources that have similar challenges like Hanauma Bay and the Honolulu Zoo. It would need to develop a plan to limit the number of people using the stairs as well as a plan for upkeep and repairs. There is no reason this can't be done.

Sincerely,
Edwin Mersino
2510 Komo Mai Dr,
Pearl City, HI 96782
to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heelu and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

No-Action Alternative

The EIS reaches the same conclusion that doing nothing, or the No-Action Alternative, is not a viable option. Under the No-Action Alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying parcel; they would continue to be liable for Ha‘ikū Stairs, and the associated security expenditures would detract from its core mission of providing safe, reliable drinking water. Current on-going trespassing would continue, the safety of the public would continue to be put in jeopardy, and BWS would continue to devote time and resources to control the attractive nuisance of the closed stairs. For these reasons, the No-Action Alternative is untenable. Please see the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. BWS met with the agencies you mentioned (City DPR and State DLNR) and more during the Draft EIS consultation meetings. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding
Please keep the Haiku Stairs open with public access for those that would like to experience the adventure and views that only the Haiku Stairs provide. I know there are issues with ownership and access, but I feel it would be worth finding a solution.

V/r,

Don Michael

---

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6 015:011
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Michael,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering...
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
     DPP
May 8, 2019

Ms. Michelle
Via Email: wcain30@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Michelle,

Thank you for your email dated May 19, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with safe and legal access routes to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawaii State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha‘ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forns/AllIms.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

cc: BWS

DPP

Olverton, AICP, LEED AP

Principal
To whom it may concern:

Some of the more popular activities that draw visitors to Hawaii include the manta dive, swimming with dolphins, and the Ha'iku Stairs. We are losing two of the three of those already. Hawaii relies heavily on money from tourism, and the stairs have can definitely be restored to usable once again. Let's not ruin something that can compliment our state.

Jeffrey Milisen
MSc.
(860) 908-9364
milisenj@gmail.com
http://iphotograph.fish/

Mr. Jeffrey Milisen
Via Email: milisenj@hawaii.edu

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha'iku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Milisen,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'iku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'iku Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'iku Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'iku Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'iku Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha'iku Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'iku Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'iku Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layout/s/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: b.motorat@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 10:04 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Please remove the stairs

Please remove the haiku stairs.

The proposed resolution was drafted by people who don’t live in the neighborhood where residents have to deal with the disrespect, trespass, parking and litter issues.

Managed access will not work as these hikers have clearly demonstrated disregard for the law presently restricting use of the stairs and trespassing on private property. Managed access will probably be a dawn to dusk arrangement with some fee to offset the operating costs but does not address the problem of those who will chose not to pay or comply with the operating schedule. Night climbs on the stairs are very popular as the lights used can be seen from where I live in the Waikaiua Road area of Kaneohe. Many attracted to the stairs are not traditional hikers but thrillseekers. Part of the draw would be getting around the times and fees, bringing it back to the present situation.

Thrillseekers will most likely not appreciate the role the World War II structures played in the history of our islands or our country. Videos posted on the internet have shown how they will be used to launch more stunts than teach about an attack 75 years ago.

For 27 years I have been privileged by working for a company that has sent me into some of the islands remotest locations granted with landowner permission, easements and rights of way. In these areas I have met some hikers on designated trails and many are out to enjoy the quieter side that nature offers. It appears however, that the more remote the location the more obnoxious the hiker. As a temporary steward of the site I have been tasked to advise trespassers to respect the landowner’s wishes and leave. I have been ignored or argued with. It has been frustrating.

The petitioners in favor of keeping the stairs will not experience the impact the immediate area residents have and will continue to.

The stairs will never be idiotproof or exempt from the Laws of Nature or Acts of God. Liability waivers will not protect the property owners from lawsuits. Liability waivers will not protect life.
Please remove the stairs entirely and its attractive nuisance.

Thank you,

Brad Miller

May 8, 2019

111 S. King Street
Suite 170
Kailua, HI 96734
808.523.5866
www.g70.design

Mr. Brad Miller
Via Email: b.motorat@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Kō'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha'ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha'ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS' main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS's proposed action is removal of Ha'ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha'ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha'ikū Stairs.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha'ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard...
stationed at the base of Ha’iku Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty
police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police
have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at
significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher
priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the
overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public
safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the
Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Managed Access

Many of the concerns you have would need to be addressed, should the stairs remain. Under
the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’iku
Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’iku
Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’iku
Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a
managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed
access will allow controlled usage of Ha’iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural
environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State
agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and
implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The
Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://o Taco doh hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllIt
ems.aspx

Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Ron Miller <rdmiller@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 11:53 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: My thoughts

Aloha,
The Haiku stairs are a precious resource for visitors and residence of Oahu. It cannot be duplicated. Do
what is necessary to save and preserve it.

Have the board of water supply give a long term lease to a private organization that would release them
from liability and responsibility to maintain it. Surely legal documents can be drawn up to accomplish
this.
The private organization (or public) should be able to manage access to the stairs as they see fit as long
as it does not adversely infringe on the quality of life of residence near the stairs. Maybe they should
receive part of the fee to improve their neighborhood. If it means limiting access to a certain # of
climbers per day (or night) and charging $25-50 per climber and bussing them in from an acceptable
venue after an orientation so be it. Visitors to Oahu would not hesitate to pay a high fee for the
opportunity to climb the stairs.

Again, even if it means limiting access and increasing cost to those using this resource it is a far better
alternative to destroying a resource and adventure that both visitors and residence could experience for
decades to come.

Sincerely,
Ron Miller
Mr. Ron Miller  
Via Email: rdmiller@hawaii.rr.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 3

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for your email dated May 21, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand manyfeel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable.

However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

**Conveyance and Legal Access**

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State...
agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Jessie Mitchell <mitchellj003@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 8:45 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs comments.

Haiku stairs provides an extra ordinary connection with nature.

Charge $50 entry fee or whatever it takes to keep it open.
Mr. Jessica Mitchell  
Via Email: mitchellj003@hawaii.rr.com  
May 8, 2019  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Haʻikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
(ʻHeʻeia, Kōʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi)  

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Thank you for your email dated May 21, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’s mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP
From: June Miyasato <junebugr@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:01 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: save the stairs

I have volunteered a clearing the stairs to keep it open in the past & be will to do so in the future. I really think it should be kept open with & letting people hike it with a charge. This is a unique site & people from all over the world would come here to hike the stairs. I have traveled with my friend to New Zealand, mainland, europe & other places to hike & have met people who do the same. In New Zealand I met a couple that had to travel 33 hours to get there just to hike and all these hike had a fee attached to it. I’m sure it would be worth some organization could make some money and also draw more tourist. June Miyasato

---

G70

May 8, 2019

Ms. June Miyasato
Via Email: junebugr@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i)

Dear Ms. Miyasato,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

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As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

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Concern for Loss of Resource

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Ms. June Miyasato
Via Email: junebughi@icloud.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

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http://oecr2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

G70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: W. Miyashiro <wmiyash@i@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:50 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Stairway to Heaven - request for public opinion

Although costing $750,000 to erect, this taxpayer investment is valued at $950,000 today. Why not consider making this a pay-as-you-go venture — $10 for those with kamaaina discount and $25 everyone else. It could be managed by a private entity, with proceeds used to cover liability and maintenance costs. Let’s not squander one of the most beautiful sights in this state.

Wayne Miyashiro
Milliani
Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He’īa, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Miyashiro,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP
I think BWS should find a way to allow hikers access to the trail while limiting their own liability. The neighbors are obviously upset by the amount of people parking and trespassing through their property. If a parking area were built this could be alleviated. The stairs are not maintained but in my opinion they are not any more dangerous than other ridgeline hikes on Oahu, even in their current state. I think a donations box/ticket gate or other innovative way to generate income on site could supply a revenue that could be used to maintain the property.

Mr. Jordan Moniuszko
Via Email: jmoniuszko@OCEANIT.COM

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Kōʻolauopoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Moniuszko,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs is further explored.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher
priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety

Public safety on Ha'iku Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha'iku Stairs range from "perfectly safe," to "dangerous and deadly," the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha'iku Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha'iku Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha'iku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha'iku Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. Each access route identifies a dedicated parking area for use by hikers. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, including preliminary route maps, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'iku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'iku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'iku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha'iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha'iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha'iku Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as use of a ticket box would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: Ken Montgomery <montkl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 5:30 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Stairs

Please keep the Stairs open, charging for the hike is a perfect option to cover the cost of maintaining and operating the access.

Mahalo,
Ken

Mr. Ken Montgomery
Via Email: montkl@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i)

Dear Mr. Montgomery,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Chad Moore <chadair@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 4:53 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Input on Haiku Stairs EIS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Haiku Stairs EIS. I grew up in Hawaii and as a young boy longed to climb the stairs. It was closed before I had the opportunity. Decades later I made a trip back to Oahu only to find the stairs closed again after a brief opening. I consider the stairs a public treasure, a part of history, and a way to connect to the ‘aina. Let the state motto guide this question - Ua mau ke Ea o ka ‘Aina i ka Pono.

There are certainly public agencies who effectively manage the liability risk associated with adventure hiking. Yosemite National Parks stairs up Half Dome comes to mind. I would be in favor of returning public access to the stairs through transferring to another government body to manage, even if that required purchasing access easements, issuing permits, or passing reasonable costs onto the public.

Aloha
Chad Moore
Sacramento, CA
Mr. Chad Moore  
Via Email: chadair@mac.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6:015:011  
[Heʻeia, Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Mr. Moore,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Haʻikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Haʻikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Haʻikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Haʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Haʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Haʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Haʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Haʻikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Haʻikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the entire parcel.

Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

c:  BWS

cpc:  DPP

Mr. Chad Moore  
Via Email: chadair@mac.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2
I don't know if this is where comments are to be made. But I think the stairs should be opened with some regulations. Maybe require a permit or a fee for entry. Also require a waiver of liability to be signed. So that if anyone gets hurt it's on them. I have recently taken up hiking and would love to make the stairs my goal for next year...once I'm good enough to try it.

Thanks

Danielle L.

Sent from my iPhone

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Ms. Danielle Moore
Via Email: dmoore2010@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[Heʻeia, Kōʻolaupoko, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Ms. Moore,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layers/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Sarah Mora <sarah.mora0516@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 8:32 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you in hopes to keep Haiku Stairs and open it to the public. I understand that the stairs need maintenance which could be done by charging hikers a small fee in order to hike the stairs. Also 808CleanUps could hold clean up events to keep the stairs rubbish free. And set up a way for people to donate money to the maintenance of the stairs. Or people could be in charge of the maintenance and clean the stairs similar to how adopt a highway works.

Thank you for your time.

-Sarah Mora
Ms. Sarah Mora  
Via Email: sarah.mora0516@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Via Email: sarah.mora0516@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Mora,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

**Managed Access**

The ideas you have for operation of Ha‘ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as charging a fee, holding cleanups, and offering a way for the public to make donations or volunteer for maintenance would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
PPE
Hello,
Please do not take the stairs down!
That is a terrible idea.
I live in Australia and seeing the stairs in person is the only reason I have ever had to travel to Hawaii one day.
Fix the broken part and charge money to have people climb it. I would happily pay up to $100 to climb the stairs, maybe more.
It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. It's a landmark. You wouldn't believe the amount of people who have this on their bucket list.
If the locals aren't happy with the way people get to them then there needs to be a new way. They shouldn't be a free for all and become a tourist trap. Maybe limit the tickets per day to a minimal number to keep them what they are now like 20 people a day?
I am on many forums of people discussing the stairs and nearly everyone has said they would gladly pay money to be able to climb them.
Thank you for your time.
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘iku Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘iku Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘iku Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘iku Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘iku Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘iku Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘iku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘iku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘iku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oec2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllList
ers.aspx

Please enter Ha‘iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Alvin Morimoto <alvinmorimoto@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 10:32 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Cc: Alvin Morimoto
Subject: Comment on EISP

I would like to comment on the proposed actions regarding the future of the Haiku Stairs. I see the best solution to resolve the situation is to remove the “Stairs” completely. The tremendous cost of liability to the City should not be assumed by reopening the “Stairs” - we got lawyers waiting to sue the City for anything that happens to any hikers injured or killed on the “Stairs”.

If any individual or group wants the “Stairs” to be reopened, then, they should “buy and maintain” the ROW and assume complete liability for anything that happens on it. This in option, the City should be relieved of all maintenance and liability costs.

As long as the “Stairs” remain, restrictions or any type of enforcement will NOT work! Sooner or later, a hiker will be killed and the blame/liability will be the City’s! Therefore, the “Stairs” should be removed as soon as possible.

Thank you for allowing me to add my comment.

Alvin K. Morimoto
Mr. Alvin Morimoto  
Via Email: alvinmorimoto@hawaiiantel.net  
May 8, 2019  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
(He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Morimoto,

Thank you for your email dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’ proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land which Ha‘ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs is further explored.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha‘ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha‘ikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
Mr. Alvin Morimoto
Via Email: alvinmormoto@hawaiiantel.net
May 8, 2019
Page 3 of 3

http://oepc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The Environmental Notice/Forms/AllItens.aspx
Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: P Mori <pmorinaga16@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 6:26 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Tear it down

I live in Kaneohe and as a auto passenger on H3 I ve seen people illegally on the stairs. It definately looks dangerous! A friend of mine who is a hiker, went on the stairs when it was not illegal. She is a hiker and said it was scary.

TEAR it down.  Pamela Morinaga, Iul iwa, Kaneohe

Sent from my iPad
May 8, 2019

Ms. Parnelia Morinaga
Via Email: pmorinaga16@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Kōʻolaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Morinaga,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

We understand your support for removal of Haʻikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Haʻikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Haʻikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Haʻikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Haʻikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://ceq2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Mr. Dave Moskowitz
Via Email: davemoskowitz10@hotmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ikü Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Moskowitz,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikü Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’ikü Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’ikü Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikü Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikü Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikü Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikü Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikü Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

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From: davidmoskowitz16 <davidmoskowitz16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 5:55 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs

Run it as a business
Charge a fee open up right b4 dawn
Give out wrist bands to check on exit
The security guard money will pay for 3 employees and a gate house and transaction equipment and use online office keeping and a web camera system for keeping track of users
Pay areas and conditions
Pay landowners for access privileges

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
May 8, 2019
Mr. David Moskowitz
Via Email: davidmoskowitz16@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’i’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He’ieia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i]

Dear Mr. Moskowitz,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’i’ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’i’ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’i’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’i’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding land owners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’i’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’i’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’i’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’i’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’i’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’i’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layers/15/start.aspx#.The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’i’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Aloha,

I support keeping the Haiku Stairs, opening them to the public and charging a fee to cover the costs.

Speaking as a great grandmother who is afraid of heights, common sense tells me that tearing down the stairs is not the best solution.

A quick google shows that they are one of the most popular tourist attractions on Oahu, despite the challenges involved in accessing them.

Why would we destroy an attraction that is famous worldwide when it could be monetized to pay for itself; making it safer for climbers and limiting liability, while bringing relief to those who live in the neighborhood?

Sincerely,

Sandra "Sunny" Mosley

99-706 Kealalulina Drive

Aiea, HI 96701-3119
Ms. Sandra Mosley  
Via Email: sandramosley@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2  

Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha'ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha'ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha'ikū Stairs to the public.

Concern for Loss of Resource  
Since World War II, Ha'ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha'ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha'ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha'ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha'ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha'ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeeq2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
PDP
I want to open up the stairs as a recreational destination. The site needs to have an inspection to determine present condition. Liability is a concern so there has to be some controls. Parking and access to restroom facilities at the base should also be available. BWS cannot manage such an enterprise, so I believe it should go out to a commercial contractor.

Stanley Motosue
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikü Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikü Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikü Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikü Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikü Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikü Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikü Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikü Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllList ems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikü Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP

From: MS <ninefoursixsix@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 9:58 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep Haiku Stairs Open!

Keep Haiku Stairs open!
DO WHAT smart national and state parks on the mainland do. CHARGE A FEE!!!

Other parks charge a fee of say $10 and FORCE you to sign a release of liability to get a permit to hike steep and dangerous areas and the funds are used to maintain the safety upkeep as much as reasonable. Here are some examples: Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, and many Grand Canyon areas also charge fees and force you to get permits for limited and deemed riskier adventures. With the popularity of the trail and potential funds generated, it would not surprise me if you could actually turn Haiku stairs into a profitable operation and use the funds to educate the public of our resources and beauty along the trail with informative signs and posters.

Half Dome Permits: https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm
MS S
Via Email: ninefoursixsix@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://neeq2.hdoe.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

JEFF OTTERTON, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

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EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a
I visited the Coast Guard property. It does not say anything about the old Coast Guard property. It is my understanding that the Government property was deeded to a Hawaiian entity.

