

# Panel likes plans for new school

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WAILUKU — The architectural plans for the Upcountry high school were paraded for the first time before a county panel in a public meeting Tuesday — and they escaped with nary a scratch.

Actually, the state wasn't required to seek approval from the Maui Urban Design Review Board. But as is the custom of the state Department of Accounting and General Services, the plans were brought to the board as a courtesy for comment and suggestions.

The high school is scheduled to open near the Five Trees corner of Kula and Haleakala highways in September 1995.

The agency charged with construction of state buildings marched into the meeting with a full complement of consultants employed in the planning of the school, including the architect, traffic engineer and landscape architect.

Board members appeared generally pleased with the plans shown them, but they also offered several recommendations.

One suggestion was to rearrange the buildings to incorporate a courtyard or open area to serve as a central focus on campus and give students "a sense of place."

As shown in the master plan, the buildings appear to be spread nearly equidistant from each other on a campus without a central gathering place.

However, architect Dennis Saito of Matsushita and Associates of Honolulu pointed to an area between the proposed administration building and a classroom building he believes would act as a focal point for students.

Other recommendations from the design review board were to keep a low profile and perhaps lower the cut of the playing field in order to not block the vista from the highway below.

Board members also suggested that school planners use native and drought-tolerant plants as much as possible, along with other plants consistent with the vegetation that grows Upcountry.

The school's plans haven't changed much since they were unveiled during two meetings with Upcountry parents last fall.

The state is still planning to build the high school in five increments on 50 acres now cultivated in pineapple. Schematic drawings show a terraced campus with gable-roofed buildings nestled into the hillside, a look much like Oahu's Kapiolani Community College.

A gymnasium, auditorium, football and baseball fields, a greenhouse, wood and auto shops, a swimming pool and tennis courts are among the facilities being planned. The school is being designed for 1,650 students.

Parking lots on both sides of the school will be connected by a road in the rear, and fire lanes will double as pedestrian malls. A 500-foot buffer from the highway will keep traffic noise away from classrooms.

The colors of the buildings haven't been identified, Saito said, but they will be some kind of earth tone.

The school has been tentatively named King Kekaulike High School, although the name won't become official until the state Board of Education gives its approval.