

Michele Lefebvre Ph.D.

Environmental Scientist/HEPA Specialist
20 years of experience · Hilo, Hawaii

GOV. MSG. NO. 772

Michele's professional experience includes the management, organization, analysis, and writing required for the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, and documents pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules (also known as "HEPA"), permits, as well as technical biological documents (e.g., Biological Assessments [BAs], Biological Evaluations [BEs], survey reports, and specialist reports) for a variety of projects on federal, State of Hawai'i, and private lands.

The preparation of these documents included: coordinating with the lead agency and the project proponent; coordinating and managing baseline data collection; identifying viable project alternatives for environmental analysis; attending agency project meetings; coordinating with agencies on impact analysis; preparing documents; coordinating map and figure creation; responding to agency and public comments; and ensuring electronic documents complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. All of these projects include working with landowners and agencies on identifying sensitive biological resources, potential impacts to those species, as well as avoidance and mitigation measures.

EDUCATION

PhD, Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2005

BA, Biology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, 1999

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

NEPA and 24 CFR Part 58 Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities, Hilo, HI, United States, 2018

Vegetation of the Hawaiian Islands (audited course ENSC 457), University of Hawai'i, Hilo, HI, United States, 2018

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, National Association of Environmental Professionals

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

ASSESSMENT, PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE

Pacific Missile Range Facility Real Estate Effort | U.S. Navy | Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii, U.S. | 2023-Present | EIS Project Manager

Michele has coordinated preparation of the Draft EIS, which has been prepared to satisfy both NEPA and HRS Chapter 343 requirements. This is a large, coordinated effort with multiple federal and state agencies to ensure the U.S. Navy retains use of lands on Kauai for military readiness. Following completion of the EIS, Stantec will prepare the CDUA for the project.

Waip'o Valley Road Improvement Project | County of Hawai'i, Department of Public Works | Hilo, Hawai'i, U.S. | 2024-Present | Project Manager

Stantec is currently preparing a HRS Chapter 343 EA and supporting technical surveys along the 0.8-mile road in the Hāmākua District. The project consists of road safety improvements to improve site distances and address rockfall and vegetation hazards. Improvements would occur primarily within the right-of-way of the road. Stantec is coordinating with the applicant and approving agency (DPW). Following completion of the EA, Stantec will prepare the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) and Special Management Area (SMA) application for the project.

Ainako Affordable Housing Project | County of Hawai'i, Office of Housing and Community Development | Hilo, Hawai'i, U.S. | 2023-Present | Project Manager

Stantec is currently preparing a HRS Chapter 343 EA for this single- and multi-family affordable housing development project. The project will provide workforce housing in Hilo. In addition to preparing the HEPA EA, Stantec is coordinated biological and archaeological surveys, and the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA). Stantec will coordinate with the applicant and approving agency (OHCD) through EA approval. Following completion of the EA, Stantec will prepare the CDUA for the project.

Hale O Piikea Affordable Housing Project | County of Maui, Department of Housing and Human Concerns | Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, U.S. | 2023-2024 | Project Manager

Stantec has prepared a HUD NEPA EA for the second and third phases of this affordable rental housing development project. The project is part of the larger Kihei Down Development which promotes mixed-use sustained development in Kihei. The second and third phases of the Hale O Piikea Project would add 223 affordable housing units to local Maui residents. Stantec is coordinating Section 7 (ESA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultations, and the preparation of an updated Traffic Impact Analysis Report (TIAR).

Puna Geothermal Venture EIS | Ormat Technologies, Inc. | Pahoa, Hawaii U.S. | 2021-2024 | Project Manager

Stantec has prepared the HRS Chapter 343 EIS for the upgrade of equipment at Ormat Technologies operating geothermal power plant near the Kilauea Volcano on Hawaii Island. The upgrade of equipment reduces the footprint, emissions, and noise compared to current operations. Michele coordinated baseline surveys, has coordinated with the approving agency (Planning Department), coordinated public outreach, participated in public meetings, prepared the impact analysis for the EIS, and coordinated with the approving agency to ensure all comments and concerns were thoroughly addressed in the Final EIS.

Puuanahulu Road Safety Improvements Project Categorical Exclusion | Okahara and Associates | Puuanahulu, Hawaii U.S. | 2021-2022 | Project Manager

Stantec prepared a NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) for the road safety improvements along this 8.3-mile stretch of Mamalahoa Highway. Michele helped to prepare documents for review and acceptance by the client and the Hawaii Department of Transportation, and supported coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Section 7 (Endangered Species Act) and the State Historic Preservation Office for Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act).

Hookena Road Safety Improvements Categorical Exclusion | Okahara and Associates | Hookena, Hawaii U.S. | 2021-2022 | Project Manager

Stantec prepared a NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) for the road safety improvements along this 9.3-mile stretch of Mamalahoa Highway. Michele helped to prepare documents for review and acceptance by the client and the Hawaii Department of Transportation, and supported coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Section 7 (Endangered Species Act) and the State Historic Preservation Office for Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act).

Ke Ala Kahawai O Waimea, Waimea, Hawai'i County, Hawai'i | 2023 | Senior NEPA Specialist

Provided NEPA CATEX support for the County of Hawai'i's FWHA-funded improvements to a mixed-use trail in Waimea, Hawai'i County, Hawai'i.

Opihiali Development Project EIS | Kona Development Partners | South Kona, Hawaii U.S. | 2022-Present | Project Manager

Stantec is preparing a HRS Chapter 343 EIS for this multi-unit agricultural housing development in South Kona. Michele is coordinating with the applicant to ensure baseline surveys for the EIS are complete, and will continue coordinating with the applicant and approving agency (Planning Department) through EIS approval.