None of the news coverage mentions anything about using the old Coast Guard property for parking or hiking. I suggest an agreement between the Water Board and the Hawaiian entity to allow hikers to park there.

I understand the big issue is liability. Your website shows citations and arrests. I suggest it also show lawsuits. A condition for parking in the old Coast Guard station would carry an understanding that hikers forfeit their liability rights when they hike the stairs.

Aloha,

Jim

Sent from my iPad
conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Haʻikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Managed access of the hike could occur if the land is transferred to a public agency or responsible entity. Should Haʻikū Stairs open under a managed access scenario, the structure would be thoroughly evaluated and all structural improvements would be completed and inspected prior to the public opening of Haʻikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeq2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitens.aspx

Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP

From: Kevin Mulkern <kevinjmulkern@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 7:58 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; Neighborhood Board #2 Stakeholders

Subject: KEEP THE STAIRS OPEN

Aloha Group 70

Listen to the Friends of Haiku Stairs.

We have closed too many trails.

Let's look at ways to reopen trails.

I would like to hike Sacred Falls, Kamilomui and Kamehame Ridge with friends.

Let's stop the talk about restricting access to Kuliouou Forest Reserve.

Kevin Mulkern

KevinJMulkern@gmail.com
Mr. Kevin Mulkern  
Via Email: kevinjmulkern@gmail.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]  

Dear Mr. Mulkern,

Thank you for your email dated May 20, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://beqa2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Mr. Kevin Mulkern  
Via Email: kevinjmulkern@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2  

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  

cc: BWS  
DPP
Dear Mr. Mullen,

Thank you for your email dated May 21, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early
2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha'ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha'ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha'ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha'ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha'ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha'ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha'ikū Stairs is further explored.

Evaluation of Access Routes

The EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Ha'ikū Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The research of HSWG was utilized as a basis for inquiry into legal access alternatives at the start of the EIS process. The EIS team carried forward the three routes recommended by the HSWG (Windward Community College / State Hospital, Hope Chapel, Old Ha'ikū Road) and added three more routes for consideration. Kūneki Street was added as an alternative to Ha'ikū Road to move the initial access route off of private property ("Old" Ha'ikū Road) on to a public access road (Kūneki Street). The EIS team put forth six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Ha'ikū Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puonie Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Po'okela Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Ha'ikū Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Po'okela Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allit

Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.
From: Micah Mumper <micah.mumper@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:29 AM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku Stairs

Hello,

I was born and raised in Hawaii. Please maintain Haiku Stairs and provide access for the public. It is a hike worth preserving and deserves to be kept in good condition.

-Micah Mumper, resident of Kailua.

--

Micah Mumper, M.A.
Cognitive Psychology
Stony Brook University
808-389-5034
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Haʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Haʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Haʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Haʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oecr2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Laura Myers <laurairelan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:41 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Please re-open Haiku Stairs—don’t tear it down! The nearby residents have legitimate complaints, but surely there are solutions that would alleviate these concerns while leaving this treasure available for the thousands of locals and tourists who would be afforded the opportunity to utilize this priceless asset.

Perhaps there is a nearby area where parking could be permitted, maybe with a small fee for locals and a higher fee for visitors. Large tour buses should be banned. An additional entrance fee could cover the cost of round-the-clock security. Closing Haiku stairs to appease a handful of people to the detriment of many would be a sad solution.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Laura Myers
47-109 Koplili Place
Kaneohe, HI
Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed route and its impact on the environment.

As per the EIS, BWS will provide a sensitive and affordable water supply system for the people of O‘ahu. The project aims to update and improve the current water infrastructure while minimizing environmental impacts. The EIS includes a review of alternative actions and the mitigation measures to be taken.

The EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and the surrounding environment, including the impacts on the proposed water system and its surrounding areas. The EIS is available for public review and comment.

Thank you for your interest and concern. Please feel free to provide any comments or suggestions regarding the proposed project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Principal

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, LLC G70

ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

D70 // 115 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 170, HONOLULU, HI 96813 // 808.523.6864 // WWW.G70DESIGN

[Address]
[City, State, Zip]
From: Michael Myers <myersm@me.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 1:47 PM

To: BWS Ha'iku Stairs EIS

Subject: Ha'iku Stairs

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Michael Myers, I am a 21-year-old resident of Waimanalo, born and raised on the island of Oahu. I believe that the Ha'iku Stairs are a priceless resource to all Hawaii residents and that the destruction or continued restriction of access to the stairs is would be a disservice to the community. I propose that the stairs be managed in a similar fashion as Hanauma Bay. Limiting the number of hikers, educating those who wish to partake, charging a fee to non-residents, and allowing free access to locals. The successful Hanauma Bay management plan should, with some adaptation, provide a template for implementation.

Someday I would like to be able to share with my children the awe-inspiring joy of completing the Ha'iku Stairs. To teach them about the history behind the stairs. And to tell them the story of how the stairs were saved from destruction and turned into a world-renowned ecological and educational site.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Mike Myers

myersm@me.com

(808) 551-4808

May 8, 2019

111 S. High Street
Suite 170
Hammond, IN 46320
800.523.5366
www.g7o.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Ha'ikü Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015:01

[He'eia, Ko'olaupeko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Myers,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikü Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'ikü Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikü Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikü Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'ikü Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha'ikü Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'ikü Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain-top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'ikü Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha'ikü Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha'ikü Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha'ikü Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.
Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha‘ikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllListed.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

From: Valerie Myette <valmyette@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:37 PM
To: Communications
Subject: Haiku stairs

Hello,

I’m not sure if this is the address to weigh in... I would love to see the stairs remain and the trail open up. Charge a fee like Lulumahu falls. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Valerie Myette
Sent from my iPhone
Dear Ms. Myette,

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
I am writing to provide comment on the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISP) for Haiku Stairs. Please note that I am in favor of "providing legal access to and from the stairs and improving it for public use."

It is already a shame that such a unique walkway is not currently accessible to the general public. If the Haiku Stairs was just another stairway among a trove of similar stairways, it would be a different story. However, I am not aware of anywhere in the state that could offer a comparable experience. While Hawaii is rife with recognizable monuments and iconic natural features, there are very few pathways that illicit immediate recognition. I can think of only a few others, and that's only if one counts road and waterways - the Road to Hana, the Ala Wai Canal, and the rail project. The latter two are not exactly looked upon fondly. In terms of walkways, trails, and the like, I can't think of any that are widely recognizable unless a prominent natural feature or monument is featured in the background.

While I am not aware of the intricacies related to the issues of property access, parking, maintenance, security, safety, etc., I do believe that a good faith effort toward providing legal access is warranted due to the unique circumstances. I urge the Honolulu Board of Water Supply to see the Haiku Stairs as an opportunity rather than a liability. It is not an easy task, but one that I believe puts the wider community at the center of the issue.

Thank you for taking the time to accept and review comments.

Brian H. Nagami
Hawaii resident
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o B70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Nagata,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Haiku Stairs should be fixed and re-opened to the public.
Ms. Michelle Nagata  
Via Email: mnagata97@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

From: Robert Nakamura <rnakamura121@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 1:53 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Comments

Hello!

I think it makes the most sense to setup a system where hikers pay for permits to hike up haiku stairs. It would be similar to a state/national park. And hopefully the fees would be enough to cover all costs. I think at minimum, we should look into the feasibility of such a path.

I know many people who would love to enjoy the views and history such a hike has to offer, but have been unable to try due to the non legality. A legal means is the way to go! Don’t waste it by ending any hope before giving it a chance!

Thanks,

Robert
May 8, 2019

Mr. Robert Nakamura
Via Email: nnakamura121@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Nakamura,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Placoch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha'ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha'ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha'ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha'ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

Mr. Robert Nakamura
Via Email: nnakamura121@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2
From: Lerma Jean Nakashima <nakashimaohana@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 3:19 PM
To: BWS Ha‘ikū Stairs EIS
Subject: Save Ha‘ikū stairs and open up an access for the public

Hello,

I have always wanted to go up and have not had the opportunity. Please consider opening an access for the public. I live in Waimanalo and was at the last Kaneohe Neighborhood board meeting last Thursday. I understand the folks having to deal w/trespassers and how they would be upset. Once the access is built the people who lives in Ha‘ikū will start to see a decline and in years later will not be bothered by trespasser. Once the word is out on FB and other media devices the people of Ha‘ikū will soon see a decline.

Thank you,
Please SAVE Stairway to Heaven!!

Lerma Jean
Sent from my iPhone

May 8, 2019

Ms. Lerma Jean Nakashima
Via Email: nakashimaohana@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[Heʻeia, Koʻolauloalo, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi]

Dear Ms. Nakashima,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Haʻikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Haʻikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police...
have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
From: Linda Naki <lindanaki@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 7:59 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep stairway to heaven

This historic & scenic hike needs to be preserved & shared with all who want to commit the time & energy to hike. Since parking seems to be the issue along with the cost of maintaining the stairs I propose setting a fee $10.00 per person (or less), parking be available at the Community college, open the access road & aloe hikers to access hike there the road. NO TOUR BUSES!!!!! Individuals, with friends (may consider limiting number each day).

Sent from my iPhone

May 8, 2019

Ms. Linda Naki
Via Email: lindanaki@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i]

Dear Ms. Naki,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Evaluation of Access Routes

The EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Ha’ikū Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The research of HSWG was utilized as a basis for inquiry into legal access alternatives at the start of the EIS process. The EIS team carried forward the three routes recommended by the HSWG (Windward Community College / State
Hospital, Hope Chapel, Old Ha‘ikū Road) and added three more routes for consideration. Kūneki Street was added as an alternative to Ha‘ikū Road to move the initial access route off of private property (“Old” Ha‘ikū Road) on to a public access road (Kūneki Street). The EIS team put forth six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Ha‘ikū Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puonii Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Po‘okea Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Ha‘ikū Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Po‘okea Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Parking

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Ha‘ikū Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public in 1987 due to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHH). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHH property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station with its parking area because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha‘ikū Stairs from “old” Ha‘ikū Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. Conversations with DHH are ongoing. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Each access route conceptual plan includes potential areas for street parking located away from concentrations of private residences. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on access routes and parking.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha‘ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as charging a fee, limiting number of hikers, and prohibiting tour buses would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of EnvironmentalQuality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oegq2.doh.hawaii.gov/ _layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
transfer the property to another agency to manage and keep open
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oecp2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllListItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: PaulNash <unclaymedfreight@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:07 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

To The Committee:

What we have here is a beautiful valley waiting to become a STATE PARK or a CITY PARK or BOTH. What ever it takes for our legislators to create this natural preserve as a public park for recreation.

This would resolve the issue of the stairs which people want. All you have to do is let the tourists know of the dangers of the stairs, which isn’t really many. Many of my friends have climb the stairs. I myself also.

I live at the end of a street that is near the entry way to the stairs. Making the valley a park and creating parking for the park and the stairs would alleviate the complaints from my neighbors about the hikers going through our properties. There is already a road that leads to the valley. Haiku Road.

I don’t understand why the governments and its entities don’t see this valley and the stairs as a Nature Preserve Park that the community and the tourists can enjoy.

Sincerely with Aloha,
Paul Nash

45-527 Puuol Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Cell: 808-497-0567
Dear Mr. Nash,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel.

Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

Cultural Education

Ha‘ikū Valley is a setting with rich cultural history and biological resources. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a future operator would have the opportunity to implement an educational program with cultural and environmental components. Local non-profit organizations have envisioned such programs for Ha‘ikū Valley that create a cultural and environmental preserve, provide education programs, and revitalize the valley as a place of gathering and learning. The framework for a Managed Access Plan is discussed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued.

Recreation - Coast Guard Model

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Ha‘ikū Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public in 1987 due to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha‘ikū Stairs from “old” Ha‘ikū Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on the Ha‘ikū Road access route. BWS will be meeting with the affected government agencies after publication of the Draft EIS.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public.
Mr. Paul Nash
Via Email: unclayedfreight@hawaii.rr.com
May 8, 2019
Page 3 of 3

BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Haʻikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Haʻikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Haʻikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Haʻikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs is further explored.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alll
enm.aspx
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
     DPP

From: Christy Nathan <christy.nathan@librarieshawaii.org>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 2:24 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Aloha,

I would love to see the public have access to this beautiful "stairway to heaven"; with warning signs posted that inform hikers that it is a treacherous trail with many hazards and that they are climbing at their own risk. Parking should also be made available somehow, purchasing some land with limited parking and for a fee which may offset some costs.

There are too many beautiful places on Oahu with limited or no parking and/or facilities available and it would be a shame to lose this to.

I've been wanting to go all my life but have not gone because its illegal; if it was legally open I would go =)

Aloha,

Christy Nathan
Ms. Christy Nathan  
Via Email: christy.nathan@librarieshawaii.org  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Haʻikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olauopoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Nathan,

Thank you for your email dated May 19, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Haʻikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Haʻikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Haʻikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Haʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Haʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Haʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Haʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  
cc: BWS, DPP
I would like to comment on the proposed fate of Haiku Stairs.

I am a hiker and moved to Hawaii 7 years ago. I would love the opportunity to hike the Haiku Stairs however thus far I have been dissuaded by the issues surrounding trespassing and the official closed status of the trail. I would like to see the trail opened and managed in a sustainable manner. I would consider this a valuable use of my tax dollars and would support a fee based system with limited access (maybe permitted use or whatnot) as the most reasonable way to preserve and maintain this trail.

I grew up in an area of the country where hiking was respected and encouraged and public access to mountains was considered a virtue. I have been disappointed to find that Hawaii manages their Mauka natural resources in a manner that is primarily risk averse and does not encourage connection with our land.

I would like to see Hawaii find a way to open the Haiku Stairs Trail to *controlled* public access.

chris

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Christopher Naun
naunca@gmail.com
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Haʻikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Haʻikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Haʻikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Haʻikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Haʻikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs is further explored.
From: Jeffrey Nedry <jeff.nedry@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:25 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku stairs feedback

I am in support of reopening the Haiku stairs and would like to see it managed by the landowner or a private corporation through an agreement. I believe the annual cost of keeping people off the trail should be invested into opening it to the public and allowing access for a small fee. There are many problems, but easy solutions, to what I could see being a profitable venture. If people want to hike so badly, why not just let them? I hope to see the feedback do some good. Mahalo for your time.

Jeffrey Nedry

May 8, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey Nedry
Via Email: jeff.nedry@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study

[He’ea, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Nedry,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū.
Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plascik Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://peaq2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP
Mr. Gary Neece
Via Email: gary@values.cc
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 3

Thank you for your email dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha‘ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through a proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha‘ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as construction of a gondola system and collecting a fee would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oec2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllList ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jen Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
From: Paul Nelson <pnelson@searchtechnologies.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 1:23 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; HaikuStairsEIS@Honolulu.gov
Cc: Kim Paul; Nelson Billie
Subject: Haiku Stairs, EISPN public comment

I am adding my support to preserving the Haiku Stairs and finding an acceptable way to open the stairs to the public.

My mother is a full time resident of Lani Kai. When she returned to the Islands, my father (now deceased) walked up the Haiku Stairs. I have been waiting patiently to follow in his footsteps for many, many years. This is one of my "bucket list" items and I am heartsick to hear that the stairs might be torn down, for no better reason than lack of political will.

I have never hiked the stairs illegally, and I feel that closing the stairs at this point will be punishing those law abiding citizens of Hawaii who have waited patiently for the county government and the BWS to come up with a legal method to open the stairs to the public.

It is unfathomable to me that no acceptable solution has been found. Even a solution as simple as public guided tours where hikers are bussed in from a remote parking lot [such as Kaneohe Mall] seems like it should be a perfectly acceptable solution. Such a solution would not require a parking lot at the stairs. Has the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) considered this option? If not, I strongly recommend that you do.

As an avid hiker, I would be willing to pay the proportional cost necessary to pay for the guide, the bus, and a portion of the upkeep of the stairs.

Second, my mother lives underneath the LaniKai ridge hike which has gotten enormously popular recently, and has hundreds of hikers every day. We would both like an alternative hiking destination to reduce the stress on the environment for LaniKai ridge.

Has the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) considered how the permanent loss of yet another hiking destination will continue the overcrowding on existing windward destinations such as the LaniKai ridge trail? Already we have lost the Paradise Falls trail.

In addition, we occasionally hear of hikers dying on the Olomana trail. This is a dangerous trail of three peaks. Has the BWS considered how the closing of a safe, yet thrilling trail such as the Haiku Stairs will encourage more hikers to brave highly dangerous trails such as Olomana?

Again, 1) I feel that tearing down the stairs is unfair to law abiding citizens who have waited patiently for a legal access method to the stairs. 2) I believe that BWS should consider alternative methods and contractor alternatives for opening the trail to the public. 3) I believe that the EISPN should consider the impact of a permanent loss of another hiking destination on existing overcrowding of windward trails. 4) I believe that the EISPN should consider the benefit of maintaining the Haiku Stars as a safe alternative to trails such as Olomana.

