



RECREATION

12.1 INTRODUCTION AND ANALYSIS

Recreation provides an avenue for the fulfillment of social, cultural, physical and educational needs of people through leisure experiences.

Recreational facilities may be defined within two categories: Resource-based and Facility-based. Resource-based parks provide public access to and enjoyment of an outstanding natural or cultural resource. Valued resources include sandy beaches, non-sandy but protected swimming areas, scenic areas and hiking areas. The Federal and State governments play a dominant role in establishing resource-based parks such as the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Hapuna Beach State Park. Resource-based parks developed by the County are primarily beach parks. The other park category is facility-based parks. These types of parks are primarily developed by the County and provide for organized, spectator, or informal play recreational activities that are not dependent upon a natural resource. Playfields, gymnasiums, swimming pool complexes, and tennis courts are just some examples of facility-based parks.

The Federal government provides approximately 231,400 acres of resource-based parks on the island. The State government provides approximately 800 acres. The County's resource-based parks, which are primarily beach parks, total 260 acres.

Heavy demands will be placed on the recreational resources of the County as a result of an expanding population and a growing number of visitors. The resident population is expected to grow, thus increasing the use of recreational facilities. Ideally, all residents should have convenient access to the most popular recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and multi-purpose community centers. Although beach parks usually require suitable shoreline conditions, the popularity of shoreline activities mandate that beach parks be established in relation to population distribution, even if the area does not provide the best recreational resource. Some districts have benefited more than others in terms of the number of facilities-based parks and beach parks relative to population. North Kona, South Kona, South Kohala and Puna have the least amount of County facilities-based parks and beach parks in relation to population. State beach parks within the South Kohala and North Kona districts help to offset, in part, some of these deficiencies. The North Hilo and North Kohala districts have a disproportionately large number of County park acreage in relationship to their small populations.

§12.1: Introduction And Analysis

The island has a pleasant climate throughout the year and a variety of scenic areas ranging from snow-capped volcanic peaks to tropical rain forests and sunny beaches. With such natural assets, the people of the island generally go outdoors for their recreation. Traditionally, the shoreline areas have been preferred for fishing, swimming, picnicking, camping and informal passive recreation. Of the County's total 305 miles of tidal shoreline, only 1.2 miles are prime sand beach that is generally favorable for swimming and other water-oriented activities. The demand on these limited areas for public recreation is heavy and crowding occurs in some areas. Crowding is usually due to inadequate or undeveloped park acreage, roads and parking areas occupying usable recreation area, and the lack of adequate facilities in adjoining areas or other parks. Options for developing beach parks should include privately operated or maintained facilities or private concessions of beach park facilities.

The quality of recreation areas often diminishes with heavy expanded use. Sewage and industrial waste have penetrated into some swimming, surfing, fishing, and boating areas, reducing the availability and/or quality of these areas for recreation. There is also competition for prime beach area between the visitor industry and the residents. This competition will continue to increase in the future.

The County has a variety of parks including small neighborhood playgrounds, larger playfields, and parks of County-wide scope for active and passive recreation. On the island, there are 4 National parks, 20 State parks and a total of 118 County park sites, in addition to regional, district, community, and neighborhood parks. The County also manages recreational facilities including 9 swimming pools, 19 community/senior centers, 21 gymnasiums (includes 6 Department of Education facilities), and 15 miscellaneous facilities such as rodeo arenas, boat ramps, scenic lookout, drag strip, etc. Neighborhood parks and playfields lack adequate facilities in some communities. In some areas, community centers are used for meetings and cultural activities. School buildings are also used for community meetings, and school yards sometimes function as neighborhood playfields. Park pavilions are used for community activities and family socials. There are also facilities for specific recreational activities, such as golf courses, small boat harbors, and swimming pools.

The "County of Hawaii Recreation Plan" was prepared in 1974 to serve as a guide in the planning efforts for expansion, acquisition, and development of the County's recreational areas. This plan, however, needs to be revised and updated to reflect new and/or updated priorities. Such a plan is needed in order for the County to identify significant resource areas with recreational value. A detailed plan will allow the development of an acquisition program that could utilize a variety of tools or coordinate with other involved agencies or organizations to acquire lands for parks or access.

The recreational program of the County is presently targeted toward diversification of activities. Active team sports for all children and adults are continually being main-

tained. Recreational programs have been targeted for all ages with special emphasis to promote activities for youth.

In some rural areas where the population is sparsely dispersed the lack of convenient public transportation makes it difficult to take advantage of recreational facilities and programs.

Summer fun activities in the mornings are being conducted for six weeks during the summer at County parks as well as Department of Education facilities for all children, grades one to six. Additional enrichment programs may be offered in the mornings and afternoons when funding is available. Intercession programs are offered to accommodate students on year-round schedules.

The lack of adequate facilities and programs for pre-school children should be addressed with more intensity in the future. The construction of new facilities, the renovation of some of the existing ones, and the provision of adequate staffing should meet this need.

Cultural and social programs are offered to senior citizens in all communities. Activities include arts, crafts, games, dance, music, and educational classes. As the number of retired persons increases, additional activities and a broader program will be needed.

The county operates nine swimming pools offering recreational swimming, water safety instruction, and competitive swimming activity. To serve the Hilo area, one of two pools is operated primarily for water safety instructional purposes. Most county beaches are staffed with beach lifeguards on weekends and holidays as well as during summer school breaks to provide lifesaving and first aid services. Lifeguards are on duty every day of the week at the most heavily utilized beaches.