NELHA Innovation Center and Hale Wawaloli Visitor Pavilion EA | WRNS Studio | 73731-73717 Makako Bay Dr, Kailua-Kona, HI U.S. | 2021-2022 | Project Manager

Michele prepared and managed the HRS Chapter 343 EA, as coordinated the Phase I Environmental Assessment, archaeological survey and reporting, and TIAR for the proposed research facility and community outreach facility located on land administered by the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) in Kona, Hawaii. The research facility is an extension of the existing NELHA research campus, the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park which supports emerging renewable energy, aquaculture, and other ocean-based sustainable technologies. Michele responded to public comments to ensure the EA was accepted by the approving authority.

Royal Vistas Development Project - EA | Stantec Consulting Inc. | Kailua-Kona, Hawaii U.S. | 2019-2021 | Project Manager

For this project, Michele prepared a HRS Chapter 343 EA for this multi-phased workforce housing project. Michele coordinated with the applicant (Kona Three LLC), local sub-consultant (Geometrician Associates), and the approving agency (County of Hawaii, Planning Department) to prepare the EA including assessing current conditions at the project site, and predicting potential impacts from project. Michele responded to detailed public comments on the Draft EA (primarily on cultural resources, traffic, and impacts to drainage) and coordinated with the approving agency to ensure all concerns were thoroughly addressed in the Final EA through project approval.

Wind Energy Project | Confidential Client | Waikoloa, Hawaii U.S. | 2019 | Project Manager, Lead Author

Helped to prepare a preliminary Environmental Assessment for a proposed wind energy project as part of our client's response to the local power company's Request for Proposals.

Battery Storage Project | Confidential Client | Honolulu, Hawaii U.S. | 2019 | Author

Helped to prepare a preliminary Environmental Assessment for a proposed battery storage project as part of our client's response to the local power company's Request for Proposals.

Kaloko Affordable Housing Project HRS Chapter 343 and HUD NEPA, Environmental Assessments | Hawaii Island Community Development | Kaloko, Hawaii U.S. | 2018-2019 | Project Manager

Michele coordinated with the applicant (Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation) and a local sub-consultant (Geometrician Associates) to prepare the HUD NEPA EA and HRS Chapter 343 EA. With support from a local subconsultant, Michele prepared both EAs, helped to collect the traffic data, coordinated the preparation and completion of the TIAR for the project, and responded to public comments to ensure both EAs were accepted by the approving authorities. Michele also coordinated the water impact assessments with two local hydrologist sub-consultants and the assessment of cultural impacts with a local cultural resource firm.

Matsuyama Commercial Center on NELHA Land - HEPA EA | Mats4 LLC | Kailua-Kona, Hawaii U.S. | 2018 | Project Manager

For this project, Michele prepared an HRS Chapter 343 EA. As part of this project, Stantec coordinated with the applicant (Mats4 LLC), a local sub-consultant (Geometrician Associates), and the approving agency (NELHA) to prepare the EA which including assessing current conditions at the project site, and predicted potential impacts from project. Stantec also prepared the TIAR for the project, coordinated the biological survey, and coordinated the assessment of cultural impacts from the project with a local cultural resource firm. Michele responded to public comments, and ensured all concerns were addressed in the Final EA, and assisted the approving agency through project approval.

NATURAL RESOURCE SERVICES

Pacific Missile Range Facility Real Estate Effort | U.S. Navy | Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii, U.S. | 2023 | Vegetation Survey Lead

Michele led the baseline terrestrial vegetation survey effort which included habitat mapping and surveys for special status species to ensure baseline data would be available for the project's future NEPA analysis. Michele prepared the vegetation report including results from the survey.

Yap PDI Terrestrial Survey | U.S. Navy | Yap, Federated States of Micronesia | 2023 | Vegetation Survey Lead

Michele conducted baseline terrestrial vegetation surveys which included habitat mapping and surveys for special status species to ensure baseline data would be available for the project's future NEPA analysis. Following surveys, Michele prepared the vegetation section of the survey report and responded to comments from the agency.

HELCO Saddle Road Transmission Line Re-Build Project | Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. | Hilo, Hawaii U.S. | 2018-2019 | Project Manager

Michele coordinated with stakeholders (private land owners, local agencies, and Pohakuloa Training Area) to obtain permission for local subconsultants to conduct a biological survey and archaeological inventory for this cross-island transmission line. For this survey, Stantec also assisted HELCO with identifying alternative line alignments for the inventory to ensure baseline data would be available for the project's future NEPA and/or HRS Chapter 343 analysis.

Rapid 'Ohi'a Death (ROD) Science Symposium | Department of Land and Natural Resources | Hilo, Hawaii U.S. | 2019 | Facilitator

Michele served as the facilitator for the wrap-up session of the ROD Science Symposium on May 30, 2019. The symposium was organized to bring together the ROD-related research and science community to collectively discuss and map out actions necessary to propel and realize management-driven science. Michele worked with key members of the organizing committee to develop a format for the session and implemented the approach with an emphasis on collaboration. The session identified where the gaps are in current ROD knowledge, science and research subjects and questions that require further investigation, and development of strategies for conducting these investigations and getting answers to help drive active management.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Lecturer, University of Hawai'i - Hilo (UHH), Hilo, Hawaii, U.S. Spring 2019, Spring 2020

Member, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development – Environmental Review Program, Environmental Advisory Council (OPSD-ERP EAC), Hilo, Hawaii, U.S. 2022-Present

Exemption Committee Chair, OPSD-ERP EAC, 2023-Present

Board Secretary, Warrior Aquatic Swim Club (non-profit), Hilo, Hawaii, 2023-Present

Board Secretary, Hilo Bayfront Trails, Hilo, Hawaii, 2025-Present