

# Upcountry school master plan includes traffic proposals

## Two entrances will help in dealing with congestion

By **TIMOTHY HURLEY**  
Staff Writer

**MAKAWAO** — A revised master plan for the Upcountry high school includes several proposals aimed at dealing with the anticipated traffic congestion generated by the school when it opens in 1995.

Unveiled to parents at Kalama Intermediate School Wednesday night, the plan shows the school's main entrance on Kula Highway and its secondary entrance on Haleakala Highway.

Traffic engineer Neal Kasamoto, a consultant hired by the state, said the Kula entrance should act to divert traffic from the small roads that approach the campus from Makawao and help make traffic flow smoothly.

Mitigation of traffic problems was one of the directives issued by the three-member board empaneled by state Superintendent Charles Toguchi to choose the site.

Kasamoto said that while a traffic signal probably will be needed where Makawao Avenue intersects the new Pukalani bypass (now under construction) as soon as 1995, a signal won't immediately be needed at the Five Trees intersection.

He said a signal will not be required at Five Trees until the school reaches its peak enrollment of more

than 1,800 students in 2010, although he conceded it may be needed earlier depending on conditions.

Another signal also may be needed by the year 2010 at the school's main entrance on Kula Highway, Kasamoto noted.

Although the proposed Upcountry high school has produced some well-attended, often-rancorous meetings in the last couple of years, only a handful of parents showed up Wednesday night. Consultants, government officials and politicians outnumbered parents 5 to 1.

The master plan shows a 50-acre school resting on terraces cut into a sloping hill now used as a pineapple field. Football and baseball fields, a greenhouse, wood and auto shops, a swimming pool and tennis courts are among the buildings being planned.

"Personally I think it's going to be a beautiful school," said Honolulu architect Dennis Saito of Matsushita Saito and Associates, who grew up on Maui. "If there's enough landscaping and we can get the slopes right, it will be a beautiful

campus, a credit to the community."

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. Parking stalls will number between 700 and 952, depending on county requirements. Buses will use the Haleakala Highway entrance/exit only.

Fencing and landscaping will line the perimeter of the property, partly as a way of keeping students from the highways and partly to screen out neighboring pineapple operations, officials said.

All buildings will be a maximum two stories and will be situated at least 500 feet from the highways. The athletic fields will be nearest to the Five Trees intersection.

Kasamoto said traffic congestion should occur only during a 15- to 20-minute period just before and after school. Left-turn and right-turn lanes will be installed at both entrances, he said.

First-year development will include an administration building, two classroom buildings, a cafeteria, a

shower/locker facility and paved courts. Second-year development will see more classrooms and a woodshop.

Third-year development will include a library, music building, classrooms and auto shop. Fourth-year development will include a graphic arts building and classrooms.

A fifth phase will include the construction of an agriculture arts building, and the sixth phase will see an auditorium, swimming pool, gymnasium and varsity shower and locker room.

The school's overall price tag amounts to more than \$60 million. Some \$22 million has been earmarked for the project so far, and about \$19 million will be asked for in the state's next two-year budget.

The master plan must be finalized in the next month, and officials said they will hold another meeting to discuss further revisions.

Maui District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey said she's hoping to open the school for 9th- and 10th-graders the first year.



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Dick Mayer (right), who led Upcountry high school site selection efforts for a number of years, discusses the school's revised master plan with architect Dennis Saito of Matsushita Saito and Associates.