The Department of Education and the University of Hawaii system offer adult education courses for enrichment. They also sponsor lecture and film series in communities throughout the County. Various volunteer citizens' groups organize and encourage art exhibits, drama, dance, music, and other cultural performances.

Many of the cultural and educational programs are available only in the more densely populated areas. The need to expand these programs as well as other recreational opportunities for people in low density rural areas will continue.

Public access to the ocean and mountains have special recreational and cultural significance to the residents of this island community. Public access to coastal and mountain areas have been an essential element in the gathering of food, the transport of goods, and recreational purposes for both the island's residents and their ancestors. In recognition of the need to provide residents with the right of free movement in public

§12.2: Goals

space and access to and use of these public coastal and mountain areas, the Hawaii County Council adopted Ordinance No. 96 17 in 1996 to require the dedication of land for public rights-of-way as part of subdivision approval or the issuance of a building permit for the construction of a multiple-family residential development, under certain circumstances. The County may also require the establishment of public rights-of-way as part of the issuance of other types of land use approvals, such as changes of zone or Special Management Area Use Permits. Information regarding the State parks system, as well as public hunting areas, may be obtained by contacting the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

12.2 GOALS

- (a) Provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of the County.
- (b) Maintain the natural beauty of recreation areas.
- (c) Provide a diversity of environments for active and passive pursuits.

12.3 POLICIES

- (a) Strive to equitably allocate facility-based parks among the districts relative to population, with public input to determine the locations and types of facilities.
- (b) Improve existing public facilities for optimum usage.
- (c) Recreational facilities shall reflect the natural, historic, and cultural character of the area.
- (d) The use of land adjoining recreation areas shall be compatible with community values, physical resources, and recreation potential.
- (e) Develop short and long range capital improvement programs and plans for recreational facilities that are consistent with the General Plan.
- (f) The "County of Hawaii Recreation Plan" shall be updated to reflect newly identified recreational priorities.
- (g) Facilities for compatible multiple uses shall be provided.
- (h) Provide facilities and a broad recreational program for all age groups, with special considerations for the handicapped, the elderly, and young children.
- (i) Coordinate recreational programs and facilities with governmental and private agencies and organizations. Innovative ideas for improving recreational facilities and opportunities shall be considered.
- (j) Develop local citizen leadership and participation in recreation planning, maintenance, and programming.
- (k) Adopt an on-going program of identification, designation, and acquisition of areas with existing or potential recreational resources, such as land with sandy beaches

and other prime areas for shoreline recreation in cooperation with appropriate governmental agencies.

- (l) Public access to the shoreline shall be provided in accordance with an adopted program of the County of Hawaii.
- (m) Develop a network of pedestrian access trails to places of scenic, historic, natural or recreational values. This system of trails shall provide, at a minimum, an islandwide route connecting major parks and destinations.
- (n) Establish a program to inventory ancient trails, cart roads and old government roads on the island in coordination with appropriate State agencies.
- (o) Develop facilities and safe pathway systems for walking, jogging, and biking activities.
- (p) Develop a recreation information dissemination system for the public's use.
- (q) Revise the ordinance requiring subdivisions to provide land area for park and recreational use or pay a fee in lieu thereof.
- (r) Develop and adopt an Impact Fees Ordinance.
- (s) Consider alternative sources of funding for recreational facilities.
- (t) Develop best management practices for the development of golf courses in coordination with developers, State Department of Health, and other government agencies.
- (u) Provide access to public hunting areas.

12.4 STANDARDS

- (a) Regional Parks:
 - Major recreation area serving several districts and providing indoor and outdoor activities. A major center for spectator sports and cultural activities. May include features of historic, geological, and horticultural interests. Minimum size: 50 acres.
 - Vicinity of major populated areas.
 - Facilities include: multi-purpose building, auditorium, gymnasium, swimming pool, adequate parking areas, and facilities for spectator sports: football, baseball, softball, track field, tennis, basketball and volleyball.
- (b) District Parks:
 - Offer diversified types of recreational activities to an entire district that include indoor and outdoor sports. Minimum size: 10 to 30 acres.
 - Within a district consisting of several populated communities.
 - Facilities include: gymnasium with office, storage, restrooms, showers; a center for community and recreational programs; swimming pool (if justifiable); play area and equipment for young children; courts for basketball, tennis, and volleyball; ball-

§12.4: Standards

fields for soccer, baseball, softball, and football; night lights; and an adequate parking area.

(c) Community Parks:

- Community recreation area serving surrounding urban areas, and entire community in rural areas. Provides active and passive activities.
- Between 4 and 8 acres, within the center of the community or several neighborhoods.
- Facilities include: multi-purpose building; gymnasium (where not serviceable from a district park); courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis; ballfields for softball/baseball, soccer, football; play area and equipment for young children; walking and jogging paths; picnic and passive area; night lights and an adequate parking area.

(d) Neighborhood Parks:

- Provide open space in urbanizing areas for the general aesthetic enjoyment of the outdoors, play areas for young children, and a social gathering place for the neighborhood.
- Up to 4 acres, within the center of the neighborhood and preferably adjacent to a school.
- Minimum facilities include: restrooms; drinking water; walking and jogging paths (bike and skating paths); courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis; ballfields for tetherball, baseball/softball and soccer; play area and equipment for young children; and an adequate parking area.

(e) Community Centers:

- Major center for spectator sports, cultural and social activities.
- Size depends on facilities proposed and accessory uses.
- Facilities include: multipurpose building; auditorium; gymnasium; facilities for spectator sports; swimming facility; and an adequate parking area.

