



**Planning Director Ian Costa**  
Kauai Department of Planning  
Lihue Civic Center, 4444 Rice Street, Lihue HI 96766

17 January 2006

We are writing to express our concern with the construction of a new hangar facility at Burn's Field, directly facing the ocean, on land leased by Inter-Island Helicopter, at 3441 Kuiloko Road, on TMK#4-1-8-8-5.

After several calls to your department we learned that the building is being built under a minor SMA Permit with an estimated value of \$155,000. The building is on a new 6,000 sf concrete foundation and stands over two stories in height.



*View looking SW at new hangar and "bus/office" of Sky Dive Kauai near Puolo Point*

The Puolo Point area is designated for passive recreation and open space use in the Kauai General Plan. However, the area is developing as a tourist destination for recreational air flights, off-road motorized activities and extreme sports.

Because of the impact, scale, value and oceanfront location of this project, we wonder why the Kauai Planning Department considered this project for a minor SMA permit as opposed to a SMA major use permit.

The Garden Island News has reported that Inter-Island Helicopters is now a subcontractor for search and rescue as well as firefighting for the County of Kauai.

There is also some evidence that Inter-Island will be doing the same for the PMRF in the future. Private companies using these public lands to operate profitable businesses should not be immune from the requirements that businesses on private land are subject to. In fact, because of Inter-Island's dealings with visitors to the island, it is important that a safe and aesthetically positive environment be maintained at Burn's Field/Port Allen Airport.



***View looking East towards the offices and yard of Inter-Island Helicopter***

Using conservative guidelines, this hangar structure will be worth several times the estimated value. The hangar appears to be built flush on the lot line facing the ocean on the border of the County boundary of the Lele Road right-of-way which may have unanticipated implications in the future. The siting of the hangar has a significant impact on the natural views of the ocean and mountains. The area around the new hangar is a hodgepodge of permanently placed shipping containers, trailers and even vehicles being used for offices and storage operations. In addition, the site is scattered with equipment, tires and trash.

Given these circumstances, we believe here is reason that a careful plan for the development of the Port Allen Airport be conducted by the County through the SMA Permit process. The Kauai Planning Director should be leading the way.

We request that the Planning Department review the decision for a Minor Permit for this project and decide that a full evaluation of the impact be conducted. The operator of the facility should present an acceptable plan to the County that includes proper siting of buildings, parking, and landscaping improvements. Remedial efforts should be made on the site as required.

Enclosed with this letter is a site plan (P-1) we have developed for our review of this issue. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we would appreciate a response in writing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Juan Wilson:** architect - planner  
Executive Committee Member

Sierra Club Kauai Group of the Hawaii Chapter

cc: Kauai Airport District Manager - Timothy Skinner

cc: DLNR Land Agent, Kauai Division - Thomas Oi

cc: Kauai Mayor - Bryan Baptiste

cc: Kauai Councilperson - JoAnn Yukimura

cc: Hawaii State Senator - Gary Hooser

cc: Hawaii State Legislator - Bertha Kawakami