Thank you,
Paul Nelson
May 8, 2019

Mr. Paul Nelson
Via Email: pnelson@searchtechnologies.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6:015:011
(He’ieia, Kō’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i)

Dear Mr. Nelson,

Thank you for your email dated May 17, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha’ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha’ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha’ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha’ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha’ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha’ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha’ikū Stairs is further explored.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the
property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha‘ikū Stairs would fail under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as charging a fee, providing guided tours, and bussing hikers in from a remote location would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

Third-Party Operator

Third-Party Operator Alternative. Under this alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying parcel, but a qualified third-party entity would be granted express permission to operate and manage use of the stairs. This alternative was dismissed because it does not meet the primary objective of eliminating BWS liability. For more information, please see Section 6.1 of the EIS.

Hiking Resources

BWS as an agency is not responsible for the management of hiking trails and recreational resources on O‘ahu. Ha‘ikū Stairs is not currently a legal recreational resource. It is not within the scope of this EIS to evaluate the safety alternative routes for hikers to ascend the Ko‘olau range. However, hikers are encouraged to pursue other safer hiking opportunities on O‘ahu such as those in the State’s public hiking trail system managed by Na Ala Hele. Information and maps are available on their website at: http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/nah/

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice_Forms/AllIt ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS, DPP
My wife and I are longtime residents of Kaneohe and in our youth we hiked and greatly enjoyed the Haiku Stairway To Heaven.

Back then in 1978 when we hiked it, this jewel had a "hidden secret" status and this was way before the repairs were made.

We implore you to help keep this wonderful experience open for future generations to enjoy.

Mahalo, Joe and Jean Neuer
Mr. Joe Neuer  
Via Email: neuer.joe@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit egates.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Alicia Newman <alicia_newman93@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 10:36 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Please don’t tear them down

I have yet to attempt the Haiku Stairs mostly because I don’t want to face a $1,000 fine. However, this is one hike I have seen hundreds of photos of and one hike I would love to be able to do here on island. Not only is the history of the stairs interesting but the symbolism behind them as well. It’s something you see right off the freeway and it’s absolutely captivating to be able to see the stairs going up. If the state of Hawaii could find a way to control the number of hikers allowed per day (maybe a permit system), make people pay $5/hiker, and build a parking lot at the bottom, the state could not only make money off of this hike but also ensure people are taking the safest way possible.

I believe most people run into issues not on the stairs themselves, but on the ridge lines behind them, trying to figure out what way to go.
Ms. Alicia Newman  
Via Email: alicia_newman93@yahoo.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
  DPP

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Dear Ms. Newman,

Thank you for your email dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreational attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
Submission for public comment

I grew up in Hawaii and missed my opportunity to legally hike the Stairs when I was younger. As an adult I considered trespassing to attempt the hike as I know many have contemplated and done. I would like to vote for the option of keeping the stairs and allowing hikers with paid fees and waivers signed with permits to complete the hike. I would be willing to pay to hike this and keep this alive.

Mahalo-
Leinell Newman

Ms. Leinell Newman
Via Email: leinellnewman@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’i’ikō Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i]

Dear Ms. Newman,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’ikō Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’i’ikō Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’i’ikō Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’i’ikō Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’i’ikō Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’i’ikō Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’i’ikō Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’i’ikō Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha'iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha'iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha'iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oedc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/AllIt ms.aspx
Please enter Ha'iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

From: Kerry Nicholls <kerry_nicholls@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:24 PM
To: haikuStairsEIS@Honolulu.gov; BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; Ok
Subject: Haiku Stairs EISP Input - from Mr. Kerry Nicholls

To Whom It May Concern – City of Honolulu, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Points of Contact

haikuStairsEIS@Honolulu.gov
haikustairs@G70.design

This letter is in regards to the fate of the Haiku Stairs, and the 23 April 2017 announcement of the EIS Preparation Notice (EISP) and the information contained herein.

SUMMARY:

I am very much in favor of maintaining the Haiku Stairs, and opening up the facility for public use. The EISPN causes me great alarm in that it announces the Board of Water Supply (BWS) plans to tear out the Haiku Stairs.

After decades of closure, it is high time that the Stairs were reopened for all to enjoy. Following are factors/recommendations that support my position.

DISCUSSION:

1. While the EISPN mentions environmental impacts to be examined caused by the removal of the Stairs, there is no mention of the incalculable loss of this
irreplaceable recreational, educational, historic, and cultural resource. Above all, the City is the public steward of its resources, and it cannot simply walk away from this responsibility because it’s inconvenient for them.

2. The EISPN identifies a “conveyance alternative” to be explored, which entails turning over the Stairs to another government agency or private entity to run. These options could work, but the EISPN overlooks the simplest and most straightforward solution: BWS hire a contractor to run the Stairs. The BWS, through their contractor, could charge an admission fee sufficient to cover all operating, maintenance, and management costs, and the contractor would be responsible for all liability.

3. The EISPN states the intent is to examine only one alternative access route to the Stairs: through Windward Community College and Hawaii State Hospital. At the very least, BWS should examine the original route to the Stairs: straight up Haiku Road, with parking in the old USCG Omega Station parking lot.

4. BWS has repeatedly stated the ~$160,000/year security guard expense as one of their main reasons for removing the Stairs. However, it is significant that the City spent approximately $1 million in 2002 to repair the Stairs. It does not make sense to spend hire an EIS consultant at considerable expense, just to get legal permission to tear out the Stairs. Also, it certainly does not make fiscal sense to spend the estimated $3-5 million to destroy a resource that has brought joy and wonder to more than a million people. Countless other government bodies would spend this sum to CREATE a world-class attraction.

5. I believe we need to hold our public officials accountable for the way they spend their time, and taxpayers’ money. After decades of closure, it is high time that the Stairs were reopened for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Kerry Nicholls

46-044 Puulena St Apt 824
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Day phone 808-477-0952
Email kerry.nicholls@yahoo.com
May 8, 2019

Ms. Kerry Nicholls
Via Email: kerry.nicholls@yahoo.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. Nicholls,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs

As an organization, BWS’s mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘i‘i‘u Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’s mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early

2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs is further explored.

EIS Topics

The EIS contains full discussions of historic resources in Section 4.2.3, cultural resources in section 4.2.2, and recreational resources in Section 4.11. Regarding education, under the Conveyance Alternative (discussed below) a future operator would have the opportunity to implement an educational program with potential cultural and environmental components.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘i‘i‘u Stairs and the respective access route. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and managed access, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Third Party Operator Alternative
The alternative scenario where BWS hires a contractor to run Ha’i’ku Stairs is included in the EIS as the Third-Party Operator Alternative. Under this alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha’i’ku Stairs and the underlying parcel, but a qualified third-party entity would be granted express permission to operate and manage use of the stairs. This alternative was dismissed because it does not meet the primary objective of eliminating BWS liability. For more information, please see Section 6.1 of the EIS.

Evaluation of Access Routes

The EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Ha’i’ku Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The research of HSWG was utilized as a basis for inquiry into legal access alternatives at the start of the EIS process. The EIS team carried forward the three routes recommended by the HSWG (Windward Community College / State Hospital, Hope Chapel, Old Ha’i’ku Road) and added three more routes for consideration. Kūneki Street was added as an alternative to Ha’i’ku Road to move the initial access route off of private property (“Old” Ha’i’ku Road) on to a public access road (Kūneki Street). The EIS team put forth six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Ha’i’ku Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puonik Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Po’okela Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Ha’i’ku Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Po’okela Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Recreation - Coast Guard Model

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Ha’i’ku Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Ha’i’ku Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Ha’i’ku Stairs to the public in 1987 due to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha’i’ku Stairs from “old” Ha’i’ku Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. Conversations with DHHL are ongoing. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on the Ha’i’ku Road access route.

Costs

The Ha’i’ku Stairs are located on BWS property that is currently not developed for water resources and not required for future water source development. As discussed in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS, security for Ha’i’ku Stairs costs BWS approximately $250,000 a year in rate-payer funds. In 2016, a dangerous swing was illegally installed beside Ha’i’ku Stairs near the top of the climb, and was frequently used by trespassing hikers. Removal of the swing cost of $23,000 to BWS rate payers. BWS also relocated the Puonik Place gate to their water tank for $14,000 due to complaints from neighbors regarding trespassing hikers at the old gate. In Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS, cost for full removal of Ha’i’ku Stairs is estimated at approximately $250,000, which is roughly equivalent to the cost of rehabilitation.

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllFile.aspx
Please enter Ha’i’ku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

JEFF Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Dear Ms. Nicole,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://beep2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Ms. Nicole  
Via Email: nicole@kahaifresh.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70  
Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

From: Sal Nicosia <sal.nicosia@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 1:35 PM  
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS  
Subject: Stairway to Heaven Hike

Hello,

I read about your request for feedback in an article and wanted to contribute. I would like to recommend the hike be opened, an admittance fee charged, and some sort of board highlighting the potential dangers of the hike.

I have not attempted this hike but have heard about its gorgeous views and challenging terrain. Thrill seekers and tourists would undoubtedly pay for access to a challenging hike so long as the dangers were made obvious to them.

My vision for the board could include an updated route map of the trail and highlight the current danger areas in red (like maps). If it was a kiosk style board, I think it would go a long way to possibly get testimonials of hikers on loop speaking about navigating the more difficult areas of the trail. I feel this would hammer home how treacherous the trail can be. This would cost money to produce and upkeep, but I doubt it'd reach the $170k a year for guarding the entrance. It would also allow people to explore the trail when there is more light which could result in less injury.

These are just my thoughts. I think people need the responsibility to choose what endeavors they participate in and be honest about their abilities. I could be wrong. I welcome any follow up should it be required. I appreciate your time and understand this is a difficult decision. Thank you for requesting feedback.

Cheers,
May 8, 2019

Sal Nicosia
Via Email: sal_nicosia@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Nicosia,

Thank you for your email dated April 27, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’iki Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’iki Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’iki Stairs to the public.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://eqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#. The Environmental Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’iki Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Shannon Noelle <shannon.noelle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 6:07 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, the department for managing all of Hawaii’s natural resources including endangered species management, forestry and enforcement receive less than 1% of all federal funds for Hawaii.

If managed correctly, donations/fees from the use of the Haiku stairs could help protect Hawaii’s land as well.

There is an opportunity to use the world-famous stairway to heaven to positively impact the surrounding community and raise awareness with tourists and locals on the natural environment of Hawaii.

... Shannon Noelle
Ms. Shannon Noelle  
Via Email: shannon.noelle@hotmail.com  
May 8, 2019

Page 2 of 3

conveying the parcel on which Ha'ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha'ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha'ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha'ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha'ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha'ikū Stairs to the public.

Cultural Education

Ha'ikū Valley is a setting with rich cultural history and biological resources. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a future operator would have the opportunity to implement an educational program with cultural and environmental components. Local non-profit organizations have envisioned such programs for Ha'ikū Valley that create a cultural and environmental preserve, provide education programs, and revitalize the valley as a place of gathering and learning. The framework for a Managed Access Plan is discussed in Chapter 6 the Draft EIS but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued.

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http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The Environmental Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Dave Norrie <davenorrie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 1:11 AM
To: haikustairseis
Subject: Haiku stairs

Hello,

I'm writing from a message I read from the friends of the haiku stairs. I once was shown pictures and a history about the haiku stairs. This sparked an interest in Hawaii for me. Never before had I had a desire to visit Hawaii, but after seeing and hearing about the stairs I just had to go climb them. I made my first trip to Hawaii from Ontario Canada with the main reason being the haiku stairs. What I found was the most beautiful place I've been in the world. My first trip consisted of 2 weeks in Hawaii. Mostly on Oahu, but went to Maui for 4 days as well. Since then, Hawaii is my top travel destination in the world. With many many more trips planned. What I'm saying is that these haiku stairs attract a lot of tourism and return tourism. Not to mention the historical significance. It's would be a shame to remove them. Even if they remain closed to the public, they shouldn't be removed. However it should be open to the public. It's a safer alternative to many of the other legal hikes on Oahu. Also, if they get closed, many many people will start going across monaloo middle ridge and trippier which are far more dangerous. This hike needs to remain open

Sent from my iPhone
The Haiku stairs are the one and only reason why I visited Hawaii. It's the most amazing thing I've ever done, but while I was there I learned so much more about Hawaii and I stayed for 2 weeks. It has opened my eyes to Hawaii and I will be returning to Hawaii again and again. If it weren't for the Haiku stairs, I would have gone to Switzerland, Peru or New Zealand instead. When I come back to Hawaii, which I'm sure will be many more times, I hope I can access the stairs again.

Sent from my iPhone

I think it would be a huge mistake to remove the Haiku stairs.

The stairs are the one reason that drew me to visit Hawaii. When I did, I stayed 2 weeks and learned so much more about the islands. I will be back many more times to explore. I hope I will still be able to access the Haiku stairs. I have shared this experience with friends. I vote to keep the stairs in place, either as they are for the brave people to climb or make sure they are legal and limit the users.

Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Dave Norrie
Via Email: davenorrrie@hotmail.com

May 8, 2019

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Mr. Norrie,

Thank you for your email dated May 02, 2017; May 20, 2017 at 4:12 PM and May 20, 2017 at 4:15 PM concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, or liability to fund or manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Economic - Operations Model

Economic operation models for recreation attractions were evaluated during the preparation of the economic study. Successful local models such as Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head were reviewed along with mainland and international operational models. Each model was considered for its unique set of variables including admissions practices, carrying capacity, parking, security, liability, and maintenance and operations cost. These models provided a

practical basis for the development of a preliminary operations model for Ha'ikū Stairs. For further discussion of a potential operations model for Ha'ikū Stairs, please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha'ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain-top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha'ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha'ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha'ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha'ikū Stairs. However, BWS' main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha'ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control's The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allltems.aspx

Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS, DPP
From: G <nulisan105@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:35 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: EISN Feedback: Improve Stairs for Public

In response to the request for public comment of the Haiku Stairs as a community member I would like the BWS (Board of Water Supply) to act on providing legal access to and from Haiku stairs and improve it for public use. Public use for hiking will benefit all to enjoy this beautiful area we call home. Providing the legal access and improving Haiku stairs has a positive benefit to public health such as recreational activities like walking and hiking.

I believe it is a call to community responsibility on behalf of the BWS to provide legal access and improve Haiku stairs. As a paying and loyal customer of the BWS, I support the alternative of the Board of Water Supply to provide legal access and improve Haiku stairs.

I would appreciate your notification and future action based upon receiving my feedback.

Mahalo!

May 8, 2019

Nuulisan105
Via Email: nuulisan105@hotmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’iku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Nuulisan105,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘iku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘iku Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘iku Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘iku Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘iku Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘iku Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘iku Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘iku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal
land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs is further explored.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc3.honolulu.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Kanani Oberholzer <kanani53@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 7:04 PM
To: HaikuStairsEIS@honolulu.gov
Cc: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Save the Stairs

Aloha,

I have climbed the stairs only once, before they were renovated. It was possibly the most difficult hike I had done to that point. It was and remains my favorite hike ever.

We started out on a sunny Saturday morning. When we got to the top it was cold and windy but the views were unbelievable. People at the top were all talking in whispers so overcome by the sheer majesty of the site and thrilled that we had all made it. About 15 minutes later the clouds started to roll in. The sight of the mist slowly covering the mountains was a spiritual experience. Coming down was not a lot easier then going up and my quads screamed at me for the next 4 days. Was it worth it? Absolutely.

There is always a solution to a problem if the parties involved truly seek to find it. I encourage you to find a solution that allows people to continue to have the amazing experience of climbing the Stairs. Parking at the old CG Loran Station. A nominal hiking fee. Volunteer docents to educate hikers on the pono approach to hiking. Limiting the number of hikers and hiking days. Well marked pathways to the start of the hike. All these ideas and more can make for a fun and safe experience for hikers and peace for neighbors.

Please do not destroy this treasure of Hawaii. Keep it open for everyone to enjoy and appreciate.

Mahalo,
May 8, 2019

Ms. Kanani Oberholzer
Via Email: kananij3@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Oberholzer,

Thank you for your email dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

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Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance.
Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The-Environmental-Notice/Forms/AllList ems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., d/b/a G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Melanie Oborski <melanie.oborski@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 12:50 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Aloha!

Thank you for having this initiative to keep the Haiku stairs open for the public. It would be an immense loss for Hawaii and any adventurer or lover of the beauty of nature and the Hawaiian Islands if the stairs were destroyed.

The stairs offer a great value for the island of Oahu. Every visitor in my circle of friends has asked me whether I knew a way to climb the stairs and do this hike which has been ranked in the top 10 hikes in the world one must do before leaving this planet.

I am certain that properly maintained and regulated this landmark would be highly profitable to the state of Hawaii, due to a possible fee of $5-10$ per visit and high demand.