(f) Parks for General Use:

- Centered around a major natural asset, such as a sandy beach, a prime forest, or a volcanic feature and includes historic sites whenever feasible.
- Designed to accommodate users from throughout the County.
- Beach parks provide opportunities for swimming/sunbathing, surfing, camping, fishing, boating, nature study, and other pastimes. Every section of the island should be adequately served. Facilities depend on size and intensity of use but should include: restrooms with showers; picnic facilities; a defined tent camping area when allowed; drinking water; adequate parking; pavilions of various sizes; and lifeguard facilities.

§12.5.1: Puna

and Kurtistown. Ballfields are also located in Mountain View, Kurtistown, and Hawaiian Beaches subdivision. A multi-purpose sports field is proposed at the Hawaiian Beaches Park.

School activities take precedence over public use of joint-use facilities. There are lighted ballfields in Pahoa and Keaau.

Many of the other parks in the Puna district are heavily used by Hilo residents for picnicking, camping, swimming, surfing, and fishing. The proximity of Puna makes it easy for people in Hilo to travel to these areas.

The County's 1.7-acre Isaac Hale Beach Park is a beach area offering picnicking, camping, fishing, surfing, and swimming when the ocean is calm. A boat launching ramp facility is presently provided adjacent to the park at Pohoiki Bay. The present park area and facilities are inadequate. Cars, boats, and boat trailers often occupy areas within the park that could be used for recreational opportunities. Expansion of this park has been initiated by the County with the purchase of an adjacent 22 acres of land mauka of the existing park to be developed with additional parking areas, playgrounds, boat parking area, picnic facilities and restrooms.

Kaimu Beach Park's famous black sand beach and adjacent coconut grove, once one of the most photographed scenic attractions on the Big Island, were covered by lava flows from Pu'u O'o Crater, Kilauea Volcano in 1990. Less than a mile away, Harry K. Brown Park, at one time the Puna district's most popular beach park, was inundated in the same eruption.

In 1993, the County purchased approximately six acres of land situated 2,000 feet to the northeast of Isaac Hale Beach Park in an effort to replace park land destroyed by lava. The new Ahalanui Park features a naturally-occurring warm spring (Mauna Kea Pond) and a grassed area with scattered ornamental and coconut trees. Proposed improvements include the construction of a 54-stall parking lot, renovation of existing structures to accommodate a caretaker's cottage and community center, the construction of restrooms, access roadway and infrastructure improvements.

MacKenzie State Recreation Area (13.1 acres) is an ocean-oriented and forest park located between Pohoiki and Opihikao at the edge of the Malama-Ki Forest Reserve. Fishing, picnicking and tent camping are recreational activities of this park. Within the park is a well-preserved segment of the ancient Hawaiian King's Trail.

The State's undeveloped Nanawale Park site, consisting of 78.3 acres, is located adjacent to Honolulu Landing, along the Puna Coastal Road between Kapoho and the Hawaiian Shores Subdivision.

Near the Kapoho-Pohoiki junction, the Lava Tree State Monument (17.0 acres) features lava trees and large volcanic earth cracks and has a footpath, picnic facilities,

parking area, and restrooms. The park is landscaped, well maintained, with adequate facilities and area for present use. An additional area adjacent to the present park has been reserved for future expansion.

The County's Glenwood Park (1.1 acres), located along the Volcano Highway, adequately serves travelers as a picnic and rest stop.

Approximately 60,000 acres of the 229,176-acre Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is located within the Puna District. The facilities of the park for passive and active recreation are readily accessible.

12.5.1.2 Courses of Action

- (a) As the population increases and need arises, neighborhood parks in large subdivisions between Keaau and Pahoia should be provided and improved.
- (b) Encourage the State to establish a park reserve on State-owned land east of Kaimu.
- (c) Recommend the establishment of beach reserves at Kehena Beach and Opihikao (west of Opihikao junction).
- (d) Recommend that the State expand the MacKenzie State Recreation Area.
- (e) Develop the expanded Isaac Hale Beach Park recreation area. Provide trail access to Keahialaka Spring and Pond and Mahinaakaka Heiau.
- (f) Develop the Kapoho Tidepools as a marine park.
- (g) Establish a small scenic park overlooking Kapoho and provide minimum facilities.
- (h) Develop recreational areas along the coast between Hilo and Kapoho, including areas at Papai, Haena (Keaau), Kaloli Point, Keonepoko Nui, Honolulu Landing, and Nanawale.
- (i) Establish small scenic viewpoints along the Puna Road to overlook the rift zone and Kaueleau, Keekee and the 1955 flows.
- (j) Explore means to maximize the use of the Pahoia Neighborhood Facility site to serve the recreational needs of the lower Puna area.

12.5.2 South Hilo

12.5.2.1 Profile

Hilo is the major urban center in the County and has a diversity of recreational facilities. Within the city, there are eight neighborhood parks. All of these parks are between 3.0 and 7.7 acres in size and five have playfields. Nine school yards provide additional playfields. These parks are not used to their optimum capacity. In many of the parks, there are drainage problems. Lack of playground equipment, inadequate

§12.5.2: South Hilo

landscaping, and the lack of benches and adequate shelters have restricted the use of some parks. Some residential areas do not have easy access to neighborhood parks, and newer communities lack recreational areas altogether.

Hilo also has 17 gymnasiums: two are at University of Hawaii at Hilo, three are with the Department of Education, nine are under County jurisdiction, and three are privately owned and maintained.

