US Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

WAILOA STREAM FLOOD CONTROL
HILO, ISLAND OF HAWAII

Project Location. Wailoa Stream and its tributary streams of Waiakea and Kawila are within the city of Hilo, on the northeast sector of the island.

Authorization. The Wailoa River flood control project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 3 September 1954.

Local Sponsor. The local sponsor is the Hawaii County Department of Public Works. They also own and maintain the project.

Completed Work. The existing project provides for a 355-foot long channel and a levee 88 feet long to divert the Kawili Stream flows into Waiakea Stream; a 333-foot long channel and a levee 350 feet long to divert the combined flows of Waiakea and Kawila Streams into a long and narrow swale area; an 1,100-foot long channel and levee 800 feet long to protect the University of Hawaii Hilo Campus Dormitory; two small diversion levees, one 75 feet long and the other 190 feet long, to divert the flows from the swale area to a new channel 4,680 feet long; and, earth levee totaling 6,510 feet along the channel. The project was completed in August 1965 at a cost of $1,044,888 (federal funds).

The project was damaged by flooding in August 1994 with portions of the invert, side slopes, and levee undermined by high velocity flows. Under the authority of Public Law 84-99, a repair contract was awarded in June 1995 with work completed in December 1995. The cost for the 1995 PL 84-99 repair work was $478,000 (federal: $408,000; non-federal: $70,000).

Present Status. Hilo Town and surrounding areas experienced major flooding during the period of 2-3 November 2000 that caused over $20 million in damages. Repairs for Wailoa Stream were authorized and funded under PL84-99. Preliminary Investigation Reports on the damage including repair recommendations were completed on December 13, 2000.

Future Efforts. Rehabilitation of the flood control project due to damages incurred by recent flood events is currently underway in the Plans and Specifications phase of the construction effort. The project is scheduled for completion in early 2004.

Data as of September 2003.