

28 June 2002

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Dean Higuchi
Pacific Islands Contact Office
US EPA, Region 9
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Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Mr. Higuchi:

Thank you very much for your agency's involvement with the Pflueger/Pila'a situation. It's a huge environmental catastrophe, and every rain it gets worse. This has been allowed to perpetuate way too long. We would like to bring your attention to a similar situation nearby in Moloa'a. On the Moloa'a Bay Ranch, a developer, Thomas McCloskey, has cleared over 150 acres without permits, cleared and rerouted a stream, has been cited for SMA and Conservation Zone violations, built ponds and has caused eroding mudflows into the ocean that have destroyed green sea turtle nesting habitat and caused siltation of the reef. Estimates are that the erosion potential could be greater than the damage at Pila'a, it just hasn't happened to that extent yet. Besides green sea turtles, this area is frequented by nene, albatross, shearwaters, hoary bats and an i'o has been recently sited in the area. The beaches between Moloa'a and Pila'a are the best on Kauai for limu collection and are heavily used by native Hawaiians. These resources are precious and not replaceable.

Attached please find some of the background history files on Moloa'a Bay Ranch. Please, when investigating Pila'a, take a look at Moloa'a also. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Greg Osborn

Attachments