Outside of urban Hilo, there is a County community park in Kaiwiki; a gymnasium in Wainaku; a playfield in Hakalau; a gymnasium and playfield in both Honomu and Paipaikou; and a community center and playfield in Kulaimano. Public use of facilities jointly administered by the County and the Department of Education is generally limited to after school hours.

Regional recreational facilities located in Hilo serve South Hilo and neighboring districts. There are three swimming pools, two owned by the County and the other administered by the Department of Education.

Hoolulu Complex is the major regional recreational center and consists of 56 acres. There is an auditorium with a seating capacity of 2,800 that is used for pageants, private fundraising, musical entertainment, and sports events. Although adequate for sports, the acoustics and seating are poor for entertainment. A large stadium (Wong) for sports events, a swimming pool, outdoor tennis courts, a covered tennis stadium (utilized for cultural events, car shows and other events), and a tri-baseball field are also located in the park. Parking is currently inadequate for large events. A new football/soccer field and parking area will be developed on lands located to the west of the Hoolulu Complex on Manono Street. The County is currently working with the owners of these lands to secure the site for its expansion plans.

The Hilo Armory is utilized for county programs, and organized sport events. It also houses various county agencies.

Five miles south of Hilo, the County maintains the Panaewa Recreation Complex located on a 173-acre parcel. The complex includes the Rainforest Zoo and the Equestrian Center, consisting of a race track, rodeo arena, and other equestrian facilities. The County also maintains the Hilo Drag Strip (70.66 acres) located east of Railroad Avenue. There is a three-fourth mile race track, spectator area and other support facilities. Also near the drag strip is a County-operated skeet and trap range.

Most beach areas in the district have little depth due to coastal roads or residential lots. Parking is often a problem and vehicles occupy valuable recreation area. There are eight developed beaches with about 3,000 linear feet of shoreline in Hilo. These are the Hilo Bayfront Beach, Mokuola (Coconut Island), Reed's Bay, Onekahakaha Beach Park, Leleiwi Beach Park, James Kealoha Beach Park, Carlsmith, and Richardson

§12.5.2: South Hilo

Ocean Park Beaches. Lihikai (Onakahakaha) has a small sand beach with shallow water and is especially good for children.

There is a two-mile stretch of coastline from Lehia Beach Park through Lihikai (Onakahakaha) that can be developed for recreation. The Reed's Bay area and Kuhio Bay (Baker's Beach) have sand beaches with potential for more intensive recreational use.

The County has two general use oceanfront parks: Liliuokalani (19 acres), currently undergoing extensive renovation and modification to improve accessibility, and Bayfront-Mooheau Park (20.9 acres). Near the mouth of the Wailoa River is the State's Wailoa River State Recreation Area, that includes a pond maintained as a public fishing area. These parks provide scenic landscaped open space and are used for picnicking, pleasure walking, quiet relaxation, and fishing. Large pavilions at Wailoa River State Recreation Area are frequently used for community meetings and banquets. Mooheau Park has a bandstand that is used for community gatherings and events. Noise from the nearby highway, however, often interferes with the use of the bandstand.

Steep cliffs make the coastal waters of the northern portion of the South Hilo district inaccessible except at the mouths of a few large gulches. North of Hilo are two beach parks located at the mouths of gulches. Honolii Beach Park (2.77 acres) is used primarily by surfers. Kolekole Gulch Park at Wailea is used mainly for picnicking and camping with limited swimming in the stream.

The County's 4.9-acre park at Kaumana Caves and the Wailuku River State Park (16.3 acres) in Hilo and Akaka Falls State Park (65.4 acres) in Honomu have outstanding natural features. The State maintains a scenic viewpoint at Alealea Point and the County has a scenic viewpoint at Onomea Lookout Point.

The three forest reserves in South Hilo offer limited wilderness recreation, primarily hunting and camping. The Waiakea Arboretum is used as a demonstration area for visitors.

There are three facilities for small boats in Hilo. One is located at the mouth of the Wailoa River and is used by fishing craft and other power boats. A launching ramp is provided. The others are moorages with minimal facilities in Reed's Bay and Radio Bay used by sailboats.

An 18-hole municipal golf course with an area of 164.9 acres is located in the Waiakea Homesteads area. A 9-hole privately owned golf course (63.2 acres) is located on the Waiakea Peninsula.

Three privately-owned museums provide educational resources to the community. The Pacific Tsunami Museum memorializes those who have lost their lives in tsuna-

§12.5.2: South Hilo

mis. Hawaii Shima Japanese Immigrant Museum chronicles the solicitation of Japanese nationals to work the sugar plantations and vividly illustrates their strong traditional cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit in braving adversities. The Lyman House and Memorial Museum strives to promote awareness and instill community pride by presenting programs and exhibits relating to the cultural, artistic, religious, and historical heritage of Hawaii.

