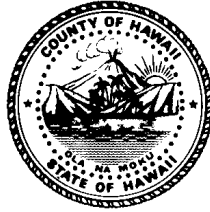


Harry Kim
Mayor



Bruce C. McClure
Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4224
(808) 961-8321 · Fax (808) 961-8630
www.co.hawaii.hi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2008

Contact Person: Bruce C. McClure, P.E.
Director, Department of Public Works
(808) 961-8321 Monday - Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(808) 557-6437 After hours, Noelani Whittington
www.co.hawaii.hi.us Click on Public Works

Mamalahoa Highway by-pass won't open Friday

Motorists planning to use the proposed Haleki'i Street extension in South Kona are advised that the opening of the extension will be delayed until an ordinance allowing use of the extension is reworded to allow the use of the road under a grant of easement, according to Bruce McClure, County Public Works director. This process may take until February 2009.

The projected opening date was Friday, November 28.

The County's Public Works Department has requested the existing ordinance be reworded to allow the use of the Haleki'i Street extension under a "grant of easement" instead of the specified "dedication." The request to amend Section 5 of Ordinance 08-59 Bill 251 was submitted to the Hawaii County Council Committee on Public Works and Intergovernmental Relations on Monday, November 10.

The dedication of Haleki'i Street is one of the conditions that must be met before the 4,000' extension can be opened for limited use by the general public. The ordinance also specifies safety measures in Kona Scenic subdivision, in Keauhou, along Ali'i drive and between Hualalai Road and Kamehameha III, and along Kuakini Hwy and Mamalahoa must be completed prior to opening. Improvements are in various stages of construction and most are scheduled to be completed in November. The estimated cost for these short-term safety improvements are \$5.5 million.

The new language requested by Public Works would change the wording of section 5 of ordinance 08-59 bill 251 to read—"This ordinance becomes opening after the new

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section of Haleki'i Street is dedicated and accepted by the County of Hawai'i and/or the **land owner grants an easement to the County of Hawaii for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of this ordinance** and is properly posted with signage for one-way traffic restriction..."

For background information, see "Mamalahoa Highway Bypass Opening Delayed," November 13, 2008, www.hawaii-county.com/pubwks/press.htm.

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