Moreover residents would not be disturbed during the off hours, which I believe to be the biggest reason for their complaints. If the stairs were a state park and available during the day, people would not try to access them illegally in the middle of the night, hence the residents could enjoy the peace and quiet they desire. Also, the stairs are of such great interest for the public and potentially a great asset to the state, that general public interest could be an argument here.

Let us know in case an image film for social media would be an idea to raise awareness to make the Haiku stairs a public hike. I’m sure we could arrange something great.

Sending you the warmest Aloha,

Melanie Oborski
May 8, 2019

Ms. Melanie Oborski
Via Email: melanie.oborski@hotmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. Oborski,

Thank you for your email dated April 28, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS

DPP

Ms. Melanie Oborski
Via Email: melanie.oborski@hotmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2
The stairs have caused many problems with no reasonable solution. The residents in the area have been unjustly impacted, hikers can be careless about safety rules which puts first responders at risk, liability is a problem for the Board of Water Supply and reasonable access has never been resolved.

There are already too many areas, thanks to social media, that are overrun with people who are not always responsible in their actions.

Unless these problems can be adequately addressed I say take it down.

Mary Louise O’Brien
Kaneohe, HI

---

Ms. Mary Louise O’Brien
Via Email: mobrien7@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’i’iku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6:015:011
[He’ieia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. O’Brien,

Thank you for your email dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’iku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha’i’iku Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha’i’iku Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha’i’iku Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha’i’iku Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha’i’iku Stairs back to its core mission.

Managed access of the hike could occur if the land is transferred to a public agency or responsible entity. Should Ha’i’iku Stairs open under a managed access scenario, the structure would be thoroughly evaluated and all structural improvements would be completed and inspected prior to the public opening of Ha’i’iku Stairs.
The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Evironmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Kathy O’Connor-Phelps <kathy92648@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 7:54 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: SAVE HAIKU STAIRS

Aloha:

As a person who lives part-time on Oahu and enjoys everything about the outdoors that Oahu has to offer, I am respectfully requesting that the Board of Water Supply consider keeping the Haiku Stairs (the Stairs) and opening it up to the public under certain conditions and/or restrictions.

PERMITS/FEES

A permit system should be established whereby you pay a fee (the fee could be higher for non-Hawaii residents) and then get put into a lottery for a permit to access it. There should be a restriction on the amount of hikers that can access it daily, as well as time restrictions so as to not bother the residents (unless alternate access is provided then no time restrictions should be imposed). The fees for the permits would help to fix up and then maintain the Stairs. Yosemite has done this for many years for access to Half Dome and Havasupai has a permit system as well. Both have been successful.

DONATIONS/MEMORIAL

Another person on a social media site recommended that there be an offer to make a donation in memory of a loved one who has passed away to have their name engraved on the Stairs—making it literally a “Stairway to Heaven”. This could be another way to help fund the project.

ACCESS/NEIGHBOR ISSUES

An alternate access route and parking area should be looked into to help with the trespassing and noise issues that the neighbors have claimed they have had.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
Although the Haiku Stairs are not registered as a historical landmark, there is obvious historical significance dating back to the World War II era and, that should weigh heavily in the Board’s decision. Once the Stairs are gone, part of history is gone – forever. It seems nowadays we are too quick to dismiss these type of facts in our decision making.

SAFETY/LIABILITY

Finally, the main concern seems to be safety and liability. As someone who has climbed Half Dome in Yosemite, Angel’s Landing in Zion, and Mooney Falls in Havasupai (all legal hikes), I can tell you that these areas are significantly more dangerous than even the current state of the Stairs. Hiking in general can be dangerous no matter how easy or difficult the hike is – there have been deaths on the Koko Head stairs. Let’s be honest, there are inherent dangers in everything we do every day – such as driving on the roads. I do not see why the Board of Water Supply and/or the State of Hawaii should have any liability if someone gets injured or dies, much like how it is on Half Dome etc. Signs could be posted on site regarding hiking at your own risk and language stating there is no liability on the part of the parcel owners could be expressed in writing on the permit.

I believe the benefits of keeping the Stairs far outweigh potential dangers that they may pose. Please consider keeping them, for anyone who decides to enjoy them for years and years to come – let’s make our own “new” history.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Kathleen O’Connor-Phepls
714-625-5930

111 S. King Street
Suite 170
Kona, HI 96745
808.533.5848
www.g70design

May 8, 2019

Ms. Kathy O’Connor-Phepls
Via Email: kathy92648@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-20
(He’eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. O’Connor-Phepls,

Thank you for your email dated April 28, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha’ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and
maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as establishing a permit system with fee, establishing a carrying capacity, and restricting the hours of operation would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator. Creating a donation-based memorial by engraving the steps in honor of loved ones who passed is a meaningful idea that could also be implemented.

Evaluation of Access Routes

The EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Haʻikū Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The research of HSWG was utilized as a basis for inquiry into legal access alternatives at the start of the EIS process. The EIS team carried forward the three routes recommended by the HSWG (Windward Community College / State Hospital, Hope Chapel, Old Haʻikū Road) and added three more routes for consideration. Kūneki Street was added as an alternative to Haʻikū Road to move the initial access route off of private property (“Old” Haʻikū Road) onto a public access road (Kūneki Street). The EIS team put forth six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Haʻikū Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puanani Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Poʻokele Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders, three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Haʻikū Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Poʻokele Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Haʻikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai’i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Haʻikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Haʻikū Stairs.
From: Amanda S <amanda.schroepfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:58 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; haikustarsEIS@honoulu.gov
Subject: Public comment re: haiku stairs

The Haiku stairs are an irreplaceable cultural and educational resource, I vigorously oppose their proposed demolition.

Paying for a security guard to deter (let's be real it is not preventing access but deterring it currently) is not the best use of taxpayer dollars, which is why I support consideration of the multiple viable alternatives that have been proposed including management by alternate state agency or contracted entity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda O'Kelly
Kalihi Valley resident
Ms. Amanda O’Kelly
Via Email: amanda.schroepfer@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ _layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

G70 // 111 S. KING STREET, SUITE 170, HONOLULU, HI 96813 // 808.523.5866 // WWW.G70.DESIGN
From: Richard Okouchi <rsokouchi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 9:15 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Cc: rsokouchi@Gmail91.com
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Board of Water Supply Officials,
I strongly feel that the Haiku Stairs should be demolished as there are more negatives in keeping the stairs. The negatives are as follows:

- Traveling on H3 freeway, the beauty of the Koolau Mountains with its water falls is marred by that ugly stairs cutting into the mountain.
- The area residents are inconvenienced with hikers trespassing into their property, leaving trash, parking illegally, creating noise early in the morning.
- Hikers get into trouble and has to be rescued which involves the fire department with their equipment, including helicopters, ambulance crews and the police department which I'm sure costs a tremendous amount of tax payer money.
- I live in Moanalua Valley where we have lots of hikers go into the valley and we see this all the time.
- Even if another agency or organization agrees to take over and maintain the stairs, it will only be temporary for a few years and then we will be faced with the task of finding another organization to take over.

All of these negatives, just for a few thousand hikers who wants to see a great view!!

Richard Okouchi
Moanalua Valley
the natural environment and that mountains are considered sacred space in native Hawaiian culture. For additional discussion on this cultural topic, please see Section 4.2.2 of the Draft EIS.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Safety - Emergency Response

Public safety on Ha‘ikū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha‘ikū Stairs range from “perfectly safe,” to “dangerous and deadly,” the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents. When accidents occur, first responders to Ha‘ikū Stairs are often exposed to safety risks due to access constraints. The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in Section 4.10.

Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity.

Under this alternative, the parcel could be sold to a private entity, however, the entity would go through a vetting process prior to selection, ensuring their long-term viability and ability to sustain the venture. Before sale to a private entity, an appraisal would be conducted to determine land value. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating Ha‘ikū Stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property).

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:

http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
WILLING TO PAY MORE TO SEE THE STAIRS DEMOLISHED.

Complete or partial transfer of land to private entity is a BAD idea.

TEAR IT DOWN!

Jan O'Keefe

"EQC,
TEAR THE HAiku
STAIRS DOWN!"

As it is who protects the water tank above Room 730? While no one has fallen off the stairs there was one death from a heart attack and we had to be taken down at taxpayers expense. If people want the views it can be accessed from the Mountain side.

No Stairs = LESS People Trampling Through = LESS Traffic

I have lived where these idiots TRESPASS, I hate paying taxes just as much as everyone else but I'm
Ms. Jan Okuda
May 6, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘i‘ia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Okuda,

Thank you for your letter dated May 17, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

Safety - Emergency Response

Public safety on Ha‘ikū Stairs is a concern for BWS. Although opinions about Ha‘ikū Stairs range from “perfectly safe,” to “dangerous and deadly,” the fact remains that remote ridgeline conditions coupled with inclement weather such as fog or heavy rain create conditions for accidents. When accidents occur, first responders to Ha‘ikū Stairs are often exposed to safety risks due to access constraints. The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in Section 4.10.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
     DPP
From: Alice Olivares <alicecarline@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 3:57 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: A Big Mistake

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to state how huge of a mistake it would be to destroy the iconic Haiku Stairs. This is an extraordinary and monumental part of Hawai‘i that cannot be taken away just because of its dangerous risks. Many places in Hawai‘i are dangerous, as a matter of fact in the whole entire world, but we cannot get rid of something just because it can risk your life, when it’s meant to do something good or show you something beautiful. Many people have enjoyed or dream of taking these stairs because of its breath-taking views. It makes us forget our personal struggles and issues, and remind us the true meaning of life and aloha. Taking these stairs away from us is taking away our chance to truly enjoy the beauty of Hawai‘i, and the beauty of life.

Sincerely,

Alice Olivares

111 S. Main Street
Sube 170
Honolulu, HI 96813
808.523.5666
www.g7o.design

May 8, 2019

Ms. Alice Olivares
Via Email: alice.carline@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’i’kū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
He’eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

Dear Ms. Olivares,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’i’kū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’i’kū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’i’kū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’i’kū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’i’kū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’i’kū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’i’kū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering
International appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllititems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Ryan Olson <ryno529@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 9:00 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs

I am pleading we find a way to re-open the stairs. I would love to have the opportunity to climb them one day. I can only hope people will respect land owners and not litter.

Mahalo,
Ryan Olson

Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Ryan Olson  
Via Email: ryo529@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Olson,

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://beq2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP
The public should be available to hike here. Do what is necessary to stop the waste of money fining hikers. Please buy the land needed to make hike available without trespassing.

Mahalo

Karin O'Mahony
808-224-7296

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Ms. O'Mahony,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha'ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha'ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oecr2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitem.aspx
Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Damien Ontai <damienontai@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:17 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep the stairs for everyone.

The Haiku stairs are a historic national treasure that should be open for all to enjoy! Build a pay parking lot to fund the stair’s operating costs. Also the lot should have a Kamaaina rate.
From: Damien Ontai <damienontai@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:18 PM
To: BWS Ha‘ikū Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep the stairs for everyone

The Haiku stairs should open for all to enjoy!

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May 8, 2019

Mr. Damien Ontai
Via Email: damienontai@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1): 4-6-015-011
{He‘ea, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i}

Dear Mr. Ontai,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 8E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha‘ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National

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ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/Alit ems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

[Signature]

AIP Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Lindsay Orman <lindsay.orman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 8:50 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Save the Haiku Stairs

Please find a way to make the Haiku Stairs legal and accessible. It would be such a shame for all the money spent on repairs and renovations to go to waste and for hikers to lose this unique and beautiful hike. A paid permit system would help to provide funds for maintenance and control access. There must be a way to work with the State and BWS to operate the trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay Orman
Kaimuki
Ms. Lindsay Orman
Via Email: lindsay.orman@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

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Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP
From: Ivan Orozco <ivanlorozco85@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:47 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs

I support keeping the stairs and reopening them to the public under an organization that is willing to maintain and provide safe access to the stairs. I also wouldn't mind there being a fee to access the stairs as long as it helped maintain them. Please reconsider closing the stairs and allowing hikers to access them.

Mahalo,
Ivan Orozco
Honolulu Resident

May 8, 2019

Mr. Ivan Orozco
Via Email: ivanlorozco85@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Orozco,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an
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**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’iku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’iku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’iku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’iku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ems.aspx

Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

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From: Kim Osborn Mullen <clonemullen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:07 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Don't dismantle!

Aloha,

It seems that before dismantling the one-of-a-kind Haiku Stairs, a thorough look at how to save the stairs would be a fantastic service to locals and visitors. How about opening up the trailhead from the old concrete coast guard station where it originally started? How about manning that entry, and then have the trail open say, 3 days a week and charge a small fee? It is such a totally incredible hike, and sadly, of course it would be easier to just dismantle it and shut it down (seems to be the go-to method in Hawaii when a complicated situation comes up) but what a wasted opportunity that would be.

Thanks for your time,
Kim Osborn Mullen

Sent from my iPhone
Ms. Kim Osborn Mullen  
Via Email: lonomullen@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 3

to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha‘ikū Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on the Ha‘ikū Road access route. BWS will be meeting with the affected government agencies after publication of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

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Dear Ms. Osborn Mullen,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain-top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Recreation - Coast Guard Model

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Ha‘ikū Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public in 1987 due
Ms. Kim Osborn Mullen
Via Email: lonomullen@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 3 of 3

agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layout2/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Kobe Osei-Akoto <info@kobekoto.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:58 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep The Stairs Open

Good morning,

I wouldn’t hesitate to pay $100 - $200 a hike as a tourist. Totally worth it.

Best,
Kobe

--

Kobe Osei-Akoto
Lead Developer
KOA
kobekoto.com
(O): (+1) 917-267-8817
From: Ryan <ryanostergard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:54 AM
To: haikustairseis@honolulu.gov, BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

The Ha'ik'ū Stairs is a relic and Wonder of all time to O'ahu and the State of Hawaii. It being known as the "Stairway to Heaven" shows how cherished it is. Please save it for generations to come.

As for what the Board of Water can do including to support its mission? Transfer the Ha'ik'ū Stairs including by prompting the City and County of Honolulu City Council to transfer the Ha'ik'ū Stairs to the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as it was rightfully originally planned in 2005. We the residents on O'ahu, Kama'aina of Hawai'i, and Keiki ka 'Aina including with Friends of Ha'ik'ū Stairs as well as various stewards of the 'aina will deal with the City Council accordingly as appropriate to facilitate this.

While it is understandable that maintenance and operations of the Ha'ik'ū Stairs may not support the BWS's stated mission, however, it is currently BWS's assigned duty until the City Council properly conducts the transfer. Again, we will facilitate this by appropriate actions with the City Council. Besides "safe, dependable and affordable water" does not relatively exist in the area/parcels belonging to or adjacent to the Ha'ik'ū Stairs anyways, nor does there exist any reliable watershed, let alone potable water natural or otherwise, and conducting treatment including reverse osmosis is not practical. For operational costs, The BWS can meantime solicit to renegotiate or hire new security at less mitigating costs. Just ask.

Aloha

From the Electronic Document Architecture, Civil Engineering, Interior Design, Planning & Environment
2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Haʻikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Haʻikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Haʻikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Haʻikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Haʻikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs is further explored.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Haʻikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Haʻikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Haʻikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Haʻikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS- approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Haʻikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go
through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

Water Resources

Ha‘iku Stairs are located on 225 acres of watershed land, TMK (1) 4-6-015:011, that BWS does not need for development of future water sources. BWS has already developed all the sources they need in Ha‘iku Valley on TMK (1) 4-6-015:001. For discussion of water resources please refer to Section 4.16 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

Cc: BWS

DPP

From: Courtney Otani <courtneyotani@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 10:14 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Please Fix Haiku Stairs

To whom it may concern at the Board of Water Supply,

I and many others would greatly appreciate if Haiku stairs was repaired and reopened for the public to legally and safely enjoy. I’ve bulleted reasons below for you to consider this with explanations and as appropriate, direct confrontation of counterarguments to my points.

- Cost: Current costs for security of the hike are annual, high, and recurring. So despite the fact that repairing the hike may cost more than a year’s worth of security guard fees, comparing the cost of repairs and regular maintenance with annual security guard fees, repairing then maintaining the hike would be more economical.

- Safety: Everyone knows that despite the signs, guards, and legal risk, people will wake up early in the morning to hike Haiku Stairs. The stairs are not maintained and unsafe thus hiking early in the morning with limited light just compounds the risk. If the hike were repaired and made legally accessible to the public, it would eliminate the unsafe choices people make. The BWS should be concerned about the safety of the people who want to do this hike because everyone knows that people will do this hike despite it being illegal and it does not look good for BWS to turn a blind eye to that.