12.5.2.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Maintain Clem Akina Park, Gilbert Carvalho Park, Keikiland Playground and Wainaku Camp 2 Field as community recreation.
- (b) Improve Kalakaua Park as an open space amenity and the focal point of the Kalakaua Park Heritage Area.
- (c) Encourage the development of a park along both sides of the Wailuku River in the central business district of Hilo and provide major viewpoints with pedestrian walkways and benches.
- (d) Community and/or neighborhood recreational areas should be provided in areas such as Piihonua, upper Ponahawai, Kaumana-Ainako, upper Kaumana, Haihai, and upper Waiakea.
- (e) Develop urban commercial areas with landscaped parks for passive recreation.
- (f) Expand the depth of coastal recreation areas. Park areas should be connected with trails to increase public access.
- (g) Develop the coastal area between Lehia and Lihikai for recreational use.
- (h) Develop Reed's Bay for more intensive water-oriented recreation.
- (i) Encourage the State to develop a small boat harbor and additional moorage facilities.
- (j) Develop Kuhio Bay and the Baker's Beach area as a public recreational facility.
- (k) Encourage the implementation of the "Environmental and Urban Design Proposals, East Hawaii Project, City of Hilo," and the "Downtown Hilo Redevelopment Plan" for the Kaiko'o and Bayfront areas. This includes the deepening of Waiolama Canal, the development of the proposed Waiolama River State Park, the elimination of Bayfront Highway and the widening and realigning of Kamehameha Avenue, and the establishment of botanical gardens.
- (l) Provide trail and access systems to recreational areas.
- (m) Develop a center/complex for major cultural, educational and recreational activities.
- (n) Develop a second municipal golf course.
- (o) Return Kaumana Caves County Park, a natural resource recreation area, to the jurisdiction of the State.

12.5.3 North Hilo

12.5.3.1 Profile

Recreational facilities in the North Hilo district are generally limited. The population of the area is small and scattered and transportation is a major problem. The community at Ookala has a gymnasium and ballfield that were previously owned by the sugar plantation but are now owned and maintained by the County. The Papaaloa community has a county gymnasium, community center, ballfield, and tennis courts. In Laupahoehoe, community groups use the former Court House as a meeting place. The Laupahoehoe School complex, with a 6-acre playfield, a gymnasium, two tennis courts and a County swimming pool, is also used by the community. There is an old gymnasium at Laupahoehoe Peninsula used primarily by area residents for various functions.

Two parks are located adjacent to the mouths of the larger gulches. Waikaumalo Park at Honohina is 3.4 acres in size and offers stream swimming and picnicking. Laupahoehoe Point Beach Park has an area of 24 acres and is being developed to serve as a regional recreation area. Facilities include a playfield, a boat ramp, four picnic shelters and a large pavilion. Camping, picnicking and fishing are featured activities in this scenic location. The water, however, is unsafe for swimming and the parking area is not defined. A joint effort undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the County provided the community with a new breakwater and boat launching ramp.

Within the district are the Hilo Forest Reserve (54,020 acres) and the Manowaialee Forest Reserve (1,410 acres). Neither have facilities and are rarely used for recreation.

12.5.3.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Implement the Laupahoehoe Point Beach Park master plan.
- (b) Improve the boat launching facilities at Laupahoehoe Peninsula by encouraging the Army Corps of Engineers to extend the breakwater.

12.5.4 Hamakua

12.5.4.1 Profile

With the combined recreational facilities made available by the former sugar company, the schools and the County, the communities of the Hamakua district are adequately served. The sugar company previously provided neighborhood playground and playfield facilities in Haina and Paauhau. The County now owns the ballfield in Haina and the ballfield and gym at Paauilo Park. A community center was built by the County at Paauilo Park which, in addition, has an inadequately lighted field and gym. The Paauilo community also uses the five-acre school playfield.

§12.5.5: North Kohala

In Honokaa, the school grounds serve as a district park administered by the Department of Education. Other facilities include a 4.5-acre playfield, a swimming pool (County-owned and maintained), and a National Guard gym. Honokaa has a large County-developed park with two ballfields, a football/track field, and a gymnasium facility. The County also owns a rodeo arena mauka of the Hawaii Belt Highway. The Hamakua Country Club, a 9-hole golf course (19 acres) facility, is privately owned.

Two wildland State parks provide facilities for hiking, picnicking, camping and hunting. Cabins are available for overnight use. Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is 20 acres in size and located in the saddle between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. From this park, there is a hiking trail to the summit of Mauna Kea. During the winter months, the summit of Mauna Kea provides opportunities for skiing and other snow sports. Kalopa State Recreation Area (100 acres) is located in a native ohia forested area five miles southeast of Honokaa.

The State Division of Forestry and Wildlife administers four game management areas with a total area of about 290,000 acres. These provide an extensive area for hunting. There are also three forest reserves within this district that can be used for hunting, hiking, nature study, and wilderness camping. No facilities are provided and access to the forest reserves is limited.

The County maintains a scenic lookout area above Waipio Valley that has a shelter and facilities for picnicking. There is a State hiking trail into the adjoining valleys, including Waimanu Valley.

12.5.4.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Construct multipurpose rooms adjacent to the gymnasium in Honokaa Park to accommodate community meetings and functions.
- (b) Encourage the recreational development of Waipio and Waimanu Valleys as natural and wilderness areas. Encourage the State to provide small recreation sites on the edge of Waipio Valley.
- (c) Encourage the development of a general use park in the Kaa-Ahualoa section of the Hamakua Forest Reserve.
- (d) Encourage the State to develop a scenic park on the Kohala side of Hiilawe Falls in conjunction with the development of the scenic highway.

12.5.5 North Kohala

12.5.5.1 Profile

Scattered settlement in the North Kohala district makes it difficult for residents to get to recreation areas. Parks in this district consist of two school grounds and four County parks. The Halaula Middle Annex for Kohala High and Intermediate Schools, formerly the Halaula Elementary School, has a 5-acre playfield, playground, and

basketball court used by residents in the area. Kohala High School has a gym, playground, track, and a 4.5-acre playfield. The gym is used by the community for gatherings. Kamehameha Park in Kapaau is a major district park with an area of 18.4 acres. Facilities include a grandstand, lighted playfield, lighted tennis courts, a swimming pool, and a large gymnasium/community center complex. The park, however, is not large enough to accommodate major events. A community park to serve the Kahei area is being proposed.

