

## **4.1 Significance Criteria**

In most cases, an agency determines that an action may have a significant impact on the environment if it meets any of the following criteria:

- 1. Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource;**
- 2. Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment; (for plants, animals, or humans)**
- 3. Conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions, or executive orders;**
- 4. Substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or State;**
- 5. Substantially affects public health;**
- 6. Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities;**
- 7. Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality;**
- 8. Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions;**
- 9. Substantially affects a rare, threatened, or endangered species, or its habitat;**
- 10. Detrimentally affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels;**
- 11. Affects or is likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water or coastal waters;**
- 12. Substantially affects scenic vistas and view planes identified in county or state plans or studies; or**
- 13. Requires substantial energy consumption**