



**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**DLNR BEGINS LOOKOUT AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS  
AT 'OPAIEKA'A FALLS LOOKOUT, WAILUA RIVER STATE PARK, KAUA'I**

LIHU'E -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will begin construction of parking lot and lookout improvements at the popular 'Opaieka'a Falls lookout in Wailua River State Park, starting Monday, July 13, 2009.

The lookout upgrades will include walkway improvements, guardrail replacement, a new accessible viewing platform and related improvements. The construction of the raised viewing platform will require closure of the lookout walkways at a narrow point at the park's exit onto Kuamo'o Road.

The parking lot will be resurfaced and re-stripped to delineate bus and vehicle stalls including accessible stalls and aisles.

To ensure pedestrian safety, barriers will be placed around the construction site, the left exit lane will be closed to provide a pedestrian bypass, and warning signs will direct park users to use designated crosswalk areas to avoid construction activities.

The lookout will be closed for two days in October to expedite the parking resurfacing and striping and reduce impacts to vehicles and park users.

"The 'Opaieka'a Falls lookout is one of the top visitor destinations in Wailua River State Park. These improvements are part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade our state parks statewide and to ensure safety and comfort for all residents and visitors who use the parks," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

Currently, parking stalls are not clearly defined, walkway sections are deteriorated and pose a tripping hazard, guardrails have significantly deteriorated in sections, and there is no raised viewing vantage point for access to all users. These improvements will ensure the safety of park visitors and enhance their experience of the park's unique resources.

"We thank park visitors for their patience and understanding as work progresses," said Thielen. "This project completes the full scope of improvements we planned for this lookout. In 2007, a new comfort station and sewer system were constructed," she added.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority provided funding for this project.

The project contractor is Ka'iwa Construction, Inc and the contract cost is \$311,504. Completion is expected in October 2009.

'Opaeka'a Falls Lookout is located in Wailua, 2.5 miles south of Kapa'a, and 1.5 miles west from Kuhio Highway along Kuamo'o Road (Hwy. 580).

For more information, call the Kaua'i State Parks office at (808) 274-3444 or the O'ahu State Parks office at (808) 587-0300.

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