Along the windward coast of the district, the County's Keokea Beach Park at Niulii, with an area of 7.1 acres and two pavilions, is the only developed beach area. Swimming at this park is limited because of ocean conditions. On the leeward side of the district are two County beach parks. Kapaa Beach Park has a total area of 28.3 acres, but only a small portion has been developed. Mahukona Beach Park has a total area of less than three acres and is located close to the harbor, which is popular for fishing and swimming. The harbor has a launching derrick maintained by the County but lacks docking and mooring facilities for small boats. Parking is inadequate at these beach parks. With the approval in 1993 of the proposed 240-unit Mahukona Resort on lands adjacent to Mahukona and Kapaa Beach Parks, the Hawaii County Council required the developer to provide various improvements to both Mahukona and Kapaa Beach Parks. These improvements will include facilities for active recreational uses and improvements to the existing access roadway, pavilion and restroom facilities, among others. Improvements to Kapaa Beach Park include accommodations for camping and passive recreational uses and the construction of restrooms and additional parking.

The Pololu Valley lookout at Niulii has limited parking but no other facilities. The valley itself is an area of scenic beauty. An access trail from the lookout descends into the valley.

The State manages three historical parks: Lapakahi State Historical Park, Kamehameha I Birthsite State Monument, and the Mookini Heiau State Monument.

12.5.5.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Expand facilities at Kapa`a Beach Park.
- (b) Encourage the State to further develop the Lapakahi complex as a historic park.
- (c) Recommend the expansion of small boat harbor facilities at Mahukona Harbor.
- (d) Expand the multi-use recreation areas at Mahukona and Kapaa Beach Parks.
- (e) Encourage the State to dedicate approximately 12 acres of its lands surrounding Mahukona Beach Park to the County to accommodate the expansion of Mahukona Beach Park.
- (f) Encourage the development of the Upolu Point area for recreation, including access to fishing areas.

12.5.6 South Kohala

12.5.6.1 Profile

Recreation areas in the South Kohala district are limited. The Waimea Elementary and Intermediate School has a playground and a gymnasium used during school days; and jointly operated by the County after school hours. The County's Waimea Park (10.5 acres) is the district's recreation center with a community center, playfields and facilities for spectators, tennis courts, restrooms, and an attractive playground for young children. One playfield and the tennis courts are provided with lights for night activities. This park is often a rest and picnic stop for travelers. Parking, however, is undefined and restroom facilities are inadequate. The County also maintains a 2.8-acre passive roadside park area in Waimea. A four-acre neighborhood park was developed in Waikoloa Village and a community park adjacent to the Waikoloa School is currently being developed.

The Waimea community center is a County facility. A senior citizen center is operated by the County at the former courthouse in Waimea. There are private rodeo facilities at Parker Ranch and Waikoloa.

The island's major white sand beaches stretch along the coast of South Kohala. Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area and the County's Samuel M. Spencer Beach Park are the major developed areas. The Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway between Kawaihae and Kailua has made the beaches of South Kohala more accessible. Hapuna is 61.1 acres in size and is the major water-oriented recreation area in the County. Samuel M. Spencer Park near Kawaihae Harbor has an area of 13.4 acres and a sandy coastline of approximately 1,200 feet. The water is shallow and is frequently used by family groups. Both Hapuna Beach and Samuel M. Spencer Parks receive intensive use. In addition to these public beach parks, public access to the beaches at Anaehoomalu, Mauna Lani, and Mauna Kea have been provided. The perimeter breakwater of the Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor is now complete. This new breakwater was constructed at the southern end of the harbor by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1998. Infrastructure will be added by the State when funding can be appropriated. The present small boat harbor has moorings for 40 boats and a pier with 3-point (Tahitian-style) moorings that can accommodate six boats.

The National Park Service manages the Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site overlooking Samuel M. Spencer Beach Park.

There are 18-hole golf course sites located at the Mauna Kea Resort (2), Waikoloa Village, Mauna Lani Resort (2), and Waikoloa Resort (2). These courses are privately owned but open to the public. Also open to the public is the 18-hole Waimea Country Club.

12.5.6.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Encourage the full implementation of the Hapuna Beach State Park Master Plan including Wailea Bay Area.
- (b) Improve picnic and camping facilities at Samuel M. Spencer Beach Park.
- (c) Acquire and develop additional public shoreline recreation areas.
- (d) Encourage the establishment of neighborhood parks.
- (e) Ensure public use of and access to beach areas.
- (f) Develop parking areas for Waimea Park.
- (g) Develop additional recreational facilities in Waimea, including an approximate 30-acre regional park on land to be donated by Parker Ranch.
- (h) Encourage the expansion of outdoor recreational areas around Waimea School.
- (i) Develop recreational facilities in Waikoloa, including an enclosed community center/sports complex.
- (j) Develop trail systems linking residential areas to Waimea's urban center.
- (k) Support the passive use of Church Row Park.
- (l) Encourage development of Waimea Trails & Greenways and Waimea Nature Park (Ulu Laau).