- Increased care and respect for the land: It is understandable that this area of land would need to be taken care of as it provides drinking water for the people who live here. If people are given access to the hike, there will inevitably be trash and other unwanted debris on the land. As people hike it now while it’s illegal, there probably is trash around the hike. If it is opened to the public and thoroughly explained that the hike is on ground that provides them water, people will be more likely to respect it. People are also more likely to respect the hike if they see the work that has been put into making it more accessible and safe. Right now, people going on to the hike illegally is a sign of disrespect for the land. If it is made public, people will be able to appreciate and grow a true respect for the land.

- Benefits for the local community: Although there are many hikes on this island, many believe Haiku Stairs to be the pinnacle of hikes on Hawaii for the beautiful views and physical
challenge. The people of Oahu would greatly appreciate being able to legally and safely enjoy this hike which is almost a rite of residency for residents to complete.

Thank you very much for allowing the community to contact you to share their voice in this process. I hope that the best decision for the people of Hawaii will be made.

Mahalo,
Courtney Otani

May 8, 2019
Ms. Courtney Otani
Via Email: courtneyotani@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha'iiku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He'eia, Ko'olaupeko, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Ms. Otani,

Thank you for your letter dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'iiku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Planchon Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha'iiku Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha'iiku Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha'iiku Stairs back to its core mission.

Managed access of the hike could occur if the land is transferred to a public agency or responsible entity. Should Ha'iiku Stairs open under a managed access scenario, the structure would be thoroughly evaluated and all structural improvements would be completed and inspected prior to the public opening of Ha'iiku Stairs.

Managed Access
You are correct that there is currently a trash problem in the vicinity of the hike due to trespassing hikers. The intention is to control trash and provide education about caring for the land as part of a managed access scenario. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment such as littering, and to secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://dpo2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP
From: Nadine Owen <nowen2@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Please do not take down the iconic stairs, it would be a travesty to the beauty of Oahu island to do so. I support charging a fee to hike the stairs so that repairs and upkeep can be made to make it safer.

Thank you
Nadine Owen

Sent from my iPad

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May 8, 2019

Ms. Nadine Owen
Via Email: nowen2@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. Owen,

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering...
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while placing in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layoutasx/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItem.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: rachelle.padua <rachelle.padua@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 1:01 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keeping Haiku Stairs

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the Haiku Stairs fate. I feel it would be a waste of resources and money to tear them down or allowing another company to manage the Stairs. This is a valuable source of potential revenue for the county. Charging for parking and an entry fee to climb the famous Stairs is valuable revenue. The legality risk can all be put back on the hiker through some type of signed form or statement releasing the county of all responsibility.

Education about the Stairs and keeping the area clean can be done in the same way.

Please keep the Stairs, open it up to the public. It is a valuable source of income for the County and a hike that so many want to participate in but are not willing to risk the fines or possibility of being arrested.

Thank you!

Rachelle Padua

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7.
Ms. Rachelle Padua
Via Email: rachelle.padua@gmail.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance.

Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/#The Environmental Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

cc: BWS

DPP

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
Aloha BWS,

The Haiku Stairs have always been part of my life though always closed to me. Others report magnificent views and fabulous vistas though the BWS has never allowed me to see.

Either close it or open it. Do the work to make it right. Or tear it out. This compassionate non-involvement is not working for anybody.

I would ask you to please fix the stairs and open them to hikers.

Mahalo,
Will Page
345 Wanaao Rd.
Kailua, HI

Sent from my iPad
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’iku Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’iku Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’iku Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’iku Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’iku Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’iku Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ems.aspx
Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Charity Palmatier <charitycook143@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 1:44 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Please do not destroy the Haiku Stairs

Please add my name to those who would implore you to not destroy the Haiku Stairs.

Charity Palmatier
May 8, 2019

Ms. Charity Palmatier
Via Email: charitycook143@live.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Palmatier,

Thank you for your letter dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://beqp2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
cc: BWS
DPP

Ms. Charity Palmatier
Via Email: charitycook143@live.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

G70 // 111 S. KING STREET, SUITE 170, HONOLULU, HI 96813 // 808.523.5866 // WWW.G70DESIGN
From: Christian Palmer <ctpalmer@hawaii.edu>

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 9:43 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku Stairs

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Christian Palmer and I am a 33 year residents of Windward O‘ahu. I am a Cultural Anthropologist whose research examines public spaces, tourism, and conservation, examining similar kinds of land use conflicts around the world. I have been hiking the Ko‘olauas extensively for 25 years. I have also hiked all over the US and in several other countries. The Haiku Stairs is a world-class trail and compares to some of the best trails in the US and the world. It has the potential to be an amazing resource for local hikers, visitors, and researchers. It would be a tragedy and waste of tax payers money to destroy the hike. Removing the stairs is the equivalent of bulldozing a historic building, future generations will regret our poor decision and we will lose a part of our heritage.

I have attended community meetings, read opinion pieces, and listened to government officials explain the current problems with the stairs. All of the current problems can be solved. The current issues with trespassing on neighborhood property will be solved when legal access is available. The dangers of hiking the trail can be reduced almost completely through hiker education and managed access. Any liability to landowners can be avoided through liability insurance and adequate waivers signed by all those willing to hike. All of the current problems stem from the inability to close the hike and the current lack of managed access. I am confident that managed access can provide a solution that will meet the needs of all of the stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Christian Palmer
to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha'iku Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha'iku Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha'iku Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha'iku Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, "Effect with proposed mitigation commitments." Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha'iku Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha'iku Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha'iku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha'iku Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.
From: Jesse Palmer <jdp078@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 1:43 PM
To: BWS Ha’ikū Stairs EIS
Subject: Open Ha‘ikū Stairs

Dear Board of Water Supply,

The Haiku stairs are a national treasure, like Yosemite’s hike up Halfdome, or the Beehive Trail in Acadia National Park, and as such should be showcased and preserved, not removed. The state of Hawaii spends hundreds of millions of dollars to attract tourists to the state. The appeal of the Haiku stairs and their popularity on social media are doing this job for free. This is a resource that should be treasured, not only for its obvious economic value, but it’s historical worth and environmental benefits as a trail that showcases the unparalleled beauty and unique ecosystems of Kane‘ohe’s pall.

The current situation with trespassing and the serious problems for local residents is a direct result of the state’s inability to reach a solution and their continued inaction. The same is true for Sacred Falls (Kawainui), Crouching Lion (Puu Manamana), and a long list of other hikes. Although the state argues that these hikes are dangerous, if the same criteria were applied to beaches, Hanauma bay would have to be closed a long time ago, to say nothing of Sandy Beach (Wawamalu) and Pipeline. The inability of the various state agencies to actually solve problems, to come up with a plan to provide and maintain access is an embarrassment and a perfect demonstration of why so many residents are so cynical about local government and politics.

This especially true since the Friends of the Haiku Stairs have a comprehensive plan to open, manage, and maintain the stairs. In this plan, the revenue from the hike generates enough income to pay for maintenance of the trail and protection. Literally, all the state has to do is give them permission to move forward and there is a dedicated group of volunteers, many who have been working on this project for over two decades, willing to take over and do the state’s job for them. Why has this taken so long?

Sincerely, Jesse Palmer
District 47 Chair of Democratic Party of Hawaii

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Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6 015-011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupeko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Palmer,

Thank you for your letter dated May 19, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

BWS Role and Responsibility

You mention the State’s inability to reach a decision regarding management of the stairs. BWS is the current owner of Ha‘ikū Stairs and a majority of the underlying parcel. As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage...
a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs is further explored.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

Trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha‘ikū Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Property Purchase under the Conveyance Alternative

The Conveyance Alternative proposes the conveyance of the Ha‘ikū Stairs structure as well as the property the structure is situated on, either through land transfer to a more qualified government entity, or by selling the property to a responsible third-party entity. The BWS-approved process for disposing of real property requires that said real property be offered to other City agencies before being disposed of through auction, transfer or negotiated sale to a private entity. Under the Conveyance Alternative, if another City agency did not accept the transfer of Ha‘ikū Stairs, an appraisal would need to be conducted to determine land value before the land could be sold to a private entity. A Request for Proposal would be issued, and potential buyers would need to respond with a thorough plan for managing access and operating the stairs, meet an established set of qualifications (such as maintaining a liability insurance policy and holding BWS harmless should anything occur on the property), and go through a vetting process prior to selection. After evaluation of land value, an agency or private buyer would need to go through proper land transfer procedure, including the signing over of all existing agreements and easements, to give full property rights to the new entity. For more information, please see Section 6.4 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://ogec2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The Environmental Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx. Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70
Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
    DPP

From: Michael Pangilinan <mpbp46@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:04 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Stairway to Heaven

Tear the stairs down! Stairs are a danger, endangers our rescuers, and hikers are inconsiderate to neighborhood.
Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Michael Pangilinan
Via Email: mpbp46@yahoo.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

[Signature]

CC: BWS
DPP

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Dear Mr. Pangilinan,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/layers/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
From: David Paresa <david.paresa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 10:12 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: stairs

please leave open

May 8, 2019

Mr. David Paresa
Via Email: david.paresa@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’eaia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i]

Dear Mr. Paresa,

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
http://beq2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
From: Annie Park <anniecpark93@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 3:03 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs need to Survive!

Board of Water Supply,

Save the Haiku stairs, please! These stairs not only encourage adventure and physical activity for people who are caught sitting in front of technology all day everyday, but it also is a place where people can go to soak in mother nature and a place of escape for when they are feeling depressed. The aina brings healing and liberation more than you know. So please, save the Haiku Stairs! Thank you, Mahalo Nui Loa!

Annie Park
Ms. Annie Park  
Via Email: annehcpark93@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha’ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He’eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]  

Dear Ms. Park,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

**Concern for Loss of Resource**

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikú Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

**EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs**

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, responsible party, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx.  
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP
From: Russell C Pascua <rvrsinc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 9:12 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs

I would pay good money to experience going up to stairway to heaven. Taking away the stairs is like removing a piece of history and potentially losing income from charging people to access. If you didn't know by now there is another way to get to the top via Moanalua and is much more dangerous than the stairs. If your concerns is about safety having railings is much safer than having no railings coming from Moanalua. Thank you for the opportunity for us to voice our concerns! Aloha!

Russell C Pascua
RVRS INC (808) 677-7466
rvrsinc@gmail.com

May 8, 2019

Mr. Russell C Pascua
Via Email: rvrsinc@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Pascua,

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain-top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 5E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules...
Please save the stairway! Oahu wouldn’t be the same without them!! They are THE icon for adventurers - the reason why we moved to Oahu!!!
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Ms. Andrea Pateras  
Via Email: andrea.pateras@nanhawaii.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice 
Ha‘i‘kū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

May 8, 2019

Dear Ms. Pateras,

Thank you for your letter dated April 27, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘i‘kū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘i‘kū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘i‘kū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

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Please enter Ha‘i‘kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
From: Andrea Pateras <akpateras@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 3:19 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Haiku Stairs

Please save haiku stairs!!! I sprinkled my grandfather’s ashes from the stairs- his favorite place on earth.

Much Mahalo,

Andrea

May 8, 2019

Ms. Andrea Pateras
Via Email: akpateras@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Ms. Pateras,

Thank you for your letter dated April 27, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

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Please enter Ha'ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
From: Ted Peck <ted.peck@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 6:42 PM
To: HaikuStairsEIS@honoal.gov; BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Save the Haiku Stairs

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the irresponsible proposed action of stewardship of ripping out the Haiku Stairs. For the BWS to even propose such an action is evidence of a lack of imagination on the part of the City and BWS. The Stairs are a priceless treasure for the Islands and the State of Hawaii. I believe the following points hold true:

1. While the EISPN mentions environmental impacts to examined caused by the removal of the Stairs, there is no mention of the insurmountable loss of this irreplaceable recreational, educational, historic, and cultural resource – as if they could simply tear it out and no one would miss it. Above all, the City is the public steward of its resources, and it cannot simply walk away from this responsibility because it’s inconvenient for them. You can’t destroy a national historic treasure just because you can’t be bothered to run it.

The Stairs are not some old infrastructure you get rid of because it’s obsolete. They have been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, because of their integral role in the defense of the Pacific during WWII. Experts in botany and natural history have described the Stairs hike as unique in the Hawaiian islands, for several reasons. It would be an insurmountable loss of an irreplaceable recreational, educational, historic and cultural resource.

2. The EISPN identifies a “conveyance alternative” to be explored, which entails turning over the Stairs to another government agency or private entity to run. Which is fine, but they overlook the simplest and most straightforward solution: having BWS hire a contractor to run the Stairs. The BWS, through their contractor, could charge an admission fee sufficient to cover all operating, maintenance, and management costs, and the contractor would be responsible for all liability. If the BWS is concerned about the liability from leasing the land, sell it or place it in trust with constraints on what the purchasing entity does with it.

3. The EISPN states that they intend to examine only one alternative access route to the Stairs: through Windward Community College and Hawaii State Hospital. At the very least, BWS should examine the original route to the Stairs: straight up Ha’iku Road, with parking in the old USCG Omega Station parking lot.

4. BWS has repeatedly stated the $160,000/year security guard expense as one of their main reasons for removing the Stairs – as if safeguarding the taxpayer’s money is a top priority for them. If that’s the case, why did the City spend approximately $1 million in 2002 to repair the Stairs? Why spend more than $500,000 now on an EIS consultant, just to get legal permission to tear out the Stairs? And worst of all, why spend an estimated $3.5 million to destroy a resource that has brought joy and wonder to more than a million people? Normal responsible and competent governments spend this kind of money to create a world-class attraction.

5. Perhaps the biggest myth perpetuated by the city and the media is that the Stairs are some unspeakable public menace seeking to accost unwary innocents. There are no documented reports of anyone being seriously injured or dying as a result of an accident there. Indeed, the Stairs’ handrails and metal treads make them much safer than Hawaii’s notoriously slick and muddy clay trails.

There is no defensible position to take that supports destroying the Stairs. Please pick another alternative.

Ted Peck
CEO, Hoku Energy
May 8, 2019

Mr. Ted Peck
Via Email: ted.peck@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Peck,

Thank you for your letter dated May 8, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and generating
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Sara <makahababy@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 9:25 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

As an avid hiker and local resident, these stairs are an integral and important part of our history on Oahu. I fully support the maintenance and public access of these stairs and trail, with small admission fees to hikers and strict liability waivers that will release the City & County and State from all liability. Also, hikers should have to pay out of pocket for any and all emergency rescues, and sign over their consent to this prior to hiking. I think the views and history should be preserved for future generations, to the full extent possible. Please save and reopen the Haiku Stairs/ Stairway to Heaven.

Mahalo,
Sara E. Perry
MakahaBaby@aol.com
scalhoun@hawaii.edu
May 8, 2019

Ms. Sara E. Perry
Via Email: makahababy@aol.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Perry,

Thank you for your letter dated April 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

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The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
To Whom it May Concern,

As you consider the fate of the Haiku Stairs, please count me as a vote to keep them open.

Our island has many beautiful attractions, and many of them are free. Instead of fighting what people are doing, please embrace this opportunity to make it worthwhile to the community. If the Friends of Haiku Stairs (or any entity that is formed) want to charge a fee that would cover staffing, maintenance and security, there are many people willing to pay for the opportunity. The fee could include a donation to support the DNL or other local organization that could benefit from a few extra dollars.

By making it a controlled attraction, you will be able to better educate the public about the history of the stairs and protect the land. Also, if it is not off limits, it will take away some of the excitement from thrill seekers.

If this plan does not generate enough paying customers and local residents are still plagued with trespassers, then the stairs can be removed after a trial period of 5 years - or enough time to really see how the project goes.

I don't see why taxpayer dollars should go to removing the stairs - which will take years and in the meantime more people will try to climb an incomplete staircase - when there is an organization willing to take responsibility for management?

Thank you for your consideration,
Stairs that help minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Haʻikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Haʻikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Haʻikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Haʻikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Haʻikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Haʻikū Stairs to the public.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Pasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oec2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Ian Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Too many trails on Oahu are being removed and no longer being allowed to be used. People need to stop closing trails and holding visitors accountable for their actions. If I get hurt hiking it is my fault not the city and county's fault. Hiking is supposed to be risky, life is risky. Fix the stairs maintain them and charge an entrance fee.

