

IMI KALA STREET EXTENSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
County of Maui Department of Public Works
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
August 2025

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to extend Imi Kala Street north to Kahekili Highway and south to Lower Main Street. The proposed roadway will include multimodal infrastructure, such as bike lanes, shared-use-paths, and sidewalks, as well as utility connections.

The goals of the project are:

- 1) To alleviate traffic in Wailuku, particularly on Market Street and Waiehu Beach Road, and provide another north-south connection between Waiehu and Wailuku for greater transportation network connectivity and resiliency.
- 2) To provide new multimodal connections between Waiehu and Wailuku including dedicated facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- 3) To support the development of housing by providing the necessary infrastructure and utilities (power, water, and sewer) to ease the cost burden of future housing development.

What will the new road look like?

The Existing Imi Kala Street between Eha Street and Mill Street will not change from the existing 60-foot right-of-way (ROW) and 44-foot curb-to-curb travelway width. It is proposed that the travelway will include bicycle facilities and maintain one travel lane in each direction and a center left-turn lane to enable access to existing business driveways.

The New Northern Extension is proposed to maintain the existing 60-foot ROW. The future road is anticipated to include a travel lane in each direction with a striped median dividing the lanes. Dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities are proposed for inclusion within the available ROW. The exact configuration of the ROW is still under consideration.

The New Southern Extension, included in Options 2 -4, is proposed as a 40-foot ROW, the same width as the existing corridor. The road is proposed to have one travel lane in each direction separated by a double yellow line. Dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities are proposed for

inclusion within the available ROW. The exact configuration of the ROW is still under consideration.

Is the project associated with a housing development?

This project is not associated with a specific housing development or developer. The project is intended solely as a roadway project and was initiated by the County of Maui. This project was not requested by a developer or planned in conjunction with an ongoing development.

Is this project the continuation of previous efforts to build a road through Pi'ihana?

This project was initiated by the County of Maui as a standalone project due to its prioritization in the 2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to improve traffic circulation between Waiehu and Wailuku. This project is not intended to build on previous efforts to construct a road through Pi'ihana.

Why can't you just use existing plans and studies that have already been done?

Previous plans and studies for a road in this area were conducted in 2008 or earlier. Traffic patterns and volumes have changed since those studies were completed, as have Federal, State, and County standards for roadway construction. For this reason, a new round of studies needs to be conducted for this project.

Additionally, a new Environmental Assessment is a requirement for this project under Hawai'i Administrative Rules 11.200-1 due to the use of County funds to complete the project.

Has a preferred option been selected?

No preferred option has been selected at this time. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project will evaluate each of the four (4) options identified on the project website. A preferred option will be chosen as a result of studies conducted for the EA as well as public input.

Is this project definitely going to be built?

It is too early to say. The purpose of the Environmental Assessment (EA) is to provide an initial evaluation of the potential impacts of the project to the natural and cultural environment as well as on existing residents, traffic patterns, noise, etc.

Once the EA is completed, the County will be able to make a decision on whether to move the project forward.

What is the project timeline?

This project is the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Imi Kala Street Extension. The EA consists of three phases as outlined here:

- 1) Pre-Assessment Consultation
 - a. Initiated March 5, 2025. Community had 30 days to submit comment on the initial options (Until April 4, 2025). Any testimony submitted will receive a written response and will be included in the EA
- 2) Draft Environmental Assessment
 - a. Technical studies to support the EA
 - b. Drafting of the EA
 - c. A public meeting will be held once the Draft EA is complete. A 30-day public comment period will also occur at this time.
- 3) Final Environmental Assessment
 - a. Comments on the Draft EA will be incorporated and the EA will be finalized.
 - b. The Final EA will be submitted to the State of Hawai'i Environmental Review Program.

Figure 1: Project Timeline

Phase	2024	2025	2026
Technical Studies			
DRAFT Environmental Assessment			
FINAL Environmental Assessment			
Community Meetings			

After the environmental phase is complete, the County of Maui will decide whether to take the project forward to the design phase. If moved forward, the design phase is typically anticipated to take two (2) years. During this time, final design decisions will be made, and all engineering work will be conducted on the project.

Once design is complete, the project could move to construction. The chart below shows a potential overall project timeline.

At each phase, funding will need to be secured by the County, either through the County Budget or through other funding sources such as State or Federal grants.

Figure 2: Illustrative timeline for all phases of the Imi Kala Street Extension Project

Phase	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Environmental								
Design								
Construction Procurement								
Construction								

* Note that this timeline is for illustrative purposes only and does not constitute an official commitment to the future project or to this timeline

Who has the County talked to so far?

In November 2024 the project team contacted three elected representatives and St. Anthony School to inform them of the project. The representatives are listed below.

- Representative Miyake
- Senator Hashimoto
- Councilmember Lee

In March 2025, the County of Maui held a public meeting to initiate the pre-assessment consultation for the environmental assessment. Letters were sent to all houses within 500ft of the proposed project options and 50 people attended the public meeting.

How is this project being funded?

Funding for this Environmental Assessment comes from the budget for the County of Maui Department of Public Works.

How will future phases of this project be funded?

Funding for future project phases has not been requested nor secured at this time. If the project moves to design and construction, the County will pursue the funds and will likely pursue federal funding to support the construction of the project.