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Public hearing Tuesday on West Hawaii school impact fees

Advertiser Staff

Developers of new housing in West Hawai'i will be required to donate land and/or pay fees for public schools under a new impact fee law to be initiated in West Hawai'i beginning next year.

A public hearing to discuss the new school impact fees will be held at the Kahakai Elementary School library at 3 p.m. Tuesday, the Department of Education said yesterday in a press release. The West Hawai'i school impact district is the first area to be considered by the state Board of Education. It will be used as a model for other regions of the state where future residential growth will result in more public school students and require new schools or expansion of existing schools. The proposed West Hawai'i impact district covers areas served by Waimea Elementary, Waikoloa Elementary, Konawaena Elementary, and all Kealahou complex schools. The impact fees would be charged to all new single-family and multifamily housing in the proposed district. Any land and collected fees will be dedicated to new schools and facilities for students living in the new housing units.

The large number of proposed new housing units planned for West Hawai'i over the next 20 to 25 years indicates the need for additional DOE schools, the DOE said.

Plans for the impact fees will be reviewed at the public hearing. The BOE will consider public comments when taking action on the proposed district in December 2008 or January 2009. Public comments can be submitted at the meeting or e-mailed to heidi_meeker@notes.k12.hi.us.

A map and information regarding the proposed West Hawai'i impact district is available at doe.k12.hi.us. Copies are also available at the West Hawai'i Complex Area Office (75-140 Hualalai Road, adjacent to the Kailua, Kona Public Library) or by calling the DOE Facilities Development Branch at 808-377-8301, ext.227.
