

MEMORANDUM TO FILE

FROM: Dawn Chang
Ku'iwalu, Cultural Consultant

DATE: February 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Consultation with Office of Environmental Quality Control

Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) has generally regulatory oversight for compliance with Act 50, Haw. Sess. Laws 2000. Act 50 specifically requires that state environmental impacts statements include an assessment of the cultural practices in the affected areas. In the past, OEQC has been a consulting agency on cultural impact assessments, including the Primary Corridor Transportation Project conducted in 2000-2002.

After reviewing the Traditional Cultural Properties or Practices Report (SDEIS) that was prepared for the City's Primary Corridor Transportation Project and determining that the approach and methodology utilized in that project was similarly appropriate for the High Capacity Transit Project.

On January 27, 2006 an initial telephone call was made to Nancy Heinrich of OEQC to confirm the appropriateness of utilizing the PrimCor cultural practices methodology for this project. Ms. Heinrich has initially been consulted for the PrimCor Project. A subsequent telephone conversation was held with Ms. Heinrich on January 30, 2006.

Essentially, Ms. Heinrich was of the view that the Act 50 cultural assessment report conducted in the PrimCor Project was very comprehensive and technically complied with the requirements of Act 50. OEQC had not expected such extensive field work and had no objection to utilizing the same approach for this project, especially in the areas that had been previously surveyed in the PrimCor Project. However OEQC made the following recommendations;

1. OEQC will defer to OHA and other native Hawaiian and ethnic organizations with respect to the adequacy of the identification and assessment of the cultural practices;
2. OEQC recommended that more intense research be given around the areas where the transit stations will be located.

No additional follow up was recommended.