

**Notice of Proposed Remedial Action**  
**Kolekole Gulch Park**  
**28-1908 Hawaii Belt Rd., Honomu, HI, 96720**  
**TMK: (3) 2-8-015:015**

The Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) is proposing a cleanup remedy for the Kolekole Gulch Park located in Honomu, HI, 96720, TMK: (3) 2-8-015:015. Soil at the site is contaminated with lead, because of historic, lead-based paint used on Kolekole Stream Bridge (during 1950-2000). The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office (HEER Office) in coordination with the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) who operated the Kolekole Gulch Park, and are responsible for the cleanup, have investigated the environmental contamination at the site and evaluated six potential remedies:

1. Recycle or Reuse,
2. Destruction or Detoxification,
3. Separation, Concentration, or Volume Reduction,
4. Immobilization of Hazardous Substances
5. On-site or Off-site Disposal, Isolation, or Containment, and
6. Institutional Controls or Long-Term Monitoring.

The park was initially closed in 2016 due to concerns about lead-impacted soil. In February 2020, HDOT sent a letter to the HDOH informing them of their plans to reopen Kolekole Beach Park in March of 2020 under a temporary Interim Measure that would conditionally reopen the park for public use. The interim response measures included the following actions:

- Maintenance of healthy grass cover and placement and maintenance of mulch on all bare soil spots throughout the park to reduce the potential for exposure,
- Installation and maintenance of fencing around the area with the highest lead levels in surface soil (the top 6 inches) to prevent public access to this area,
- Posted signs to notify and caution the public regarding potential lead exposure in soils below grass in the park, and
- Restriction of specific activities by County staff and the public that would risk exposing bare soils including camping, open fires, charcoal barbecues, driving of vehicles on the grass, pounding of stakes into grass and any digging activities.

This Interim Measure remains in effect until the Public Outreach and Remedial Action Memorandum is completed and the funds are available to complete the preferred remedial alternative described herein.

Based on recommendations from the site environmental consultant, as well as a review of the site investigation and remedial alternatives reports, HDOT has tentatively selected the fifth remedial option, On-site or Off-site Disposal, Isolation, or Containment as the long-term solution. Specifically, the HDOT has chosen to implement soil removal and offsite disposal where all soil in the open park area which exceeds HDOH Tier 1 Unrestricted Land Use Environmental Action Level of 200 mg/kg for lead<sup>1</sup> and replacement with clean fill. This option will achieve substantial risk reduction, remove the source of contamination, eliminate the need for an environmental hazard management plan, and remove the possibility of lead-impacted soil or sediment from becoming exposed during flooding/erosion in the future.

Pursuant to Hawai'i Administrative Rules 11-451-15(i), a draft Response Action Memorandum detailing this proposed remedy is available for public review and comment. HDOH is accepting comments on the draft Response Action Memorandum for 30 days, after which HDOH will evaluate all comments received and make a final remedy selection decision for the site.

The Draft Response Action Memorandum, as well as supporting documentation, is available for review online at <https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/kolekolegulchpark>. The draft Response Action Memorandum and supporting documentation may also be reviewed at the **Hilo Public Library** located at 300 Waiānue Ave, Hilo HI 96720 or at the HDOH offices at 2385 Waimano Home Road #100, Pearl City, HI 96782. To arrange for a review date at the HDOH offices, please contact Thomas Gilmore, the HDOH remedial project manager for

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<sup>1</sup>HDOH. *Evaluation of Environmental Hazards at Sites with Contaminated Soil and Groundwater (Fall 2017)*. Table A-1.

the site, at [thomas.gilmore@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:thomas.gilmore@doh.hawaii.gov) or (808) 586-4353. Oral and written comments on the draft Response Action Memorandum will be accepted through **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Written comments should be mailed to the Office of Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response, Hawai'i Department of Health, 2385 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, HI 96782, faxed to (808) 586-7357, or emailed to [thomas.gilmore@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:thomas.gilmore@doh.hawaii.gov).