From: Philippe Dukes <dphilippe86@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 4:41 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Keep the stairs

---

Mr. Dukes Philippe

Via Email: dphilippe86@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice

Ha'ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Philippe

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

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As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

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**Managed Access**

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeoff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

From: Kawena Phillips <kawenakailua@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:32 PM

To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS

Subject: Save the Stairs

Aloha,

These stairs are a great opportunity to the state, by opening them and charging a fee, they could generate revenue, and people would know the safety concerns associated with them. They are a unique and beautiful structure, please open them, don’t waste the people’s time and money removing them.
Ms. Kawena Phillips  
Via Email: kawenakailua@gmail.com  

May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: https://oecq2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx?The.Environmental.Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP

Principal

cc: BWS  
   DPP

Dear Ms. Phillips:

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
From: Arthur Philpott <bayvistah@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:33 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

As residents of Kaneohe, we would like to see the stairs opened to the public because we think it is a valuable resource for the people of Hawaii. It provides a unique opportunity to see Oahu from a perspective that is otherwise not available. I hope something can be worked out to satisfy the folks that live in the neighborhood near the Stairway to Heaven so that they will not be inconvenienced.
Margaret and Richard Philpott
46-206 Liliopuna Road
Kaneohe, Hi
Sent from my iPad

Margaret and Richard Philpott
Via Email: bayvistah@icloud.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai’i]

Dear Margaret and Richard,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering

ARCHITECTURE // CIVIL ENGINEERING // INTERIOR DESIGN // PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’iku Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’iku Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’iku Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’iku Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’iku Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’iku Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha’iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Honolulu Board of Water Supply:

I implore you NOT to dismantle the Ha’iku stairs. My family and I live in Kailua, Oahu and love to hike and explore the outdoors. We have hiked the Lanikai pillbox trail, the old railway up Koko Crater, the Makapu’u lighthouse trail and even Diamond Head lookout trail all numerous times. The “Stairway to Heaven” is superior to all of these aforementioned hikes in terms of natural beauty, historic context, and physical challenge. The stairway is an asset to the windward side, Oahu and all of Hawai’i. It would be sheer folly to destroy it.

I understand that the Board of Water Supply and the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board have concerns regarding access and liability. These obstacles do need to be appropriately addressed, but the “solving” them by destroying the stairway is not the answer. In fact, destroying the stairway would go against a national (and worldwide) trend of preserving and developing exactly such outdoor recreational opportunities. The economic impact of such outdoor recreation opportunities are finally being quantified and their contribution to the state and national economy in terms of jobs and revenue are finally being recognized.1

In the last several years states such as Colorado, Utah and Washington have created governmental positions (nicknamed outdoor czars) whose role are specifically to protect and establish NEW outdoor recreation opportunities to benefit the respective state’s bottom line2. In a similar manner, indigenous populations in Canada have seen successes in creating and maintaining systems of mountain biking trails. They have seen economic benefits such as increases in tourism and a boosting of the local economy particularly as it affects the younger generations.3 Opening access benefits both the locals and visitors alike. To quote the director of Colorado’s Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, “[o]utdoor activity deepens our respect for, and stewardship of, the beautiful natural spaces that set our state apart from any other.” The ha’iku stairs would do exactly that for the people and the state of Hawai’i.

We are here in an especially fortuitous situation. We don’t need to build anything. We hardly need to invest any additional money. The resource is there. The natural beauty is there and is exceptional. The stairs have an incredible history dating back over seventy years! We just need to NOT DESTROY it! Please give me, my family and the public the opportunity to use the stairway safely and respectfully. I would love to see the stairs be another one of the hikes that I can take my family on and enjoy the beautiful islands that we are fortunate to call home.

Sincerely,
Robert Picaso

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1 https://www.outsideonline.com/2140261/outdoor-industry-about-become-serious-political-force
2 https://www.outsideonline.com/2103006/mr-henitez-goes-washington
Mr. Robert Picayo  
Via Email: rpicayo@gmail.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011  
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Picayo,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountain top views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then-Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha‘ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha‘ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha‘ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha‘ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha‘ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha‘ikū Stairs is further explored.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:
Mr. Robert Piceyo  
Via Email: rpiceyo@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 3 of 3  

http://oepc2.doh.hawaii.gov/lAYOUTS/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., cba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP

From: Tom Pickard <pickard1001@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 3:02 PM  
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS  
Subject: Stair Way to Heaven

Whom it may concern,

I'm 80 plus and don't do any more climbing but I firmly believe that this historical site should be kept for the future generations. It is so easy to tear it down but so hard to build something like this again.

Thank you,

Tom Pickard  
pickard1001@hawaii.rr.com  
Kahuku, Oahu
Mr. Tom Pickard  
Via Email: pickardt001@hawaii.rr.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olauapoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Pickard,

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘i‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs, and

...to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oec2.doh.hawaii.gov/layouts/15/start.aspx#/The Environmental Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘i‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  
cc: BWS  
DPP
Dear Mr. Plasch,

Thank you for your letter dated May 20, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) §43. The following responses are offered to your comments.

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oepq2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit ems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.
Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

c: BWS
DPP

From: Dan Polhemus <bugman@bishopmuseum.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 6:30 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Comment on HRS 343 alternatives for Haiku Stairs

Dear sirs -

Through this e-mail, I would like to submit public comment on the current HRS 343 environmental impact statement, expressing my STRONG SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE HAIKU STAIRS and allowing continued public access to this remarkable trail. The City & County of Honolulu has previously spent a considerable amount of money to refurbish these stairs, and it is a complete waste of taxpayer resources to consider removing them and closing the route.

The Haiku Stairs should be operated in a way similar to that previously adopted by the Department of Defense. A parking area should be designated, hikers should be required to sign a waiver, and a reasonable daily fee should be charged for use of the trail. The money collected from the daily use fee can be used for staffing and maintenance of the trail.

Please note that I am also in STRONG OPPOSITION to any proposal to close and remove the Haiku Stairs.

- Dan Polhemus, 1112 Mokapu Blvd., Kailua, HI 96734

This message is only intended for the addressee named above. Its contents may be privileged or otherwise protected. Any unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this message or its contents is prohibited. If you have received this message by mistake, please notify us immediately by reply mail or by collect telephone call. Any personal opinions expressed in this message do not necessarily represent the views of the Bishop Museum.
Mr. Dan Polhemus  
Via Email: bugman@bishopmuseum.org  

May 8, 2019

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Mr. Dan Polhemus  
Via Email: bugman@bishopmuseum.org  

May 8, 2019

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to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha’i’ku Stairs from “old” Ha’i’ku Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on the Ha’i’ku Road access route. BWS will be meeting with the affected government agencies after publication of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’i’ku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’i’ku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’i’ku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’i’ku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’i’ku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’i’ku Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’i’ku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., a/b/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
Hello,

My name is Hunter Polhemus. I reside in Kailua, and I strongly oppose any proposal to remove the Haiku stairs.

The stairs are a historical structure and are an important piece of the military history of Hawaii, having been used by both the Navy and the Coast Guard over the years as a way to access and maintain the massive radio antennae that stretched across the valley.

In addition, the stairs were repaired in the 2000s by the City and County of Honolulu, at an expense of $875,000. The stairs were never opened for public use, even though that was the original intent. Any proposal to remove the stairs would make that repair effort a massive waste of money and time.

Again, I am strongly opposed to any proposal to remove the stairs.

Aloha, Hunter Polhemus
1008
Mr. Hunter Polhemus
Via Email: polhemush@hawaiiantel.net
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha‘ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha‘ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha‘ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oepg3.doh.hawaii.gov/locations/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

cc: BWS

Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal
From: Nathan Poole <nspoole@outlook.com>

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 1:50 PM

To: haikustairseis@honolulu.gov; BWS Haiku Stairs EIS; haikustairseis@hbws.org

Subject: Allow the Haiku Stairs to be Managed and Opened to the Public! Two Great Examples of the Outcomes for Opening or Closing Them.

Greetings,

You have one of the most coveted hiking trails in the world; please don’t let it be closed forever! All the money that has been spent does not need to be wasted. Allow a concessionaire to manage it, re-route the entry to get around the complaining neighborhood, and make a profit off of it!

I have wanted to hike this trail for years, and never could because I didn’t feel like breaking laws to do it. I go to Hawaii every year to visit family, and I would totally pay for a permit to make this hike.

In Texas we have two great examples of similar situations handled both ways. Two beautiful rivers, both surrounded by landowners who complain, throw fits, hire guards, and run people off (even though they are completely legal to travel in, if you stay in the river).

- One of them, the Devils River, the state has come in and worked with the landowners, educated visitors, and set up a permit system. It has become a great success story where more people come to visit, there are less medical emergencies, reduced litter, and the landowners are even happier now that everyone who visits knows the rules and keeps them.
- The other, The Narrows on the Blanco River, the state has stayed out of the conflict. There are constant battles between landowners and visitors. People who don’t know all the rules (and, unfortunately, many who do) trespass, litter, and get in medical emergencies out there.

I think it is obvious to see which has had the best results. If you do not allow the Haiku Stairs to be reopened, just to take the “easier” path or to appeal to one relatively tiny residential area, you will have the same results as the two rivers here in Texas. People will not stop hiking it when the stairs are down. There will be more injuries, emergencies, trash, illegal activity, and more expense without profit.

Thanks,

Nathan
Dear Mr. Poole,

Thank you for your letter dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha’ikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha’ikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha’ikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’ikū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’ikū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State
agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’i’kū Stairs to the public.

Thank you for providing two examples of trails in Texas and the different outcomes based on the degree to which the state managed the trail. Should the conveyance alternative be implemented, then a public or private entity would be able to implement a managed access scenario.

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Please enter Ha’i’kū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: porter, stephen [CBRE] <stephen.porter@dxc.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:00 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Stairs impact

Aloha,

Stephen Porter, retired US NAVY from here in Hawaii, I have some serious concerns surrounding the Environmental Impact Statement. The amount of $500,000. Seems a bit stiff for this survey. I really hope this isn’t another irresponsible handling of City and County budget, much like the rain!!! Next, who will paying the bill for the removal? The same people that funded the replacement stairs. The local tax payers. The way I see it you have 2 options. (1) open the whole facility which would include renovating the Omega foran buildings, for tourism, as to not impact the neighbors that have dealt with hikers in the past, I use the word illegal very loosely due to the governmental over reach of Hawaii on lands that are deemed off limits for false reasons. (2) not only the stairs need to come down, the Omega foran buildings need to be removed and/or demolished, that includes, the structures on the ridges as well. If we are going to erase history, let’s do it right and get rid of all traces of military presence in the area. Again who is going to pay for it? City and County have long believed tax revenues are an open check book, and are not hesitant to rob its residence for pork barrel project. This can be as big a boodoggle as the rail… OR we can do the right thing, and preserve our military history, as well as teaching future generations what was there and why. By opening to the public, the stair way can and will generate it’s on income as well at USS ARIZONA, USS MISSOURI, and the Aviation museum, Making it into a multiuse park, with camping, and functions that come and go, like a haunted trail, thanksgiving get together, also what was the actions there during December 7th 1941.
That’s my input. Feel free to contact for further input. My personal cell phone is 808-387-0033

Stephen Porter | PRLH SMTH Building Engineer
CBRE | Global Corporate Services
HP Enterprise Services | NGEN
300 Lexington Avenue, Bldg. 87, Honolulu, HI, 96818
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stephen.porter@hpe.com | www.cbre.com
Mr. Stephen Porter
Via Email: stephen.porter@dx.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 3

property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

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Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Haʻikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

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Dear Mr. Porter,

Thank you for your letter dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000's, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Haʻikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Haʻikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Haʻikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Haʻikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Haʻikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Haʻikū Stairs is further explored.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’ primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the

Mr. Stephen Porter
Via Email: stephen.porter@dx.com
May 8, 2019

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Haʻikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]
Recreation - Coast Guard Model

When the U.S. Coast Guard operated the Omega Station and allowed public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs, they had rights to use “old” Ha‘ikū Road for access. Hikers could drive to and park at the Omega Station, sign a waiver, and hike unsupervised to the top. Although this operation model was successful for a time, the Coast Guard had to close Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public in 1987 due to trespassing, vandalism and liability concerns. Circumstances have changed since 1987. The old Coast Guard Omega Station property and access road are now controlled by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Anyone who uses the access road or parks at the Omega Station on DHHL property is trespassing. The Omega Station has been vandalized and most of the contents removed. It would no longer be suitable for use as a kiosk or comfort station without significant renovations. BWS is unable to commit use of the access road and Omega Station because they do not own them. However, because of its former popularity and role as a traditional route into the valley, access to Ha‘ikū Stairs from “old” Ha‘ikū Road via the Omega Station is being evaluated as a potential legal access route. Conversations with DHHL are ongoing. The Draft EIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of access routes, including this one, to inform the decision-making process. Please refer to the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information on the Ha‘ikū Road access route.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oepd2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Brian Prete <preter1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:02 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Hello,

I would like to express my support for the state of Hawaii to provide legal access to the Haiku stairs. These are a historical landmark that need to preserved. In many places, landmarks like this are celebrated and taken care of in order to allow people access to such a wonderful and amazing experience. I understand the danger and cost associated with the stairs. However, why not charge a small fee (such as $10-$15) per person to hike the stairs. This would allow for the maintenance to keep these in good working order.

I would hate to see such an amazing historical landmark be demolished and removed. Please consider keeping the stairs to years to come so that many others can have the experience of hiking them.

Sincerely,

Brian Prete
Dear Mr. Prete,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

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Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawai‘i Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, “Effect with proposed mitigation commitments.” Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.
Managed Access

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Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Thomas Prindle <runensee@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 7:18 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs Comment

- I'm in favor of Finding a way to allow hikers to use the stairs without trespassing.

Thomas Prindle

Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Thomas Prindle  
Via Email: runensee@hotmail.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice 
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olau poko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Prindle,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

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Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 5:47 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: FW: Haiku Stairs

From: Jim Pushaw [mailto:jpushaw@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Customer Service <CustomerService@bws.org>
Subject: Haiku Stairs

It’s all about LIABILITY issues, isn’t it? Get our stupid state government to initiate a blanket "no liability" policy, to protect both private and public landowners from ANY liability for hikers on their lands! Other states have had them for years! Why are we so backward?

Get going, and we, (or you?) will make millions for such a venue! Let someone manage it, and also, at the same time, tell the awesome history of the Stairs! Don’t be lazy! Damn!

Jim Pushaw,
Kamuela, Hi 96743
Sent from my iPhone

May 8, 2019

Mr. Jim Pushaw
Via Email: jpushaw@hotmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
(He’eia, Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Mr. Pushaw,

Thank you for your letter dated May 24, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha’ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha’ikū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha’ikū Stairs back to its core mission.

Managed access of the hike could occur if the land is transferred to a public agency or responsible entity. Should Ha’ikū Stairs open under a managed access scenario, the structure would be thoroughly evaluated and all structural improvements would be completed and inspected prior to the public opening of Ha’ikū Stairs.

Managed Access

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GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: RICHARD D QUATTRONE <navydocq@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 8:24 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Taking down the stairs is not only a waste of tax payers money, it is a travesty. Either transfer to another government agency or find a legal way for the public to access these stairs in a responsible way to both the public and the neighbors. Regulate with permits and liability statements if need be.

Rich Quattrone
1205 Aalapapa Drive
Kailua, HI 96734
910-382-8393
Mr. Richard Quattromone  
Via Email: navydocq@me.com  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha‘ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Quattromone,

Thank you for your letter dated April 27, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

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alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc: BWS  
DPP
Don’t destroy it. Get the community and BWS to work together and reclaim it. BWS tolerates trespassing at all their gates. The Haiku stairs should be a community project that develops the BWS properties. BWS access roads, gates and trails needs assistance. Their boys ain’t keeping them up.

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha’ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He’eia, Kō‘olaupoko, O’ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear [name],

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O’ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha’ikū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha’ikū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha’ikū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha’ikū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha’ikū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha’ikū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha’ikū Stairs is further explored.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha’ikū Stairs

Because of the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha’ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be
obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha’ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

[Signature]

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

From: Mo Radke <moradke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:43 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: HAiku STAIRS EISPn COMMENT
Attachments: May 2017 EISPn Notice Statement ICD Haiku Stairs.pdf

Please find attached my comment for the April 2017 Haiku Stairs EIS Prep Notice.
Mahalo nui loa,

Mo Radke, PGA
moradke@gmail.com
www.golfacademyhawaii.com
(808) 386-3500

Golf Academy Hawaii is a PGA-recognized golf school & Authorized Ping Clubfitter
EISPN Notice Statement ICO Haiku Stairs

Submitted by Mo Radke – Haiku Stairs Working Group

I am submitting comments supporting the preservation option of the EISPN of April 2017. My name does not appear on the Community Interest Groups and Organizations however, my status for submitting these comments stems from my service on the Haiku Stairs Working Group commissioned in 2014 by Councilmember Ikaika Anderson and cited in the EISPN April 2017, page 13.

I request that the “Haiku Stairs Working Group” be included in the interested party roster EISPN April 2017 page 29 and in all subsequent EIS documentation relating to Haiku Stairs.

My following comments provide a more nuanced look at these issues from a chronological and historical context focusing on a more human perspective.

I’m convinced a managed access plan is feasible and can alleviate the concerns listed by private property landowners who are incensed by the continued and unabated trespassing by hikers who find online “best practices” to avoid the security guard and the best properties from which to trespass.

Private property landowners do not believe that any solution short of removal will solve their concerns. The passion these landowners feel is primal. The trampling of basic security and survival needs – my property wherein lies my home – cannot be discounted. Even when presented a viable solution with access away from their property with a tightly monitored access plan, these landowners are still adamant in their denial that any condition, other than removal, will solve their concerns.

