

**Kea‘au-Pāhoa Road Improvements
Kea‘au to Pāhoa, Island of Hawai‘i
Project No. STP-0130(27)**

Proposing Agency: Highways Division, Planning Branch
Department of Transportation
State of Hawai‘i
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Project Description: This planning study is proposing to implement various improvements along the existing Kea‘au-Pāhoa Road (Highway 130). The primary purpose of this project is to improve highway safety, increase highway capacity, and modernize Highway 130 in order to provide a safe and efficient travel route between Hilo and the Puna District.

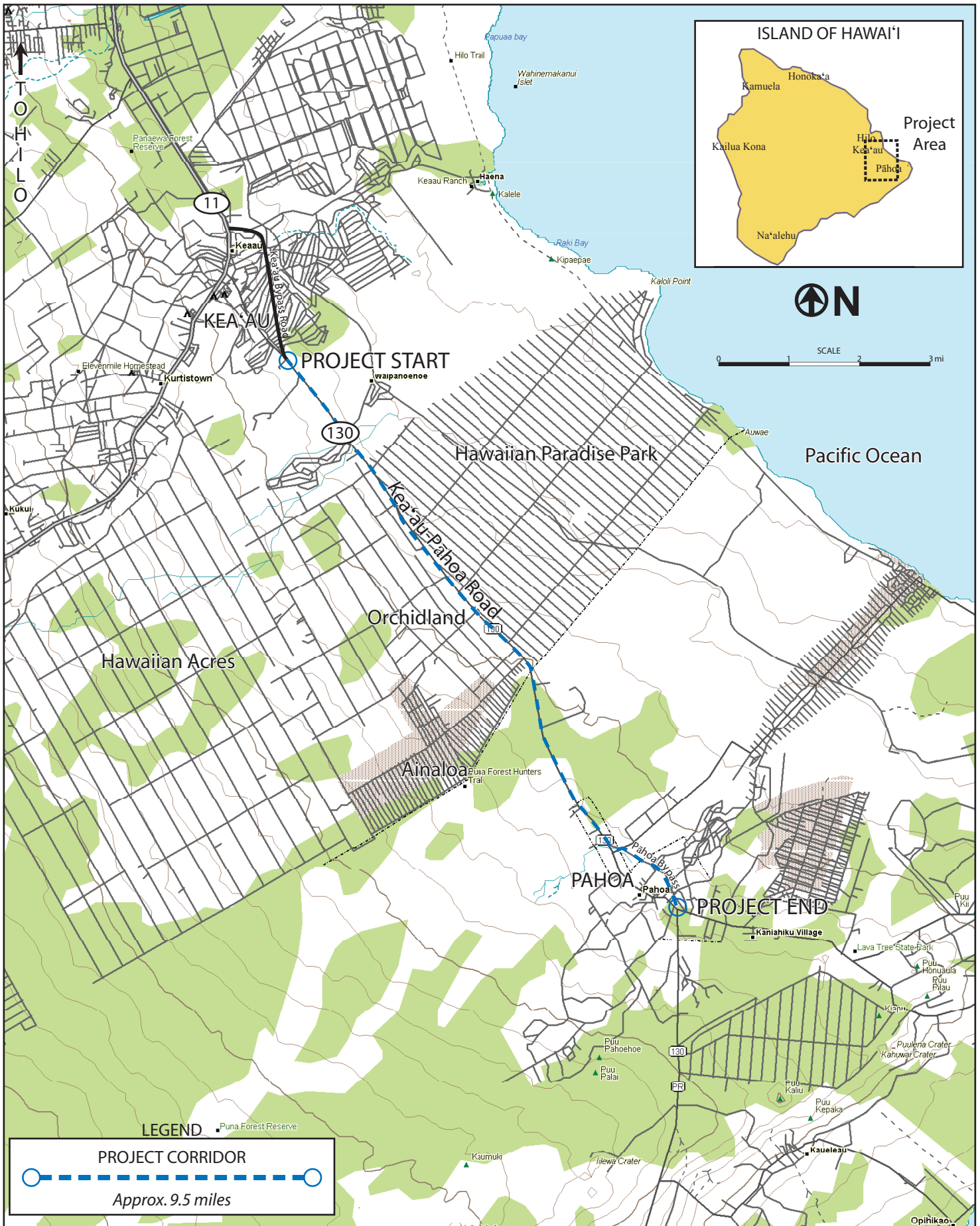
Project Site Location This project includes approximately 9.5 miles of Highway 130 extending southerly from the end of the existing 4-lane Kea‘au Bypass to its intersection with the Pāhoa-Kapoho Road. (Refer to the attached location map).

Project Need This project is primarily intended to improve safety and traffic conditions along this highway corridor between Kea‘au and Pāhoa. Safety for both motorists and non-motorists is a paramount concern, as the highway serves motor vehicles, Hele-On buses, bicyclist, and pedestrians. Currently, the Kea‘au-Pāhoa Road is heavily congested during its peak hours of operation.

The Hawai‘i Long-Range Land Transportation Plan (HLRLTP), completed in May 1998, identified the potential for very significant development in the Puna region due to the availability of approximately 56,000 residential lots. Based on the resulting 2020 traffic forecast, the HLRLTP recommended that the capacity of Kea‘au-Pāhoa Road be increased by adding two (2) lanes between the Kea‘au Bypass and Paradise Drive and between Paradise Drive and the Pāhoa Bypass.

Project Schedule: The planning portion of this project will include an alternatives analysis and an extensive public involvement program which involves a Context Sensitive Solutions approach. A Final Environmental Assessment (FEA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is expected to be completed by March 2010. Design and construction will follow the planning process.

<http://www.keaau-pahoa.com>



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Kea'au-Pāhoā Road Improvements, Kea'au to Pāhoā, Project No. STP-0130(27)
 State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation

Source:
 DeLorme 3-D TopoQuads

