

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
KAWAIHAE HARBOR FOR LIGHT-DRAFT VESSELS
HAWAII, HAWAII**

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CHAPTER 1

SUMMARY

1.1 MAJOR CONCLUSIONS. It is concluded that the proposed action, construction of a 90 boat light-draft harbor at Kawaihae, Hawaii (Figures 1 & 2) will have no significant adverse impact on the environment of the study area, and that there is no practicable alternative to building the harbor in the floodplain. Although there is a National Historic Landmark nearby, because of the mitigation proposed, neither construction nor the completed project is expected to have adverse physical or visual impacts on the site. Threatened green turtles are common in the immediate project area, and endangered humpback whales transit and are resident in the area from December to May each year. Neither species is expected to be significantly affected by the project. The present harbor project has the support of the local community, based on the premise that no further marina construction will occur on the South Kohala coast, and appropriate mitigation for environmental effects has been accomplished or recommended. This Environmental Assessment is for the Federal portion of the proposed project. Additional environmental documentation will be required for the local sponsor's infrastructure development.

1.2 AREAS OF CONTROVERSY. None.

1.3 UNRESOLVED ISSUES. None

1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER **ENVIRONMENTAL** DIRECTIVES. Compliance with all applicable environmental directives has been completed up to this phase of the project. In some cases coordination/compliance is an on-going process. Table 1 shows the present compliance status of applicable environmental directives.