



Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Research
Station

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File Code: 1950
Route To:

Date: July 7, 2011

Subject: The Laupahoehoe Construction Project - DEA

To: Stakeholder

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station in Hilo has analyzed the environmental impacts of the construction of research and education facilities in Laupahoehoe, Hawaii. The environmental impacts associated with construction of state-of-the-art, environmentally sensitive facilities in combination with construction of new roads and repair of existing roads to access the facilities are documented in the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest Laupahoehoe Construction Project.

This DEA is result of a multi-stage process of project evaluation, public scoping and consultation. Most recently, you were invited to express your concerns about the proposed project during a public scoping period in April and May of this year. In the response to public and agency scoping, three alternatives were developed and analyzed in the DEA.

The Laupahoehoe Construction Project DEA and its associated resource documents are available for review at the following link: <http://www.hetf.us>. You may request a hard copy or CD version by contacting the project coordinator, Melissa Dean (see the end of this letter for contact information). When requesting hard copies of specific resource reports, please specify the particular document you are interested in reviewing.

How to Comment and Timeframe

This 30-day comment period provides you an opportunity to comment on which alternative I should consider prior to my decision. The requirements describing how to submit your comments and the timeframes you must follow are:

- Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, verbal, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of Legal Notice in the Hawaii Tribune Herald, Hilo, Hawaii and the Office of Environmental Quality Control publication "The Environmental Notice" <http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/environmental/oeqc/index.html>. The publication date of the legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis (planned publication date is July 8 2011). Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.
- Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). Please include 'Laupahoehoe Construction Project' in the subject line. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.
- Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, verbal, and electronic comments should be submitted



only to the contact identified at the end of this letter.

If you feel the Laupahoehoe Construction Project already considers your past comments and concerns, you may find there is no further need to participate in this step of the process. If this is the case, thank you for your participation in our decision process.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Melissa Dean via phone at 808-854-2651.

Individual accepting written, facsimile, hand-delivered, verbal, and electronic comments for the HETF Laupahoehoe Construction Project draft Environmental Assessment:

Melissa K. Dean
Pacific Southwest Research Station in Hilo
USDA Forest Service
60 Nowelo Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
808-854-2651

Normal business hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday, excluding holidays

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanna J. Stouder". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

DEANNA J. STOUDER
Station Director