12.5.7 North Kona

12.5.7.1 Profile

The existing recreational areas and facilities in the North Kona district are generally inadequate. Approximately 27,400 residents are served by nine County parks. Hale Halawai (3.2 acres) provides a meeting place for the community and also serves as a picnic area. Acoustics are poor and parking is inadequate. The distance of Hale Halawai from mauka areas is a problem for many residents in the district. The small Kailua Playground (0.7 acre) is used by Kailua residents for tennis and basketball; however, its limited area restricts active team sports. The Hill Crest Subdivision Park is too small for competitive team sports and has inadequate parking. The Harold H. Higashihara Park is also too small for competitive team sports, although its tennis and outdoor basketball courts and newly constructed playground are well utilized. The one-acre school yard at Holualoa is used for organized sports. Holualoa School and the Kona Imin Center in Holualoa also serve as community centers for meetings, social gatherings, and recreational purposes.

The newly completed Kealakehe High School offers facilities that are open to the public during non-school hours. Kealakehe currently has a gymnasium, two general use playfields, four tennis courts and outdoor basketball courts. The general use playfields

§12.5.7: North Kona

also accommodate baseball, football, soccer and track activities. Construction is in progress to provide dugouts, bleachers and other improvements to these playfields.

The Kailua Park (Old Kona Airport) consists of 34 acres and provides lighted fields for baseball, softball, and football. New baseball and soccer fields were recently constructed. Also situated here are four lighted tennis courts. The old terminal building houses restrooms, offices, and a meeting place. A multipurpose gymnasium was completed in 1993 and a 50-meter Olympic-size swimming pool was completed in 1999.

Using the ratio of 5.0 acres of recreation area for every 1,000 people, the district of North Kona should now have at least 137 acres of area for community recreation.

The County has three developed beach parks in North Kona. Laaloa Bay Beach Park is located along Alii Drive south of Kailua-Kona. Pahoehoe Beach Park is located north of the White Sands Beach. Kahaluu Beach Park (5.4 acres), also along Alii Drive, is located in close proximity to the hotels at Keauhou and receives intensive use from visitors and residents. The park also has a unique and readily accessible coral garden with an abundance of marine life. It is usually overcrowded.

There are three small boat harbors in the district: Kailua Bay, Keauhou, and Honokohau. Honokohau harbor has a capacity for 450 small boats and has other facilities to accommodate boat repair, restaurant, dry storage, etc. The Kailua Bay anchorage provides limited docking facilities and offshore anchorage for small boats and commercial charter and tour boats. The wharf is used as a promenade, a fishing area, and is the center of the Annual Billfish Tournament. Parking and comfort facilities are inadequate. The nearby small sand beach is used for swimming. Keauhou Boat Harbor is a small marina and has a launching ramp as does Honokohau. Facilities are inadequate.

The Old Kona Airport State Recreation Area is the only developed State park. Activities at this 84-acre coastal park include picnicking, sunbathing, fishing, wading, tide-pooling, and surfing. Facilities include a special events pavilion and a jogging path.

Kekaha Kai State Park (formerly known as Kona Coast State Park) is a 1,700-acre park and wildlife sanctuary situated along the coast between the ahupuaa of Kukio to the north and Kaulana to the south. Facilities at the park are minimal with portable toilets and a graded, unpaved access road and parking area at Mahaiula. A conceptual plan for the park was developed in 1998, and will provide low intensity use of the park to preserve the unique natural, cultural and recreational resources of the area. Most of the limited facilities within the park, such as an activity center, Park Ambassador's residence, picnic facilities, restrooms and a dry botanical garden, will be concentrated at Mahaiula. Access roads and parking areas will be provided at both the northern and southern ends of the park near Kua and Mahai'ula Bays, respectively. Awakee will remain a wilderness area and Manini'owali will be an intermediate level activity area adjacent to the resort and residential developments of Kaupulehu and Kukio.

§12.5.8: South Kona

There are two 18-hole golf courses at Keauhou and a private 18-hole course at Puuanahulu, Makalei, and the Hualalai Resort.

The Honuauia Forest Reserve on the upper western slopes of Hualalai is used for limited wilderness recreation. No facilities are available and access roads are privately owned and in poor condition.

12.5.7.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Encourage the development of community and district recreational facilities, a gymnasium and community center with easy access for residents.
- (b) Encourage the development of Alii Drive within the Kailua Village area as a pedestrian mall with open space areas for passive recreation.
- (c) Improve facilities at Laaloa Bay Beach Park and Kahaluu Beach Park.
- (d) Implement the development of the Kailua Park (Old Kona Airport) as a major regional or district park.
- (e) Encourage the development of a major multi-purpose regional recreational and sports complex.
- (f) Acquire, and/or encourage the development of additional public shoreline recreation areas.
- (g) Establish public access to and the development of shoreline regions along the North Kona Coast in areas such as Keawaiki, Kiholo Bay, Kaupulehu, Kukio and Kapapa Bays, Kua Bay, Kahoiaawa, Makalawena, and Honokohau.
- (h) Encourage the State to continue with the establishment of Kekaha Kai State Park reaching into Mahaiula, Awakee, and Maniniowali Ahupuaa.
- (i) Protect the marine life at Kahaluu Bay.
- (j) Protect Opaepa, Kaloko, and Honokohau (Aimakapa) Ponds as natural areas.
- (k) Encourage the development of historic trails.
- (l) Develop a municipal golf course.
- (m) Encourage the establishment of a historic park at Kamoia Point.
- (n) Encourage the acquisition and establishment of the summit area of Hualalai as a wilderness park.
- (o) Increase mauka park lands.

