Public input sought on DEA for proposed Kawaihau substation

KAPA‘A – The Kaua‘i Police Department is in the early planning stages to build a new Kawaihau police substation and is seeking the public’s input pertaining to a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) which can be accessed at http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc_Library/2021-07-23-KA-DEA-Kauai-Police-Department-Kapaa-Substation.pdf.

The published DEA is provided as an opportunity to notify the public of the proposed project, offer interested parties the ability to review the proposed plans, and provide public comments regarding the proposal.

The proposed project consists of an approximately 7,000-square-foot police substation that is intended to serve the Kapa‘a community.

KPD has made a proposal to Hawai‘i Healthcare Systems Corporation to build the substation on an unused portion of land at the Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital campus, immediately east of the Kawaihau Road and Iwaena Road juncture.

Currently, the Kapa‘a Armory building serves as KPD’s temporary eastside substation.

“Police services in the area are not functioning at an optimal level right now due to the limited temporary location which only facilitates a place for officers to complete paperwork,” said Chief of Police Todd G. Raybuck. “The lack of basic operational functions like a training area and locker rooms
requires our officers to travel to the Līhuʻe headquarters, which adversely impacts services that could otherwise be provided to the community.”

The proposed single-story building would provide neighborhood public access to police services and include general administrative spaces and offices, a temporary holding area, interview rooms, a break room, a squad room, men’s and women’s locker rooms, a multipurpose training room, bathrooms, and other support spaces.

The estimated cost for the project is $8 million.

In August, KPD will also be hosting community events so that the public will have an opportunity to see the preliminary building and site plan, provide feedback and ask questions in person. The meeting dates will be announced as soon as they are established.

“The building plans are not yet solidified so we hope that this process will help us better determine what will be best for not only our police officers, but also the public and nearby neighborhood. This draft EA is a necessary preliminary step, and it is not an indication that this a finalized shovel-ready project,” said Chief Raybuck. “I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with interested parties and community members to discuss the Draft EA. The feedback received from the public will allow us to consider community input as the planning progresses to ensure the project is suitable for the neighborhood.”

Comments are to be submitted by August 23. Please submit comments or requests to Doug Haigh, Building Division Chief at the County of Kauaʻi’s Department of Public Works. He can be reached at dhaigh@kauai.gov or by mail at 4444 Rice Street, Suite 175, Līhuʻe, Hawaiʻi, 96766-13450.

The Office of Environmental Quality Control publishes Draft Environmental Assessments (DEAs) and environmental impact statements (EISs) for public review and comment in its semi-monthly publication, The Environmental Notice. A list of all Environmental Notices is available at http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/The_Environmental_Notice/Forms/AllItems.aspx.
Artistic renderings of proposed Kawaihau police substation.