

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
REVIEW PROCESS**

Presented to  
Paia Relief Route Advisory Group  
May 11, 2009

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**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
PROCESS**

**NATIONAL**  
42 USC Section 4321, also called the  
National Environmental Protection Act of  
1969, or  
NEPA

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
Hawaii Revised Statues Chapter 343

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**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
PROCESS**

The national NEPA law is administered by  
Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**)  
and  
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

The State law is managed by  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
(**OEQC**)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

Every project starts with an idea, a proposal, a desire to do something  
After the idea has been fleshed out, you need to decide if either a Federal NEPA action applies or a state 343 action applies.

Questions to ask:  
Is there a Federal (or state) action?  
Could it cause environmental effects, or an irretrievable commitment of resources?

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## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

Once you determine there IS a federal or state action, you need to decide which of the following three categories it falls:

**CATEGORICAL EXCEPTION:** record the reason for the decision that this is an exemption

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** There is an impact, but due to its context or intensity, 1) the impact is not major and there is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or 2) there is major impact so you proceed with an EIS

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** A review of impacts results in findings, MOU with affected agencies and a Record of Decision (ROD) by the accepting agency (FHWA)

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## The Paia Relief Road Project

has been determined to require

both a NEPA and a State

Environmental Impact Statement

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### TYPICAL CHAPTERS IN AN EIS

1. Description of Location, the Proposed Action and the Purpose and Need
2. Explanation of the alternatives and how they were identified, narrowed and a reasonable set selected
3. Description of the Affected Environment and Potential Environmental Effects
4. Cumulative effects and mitigations
5. Consistency with government plans and policies
6. Findings, determination of preferred alternative and justification
7. Consultation Process followed
8. References
9. List of preparers
10. Appendices, drawings, maps and meeting notes

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### CATEGORIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

- Air quality and climate
- Water quality and hydrology
- Biotic communities, flora and fauna
- Traffic
- Geology, topography and soils
- Noise
- Socio-economic
- Cultural impact, archeology
- Energy and natural resources
- Impact on public facilities and services
- Construction impacts

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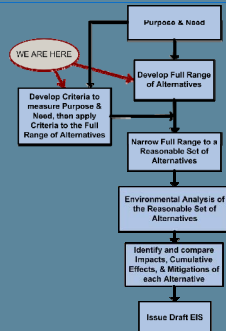
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### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS



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### THE PATH TO GETTING A PROJECT DONE

- Starts with an **idea** to address a problem or issue
- Checks out the **ways of accomplishing** it
- Figures out **possible sponsors** or funding sources
- Assesses the **impacts and benefits**
- Gains the support and approval of **participating parties and agencies**

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### PAIA RELIEF ROUTE

- The idea is to build a **new road** that helps to improve **safety** for travelers and helps to create a **second route** that would **relieve some of the congestion** in Paia
- The sponsoring agency would be **State DOT**
- They would use federal funds, so Federal Highway Administration (**FHWA**) will be the accepting agency
- The impacts are expected to be sufficiently major that an **EIS** needs to be prepared

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### NEXT

- The **full range of possible alternatives**
- Developing **criteria based on the purpose and need statement** that will support a narrowing of the full range to a reasonable set
- Presenting this to HDOT and FHWA to make sure it is **consistent** with state and federal regulations

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