12.5.8 South Kona

12.5.8.1 Profile

In all of South Kona there is one district recreation center, the County's Arthur C. Greenwell Park (2.7 acres) in Captain Cook. Facilities include tennis and basketball courts, a newly developed playground, and a lighted playfield. Multipurpose facilities

§12.5.8: South Kona

at Sgt. Rodney J.T. Yano Memorial Hall are utilized by the County, individuals, and community organizations. Kona Scenic Park, a neighborhood park, has a baseball/football field, outdoor courts, and a restroom.

The Konawaena School in Kealahou has a swimming pool (County-owned and maintained), a gymnasium, baseball and football fields, four tennis courts, and an eight lane all-weather track. Communities in North Kona without recreation areas use this field. School yards at Hookena and Honaunau Schools are available for community use. Honaunau School has a small playfield used by community organizations and teams from as far away as Milolii. The playground and restrooms are available only during school hours. Hookena School has lighted basketball and volleyball courts and a small playfield. These are occasionally used by community teams.

There are four developed beach parks and two beach park reserves in the district. The County beach parks are small and have limited facilities. Milolii Beach Park (1.2 acres), on the old school grounds, has very limited facilities for camping, picnicking, fishing, and swimming. Hookena Beach Park (3.4 acres) is about 60 feet wide and 600 feet long with outstanding scenic qualities.

The Pu'uhoehoe O' Honaunau National Historic Park at Honaunau Bay consists of 182 acres and provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, and picnicking. There are also interpretive trails to significant historic sites. Tidepools are easily accessible and the offshore waters are excellent for snorkeling and diving.

An undeveloped beach reserve is located at Manini Point (5.6 acres) on the southern shore of Kealahou Bay. At the southeast shore of Kealahou Bay is the Hikiau Heiau State Monument (0.8 acres) that has been incorporated into the presently undeveloped Kealahou Bay State Historical Park. The State's Napoopoo Beach Park is located adjacent and to the south of the Hikiau Heiau.

Rich in coral and fish display, adjacent to the Captain Cook Monument, is the Kealahou Bay State Underwater Park consisting of 315 acres. The bay provides opportunities for snorkeling, scuba diving, and glass bottom viewing to observe the marine life in this underwater habitat.

The South Kona Forest Reserve consists of 23,322 acres and offers limited wilderness recreation accessible by a few trails.

12.5.8.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Expand and/or develop recreational facilities in existing communities.
- (b) Establish, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, additional recreational facilities at Konawaena, Honaunau, and Hookena Schools.

- (c) Encourage the development of a district recreation center with the cooperation of public and private agencies.
- (d) Encourage the development of the coastal area for public recreational use.
- (e) Encourage the development of a historic park at Kealakekua Bay and protect historic sites and scenic aspects of the area. Provide a conservation buffer around Kealakekua Bay.
- (f) Encourage the development of beach park reserves as natural areas and the improvement of existing beach parks.
- (g) Encourage the further development of Honaunau Bay as a historic park with recreational opportunities.
- (h) Encourage the development of Honomalino Bay as a beach reserve.
- (i) Encourage the development of Palemano Point and Hookena areas for public recreational opportunities.
- (j) Develop and provide cultural facilities and programs.

12.5.9 Ka'u

12.5.9.1 Profile

Naalehu Park, Waiohinu and Pahala community parks and their school yards provide community recreation areas. There is a plantation community center in Pahala and County community centers in Naalehu and Pahala that are used for community and private functions. In addition, there is a County swimming pool at the Ka`u High School campus in Pahala. Several neighborhood park sites have been reserved in subdivisions in the Kahuku area. The new Kahuku Park is on a four-acre site in Ocean View. The new park will include a ballfield, basketball court, playground, pavilion and restroom facilities.

There is a lack of beaches with safe swimming areas in the district. There are two developed beach parks in Ka`u: Whittington Beach Park (0.8 acre) in Honuapo Bay and Punaluu Black Sand Beach Park (6.0 acres). Swimming at Whittington Beach Park is hazardous due to rough seas. The area is scenic and used for picnicking, camping, and a rest stop for travelers. The black sand beach at Punaluu is an easily accessible swimming area that is heavily used. It is often crowded and has inadequate parking. The adjacent County park is located on a lava plateau on the southwest side of the bay.

South Point (Ka Lae) offers unique scenic landscape, historic sites, and good fishing. The Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands' Kamaoa park site, consisting of 28.8 acres, is undeveloped.

§12.5.9: Ka'u

Manuka State Wayside, a botanical garden with picnicking facilities, serves as a rest stop for travelers. The Kilauea State Recreation Area near the national park boundary in Volcano has one furnished cabin.

The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park consists of 229,176 acres and features geologic phenomena and wildlife. Facilities for picnicking and camping as well as good hiking trails are located throughout the park.

There are also forest reserves in the district, but they have poor access and lack facilities.

The 18-hole golf courses in the Ka'u district are located at Discovery Harbor, Volcano Country Club, and Punalu'u (SeaMountain). These golf courses are privately owned and open to the public.

12.5.9.2 Courses of Action

- (a) Encourage the development of a swimming facility in Naalehu.
- (b) Develop parks in Ocean View, commensurate with population growth.
- (c) Encourage the establishment of the Punaluu-Ninole Springs region as a recreation area.
- (d) Encourage the State Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands to develop the South Point area for recreational opportunities.
- (e) Recommend the development of Kaaualu Bay as a remote camping-beach park.
- (f) Encourage the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop wilderness recreation uses of the Kapua-Manuka Forest Reserve.
- (g) Encourage the restoration of Ninole Pond as a recreation area.
- (h) Encourage land acquisition surrounding Whittington Beach Park to allow for its expansion and the construction of a parking area.