June 15, 2012

Senator Maile Shimabukuro
21st Senatorial District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Shimabukuro:

Subject: Nanakuli Public Library (DAGS Job No. 12-36-6513)  
TMK 8-9-02:065  
Environmental Assessment--Early Consultation

The State Dept of Accounting and General Services, on behalf of, the State of Hawai‘i Department of Education, Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) proposes to construct a new public library in Leeward Oahu to serve the Nanakuli and Mā‘ili communities. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with the State of Hawai‘i Chapter 343 HRS environmental guidelines and requirements. We are conducting early consultation to solicit input from you or your agency.

The Nanakuli Public Library is proposed on a 3.7-acre portion of a 15-acre, State-owned property on Farrington Highway that was formerly a U.S. Army Recreation Facility known as Camp Andrews. In 2004, the Nanaikapono Elementary School was developed on the makua portion of the State property. The new library will be built on the makai portion of the property (see location map). A small portion (approximately 25,000 SF) of the “Project Site” will be set aside for a future Leeward Head Start Facility. However, the Head Start Facility will be developed separately, and is not part of the library project or this EA.

The new library building will be approximately 18,000 square feet in size with lobby and checkout areas, book circulation, a program room for community events, and support areas for library staff. Other design components being considered include food concessions, an outdoor plaza, and a large lawn area that could be used for community events. The library is envisioned to be a unique, community focal point which emphasizes a Hawaiian sense of place. The building architecture will incorporate green building concepts and sustainable technology. Landscaping will emphasize drought tolerant native species.

A common driveway for the library and future Head Start facility is being considered off the existing fire and bus access road for the elementary school. No new ingress/egress points are proposed on Farrington Highway. A secondary gate can be added to the fire access road to limit vehicular access to the school during non-school hours. The EA will include an assessment of the project’s traffic impacts.
Ensuring pedestrian safety will be a primary design objective. There will be particular attention to the separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and the provision of safe routes between the library and elementary school.

**Previous Studies of the Site**

The State of Hawai‘i has discussed the possibility of a new Nanakuli Library for over 20 years, and the project site has been the subject of two previous environmental documents. In November 1994, a “New Nanakuli Public Library Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Site Selection Study” evaluated five candidate sites in Nanakuli for a new library. The five sites included the currently proposed site, which was referred to as “Site C.”

In 2001, the project site was evaluated as part of the “Environmental Assessment (EA) for Nanakuli IV Elementary School.” That EA evaluated the 15-acre State property that includes the present Nanaikapono Elementary School, and the future library and Head Start. The 2001 EA included archaeological, cultural, hazardous material studies that are still applicable to the current library project. To the extent possible, previous studies and existing information will be utilized. Other studies such as traffic will be updated because existing (and projected) conditions have changed over the last 10 years.

**Your Input is Requested**

The purpose of this early consultation is to solicit your input regarding issues that should be addressed in the forthcoming Draft EA. A copy of the Draft EA will be sent to your agency for review in the next few months. You will also have an opportunity to comment at that time.

Please send any preliminary comments to Kimura International, Inc. by July 11, 2012. If you have questions, please feel free to call me or Leslie Kurisaki at 944-8848. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

KIMURA INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

Glenn T. Kimura, President
Enclosures