Twelve years ago, the City spent nearly $1M to refurbish the stairs. As the opening was about to occur, questions about the 1999 Sacred Falls rockslide, lack of signage and subsequent liability were reviewed which postponed the scheduled opening. Hikers, not wanting to wait for the discussion to conclude started finding way to hike the stairs before the formalized opening. Most of the time, these trespassers occurred during daytime hours. As liability concerns continued to mount, a guard was instituted. When hikers determined that during evening hours a guard wasn’t present, they quickly found alternate times to “beat the guard”. Using the internet became a great way to explain trespassing techniques to the world. In the crossfire, private landowners are left with asking people to not trespass over their property, use their water hoses or imaginary port-a-potty’s within eyesight of residents, start fights and altercations. This status quo is unacceptable and the city and county of Honolulu and the Board of Water Supply have allowed this circumstance to perpetuate itself and bear a significant responsibility to rectify the situation and not by simply removing the stairs as the final solution because removal might exacerbate the dangers when no handheld device remains.

The Friends of Haiku Stairs (FoHS) partnering with the Koolau Foundation and other entities that might be signatories to a Public Private Partnership would be accountable for controlled access to the stairs for a variety of reasons. The following comments are better served in a discussion for developing an operating business plan but for the sake of discussion, are included here.

- Financially – curtailing the late-night trespassers becomes a financial imperative. Each cheater of the system reduced the funds needed from hikers to help maintain the stairs, establish and maintain an educational element. Positioning a guard on the road adjacent to the stairs does nothing but force trespassers to simply sneak around the guard. Positioning “watchstanders” at the actual first set of stairs and at the top of the stairs to catch trespassers coming from the Moanalua side would minimize and eventually eliminate trespassing. The same internet used to promote the hiking hacks is the same internet that announces that, “none shall pass – better to pay for the permit and hike legally”

- Establish the sanctity of the surrounding landowners as part of the operating agreement. Meaning decision-making includes the effects on those landowners and that a board of directors would include a representative from the surrounding residential neighborhood.

- Establish the operating requirements that allow only a specific number of permitted hikers per day to support and protect the eco-system of and surrounding the stairs.

- The FoHS is an entity that has maintained the stairs through programmed maintenance of the stairs themselves and eradication of invasive species such as clidemia and octopus plants near the stairs. Maintenance days have not been allowed by the BWS for almost three years.

- The FoHS already have engineering experts, botanists, environmental experts and can recruit others to fill potential voids as an operating entity.

I am pleased with the overall composition of the EISPN and while the explanation of many issues related to the Haiku Stairs are accurate, the nuances are missing. For example: the explanation of roadblocks to legal easement by the abutting business landowners. It was told to me personally at a recent Kaneohe Neighborhood Board meeting, that these entities would never allow access across their property which renders all discussion moot. I contend that because of elected official intervention on behalf of private landowners and the shaping of a negative message about the stairs is exactly the reason these entities are not interested exploring possibilities. However, if confronted with an agreed upon operating business plan that recognizes and mitigates private resident and business landowner concerns, does that answer change? I think that is a good question to have answered via the upcoming Draft EIS. The fact remains that the stairs, a national and local treasure, is on or adjoining their property and from the period 1985-1987, thousands of people properly registered with the Coast Guard and hiked the stairs without incident or rescue. The unimaginative problem-solving by abutting business landowners who are aware of the trespassing and avoiding the guard create a much bigger liability risk by forcing hikers to hike at night, trespass and any injury related to that knowledge creates a much larger liability risk than existed when the stairs were legally opened to the public.

I certainly appreciate the effort expended in this initial EIS discussion. I applaud G70 and its team for getting on top of a hot-button community issue with the grace and professionalism so far displayed. Keep up the good work and I look forward to contributing to this process as needed.

Aloha Pumehana,

Mo Radke
Mr. Mo Radke  
Via Email: moradke@gmail.com  

May 8, 2019  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘i‘ku Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Mr. Radke,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘i‘ku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Ha‘i‘ku Stairs Working Group

Per your request, Ha‘i‘ku Stairs Working Group c/o Mo Radke has been added to the list of consulted parties for the Draft EIS. Of note, numerous members of the working group were consulted during the preparation of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha‘i‘ku Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha‘i‘ku Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS (see Draft EIS Chapter 6). Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘i‘ku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘i‘ku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘i‘ku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘i‘ku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘i‘ku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘i‘ku Stairs to the public.

The elements you suggested such as watchstanders, establishing a board of directors to protect landowner interests, establishing a carrying capacity, conducting regular maintenance and environmental upkeep are all important parts of a managed access plan that would be developed by the future owner/operator.

Operations and Cost

Information was compiled from individuals and organizations (yourself included) in order to develop a preliminary operations model for Ha‘i‘ku Stairs. An economic assessment was prepared for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. Utilizing the information we received on economic operations, a framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Concern Regarding Trespassing

As you discuss, trespassing and neighborhood disturbances have been chronic issues associated with Ha‘i‘ku Stairs. In an effort to curtail the number of trespassing hikers, BWS hired a security guard stationed at the base of Ha‘i‘ku Stairs, posted “no trespassing” signage, and hired a special duty police officer to deter hiker traffic and issue citations as needed. Although the special duty police have significantly reduced trespassing through the windward neighborhoods, it comes at significant expense to BWS and takes the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) away from higher priority work. Even with HPD presence, neighborhood disturbances continue due to the overwhelming numbers of trespassing hikers. The Draft EIS evaluates trespassing as a public safety concern in Chapters 2 and 4. Measures to prevent future trespassing under the Conveyance Alternative are also discussed in Chapter 6.

No-Action Alternative

The EIS reaches the same conclusion that doing nothing, or the No-Action Alternative, is not a viable option. Under the No-Action Alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha‘i‘ku Stairs and the underlying parcel, they would continue to be liable for Ha‘i‘ku Stairs, and the associated security expenditures would detract from its core mission of providing safe, reliable drinking water. Current on-going trespassing would continue, the safety of the public would continue to be put in jeopardy, and BWS would continue to devote time and resources to control the attractive nuisance of the closed stairs. For these reasons, the No-Action Alternative is untenable. Please see the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information.

Consultations

Friends of Ha‘i‘ku Stairs and Ko‘olaupoko Foundation were both consulted during the preparation of the Draft EIS. BWS is aware of their interest and positions concerning Ha‘i‘ku Stairs.
Legal Access

Legal access is evaluated in the Draft EIS. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a government agency would have to agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding landowners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. If legal access cannot be obtained, the parcel will remain landlocked and trespassing will continue and therefore, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the removal of the stairs.

In 2004, the State Legislature adopted House Concurrent Resolution 199 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 213 requesting that DLNR, DHH, DOT and DOA cease issuance of any easement to the City for access to Ha’ikū Valley until such time that all required permitting, necessary approvals, and conditional agreements are identified by the respective agencies and adhered to by the City including but not limited to an indemnification agreement, a memorandum of agreement to share the cost of maintaining the H-3 access road, requirements for preservation of cultural and burial sites, and a change in the Conservation District Use Permit for the H-3 access road which is presently limited to maintenance and without provision for recreational use which must be approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Respecting the intent of the resolution, and to comprehensively evaluate all alternatives in the DEIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. BWS identified a viable access alternative to the Ha’ikū Stairs and has proposed improvements to mitigate impacts. The DEIS also identifies easement and Use and Occupancy Agreement conditions that waive legal liability to landowners, requires liability insurance and allows for periodic and unimpeded maintenance of the H-3 Freeway structures. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70
To whom it may concern

Please keep the stairs up! To avoid liability have people sign a waiver. Ask for donations for maintenance. This is one of the most spectacular hikes on the island. The stairs continue to be in fairly good shape despite their age. It would not take much to maintain. A waiver is the key.

Simone Rainaud

---

May 8, 2019

Ms. Simone Rainaud

Via Email: simonerainaud@gmail.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6 015:011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olauopoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. Rainaud,

Thank you for your letter dated April 26, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario,
Ms. Simone Rainaud  
Via Email: simonerainaud@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

A managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, Inc., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

From: Gary Ralston <gary@hoasolarinc.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 1:24 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Input for stairs

The haiku stairs is another treasure of ours in Hawaii, breathtaking views for anyone from all over the world to see, it would be a shame to lose another of our treasures, such as Sacred Falls

Suggestion, would it be possible for a private contractor to perform limited and regulated hiking tours of the stairs ?, providing the insurance, the guides, dropping off the hikers/sightseers and coming back to pick up, minimizing cars parking along or near residents,
Mr. Gary Ralston  
Via Email: gary@hoasolarinc.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

International appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with County and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance.

Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

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Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS DPP
From: Forrest Ramey <framey@hdcc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 1:03 PM
To: BWS Ha'iku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku stairs

Please please please find a way to reopen the stairs. Something this amazing should be available and managed, not destroyed.

Forrest Ramey
HDCC
808.342.2815
framey@hdcc.com

Mr. Forrest Ramey
Via Email: framey@hdcc.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha'iku Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011
[He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i]

Dear Mr. Ramey,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'iku Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Options for Keeping Ha'iku Stairs

As an organization, BWS' mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O'ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha'iku Valley, a solution is needed. BWS's primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha'iku Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Ha'iku Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha'iku Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha'iku Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha'iku Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering...
Mr. Forrest Ramey
Via Email: framsey@hldcc.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha’ikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha’ikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha’ikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha’ikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha’ikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha’ikū Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://eoc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

c: BWS
DPP

From: Alethea Rebman <alethea@mitsuyamaandrebman.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:32 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: In favor of preserving Haiku Stairs

Dear Group 70 and Board of Water Supply,

I am writing in favor of preserving this unique resource and experience.

As Oahu becomes more homogeneous in its looks and attraction as population and tourism create space pressures, we need to be mindful of preserving both access to natural beauty and unique attractions. What is left now for an escape from pavement - a walk up Makupuu if you can get parking; some treacherous ridge hikes, a walk up Manoa Falls if you can squeeze by the tour groups - is not enough.

It would be a shame to ruin what we’ve got because some problems can’t be solved, if City Hall can’t solve parking issues and trail maintenance in what is supposed to a state boasting natural beauty, they should get out of business.

Please preserve this unique resource.

Thank you for considering this viewpoint,

Alethea Rebman

Mitsuyama & Rebman LLC
Mauka Tower
737 Bishop St, Ste. 1450
HONOLULU, HI 96813
(808) 545-7035

This message and any attachments to it contain information which may be confidential and legally privileged. If you have received this message in error, you are strictly prohibited from reading it and from disclosing or using its contents in any manner, and you should immediately delete it. The unauthorized disclosure or use of confidential or privileged information inadvertently transmitted to you may result in criminal and/or civil liability. Intended recipients are prohibited from disclosing the contents of this message without prior written consent.
Ms. Alethea Rebman  
Via Email: alethea@mitsuyamaandrebman.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

hikers in Haʻikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.

These options for keeping Haʻikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

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Please enter Haʻikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

cc:  
BWS  
DPP

Dear Ms. Rebman,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Haʻikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Haʻikū Stairs have become an iconic part of Haʻikū Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Haʻikū Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Haʻikū Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Haʻikū Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Haʻikū Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Haʻikū Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Haʻikū Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Haʻikū Stairs.

EIS Options for Keeping Haʻikū Stairs

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of Oʻahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing
Aloha,

As a resident of the Haiku area, 46-1042 Enepeka Way Apt. 11D, I support managed access of Haiku Stairs. It is rare that any community has an amazing landmark such as this with historical significance and worldwide acclaim. Being a resident of this area I understand the residents frustrations but they have taken for granted the beauty of this area which is bringing locals and tourists to the stairs. The Friends of Haiku have been maintaining this trail and respecting the residents for years and deserves the opportunity to show the residents their proposal can alleviate and eventually eliminate the nuisances that are occurring.

Hikers will pay to access the stairs legally through the managed access. Those looking to get a thrill from hiking illegally will now have no reason to use the stairs.

Managed access is the best solution. If word gets out that the stairs are being torn down the amount of trespassers and illegal hikers will be in the thousands leading up to its removal. Some will even harass residents and vandalize their homes after its removal in retaliation.

If the Board of Water Supply is looking to eliminate liability and cost then transferring ownership is the best option. To spend millions to demolish the stairs doesn't eliminate liability from trespassers. People will still hike this route up the mountain with our without the stairs and without the stairs it will be much more dangerous and more likely to cause litigation because the safe access was removed.

I was at a Kaneohe Neighborhood Board Meeting on 5/18/17 and a large majority of the attendees supported managed access. This was demonstrated by a show of hands. As a resident of Haiku area, I also support managed access. It would be shameful to tear down such an amazing landmark that will continue to bring tourist money and local pride to our island.

Mahalo.

-- Casey Reed
alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha‘iku Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route and from Ha‘iku Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘iku Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘iku Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘iku Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘iku Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘iku Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘iku Stairs to the public.

Concern for Loss of Resource

Since World War II, Ha‘iku Stairs have become an iconic part of Ha‘iku Valley, valued for their place in military history, access to panoramic mountaintop views, and their physical recreation challenge. Although Ha‘iku Stairs were never intended for recreational use, the public has enjoyed their recreation benefits for decades, becoming a part of local culture and garnering international appeal. We understand many feel removal of Ha‘iku Stairs is unacceptable. However, as landowner, BWS is responsible to water rate payers and is not funded or equipped to manage a recreation attraction. The EIS evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers the property to a responsible entity, keeps Ha‘iku Stairs, and allows public recreational use through a managed access plan. If the Conveyance Alternative is chosen and managed access is implemented, Ha‘iku Stairs would be a legal recreational resource and ridge top vantage points will be opened for legal public access.

Throughout the EIS process, BWS has been actively seeking collaborative solutions with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders in order to determine a viable solution for Ha‘iku Stairs. However, BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘iku Stairs and the underlying property. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, BWS would have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘iku Stairs.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Please enter Ha‘iku Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jill Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
May 8, 2019

Ms. Candas Lee Rego
Via Email: runkailua@aol.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha‘ikū Stairs Study

TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i)

Dear Ms. Rego,

Thank you for your letter dated May 23, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

EIS Option to Remove Ha‘ikū Stairs

We understand your support for removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs. The EIS discloses the chronic problems associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through statistics from BWS, Honolulu Police Department, and Honolulu Fire Department. It is understood that action must be taken to address these problems.

BWS’ main goal is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property. BWS’s proposed action is removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs which would eliminate their liability and stop chronic trespassing in the neighborhood. However, other alternatives must be legally considered and analyzed under HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements. The EIS also evaluates the Conveyance Alternative which transfers Ha‘ikū Stairs and the underlying property to a responsible entity and eliminates liability for BWS. Under the Conveyance Alternative, public recreational use of Ha‘ikū Stairs could be allowed under a managed access plan. The managed access plan would also need to address neighborhood issues such as security, parking, and noise. If the Conveyance Alternative fails, for example if permission for a legal access route cannot be obtained from adjacent landowners, BWS will have no choice but to implement the proposed action and remove Ha‘ikū Stairs.

No matter what course of action is ultimately chosen for Ha‘ikū Stairs, the chronic problems experienced by local residents must be fully addressed.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ha/16/start.aspx/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Allitems.aspx
Ms. Candas Lee Rego
Via Email: runkailua@aol.com
May 8, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP

*Letter mailed in deleted. Same content in email and letter.*

From: Jan Reichelderfer <jannr@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:37 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS, haikustairseis@hono1ulu.gov
Subject: Haiku Stairs

Comments on EISP Haiku Stairs Study

To: Honolulu Board of Water Supply
Scott Muraoaka, PE
630 South Beretania Street,
Honolulu, HI 96843

From: Jan Reichelderfer
148 Ulapa St
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

I oppose the Board of Water Supply removing the Haiku Stairs and I am concerned that the EIS will not fairly evaluate options other than the ‘proposed action’.

Understandably, the BWS does not want to manage the Stairs and feels it is outside their mission. However, it does not appear they have been making any real effort to develop reasonable alternatives. The efforts detailed in the EISP are half-hearted, inconsequential and obviously not aimed at really working toward a solution. The BWS response to the issue has been to hire a guard and make climbing the stairs illegal. Has the BWS requested proposals from private companies to manage the stairs? What other agencies or NGOs have they coordinated with to prompt a transfer of ownership? The EIS should include meeting minutes, correspondence and evidence of all other efforts that have been made to work with other agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

If liability is the major concern, maybe all hiking trails in Hawaii should be closed. Hikers are rescued from the Pill Boxes, Maunawili Falls Trail and many other trails while the Haiku Stairs has a great safety record. To determine if there is excessive danger, the EIS must contain a summary of rescues and incidents on other trails on Oahu to compare these to the safety record for the Stairs to prove that there is undue risk. All options for handling liability from how other State agencies handle these concerns to alternatives that could be used by private tour companies should be evaluated.

