

Upcountry high school public input period over

MAKAWAO — The master plan for the Upcountry high school survived its final public meeting Tuesday night without any major objections from the community.

State officials are now aiming for a January 1994 construction start-up date, with an opening set for September 1995.

But even as the public input period on the school's planning came to a close, some questions regarding the site at the junction of Kula and Haleakala highways remain.

Several of the 20 people in the Kalama Intermediate School cafeteria Tuesday expressed concern about the use of Kealaloa and Hanamu roads, the streets that connect Haleakala Highway with central Makawao.

They said they are fearful those small roads would be used as a dangerous and congested shortcut to the school by students coming from the Makawao side of Upcountry.

Traffic engineer Neal Kasamoto, a consultant hired by the state, said the school's main entrance on Kula Highway would act to divert traffic from the small county roads.

Kasamoto said it is his opinion those small roads would not become a problem for the school, but if they did, he offered several solutions. Those include making Kealaloa one-way and putting restrictions on turns onto Haleakala Highway.

To make traffic flow smoothly, Kasamoto said a traffic signal probably will be needed where Makawao Avenue intersects the new Pukalani bypass (now under construction) as soon as 1995.