



14 October 2003

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Kaunakakai Stream Ecosystem Restoration, Molokai, Hawaii

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

a. The project is in the feasibility stage with work being scheduled for completion in November 2003 to finalize the Ecosystem Restoration Report (ERR) and Environmental Assessment (EA). Design has been initiated and is expected to finish by December 2003. The cost sharing agreement is anticipated to be signed by March 2004 with County of Maui, and the project is scheduled to be advertised for construction in June 2004.

b. The project site is located near the town of Kaunakakai on the island of Molokai. The study is being conducted under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. The local sponsor is the County of Maui, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management.

c. The proposed project would restore habitat for the native endangered Hawaiian Stilt bird by creating 3.2 acres of shallow ponds and mudflats within the Kaunakakai Stream Flood Control project that was constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1950. By removing sediments and lowering the elevations within the channel, permanent pools of water would be created for year-round foraging by the stilt.

d. The feasibility phase of the study was initiated in FY95. The drafts ERR and EA were completed in January 2001. A letter of intent was received from the sponsor in October 2001. A public meeting was held in August 2002 on the draft ERR and EA. Review comments were received from the State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) on 27 December 2002.

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