

P.O. Box 2045  
Kamuela, HI 96743

November 4, 2006

Dear Mr. Hunter:

In 2005 and 2006 I wrote a report and letters to express my concerns and opposition to the selection of Alternative A of the Kawaihae - Mamalahoa Connector Road. The reasons for my opposition are:

1. Potential flooding of my property and others along the Waikoloa Stream in very heavy rainfall.
2. Most expensive site for grading and building a road and bridge across the Waikoloa Stream
3. Most noise/light/air and auto emissions pollution of the alternative choices
4. Most dangerous site with regard to safety
5. No distance sight at Kawaihae Rd
6. Proposed easement is too narrow.
7. Alternative A would do nothing to relieve traffic through Waimea town. The prevailing traffic is headed toward the resorts in the morning and headed toward Honaka'a in the evening or around town during the day. No commuter would turn right (toward Kona) on to Alternative A, get to Mamalahoa Hwy., and then have to turn left (toward Honoka'a) and go through Waimea town anyway. Kona bound traffic would continue to take Mamalahoa Hwy. or Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy as they currently do. Alternative A goes nowhere.
8. Conflict with planned Nature Park bike/walking path along the Waikoloa Stream
9. There are already too many road/driveway entrances on to Kawaihae Rd. Additional entrances will simply cause more congestion on Kawaihae Rd.
10. The proposed wall on my property, by Mr. Yoichi Ebisu, acoustical engineer, is an unacceptable solution and poses major risks to my property.

As of October 15, 2006, there is an additional reason for me to be opposed to Alternative A of the Kawaihae - Mamalahoa Connector Rd. This new additional reason is called large magnitude ***EARTHQUAKE***.

1. Portions of the proposed bridge of Alternative A, across the Waikoloa Stream, could collapse or have serious damage causing debris to fall into the stream blocking water flow. According to West Hawaii Today, October 28, 2006 (copy enclosed), 5 state bridges were damaged and 28 state roads were damaged.

2. The wall proposed by Mr. Ebisu could very well collapse, sending debris into the Stream and on to the Alternative A roadway. Numerous walls collapsed in this recent 6.7 magnitude quake. Who would be responsible for clean-up, rebuilding, etc.? Undoubtedly, lawsuits could arise. It would be a legal mess.
3. During this October 15 earthquake, two Waikoloa reservoirs developed cracks and had to be drained (See the enclosed West Hawaii Today article). The water from the reservoirs was drained into the Waikoloa Stream. I confirmed this with the Department of Water Supply. What disaster could occur if a quake larger magnitude than 6.7 occurred? If the Waikoloa Stream were blocked by debris from collapsed roadways, bridges, and walls and water is racing down from the reservoirs, a disaster unlike the Kauai reservoir several months ago may not be far from reality.

These outcomes may not be unrealistic. In a larger magnitude earthquake, these outcomes could occur. Prudent planning would suggest that you do not want to make a potential disaster worse with inappropriate, expensive, and potentially dangerous roadways, bridges and walls.

Again, I suggest that Alternative A of the Kawaihae – Mamalahoa Connector Rd. is an extremely poor choice for a road. I believe that a better alternative can be found.

Respectfully,

Dr. Fran L. Tabor



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## Archives

### Quake-damaged Waimea reservoirs being drained

by Tiffany Edwards  
*West Hawaii Today*  
 tedwards@westhawaii.com  
 Sunday, October 22, 2006 10:20 AM HST

HILO -- Seven days after a series of earthquakes hit the Big Island, damage assessments continued, with Waikoloa Reservoirs 1 and 2 the latest structures added to the list.

Both reservoirs have leaks as a result of last Sunday's seismic events and are being drained to allow for a complete assessment said Mayor Harry Kim at the county Civil Defense emergency operations center Saturday night.

Kim and Civil Defense Administrator Troy Kindred were on the radio several times Saturday assuring the public that Waimea is not at risk of flooding or water shortage.

