



11 August 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Keopu-Hienaloli Streams Flood Damage Reduction, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Information and Facts.

a. The cost-shared feasibility study was initiated by the Honolulu District in March 2002 and is scheduled to be completed in March 2005. Due to changes in Honolulu District staff capabilities, a task order for study activities (with the exception of hydrology and economic work) is being prepared to the consultant Oceanit. The non-Federal sponsor is the County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works.

b. The Keopu and Hienaloli watersheds are situated in the North Kona District on the west slopes of the Hualalai and Mauna Loa Mountains on the Island of Hawaii. Kailua, the principal urban center in North Kona, is located at the lower elevations of these watersheds.

c. Flooding problems within the Keopu and Hienaloli basins are attributed to inadequately defined channels, accumulation of debris and vegetation, steep slopes, and inadequate channel and culvert capacities. Rapid flood flows are caused by high intensity rainfalls of short duration and steep terrain. Flood damages to agriculture land, residential and commercial properties and public roads and utilities are aggravated by deposits of sediment and other debris. Local flooding caused by inadequate facilities to handle street and lot drainage have caused repeated problems in the Kailua area. Records of historical floods date back to 1955.

d. The Keopu-Hienaloli Streams Flood Control project investigation is being conducted under the Continuing Authorities Program Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (Public Law 80-858), as amended. The purpose of the feasibility study will be to identify and formulate potential alternatives that address flood mitigation and to obtain approval from higher U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorities for project construction of the selected plan. The alternative plans will be evaluated for engineering adequacy, economic viability, environmental acceptability and project sponsor support.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal Congressional interest, in this project, at this time.