

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AIRPORTS DIVISION
300 Rodgers Boulevard, #12
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1830

RODNEY K. HARAGA
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
BRUCE Y. MATSUI
BARRY FUKUNAGA
BRENNON T. MORIOKA
BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI
IN REPLY REFER TO

AIR-O
05.0042

May 10, 2005

Mr. Michael Kohn
EQUIPMENT TEAM HAWAII
P.O. Box 31264
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Mr. Kohn:

This is in response to your fax dated May 4, 2005, asking whether lots #011109 and 011108 are in a tsunami flood evacuation zone.

The answer is no, despite the phone book evacuation guide, which is an overly conservative plan to minimize loss of life anywhere near a coastline.

The official flood delineation document is the Federal Emergency Management's Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel 335, a copy of which is attached. Honolulu International Airport (HNL) is shown in Zone D, undetermined but flooding possible. Note that HNL is not in Zones V or VE, which relate to coastal hazards.

The eastern edge of lot 011108 is located at an elevation of 7.7' above Mean Sea Level (MSL) and 450' west of the edge of Keehi Lagoon. Lots 011108 and 011109 are located 2,250' from the southern shoreline of Mamala Bay. The Reef Runway at elevation +10' MSL is protecting all of South Ramp, HNL.

The south shore of Oahu has never sustained more than a 3' wave from any tsunami since 1837. Earthquakes since that time have occurred on Maui and in and around the Big Island of Hawaii but not on Oahu, thus we are in seismic Zone 2A while the Big Island is in Zone 4.

Tsunami and hurricane vulnerability studies have been done for Hawaii in 1977, 1985 and 1991 with another to be started soon. A hurricane from the southwest was the worst-case scenario which generated a significant storm surge at the entrance to Pearl harbor and flooding in Hickam AFB and the runway safety area of the Reef Runway. HNL would shift into a protective, non-operational status at the point where the winds exceeded 50 knots per hour.

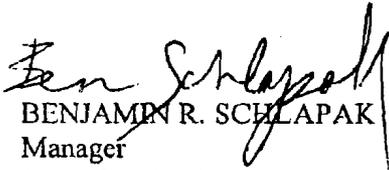
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Our Environmental Impact Statement of August 1991 concludes a section on Natural Hazards with the statement that "It is not likely that high waves, a tsunami or a hurricane would affect the project sites covered within this EIS." The project sites included South Ramp Development.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 836-6533.

Sincerely,


BENJAMIN R. SCHLAPAK
Manager
Oahu District Airports

Enclosure