The issues brought up by the neighbors should be considered but there are routes to the Stairs that would alleviate their concerns. Just having loud and influential representation for the community living near the stairs should not be enough to let the NIMBY population override the rest of the potential users of the Stairs. No doubt many in Lanikai would prefer that no one access the recreational opportunities in their neighborhood but that is not consistent with how our society manages its resources.

Hawaii’s economic engine is tourism. The Stairs could be a generator of revenue for the BWS (or another agency) if a tourism company was subcontracted to manage tours. The EIS must evaluate the lost tourism revenue; both for visitors who decide not to come to Oahu because the island lacks ‘exciting’ things to do and the lost profits that could be made off tours.
Finally, we need to preserve history. How can we justify all the historic bridge evaluations, tax exemptions for historic homes, Archeological Inventory Surveys for transit, the rerouting of the H-3, and so many other efforts to preserve our island history when here is a major historic resource and the BWS would just rip it out of the mountain? The Omega Station and the Haiku Stairs played a vital role in the Pacific Theater and we cannot allow this history to be lost. This is an insult to our country and the soldiers who fought in WWII.

The Stairs should not be destroyed because of an agency wants to remove an administrative ‘inconvenience’. Once the Stairs are gone, they are gone forever, lost to the all our future generations. Please do not let vocal minorities and an unhappy bureaucracy cause this unique historic resource to be taken from us.

Cc  Department of Planning and Permitting
    Mr. Raymond Young
    haikustairseis@hnl.hnl.gov
    b) G70
    Mr. Kawika McKeague
    haikustairs@g70.design

Ms. Jan Reicheiderfer
Via Email: jnrr@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice
Ha’i’kū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6 015:011
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]

Dear Ms. Reicheiderfer,

Thank you for your letter dated May 22, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha’i’kū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

BWS Role and Responsibility

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. All costs for security currently come out of ratepayer funds. In the early 2000s, then Mayor Jeremy Harris wanted to repair Ha’i’kū Stairs and open them to the public. BWS relaxed their requirement on the Coast Guard to remove Ha’i’kū Stairs, and was willing to convey the parcel of land on which Ha’i’kū Stairs was located to another City agency that would maintain, operate, and manage Ha’i’kū Stairs for public use. Although the BWS Board approved the conveyance to the City in the mid-2000s, the City Council did not agree. Therefore, because of safety and liability concerns, BWS has kept Ha’i’kū Stairs closed to the general public. BWS is now committed to the EIS process and to explore a range of viable alternatives to the proposed action. BWS has met with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders to seek collaborative solutions regarding the disposition of Ha’i’kū Stairs. The findings of the EIS will inform BWS leaders and decision makers at the City and State levels as the disposition of Ha’i’kū Stairs is further explored.

Conveyance and Legal Access

BWS has made a concerted effort to identify a viable alternative that allows Ha’i’kū Stairs to remain in place. Through review of previous plans for parcel conveyance and holding targeted meetings with City and State agencies, landowners, and stakeholders, BWS concluded that conveying the parcel on which Ha’i’kū Stairs are located to another entity should be an alternative discussed in the Draft EIS. The Conveyance Alternative consists of BWS transferring Ha’i’kū Stairs parcel to a responsible entity such as a City or State agency, or a viable private
interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha‘ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS. For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha‘ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha‘ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha‘ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha‘ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha‘ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha‘ikū Stairs to the public.

Consultations

Section 1.9 of the Draft EIS provides a list of agencies and stakeholders consulted in process of preparing the Draft EIS. The list is shared here:

State
- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
- Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, Adult Mental Health Division, Hawai‘i State Hospital
- Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW); State Parks Division; Na Ala Hele; Land Division; Chair
- Department of Transportation (DOT), Highways Division
- Hawai‘i Housing, Finance and Development Corporation
- Office of Environmental Quality Control
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
- University of Hawai‘i (UH), Windward Community College Chancellor’s Office

City and County of Honolulu
- Department of Planning and Permitting
- Department of Transportation Services (DTS)
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Corporation Counsel
- Department of Enterprise Services (DES)

Elected Officials
- Mayor Kirk Caldwell
- City Council Chair Ron Menor
- Council District Representative Ikaika Anderson, District 3
- State House Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, District 48

Community Organizations
- Anchor Church
- Castle Hills Community Association
- Friends of Ha‘ikū Stairs
- Ha‘ikū Village Neighborhood Security Watch
- Hui Kū Maoli Ola, LLC
- Kamehameha Schools
- Ke Kula O Samuel M. Kamakau Charter School
- Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
- Ko‘olau Foundation
- Mo Radke (Kāne‘ohe Neighborhood Board)
- Pahana Kuaola

Safety – Liability

Concerns for public safety and liability go hand in hand. Unsafe conditions on Ha‘ikū Stairs such as hiking in the dark or in the rain, and frequent emergency response for hikers in the vicinity are all public safety factors that relate to liability. Because BWS as an agency does not have the directive or resources to manage recreation facilities, either removal of Ha‘ikū Stairs or conveying the property to a public agency or responsible entity would allow BWS to eliminate liability and redirect resources and funds used to secure Ha‘ikū Stairs back to its core mission. The rate of incidents on other O‘ahu trails would not change the fact that BWS is not equipped to manage or be liable for a recreational resource.

The Draft EIS addresses public safety concerns in Section 4.9, and emergency response statistics in the vicinity of Ha‘ikū Stairs in Section 4.10.
Evaluation of Access Routes

In an effort to identify potential access routes that would have the least impact on the adjoining neighborhoods, the EIS examines multiple potential access routes, starting with the 10 routes put forward by the Ha'ikū Stairs Working Group (HSWG) in 2014. The research of HSWG was utilized as a basis for inquiry into legal access alternatives at the start of the EIS process. The EIS team carried forward the three routes recommended by the HSWG (Windward Community College / State Hospital, Hope Chapel, Old Ha'ikū Road) and added three more routes for consideration. Kūneki Street was added as an alternative to Ha'ikū Road to move the initial access route off of private property (“Old” Ha'ikū Road) to a public access road (Kūneki Street). The EIS team put forth six preliminary legal access routes that were discussed through the course of agency and stakeholder meetings:

1. Ha'ikū Road
2. Kūneki Street
3. Puoni Place
4. Windward Community College / State Hospital
5. Po'okela Street (formerly Hope Chapel)
6. Moanalua Valley

After careful site evaluations and meetings with agencies and stakeholders three candidate access routes were chosen and advanced for evaluation in three variants of the Conveyance Alternative: 1) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Ha'ikū Road, 2) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Kūneki Street, and 3) Conveyance Alternative with Access via Po'okela Street. For additional information on the evaluation of access routes, please see Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plasch Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

Archaeology and Historic Resources

Ha'ikū Stairs and the associated structures played an important role in WWII history. In compliance with Hawaii’s State Historic Preservation Law under HRS 6E, an Intensive Level Survey (ILS) focused on historic architecture was conducted by Dr. William Chapman to assist the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in its determining the historic nature of Ha’ikū Stairs, and to provide essential input in the evaluation of the viable EIS actions and alternatives relating to the future of the Ha’ikū Stairs.

The ILS report assesses the existing character of Ha’ikū Stairs including the staircase, landings, and associated structures, and whether the property meets the criteria for listing in the National and/or Hawaii’s Register of Historic Places. In compliance with Hawaii's Administrative Rules (HAR), the ILS further evaluates the significance of these historic properties per HAR 13-275-6 Evaluation of Significance, determines the anticipated project effect as defined in HAR 13-275-7 Determining effects to significant historic properties, and recommends mitigation measures as per HAR 13-275-8 Mitigation.

The definition of historic property under HRS 6E-2 is any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, which is over fifty years old. Ha’ikū Stairs and the associated structures are over fifty years old and considered historic properties, as they were originally constructed in the 1940s and 1950s.

The ILS concluded that the Ha’ikū Stairs and associated structures qualify as significant historic properties and puts forth an effect determination of, "Effect with proposed mitigation commitments." Mitigation measures appropriate for the proposed action and alternatives were proposed. Please refer to the Draft EIS Section 4.2 and to the ILS located in Appendix D for additional information.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://neog2.sao.hawaii.gov/ _layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/Alllit items.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

[Signature]
Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP
Principal

cc: BWS
DPP
From: REILLY, BLAKE J CTR USAF PACA F AFI/MSC Det 2/AHMSC Det 2/CEOI
<blake.reilly.ctr@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 7:38 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs option

Aloha,

I would like for nothing to happen and keep the stairs as they are.

Otherwise, it would be nice for some restoration. Then have hikers schedule a time to hike. Instead of letting them park at the Haiku location, bus them all from an office in Kaneohe or Honolulu. Only one or maybe two buses would tax the hikers up straight to the trailhead and a guide takes them on the hike. I bet you could charge $150 per head including the bus ride to and from the office. Revenue may end up being 100-200 grand per month, over a million per year. I think many people would enjoy the job of being the hiking guide.

Mahalo

Blake Reilly
GeoBase Analyst
AF/MS/L Det 2/CEOI
Blake.reilly.ctr@mail.smil.mil
Comm: 808-449-2899
DSN: 315-449-2899

May 8, 2019

Mr. Blake Reilly
Via Email: Blake.reilly.ctr@us.af.mil

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice Ha'ikū Stairs Study
TMK: (1) 4-6-015-011
(He'eia, Kō'ulaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i)

Dear Mr. Reilly,

Thank you for your letter dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha'ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.

No-Action Alternative

The EIS reaches the conclusion that doing nothing, which is known as the No-Action Alternative, is not a viable option. Under the No-Action Alternative, BWS would continue to own Ha'ikū Stairs and the underlying parcel, they would continue to be liable for Ha'ikū Stairs, and the associated security expenditures would detract from its core mission of providing safe, reliable drinking water. Current on-going trespassing would continue, the safety of the public would continue to be put in jeopardy, and BWS would continue to devote time and resources to control the attractive nuisance of the closed stairs. For these reasons, the No-Action Alternative is untenable. Please see the Draft EIS Chapter 6 for additional information.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha'ikū Stairs would fall under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha'ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha'ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha'ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha'ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha'ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha'ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as bussing from a remote location, shuttles to the base of the stairs, hiking guides, and admission fees would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.
Economic - Cost Analysis

An economic assessment was conducted for the Draft EIS by Plachy Econ Pacific (Appendix G). The study compared potential financial commitments of the proposed action and alternatives including structural repairs, legal access easement acquisitions, trail maintenance, and security improvements. A framework for an economic operations plan is provided, but the actual plan would be the responsibility of the future owner/operator, should the Conveyance Alternative be pursued. Please refer to Section 4.12 of the Draft EIS for discussion of project-related costs, economic projections, and revenue generation scenarios under managed access.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx?The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., c/o G70

CC: BWS
DPP

From: James Reilly <jimmyreilly@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 10:32 AM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Haiku Stairs Usage

Subject & suggestion: Haiku Stairs “Sherpas”

Mr. Overton, Ms. Elliott-Pahinui, and all concerned at the BWS:

Aloha. As an Oahu resident, competitive triathlete, trail runner/user and customer of the BWS, the following is my opinion and suggestion on what should be done with/at the Haiku Stairs. [Please note, I have not personally ascended nor been on the stairs, though I am aware of their significance, draw, dangers and challenges.]

Consider Mt. Everest... Beautiful, challenging, dangerous. People dream of ascending it. Some train for years to just make the attempt.

Think of the Haiku Stairs as Oahu’s Mt. Everest (of course on a much smaller scale). And like Mt. Everest is a major tourist/ climber draw to Nepal and the Himalayas, the “Stairway to Heaven” is a hiker’s dream challenge and a draw to Oahu.

You don’t simply close off such places because they are dangerous; you manage them.

Trained and sanctioned “Haiku Sherpas” could guide capable hikers in small groups – with reservations and for a fee – up the stairs; using climbing carabiners and safety ropes if necessary. The income generated could be used to repair the broken parts and maintain the stairs in navigable condition, pay the Sherpas, and pay for insurance against liability. Of course, release waivers would have to be signed, too.

I, for one, would be first in line to ascend the stairs, legally, in this way. Athletes gladly pay up to and over $100 to run a marathon, compete in a triathlon, or ride in a century bike ride. They would do the same for an opportunity to ascend the “Stairway to Heaven”.

Kamaaina discounts should be given, of course. Fines for those unwilling to follow the rules and climb the stairs properly could also be used for purposes described above and for security personnel. No one would have an excuse to make an un-chaperoned or un-sanctioned ascent of the stairs anymore.

I hope you come to a satisfactory decision. And I hope the option that I have suggested may factor into that decision.

Mahalo for listening.

James Reilly
98-1845 Naheke St.
Alea, HI 96701
808-367-0646
Mr. James Reilly  
Via Email: jimmyreilly@gmail.com  
May 8, 2019  
Page 2 of 3

interest. For the Conveyance Alternative to work, a City or State agency would agree to a formal land transfer, or a willing buyer from the private sector would purchase the whole parcel. Conveyance of ownership will require approvals from surrounding land owners for access easements that would provide the public with a safe and legal access route to and from Ha’ikū Stairs that helps minimize and mitigate potential impacts to neighborhoods such as parking, noise, trash and security. Although not required for the EIS, BWS has been proactive and met with the surrounding landowners to discuss the issue of legal access and the possibility of creating access easements for hikers. Based on these discussions, previous research, and new ground surveys, potential legal access routes were identified, mapped, and evaluated in the EIS.

For further discussion of the Conveyance Alternative and legal access routes, please refer to Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.

Managed Access

The ideas you have for operation of Ha’ikū Stairs would fail under the EIS concept of managed access. Under the Conveyance Alternative, a public agency or responsible private entity would take over Ha’ikū Stairs parcel, and a legal access route would have to be confirmed for public access to Ha’ikū Stairs. A public or private entity would also take over operations and maintenance of Ha’ikū Stairs and the respective access route. Under any conveyance and legal access scenario, a managed access plan would be required to guide routine operations and maintenance. Managed access will allow controlled usage of Ha’ikū Stairs while putting in place the mechanism to maintain Ha’ikū Stairs and the access route, mitigate impacts to the natural environment, and secure the surroundings. Should the property be transferred to a City or State agency, or sold to private interest, that entity would be responsible for providing and implementing a Managed Access Plan prior to opening Ha’ikū Stairs to the public. Your suggestions such as use trained hiking guides ("sherpas"), admission fees, reservations, liability waivers, and kama’aina rates would all be part of a Managed Access Plan that would be defined by the future operator.

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at: http://sos2.cdo.hawaii.gov/layout/TS/start.asp?/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllEms.aspx
Please enter Ha’ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.

Thank you for your participation in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

GROUP 70 INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba G70

Sarl

Jeff Overton, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

ARCHITECTURE  //  CIVIL ENGINEERING  //  INTERIOR DESIGN  //  PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
From: Mary Richie <dlidleilani@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 9:36 PM
To: BWS Haiku Stairs EIS
Subject: Save the stairs

This is mary richie of Kaneohe hawaii voting to save the haiku stairs.

Sent from my iPad
Ms. Mary Richie  
Via Email: jim.lidgetti@icloud.com  
May 8, 2019  

Subject: Responses to Comments on EIS Preparation Notice  
Ha’ikū Stairs Study  
TMK: (1) 4-6-015:011  
[He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i]  

Dear Ms. Richie,  

Thank you for your letter dated April 25, 2017 concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation Notice for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Ha‘ikū Stairs Study prepared pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter (HRS) 343. The following responses are offered to your comments.  

As an organization, BWS’ mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable drinking water to the people of O‘ahu. They have no expertise, staff, legal mandate, charter responsibility, or funding to manage a recreational feature, but are currently faced with liability for all trespassing hikers on their property. Because of this and the ongoing disturbances created by trespassing hikers in Ha‘ikū Valley, a solution is needed. BWS’s primary objective is to eliminate liability associated with Ha‘ikū Stairs through removal of the structure, or through conveyance of the property to another entity for managed access. For a managed access scenario to work, a legal access route must be established with permission of the landowners. Because the parcel is landlocked, if legal access cannot be obtained, BWS will have no choice but to pursue the recommended action of full removal, subject to permit approvals, State historic preservation review, etc.  

The EIS will disclose a comprehensive evaluation of the preferred action and conveyance alternatives with mitigation so that BWS and other decision makers can make an informed decision that is transparent to the public.  

These options for keeping Ha‘ikū Stairs open are addressed in Chapter 6 of the Draft EIS.  

The Draft EIS will be published in the Office of Environmental Quality Control’s The Environmental Notice which can be found online at:  
http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/ layouts/15/start.aspx#The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx  
Please enter Ha‘ikū Stairs Study into the search box to locate the Draft EIS.