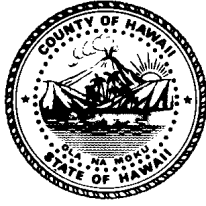


Harry Kim
Mayor



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COUNTY OF HAWAII

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2008

Contact Persons: Steve Yamamoto, POH, Project Manager
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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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Update South Kona Flood Maps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold two meetings January 23 and 24 in Kona to discuss their ongoing study to update the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood plains for South Kona. The study will identify flood limits for a 10, 25, 100 and 500 year storm within the flood plain. The County of Hawai'i will use the results of the study to revise FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate maps.

The meetings will take place on Wednesday, January 23, at the Konawaena Elementary School Library in Kealahou and on Thursday, January 24, at the Mayor's office at Hanama Place in Kailua-Kona. The time for both meetings is 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Residents are asked to bring photos and maps of their concerns to these meetings. Questions may be sent in advance to the U.S. Army Corps. Attendees will be asked to complete a questionnaire on flooding. To download the questionnaire, go to the County of Hawai'i website at www.co.hawaii.hi.us and follow the links: Departments, Public Works, Communications, Public Informational Meetings, Updating the Flood Insurance Maps.

Results of this study, which is 75% completed, may determine new drainage ways and changes in the current floodplains that may have occurred since 1977. This study, which began in the summer of 2007, will be completed in October 2008.

New information as a result of the recent floods may change the Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) measurements used in collecting topographic information.

"The Corps will focus on the area between Konawaena Schools to Honoku'a, which is two and a half miles south of Ho'okena in South Kona. The study will cover areas from the ocean to the 3,000-foot elevation," said Bruce McClure, director of the Department of Public Works.

For details about the study, contact Steve Yamamoto, project manager, at (808) 438-0881 or email your questions to Steven.H.Yamamoto@poh01.usace.army.mil.

For information about the Department of Public Works and their involvement in this project, contact Galen Kuba, Division Chief of Engineering at (808) 961-8321.