Waimea and surrounding areas have a third reservoir and a deep well to tap into, so the water supply will not be affected. Still, residents are advised to conserve water, Kim and Kindred said. About a third of the two 30-million gallon tanks had been drained by 5 p.m. Saturday into the Waikoloa and Waiaka streams.

While Kim and Kindred were confident Saturday night there wasn't a flood threat for Waimea, they were preparing for a worst-case scenario Friday night when 40 police officers were called into the Waimea station to work on an evacuation plan, Kim said.

The public heard that police were conducting disaster planning in Waimea, and Civil Defense fielded more than 50 calls from concerned residents between midnight and 5 a.m. alone, Kim said. Between noon and 5 p.m., there were another 20 calls, he said.

Also since last Sunday, there have been 172 earthquakes off the Kohala Coast in the vicinity of the magnitude 6.7 temblor.

Meanwhile, 29 long-term care patients returned to Kona Community Hospital from the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort and Spa Convention Center. The nursing supervisor on shift in the emergency room at the hospital Saturday night confirmed the evacuees returned to the hospital Friday.



Waikoloa Reservoirs 1 and 2 are being drained due to last Sunday's earthquake. - U.S. Geological Survey

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Waikoloa Elementary School is expected to remain closed Monday because of damage sustained in the earthquake. Honokaa Elementary will be open.

The damaged Kawaihae Harbor was only 25 percent usable Saturday, said Kim, who had spoken to Harbor Master Ian Birnie earlier in the week. Hisaoka, Paauilo, Honokaa and Wainaku gyms were all closed, along with the Laupahoehoe library, Kohala pool, the Polulu Valley Lookout and Polulu Valley, Waipio, Waimanu, Ala Kahakai (Puakea Bay) trails. There was also no water access at Kealakekua Bay.

Kim noted the Polulu Valley, Waipio and Waimanu trails were "extremely dangerous," with helicopter views revealing "huge landslides," much like what could be seen at Kealakekua Bay.

"Those places will be unstable for a while," he said, cautioning hikers who want to defy the closed status.

Both the Hawaii Belt Road, at mile marker 35, and Akoni Pule Highway, at mile markers 5 and 26, had one lane open.

The American Red Cross provided hotel rooms for six families that were displaced by the earthquake, according to the mayor.

"I'm confident all the people who needed emergency housing are taken care of," he said.

By press time, the bulletin at Civil Defense estimated the island's private and public property damage at \$98.4 million.

Fifteen county buildings, 10 state buildings, three schools, one county road, 28 state roads, five state bridges and 16 water and sewer systems were said to have suffered damage.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which finalized its Hawaii County report Saturday night, said 10 homes were destroyed, 173 suffered major damage and another 1,475 suffered minor damage.

FEMA's numbers were said to be forwarded to the Honolulu office Saturday, and were expected to be passed to Gov. Linda Lingle and then the FEMA Region 9 office in Oakland, Calif. FEMA's report will be used to determine whether the Big Island will qualify for individual assistance.

A partial disaster declaration earlier this week made way for a 75 percent reimbursement for debris removal and emergency repairs to public infrastructure. The county and state are seeking full federal assistance for permanent repairs.

"They're really evaluating it, it's looking very good for public and private assistance," Kim said Saturday night.

County Building Division inspectors continued to make their way around the island Saturday, conducting structural safety inspections. They are expected to continue with inspections today, and resume their regular workload of processing along with inspection work Monday.

By Friday, there was a total of 977 requests for structural safety inspections. Residents are still being encouraged to call 935-0031, 961-8223 or 961-8321 to request an inspection for major structural damage, but Public Works Director Bruce McClure was confident the residents who need an inspection have already called.

By Saturday, 39 buildings had been red-tagged, or deemed unsafe, and another 105 had been yellow-tagged, or deemed unsafe in certain areas, according to McClure.

There were no areas without water or power.

The County Council will hold a special meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday in Hilo to consider an emergency ordinance put forth by the mayor allowing him to waive certain requirements of the Hawaii County Code to expedite repairs and reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure damaged by the earthquake.

## Reader Feedback

There are 0 comments on this story:

## Feedback Rules

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