



12 March 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Waimanalo Stream and Reservoir Flood Hazard Study, Waimanalo, Hawaii

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

a. Waimanalo Stream is located on the windward side of the island of Oahu and is approximately 13 miles northeast of downtown Honolulu. The Waimanalo area is within a valley bounded by the Koolau Range on the south, Aniani Nui Ridge on the west and north, and by Waimanalo Bay on the east.

b. According to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Waimanalo Stream 100 and 500-year floodplains were developed using hydraulic data from an earlier study conducted in 1971. The hydrologic data was updated and new floodplains were developed in August 1976. The floodplains were determined from the stream mouth to a distance of 2,600 feet downstream from the Kailua reservoir, which is owned and operated by the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture. This reservoir was used for irrigation of agricultural fields in Waimanalo.

c. The Kailua reservoir has been abandoned for many years because of the construction of a larger reservoir nearby and from the additional costs needed to bring the reservoir to dam safety standards. The outlet gates are currently open in a locked position. As a result of concerns from nearby residents, the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has requested the Honolulu District conduct a flood hazard study under the Flood Plain Management Services program, to determine the 100-year floodplain from the limits of the FEMA flood maps downstream from the reservoir. Funds for this study (\$75,000) were received in February 2002 to survey stream cross-sections and to conduct hydrologic and hydraulic investigations. Stream surveys were completed on September 2002. The District has scheduled submission of the draft flood maps and report to DLNR in March 2003 for their review.

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